

## 5 Expert Wine Secrets to Host the Perfect Lockdown Wedding Bar

From crisp chardonnay to your favourite merlot, master of wine Sonal Holland shares how to uncork the best experiences when you are sipping on your favourites while social-distancing!



By Arpita Kala

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Festive gatherings during the pandemic are limited to only you and your favourite bottle of wine or at the most, a few of your nearest and dearest. So, adjust to the new normal by indulging in some new experiences and here's all the help you need to uncover secrets every wine lover must know. Master of Wine Sonal Holland shares her five suggestions to do just that:



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### **Don't be stingy!**

"As a host, there is always one general rule that if you follow, you will never go wrong. Be generous with the wines you serve. Nothing is better than building great memories over a bottle of wine, so ensure you choose wisely and well."



### **Mix the favourites with something new**

"The festive season is a great time to experiment when hosting intimate gatherings. We all have our tried and tested wines that we go back to, but why not expand your guest's palettes by serving as many styles of wine as possible? When hosting a wine party at home, try to create an assortment of different bottles of wine, that your guests can choose from. The beauty of wines is about enjoying the diversity of its various styles and discovering new tastes."



**Clink the right glasses!**

"It's important to invest in good quality stemware, in which to serve your wines. It's a fact that the taste of even the most ordinary wines is enhanced when served from proper glasses. Choose clear stemware with no design or cuts. Ensure the glass has a lovely, steady base, a stem to hold the glass with, a broad base at the bottom of the bowl, and narrow rims. Keep it simple yet high-quality, and you will never go wrong."





### **What to do with gifted wines?**

"When hosting an evening at home, chances are that some of your guests will arrive with hostess gifts of their own, many times, a bottle of wine. It becomes your duty to ask your guests if they would like you to open their bottle and serve the wine to the guests – often, wine-loving guests make a lot of effort to choose and bring a good quality bottle of wine to a party, and would therefore appreciate you and the rest of the guests, trying what they have brought. At other times, some guests are simply recycling bottles of wine they don't want for themselves, so may not be comfortable with you opening their bottles at the party. Either way, it's important that you ask them first, to let them decide if their bottle should be opened at the party or saved for later."



**Educate your guests...just a smidge.**

"As a host, especially one who loves wines, it is absolutely fine for you to take the stage so to speak, to tell your guests a little about the wines you've chosen for the evening, and why. The only tip is: know when to stop. A few amusing, informational anecdotes about the bottles chosen are charming; anything more and you stand to lose your audience!"

Link:

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