In a world where "Text me when you're outside" and "I'm here" are used in lieu of knocking on the front door, the resonant sound of a door knocker feels sort of vintage. But before I start to sound like the fringe luddite that I am, consider the original purpose of the door knocker: to ward off evil spirits and ill-doers during the Middle Ages in Europe. Some were forged with healing properties to cast a protective barrier on the home.

Here, our 10 favorite black door knockers, in cast iron and bronze, to give your guests the option of announcing their arrival in style and to keep away your own version of evil (the nosy neighbors).

Above: The 12 Inch Round Door Knocker in silicon bronze of a dark patina is from Rocky Mountain Hardware. Contact for pricing and availability.