



Steps to Host a Wine Tasting

- 1. Invite the Party!** The best size of group is small, from 2-3 up to 6-8 people. Four to six people is often best. Think of friends sitting around your dining table—folks you want to have a conversation with.
- 2. Choose your wines.** That will be easy—we've done it for you. They're on their way! Otherwise, two to six wines is just about optimal.
- 3. Plan the food.** A few light snacks are plenty. Think savory: bread, breadsticks, cheese twists, bits of cheese (hard cheese like Parmesan is preferable), olives, almonds, salami, prosciutto or coppa....
- 4. Set your table.** Simplest is best, white is optimal. We're sending you white tasting mats; nothing more is needed except the glasses and some pencils for notes (and something to spit into, if you wish).
- 5. Get your glasses.** Again, simplest is best. Try to use the same kind for all the glasses in one place-setting. Most of us don't have enough glasses for everyone, so you might ask your guests to bring their own glasses.
- 6. Open the bottles.** Do this before guests arrive. Stick the cork back in so nothing else finds its way into the open bottle while waiting.
- 7. Pour the wine.** Wait until the guests have arrived, mingled, and are seated, then pour the wines so everyone has the same wines in the same order. You might want to have welcome wine to pour while the first arrivals are waiting.
- 8. Everyone Quiet! Taste the wine.** Allow five to ten minutes or more for people to view, smell, and taste each wine. You can take notes on the tasting mat; you might want to provide extra paper.
- 9. Everyone Talk!** One at a time. Discuss each wine, one at a time. Go around the table asking each one to express how they experience the wine. Please ask everyone else to hold their comments so that they can listen to the person speaking.
- 10. Relax!** Let the party roll.

You might have heard about a practice known as “Blind Tasting.” Don't worry about it. When it comes to wine, we're all blind anyway. As you can see on the next page, this is fool-proof:

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