

QUEST

TOP entertaining TIPS

Whether hosting a private dinner at home or renting out a five-star restaurant, you'll want to consult this advice from some of the city's foremost entertaining gurus to guarantee the perfect party.



Polly Onet

◆ Make sure the lighting isn't too bright or too dark. If you are doing it yourself, dimmers are a godsend, and of course, have plenty of votives and unscented candles. ◆ Always err on the side of "too small." A party with too-much space swallows the guests, the dance floor won't be crowded, and conversation at the tables doesn't flow. If the dance floor is full and the table seating is tight, the party will be much more energetic. ◆ Guests will always notice and appreciate your personal touch. It could be anything as simple as serving a special drink, making a great CD, or cooking your own food from a family recipe.



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O'HARA GALLERY

Art Dealers

Ruth O'Hara's love for art has become a family affair. Along with her husband Barney (the "secret weapon") and her two sons, she collects contemporary masters and impressionist works, including major works by Chagall, Calder and Miró. Formerly of the FAR gallery on Madison Avenue, the New York native boasts 40 years of experience and expertise. Recent shows have included work by Jean Michel Basquiat, Roy Lichtenstein, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol.

41 East 57th Street, Suite 1302
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212-355-3330



OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

Golf Clubs

Even the most competitive professionals regard Oakland Hills with awe. After capturing the 1951 U.S. Open with a final round of 67 on the South Course, Ben Hogan uttered his famous line, "I am glad I brought this course, the monster, to its knees." The gently rolling (if treacherous) hills include a North Course and a clubhouse modeled after George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate.

3951 West Maple Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
Tel: 248-258-1698



OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB

Golf Clubs

Oakmont has hosted more championships than any other course in the country – a figure that includes seven U.S. Opens. Distinguishing features of the course include a 9th green so large that it doubles as the practice green, and the infamous Church Pew bunkers, which attract errant shots on the 3rd and 4th holes. In fact, the course originally featured over 350 bunkers.

1233 Hulton Road
Oakmont, PA 15139
Tel: 412-661-2360

OCEAN REEF CLUB

Hotels

If you have a face that everyone in the world recognizes, you vacation at Ocean Reef Club. The only guests at the resort are members and their invitees, which makes it feel like a pleasant family reunion. It is very difficult to secure a membership here, but once you're in you will never know how you survived before – there are two golf courses, 11 tennis courts, indoor and outdoor pools, a marina and a private airstrip.

31 Ocean Reef Drive
Key Largo, FL 33037
Tel: 305-367-2611 Fax: 305-367-2224



THE OLD HOUSE

Restaurants

Originally from Guadalajara, Chef Martin Ramos was named Santa Fe's Chef of the Year for 2000 and his restaurant, located in the acclaimed Eldorado Hotel, has zealous locals and visitors clamoring for more. The menu is sophisticated and fearless – from pan-seared crab cakes with a lemon-tomato remoulade and green papaya to Venison enchiladas, Ramos incorporates fresh ingredients throughout. A veteran of New York's Le Cirque, Ramos looks set to prosper for many years in Santa Fe.

309 West San Francisco
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Tel: 505-988-4455 Fax: 505-995-4555



OLD LOUISVILLE INN

Hotels

A private residence until 1960, this lovely old inn still has the charm of a wealthy friend's country home. Each of the 10 bedrooms is adorned in antique quilts, Victorian furniture, bay windows and working fireplaces. The Celebration suite has a king sized canopy bed and oversized whirlpool. Many of the bathrooms still have their original fixtures.

1359 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40208
Tel: 502-635-1574 Fax: 502-637-5892



OLDE HOPE ANTIQUES

Antiques

Founded on July 4, 1976, Olde Hope Antiques occupies a carriage house in the quaint Bucks County town of New Hope. This is not a cosmopolitan emporium of Chippendale and Saxony, but rather a treasure trove of 'sophisticated country' Americana. Painted 18th and 19th century furniture and folk art are the main draws - also quilts, hooked rugs and portraits.

6465 Lower York Road
New Hope, PA 18938
Tel: 215-862-5055 Fax: 215-862-0550

THE OLDE PINK HOUSE

Restaurants

Built in 1771, the Habersham House was renamed the Olde Pink House when the soft, native brick began to bleed through the plastered walls and changed the color of the Mansion from white to bright pink. In 1992, the William Balish Family completely renovated the property, restoring it to its original grandeur. Today, Olde Pink House offers the pleasure of top class southern cuisine in a space which smacks of history. Ask to sit by the fireplace.

