

# Outdoor Entertaining

Palm Beach Lately blogger Beth Aschenbach gives us a tour of her newly renovated patio, and shares her top entertaining tips.

PHOTOGRAPHY SOUTH MOON PHOTOGRAPHY



## outdoor entertaining

### Tell us about your recent outdoor area makeover.

We recently partnered with West Elm to transform my patio. It started as a blank, brick patio, and quickly became a cozy, lounge space that is ideal for al fresco entertaining. I built my outdoor oasis around West Elm's 'Jardine' daybed. Grey is my favorite neutral color, so I used the daybed cover set in steel and added a handful of colorful pillows for a modern spin on Florida style. I chose Palm Beach Lately's Flamingo and Banana Leaf Pillows, a monogram gold foil 'A' pillow and West Elm's black/natural striped pillow to match my striped indoor/outdoor rug. To infuse the Palm Beach vibe, I like to serve on Palm Beach Lately's coral teak cutting board by Madeira Housewares and "Palm Beach" cocktail napkins by Lettermade, as well as Juliska's classic bamboo triple server and cocktail spreader. To complete my back patio, I strung Edison Lights just below the

ceiling for a warm glow when the sun goes down.

### What do you love most about the space?

I love this outdoor extension of my home and enjoy sitting with my dog, reading a book, and soaking in the afternoon rays.

### Tell us about your blog Palm Beach Lately that you co-author with your sister Danielle.

Three years ago, my sister and I created Palm Beach Lately, the modern online guide and shop that features Palm Beach's best in beauty, living, social and style trends. Our online shop is a twist on traditional Palm Beach style, including cocktail napkins, pillows, art prints, totes, jewelry and more. For more information visit [www.PalmBeachLately.com](http://www.PalmBeachLately.com).

### What are your must-have essentials for a beautiful outdoor space?

A cozy couch or seating area, strung café lights, bright and fun pillows, potted plants or flowers (my favorite is Boxwood) and finish with a bold rug.

*I love this outdoor extension of my home and enjoy sitting with my dog, reading a book, and soaking in the afternoon rays.*





**What are your top entertaining tips?**

The **HOSTESS** sets the tone. It's most important to me that my guests feel welcome in our home. If I am relaxed, my guests will feel more comfortable and enjoy themselves in our home.

Serve **SIMPLE APPETISERS**. People love to eat small bites, so I like to serve easy and inviting appetizers, such as hard salami and prosciutto, Humboldt fog and assorted cheeses, nuts and olives.

Set up a **SELF-SERVE** bar area. A stocked bar cart or area where guests can serve themselves is key. I always pre-make a specialty cocktail, like the Palm Beach Lately cocktail, which includes champagne, elderflower and grapefruit juice. I also usually have wine, beer and

champagne available.

**PREP EARLY** and clean as you go. I prep as much as I can prior to guests arrival, so I can pop things in the oven or assemble dishes quickly. I also clean as I go, so there aren't a ton of bowls, utensils, etc everywhere. After entertaining, the last thing I feel like doing is cleaning up, so I put the dishes, servingware and glasses in soap and water in the sink and let them soak overnight for an easy clean up the next morning.

Create a warm ambience with **LIGHTING AND MUSIC**. I light candles, turn on the outdoor strung lights and adjust the dimmers before guests arrive. We also recently installed Sonos, which is great for playing your favorite Pandora (radio) station.



**outdoor entertaining**

- 1. 'Terrace' bar cart in antique brass \$529 [www.westelm.com.au](http://www.westelm.com.au)
- 2. IKEA 'Stockholm' rug \$299 [www.ikea.com.au](http://www.ikea.com.au)
- 3. Flamingo cushion US\$60 [www.shop.palmbeachlately.com](http://www.shop.palmbeachlately.com)
- 4. Green palm cushion (with pink piping) \$65 [www.adornhomewares.com.au](http://www.adornhomewares.com.au)



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Palm Beach Lately bloggers, Beth and Danielle share their favourite spots in Palm Beach, Florida.



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