

## Shower Rave Francesca's at the Promenade Bolingbrook

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My shower was yesterday at Francesca's at the Promenade in Bolingbrook. So glad we found this restaurant. Everything was amazing. The servers, the food, the space. We had 80+ women, and several long rectangle tables. The event coordinator there is Danielle. She did a wonderful job. She had several small flower arrangements on each table that she made the night before, and we brought in other decorations. She designed the seating arrangement, gift, and favor tables. She checked each guest in as they arrived and told them which table they were assigned.

The space is large and we had the whole restaurant to ourselves, beautiful fireplace, and most importantly, an endless supply of food that was served hot and perfectly timed, beverages, (we offered coffee, teas, soft drinks, and a pre-planned amount of bottles of wine to offer), and dessert. If our guests wanted a cocktail, they paid for their own at the bar. So many food choices. We didn't play any games, but my mother hosted a small version of the Newlywed game with questions for us to answer about each other, and a few with audience participation. Lots of fun! We sat back to back in front of the fireplace at the center of the room, on tall bar chairs, and we each had a dry erase board, pen, and eraser. We did this while our guests were served the salad course. We included a blank recipe card in the invitations, and collected them as they arrived to the shower in a large cookie jar. During the opening of the gifts, we would choose a recipe card from the jar at different intervals and we gave out gift cards to area stores. I think it helped to keep their interest a little longer. We had the restaurant from 12-4. Lights up, lights down, temperature, special diets, the restaurant was very accommodating to us and our guests, and made for a great location for our shower. Oh, our food picks were:

Appetizers: bruschette alla Romana & caprese skewers (passed, and at tables) warm bread, olive oil, balsamic vinegar at each table

Salad - dinner salad (family style)

Pasta - rigatoni pomodoro w/sides of meatballs and sides of mozzarella (family style)

Entree- Pollo Romana (breasts, not 1/2 chickens)

Dessert- Mini-Dessert Platters served at each table-pecan tarts, little lemon cheesecakes, turtle brownies, cream puffs, chocolate mousse) Endless choices for desserts.

A Big thumbs up! – Rie028

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