

A wine cabinet or fridge is a fabulous idea for outdoor entertaining areas and Vintec has a wide range to suit all tastes. Pictured here is the Vintec

Wine cabinet, which is designed to emulate a traditional wine cellar by maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity and help preserve your drop, and the built-in Vintec beverage centre. They retail for \$1800 each at Appliances Online. Image from Darren James Interiors.



▲ With plenty of backyard picnics and barbecues on the menu, this BeefEater Tropical fridge is sure to come in handy. Boasting a commercial grade stainless-steel exterior, a heated double-glazing frost-free system and condensation-free glass doors, it retails for \$1699.



▶ With its mix of tribal patterns and bold hues, the Davis & Waddell Samba range will bring an upbeat vibe to any kitchen. Hand-painted in Davis & Waddell's Melbourne-based studio, the collection includes a variety of printed ceramics and bamboo servingware – pictured here is the two-piece oil & vinegar bottle set \$24.99 and two-piece serving set with bamboo paddle \$26.99.



▶ For the perfect outdoor party setting, you can't go past the Weber range of portable gas barbecues. Shown here is the Weber Q 220, which retails for \$399 LP or \$429 NG at Woodparker. www.woodparker.com.au

Catering to a crowd? A barbecue is the smartest way to feed everyone and there are a huge range of models and outdoor kitchens available – just make sure the area is well-lit for night-time cooking. A small outdoor fridge or dishwasher will also come in handy on trips to the kitchen for the host.

For the table, keep it simple with pretty linens and practical melamine – go bright with hot hues of magenta, tangerine, and aqua, fresh blues and whites for a coastal-inspired look or try a taste of the tropics with island-inspired prints. Then finish with some flameless candles, a colourful string of fairy lights and some bright blooms for the table – that's sure to make your guests feel special! ■

With our wonderful climate, Australians love eating in the great outdoors and getting your home all set to welcome guests can be easier than you think. Start with the table – ideally, this should be located close to the kitchen and generously sized if lots of laidback meals and dinner parties are on the menu. Bench seating is perfect for both casual and formal dining and you can also keep a few fold-away chairs or stackable stools nearby for extra guests.

SET THE SCENE

Shade is also essential whatever the size of your space – a large outdoor umbrella is ideal for covering up dining areas, while a shade sail or gazebo also creates a cool place to escape the heat.