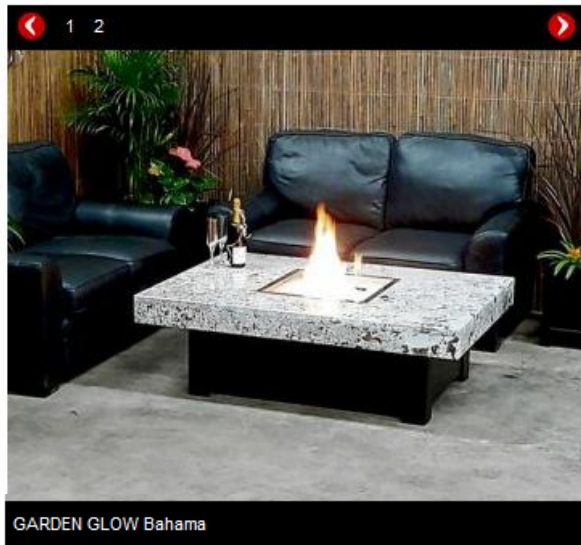


Feel the heat



GARDEN GLOW Bahama

An outdoor heat source can make living alfresco Irish-style an option, writes **ALANNA GALLAGHER**

THE LURE OF the campfire is as old as time itself. Nowadays, though, it's about more than just warmth and protection. "People want to make a statement outdoors," says Patricia Mulligan, marketing manager with BQ Ireland. "Heat is the key to alfresco living Irish-style," adds Bill Simpson of Simpson Design Management. "Outdoor heating has transformed the ambience of Irish restaurants and bars. The idea is to recreate that ambience at home."

Free-standing outdoor gas heaters have become things of beauty. The Santorini and Athena are two gas bottle styles that

shoot up big flames of fire. The Athena is a tall, triangular heater that comes in white and is already a feature of many hip eateries in London. It looks wonderful at night.

Alternatively, you could try a table-top patio heater. Eamon O'Hare of The Outdoor Scene sells a style that lets you tilt the hood to direct the heat, cutting down on wasted energy. Prices start at €195. Mulligan suggests Chimineas as a cost-effective option.

THE CAMPFIRE IS a stainless steel bowl around which you can add whatever texture you desire. It costs €999. Tel: 01-6206 777, hearthandhome.ie

THE ATHENA IS a tall, triangular bottle-gas heater. It comes in white and looks especially striking at night. €499 at Hearth and Home and at the Outdoor Scene. Tel: 01-296 0212, outdoor.ie

LOVE REAL FLAMES? The Jotul Terrazza (Jotul.com) is a rust-effect wood burner that can be left outdoors. It costs €355 at Fenton Fires, Greystones, Dublin, tel: 01-287 4310, fentonfires.ie; €400 at Sean Murphy Heating, Galway, tel: 091-637 159, murphyheating.com; €330 at Cork Stoves and Fires, tel: 021-4322 033, corkstoves.ie

THE BAHAMA IS a square, table-top gas design that will make patios and terraces look stylish. It costs around €3,956 through UK-based Prestigious Fires. Delivery is extra. Tel: 0044-1709 524 162, prestigiousfires.co.uk

A SIMPLE, MODERN real flame circular design called the Crater features a steel dish set on a tripod. It is available from UK-based The Modern Garden Company. Retail price is €1,314, excluding delivery. Tel: 0044-1279 653 200, moderngardencompany.com

THE WHITE COPPER inlaid Rondo heater-cum-barbecue is a sturdy masonry design that burns wood or charcoal and can also be set up to work off gas. It is €799. Tel: 01-287 8404, outdoorfurniture.ie

A CHEAP CHIC option is a Chiminea. Choose from antique gold or burnished silver designs at Woodies, €89.99, a limed clay Santiago style at BQ, €73, or a cast iron Monterrey design at Homebase, €129.99.