

## Toasting with good graces

“A good toast should be a gift, not an insult, so make it appropriate, flattering and, if possible, memorable,” says Rossana Magnotta, expert toaster for Magnotta Winery in Vaughan, Ont.

Exercise eloquence and wit. Consider the audience both in age and ideologies. Respectful words outweigh comedy in most cases. A good toast has the form of a speech, but obviously in miniscule scale. Consider an introduction, a comment towards the theme of the event and finally an adieu that is well fitting to the occasion.

Much more effort is required to be suc-



cinct than long-winded, so prepare your words well in advance. If you want to sound spontaneous, practice, practice, practice.

The simplest words are perceived as the most sincere. Be yourself. The best words and witticisms are your own, so forget about being reminded of something you once heard

or read. Originality is the essence of wit.

End on a positive note. A toast should always be upbeat. Lead your audience to a conclusion with a generally accepted gesture like “Raise your glass,” “Please join me in” or just a simple “Cheers.” The goal is always to uplift. 🍀