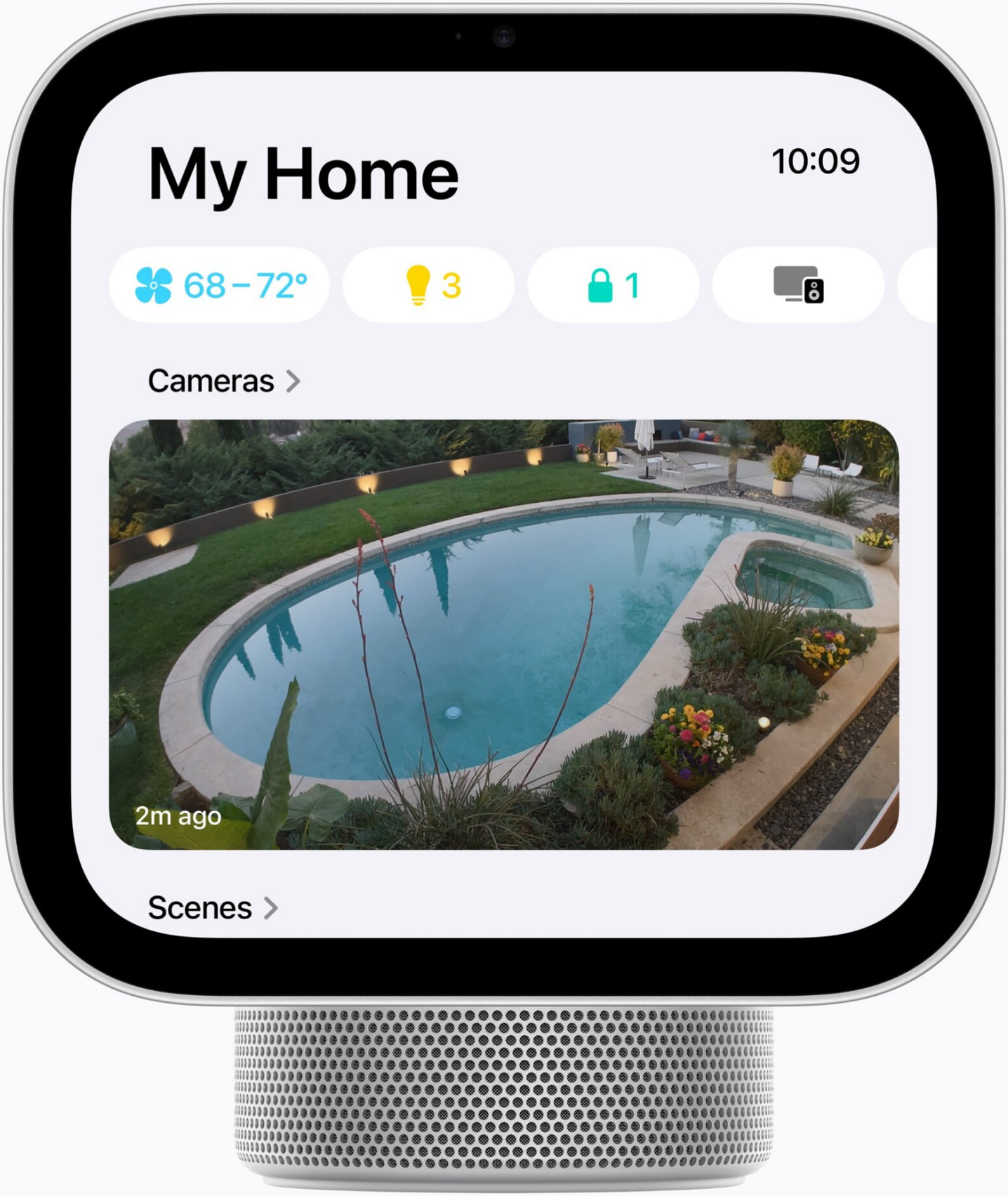
market info

Be Valued




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San Francisco
54°
FEVER DREAM
Alex Warren
Play
Partly Cloudy
H:57° L:49°
Mari
68
Thermostat
Living Room
Intercom
Everywhere
Good Morning
Scene
Door Lock
Front Door
Lights
Entryway
FEVER DREAM
Alex Warren

# HOMEVIEW









Apple wants to become the heart of your home, and its latest gadget is hoping to do just that. Meet Apple HomeView, a new 7-inch smart display that brings music, video calls, family photos and smart home controls together in one rather stylish package. Think of it as a HomePod and an iPad having a very clever little baby, designed to make everyday life at home that bit easier.

