



[LIFE IS A PARTY: Deliciously Doable Recipes to Make Every Day a Celebration](#). Copyright © 2019 by David Burtka, Inc. Photography Credit Amy Neunsinger. Reprinted with permission of Grand Central Publishing. All rights reserved.

**Our Summary:**

In a world of boring structure, endless routines and rigid thinking, chef, host, caterer, and actor David Burtka, in his first book, [Life is a Party](#), brings his confetti-laced pages home to your kitchen counter, which lands like an exploding piñata dripping brightly colored ideas for entertaining and fun. A bit over the top? Perhaps (but he is married to Neil Patrick Harris). This whimsical, playful, and smartly thought-out book brings life to your party before the first guests ever arrive. With

themes and ideas for you to graft onto your personal style of entertaining, there's no shortage here of ideas and recipes to create the easiest of parties to the most complex and formal sit-down meals. In the words of the author, “a successful party is much more about the sum of its parts than it is about just one detail,” and [Life is a Party](#) has all of the parts covered from the food to the playlist to the take-home gifts you craft yourself.

**What you need to know:**

**Get it:** [LIFE IS A PARTY: Deliciously Doable Recipes to Make Every Day a Celebration](#). Copyright © 2019 by David Burtka, Inc. Published by Grand Central Publishing, April 16, 2019, Hardcover \$30.00 ([Amazon \\$19.49](#); [Kindle \\$15.99](#)).

**Make it:** 106 recipes across 16 creative party- and seasonal-themes, like *Dig-in Brunch* for Spring, and *Pumpkin-Carving Brunch* for Fall.

**See it:** 16 creative party theme and 250 dizzying party photos across 304 pages, plus playlists and easy planning tips that range from what to wear, to party basics and upgrades, to table and flowers and how to plan ahead.

**Chef Donna’s Review:**

[Life is a Party](#), David Burtka’s first book on entertaining, is a fantasy-come-to-life entertaining book that will strike a chord with your creative juices and help you take your parties not to the next level, but to the outer-stratosphere, somewhere near that of Hollywood’s rich and famous. Burtka has capture in these pages everything you need to throw a party. [Life is a Party](#) drives home hard the idea that parties are full on celebrations, and Burtka’s Rules, “More is more” and “It Doesn’t Have To End,” will turn your invitations to those most sought-after.

His brand of seasonal DIY-themed parties are peppered throughout the book, like the *Dig-In Brunch*. You invite guests to bring potted spring flowers, pinecones and birdseed for making bird feeders, and seed packs of local wild-flowers to help plant your garden. Hard work is

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rewarded with a *DIY soda bar*, a *Greek Frittata*, *Fava Bean and English Pea Salad*, *Roast Chicken* and *Rhubarb Ginger Crumb Muffins*. Not all party themes in the book are hands-on barn-raising kinds of events, though. The Fall-themed *Harvest Party* celebrates with what Burtka describes as a soul-satisfying buffet dinner – and sends guests home with a jar of DIY pickles. Epic!

The party-themed chapters of [Life is a Party](#) make it easy to find the party you want, and provides everything you need to get the party started and keep it going. Each chapter begins with the same game-plan: *party basics*, *upgrades* and *over the top ideas*; followed by the important stuff, like *what to wear*, *what guests can bring*, *the table*, *flowers*, *drinks*, *activities* and, of course, *party games*. If you have some extra time on your hands, you're treated to *pinterest-worthy* "host-craft projects," like a chicken wire cornucopia for the *Fall Harvest Party*.

It is fair to say that [Life is a Party](#) is more about the party, which can take a lot of pressure off. Try take-out, Burtka urges, recounting a party for actress Sharon Stone where he served KFC chicken (on her request) as the centerpiece for the meal. That's what's great about this book: it is exactly what *you* need it to be. Each person creates their best version of a party.

[Life is a Party](#) includes a playlists for each chapter, and the activities or ideas to keep your guests entertained, like a photo booth, or tie-dye. And, there's plenty of party projects for kids, too. With all of this going on, Burtka keeps the food (and the recipes) fairly pedestrian, so everyone can find something to eat, and you don't become a slave to the kitchen. You'll enjoy the party, as well! Even if you're only flirting with the idea of a party, you'll enjoy trying out party recipes like *Mint Pesto Pasta* and *Thyme and Gruyere Popovers*. Signature cocktails take on a new meaning with things like *Mojito Slushies* and *Charred Peach and Plum Sangria*.

Excessive? Festive? Perhaps. But if you want to entertain, and don't feel like you have the time to pull it all together effectively, [Life is a Party](#) puts you on the right track and helps you navigate your party theme from start to finish, as long as it you are prepared. The ideas and recipes are not hard, and most are not excessively expensive. You do, however, need to plan ahead by about a week to carve out enough time to do these. Still, with Burtka and several hundred boisterously happy pages of inspiration to guide you, there's never been a better time to start planning a party!

**Recipes to cook from [LIFE IS A PARTY: Deliciously Doable Recipes to Make Every Day a Celebration](#)**. Copyright © 2019 by David Burtka, Inc. Reprinted with permission of Grand Central Publishing. All rights reserved.

[Trio of Aqua Frescas](#)

[Guacamole](#)

[Ceviche](#)

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