



GO GREEN



Sixteen candles

These earth-friendly delights will have you relaxed in no time

By ALISA WOLFSON

FANCY CANDLES look nice and can smell delicious, but if you knew that formaldehyde, ethanol and acetone were components of the fragrant air you're breathing thanks to those candles, chances are you'd walk around with your own oxygen supply for 10 hours (that's how long the emissions linger).

Candles have long been the source of providing an instant pick-me-up to an otherwise boring atmosphere. With varying colors, designs and scents, they can turn a plain, poorly lit room

into a romantic, inviting space.

Along with everything else from grocery bags to beauty products, candles have begun a green transformation, becoming more eco-friendly by emitting fewer carcinogens.

Companies are now using soy and vegetable waxes along with cotton and paper core wicks, which are friendlier to Mother Earth — and your lungs.

These longer- and cleaner-burning votives are made with essential and natural oils that don't have petroleum-based notes. As an added bonus, they come in recycled packaging and, most importantly, are made of harmless ingredients.



OUR PICKS

1. Prettiest Packaging:

DL&Co "Citrine," \$30 at Barneys New York, 660 Madison Ave; (212) 826-8900

2. Most Reasonable:

Votivo "White Ocean Sands," \$25 at votivo.com

3. Best Reusable Container:

Altru "Dark Amber and Spice," \$55 at ABC Carpet and Home, 888 Broadway; (212) 473-3000

4. Sexiest:

illume "Black Lavender," \$40 at illumecandles.com

5. Best Basic Scent:

Paddywax "Linden," \$28 at paddywax.com

6. Best Kitchen Scent:

James Boyce for Voluspa "Tomato, Celery and Fennel," \$29 at nooksandniches.com

7. Best Gift:

LAFCO "Beach House," \$55 at lafcny.com

8. Best Sound Effects:

Dayna Decker "Bardou" has an EcoWood Wick, which crackles just like a fireplace. \$76 at C.O. Bigelow Chemists, 414 Sixth Ave; (212) 533-2700

9. Most Natural Fragrance:

Archipelago "Arugula," \$30 at archipelago-usa.com

10. Most Fun:

Soular Therapy Astrological Candles "Pisces," \$26 at candleatelierium.com

(Not pictured)

Most Relaxing: Thymes "Eucalyptus," \$25 at thymes.com

Sweetest Smelling:

Nest "Beeswax and Whipped Cream," \$32 at Bergdorf Goodman

Best Bath Scent:

Archipelago "Pomegranate Citrus," \$30 at archipelago-usa.com

Most Luxe: D.L. & Co

"Magnolia," \$65 at Barneys

Best Summer Scent:

illume "Sunshower," \$20 at illumecandles.com

Best Unisex Scent:

Paddywax "Mediterranean Rosemary and Citrus," \$18 at paddywax.com

Products: Caitlin Thorne; Michael Sofronski; Zandy Mangold