

## Best Of The East Bay

### Shops and Services

#### Readers' Pick

#### Caterer and Event Planner

Special occasions—even the most joyous—can sometimes be so stressful to plan and execute that anxiety horns in on celebration. That's where **Barbara Llewellyn** comes in. The Orinda resident and mother of two started her catering business almost 20 years ago, grilling chicken breasts in her backyard.

Today, she employs 20 people and has annual revenues of more than \$2.5 million. Clearly, she knows how to take care of business. Llewellyn pushes the concept of specialty food stations, such as the risotto bar or the slider hamburger bar, beyond novelty; you want to eat her food, not just coo at it. Her sliders burst with the flavor of fresh, high-quality beef, and she even makes her own delicious pickles. Her risotto bar turns out velvety, perfectly cooked arborio rice all night long. Her bartenders charm you with conversation as they prepare your cocktail dead right, and her miniature crab Louis salads, served in tiny cordial glasses, are both adorable and delicious.

As if that weren't enough, Llewellyn also has ties with the best photographers, florists, and musicians in the Bay Area, so when you work with her, every aspect of your event is addressed.

**Barbara Llewellyn Catering & Event Planning**, (510) 832-1967, <http://www.barbarallewellyn.com>