

MAY NEWSLETTER



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Celia Manley Properties

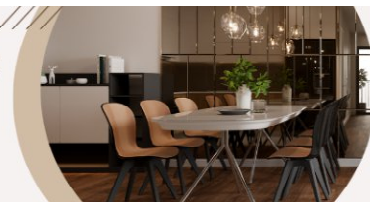
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“**Another May, new buds and flowers shall bring. Ah! Why has happiness no second sprint?**

~Charlotte Smith

HOSTING AT HOME DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED



This time of year, it feels like something shifts. The weather warms up, the days get longer, and people naturally start spending more time together.

That usually means more get-togethers at home.

For many people, hosting comes with pressure. The house has to be perfect. The food has to be impressive. Everything has to go exactly as planned. And that's usually where the stress starts.

The reality is, it doesn't have to be that way.

Most guests are not showing up expecting a perfectly planned event. They are there to spend time together. What they remember is how comfortable they felt, not whether everything looked perfect.

Keeping things simple makes a big difference. Food that is easy to prepare, drinks people can grab on their own, and a setup that doesn't require constant attention. The more you can do ahead of time, the easier it is to actually enjoy the time once people arrive.

It also helps to think about how people will move through your space. Where will they sit, stand, or set things down? Spreading things out a bit keeps everything from feeling crowded and makes the whole night flow better.

One thing I always tell people is to stop trying to impress and start focusing on making things easy. That shift alone changes everything. When you are not stuck in the kitchen or worrying about every detail, you are actually part of the gathering instead of managing it.

This is also the time of year when people start using parts of their home they may not have touched much during the winter. Backyards, patios, balconies, or even just opening up the windows can change how a space feels.

At the end of the day, hosting is not about putting on a perfect event. It is about creating a space where people can relax, connect, and enjoy being there.

And honestly, those are the moments people remember most about a home.

Crispy BBQ Salmon Tacos with Avocado Mango Salsa and Jalapeno Cream



Ingredients

Crispy BBQ Salmon Tacos

- 4 (4-6 ounce) salmon or white fish fillets, cut into bite-size chunks
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 teaspoons tajin or chili powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- kosher salt
- 12 hard shell tacos
- shredded lettuce/cabbage, for serving

Jalapeno Cream

- 6 ounces cream cheese at room temperature
- 1-2 tablespoons chopped pickled jalapeños
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- sea salt

Mango Salsa

- 1 1/2 cups diced mango
- 1 avocado cubed
- 1-2 jalapeños seeded, if desired and chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon lime zest, plus 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1/3 cup salsa verde

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F.
2. On a baking sheet, toss the fish pieces with olive oil, honey, tajin, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, and a pinch of salt. Arrange in a single layer. Roast 10-15 minutes or until the fish is cooked to your liking. During the last minute, switch the oven to broil and broil until lightly charred. Set the fish aside.
3. To make the jalapeño cream, combine all ingredients in a bowl. Season with salt.
4. To make the salsa, combine all ingredients in a bowl.
5. Spread the cream cheese on the bottom of your shells. Layer in the lettuce, fish, and salsa.

Half Baked Harvest



You Don't Need a Big Yard to Enjoy Gardening

When people think about gardening, they usually picture a big green lawn that needs constant upkeep. But more homeowners are starting to look at their outdoor space a little differently.

Instead of focusing on maintaining a perfect lawn, they're shifting toward spaces that are easier to enjoy and require less work over time.

That might mean replacing a small section of grass with plants, flowers, or even a simple garden bed. It does not have to be a full transformation. Starting with one area can make a noticeable difference.

Traditional lawns take a lot of time and water to maintain, especially as the weather warms up. Many homeowners are finding that switching even part of their yard to plants or natural landscaping can reduce upkeep while still creating a space that feels more inviting.

It also changes how the space is used. Instead of something that just needs to be maintained, it becomes something you can actually enjoy. Flowers, herbs, or native plants bring color and life to the space and tend to attract birds, bees, and other wildlife.

The nice part is that it does not have to be complicated. A few planters, a small garden bed, or even a mix of plants in place of grass can completely change the feel of a yard. Over time, it can even mean less mowing, less watering, and fewer weekends spent on upkeep.

From a real estate perspective, outdoor space is not just about size. It is about how it feels and how it is used. A yard that feels intentional and easy to maintain often stands out more than one that feels like constant work.

As we move further into May, this is a good time to take a look at your outdoor space and think about how you want to use it this season. It does not take a full redesign. Sometimes, a small change is enough to make the space feel like it fits your life a little better.

Harmony in the Garden



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