

GT April 2006 “Lavish Lemon Spring Soiree”  
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“Spring is Nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s Party’”....Robin Williams

Leave it to Robin Williams to come up with a very clever way to describe Spring! As I sit here in my office typing this, I look out the window to a crystal blue sky, bud’s beginning to form on the flowers and greenery popping up everywhere, and I think to myself what better way to kick off Springtime than with a wonderful party? Spring is when the entire world comes alive again...flowers bloom, days are longer, the sun shines and everyone seems to be in a good mood. Celebrate that good mood with your friends and create a Lavish Lemon Soiree!!!

**The Invitation:**

- Create an invitation out of bright yellow card-stock paper, with a velum overlay that has the party information printed on it.
- Tie the velum overlay onto the card with a yellow and white striped ribbon
- Spray with a citrus scent, seal and send.

**The Scene** is always so important, so once you have set the stage with your invitation, it is always fun to come up with a new and innovative design for your party. Since we are talking about Spring and Lemons, I thought it would be fun to do a table (or tables) with lemon “trees” as the centerpiece. Here is how...

- Cover the table(s) with to-the-floor white tablecloths. Top with pale yellow overlays.
- Tie white or yellow napkins with yellow and striped ribbon and tuck a small yellow blossom or lemon blossom in each napkin.
- Fill inexpensive white, yellow or terracotta 8” pots with Plaster of Paris and place a tree branch in the center. (Bleached Manzanita branches work really well and are available from a floral supply \*). Using a glue gun, glue artificial lemons and lemons leaves onto the branches, forming a “lemon tree”. Place moss and fresh lemons around the base of the trees to finish it off. Place the “trees” in the middle of each table. Or, if you are serving buffet, place 3 or 5 trees down the center of the buffet table.
- The great thing about this type of décor is that you can make the “trees” as small or large as you wish. Very large imposing “trees” make a grand statement for a party!!
- To finish off the look, place battery-operated twinkle light in the “lemon trees” to create a magical Springtime setting.
- Hollow out fresh lemons and place a votive candle in the center of each. Place votive lemons around the base of the trees.
- Lower the light, turn on the music and enjoy!

**The Cocktail:** I find it a great ice breaker to start your evening off with a new cocktail. Gets everyone talking and tasting! In my experience with Caravella Limoncello, I have developed some fun, new drink ideas:

- Try Caravella Limoncello with champagne and raspberries
- Limoncello Martini: Mix 2 parts vodka or gin with 1 part Limoncello
- Sparkling water with a splash of Limoncello and a garnish of lime or lemon.

**The Menu:**

One of my favorite recipe ideas is to baste either chicken or fish with Limoncello and place it on the grill. What could be easier and more delicious? The menu for a big party should be kept simple and elegant, leaving you, the hostess, stress-free and able to enjoy your guests. Don't try and do too much for a big party. If you are having an intimate affair, you can then add more complicated dishes. Remember, the most important thing is that your guests enjoy themselves, and YOU, at your party!

**Menu**

Caravella Limoncello Basted Grilled Chicken or Fish (Swordfish or Salmon)  
Grilled Fresh Spring Asparagus  
Salad of Baby Greens, Mango, Dried Cranberries and Macadamia Nuts  
Mango or Honey Mustard Dressing  
Vanilla Bean Ice Cream Drizzled with Limoncello, White Chocolate Curls and  
Raspberries

**The Favors:**

I always love to give my departing guests a little favor. It can be anything from a poem to a beautiful shell or something sweet to eat. For this party, why not give a big fortune cookie, dipped in chocolate with one of your favorite recipes inside? To order giant fortune cookies, call Good Fortunes @ 800.644.9474 or visit their website [www.goodfortunes.com](http://www.goodfortunes.com) and order direct. Good Fortunes will print any fortune you wish to put inside the cookie! I love to give a food or drink recipe and find my guests really appreciate it!

So...Spring is the time to come alive, re-invent your entertaining skills and enjoy the people you love. What better way than to have a Lavidh Spring Soiree with delicious cocktails, food and fun? Happy Spring!!!

Bleached Manzanita branches can be found at:

- Shinoda Design, 1421 Village Way, Santa Ana, CA 92705 Phone: 714.541.4444
- Floral Supply Syndicate: 1605 E. McFadden Ave. Santa Ana, CA 72705 Phone: 714.541.1233 (they deliver, as well)