

43 TOP MOBILE MEALS
COMPLETE GUIDE TO
FOOD TRUCKS



Buy NELL'S COMPASS candles at Escape Day Spa ("I go every chance I get," says Steenburgen) and another of her favorites, H.Audrey, or online at roomsandgarden.com.

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A Light in the Darkness

Nell's Compass offers up a new take on the decorator candle trend

FIRST, LET'S START WITH THE UNDERSTANDING that decorator candles are a major business at the moment. They're a visually appealing and wonderful smelling addition to any home—you can get a really detailed take on that monthly from our friend Moll Anderson at the end of this magazine. With that said, a line called Nell's Compass is making waves right now, for a number of reasons. It was created by actress Mary Steenburgen, who spends a good amount of time here in Nashville. (You'll find her frequenting favorites like City House, Imogene + Willie, Margot Cafe and Yellow Porch).

Steenburgen is part-owner in a shop and design business with her daughter in California, and when the pair went on buying trips, they quickly found they didn't love the petroleum-based candles, often with lead-containing wicks, that form the basis of many high-end lines, both American and international.

They decided they'd try to create a line for themselves, knowing what they wanted was something beautiful, colorful and much more environmentally friendly. The result is Nell's Compass.

Named for Steenburgen's mother, Nell, whom she refers to as "an extraordinary person in every way," and her inner "compass" that always seemed to point to what was right, the soy-based candles also support Heifer International, an exceptional charity that aids in the fight against world hunger by donating animals across the world (and only in communities that eschew the mistreatment of women).

The candles come in four signature scents and colors, matching the compass points. North (red) can double as a Christmas candle, but it's lovely year-round. West (brown) blends vanilla, tonka bean, and a woody overtone. East (amber) invokes the rich, heady fragrance of a Tuscan summer. South (green), special to Steenburgen as a Southerner, is based on her Aunt Ruth's summer garden, with jasmine and other lush florals.

The choice of colored glass and wax underlines Steenburgen's love of color. She reiterates that what's most important is that the soy-based candles are cleaner to burn than most, eco-friendly and they give back in an important way.

—Stephanie Stewart-Howard