

EVENT EXPERIENCE

St. Patrick's Day has become more of a day of revelry, partying and celebrating the Irish culture than celebrating the original Saint it was named for and quite frankly, it's more fun to do so than to think about the poor Saint being beheaded! So, let's tap the kegs of green beer, break out your green clover and shamrocks and get ready to kiss the blarney stone! And remember to wear green so you don't get pinched!

COLORS & TEXTURES

I guess it isn't hard to guess what color will be our go-to color for this event!

That's right, shamrock green! But you will also want to pull in orange, black, and



shamrocks to make, lots of green beer to brew

and perhaps even some hair to dye red!



white that is associated with the image of a leprechaun. And since we associate the luck of the Irish with a rainbow and a pot of gold at the end you can pull in the soft reds, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, indigos and violets! What a fun party when you can pull in all the colors of the rainbow!

INVITATION IDEAS

The ideas for this event are endless! Consider shamrocks, leprechauns, rainbows, pots of gold, hats, parades, limericks, and four-leaf-clovers.

- Use invitations cut in any of the shapes listed above festooned with glitter
- Write a customized limerick that relates to your specific event
- · Use small brown bags to look like miniature bags of gold with clovers or gold coins inside, along with the invite

 Use a gold confetti or paper confetti to create a pot of gold that shimmers when opened

Your preferred local advertising or marketing company can create these invitations, or you can make them yourself. And remember, when creating something new, you will want to thoroughly test it to make sure it works and stands up to handling before sending to your guest. Nothing ruins the excitement of sending or receiving a unique invitation more than learning that your packages arrived smashed or otherwise damaged due to unusual shape or harsh handling.

ENTRYWAY

Create a beautiful green landscape that is reminiscent of the rolling green hills of





Ireland with a golden path leading the way into the venue. You may want to build a giant rainbow that begins at the entryway that continues to run through the pre-function area all the way into the pot of gold at the back of the main room. This Rainbow can be easily built using helium balloons on monofilament line. The promises of the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow can be used as enticement for your quest to continue their journey into the party.

Have green clovers for guests to wear so everyone is wearing green and won't get pinched. Remind everyone that leprechauns will pinch everyone they can see and the only way to ensure you don't get pinched is to wear the official green clover of the party.

PRE-FUNCTION AREA

In the pre-function area, arrange cocktail tables and chairs covered with shamrock green and white. Use miniature pots of gold and rainbows to decorate the tables.

Pots of gold could be planted with live clover or have gold chocolate coins in them. Play some good old Irish pub songs to get your guests in the mood.

MAIN ROOM DÉCOR

Your main room should be a flourish of green and give your guests a feeling of happy-go-lucky festivities. This isn't a theme that lends itself to finery, diamonds and elegance but rather good, raucous fun, beer steins, lots of laughter and relaxed, laid back good times for all. For a light and lively surprise, add balloon elements to your room décor. 36" balloons with shamrocks at the top of a balloon column would be great for this event.





HIGHLIGHT AREA

If you have the space, highlight a small area and create the WOW! effect by showcasing the large pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, a glittery leprechaun, or an oversized clover.

Include a special area for your "Blarney Stone" and charge guests a donation to your cause to kiss it so they will get the gift of eloquence for the coming year.

To highlight a drink, food station or your gift table, use a backdrop of white fabric with green up lights surrounded by green garland.

CENTERPIECES

Change up your centerpieces using at least three different styles to keep the room fresh and interesting. For this event use fun pots of gold with gold chocolate coins, dancing leprechauns or a fun clover leaf centerpiece. Some areas to pay attention to are corners of the bars, around the buffet station, coat check area, etc.

For dinner tables alternate between the following:

- Shamrocks
- Pots of Gold
- · Leprechaun hats with floral arrangements atop

DINNER SET UP

For dinner, keep the table décor simple by running a mossy table runner along the table with gold coins scattered about, broken up by candles in votives. If you are looking for something fancier, use a floorlength white linen and shamrock green chair covers. Be sure to add an accent ribbon or gold napkin ring to the napkin. Pick up green or other rainbow colors in char-





St. Patrick's Day

ger plates that will hold the napkin before dinner arrives.

Use shamrocks, top hats or pots of gold customized with your guest's names printed on them as placards and allow your guests to take them home as a gift.

BAR AND CUSTOM DRINK

For smaller gatherings, create a drink station where guests can help themselves stocked with easy to pour, pre-mixed drinks, wines and beers. Having a self-serve station will free up your need for a bartender.

For larger gatherings, theme your bars with different elements of the St Patty's day event. Place the bar in the farthest corner from the entry door to encourage guests to move into the room to prevent a bottleneck at the front door.

Add highlights to the top of the bar with your smaller centerpieces making sure they don't interfere with the bartender's ability to quickly serve your guests.

Serve Irish themed drinks like:

- Honeydew Martini
- Emerald Rain
- Irish Flag
- Grasshopper
- Green Guinness
- Misty Mint
- Irish Coffee

ENTERTAINMENT

Make sure entertainment it's appropriate for who you plan to attend:

• Customize a corn hole game and toss gold 'coin' corn bags into the green box.





- Dart games
- Bingo with Gold Coins as marker

PHOTO OPS

Provide fun props such as top hats, sham-rocks, an oversized pot of gold, green boas, shamrock shaped sunglasses, green ties, etc. and allow your guests to use these to take their pictures in front of your sequin green or gold background.

