

TURN UP THE HEAT, TURN DOWN THE HEAT

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Options galore for cooking and refrigeration

RECENT DESIGN TRENDS have seen homeowners opting for a unified look in their kitchens when they invest in appliances. “There’s a growing preference for no more than two appliance brands in kitchens. This threads the design elements together better,” says Leah Kalemba, media and communications manager for AGA Marvel.

The company is able to satisfy that demand for cohesive design by offering AGA cookers as well as a full range of appliances under the Marvel brand that includes dishwashers, wine cellars, outdoor fridges, beer dispensers, and

ice machines, many of which can be cased in or installed in cabinetry or under the counter.

AGA Marvel is a North American subsidiary of AGA Rangemaster, manufacturer of the AGA cooker. In 2003 AGA Rangemaster acquired Marvel (then known as Northland Marvel), thus bringing two high-end kitchen appliance brands under one roof.

AGA is the iconic cast-iron cooker (that’s “stove” or “range” in North American terms) that, for nearly 100 years, has been a staple appliance in English country homes. It has a certain cachet in North America, too, and



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with a choice of oven configurations available, both country and city dwellers can have their AGAs. Sizes range from a five-oven model that reigns over the kitchen, to three-oven models that are not much bigger than the standard stoves we're accustomed to in most homes, to the newly introduced City24, which is a slimmer but still full-featured model (including two ovens) that tucks into small spaces.

The standout AGA feature is consistent radiant heat technology that allows for cooking as fast or as slow as desired. The latest generation of AGAs is more energy-efficient

than the traditional (now retired) AGA. Depending on the model, other features include large dual-setting hotplates; roasting, baking, slow-cooking, and warming ovens; remotely programmable cooking zones; electric or natural gas operation; and as many as 15 colours to choose from. Among those, "the bold-red claret hue and the very versatile cream and black are top-selling colours," says Kalemba. "Dark blue and aqua are emerging trends."

Despite its traditional styling, the AGA cooker fits well in most types of decor. "AGA works beautifully with a variety of styles," Kalemba says.

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One popular approach, she says, is to pair an AGA with sleek cabinetry and such industrial elements as stainless steel accents. "Many homeowners take a modern approach around the timeless look of the AGA. It's a versatile focal point that can either coordinate or deliberately contrast and still achieve visual unity," Kalemba says.

Marvel's appliances pair well with an AGA. Under-counter wine cellars and beverage coolers have glass doors for timeless style. Under-counter fridge-freezers, refrigerator drawers, ice machines and beer dispensers present a stainless-steel face to the world, coordinating

with most decors. Marvel high-capacity fridges, freezers, refrigerator-freezers, and wine cellars are stainless steel and, for the ultimate in coordination, can be integrated into cabinetry. And outdoors, stainless steel keeps fridges, freezers and beer dispensers efficient and unobtrusive.

Marvel is an enduring brand, more than 120 years old, that prides itself on performance features. Based on industry tests, "we have the highest temperature stability in the marketplace," says Kalemba. "Our temperature settings are precise and preserve food integrity. Marvel appliances draw the temperature down

quickly. In addition, they're energy misers." The brand offers many sizes of appliances, from the compact under-counter models to full-size models ranging from 18 to 72 inches wide. Adjustable freezer shelves are perforated for efficient air flow. Metal-framed glass shelving is sturdy and, like the clear fruit and vegetable bins, affords an unobstructed view of items. The new split convertible shelf allows for six configurations.

Marvel appliances are as versatile as AGA cookers, Kalemba says. In fact, she could be referring to Marvel as much as AGA when she says "there's an AGA for everybody's lifestyle." ❦