



WITH ADVANCED GADGETS AND CONNECTIVITY, THE BACKYARD BARBECUE HAS ENTERED THE 21ST CENTURY

by David Ferry

USED TO BE grilling was a dark art. The coals had to be just so, the sauce made from a recipe handed down through the generations. It made for good eats, but it was time-consuming and, frankly, a little intimidating. Like most everything else, however, tech is making it easier. "Nowadays," says Max Good, owner of Black Swan, which produces a line of premium sauces, "you can throw some meat on the grill and check the temp with your phone." Indeed, a host of new devices—not to mention Bluetooth everything—allow you to orchestrate an entire Fourth of July cookout from your deck chair: set the lighting, mix the tunes, light up a cozy firepit, even operate the 'cue. Here's a look at what's outfitting this summer's high-tech patio parties.