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Home



Light up, light up

Make sure your party continues into the night by hanging up a few strings of 20 multi-coloured Carnival Solar Festoon lights which illuminate automatically as darkness falls – with no electricity needed. £19.99, lights4fun.co.uk

Drink it in

Keep a stash of bright, plastic cocktail glasses to hand so you can whip up a mojito or martini – without breakages. 99p each, homebargains.co.uk

Decked out

Foldaway deckchairs (with durable sailcloth slings) are spot-on for off-the-cuff garden parties and can be easily stored inside once the weather turns. £99 each, welovecushions.co.uk



Chill out

Keep your Chablis chilled for up to four hours in this Built One Neoprene wine tote which stretches to fit different bottle sizes. £7.19, amazon.co.uk



Take a seat

The Porto Bistro glass-topped table and two matching chairs are super-stylish in mint-coloured steel. £229, johnlewis.com

Let's take this Outside...

Lara Sargent on great candles, boho paper plates, gorgeous rugs and carnival lights to pimp up your garden



Grass roots

Even apartment-living urbanites can recreate the smell of freshly cut grass on a summer's afternoon with this scented candle. £8.95, lily-flame.co.uk



Tray chic

Ferry nibbles and drinks in and out of the garden on these bold and budget-friendly trays. Brill stuff. £2.79, homebargains.co.uk



Floor show

No time to get out the jet wash? Then pep up your patio with one of these indoor/outdoor rugs made from a flatweave 100 per cent polypropylene. From £69.99, modern-rugs.co.uk



Paper trail

Who needs fancy crockery when these Boho floral paper plates (£4 for 12) and cups (£4.50 for 12) are so pretty? talkingtables.co.uk

ASK THE EXPERT HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OF MY OUTDOOR SPACE?

With garden designer Catherine Chenery

■ FOR me, herbs are an essential, either on an outdoor table or near the back door, so they are on hand for al fresco dining. Basil, thyme, rosemary and mint look fabulous tucked onto a drinks trolley for the ultimate cocktail evening!



some height, which will create a cosy feel and make the area feel enclosed. If you're in a sunny position, try growing a *Trachelospermum jasminoides* (star jasmine), and around June to August it will be covered in clusters of white, star-shaped flowers with the most

heavenly scent. The leaves are evergreen, too, so you will have year-round coverage. Try a climbing hydrangea for a shady wall, but be careful, as this can take over. Use a mix of containers around seating areas with varied plants. Choose scented options such as lavender, roses or *Nicotiana glauca* (flowering tobacco).

■ A FEW branches of foliage such as eucalyptus or silver birch laid

along the centre of a garden table is easy to do, while snipping a few flowers from your garden for a little vase or jar will create a relaxed centrepiece. Sweet peas are perfect and smell lovely.

■ A LIGHTING plan is essential for creating the right mood and highlighting particular plants or trees – it also means you can extend the hours you can enjoy your garden. Use solar lights, string lights or candles and

choose hurricane lamps, so you're not re-lighting them if the wind gets up.

■ BE IT a little bench, a dining table or a bistro set on a balcony, comfortable furniture is essential, while cushions create a homely atmosphere and add colour.

Garden designer Catherine Chenery will be at the House & Garden Festival, June 20-24, Olympia, London, catherinechenery.co.uk

■ USE climbing plants to add