

How to elevate your Halloween celebrations

It's that time of year again, when we celebrate all things spooky! If you're planning a Halloween party but you'd rather skip all the tacky decorations and do it in style, read on for our luxury spooky guide!

WEAR

Avoid cheap, flammable Halloween costumes and opt for one-of-a-kind pieces that ensure nobody else turns up in the same outfit as you. This might mean you have to think a little outside of the box about where you buy your costume.

Try online sites like Etsy, where you'll find unique handmade outfits. Of course, as with any online marketplace, you'll need to check the reviews of anyone you buy from to ensure you're buying a good quality item. But this is the best way to find something original and you'll be helping a small business too.

If you've got a little more time to plan, why not get something bespoke? Check out Molly Limpet's Theatrical Emporium Ltd in Sheffield, Forever Entertainment in Birmingham or head to London to get something special from Prangsta Costumiers. Go that extra mile for your outfit and you'll be sure to stand out!

DECORATE

The decorations are potentially more important than your outfit, since you want to give luxury Halloween vibes while avoiding the mainstream decor that adorns the high street at this time of year.

Start by getting the colour theme right – you want dark, autumnal shades of brown, purple and burnt orange to set the scene. Then you can accentuate this with large crystals like obsidian, known for its protective and balancing qualities, orange calcite, which gives pumpkin vibes, and clear quartz, which takes energy from surrounding crystals to amplify their effect. If you can find these crystals carved into a skull shape, so much the better!

Keep the lights off and illuminate your home with some safely and strategically placed candles. You'll find some gorgeous options at www.swealthy.co.uk. Make sure they are in lanterns, or placed out of the way of guests who might accidentally knock them over, especially once the drinks are flowing!

Create a spooky forest area with lots of black tree ornaments and creepy forest animals – make sure to throw in a black cat too! Again, Etsy will be helpful for this, but if there are any department stores near you with their Christmas decorations out already, you might be able to find a few trees there. If they're not black, you can easily spray them the right colour.

DRINKS

A classy party needs cocktails and there are some fantastic options when it comes to spooky themes.

Get the party started with a Corpse Reviver, a potent blend of cognac, calvados and red vermouth.

Then impress your guests with a Pumpkin Spice Margarita, a delicious mix of Cointreau, lemon juice, lime juice, tequila and pumpkin puree.

Make a Bloody Rum Punch with white rum, Triple Sec, red wine, lime juice and sugar syrup, with a few slices of fruit floating around to ensure guests can always help themselves to a drink.

And then finish the event with a Rotten Pumpkin, which mixes Black Sambuca and orange juice.

Need to offer a shot? A Frisky Witch is equal parts Black Sambuca and vodka! You can find details of how to make these drinks at makemeacocktail.com.

The most important part about Halloween is that it should be fun – if a cheap plastic skeleton or a badly carved pumpkin finds its way into a corner, embrace the silliness! Because once Halloween's done, it's all about Christmas!