

HOW TO DO EVERYTHING BETTER

IMPRESS UPPER MANAGEMENT

Place yourself on the fast track to corporate stardom

Mix incredible homemade sangria

The key? A kick of tequila, fresh fruit, and white wine. The result isn't as heavy as a pitcher of red and won't stain your lips during your backyard BBQ, says Benjamin Carrier, beverage director at Manhattan's Los Feliz restaurant.

PREP THE FLAVORING

Deseed three pieces of fruit, such as a peach, an orange, and a pear, and cut them into chunks. Peel a piece of ginger the size of your thumb and cut it into matchsticks. Throw everything into a large pitcher. Stir in 1½ tablespoons of agave nectar or 2 tablespoons of sugar.

ADD THE ALCOHOL

Pour a bottle of white wine into the pitcher. (Go with a white that's light and affordable, like Vinho Verde from Portugal.) To punch up the flavors of the fruit and wine, add 2 ounces of 100 percent agave tequila to the pitcher. Try Tres Generaciones Plata (\$30, finewinehouse.com) or any other tequila that's advertised as a "highland" tequila.

FINISH THE DRINK

Squeeze 2 tablespoons of lime juice into the pitcher, and add ¼ cup of seltzer. Stir the sangria well and refrigerate for an hour to let the flavors meld. Before serving, top it off with ice.



Your bosses are watching to see how committed you are and how well you work with colleagues. With that in mind...

Stay positive

Executives love optimists, and they pay attention to the way you treat other people, from the CEO to the cleaning crew.

Don't shortchange yourself

Have a great idea? Present it as such. Don't add disclaimers saying you may be off base. If you make a confident delivery, others are more likely to think your idea will work.

Forge alliances

If an exec has a pet project or is heading up a task force or outreach effort, offer your assistance—especially if the exec holds a position you'd eventually like to have. Even better: Start suggesting initiatives yourself. Show that you've done your research on the subject and explain exactly what you can bring to the table.

Source: Joseph C. Rode, Ph.D., associate professor of management at Miami University of Ohio; Michael J. Kehoe, vice president of finance for PCL Construction; Gordon Krater, managing partner of the accounting firm Plante & Moran

Move furniture like a professional

No sofa on earth will overpower you with these expert tips.

UP A FLIGHT OF STAIRS

- 1 The person moving backward up the stairs endures the most back and core stress. Put the stronger person there.
- 2 You both must grip the object's ends at similar points for stability. Keep your arms above your thighs and your elbows tucked into your body to prevent back strain.
- 3 Walk with a wide stance to support the weight. The top person controls the pace—left foot, right, left, right. Break on landings: It's safer than midflight.



AROUND A TIGHT CORNER

- 1 Most people try to rest a couch on two legs and push it around at an angle. But that much stress on the legs may damage them. Movers prefer going vertical.
- 2 Stand the couch on end and push it around the corner. Make sure the sitting surface faces the inside of the corner you're trying to navigate; otherwise you might run the couch into the wall and cause damage.



Sources: Shawn Lyons, owner of Rabbit Movers in Brooklyn, New York, and Chris Bortnichak, training and development specialist for Two Men and a Truck in Lansing, Michigan