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FASHION LIFESTYLES

Glassware that takes your outdoor party to the next level. OMG, did you see this?

By DAVID SYREK
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Urge Design's borosilicate glass Cactus collection balances the liquid to perfectly align into the handle, body and spout of the jugs. (Ichendorf Milano)

Your summer travel plans may still be on hold, but after more than a year of living in near isolation, and vaccinations allowing us more freedom, it's time to bring together your family and friends to catch up and celebrate summer. The 2021 outdoor entertaining season is ramping up with inventive designs that bring indoor style outdoors and break away from the expected.

100-year-old Italian glassmaker Ichendorf Milano has collaborated with artists and designers to produce whimsical collections that are part fairy tale, part science lab. The handblown glass bottles and carafes look delicate but are made from durable borosilicate glass and are dishwasher safe, making them the perfect upgrade for your next dinner party on the deck.

The minimalist Cactus collection of pitchers designed by Bologna-based design studio Urge takes inspiration from the silhouette of a saguaro cactus with branches that act as handle and spout. The design balances out the liquid so that it evenly disperses throughout the handle, spout and body, creating a surreal effect.



Alessandra Baldereschi's Animal Farm collection for Ichendorf. (Ichendorf Milano)

Handblown glass creatures inhabit designer Alessandra Baldereschi's whimsical Animal Farm collection of water bottles and jugs. A white dove, squirrel or owl sitting on a branch becomes optically enlarged when liquid is added.

"The Animal Farm collection is like an illustrated diary that collects childhood memories, life in the countryside, fairy tales with animals represented as prodigious protagonists of natural life," said Baldereschi. "Nature never stops reinventing itself, and is for me an inexhaustible source of inspiration."

Go ahead and pour your next lemonade from a work of art.

Cactus jugs, \$40-\$42, Field & Florist, Chicago fieldandflorist.com. Animal Farm Bottle \$45, pitcher, \$75, ichendorfmilano.com.

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