The Ultimate Fourth Of July Shopping List

This Fourth of July, my entire family – including my wife Kim, our four daughters, my parents, siblings, and nine nieces and nephews – are getting together for our annual BBQ and fireworks, of course! To prepare, here's a list of our go-to party items:



- [ ] 1. **Classic Burgers** – My dad and I will grill up a bunch of different burgers and let everybody build their own. Our butchers make two terrific gourmet burgers fresh every morning, so we'll have Gorgonzola & Parsley and Bacon Cheddar burgers, plus turkey burgers and our NAKED beef burgers, which are antibiotic and hormone free. To garnish, we pick-up cheeses to dish up with lettuce, onion, tomato, and avocado atop pretzel and fresh rolls.
- [ ] 2. **Kale salad** – My wife makes a delicious kale salad that's tossed with citrus vinaigrette.
- [ ] 3. **Corn on the cob** – Corn is coming out of Georgia this time of year and it's super sweet! I had some for dinner the other night and didn't even need butter it was so good.
- [ ] 4. **Fresh salmon** – Stew Leonard's NAKED line is antibiotic and hormone free, so this is a delicious and healthy option. We eat a lot of this all year round, plus I always like to serve a fish option.
- [ ] 5. **Mozzarella with tomato and basil** - We'll buy mini mozzarella knots and skewer them with cherry tomatoes and basil leaves for easy, one-handed appetizer.
- [ ] 6. **Chunky guacamole** – Avocados, onions, lime juice, cilantro, and a little salt—simple and delicious!
- [ ] 7. **Lobster rolls** – A classic New England summer staple! For BBQs we like to quarter them into bite sized pieces and serve them as appetizers.
- [ ] 8. **My sister Beth's Gluten-Free Chocolate Pecan Cookies**– My dad especially loves these! They're crisp on the inside and soft and chewy inside – nobody can believe they're gluten free!
- [ ] 9. **Big fresh fruit bowl:** We serve a big bowl of watermelon, melon, kiwi, strawberries, and blueberries. I'll also pick up some jumbo cherries – they're coming out of Washington State and are so sweet!
- [ ] 10. **Wine and beer:** Right now our customers love Smith & Sons Pinot Noir and Hayes Ranch Chardonnay, which is made by the Wente family, who are 6th generation winemakers out in California. Summer is also rosé drinking weather, so I'm sure they'll have Whispering Angel as well as a few bottles of Miravel from Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's vineyard in Provence. I'll

also pick up some local craft beers for my nephews; Two Roads Brewery from Stratford, Conn. and Berkshire Brewery from Massachusetts are making some great beers.

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