HomeView is designed for the whole household while still feeling personal to everyone. It recognises up to six people by their faces, switching to individual Home Screens with personalised apps, widgets and content. So, your messages, calendar and reminders stay private, while shared photo albums and playlists are there for everyone to enjoy. No more accidentally stumbling across someone else's shopping list!

The design is every bit as polished as you would expect from Apple. A vibrant 7-inch Liquid Retina display sits above a domed speaker base, connected by a stainless steel hinge that lets you adjust the viewing angle. Available in silver, starlight, rose pink and space grey, HomeView can sit on a kitchen counter or bedside table, or be mounted on the wall. Its display automatically adjusts to changing light, becoming bright enough for a sunny room and dim enough for a peaceful night's sleep.

HomeView leverages the new and improved Siri AI which promises more natural conversations, broader world knowledge and a better understanding of personal context. Pair HomeView with a compatible Apple Intelligence-enabled iPhone or iPad, and Siri AI can draw on information from apps such as Messages and Calendar to provide more helpful answers and take action across apps.

HomeView's custom sound system combines Spatial Audio with a dedicated woofer and computational audio for room-filling music. Apple Music, Apple Podcasts and Apple TV are all supported, while Handoff lets you transfer music from your iPhone simply by bringing it close to the display. FaceTime calls benefit from Center Stage, keeping everyone in frame even when they wander about, and Intercom makes it easy to summon the family for dinner without shouting up the stairs.

In the kitchen, HomeView can turn online recipes into step-by-step instructions, manage timers hands-free and help you keep track of ingredients. It also doubles as a smart home control centre, letting you adjust lights and thermostats, lock doors and check compatible security cameras. It can even display up to nine camera feeds at once.

Naturally, privacy remains a major part of Apple's pitch, with protected processing environments designed to keep camera and microphone data secure. Personal content is only displayed when the recognised user is present and their paired device meets Apple's security requirements.

HomeView looks like an appealing new addition to the connected home. Siri AI still has something to prove, but if it delivers on its promises, this could be a rather handy new member of the family. Pre-orders are open now, with availability beginning 13 November starting at £299.00/ AU$449.00.

# HOME




Apple is making it easier to turn your home into a smarter, more connected space with the launch of Apple Home Collection, a new range of smart home accessories developed in collaboration with LG Electronics and Schneider Electric. From security cameras and video doorbells to smart locks and thermostats, the aim is to make your home more convenient, secure and comfortable, without the usual faff of juggling multiple apps and accounts. At the centre of it all is Apple HomeView, which acts as a handy hub for managing your connected home.

Everything is managed through Apple's Home app, with setup taking just a tap of your iPhone. There's no need to download separate apps or create additional accounts, and home data is protected with end-to-end encryption. HomeView brings the experience together with a dedicated display for controlling accessories, checking camera feeds and managing everyday routines, making it easier to keep an eye on things without reaching for your phone.

The collection includes four cameras from LG, all offering up to 2.5K video and intelligent recognition of people, familiar faces, pets, vehicles and parcels. The Video Doorbell features two cameras to capture separate views of visitors and deliveries, while the Floodlight Cam adds motion-activated lighting and colour night vision. The Outdoor Cam offers flexible positioning for keeping an eye on the garden, and the Indoor Cam has a rather thoughtful privacy trick: it automatically tilts away when a member of the household returns home.

With HomeView acting as your home hub, you can check compatible camera feeds directly from its display. Footage can also be securely stored for up to 10 days with a compatible iCloud+ plan, meaning there's no separate camera subscription to worry about. Eligible plans offer Apple Intelligence-powered video descriptions and natural-language searches, making it easier to find that clip of the delivery driver arriving while you were out.

