

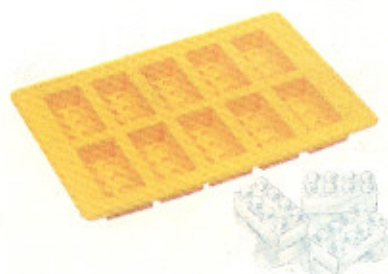
BACKYARD BASH

WHETHER HEADING TO RAVINIA OR GRILLING IN THE YARD, THESE GREAT ITEMS WILL ENHANCE YOUR PICNIC OR BBQ

BY ARI BENDERSKY



Urban Accents Dryglazes
Choose your meat—pork, beef, chicken or fish—and add the latest magic spice from Chicago-based Urban Accents. Dryglazes come in six flavors, including Santa Fe BBQ, Puebla Mole and Pan Asian Zing, and work like a traditional grilling rub but give any dish a kick as the spices and flavors seep into your meat. Available at Sam's Wines, 1720 N. Marcey; \$7.50.

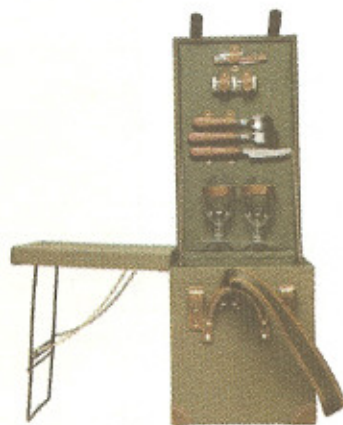


Lego Ice Bricks
Regardless if you have kids hanging about, Lego Ice Bricks appeal to the inner child in everyone. Able to make 10 Lego-shaped ice cubes, the yellow plastic tray adds a little pep to any party. Available at the Lego Store, 520 N. Michigan or at shop.lego.com; \$7.99.

Lands' End Waterproof Sport Throw
There's nothing worse than settling onto your sheet or picnic blanket only to then jump back up after sitting in a wet spot. Lands' End's Waterproof Sport Throw remedies that and has an added layer of fleece to give a little cush to your tush. Best of all: It zips up into itself and has a handy strap for easy carrying. Available at landsend.com; \$49.50.



Orvis Heirloom Picnic Basket by Sagaform
Sure, you could pick up one of those compact picnic backpacks, but having to put dirty dishes back into the bag can get quite messy. This basket trunk comes with cutlery, plates and wine glasses for two, a corkscrew, salt and pepper shakers, cotton napkins and a tablecloth—plus, its fold-out table makes for easy serving. Available at orvis.com; \$169.95.



Capogiro Gelato & Carol's Cookies
No BBQ is complete without a great dessert—and hopefully you saved room for two. Carol's Cookies (carolscookies.com) and Capogiro Gelato (at Bouffe, 2312 W. Leland) could be the best—and last—cookie and ice cream combo you ever need to seek out. Each cookie weighs a half-pound and, with flavors including chocolate chip, old-fashioned sugar and cinnamon swirl, you'll think twice before sharing. But share you should, because you'll want that pint of traditional, creamy Italian gelato (pistacchio, espresso, cioccolato con banana) passed over to you. \$24 per small tin of cookies; \$9.99 per pint of gelato.



Collapsible Cooler with Detachable All Terrain Cart
How else will you get all your food and drinks to the park? That lame Styrofoam cooler will no doubt break, and having to carry a bunch of plastic bags is bad for the environment. This sturdy, leak-proof cooler holds 50 12-ounce cans or a combination of food and bottles—or whatever you need to smuggle into the park. Available at keepyourcooler.com; \$68.