Green like a Christmas tree: ideas for a sustainable Christmas party

Darmstadt, October 18th 2018 *** Company Christmas parties are the perfect location to celebrate the year’s end, thank the employees for their great work, and propose a toast on the upcoming Christmas days. Those who are acting resource-friendly and compatible in everyday business life probably will not neglect such values for company events. As multifaceted as the concept of sustainability itself, green Christmas parties can be planned – no matter if it is organized in-house, ordering a caterer, or eat-out in a restaurant. Some simple measures help to make the Christmas party eco-friendly – doing a good deed at the end of the year at the same time.
Upcycling on the banquet table

Environmentally-friendly steps from everyday life easily contribute to a green feast: choosing regional, organic food and drinks or offering mostly vegetarian or even vegan dishes are simple yet effective measures. Beverages should be served in reusable bottles, preferably made from glass. The menu cards, decoration, and tableware are also available “in a green version”: the menu can be written on recycled paper or paper with flower seeds, metal cans and jars can be decorated and used as candle holder, and tableware can be rented – eating from porcelain is so much better than from plastics. If disposable plates and cutlery cannot be avoided, alternate products exist that are made of renewable and biodegradable materials, e.g. palm leaf or uncoated cardboard.
Happy potatoes (from happy farmers)

For larger companies, it is worthwhile booking a catering service for the sustainable Christmas party. The number of green caterers with ecological awareness is steadily increasing. Besides processing slow food and regional organic ingredients, they also take the CO2 emissions of the order into account and, in the best case, compensate them directly. Using regional products reduces emissions and strengthens the local economy. Some green restaurants also provide healthy and environmentally conscious meals for Christmas parties.

Fair, green, and healthy gifts

May it be a raffle or secret Santa; often these presents have no benefit for the recipient. Various eco-friendly, socially acceptable, and also health-promoting gifts exist! A company could donate to a charitable organization on behalf of the team. Also there are various institutions, such as sheltered workshops, handcrafting beautiful, products ideally as a Christmas gift – also for the customers. Other unusual green ideas are bee-friendly seed bombs or pens with integrated herbal seeds for planting. To promote the employees’ wellbeing, specifically at work, companies could organize selfness classes, yoga lessons in the office, a "mobile" neck massage, or entertaining team-building events.
Toast the holidays off-site

Relaxing solutions for everyone are Christmas parties in hotels or restaurants since experts take care of everything. The choice of the event location also affects the harm to the environment. Organic restaurants and other green location act environmentally conscious per se. One example is the climate-positive Hotel Speicher am Ziegelsee in Schwerin. Up to 90 guests can celebrate Christmas together in the hotel’s restaurant *aurum*. Seasonal, regional and organic dishes are served with matching wines from the English bar and are topped off with the view of the wintery lake Ziegelsee!

The Black Forest covered in white

In the snowy Black Forest, the restaurant *La Vie* at the green selfness-hotel SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA organizes sustainable Christmas parties in festive scenery. The dishes are made of 30% slow food and 70% regional, organic ingredients. One can choose from three Christmas menus of three or four courses and matching drinks. A highlight: the aperitif is served on the terrace including a warm Swedish fire and a view of the wintery Black Forest. Special about celebrations at the SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA – the Christmas party is CO2-neutral, because the hotel not only reduces emissions constantly, but also compensates the emissions.
Hotel not only reduces emissions constantly, but also compensates the emissions caused by the Christmas party. In addition, the candle residues are donated for recycling. The perfect place for a celebration without renounce!

Winter Wonderland in a historical setting

A stone’s throw from Berlin, the eco-hotel Landgut Stober at the Groß Behnitzer Lake is located, and is suitable for large companies. Up to 3,000 people can be hosted at the historic lodging house, which shines in festive splendor at the end of the year. Besides special holiday menus at the organic restaurant, guided tours through the old stables, the distillery or the granary of the old estate are offered. Smaller groups can also book a festive cooking class instead of a classic Christmas party and prepare the Christmas menu together. On that note: enjoy the eco-friendly planning!

The German Green Pearls® GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls® GmbH is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, destinations and restaurants in a global data source.

Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls® GmbH are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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Press Contact:
Green Pearls® GmbH
Dieburger Straße 203
64287 Darmstadt
T: +49 (0) 6151-273 669 0
F: +49 (0) 6151-273 669 19