There's also a new Smart Deadbolt Lock, which could make rummaging through your pockets for keys a thing of the past. Using Ultra Wideband technology, it can recognise when someone with a compatible iPhone or Apple Watch approaches and unlock the door automatically. You can still use a PIN code, tap to unlock or keep a backup key handy. Combined with the video doorbell, it lets you see visitors, speak to them and unlock the door from a single view in the Home app, while HomeView and compatible HomePod speakers can announce when someone rings.

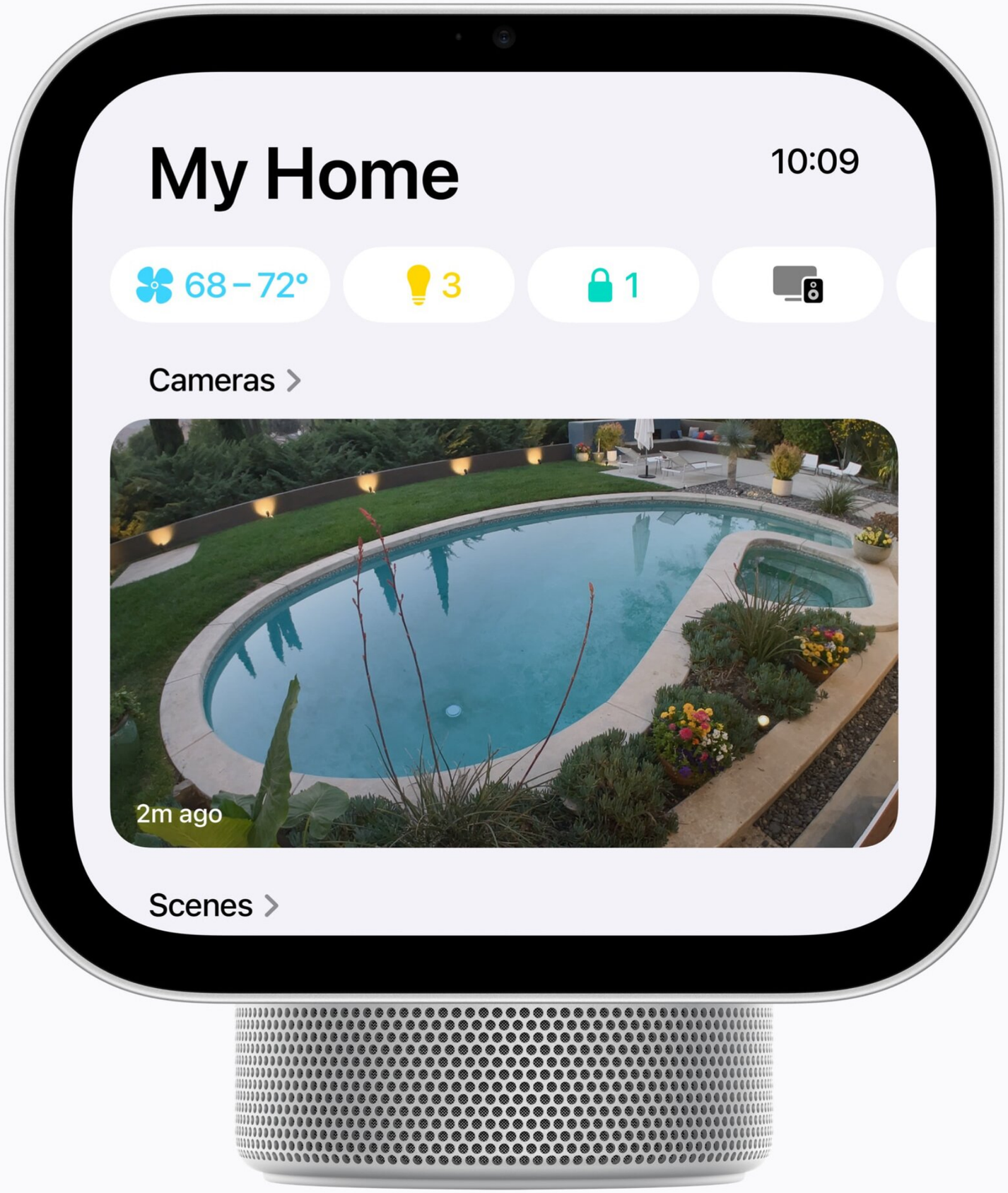
Keeping the house comfortable is covered by two new smart thermostats, one from LG and another from Schneider Electric. Apple Home can adjust temperatures according to

whether you're home, asleep or out for the day, using on-device intelligence. Compatible households in the contiguous US can also benefit from Clean Energy Guidance, shifting heating and cooling to cleaner or cheaper periods.

