HOST THOUGHTFULLY 014

Bring People Together



THEN HELP THEM CONNECT.

Think about who might enjoy meeting, then give the group a comfortable way to connect. Seating and a few thoughtful introductions can be part of the hospitality.

1 Invite a mix that can connect

Consider inviting at least two other couples or a similarly sized mix of friends when your space and menu allow.

Why: The table offers more possibilities for conversation and new friendships.

2 Offer a gentle seating plan

When a guest asks where to sit, give a clear suggestion. Place people with a shared interest within easy conversation range.

Why: Guests have a starting point without needing to work out the seating themselves.

3 Make the introduction useful

Offer one relevant connection, such as a shared interest in gardening, travel or cooking. Then let the conversation develop.

Why: A specific opening gives people something easier to discuss than their names alone.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

A natural answer

'Sit here next to Sam. You were both telling me about your gardens.' Keep it friendly and unforced.

Look beyond the usual pairs

Mix familiar friends with newer acquaintances thoughtfully. Consider comfort, hearing and ease of conversation.

Scale the work deliberately

Cooking for eight need not mean twice the work of cooking for four. Choose a menu and plating sequence that fit your capacity.

Make room for everyone

Watch for a guest who has gone quiet or missed an introduction. Bring them into the exchange without putting them on display.

THE PLATING MINDSET

The meal brings people to the table. Thoughtful introductions and comfortable seating help them enjoy one another.