BUYER GUIDE · CHRISTMAS 2026

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY STAFFING CHECKLIST.

December is the hardest month of the year to find good hospitality staff, and the dates everyone wants all land in the same three weeks. This is the checklist we would use if we were booking for you.

Reply from a person	Within 60 minutes
Your team	Hand-picked per event
Minimum booking	4 hours

Salt Social · salt-social.co.uk · hello@salt-social.co.uk · A person replies within 60 minutes, 8am to 8pm.

OCTOBER

Lock in the dates and the headcount.

List every date you need cover for, including the Fridays and Saturdays you think you can manage without. Share them with your staffing supplier now with rough numbers, even if the menus are not final. Names are easier to hold in October than in December.

NOVEMBER

Confirm team shape and service style.

Decide the service style for each date, because it sets the team size: plated service needs the most people on the floor, buffets and sharing need fewer, and the bar should be sized for the busiest ten minutes, not the average. Agree who runs the team on the night and whether you need a Lead.

TWO WEEKS OUT

Brief properly.

Send the venue plan, arrival door, uniform, menus with allergens, drinks list and prices, and the name of the person in charge on the night. Confirm age verification policy for the bar, usually Challenge 25. Ask for the names of everyone coming.

ON THE NIGHT

The first hour decides the evening.

Walk the team round the room before doors. Show the fire exits, the bins, the glass wash and where spare stock lives. If anyone is not right for the job, say so in the first hour.

AFTERWARDS

Keep the good ones.

Tell your supplier who was excellent so you can ask for them by name next year. Pay attention to how quickly invoices and timesheets are settled, because that is how you know who to book again.

Ready to book? Our Christmas 2026 page has the book-by dates, or send your dates and a person replies within 60 minutes, 8am to 8pm.

QUESTIONS

Straight answers.

When should I book Christmas party staff?

How much do Christmas party staff cost?

What should I send in the brief?

RELATED

Plan the rest of the event.

Start a full quote. Looking for shifts yourself? Work with us.