

Entertaining Ideas

A Fan's Guide To Game Day Entertaining

(NAPSA)—Even if there is no “I” in team, game day entertaining is still all about individual tastes.

That’s why experts say you can score big with game day guests by offering customizable dishes that allow them to “taste” their team spirit. Everyone, from your fraternity buddies to your neighbors’ children, will appreciate a menu that is representative of their favorite hometown team. Try these tips:

Show Your Spirit

To keep everything effortless and fun, plan ahead and really highlight the sports theme. Decorate the room accordingly with team colors and encourage guests to wear their favorite player’s jersey. For a festive touch that will conserve fridge space, cover plastic coolers with appropriate sports paraphernalia to store beverages.

Pregame Prep

The day before your party, prepare straight-forward make-ahead items, such as delicious dips. A warm cream cheese and crab dip with onions and sour cream is the perfect combination for teams in Baltimore or Boston, while a spinach artichoke dip will suit more Southwestern teams. For a Midwest-themed appetizer, serve soft pretzels with different mustards and melted cheese. Of course, a vegetable platter is often a crowd pleaser for healthier palates.

The Main Event

With 350 slices of pizza consumed every second in the U.S., pizza wins the toss for your main course. Allow guests to choose the toppings they want while celebrat-



Game On—A pizza team tailgate can be an easy way to score big with game time guests.

ing their favorite teams by setting up a pizza team tailgate. Just lay out bowls filled with premade toppings, sauce and ready-made pizza crusts. Different varieties of Boboli crusts are great for such occasions, including 100 Percent Whole Wheat for the health conscious fan. Either baked directly on the oven rack for a crispy crust or on a baking sheet for a softer crust, the pizzas are sure to be a hit.

You can even tap into guests’ competitive spirits by creating pizzas representing their home team. Philly fans can make cheesesteak pizzas while New Orleans fans can add creole flavors to the mix. For game day recipes, visit www.boboli.com.

Postgame Celebration

Make desserts a breeze with a stocked sundae bar. Allow guests to garnish different ice cream flavors with a variety of ready-made cookies and brownies. Along with traditional toppings such as hot fudge, caramel, peanut butter, sprinkles and whipped cream, remember to include fresh fruits for those healthy eaters.