

What's new on the high-end condo appliance market?

Condo trends.

Robo-ovens, chameleon fridges and mini dishwashers — small-footprint appliances with all the benefits of a full-sized kitchen

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High tech is not just for iPhones anymore. A mash-up of European styling with high-end technology is all the rage in condo appliances.

Take for example the Fhiaba refrigerator. With a touch of a button, the bottom freezers convert to a desired temperature setting to accommodate the needs of any hostess with extra fridge space or a fresco drawer.

Anthony Amiel is the marketing manager for Distinctive Appliances Inc., a family-run business that, for 33 years, has been introducing European kitchen products to Canada.

"We work with 12 brands from around the world that we find interesting and bring value to the consumers in the kitchen lifestyle," says Amiel.

Products like the Android Chef. With a sleek, flat front, built in LCD touch screen and Venetian glass handle, Bertazzoni's oven has both beauty and brains. This is not your mother's stove.

"Everybody wants to show off right? So everybody likes to make the perfect roast when they have their guests over. It's nice

to have an assistant," says Amiel.

With condo suites getting smaller and smaller, the challenge for builders is to provide small-footprint appliances with all the benefits of a full-sized kitchen.

The Bertazzoni line of European origin specializes in this kind of condo-style product.

They have traditional four-burner ranges with either a gas or electric option in a 24-inch format. It's 75 per cent the size, but it does just as much.

There's also the Blomberg line of smart, condo-sized appliances.

"We're in the midst of introducing an 18-inch dishwasher with either a panel front or stainless," says Amiel. "Again, we're in the small condo space. You still have the same technology — a dishwasher with multiple life-cycles, all stainless steel interior. It's just a slightly skinnier version.

"Colour is in increasing demand. People like colours that pop. It makes a statement, it speaks to who they are and the kind of design cues they're looking for."

Viking's D3 line has handles and inserts on fridges and dishwashers and ranges in a variety of progressive colours that can easily be changed in less than half an hour, giving the kitchen a whole new look.

If you'd like to see and try these marvellous actual working appliances, head up to Distinctive Appliance's brand new showroom at SOFA, the showrooms for the design trade located in the International Centre at 6900 Airport Rd.



At the Distinctive Appliances Kitchen Lifestyle Centre at SOFA, a Viking 60 inch Custom Range in Lemonade is customizable in over 20 colours, has a 12 inch-wide griddle/simmer plate and 12 inch-wide char-grill, as well as the largest capacity oven in the industry, \$17,059. Inset, Bertazzoni's six burner gas range in Rosso Red is painted in an Italian sports car factory, \$6,079. COURTESY DISTINCTIVE APPLIANCES INC.