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Kitchenware News

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& Housewares Review

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Barbecue Season Heats Up as Industry Enjoys Sizzling Sales

BY A.J. FLICK

Americans do love their barbecue, with millions firing up their grills this month.

The Fourth of July is the most popular American holiday for grilling, according to a 2020 survey of grill owners by Statista, a top market and consumer data researcher. Nearly 70 percent of those surveyed say Independence Day is a great excuse for a backyard barbecue.

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housewares on DISPLAY

at Atlanta & Las Vegas Markets

As the pandemic in America begins to wane and the number of vaccinated individuals continues to rise, retailers and consumers alike are beginning to resume a semblance of normalcy. A welcome part of this returning normalcy is the return of in-person trade shows, where companies can promote their products and connect with others in the industry.

International Market Centers (IMC) is eager to facilitate this connection.

“Buyers and sellers are preparing for a strong market as industry recovery continues and business approaches pre-pandemic levels,” said Bob Maricich, IMC chief executive officer.

Atlanta Market, held in July, and Las Vegas Market, held in August, will both follow Together Safely, IMC’s COVID-19 operating protocols. Safety procedures include social distancing, the use of PPE as indicated, hand-sanitization stations and enhanced housekeeping measures. More information about IMC’s safety protocols can be found at www.togethersafely.com.

Both markets will feature housewares products in showrooms and temporary exhibits.

July’s Atlanta Market will present its most expansive product offerings since the beginning of the pandemic, including the reopening of trade show destinations to accommodate resource growth, with nearly 800 lines presented in socially distant temporary booth

configurations on nine floors across the three-building AmericasMart campus.

AmericasMart features more than 300 home décor showrooms presenting lighting, accent furniture, rugs, wall décor, casual furniture and linens on 12 floors; more than 700 gift and lifestyle showrooms are located on 19 floors showcasing gift and specialty categories including children’s, gourmet foods and housewares, garden and outdoor living, lifestyle, tabletop, seasonal and more.

Las Vegas Market is expecting a surge of interest in its August show stemming from consumer demand for home products, expectation of a strong fourth quarter and later-than-normal summer show dates. Organizers have mustered a robust assortment of gift, home decor and furniture products to fill retailers’ holiday inventory needs.

More than 4,300 furniture, gift and home decor resources are expected to cover three showroom buildings and temporary exhibits in the Expo at World Market Center.

The temporary gift and home presentation presents six destinations: gift, design, handmade, home, immediate delivery and luxe. New this year is the Gourmet Housewares Collection, a comprehensive and focused collection of some 100 new resources, including kitchen gadgets, cookware, small electrics, grilling tools, kitchen textiles, bar accessories, cookbooks, gourmet food and more.

These new resources will complement the Market’s more than 350 existing gift-oriented housewares and specialty food resources presented in permanent showrooms. Within the showrooms, the market will feature more than 2,000 furniture lines on 31 floors, more than 2,000 gift resources on seven floors and more than 500 home décor resources on 13 floors.

Exhibitors

Carmel Ceramica will be exhibiting in both Atlanta and Las Vegas, showcasing its products including the Dappled collection of stoneware. Reminiscent of a leisurely stroll along a tree-lined path on a sunny afternoon, the collection now includes an 11-inch dinner plate along with salad plate for a full dinnerware set. Suggested retail is \$33. Visit www.carmelceramica.com for more information.

Inspired by Hoffman’s tale and Tchaikovsky’s subsequent ballet, Casafina raises the curtain to reveal a stunning selection of must-have items for the festive season. Both Atlanta and Las Vegas markets will see The Nutcracker collection, which reproduces beautiful scenes from the much-loved classical ballet, bringing music, dance and magic to the table. The same spirit of The Nutcracker that has captivated generations as a beloved holiday tradition is effortlessly brought to this enchanting collection by Casafina.

It’s easy to fall in love with this magical stoneware

collection. Consisting of several dinnerware, serveware and decorative pieces, The Nutcracker showcases original illustrations that capture the ethereal images from the beloved ballet. With its gentle flowing edges and hand-brushed rims, the collection features a classic exuberance through different patterns of dancing figures, sweets and fairies, pine forests, toy soldiers, the Mouse King, Clara and the Nutcracker, posing like a childhood memory over a romantic white glaze. This complete collection will delight both adults and children and make the holiday season more meaningful and memorable. Suggested retail for the dinner plate is \$35. For more information, go to www.casafinagifts.com.

Creative Co-op will bring its array of products to both Las Vegas and Atlanta, including 8-inch stoneware fruit baskets. Sold in sets of two, they're perfect for serving fruit atop a saucer or tray and can also be used to contain dish towels and other kitchen accessories. There are two styles of 4.25-inch stoneware bowls sold with matching spoons, which look great when filled with olives, salt, or any other appetizer essential. Creative Co-op's 8-inch round marble trivet has a simple, modern design and comes in a set of two. Decorative trivets can become part of the table decoration and already be in place when time to set out the food. Visit www.creativecoop.com for more information.

