

## Classy Christmas ideas



The office Christmas party is an important event for your entire staff, so it needs to be really special. Here at King's Venues we host festive celebrations for between 10 and 200 guests and have been part of some really fabulous events. We wanted to share some of the best themes, games, entertainment, catering choices and special touches we have seen to offer you inspiration for your Christmas party.

### Setting the scene

A Christmas party is the perfect opportunity to get really creative with the decorations. There are loads of different themes you could go for including;

**All That Glitters** – fill the room with twinkly fairy lights, shimmering swathes of fabric and glittery Christmas decoration. To complete the look, ask your guests to add a touch of sparkle to their party outfits.

**Après Ski** – deck your space out like an Alpine ski lodge (think open fires, empty barrels for tables, sheep-skin-clad sofas, windows frosted with fake snow etc). Serve guests steaming Glühwein from wooden huts and don't forget the fondue!

**Three Kings** – getting regal with your theming gives you licence to splash out with the colours - gold, purple, red and metallic blue work well. Serve your food on gold platters and drink in goblets to add to the effect.

### Entertainment

Music is hugely important at Christmas and there are lots of different ways you can incorporate this into your party. Depending on the theme of your event you could consider a playlist of Xmas pop, a festive jazz band, a choir singing traditional carols or a four piece classical ensemble. As well as music to keep your guests happy there are loads of entertainment options for Christmas parties too. From

magicians and hypnotists to casino nights and Karaoke, there'll be something that suits your staff and the atmosphere you're trying to create.

### **Catering**

Whether you're serving canapés, bowl food or a sit down meal, the food and drink at your Christmas party plays a large part in how much your guests enjoy themselves. At King's Venues, our three-course Christmas menu includes starters like Parsnip soup with pickled apple and madras oil. Main courses like Breast and confit leg of free range Royston, Hertfordshire bred turkey, roast and creamed potato, heritage carrots glazed with Kentish honey, young sprout top and pancetta fritter and parsnip game chips. For dessert, we offer delights such as Mulled winter fruit trifle.

### **Games**

Christmas is a time when people come together to celebrate, and there's no better way to encourage interaction at a party than with a game or two. Lots of party games can be organised by members of your team, so needn't make a huge dent in your budget. A great one to level the partying field is the 'You Did What?!' game. Each member of staff writes down a secret about themselves that no one at work knows. The more unlikely, the better. The rest of the team then has to try and match the secret to the individual. A Christmas quiz with pre-made teams is also a great way to mix up the social dynamic of the evening and to get people talking. You could also consider an Ugly Jumper competition or Christmas Carol Pictionary.

### **Special touches**

Make your party one that your guests remember for years to come with a few extras. Sending everyone away with a party bag or gift is a sure fire way to make sure the party stays in their memory. You could make this a secret Santa where colleagues pull the name of a fellow member of staff out of a hat to buy a present for. Other extras you could consider might include a photo booth with Christmas props, a festive cookie decorating station, a hot drinks' bar serving festive beverages like gingerbread lattes... the list goes on.

### **Christmas at King's Venues**

Our largest and most coveted Christmas party venue is The Great Hall on The Strand, which offers party goers a prestigious space in which to celebrate the festive season. For more intimate gatherings the aptly named The River Room boasts spectacular views. If you're looking for a space full of history and unique charm, The Council Room is the choice for you. Packages start at £68, please call our Events Team on 020 7848 1700 to discuss your ideas and dates.