

KENNEDY★HAHN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOVING THE PARTY OUTDOORS

A look at the rise in outdoor kitchens

(February 13, 2006)—For many people who enjoy good food and entertaining, there’s little that can compete with a backyard barbeque. It’s an unbeatable combination, this marriage of the great outdoors, hot grilled food and tantalizing smells wafting through the fresh air. It has led to one of the most appetizing trends in home design today – the advent of the outdoor kitchen.

This growth in outdoor kitchens has blossomed for a number of reasons, from the steep growth in second homes and the increase in housing starts, to the renewed investment in home renovation with a focus placed on exterior amenities. With this development has come some terrific new appliances and outdoor décor, specifically designed to withstand the rigors of nature and eliminate the need to schlep food and accessories from the house to the patio.

In many ways, these outdoor kitchens have become a bridge between the home and the outdoors. At a time when many backyards have been carefully landscaped and designed, people have come to expect the same combination of attention to detail and attractiveness in their outdoor kitchens. In addition, these centers are an extension of the home and must be consistent with the appliances and luxury of the interior, while being sturdy enough to handle harsh outdoor elements. It all adds up to the need for outdoor products which are useful, well-crafted and lovely to look at.

“We refer to our products as ‘Outdoor Entertaining Centers’ because they really are much more than the typical barbeque grills people are accustomed to,” remarked Kelly Rigdon, president of Kennedy-Hahn Appliance. “The products we offer have been carefully designed to provide everything a host would need when cooking outdoors right at their fingertips. From cooking products to outdoor beverage & wine reserves, everything the outdoor host needs to entertain their guests is available at Kennedy-Hahn.”

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In order to create these seamless and efficient outdoor entertaining centers, Kennedy-Hahn offers a line of modular cabinetry by Danver, that handsomely incorporates all the appliances and accessories into one unit. This cabinetry is designed to resist the effects of weather and insects, and can be finished with stainless or inserted into brick, stone or stucco enclosures. From the grill itself and all its components to the weatherproof umbrella that shields the outdoor chef, these well thought-out systems ensure that every need is carefully met. The attractive units are long-lasting and well-organized, with durable countertops, handy cabinets and storage, and the ability to withstand almost anything Mother Nature throws at them.

There is tremendous variety in the number of options available to the outdoor cook with these new cooking products – it elevates backyard grilling to a whole new level. For instance, a complete line of grilling systems from Solaire features infrared burners, which are ready to grill in just 3 minutes and cook twice as fast as traditional burners. These grills boast options such as dual side burners that allow cooks to prepare side dishes and sauces, and motorized rotisseries capable of turning more than 50 lbs. Wood chip smokers let cooks easily add delicious smoky flavors and aromas to their grilled foods, and steamers/fryers make mouth-watering steamed clams or french fries. With all these fun options, cooks will be inspired to try new techniques and foods they might never have considered before.

But outdoor entertaining these days doesn't end with the grill. Whether you're muddling up mint leaves for a batch of mojitos or simply pouring a cold beer, new outdoor bartending centers by Perlick are a sure-fire way to get the party started off on the right foot. These units are rugged and stylishly sleek, and offer everything from chilled bottle bins, sinks with drainboards, and insulated ice compartments to bottle openers and serving shelves. No detail has been overlooked to make outdoor bartending a cinch.

Beyond these products, there are numerous other appliances specifically built to suit outdoor kitchens. Outdoor rated refrigerators, for example, have been designed to fit into modular systems and eliminate the need for the cook to run back and forth to the home. All of these new products are a boon to the harried host, who's often left out of the fun while dashing between the house, grill and bar to tend to their mingling guests. These outdoor kitchens provide a relaxing spot to gather, where friends, family, and cooks alike will enjoy the delights of outdoor dining. The great outdoors has never seemed so tempting.

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