



HOW TO THROW THE ULTIMATE BAR OR BAT MITZVAH PARTY

Top tips from leading event planners

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a big milestone for your son and daughter and usually a big celebration for family and friends. There's a lot to think about when planning a Bar or Bat Mitzvah party so we've asked some industry experts to give us their advice on what to think about to ensure your party is a success for you and your child.

VENUES



Evolve Events

CATERING



Jimmy Garcia

MUSIC



Matt Frankel

ENTERTAINMENT



Sorcha Productions

FLOWERS



Green & Envy

Feeding Frenzy

In our opinion, the food should be almost as special as the occasion; it's a chance for our clients to express themselves by working with a good caterer to help bring their favourite flavours and styles of dining to life in a creative and of course, tasty way!

More and more, clients are now looking for alternative styles of dining at Bar Mitzvah parties. Traditional 3 course menus have been replaced by small plates and feasting menus (such as whole ribs of beef carved at each table) with beautiful, passed side dishes which helps break the ice amongst guests. Food stations have become a big feature at many of our Bar Mitzvahs, as they allow caterers to get creative and create bespoke and interactive food offerings that capture the imagination of children and adults alike! From an edible, enchanted forest of treats, to vanity bars complete with raspberry lipstick, and cherry blusher for those guests who are not only hungry, but also looking for an edible touch up!

Work with your caterer to find food that guests will be excited to eat – and most importantly to the Instagram generation, food that they'll want to photograph. Think about ways to personalise your Bar Mitzvah such as our branded burgers with family initials or creating a special dessert station for guests to gather round, from customised donut bars to macaroon walls and candyfloss clouds ... there's an edible world of ideas to choose from!

Savoury food also works perfectly with food stations, enabling more variety to ensure that there's something for everyone, whether it's our raw fish or sushi bars carved out of ice, our Italian deli bar or pintxos, or even a raclette bar served from a winter grotto.

And of course nothing says party like a cocktail – or mocktails for the kids. What about hosting a mocktail masterclass where people can make their own drinks or we could even create mocktail fountain where guests simply place their glasses underneath as the drinks keep flowing!

Jimmy Garcia, Jimmy Garcia Catering

Location, location, location

Selecting the right venue is crucial to the success of your simcha and with literally hundreds of venues in London to choose from it can be a daunting challenge. It's important to spend a bit of time working out what you want before you going looking – knowing how many guests, what location you'd like to be in and what style of venue you'd like is going to save you a lot of time.

Go and see the venue – in fact, go and see lots of venues. The more you see the better you'll understand what you like and what you need. We recommend seeing at least three venues before you pick on the one.

What's your budget? It's easy to get swept along at a stunning venue and blow the budget but keep a strict handle on your spend here as you may prefer to reallocate some of your budget into the styling so you can personalise the design to suit your theme or personality.

OK, so it's not the most exciting of aspects but give some thought to how guests are going to get there. Is the parking easy or is it near public transport? No-one is going to thank you if they have to pound the streets in their heels before the party even starts.

For more help on selecting your Bar or Bat Mitzvah guide visit our venue page on our website or call our team and make the most of our free venue finding service.

Gary Peters, Evolve Events





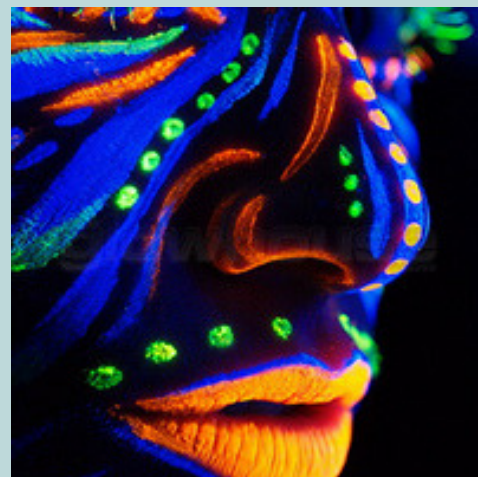
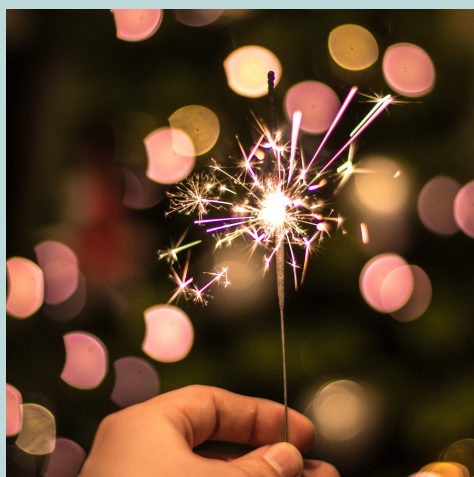
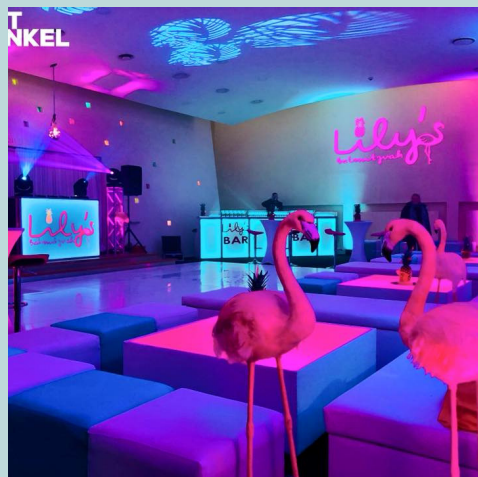
Hey DJ!