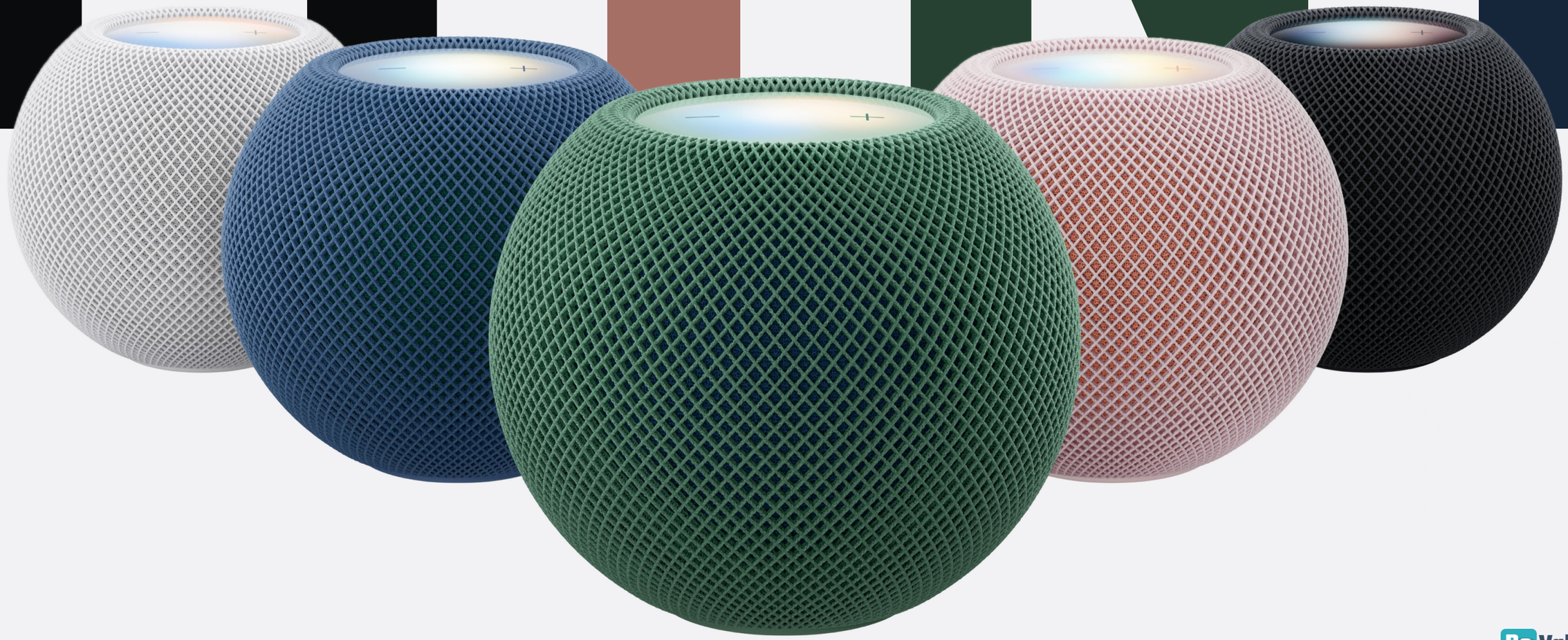
The real magic is how everything works together. A single "Good Morning" scene could adjust the heating, reposition an indoor camera and start your favourite playlist. When everyone leaves, the system can lock the door, adjust the temperature and activate security cameras, then prepare the house for your return. HomeView provides a convenient place to see and manage these connected experiences, with Siri voice control making everyday commands even easier.

Every accessory supports Thread for reliable connectivity, while automatic network updates help avoid the headache of reconnecting everything when your Wi-Fi details change.

Apple Home Collection arrives from December, with selected products following in early 2027. For anyone looking to build a smarter home without the technical headaches, combining these new accessories with Apple HomeView as the central hub could make connected living feel genuinely effortless.



# MINI



**Apple's** smallest smart speaker is getting a rather big upgrade. Meet HomePod mini 2, bringing fresh colours, enhanced audio experiences and, eventually, a much smarter Siri AI to the compact speaker that has become a familiar fixture in many Apple households.

Siri AI won't arrive until a future software update, but it promises to make HomePod mini considerably more useful than simply playing your favourite playlist or setting a kitchen timer. Apple's revamped assistant is designed to be more conversational, understand personal context and answer questions using broader world knowledge. Pair the speaker with a compatible Apple Intelligence-enabled iPhone or iPad, and Siri AI can help find a song recommended in a message, locate a recipe buried in an email or add ingredients to your shopping list. Let's hope it also gets rather better at understanding what we're actually asking for.

The new HomePod mini can recognise up to six household members by their voices, giving everyone a more personalised experience. Siri AI will also help with reminders, timers and other tasks across compatible apps, while holding more natural conversations. Even those without an Apple Intelligence-enabled iPhone or iPad will benefit from its broader knowledge and improved music discovery once the update arrives.

Thankfully, Apple hasn't forgotten that a speaker should sound good, too. HomePod mini 2 delivers familiar 360-degree audio from its compact design, using the S10 chip and computational audio to optimise loudness, dynamic range and acoustic performance in real time. Use one on its own, pair two for stereo or spread compatible speakers around the house for multiroom listening.

Things get particularly interesting when you pair four HomePod mini 2 speakers with the new Apple TV 4K. Together, they create Apple's most immersive home theatre setup yet, automatically calibrating audio timing and levels according to the speakers' positions. The speaker can also double as a desktop companion for your Mac, bringing more expansive sound to films, games and video calls.

There's a fun visual twist, too. Sound Glow turns the top of the speaker into a light display that pulses along with the music, with colours inspired by the artwork of the currently playing track. Prefer something more relaxing? Choose a soundscape such as rain for a soothing atmosphere.

HomePod mini 2 also remains a handy smart home hub. Voice commands can lock doors, adjust thermostats, close blinds and switch off lights, while automations bring multiple accessories together. It works with Apple Home Collection cameras and video doorbells, can announce recognised visitors and listens for smoke or carbon monoxide alarms, sending alerts to your Apple devices if it detects one.

Available to pre-order now in pink, green, blue, white and midnight, HomePod mini 2 arrives on 30 October priced at £149.00/AU$229.00.






# TV

Apple is giving your living room a serious upgrade with its next-generation Apple TV 4K, promising smarter entertainment, faster performance and its most immersive home theatre experience yet. With a revamped Siri AI, hands-free voice control and a rather clever new surround sound setup, this little black box wants to become the command centre of your home entertainment.

The biggest change is Apple TV's integration with Siri AI, the new and improved version of Apple's voice assistant designed to make finding something to watch feel more like a conversation than a search. Instead of endlessly scrolling through streaming menus. Pair Apple TV 4K with a compatible Apple Intelligence-enabled iPhone, and Siri AI can even use personal context to find something a friend recommended. It's an encouraging step towards making the television feel a little less like a catalogue and a little more like a helpful viewing companion.

You won't even need to reach for the remote. Three built-in far-field microphones allow hands-free Siri control, with echo cancellation helping the device recognise your voice even when the television is blaring out the latest blockbuster. And if the remote itself disappears down the sofa, Apple's Find My support and Precision Finding should make tracking it down considerably less frustrating.

Under the bonnet, the new A19 chip promises up to 50 per cent faster CPU performance and twice the GPU performance of its predecessor. That means snappier navigation, smoother animations and a more responsive experience. A dedicated AV1 decoder also enables more efficient streaming, helping deliver high-quality video while using less bandwidth.

Sound gets an equally impressive boost. Pair Apple TV 4K with four HomePod mini 2 speakers, or a compatible combination of matching HomePod (2nd generation) pairs, and you can create Apple's most immersive surround sound setup yet. The speakers intelligently identify their positions in the room and automatically calibrate audio timing and levels. Suddenly, movie night might feel a lot more cinematic without the need for a complicated collection of AV equipment.

Apple TV 4K also doubles as a smart home hub, bringing compatible accessories together through the Home app. Doorbell notifications appear on your television, allowing you to see who's visiting and speak to them without missing the action. You can also control lights, locks and other accessories using Siri AI.

