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# House Beautiful

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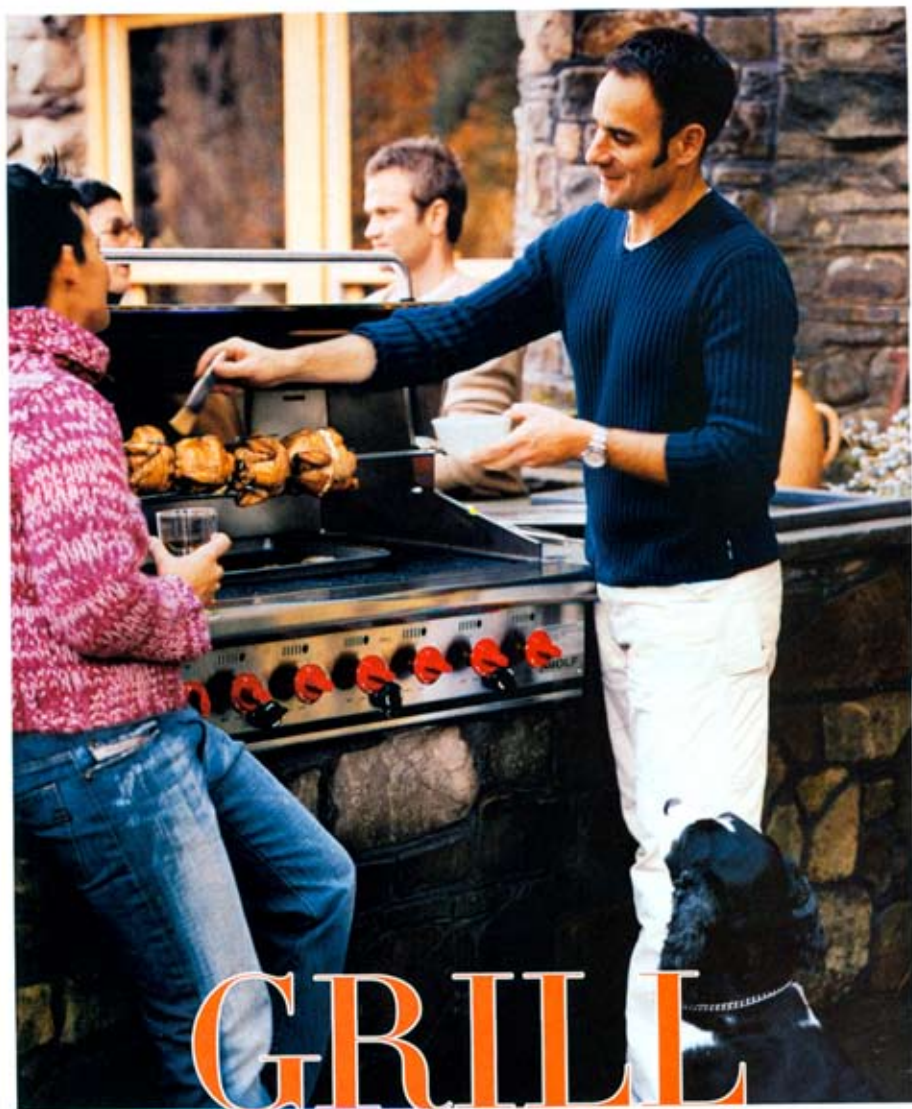
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# HARVEST



## GRILL

A crisp autumn afternoon in the Catskills is always a good excuse for Mark Veeder to fire up the grill of his outdoor kitchen and share the pleasures of alfresco entertaining



**M**ARK VEEDER HAS certainly seen his share of parties. As cofounder of the EventQuest group, which specializes in planning events for a raft of corporate clients, he has worked on some elaborate shindigs. Past projects range from creating a tiki bar on a volcano in Maui to entertaining aristocrats in an abandoned orangerie in Berlin.

But on weekends, Veeder escapes to the tranquility of his 19th-century stone cottage nestled deep in the woods of Sullivan County, New York, in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. The house, a former post office for the train line that ran through town, was originally home to the postmistress and later served as the caretaker's property for the adjacent Hartwood Club, a private 8,000-acre hunting preserve.

One of the highlights of the house is a large terrace with stone seating whose centerpiece is an outdoor kitchen that includes a hot- and cold-water sink, a Wolf grill, and an open fireplace, all of which get constant use.

"I was inspired by houses in Tuscany and the outdoor kitchens and dining areas in Italy, and that has influenced the way I cook here," Veeder says. Weekend parties are a mix of locals and friends from New York; both invitations and menus are casual, with dishes that can be prepared in advance so the host can hang out with his guests. "Entertaining for me is second nature," says Veeder. "It needs to be simple, casual, and seem effortless. And when I plan a dinner there is nothing fussy—just simplicity and great ingredients." ●

