

Festive Wine Etiquette Tips From Sonal Holland, Master Of Wine

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The festive season is fast approaching, and for many of us, this year will be all about entertaining at home, in small groups. [India's only Master of Wine, Sonal Holland](#), shares her five top tips on how to demonstrate the best wine etiquette when hosting a celebratory soirée at home this year.

Tip 1: Be Generous!

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.



Tip 2: Go, Assorted!

The festive season is a great time to experiment when hosting intimate gatherings. We all have the tried-and-tested wines that we go back to, but why not expand your guests' 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.



Tip 3: Invest in Good Stemware

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.

Tip 4: Ask Before You Open!

When hosting an evening at home, the 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 might not be comfortable with you opening their bottles at the party. Either way, you must ask them first, to let them decide if their bottle should be opened at the party or saved for later.



Tip 5: Talk About Your Wines, But Know When To Stop!

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!

So there you have it. The top tips to ensure you become the host/ess with the most/est this festive season when throwing a small gathering at home!



Also try: [Wine cocktails to make at home.](#)

Photographs: Sonal Holland, 123rf and Pixabay

Link:

<https://www.femina.in/food/how-to/festive-wine-etiquette-tips-from-sonal-holland-master-of-wine-177023.html>