

Ray Booth and Marie Turner with a Rochester serving cart by Gloster, left, and Luxembourg bar cart by Fermob. See Resources.



The Top 10 Bar Carts

Truth in Decorating: Designers Marie Turner and Ray Booth take these versatile pieces for a spin and find they create an instant party wherever they go

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As you revel in the great outdoors this summer, don't forget to bring the refreshments along with you. "Mad Men, martini—there's something grown-up and fun about the resurgence of the cocktail hour," says interior designer Marie Turner. An elegant bar cart is "a traveling party," she adds. "Look for one with extra storage and a rail that holds everything in place." Removable trays allow you to bring drinks to your guests, and brakes are a bonus—"to prevent your liquor from rolling away."

Designer Ray Booth recommends a sturdy cart with big wheels that won't get caught on grass or gravel. "I always try to get my drinks out fast when I've got a thirsty crew," he explains. Booth also loves "the little cutouts that keep the bottles from bouncing out. You don't want too many challenges when you're mixing a drink." Poolside margaritas are Turner's favorite summer beverage. Booth shares her appreciation—"but," he says, "a martini follows me around all year." Chin chin! >



1 ALFRESCO GREY CART BY CRATE & BARREL
 "This is the SUV of bar carts," says Ray Booth, eyeing the all-terrain wheels and roomy storage. He admires the simplicity of the design, which includes three lift-out trays and a wide handle—a good spot for a bar towel. "I can see it by a pool or on a porch," he says. "It's also a terrific bargain."
 Height: 26.5"; length: 33"; width: 24"; material: powder-coated aluminum frame and bottle tray in black finish with gray polyethylene trays (also available in silver with wood-look trays); delivery: 1–2 weeks; price: \$330; crateandbarrel.com



2 MOJITO BAR CART FROM DDC
 Compact and contemporary, this is perfect for a small apartment, raves Marie Turner. "The contrast of dark wood, chrome, and steel makes this a transitional piece you can mix with other styles." Turner also praises its versatility: "In the morning, it's a small coffee bar set up for lattes, and at night, you can stock it with groovy glasses and liquor bottles."
 Height: 33"; length: 23"; width: 18" (also available in larger size); material: chrome frame with satin-finished-steel shelves and wings; top and base rack; delivery: 12 weeks; price: \$1,380; ddc.com



3 LUXEMBOURG BAR CART BY FERMOB
 "It's surprisingly agile," says Booth, crediting the oversize wheels, a light-weight aluminum frame, and a rail to hold cargo. "It has a bit of playfulness and humor to it. And the fact that it comes in a variety of bright colors makes it even more fun." Imagine it at a modernist house in Los Angeles or a sunny poolside in Miami, he says.
 Height: 37"; length: 36"; width: 30"; material: powder-coated aluminum frame in various other colors available; delivery: 12 weeks; price: \$644; fermobusa.com



4 ROCHESTER SERVING CART BY GLOSTER
 "You can't go wrong with this classic," Turner says. "The teak is gorgeous, and it's even used on the wheels, which is a nice design element." The cart is equipped to serve a large crowd, with bottle compartments, drawers for utensils and linens, and drop leaves that expand the top into a small table. "It's suitable for any setting," adds Turner. "I could picture this at a Hampton house for sure."
 Height: 29"; length: 36.5"; width: 21"-37"; material: oak; delivery: 1 week; price: \$4,900; gloster.com



5 WHEELED HOSTESS TROLLEY FOR ARCLINEA
 Booth likes the way this cart's wood shelves warm the metal frame. "It could fit in a traditional kitchen with stainless-steel appliances." Brakes offer staying power, and it is sturdy enough to support up to 220 pounds. "If someone has been overserved, you can wheel them right out of the party!" he jokes.
 Height: 32"; length: 33"; width: 18.5"; material: stainless-steel frame with birch shelves in white finish (other steel woods available); delivery: 3 weeks; price: \$1,375; arclinea.it



6 CALVERT BAR CART FROM JAYSON HOME & GARDEN
 "Very industrial-chic," Turner says of the pared-down design and prep-kitchen proportions. "This workhorse can be a full-on bar. It's big enough that a bartender can serve behind it." She also suggests placing the cart in a sunroom to display freshly cut flowers or potted plants, or using it as a console table in a loft entryway topped with a vase or a stack of books.
 Height: 34"; length: 36"; width: 24"; material: iron in brushed-nickel finish; delivery: 2–3 weeks; price: \$760; jaysonhomeandgarden.com



7 CAPRICORN TEA CART BY VLADIMIR KAGAN FROM OASIQ
 "It's a little bit retro, like something you'd see the Rat Pack tooling around in Palm Springs," Booth says. "It's not the usual square bar cart. The tripod base gives it a nice aerodynamic style." He admires the snugly fitting teak tray and handy hanging caddy. "The fineness of the line makes it a great choice for an urban rooftop terrace," he adds.
 Height: 34"; length: 36"; width: 24"; material: powder-coated steel in white finish with teak tray; delivery: 6 weeks; price: \$2,650; oasiq.com



8 KAILUA BAMBOO TRAY CART BY ZODAX
 With its inviting scale and elegant lines, this cart has a classic style, Turner says. "The bamboo frame and woven-rattan shelves give it a colonial look. I see this at a beach house stocked with colorful glasses." The wheels have brakes, and the deep trays keep stemware from toppling overboard, she points out.
 Height: 36.5"; length: 37"; width: 20"; material: bamboo frame in natural finish with glass-coated woven-rattan shelves; delivery: 2 weeks; price: \$600; zodax.com



9 BARROW BAR CART BY WEST ELM
 "Simple and functional," Booth says of this spare cart. "It's definitely for a minimalist setting." Its price is minimal too. Booth suggests laying down Chilesich mats to cushion the glass shelves. "Knowing how my parties tend to go, some guests might get overzealous while mixing cocktails."
 Height: 33"; length: 30"; width: 21"; material: powder-coated aluminum frame in white finish with white-painted-glass shelves; delivery: immediate; price: \$190; westelm.com



10 FLIP CART BY KARTELL
 "A fun piece," Turner says. "It doesn't take itself too seriously, and it brings color and attention to where you want your guests to gather." At the same time, it's slim enough to ease traffic flow. She sees this in an all-white room or surrounded by vibrant hues. Too bold for every day? Just fold it up until your next soiree, she says. "You could also put it in a bathroom or use it as a bookshelf."
 Height: 28"; length: 31.5"; width: 19"; material: chrome-plated steel frame with PMMA shelves in transparent blue (other steel colors available); delivery: immediate; price: \$380; kartell.com

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