

Pick a Place for a Picnic



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VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Summer is here and it's the perfect time of year for a picnic. Whether your plans this season include large gatherings or small intimate ones, picnics are a great way to get some fresh air, soak up the sun, and spend time with those you love. Best of all, you can have a picnic just about anywhere, and we've included some ideas to help you find the perfect picnic place in paradise.

AT THE BEACH

Listen to the seagulls as they fly overhead and the sound of the waves as they roll onto shore. Feel the gulf breeze, the warmth of the sun, and the soft sand. Whether you choose to relax, hunt for shells, swim, build a sandcastle, or participate in a game of volleyball, the beach is the perfect setting for a picnic, offering the most spectacular views in paradise!

Design Elements:

While the beach may be a prime spot for picnickers, you can be inspired and create something beautiful for your guests by adding a few design elements that will complement your picnic outing. Start by finding a nice basket to hold all of your goodies, a stylish umbrella for shade, and matching beach towels or a blanket to sit on. Add some colorful, decorative glasses equipped with a cocktail parasol to sip lemonade, fruit punch, or your favorite beverage, and you and your friends will enjoy a picnic that's both unique and fun!



IN THE GARDEN

What could be more inviting than a picnic in the garden? Kick off your shoes and feel the soft grass under your feet as you spread out your tablecloth under a shady tree. Listen to the birds sing and the sound of windchimes gently swaying in the breeze. Enjoy the butterflies as they dance through the air and watch the squirrels as they romp and play. Paradise is all about enjoying the great outdoors; and, by having a picnic in your own backyard, you and your guests will have a front-row seat to all of the sights and sounds that nature has to offer.

Design Elements:

You can create a vibrant display by using different brightly colored tablecloths, napkins, and plates, and you can even bring out your favorite silverware. Offset and angle your items to make them visually appealing while creating a relaxed, informal setting for your guests. Add baskets to hold a variety of bread and to display an arrangement of fresh flowers. If you grow herbs or vegetables, feature healthy dishes made from ingredients in your garden and you'll have the makings of a perfect picnic that is sure to impress your family and friends.

BY THE POOL

The cool turquoise water in a swimming pool beckons us to come near regardless of the time of day. So, why wait until the middle of the afternoon to plan a picnic? Invite a few friends over for breakfast by the pool or treat yourself and that special someone to a personal picnic for two. Enjoy the fresh morning breeze and watch the sky transform before your eyes with hues of gold, orange, and pink as the sun wakes up to greet the earth. Sit on the edge of the pool and dip your feet into the cool, refreshing water. Ah, this is indeed paradise!



Design Elements:

For a simple, yet elegant display, cover a small table with a vibrant tablecloth. Add some fresh flowers, along with matching serving pieces, and enjoy a light meal, such as toast, preserves, and tea or fresh fruit, muffins, and juice. Then as the day heats up, heed to the call of the water and dive in to cool off.

ON A BOAT

Breathe in the fresh gulf air, feel the wind in your hair, and take in the sights of the clear blue sky and radiant sun. Watch for dolphins swimming by and pelicans swooping down for food as you head out of the bay and set sail on the open seas. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or just enjoying a splendid day in paradise, your floating picnic is sure to be a memorable one.

Design Elements:

Start with a bouquet of colorful wildflowers in an open basket as your focal point. Add some white-and-red checkered cloth for a country picnic feel. Prepare easy-to-eat foods, such as finger sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit, and vegetables along with cookies, cupcakes, or brownies. Afterward, go swimming, fishing, or snorkeling; or, sit back and let the boat rock you to sleep.

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