FREE RESOURCE · HOSTING IN OCTOBER

The Dinner Party Checklist

Everything in the order you will need it.

I Two weeks ahead

Invitations out

- [ ] Pick the date and the number of guests
- [ ] Send the invitation, with the time said plainly
- [ ] Ask about allergies and anything they do not eat
- [ ] Choose a menu: nothing that needs you at the stove the night of.

II The week of

- [ ] Settle the menu and write the shopping list
- [ ] Check candles, matches, napkins, serving dishes
- [ ] Make a playlist long enough for the whole evening
- [ ] Choose one place to set well and set it

III The day before

- [ ] Shop, and make what can be made ahead
- [ ] Clear the entry: a hook or a rack for coats, none on a bed
- [ ] Set the table, low centerpieces only, so everyone can see across
- [ ] Chill what should be cold

IV The day of

- [ ] Tidy only what guests will see
- [ ] Lamp on in the entry, overheads off
- [ ] Put a throw on a chair arm and a small sweet bowl on a table
- [ ] Spare reading glasses near the menu or the candles

V An hour before

- [ ] Lights low
- [ ] Light the candles before the first guest
- [ ] Drinks ready to pour
- [ ] Start the playlist, quietly

VI Once they arrive

- [ ] Put a drink in every hand within the first minute
- [ ] Stay at the table after dinner; the best talk happens there
- [ ] Snuff candles, never blow them out
- [ ] Leave the dishes until morning

One place set well is better than a whole house made ready.