Music and the flow of the evening is key to everyone having a good time at your Bar or Bat Mitzvah party and getting the DJ right is crucial. Ask friends for recommendations and a face-to-face meeting is a great idea as it gives you a chance to know the DJ but also and importantly for them to understand what you're looking for. Work with your DJ to not just play the songs of your choice but also allow them to use their experience and to read the crowd so that they can keep the energy going in the room.

We like to start the party with the entrance of the Mitzvah boy or girl, which is fine if they like being centre stage. Of course some children may be shy so they would never be pushed to do this or to do it alone. Following on with some simcha dancing is the perfect way to get everyone on the dancefloor and create lots of energy. Usually you'll lift the Mitzvah boy or girl up on the chair and if they're feeling brave, bounce them up and down on a giant Israeli flag; these are great photo opportunities. Some Mums and Dads like to have a go too!

And one last tip is to book your DJ early – a good entertainer may be booked months and yes, even years ahead so it pays to be organised.

DJ Matt Frankel



Let me entertain you

What does your audience want? At a Bar or Bat Mitzvah it's a difficult job trying to find something that entertains everybody – the classical quartet you might have your heart set on probably isn't going to cut it with the teenagers. Think about hiring a few different types of entertainment rather than one act to help keep excitement going throughout the party. Oh and try and see your entertainers perform (or at least a video) before booking them. There's a world of difference between a caricaturists who makes portraits you like and one that offends everyone he draws, so make you sure you know what you're booking!

Consider not only visual and vocal content but also interaction with your guests; how can they get involved to be a part of the experience? What about hiring some wonderful moustache balancers who can incorporate guests into their sets by lifting them up above their heads and posing with them for photos? Think about acts that will create a memory the kids can boast about on Instagram.

What haven't your guests seen before and what do they like? Gauge your audience and your message; what do you want your clients/guests to take away from the party? Entertainment should be an experience – invigorating, exciting and above all good fun!

Consider your venue style, dimensions and limitations when booking entertainment so that the performance compliments and enhances your space and event type. Good performers should offer flexibility and be willing to make anything work so for example if your venue hasn't got any rigging what about a freestanding aerialist who is able to provide her own freestanding rig where she combines essences of ballet with the skills of aerial hoop.

Sorcha Rogers, Sorcha Productions

Petal Power

Flowers are the perfect way to enhance a venue for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah party. If you're working with a colour concept or your venue has a particular style, work with your florist to create floral arrangements and installations which not only complement these elements but accentuate them too. Floral styling can completely transform a space - whether you're looking to realise a full-scale magic woodland or simply inject a little colour and texture, your choice of flowers can reflect your own family's sense of style.

Key areas to consider are the individual dining tables and feature areas such as mantelpieces and staircases, whilst the entrance and reception area are attractive places to provide a flowery welcome to your guests.

Statement floral installations such as flower walls, floral frames and arches as well as chandeliers and curtains, which are made from suspended fresh flowers, create a real impact and are an extremely popular photo opportunity!

Succulents and mini cacti are contemporary and unexpected and would look great in an urban space whilst colourful, shapely arrangements can really bring your table setting to life. Palm leaves, monstera and brightly coloured blooms would work well for a tropical theme or you could base your colours on a favourite sports team. And don't forget to pay attention to the vases and accessories too - incorporating candlelight is so important for creating the special sense of occasion and looks beautiful as the evening progresses.

Lucy Boyd, Green & Envy

We hope these tips have proved useful. For more ideas and help in planning your celebration contact the Pop Up Bar Mitzvah team on: