Introduction

America’s Race may be the Greatest Two Minutes in Sports, but the Kentucky Derby is more than a horse race. It’s a long-standing tradition – and an excellent reason for a party! Whatever your budget, whatever your taste, there's no wrong way to celebrate Derby. So, break out the hats and Mint Juleps. It’s time to start planning your perfect Derby Day event!

My Kentucky Derby – Pin-It-To-Win-It!
Create a “My Kentucky Derby Party” Pinterest board, and pin your way to your perfect Derby Party! To win, submit your board at KentuckyDerby.com/Pinit. Just paste the URL of your Pinterest board into the entry form, and you're set. The winner of the contest will receive a Kentucky Derby Party Pack!

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You can experience Derby from the comfort of your home, backyard, local bar or virtually any venue. Tune in to NBC Sports Network on Friday, May 2, from 5 – 6 p.m. for Oaks coverage. Then tune in to NBC on Saturday, May 3, from 4 – 7 p.m. for all the Derby action!

Planning Timetable

Four Weeks Out
- Decide on a location.
- Compile your guest list. You can fill out your guest list on page 7.
- Decide on casual or formal attire.
- Spread the word.

Three Weeks Out
- Shop for supplies. You can find decorations and official Derby party supplies on pages 8 & 9.
- Plan your menu. Find suggestions for party food and drinks on pages 12-19.
- Decide on any entertainment. Example possibilities can be found on page 10.

Two Weeks Out
- Fund an account at TwinSpires.com so guests can bet on the race.
- Order programs and racing forms. Check out LouNews.com to order!
- Plan your outfit.
- Make a party playlist. Be sure you include “My Old Kentucky Home” – it’s a Derby classic!
Party Basics
Planning Timetable

Derby Week

Three Days To Go
- Find a helper.
- Get a final head count.
- Purchase your refreshments.

The Day Before
- Charge your cameras.
- Get as much cooking done as you can.
- Start decorating.
- Watch the Longines Kentucky Oaks 140 to get in the Derby spirit.

Derby Day
- Set the table.
- Make sure the TV works and tune in to NBC for coverage of the undercard races, Red Carpet & Kentucky Derby 140.
- Enjoy your party!
Derby For Any Budget

The Kentucky Derby is for everyone. From the Infield to Millionaires Row, the event’s traditions, foods and style are revered and enjoyed. Whether you’re rubbing elbows at a Brunch Event or playing cornhole at a Backyard Party, the spirit of the Kentucky Derby is there.

Brunch Event Tips
Go the distance. Entertain with aplomb when you throw a posh brunch.
1. Contact any caterers, bartenders, DJs or rental halls early. For Derby, you’ll want to start reaching out at least a month in advance.
2. Order official Derby decorations and supplies from KentuckyDerbyStore.com.
3. Make sure your menu meets any dietary needs or restrictions of your guests.
4. Hire a cleaning service for the day before and after your event, if one is not provided by your venue.

Garden Party Tips
Keep it classy and comfortable in a traditional Southern setting.
1. Arrange table, chair and linen rentals at least a month ahead of time.
2. Use traditional roses and classic Southern flowers, like magnolias, hydrangeas and wisteria, to create a subtly refined look.
3. Use decorative mason jars or painted tin cans to hold silverware for a rustic feel.
4. Galvanized buckets make excellent beverage coolers and lend a pastoral flair.

Backyard Party Tips
Take Derby easy. You can throw a stylish party without breaking the bank.
1. Do your own cooking. You can find great recipes on pages 12-15!
2. Make your own decorations. Try tissue paper roses or handmade Win, Place and Show tickets!
3. Don’t be afraid to ask guests to bring something.
4. Keep it casual dress. You can pull off Derby style without pulling out all the stops. Really, it all comes down to the hat!
You can’t have a party without partygoers! Who are you going to invite to your Kentucky Derby party? Will it be a family-friendly affair or for adults only? An extensive or exclusive list? You can get started writing out your list below.

Once you’ve decided on the guest list, you’ll need to actually invite them! How you do that is up to you. The ease and convenience of e-vites and Facebook Events have their merits – guests can see who’s going to attend and communicate automatically with the host and other partygoers. Want to keep it classy? You can’t go wrong with official Derby invitations from KentuckyDerbyStore.com. If you do choose to mail invitations, make sure to do so 3 or 4 weeks before your party.
Everyone has their own unique spin on Derby style, but there are a few traditional decor staples you may want to include.

**Brunch Event**  
*Jockey Silks* - The vibrant colors of the jockeys’ silks define the Derby aesthetic. Use similar colors and patterns for tablecloths, banners and napkins!

*Official Derby Artwork* - Each year the Kentucky Derby commissions an artist to produce an official commemorative artwork. This year, Susan Easton Burns captured the rich tradition of the Derby and the pursuit of excellence it represents in stunning hues. Her paintings make the perfect cornerstone when decorating for your Derby party.

**Garden Party**  
*Red Roses* - There’s a reason they call Derby “The Run for the Roses.” Take inspiration from the iconic Garland of Roses presented in the Winner’s Circle to
Derby Decor

the victorious horse. Decorate with fresh roses or go the more affordable route and construct roses of your own from red tissue paper!

**Derby Hats** - It's just not Derby without hats! Miniature Derby hats make excellent table toppers and party favors.

**Backyard Party**

*Fun and Games* - Keep your guests entertained for the duration of your party with fun and simple outdoor activities like cornhole, horseshoes and table tennis.

*Let Derby Fly!* - Official Kentucky Derby balloons, streamers, pennants and flags let your guests know where the party is!

Check out KentuckyDerbyStore.com for official decorations and perfect Derby party favors!
The Kentucky Derby may be the Greatest Two Minutes In Sports, but your party is probably going to last a little longer than that! Be sure to tune in from 4 – 7 p.m. for full Derby coverage on NBC. And it doesn’t hurt to provide a little extra entertainment, too!

**A Game Of Chance** - Do a door prize Derby style! Have guests pull a horse’s name at random to win a party favor, bottle of bourbon or Derby-Pie®!

**Gather ‘Round the TV** - You’ll want to make sure your television is in a central location with plenty of room and seating for everyone to see. If you’re hosting an outdoor event, test your viewing angles prior to the party or rent a projector.

**Family Fun** - Horseshoes and cornhole are both excellent, easy-to-set-up activities for older kids and adults. For the younger kids, Stick Horse Derby is a safe, fun racing game! Novelty stick horses can be found at most party stores, and instructions to make your own are online at KentuckyDerby.com.

**Music** - If you have the budget, consider hiring a DJ or live band to provide music. Or, make your own playlist and keep the party rocking all night!

**Hat Contest** - Derby isn’t Derby without hats, hats, hats! Put out a ballot box so guests can vote on their favorite hat. Reward the winner with a trophy, party favor or official Derby merchandise!
Race Programs

Order Official Programs & Racing Forms
Give your party an authentic feel. Bring home official programs and racing forms so your guests can follow along just like they would at the track!

You can order programs, racing forms and more from LouNews.com. Visit the site and click on the Kentucky Derby tab in the grey navigation bar. Then order all the official Derby literature you need for your party!

Download & Print Programs & Racing Forms
You can download and print your own programs and racing forms for free! Just follow these easy steps:

1. Wait for the Derby field to be set on Wednesday, April 30.
2. Log on to Brisnet.com.
3. Follow the link to download Derby Past Performances.
Kentucky Favorites

Giant Derby Hot Brown – Chef David Danielson, Levy Restaurants

8 slices of Toasted White Bread  4 Tomatoes cut into quarters
2 lbs. of Roast Turkey  12 strips of Bacon
1 qt. of Mornay Sauce (See below)

Toast the sliced bread until golden. Place half slices of bread in the bottom of dish, reserving the other half for garnish.

