

GRILL FRIENDS

BY KAT STROMQUIST

Outdoor gas grills are a summer staple. They call to mind a sticky-fingered childhood, blackened burgers and crispy hot dogs served on paper plates. At **ADGAS Outdoor Cooking Products** (2626 Music St., 943-0853; www.adgasneworleans.com), Paul Preau regularly upends this prosaic vision.

"You can do all the kinds of cooking you want — you can slow-cook, you can fast-cook, you can smoke," he says. According to Preau, jambalaya, fried fish, turkey and even scrambled eggs are possible with the right grill setup.

With more than 30 years in the field, Preau started in the business by installing gas grills for utility companies. As an employee, he developed the first side burners for grills, an adaptation essential for cooking crawfish.

"When we first came out with that concept of that side cooker, the industry kind of looked at me like 'Oh, that's a regional thing ... that's from down South, that's how y'all cook,'" Preau says. Today, Preau's creation is ubiquitous on modern grills nationwide.

The aspiring grill chef should select a grill based on size and portability. Offerings at Preau's showroom range from Spartan to deluxe: simple barbecue grills mounted on a cart compete with top-of-the-line in-ground outdoor kitchen models. Features, size and the material of the housing all affect the grill's price, and most of ADGAS' installations fall within the \$800 to \$1,500 range.

For most grills, Preau advises keeping it simple with a cast-aluminum setup. Some customers prefer a stainless steel hood for aesthetic purposes,



THE ADGAS FAMILY (FROM LEFT), KEVIN PREAU, PAUL PREAU AND KRISTEN PREAU, CIRCA '85.

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