

The Ten Best Vases

CHOSEN BY REBECCA ARMSTRONG



1 Alvar Aalto Ultramarine Blue £32

Designed in 1936 by the Finnish architect Aalto for a competition at the Paris World Fair, he entered anonymously and ended up winning. Available in many colours and sizes. www.aaaishop.com; 020-7942 2696

6 Sainsbury's black rose £9.99

Next time you pick up a bunch of supermarket blooms, why not spend an extra tenner for a vase? This simple black rose ceramic vase would make a sweet spur-of-the-moment gift. www.sainsbury.co.uk; 0800 636 282

2 LSA Verona £33

This simple, curved receptacle comes in a range of sizes (this one is 23cm tall). For creating a striking flower arrangement with a minimum of fuss, the Verona is hard to beat. www.johnlewis.com; 0845 604 9049

7 Gloss Amoeba Swallow £60

An earthenware and bone china vase by Dominic Bromley. Set off its dramatic form with some stark white blooms or go for the tropical splendour of a bird of paradise flower. www.kiddlemartshop.com; 020-7729 8500

3 Ikea Bona 79p

That a stoneware vase can cost less than a pound is almost unbelievable. Instead of displaying one lonely bloom, buy a clutch of these pastel items and create a pretty display. www.ikea.com

8 Julia Dozsa Nembus £15.90

Awarded the Elle Decoration award for best accessory design, this is perfect for households awash with offspring. Though it looks like glass, it is actually durable plastic. www.thecorkshop.co.uk; 014-228 3500

4 Lalique Bucolique £1,390

We're in heirloom territory with this emerald green vase from Lalique. Exquisitely etched with a floral design, it is a work of art. Also available in clear glass. www.lalique.com; 020-7489 8228

9 Habitat Mio £45

The Mio's designers must have been inspired by outer space - this vase looks like the planet Jupiter. It will add warmth to even the most minimal of rooms. Keep flowers simple. www.habitat.net; 0870 411 5501

5 P Design Half Simple £29.50

This is great for the space-conscious because, instead of being round, as it appears to be from the front, the back is flat so it can be pushed flush against a wall. www.dutchbbydesign.com; 0870 852 1908

10 Biome lifestyle Enlaira £60

Made from 100 per cent post-consumer recycled glass, this pretty painted vase shows that it is worth recycling household glass rather than just sneaking it into the dustbin. www.biomelifestyle.com; 0870 043 4778