Cut turkey into half-inch slices, place on top of the bread, then add Mornay Sauce. Arrange the tomato and bacon on top. Brown in broiler until golden.

Mornay Sauce

4 cups Whole Milk  1/2 tsp. Salt
8 Tbsp. Unsalted Butter  1/8 tsp. Black Pepper
8 Tbsp. All-purpose Flour  1/8 tsp. freshly grated Nutmeg
5 oz. coarsely grated Gruyere Cheese

Melt butter in a 2-qt. heavy saucepan over moderately low heat, then add flour and cook over low heat, whisking constantly for 3 minutes.

Add milk in a stream, whisking, and bring to a boil, while still whisking. Reduce heat to low and gently simmer, whisking occasionally, 10 minutes. Remove from heat and add cheese, whisking, until melted. Whisk in salt, pepper and nutmeg.
Kentucky Favorites

Kentucky Burgoo – Chef David Danielson, Levy Restaurants

1 lb. Beef Top Round chunked
1 lb. Lamb Sirloin chunked
1/2 lb. Chicken Thighs chunked
1 Tbsp. Salt
12 cups Water
1 Large Onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
6 Cloves Garlic, minced
2 ½ cups Frozen Mixed Vegetables (one 12-oz. bag)

Place the beef, lamb and chicken in a large Dutch oven. Add the salt and water. Bring to a boil, skimming off any foam that rises to the surface.

Reduce the heat, partially cover, and simmer until the beef and lamb are fork tender, about 1 ½ hours.

Remove the beef, lamb and chicken pieces to a plate and let cool. Strain the broth, pour back into Dutch oven.

Stir in the onion, garlic, mixed vegetables, okra, butter beans, tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce, sorghum or molasses, ketchup, vinegar, cloves and red pepper flakes. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 1 ½ hours.

Add the meat to the vegetables and cook for about a 1/2 hour to thicken the broth. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Benedictine Spread – Chef Mark Williams, Brown-Forman Corporation

1 Large Cucumber
12 oz. of Cream Cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. of Grated Onions
1/4 Tbsp. of Salt
1 Tbsp. of Mayonnaise
Pinch of Cayenne or dash of Tabasco
Green Food Coloring (optional)

Pare, grate and drain cucumber. Combine with remaining ingredients in food processor. Serve as is or as a sandwich or canapé spread. Thin with sour cream for a vegetable dip.
Garlic Cheese Grits – Chef Mark Williams, Brown-Forman Corporation

3 ½ cups of Water 3 Large Eggs, separated
1/2 tsp. of Water 1/3 lb. Grated Aged Trappist Cheese
1 cup of Stone Ground Corn Grits 1/2 cup of minced Fresh Garlic
4 Tbsp. (1/2 Stick) of Butter, diced Cayenne Pepper for taste

Preheat oven to 375°.

Add salt to water and bring to a boil. Slowly stir in grits with an egg whip. Simmer, stirring frequently, until the grits are soft (about 15 minutes). Add the butter and remove from the burner.

Add cheese, garlic, seasonings and yolks of eggs. Allow to cool before adding stiffly beaten egg whites. Lightly fold in egg whites and pour mixture into buttered souffle dish. Bake until golden brown and firm in the center (30 minutes).

Lobster Steamed in Stella Artois

4 Live Lobsters or Thawed Tails
2 lbs. Little Neck Clams
6 Bottles of Stella Artois
2 cups Melted Butter, combined with
1 Tbsp. of Lemon Juice

Place lobsters (or tails) in a steamer, basket or on a rack several inches above the bottom of the pot.

Put clams into a cheesecloth bag and place on top of the lobsters. Add Stella Artois.

