Creative Entertaining: Hot Arabian Nights

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The last day of summer is just a few days away and there's no better time to gather friends and family for the final backyard soirée of the season.

It's your party--there are no hard and fast rules. Pick a theme to set the tone for the food, décor and music. These party throwers chose the regions of Marrakesh and Morocco for inspiration.

Northern Africa's rich culture is reflected in the alluring design style. Vibrant shades of bright orange and fuchsia came together to mimic a colorful desert tent.

Traditional Arabic fare such as tabouleh, eggplant, baba ganoush, hummus, and other mezze salads were served.

This Arabian Nights theme party came complete with Bedouin tents, sitar and tablah musicians and even belly dancers.

View the gallery for more event planning tips.
A low table was setup for ottoman style seating.
Flow

Set up small seating areas so guests can gather and talk.
Line em up

Continuity makes ordinary objects look much more dramatic.
Dance Off

The vibrant deep colors were also carried onto the dance floor.
Seating

Separate seating areas allow for smaller groups to dialogue.
Tent Ideas

Tent decor and textiles can be influenced from Morocco, Thailand, Dubai, and India to create a perfect fusion of ethnic styles.
Transformation

Transform any ordinary backyard to an exotic oasis with a little imagination and lots of creativity.
These party throwers chose the regions of Marrakesh and Morocco in northern Africa for inspiration. The rich culture is reflected in its alluring interior design style, characterized by vibrant colors which mimic a colorful desert tent.
Find Your Inspiration

A themed party can elevate an ordinary celebration into a magical evening.
Set the Mood

Use candles, votives and hanging lanterns for ambiance.
Name Cards

Place cards are an elegant and fun way to mark your guests' places at the dinner table.
Menu

Display a framed menu card on the table for guests to learn about the ethnic fare.
Guests were encouraged to dress in white with vibrant colored scarves as accents.
Musicians entertain with ancient instruments. The sitar and tablah add to the ambiance during dinner.
Drama

Drapes from a local fabric store can easily add some drama by loosely draping nearby.
Table Linen

Feel free to layer textures, designs, colors and fabrics.
Layer It

Use fabrics, pillows and linens to enhance the overall effect.
Think of your entertainment in various forms, from art, to music to performances. Belly dancers shimmied over the beat of the tablah.
Entertainment

Whether you're celebrating a birthday or milestone event, a themed Arabian night can transform an ordinary night into a magical one.
Cultural Fare

Rather than serving formal courses, keep it simple with family style dining.