Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A cookware apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

a) a vessel to retain a fluid, the vessel having a bottom and substantially upright sidewalls extending between the bottom and an upper rim of the vessel;

b) a spacer adapted to be selectively disposed on the vessel, the spacer comprising one or more generally upright sidewalls forming a perimeter of the spacer and defining an interior hollow therebetween, the spacer having an open bottom, wherein, when the spacer is disposed on the vessel, a lower rim of the spacer and the upper rim of the vessel are in generally sealed engagement;

c) a perforated rack adapted to be selectively positioned within the hollow between the lower rim and an upper rim of the spacer, wherein the perforated rack stably engages a portion of the sidewall when positioned within the hollow; and

d) a support rack defining an outer perimeter positionable within the hollow of the spacer, wherein the support rack is adapted to support the perforated rack when the spacer within which the perforated rack is positioned is lowered to surround at least an upper portion of the support rack.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lid adapted to interchangeably seal and cover the vessel and the spacer.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sidewalls of the spacer include a flange positioned more proximate to the lower rim than the upper rim of the spacer and that extends interiorly with respect to the hollow, and wherein the flange supports the perforated rack when the perforated rack is positioned within the hollow.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support rack comprises an upper frame and at least three legs supporting the upper frame, and wherein the upper frame supportively engages the perforated rack when the spacer within which the perforated rack is positioned is lowered to surround at least the upper portion of the support rack.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the legs position the upper frame at a height greater than a height of the spacer.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising

a second spacer adapted to be selectively disposed on the first spacer, the second spacer comprising one or more generally upright sidewalls forming a perimeter of the second spacer and defining an interior hollow therebetween, wherein, when the second spacer is disposed on the first spacer, a lower rim of the second spacer and the upper rim of the first spacer are in generally sealed engagement; and

a second perforated rack adapted to be selectively positioned within the hollow between the lower rim and an upper rim of the second spacer, wherein the second perforated rack stably engages a portion of the sidewall when positioned within the hollow,

wherein the support rack defines an outer perimeter positionable within the hollow of the second spacer, wherein the support rack is adapted to support the second perforated rack when the second spacer within which the perforated rack is positioned is lowered to surround at least an upper portion of the support rack.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a lid adapted to interchangeably seal and cover the vessel, the first spacer, and the second spacer.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the sidewall of the second spacer includes a flange positioned below the lower rim and that extends interiorly with respect to the hollow, and wherein the flange supports the second perforated rack when the second perforated rack is positioned within the hollow.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the support rack comprises an upper frame and at least three legs supporting the upper frame, and wherein the upper frame supportively engages the perforated rack when the spacer within which the perforated rack is positioned is lowered to surround at least the upper portion of the support rack, wherein the legs position the upper frame at a height greater than a height of the second spacer.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the upper frame comprises an annular support rim, spokes, and a central hub, wherein the support rim is connected to an upper portion of each leg, and wherein the spokes connect the support rim to the hub.