Check periodically and add more Stella Artois if necessary. Cover and steam approximately 20 to 25 minutes or until lobster turns bright red and claws have opened. Serve with melted butter.
Sticky Toffee Pudding – Chef Patrick McMurray, Starfish Oyster Bed and Grill, Toronto, Canada

2 cups of Chopped Dates 2 Eggs
1 ¾ cup of Water 2 tsp. of Vanilla
2 tsp. of Baking Soda 2 cups of All Purpose Flour
1/2 cup of Unsalted Butter 2 tsp. of Baking Powder
1 ½ cups of Sugar

Toffee Sauce
1 pt. of Heavy Cream 2 Sticks of Butter
1 cup of Brown Sugar

Place the cream, sugar and butter in a heavy bottomed sauce pan and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Stir until sugar is completely melted. Remove from the heat.

Heat oven to 350°. Place dates and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add baking soda. Puree and set aside to cool. Grease a 3-qt. baking pan and set aside.

In a mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream the butter and gradually add the sugar. Add the eggs one at a time, beating until just combined. Add the vanilla and cooled date puree and mix just until combined. Mixing on low speed, add the flour and baking powder just until combined. Pour into the prepared baking dish. Bake until set and firm and a skewer comes out clean, about 35 minutes.

Remove from the oven and, using a skewer, poke holes in the top of the cake every 1/2 inch. Pour the sauce over the warm cake, reserving some for serving on the side. Serve with a dollop of freshly whipped cream and toffee sauce.

Derby-Pie®
It's top secret. George Kern developed the Derby-Pie® recipe with the help of his parents, Walter and Leaudra. The recipe remains a secret to this very day. Yes, the pie uses real chocolate chips and premium walnut pieces – but no one has ever been able to duplicate that special filling and delicate crust.
Bourbon Cocktails

Early Times Mint Julep

2 cups Sugar
2 cups Water
Sprigs of Fresh Mint

Crushed Ice
Early Times Kentucky Bourbon
Silver Julep Cups

Make a simple syrup by boiling sugar and water together for five minutes. Cool and place in a covered container with six or eight sprigs of fresh mint, then refrigerate overnight. Make one julep at a time by filling a julep cup with crushed ice, adding one tablespoon mint syrup and two ounces of Early Times Kentucky Bourbon. Stir rapidly with a spoon to frost the outside of the cup. Garnish with a sprig of fresh mint.

Early Times Mint Julep Old Fashioned Derby

3 oz. Early Times Mint Julep
4 dashes Orange Bitters
Mint-infused Simple Syrup

5-7 Mint Leaves
Orange Wheel
Maraschino Cherry

Muddle orange, cherry, simple syrup, bitters and mint leaves in a rocks glass. Add ice and Early Times Mint Julep.
Bourbon Cocktails

Spring Meet
1 ¼ oz. Woodford Reserve 1 Tbsp. Clover Honey
1/2 oz. Tuaca Vanilla Italian Liqueur 1 Pear Half in Juice
3 oz. Club Soda

Muddle pear, honey and Tuaca. Add ice, Woodford Reserve and club soda.

Breaking Away
1 ¼ oz. Woodford Reserve 2 oz. Simple Syrup
1/2 oz. Peach Schnapps 1 Peach in Heavy Syrup
3 oz. Fresh Lemon Juice

Place peach in Collins glass and muddle slightly. Fill glass with ice and add remaining ingredients.

All drink recipes courtesy of Levy Restaurants
The Grey Goose® Oaks Lily® ingredients include:

1 oz. Grey Goose® Vodka 4 oz. Cosmopolitan Mix

When the ingredients are mixed, place the pinkish cocktail in an Official Oaks Lily® glass (stemless wine glass) with crushed ice, add a straw and garnish with a blackberry and lemon wedge.

At the Gate

1 ¼ oz. Grey Goose 2 oz. Simple Syrup
1/2 oz. St. Germaine Elderflower Liquor Sliced and Peeled English Cucumber
3 oz. Fresh Lime Juice Fresh Mint

Lightly muddle the cucumber and mint in a Collins glass. Add ice and remainder of ingredients.

