




HO MEAN BUSINESS

**HAVING A HARD TIME?**

How an economic blip is good  
for your sex life

# Esquire



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# HANDBOOK FOR HOSTS

How to entertain in style:  
the ultimate guide to a good night in



## PARTY TIPS

## ASK THE LADIES

Want to hold a sophisticated soiree? Ellen E Jones asked some hot hostesses what works for them

## ANECDOTES | LISA B

Model and author of *Lifestyle Essentials*

"My husband [property developer Anton Bilton] is an amazing host because he's a great storyteller, and people love that. I've heard his stories a million times, but he tells each one like it's the first time he's ever told it. Guests love it."



## HELP | JODIE HARSH

DJ and partygoer

"Get some 'backstage' help, such as the kids from next door to do the washing-up. Then you can spend as much time as possible with your guests. The main point is to make it look like you're not even trying. But don't hire a waiter to bring the food to the table, it's so impersonal. As the host, it's your job to ensure your guests are happy with the way they're being fed and watered."

## TIMING | TRACEY EMIN

Artist

"The first rule is to pick the right day and date — having

a do on a Monday is always a bit of a disaster because it's the first night after the weekend and people aren't really in a party mood. I think Thursday night is the best because people are geared up for the end of the week. Lots of people go away on Friday night."

## INVITES | SAMANTHA CAMERON

Creative director of Smythson

"Invites are important. For a grand party, thick envelopes are essential — and tissue lining in gold or rich jewel-toned colours, such as amethyst or sapphire blue, is a must."

## VENUES | KELLY OSBOURNE

TV presenter

"I prefer small, shithole places. You get a different kind of asshole there. They're all too cool for school, with their greasy hair and vintage clothing, but I'd rather hang out with someone like that than someone who's saying, 'Look at my new Comme des Garçon dress.' I love the Barfly [in Camden, London] — that's my favourite."

## TIMING | FERGIE

Singer

"You can't have a party on the same night that Diddy is having a party. You can't compete... he throws the best party!"

## DANCING | TARA REID

Actress

"People need to dance. A lot of people don't like to dance, but when they do, they have such a good time and are like, 'Whaaa, this is fun!' It's all about just rejoicing and toasting life."



## MOOD | ALEK WEK

Model

"Don't rely on other people to bring in the fun; you have to be the party player. Go in feeling great and really throw yourself into it. Otherwise, the party will be boring for you and the others. But if you're tired, you're entitled to get some sleep. The next night will be better."

## COMPANY | PARIS HILTON

Socialite

"Going to parties with people you know is always a good idea. I usually like to bring, like, 15 people with me —

just my sister, cousins and closest friends. Then, no matter where you go, you know the party is going to be fun because you're with a really cool group of people."



## CONVERSATION | TARA PALMER-TOMKINSON

TV personality and socialite

"[If you find you've got no one to talk to] just say to someone, 'I'm really stuck. Can I talk to you?' I'm probably too honest, but people will always talk to you if you say that. It's better than saying, 'Oh, I like your shoes...'"

I was a guest at an A-lister's dinner party. Opposite me was Tracey Emin, to my delight. I thought I'd be clever and arty and let her know how much I liked her installation with a vacuum cleaner. She yelped, 'That wasn't mine, that

was Sarah Lucas's.' Deathly silence followed. Then she said, 'Oh shit, sorry. It was mine!' I thought I was going to be stabbed with a butter knife. Pam Ann is touring the UK with her new show *Terror At 41,000 Feet*

WITS & WISDOM

PAM ANN