23 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Tel: 912-232-4286 Fax: 912-231-1931



L'OLIVIER FLORAL ATELIER

Florists

As the name indicates, Olivier Giugni's Upper East Side shop is not simply a florist, but a real workshop. Sculptural principles govern the arrangements, which are based on a 'frame' of exotic greens to which flowers are added. Having trained under Pierre Cardin (think space and structure), Giugni established his New York store five years ago and has since acquired a significant clientele: the yearly Colbert Gala employs Giugni's talents, as does the neighboring Restaurant Daniel. Specialty of the house: landscaped orchid gardens.

19 East 76th Street
New York, NY 10021
Tel: 212-774-7676 Fax: 212-774-0058



OBER, ONET & ASSOCIATES

Party Organizers and Caterers

Polly Onet is one of the more successful young event planners in New York, but one rarely reads about the glittering soirées she organizes in the gossip columns. Why? Because most of her customers are in the mega-wealthy category. They are the sort of people who would prefer to be in the front line of a nuclear war than the dizzy heights of *Page Six*. Onet's more visible clients include John Kluge, George and Susan Soros, and David and Julia Koch. Her new office in Southampton coordinates event needs on Long Island's East End.

205 East 95th Street
New York, NY 10128
Tel: 212-876-6775



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SUMMER LIFE AT ITS BEST



An Affair To Remember

by CARRIE MAKRIS

LEAVE
YOUR EVENT
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PEOPLE WITH
THE PARTY
PLANNING
GENE

portraits by chung lee

The Fantasy Maker

"Polly-Plan-A-Party" was her nickname in college where the consummate social butterfly earned her alliterative title throwing parties and celebrations for her friends. She would lure people to her soirées by promising appearances (undoubtedly Johnny Alpha to Suzy Sorority, but it was a start). However, it was not until she landed a summer job working for bon vivant about town Ludovic Autet at the Junior International Club that she realized her hobby could be a career. "Ludovic taught me everything I know about planning parties and now it's what I do best," she says.

And in New York (and therefore the rest of the world), it is widely acknowledged that Polly Onet is the best at what she does. Since her days spent toiling at the JIC where she catered to New York society folks and titled Europeans—a crowd she describes as "very French, very attractive"—Onet has transformed herself into a name among the Names. She is the sought-after orchestrator of flawless productions that are consistently pulled off with nary a hitch nor a foible.

Do you demand a specific model Lear jet in which to transport your guests? Seashell encrusted mermaids to swim in your pool? Then you have found the right woman to plan your dream party. "My job is to make fantasy a reality," says Onet, speaking of the difference between her and, say, a club promoter or PR guru.

Although her company, Ober, Onet & Associates is billed as an event coordinating/public relations firm, Onet likes to think of it as strictly the former. Each of her events is a one of a kind fête tailored to the hosts' desire. She is not promoting a place or a product, but simply the

whim of the host. "In PR, you are constantly building a list. I prefer to be given a list." Onet, like Strauss and Tepperberg, says that she will hire a PR firm if the event—most likely a benefit or gala—requires more press than she can drum up herself. "The difference between them and me," Onet says "is that the parties they throw are secondary to the product they're promoting."

Onet left the JIC in the late 80s when, she says, the discos died along with the money and drug-taking. "People just weren't partying like they used to." In 1988 she joined forces with Gus Ober who ran what was then

an almost exclusively PR venture—what Onet refers to as 'the other side.' She began working for Ober by dealing with the junior social set. "I started out by appointing young people to various charitable committees. It promoted their names and it also helped the committees."

As she was still doing her Friday night parties with Ludovic, someone once said to her, "Why don't you do my wedding?"

"That was my start," she says. "From there, I skyrocketed. When Gus retired in the early-mid 90s, I kept the 'PR' in the company title but decided to focus on what I knew best."

Turning simple nuptials into a Fantasia-inspired extravaganza is her forte, which is why she prefers locations outside of the city. "Parties with a destination are so much more special. People really bond. It's like a vacation. I never make a wedding into just one event; it's a two, three, four stop party." With offices in Manhattan, Southampton and Palm Beach, her penchant for travel is not hard to indulge.

When guests walk into the party, they should feel transported, she believes. "I divide the party into two aspects," says Onet. "The hardware and the software. The hardware is the structure: the tent, warehouse, ballroom. The software is the atmospherics: the décor, lighting, music." When all of this works together under Onet's unerring aesthetic vision, guests are sure to feel uplifted.

Onet also credits her staff of four and multiple vendors, namely Philip Baloun, her party designer. "An installation can take over six months; only a couple people can do it well."

At prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$2 million, she has thrown parties for the likes of David and Julia Koch, Samantha Kluge, Annemarie Flaherty, Bobby and Julie Taubman. She has also gone to extremes to convince entertainers like Dave Matthews and Jennifer Holliday to perform at her gala affairs. Not a small price tag, but, as Onet says, "It's like buying a house. You get what you pay for."