Triple Crown Punch

1 liter Grey Goose 2 Cans Frozen Concentrate Concord Grape Juice (prepared)
1/2 liter Orange Liquor 16 oz. Frozen Strawberries
2 liters Ginger Ale 32 oz. Frozen Cherries

Prepare grape juice per package directions and place in punch bowl. Add Grey Goose and orange liquor. Chill. Add chilled ginger ale, frozen strawberries and cherries 15 minutes before serving. Have ice available for adding to drinks. 25 servings.
Wine & Champagne Cocktails

Rose Garland
3 750ml. bottles 14 Hands Riesling
1 750ml. bottle 14 Hands ‘Hot to Trot’ Red Blend
1/2 liter Vodka

16 oz. Fresh Lime Juice
16 oz. Frozen Strawberries in Syrup
2 pts. Blackberries
6 Limes cut into thin wheels

Chill all ingredients, then combine wine, vodka, lime juice, and strawberries in a punch bowl. Float 10-12 lime wheels on top as garnish. Have ice available as well as remaining lime wheels and blackberries for garnish.

Red Carpet
4 oz. Moët Brut Imperial
1 oz. Elderflower Liquor
1 oz. Lemon Lime Soda
2 qts. Strawberries, topped, hulled
1/2 cup Sugar
2 oz. Orange Liquor

Macerate strawberries in advance by combining them with sugar and orange liquor 30 minutes prior to using them.

In mixing glass add Moët, elderflower liquor and soda. Stir lightly.

To a Collins glass add 1/8 cup of strawberries. Add ice. Pour cocktail over ice and strawberries, stir and serve with straw.
Her Derby Style

The Kentucky Derby is a chance for every woman to express her inner Southern Belle. The race’s founder, Colonel M. Lewis Clark, Jr., had a vision for an experience that felt both comfortable and luxurious. Today, a myriad of fashions can be found at Derby – from cool sundresses to simple cocktail dresses and even more formal attire. But all these styles have one thing in common: the big Derby hat! Read the full story behind the Derby hat tradition on page 22.

Party Fashion Tips

**Brunch Event**
A pantsuit, cocktail dress or business formal attire is recommended. Of course, you’ll want to accessorize accordingly. Pearls, a vineyard vines clutch and a stunning Derby hat are a must!

**Garden Party**
Casual is key. Emphasize your Derby hat with a colorful sundress or business-casual attire. Simple accessories and fashionable shoes make the perfect compliment.

**Backyard Party**
Here, comfort reigns supreme. Relaxed attire, like jeans, a downplayed sundress or even shorts, is perfectly acceptable.

What will the dress code for your party be? Visit vineyardvines.com for the Official Style of the Kentucky Derby and to get inspired!
The Kentucky Derby provides a splendid excuse for men to get just as dressed up and decked out as the ladies! The modern Derby man possesses an unparalleled color palette. Sun-drenched, tropical colors in bold stripes or busy plaid and bright pastels steal the limelight. Although, if you want a more polished look, a classic navy or pinstripe blazer is always in style. But remember, gentlemen: The secret to looking great is confidence. Whatever you wear, wear it proud!

**Party Fashion Tips**

**Brunch Event**
Men, here’s your chance to steal the show! Go all out for a Brunch Event and sport a seersucker or three-piece tweed suit. Top it off with a fedora or bowler hat and ground your look with loafers. Remember not to let those socks show!

**Garden Party**
You’ll want to be fashionable but casual. Slacks and a button-down shirt with tie is acceptable attire. Show your Derby spirit and break out your most fabulous colors.

**Backyard Party**
Relax and be comfortable. Jeans and even shorts are appropriate for a more informal affair. Class it up with a short-sleeve polo and official Derby ball cap.

Check out vineyardvines.com – the Official Style of the Kentucky Derby – for great fashion insights!
Heads of Distinction

Wearing a hat to the Kentucky Derby is believed to bring the wearer good luck. This long-established fashion started with women. Over the last few years, many men have taken part in the tradition as well. From the fantastic to the refined, there are no rules for Derby headwear. In the Clubhouse and Paddock, women tend to sport classy, fashionable styles. In the Infield, hats have a tendency to get a little wilder.

