

DELL CONFIDENTIAL · FILE 001

Eleven board tricks from the Dell kitchen.

Ten felt too even. See trick six.



BEFORE WE BEGIN

We like making things pretty out here. Rooms, tables, and yes, meats, cheeses and all the little tidbits in between.

A good board turns a plain Tuesday into a small party. Nobody needs a reason. You just need crackers, a few friends, and somewhere to sit.

The ordinary, but make it a celebration.



01 Take the cheese out an hour early.

Cold cheese tastes like the fridge. Room temperature is where the flavor lives. Set a timer, then go feed something.



02 Take it outside.

A board tastes better next to a fire pit. Grab a blanket, pull up an Adirondack chair, and let the jam jar catch the last of the light. November counts. Bring a sweater.



03 Three cheeses. Three personalities.

One soft, one firm, one a little weird. A creamy one, a sharp one, and a blue that makes somebody at the table nervous.



04 Bowls go down first.

Jam, honey, mustard, olives. Put the little bowls on the board before anything else. They are the furniture. Everything else moves in around them.



05 Fold the meat. Never lay it flat.

Salami folded into rivers. Prosciutto in loose ribbons. Flat meat looks like a deli tray. Folded meat looks like you have a reservation.



06 Odd numbers only.

Clusters of three and five look like you meant it. Even numbers look like a math problem. That is why there are eleven of these.



07 Salty, sweet, sour, crunchy.

Every bite should have somewhere to go. Pickles for sour, honey for sweet, crackers and nuts for crunch. The pickles are not optional.



08 Start the cut for them.

Slice a few pieces off every cheese and leave the rest whole. Nobody wants to be the first one to break the wheel.



09 Fill every gap.

Grapes, berries, nuts, a fig cut in half. White space is for menus. A full board looks generous, and generous is the whole point.



10 Finish with something that grew here.

A sprig of rosemary, sage, whatever is still green outside in November. It makes the board smell like the place you are standing in.



11 Use the egg carton.

Twelve tiny boards in one. Cheese in one cup, a fig in the next, a chocolate in the last one. The chickens approve.



Bonus

Keep it away from Lady.

She is four months old and has never heard the word no. She will eat the rosemary. She will eat the napkin. Consider yourself warned.



THE ENTIRE WEST BARN

Build one at the Barn.

Two kitchens, one very long table, two fire pits, and room for 14. Weekdays are wide open.

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Now close the envelope. Tell no one. Or tell everyone.