

california

HOME + DESIGN

L. A. STYLE
SPLENDOR
IN THE CITY

A signature
Sundayland creation
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MID-WILSHIRE
REFINING THE
URBAN LIFESTYLE

MALIBU
ESCAPE TO THE
MEDITERRANEAN

HOLLYWOOD HILLS
CLASSIC LAUTNER
CLIFFHANGER

SALAD DAYS

FROM 'GERMAN RED STRAWBERRY' TO 'HIPPI ZEBRA,' HEIRLOOM TOMATOES COME IN DAZZLING COLORS AND FLAVORS.

BY LYDIA LEE

Warmed by months of summer sun, heirloom tomatoes are ready for a taste test come early autumn. More than 170 varieties will be sampled and scrutinized at the Kendall-Jackson Heirloom Tomato Festival in Santa Rosa on September 8, and TomatoFest in Carmel on September 16 will feature a mind-boggling 350 varieties.

For a backyard celebration of heirloom tomatoes, Cynthia Sandberg of Love Apple Farms in the Santa Cruz Mountains suggests growing a selection of colorful varieties. "It's delightful to have a rainbow of tomatoes," says Sandberg, who grows about 100 kinds each year (go to loveapplefarm.biz to sign up for fall-harvest and spring-plant sale alerts). Among her favorites: heart-shaped 'German Red Strawberry,' yellow-and-red-striped 'Texas Star,' enormous 'Green Giant,' orange-and-green-striped 'Hippy Zebra' and rosy 'Cherokee Purple,' which is one of the heirloom tomatoes included in Slow Food USA's Ark of Taste.

In Southern California, mid-September is not too late to grow tomatoes. Laurel's Heirloom Tomato Plants in Lomita sells plants by mail order or for pickup at its nursery throughout the year. 1725 257th St., Lomita, 310-534-8611, heirloomtomatoplants.com. ■

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SUNNY SIDE UP

An update of a vintage design, the **Egg chair** is made of synthetic cord, which allows it to stand up to the sun and the rain. Mary Gray and Annette Gutierrez, proprietors of the Atwater garden boutique Pot-ted, import the chairs from Mexico City. \$275; pot-ted.com.

HOT SEAT

For indoor or outdoor use, the **Shell pouf** is part of Italian designer Paola Lenti's 2007 collection. The 34-inch-diameter piece has a waterproof foam core with a hand-woven covering of synthetic rope. \$2,150; modernliving.com.

FORMAL WARE

Los Angeles landscape designers Kimberlee Keswick and Paul Robbins launched the KeswickRobbins line of indoor/outdoor furnishings at the start of the year. Their **Normandie planter box** is available in natural white oak, mahogany and teak, as well as several painted finishes. To the trade: keswickrobbins.com.

