

GARDEN PARTY

FOR THE LOVE OF tulips

ONE WOMAN'S PARTY PLAYBOOK FOR A SPRINGTIME GATHERING IS SPECIAL ENOUGH FOR MOTHER'S DAY—OR ANY DAY YOUR FLOWERS ARE IN BLOOM.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S AGENTS: PAT BATES & ASSOCIATES

ELIZABETH MOYER PLANS HER DATEBOOK AROUND HER TULIPS—all 1,300 she and husband Grant plant each November. The shoots start poking up in late April, and by Mother's Day they're peaking. "All year long, I look forward to the two or three weeks they bloom," says Elizabeth, founder of the lifestyle blog *Pretty Pink Tulips*. "They are regal, happy, and put on a great show." If tulips are Elizabeth's first love, hosting friends at her Rye, NY, home is a close second. She sets the patio table with a mix of high/low, old/new favorites and rolls out a bar cart for help-yourself drinks. All that's left is to fill vases with tulips (always pink) and pop open some bubbly (also pink). See how she pulls it together.

CENTERPIECES
Arrange loose bunches of tulips inside tall hurricane vases. Counter with tight bouquets of tulips in short glasses.



ELIZABETH MIXES IN A RANGE OF PINK TULIPS FROM THE FLORIST TO COMPLEMENT THOSE FROM HER GARDEN.

TABLE SETTING

TABLECLOTH
Hem a few yards of outdoor fabric with iron-on hem tape. Graphic stripes balance the florals.

PLATES
A pink charger frames a vintage-look cabbage plate and echoes the pink glassware and napkins.

FLATWARE
Salt and pepper cellars are an easy but glamorous touch. Mixed bamboo utensils lighten the formality.

PLACE CARDS
Elizabeth believes in assigned seating. "I mix up couples but make sure they can see each other."



SNAPDRAGON FLOWERS ARE EDIBLE (THOUGH BITTER), SHOWY GARNISHES.



Years of thrifting and gifts from friends resulted in a collection of mix-and-match pink glasses.

For a tulip arrangement that lasts, Elizabeth says, make sure the vase is really (no, really) clean—no soap or plant residue.

A cart holds the makings of a Tulip. Shake with ice: 1 oz. Calvados, 1 oz. sweet vermouth, ½ oz. apricot brandy, and 1 Tbsp. lemon juice.

Hosta leaves dress up the inside of a glass ice bucket.



LEMON ZEST AND HALVES STAND READY TO ADD EXTRA ZING.





Each fall, Elizabeth plants a new tulip variety. Last spring brought the peachy 'Menton', shown at left. This year, neighbors will be treated to fringed, hot pink 'Burgundy Lace'.

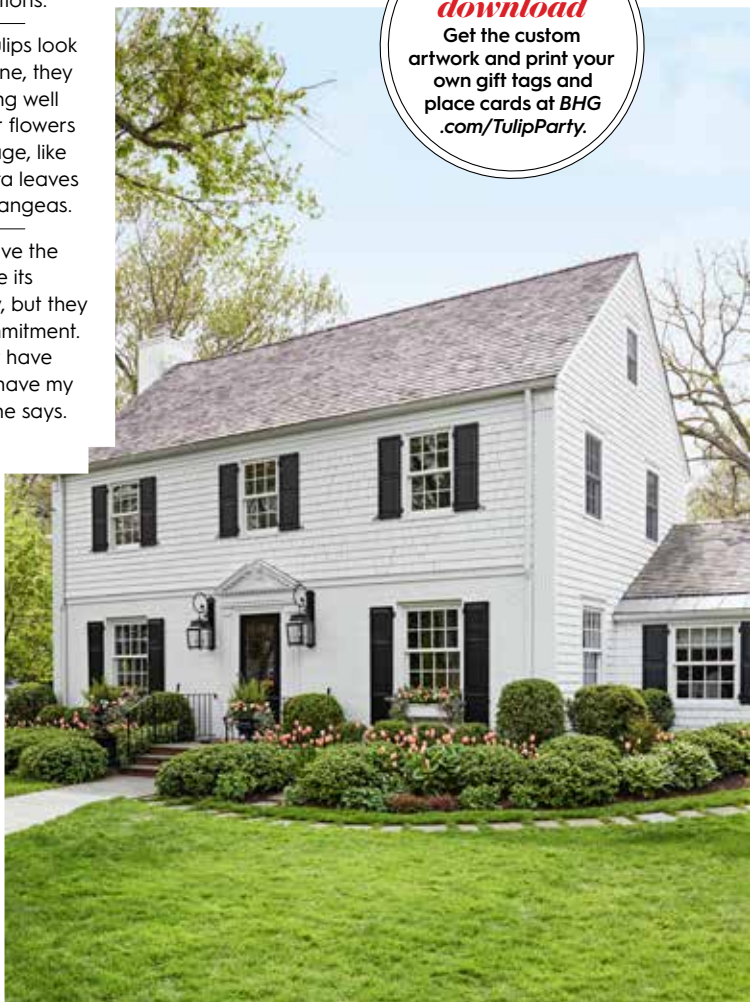
Another must for Elizabeth: party favors. She puts a few bulbs in a bag with growing instructions.

Though tulips look great alone, they get along well with other flowers and foliage, like these hosta leaves and hydrangeas.

Tulips give the house its personality, but they are a commitment. "I don't have a pool. I have my tulips," she says.



Party download
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FRIEND AND ILLUSTRATOR
JEANNE MCKAY HARTMANN
CREATED THE (PRINTABLE) PARTY ARTWORK.

FINISHING TOUCHES

DESSERT PALETTE
Elizabeth extends the pink theme to her dessert spread with napkins and tumblers paired with gold accents.

SIMPLE TREATS
Cookies from nearby Sweet Lisa's Exquisite Cakes are pretty but unfussy—just right for an outdoor party.

DIY COOKIE ART
Royal icing is the canvas for watered-down gel food coloring. Draw accents using a black edible-ink marker.

CUSTOMIZED PLATES
Back a clear plate with a printout of Jeanne's design on a circle of contact paper cut about 1/4" larger. ■