Of course, there's plenty beyond films and television. Apple Fitness+ turns the living room into a workout space, Apple Arcade offers gaming entertainment, and FaceTime calls can appear on the big screen using Continuity Camera. You can also customise photo displays and screen savers to give your television a more personal touch.

Available to pre-order now, the new Apple TV 4K arrives on 13 November starting at £249.00/ AU$449.00. An increased cost thanks to the ongoing memory crisis.







Meet the Surface Laptop Ultra, Microsoft's most ambitious laptop yet, and a machine that clearly hasn't come to play around. Designed for creators, developers and AI enthusiasts, this isn't simply another laptop with a faster processor and a shiny new coat of paint. Microsoft has teamed up with NVIDIA to rethink what a high-performance Windows PC can be, building an entirely new device around its RTX Spark platform. And there's a desktop companion joining the party, too.

At its heart, Surface Laptop Ultra features an NVIDIA Blackwell RTX GPU with up to 6,144 cores, an NVIDIA Grace CPU with up to 20 cores and a mighty 128GB of unified memory. The result is up to one petaflop of AI performance and the ability to run AI models with more than 120 billion parameters locally. That means less reliance on the cloud, more computing power at your fingertips and plenty of potential for developers exploring the next generation of AI. Support for NVIDIA's CUDA ecosystem and the wider Windows AI toolkit adds even more appeal.

All that muscle needs somewhere to go, so Microsoft has developed a new thermal architecture capable of handling up to 2.5 times more thermal power than its current Surface Laptops. Impressively, this powerhouse measures less than 18mm thick and weighs under 4.5lb. It might not be featherweight, but it's a serious amount of computing power for a machine designed to travel.

The 15-inch PixelSense Ultra touchscreen promises Microsoft's brightest, sharpest and most vivid Surface Laptop display yet, with exceptional colour accuracy and peak HDR brightness claimed to be the highest of any laptop. Microsoft says it is up to 25 per cent brighter in peak HDR than the MacBook Pro with M5, making it a tempting proposition for video editors, designers and anyone who likes their visuals looking spectacular.

There's a larger haptic touchpad, user-removable storage and a generous selection of ports, including HDMI, USB-A, an SD card reader and three USB-C connections. One of those introduces Magnetic Connect, a clever magnetic charging system that releases easily while leaving the port available for other devices. You can even connect up to three 4K displays, making it easier to build a proper multi-screen workstation without drowning in dongles.

But Microsoft isn't stopping at portable power. Launched alongside the laptop, the Surface RTX Spark Dev Box brings the same NVIDIA RTX Spark platform to the desktop in a compact form. Built for developers, AI engineers and technical teams, it offers up to one petaflop of AI performance and 128GB of unified memory, allowing large AI models to be tested, evaluated and run locally at interactive speeds. With tools such as Visual Studio Code, Git, GitHub CLI, GitHub Copilot, Python and Node ready to go, developers can spend less time configuring their systems and more time building something useful.

The Dev Box is particularly appealing for teams working with AI agents, which can perform multi-step tasks such as investigating failed builds, reviewing code and proposing fixes. Microsoft's Execution Containers are designed to provide containment for agents,

while planned Windows capabilities will help distinguish agent activity from user activity and extend management controls to local agents. In other words, more freedom to experiment without losing sight of security, governance or costs.

The real attraction is flexibility. Teams can experiment locally, reduce cloud costs and call on cloud capacity when projects demand more. Rather than sending every task to a remote server, developers can keep more of their work close at hand and reserve cloud resources for jobs that genuinely need them.

And when the working day ends, the Surface Laptop Ultra has another trick up its sleeve: NVIDIA-powered ray tracing, DLSS and Reflex for gaming in supported titles.

Together, these two devices offer a compelling vision of AI computing: powerful, flexible and increasingly local, whether you're working on the move or settled at your desk. For anyone building, testing or creating with AI, Microsoft and NVIDIA are making a persuasive case for keeping more of that computing power within arm's reach.

They can be pre-ordered now with the Surface Laptop Ultra starting at £2,599.00/4,399.00. The Surface RTX Spark Dev Box price of $5,999.00 has only been announced for the US market at the moment with pricing in other territores being announced closer to launch in November.