

Grill power

Get set for summer with a sizzling barbecue. By **Susan Redman**.

THE backyard barbie has come a long way since the knock-up version that was little more than a hotplate supported by two rough blocks of Sydney sandstone.

Constructed almost at ground level, these were barbecues built for cavemen, tended by a group of blokes standing about, grog in one hand, fire hazard in the other.

Thankfully, barbecue design has undergone a complete overhaul. The latest models show a diversification – and indeed, a sophistication – that reflects our love of a barbie on any occasion.

The sleek barbecue of Jeppe Utzon for Electrolux is uber-cool. Created by the grandson of Jorn Utzon, it is, like the Sydney Opera House, an unconventional approach to practical design and turns the mundane into a minimalist masterpiece.

The Hotbox is equally stylish. Its beauty lies in the concealment of side tables, slide-out drawers for the gas bottle and a retractable lid, making it perfect for balconies and small spaces.

Outdoor kitchens are increasingly incorporated into backyard design and this top-of-the-range Lifestyle model, featuring fridge and sink, is made in Sydney and comes with a 25-year warranty.

Other styles of barbecues on offer include the slow-cooking Kamado, made from ceramics and powered by charcoal, ideal for cooking pizza, smoked foods, roasts and casseroles. BeefEater makes a pizza oven to fit its conventional four-burners and Weber's Q series comprises the gas versions of the iconic kettle style with features galore and easy portability. But nothing beats the Bucket for impromptu beach barbies.

And how could any sporting bloke look past the BeefEater Supporter Series barbie, enamelled in team colours. Cavemen, eat your heart out!



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1. Jeppe Utzon barbecue, **from \$8999**, Electrolux, 1300 363 640, electrolux.com.au. 2. Bucket barbecue, **\$45**, Urban Balcony, 8021 6456, urbanbalcony.com.au. 3. BeefMates pizza oven, hood only, **\$299**, and four-burner Signature barbecue in designer cabinet trolley, **\$2399**, BeefEater, 9724 8888, beefeaterbbq.com. 4. Two-burner Hotbox barbecue, **\$999**, from Harvey Norman, 1300 4642 7839, hotboxbbqs.com. 5. Kamado cooker or smoker, **\$1750**, Joe's BBQs, 9737 9799, kamadocookersaustralia.com. 6. Avalon outdoor kitchen, **\$11,000**, Lifestyle, 9773 6245, lifestylebbqs.com. 7. Big Family Q, **\$799**, Weber, 1300 301 290, weberbbq.com.au. 8. BeefEater Supporter Series barbecue, **\$2999**, BeefEater, 9724 8888, beefeaterbbq.com.



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