Pourtions will bring its whimsical, portion-control (but who's counting?) products to the both Atlanta and Las Vegas markets, including the Book Club Wine Collection of "Hungover" and "Non-Diction" 15-ounce glasses. The only thing worse than showing up at a book club without having read the book? Drinking like you're a Hemingway character on a Parisian bender ("beuverie" to the locals). Everything really does sound better in French! So, mind the fine, colored line on your glass—and don't let the best of wines become the worst of times. Suggested retail is \$12.95 each or \$23.95 set.

Other Pourtions products include the 10-ounce "Frisky" (MSRP \$12.95) because what's tasty and satisfying one minute can turn quickly if you're not mindful, so keep your head; the "Bridezilla" and "I DID!?!?" (\$18.95) 16-ounce flutes from the Wedding Collection to get the reception going; and "Basta" bowls (\$18) so your go-to pasta dish doesn't all "go to" your hips. For more information (and laughs), visit www.pourtionsjustright.com.



POURTIIONS

Rolf Glass will put some Mad Men-inspired swank into the Atlanta Market with its Nick & Nora Coupe glassware, each with its own whimsical mid-century flair. Then, to bring a touch of the outdoors inside, the Icy Pine glassware collection easily goes from the holiday table to a picnic table. Contrasting pine needles are diamond-wheel engraved and brilliantly polished to add dimension and sparkle. For more inspiration, visit www.rolfglass.com.

The fiesta is in Atlanta — Fiesta Dinnerware, that is. Twilight is Fiesta Dinnerware's new color for 2021. It's a luminescent medium shade of blue that fits beautifully in the rainbow of Fiesta's 16 signature colors. Last year, Fiesta's 10¾-inch luncheon/salad bowl plates sold as fast as they were made. This year, Fiesta introduces a smaller 8½-inch version (suggested retail \$21). Building on the popularity of the Coastal collection introduced in 2020, Fiesta has added a Seahorse intertwined with coral, a

starfish and sand dollar. Pieces include luncheon plate, tapered mug and appetizer plate (suggested retail \$19.99-\$46.99). For your Fiesta, go to www.fiestatableware.com.

Next Step Reps will exhibit in Las Vegas at their showroom with a variety of products such as Abbott's Natura Collection Planter, which adds a natural aesthetic to a home with simple, minimalistic design (MSRP \$30); Abbott's Versa Chain collection, which offers a fashionable and convenient solution for keeping a mask or glasses accessible (\$24); Regal's Cabo Frog Decor, "Hands Up," for a fun addition to the garden (\$26); and Rega's Unicorn, the newest of its mythical decor series (\$150).

For gifting options, Next Step Reps will exhibit Kay Dee Designs' Witty Wine collection, featuring towels that are funny and perfect for the times and girlfriend gifts (\$10.99 each); Papersalt's Encouragement Cards that features "There is only one of you in the world" greeting on the front and blank space to personalize a message (\$4.95); and Brownlow's Journal, Simple Inspirations softcover journals with 128 lined pages and affirming quotes (\$9.99). For more information, go to www.nextstepreps.com.

AMEICO will exhibit at both the Atlanta and Las Vegas shows, showcasing such products at Tat-Tat's Sacco Storage Pouch, a soft-weighted storage pouch in nine colors for personal accessories (MSRP \$36); Izipizi's reading glasses, which break the mold for their range of colorful and fashionable glasses (\$40-\$50); and Subu Product's fall and winter slippers, inspired by centuries-old Japanese tradition but fully functional for today's needs (\$55-\$65). For more information, go to www.ameico.com.

Atlanta Market

Atlanta Market is the industry's premier gift, décor and lifestyle market. Housing the nation's largest gift product mix complemented by a broad selection of home décor, it features more than 8,000 brands across all categories. Held semi-annually at AmericasMart Atlanta, Atlanta Market attracts retailers and designers from every U.S. state and more than 60 countries.

The Summer 2021 Atlanta Market showrooms will be open July 13-19. Temporaries are open July 14-18.

More information on the Summer 2021 Atlanta Market can be found at www.atlantamarket.com.

Las Vegas Market

Las Vegas Market is the leading home furnishings and gift market in the western U.S., presenting more than 4,300 furniture, home décor and gift resources in an unrivaled market destination. Las Vegas Market features thousands of product lines, allowing for cross-category commerce among these industries.

The Summer 2021 Las Vegas Market will be held August 22-26. A new highlight at this summer's show is the brand-new Gourmet Housewares Collection, which includes kitchen gadgets, cookware, small electrics, grilling tools, kitchen textiles, bar accessories, cookbooks, gourmet food and more. These new resources will complement the existing gift-oriented housewares and specialty food resources presented in permanent showrooms.

More information on the Summer 2021 Las Vegas Market can be found at www.lasvegasmarket.com. **KN**



CARMEL CERAMICA



KALALOU



FIESTA DINNERWARE



CREATIVE CO-OP