

## Summer Kitchen Gadgets Meld Practical with Fun

by Theresa Grant

Summer gadgets are following ongoing design and color trends, but many are incorporating an extra element of fun. And what's exciting about these summer-oriented products is that they have a lifespan that goes well into the other three seasons, depending on where buyers live.

Susie Cover, Vice President of RSVP International, said, "Basic gadgets that provide a needed function continue to perform strongly." But being "functional" doesn't mean gadgets can't simultaneously make a fashion statement.

RSVP's Onion Goggles, featured in a May episode of the TV show, "Modern Family," are available for about \$19.95 in white, black, red, pink and, for the hipster on the list, tortoise shell. The goggles are lined with foam to create a barrier between onion fumes and sensitive eyes, and are made of polycarbonate, foam and plastic.

While not technically a kitchen gadget, the Bodum Frykat Charcoal Grill is a pretty nifty item—and its battery-powered rotisserie option does, actually, lend itself to the gadget category. The striking, cone-shaped device offers two grilling levels;

the upper level for veggies and fish can be used simultaneously with a lower grill for meats that do well closer to the heat. The grill easily converts to a third, battery-powered rotisserie option and can accommodate up to a 6-pound chicken. The grill comes in a choice of black, green, orange and red, and retails for about \$180.



"When it comes to grilling and food preparation items, each customer looks for different features and qualities," said Thomas Perez, President of Bodum USA Inc. "However, the feedback that we have received on our Frykat Cone Grill is that our attractive bright colors and the particular cone shape has added fashion and fun to the category. This has put new attention on the BBQ category and has inspired new and upcoming grillers as well as prompted experienced grillers to venture back into charcoal grilling."

And while out on the patio after dinner, outdoor diners can serve everyone's favorite ice cream using Jokari Cool Cones—reusable, freezable, "push-up" ice cream cones with lids. The cones are designed to

function both as a scoop and a push-up pop, and each one holds about 3 ounces. Scoop up the ice cream and cap and freeze individual servings for later, or scoop and eat right away. A set of two retails for about \$4.

For the growing category of home bakers, there are myriad products designed to make the process easier and more entertaining as well.

Lékué Decomax is a pliable silicone pastry bowl—in the tradition of a pastry cone—featuring an easy-access lid and built-in nozzle with six different tips for decorating or filling. It measures 2.8" deep, 5.5" wide and 6.3" long to the end of the nozzle, retailing for about \$26 and available in pink, green and brown. It is a mess-free option for kids and adults alike, eliminating the need for an iron grip to prevent back-seepage.

Did you know that pie is the new cupcake? Pillsbury declared it officially so in June and, based on the resurgence of pie chatter in the culinary media, it seems they got it right. Until personal



pie shops begin to take up residence on every neighborhood corner—or move into abandoned cupcake shops—your customers can assuage their pie cravings four small pies at a time with Breville's Personal Pie Maker.

Using homemade pastry or one of the many ready-to-go versions now available in the grocer's refrigerator case, users can whip up a variety of pies, even a mix of sweet and savory, in about 10 minutes. The Breville Personal Pie Maker is an exclusive at Williams-Sonoma, and retails for about \$100.

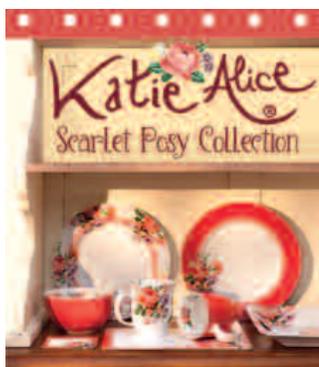


### WINE-A-RITA DRINK MIXES

Wine-A-Rita offers five powdered drink mixes: Wine Glacé, Peach Bellini, CosmoRita, Senorita and Berry Pom-a-Rita. The newest flavor, All Natural Berry Pom-a-Rita, has no additives, preservatives, artificial flavors or colors. Blueberry and pomegranate are rich sources of antioxidants and offer great health benefits. Blend with a

favorite red wine or serve the mixes alcohol free. The mixes are kosher and available for foodservice.

Wine-A-Rita LLC  
(tel) 903.832.7309  
www.wineglace.com



Introducing this exceptionally pretty homeware collection by lifestyle designer, Katie Alice. The range includes mats and coasters, melamine trays, mugs, ceramic plates and bowls. How there's every reason to invite friends around for tea!



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### BELLA TOVALA BT-2070KF DELUXE CREME BRULEE KIT

The easy-to-use, butane-powered, Crème Brulee Torch is perfect for

### OVEN-TAMER BAKING BASKET

The Oven-Tamer™ Baking Basket is the perfect kitchen helper for oven baking frozen appetizers, hors d'oeuvres and finger foods in one quick step. The open-weave design allows food to be cooked evenly on all sides at one time. Just place a favorite frozen food directly into the lower half of the Oven-Tamer™ basket, then close the top basket over to create a unique baking environment in which to cook prepared, frozen food more quickly and evenly. "Made from sturdy stainless steel with specially designed floating hinges to adjust for food thickness, this baking basket

professional chefs or just entertaining at home. The small, lightweight torch delivers a 2400°F high output blue flame. It is ideal for crème brulee, roasting peppers, melting cheese, browning meringues and caramelizing sugars. Features include automatic ignition, child-resistant safety lever, continuous use locking mechanism, adjustable flame control lever, ergonomic grip, non-tip wide base and a refillable reservoir. The Crème Brulee Torch is part of the Bella Tavola line, a butane-powered culinary tool line by Wall Lenk Corp. The Bella Tavola

line is the only complete program that includes butane. Contents of the kit include a crème brulee torch, four full-sized 3.5" by 1.65" fluted ramekins, a 1.5-ounce can of butane, one recipe and user instructions.

**Suggested Retail Price:**  
Creme Brulee Torch, \$29.99;  
Torch Fuel & Combo Pack, \$33.99;  
Torch & Ramekins Combo Pack, \$37.99;  
Torch, Ramekins & Fuel Pack \$39.99

Wall Lenk Corp.  
(tel) 252.527.4186  
www.bellatovatoools.com



**Suggested Retail Price: \$19.95**

Life-Tamers  
(tel) 905.732.5445 ext. 246  
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