

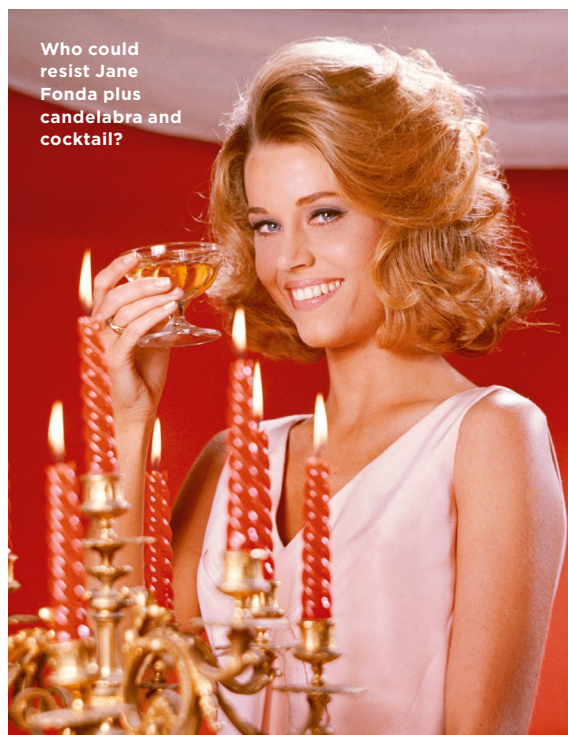
HOME STYLE

THE CANDLESTICK

Words: **CLARE GOGERTY**

There's no sensible reason to light a candle. We have electricity, after all, which has been doing a perfectly good job of lighting rooms since Edison patented the first light bulb in 1879. You no longer require "a candle to light you to bed"; a mere flick of a switch provides all the illumination necessary. Chances of power cuts are slim these days, so there's not even the need to have a box of candles on standby. Nevertheless, we still can't resist candles, and buy them in quantity and in various forms, from tea lights to pillar candles. Luckily, the variety of candlesticks has never been so wide-ranging, nor so alluring, so there's plenty of ways to indulge our love of the naked flame.

The appeal of candlelight isn't hard to fathom. It casts a soft, warm glow that creates a feeling of intimacy and encourages people to cluster together. And it flatters all those near it, making it the ideal lighting for a meal, especially a romantic one: many a seduction has occurred by the flickering flame of a guttering candle. (And many a romance has been



Who could resist Jane Fonda plus candelabra and cocktail?

"Candlelight encourages people to cluster together"

extinguished when the overhead light goes back on.)

What you put your candle in depends on how you are going to use it. That seductive scene is best lit by a single flame in one candlestick: any more and a distracting dazzle could ensue. Celebratory meals or dinner parties require greater amount of light and suit candlesticks with multiple arms, from the showy candelabra* to more elegant Scandi versions in wood or metal.

Candelabras can also ramp up a Hammer House of Horror vibe. Little chills the bones like dancing shadows and flickering flames. Especially if the door of a Gothic house is answered by a ghoulish occupant on a storm-lashed night.

Mostly, though, candlesticks provide a pool of warm and comforting light and create the cosiest of atmospheres on chilly evenings. Which is why we will continue buy them, even though we don't really need to. **S**

*The candelabra reached its apotheosis thanks to Liberace during the 1960s, becoming his emblem and an icon of romantic, tinkling music.

THE UPDATE



THE CLASSIC

Large Hobart candlestick | £40

↗ A design classic from the 1960s. Made from cast-iron, so robust enough for the garden, too. robertwelch.com



Shorebird metal candleholder | £56

↗ A little feathered friend by Swedish design company Klippan. nataliawillmott.co.uk

TWO GREAT TWISTS



Marble Marsden candle holder | £35

↗ Introduce a touch of glamorous Art Deco styling to meal times and gatherings. habitat.co.uk