## Save the date!

Imagine yourself, cool drink in hand, feeling relaxed and hosting an unforgettable stress-free gathering. With all the right ingredients in place, it really is possible...



Above Image courtesy of Lights 4 Fun. lights4fun.co.uk

words carrol baker

he thought of entertaining at home can strike fear into the hearts of many. But it need not be a stressful experience. Setting the scene for relaxed comfort is all about creating beautiful liveable outdoor spaces, offering delicious simple dishes, creating a warm and welcoming ambience, and special little touches that make your gathering a memorable event.

Advanced planning will definitely set the scene for success. If you have time you can be far more organised. It's ok to keep the event simple too — after all, when entertaining at home, it's the company that is important.

## A ROOM FOR ALL SEASONS

Creating an alfresco space that is designed with entertaining in mind begins with maximising the use of the space. If you have a covered roof, you won't have to take the party indoors if it starts to rain, or on those sizzling summer days when shade is essential for comfort. You can opt for a permanent roof structure made from materials like steel and polycarbonate, Colorbond steel, vinyl or timber.

The right roof can transform the way you live outdoors. Folding arm awnings offer protection from the elements. You can also choose to have retractable roofing. It can be there one minute, offering protection, then it can gently slide or fold away, allowing warm sunshine to stream in during winter.

Homeowners can control the elements at just the touch of a button, or electronically via your smartphone, creating just the right level of comfort. Retractable roofing and folding arm awnings can be found in a diverse array of materials and trims.