

# OUTDOOR LIVING

• Creating Your Own Backyard Oasis!

Songs like "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas and the Papas and "California Blue" by Roy Orbison are inspired by the many regions throughout our state that often boast beautiful weather. It's not like the humid Southeast, the rainy Northwest; it doesn't snow for what seems like forever in the Midwest, and there is no scorching desert dry-heat like summers in the Southwest. We are lucky enough to enjoy the outdoors year-round and embrace our backyards as extensions of our homes. We use fences to ensure privacy and an endless supply of backyard products to create inviting settings.

Some of the most popular trends right now include beautiful patio sets, relaxing spas, and elaborate BBQ set-ups. Patio furniture is a true "must have" for any form of outdoor relaxation or entertainment. There are endless styles of lawn and patio furniture - all you need to do is choose your personal style. Are you more of a "napping in a hammock" or "reading in your Adirondack" type? The possibilities are endless! You can choose from a variety of furniture materials - cedar, teak, redwood, wrought iron, rattan, wicker, aluminum or resin. Take as much



Above: Tropitone Patio Furniture - available at Premier Pools & Spas at 2761 E. Bidwell, Folsom, 916-983-1125.



Above: The Vieluxe Grill available at California Backyard - 12210 Tributary Lane, Rancho Cordova, 916-353-5100.

time and care choosing your outdoor furniture as you would for your indoor decorating. With proper care and maintenance, your lawn and patio furniture will give you years of enjoyment. The hammock has made a comeback and come a long way since you climbed into (and fell out of) one as a kid. They come in dozens of colorful styles, shapes and sizes, and can be attached to a tree, a porch or free-standing. If you already have patio furniture, you can give it a makeover with new cushions and covers. Just add a matching umbrella and, presto, you have instant outdoor living!

A spa is most definitely one of the most enjoyable purchases you can make for your backyard. Don't worry, with our climate you will be able to use your outdoor spa just about year-round. In addition to being downright enjoyable, there are many health benefits to owning a spa: they help ease sore, stiff muscles and joints, lower stress levels, relieve arthritis pain and help Type 2 Diabetics feel better. Today, spas are portable (they only need electric, not plumbing, access) so you have lots of options for positioning your spa. There are many different spa sizes and shapes available, from





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Outdoor Fireplace from Crate & Barrel - The Roseville Galleria,  
916-784-9100.

cozy spaces for two to more roomy spas for the entire family, (with an average size four-person spa measuring approximately 2m x 2m).

A spa may be a bit of a "luxury" item and a patio set is a necessity, but a barbecue falls somewhere in between - it's definitely a very nice thing to have, but you could live without it (if you absolutely had to)! I honestly don't think I've ever met anyone who doesn't barbecue in the summer - even if it's just on a single-grill charcoal hibachi. Charcoal grills are best known for producing intense, smoky flavors, and are the least expensive type of grill - usually \$100 or less. However, they are a start-up and clean-up nightmare, and they burn less cleanly than gas. They are also harder to regulate. Gas grills are easy to start, warm up quickly, and cook predictably. They range in price from about \$100 to over \$2,000. Electric grills start easily, offer precise temperature control

Outdoor fireplace: Photo reprinted courtesy of Crate and Barrel. Visit them online at [www.crateandbarrel.com](http://www.crateandbarrel.com).



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Hammock from Hatteras Hammocks - available at California Backyard, 12210 Tributary Lane, Rancho Cordova, 916-353-5100.

and allow you to grill with nonstick cookware, but can take a bit longer than gas to warm up and grill. They are generally priced from about \$100 to \$300 and are a good option for places where gas grills aren't allowed. Those looking for a backyard status symbol can easily find models that cost thousands of dollars and include step-up features such as stainless-steel exteriors and grates, separately controlled side burners, rotisserie attachments, utensil holders, and other perks.

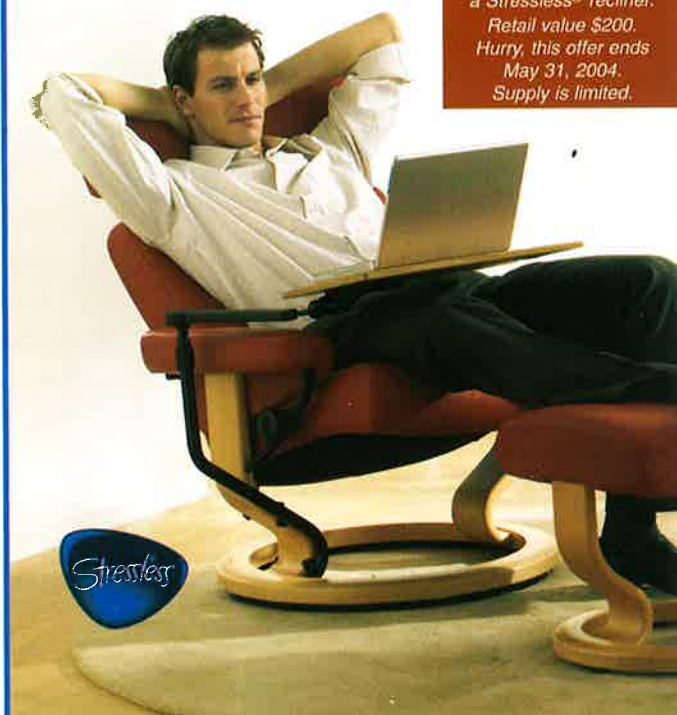
No matter how many people are in your household, there are great outdoor products on the market right now to help you make your backyard an extension of your home. Summer is almost here, so start your outdoor living right now to get the maximum enjoyment out of your backyard this year! ❶

— Elizabeth Morabito

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