In general, women wear wide-brimmed, Southern Belle inspired hats. They may be decorated with flowers, feathers, bows and ribbons. Men’s hats are generally solid in color and reminiscent of the 1920s.
Horse racing is always more fun when you have something on the line. It's easy to wager on the Kentucky Derby at TwinSpires.com, Official Partner of the Kentucky Derby, from wherever the party’s at. Make sure you go online to register and fund your account before the big day. It’s fast and easy to use! The helpful how-to videos show you exactly what you need to know to place your wager.

Do you know the odds? It’s simple to calculate payout if you do. For example, 3-2 odds means that for every $2 wagered you will receive $3 in profit (So a $2 win bet would pay out a total of $5.00 – your profit + your wager). Use this handy chart to easily calculate the payout on $2 win bets. You’ll start to see the pattern!

### Payoffs For $2 Win Bets

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Enhance and share your Derby party with friends and family, near and far! Long-distance loved ones can get in on the fun when you share photos, videos and more via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram using #KyDerby. Like and Follow Kentucky Derby to check out other Derby celebrations and show your party off to the world!

Don’t forget to submit a link to your Kentucky Derby Party Pinterest at KentuckyDerby.com/Pinit. You could win an official Kentucky Derby Party Pack!
Party Checklist

On the day of the party, you’ll want to give your place a good once-over. The checklist below can help you pull off a faux-pas-free event!

☐ Notify the neighbors.
☐ Check the weather forecast and adjust your setup accordingly.
☐ Set up cleanup stations. Include salt, Wine Away, club soda and a few rags to combat nasty spills.
☐ Designate a place for coats, purses and hats.
☐ Check the medicine cabinet. Remove any items you don’t want guests to see.
☐ Present and arrange dishes.
☐ Be sure you have plenty of seating.
☐ Obtain liquors and other libations.
☐ Greet each guest upon arrival.
Other Derby Party Supplies

Horse racing is the Sport of Kings. Treat your Derby party guests like royalty with official Kentucky Derby party supplies. Visit KentuckyDerbyStore.com to view and purchase anything and everything your party needs – from foam can holders to frosted julep cups, yard signs, balloons, tablecloths and more!

Descriptions depict items from left to right in photo.

10 oz. Kentucky Derby 140 Frosted Cups
Pack includes 25 cups. Cups are black with frosted ends.

Kentucky Derby 140 Beverage Napkins
Pack includes 24 napkins. Each napkin measures 5” x 5”.

Kentucky Derby 140 Luncheon Napkins
Pack includes 24 napkins. Each napkin measures 6.5”x 6.5”.

Kentucky Derby 140 7” Plates
Pack includes 8 plates.

Kentucky Derby 140 9” Plates
Pack includes 8 plates.

Kentucky Derby 140 Balloons
Pack includes 10 red balloons that inflate to 11”.

Kentucky Derby 140 Invitations
Pack includes 8 invitations that feature the Kentucky Derby 140 logo, plus envelopes.

16 oz. Kentucky Derby 140 Beverage Cups
Pack includes 8 cups.
Pre-Race Sing-Along

Penned by Stephen Foster, this ballad strikes up as the horses make their way to the starting gate for the Kentucky Derby. Although the year this tradition began is contested, the song has been performed by the University of Louisville Marching Band since 1936 with very few exceptions.

My Old Kentucky Home
Words and music by Stephen Foster

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home,  
Tis summer, the people are gay;  
The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom,  
While the birds make music all the day;  
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor,  
All merry, all happy and bright,  
By'n by hard times come a-knocking at the door,  
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!

Chorus

Weep no more my lady. Oh, weep no more today!  
We will sing one song for my old Kentucky home,  
For the old Kentucky home, far away.