

Press release  
Frankenberg, September 2025

## **A tubular steel classic relaunched: the S 179 bar trolley**

**Design: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, approx. 1930/Thonet Design, 2025**

Whether used as a home bar cart, serving trolley or side table, the elegant tubular steel design from legendary architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe is a shining example of the design principles “less is more” and “form follows function”. The bar trolley is characterised by a refined structure with a centred, symmetrical composition. It was first produced in the 1930s when the designs of leading Bauhaus designers and masters were being put into industrial production, making Thonet one of the most important manufacturers of modern tubular steel furniture. This classic design is now being relaunched with a modern twist, and, almost one hundred years after it was first produced, is still just as appealing with its minimalist shape and functionality.



From an elegant addition to private living or dining rooms to a practical serving trolley in high-end hotels, the S 179 bar trolley is a mobile and versatile piece. Made of chrome-plated tubular steel, its form follows its function. One continuous, centrally placed piece of bent tubular steel provides the supporting structure for the sophisticated design. The trolley rests on three points: the two wheels and the bend at the front of the frame. The aluminium wheel discs encompassed by rubber rings are connected to the frame via an axle tube. The trolley is moved simply by lifting the black leather handle, which is embossed with the Thonet logo. Two removable shelves made of grey-tinted clear glass provide space for glasses, bottles and bar equipment – or even for books, vases or other ornaments. These glass shelves are held in place by a frame of chrome-plated flat steel. For more stability and to prevent bottles from falling over, Thonet Design has added a rail above the bottom shelf. Compared with Mies van der Rohe’s original design from the 1930s, the relaunched version is somewhat larger in scale to bring the bar trolley up to date. The dimensions of the new S 179 are 40 x 97 x 78 cm.

It was back in 2022 that Thonet collaborated with Tanqueray on a new-look drinks trolley. Renowned product designer Sebastian Herkner took his design cues for this limited-edition trolley from the colours and materials of the unmistakable Tanqueray gin bottle. The classic minimalist chrome

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frame of the original piece is retained, with the addition of fluted glass in London Green, a mirrored finish and small details such as the iconic Tanqueray red seal, which features on the exquisite leather handle. The trolley has ample space for a bottle or two of Tanqueray gin and everything else you might need to prepare the perfect G&T or cocktail. Two versions of the S 179 bar trolley are available: an updated version of the classic design and the Tanqueray special edition. Both are perfect for stylish entertaining with a little help from Thonet.

## About Thonet

Thonet has been making furniture for the residential and contract sectors since 1819. With a passion for bentwood and tubular steel, the German company produces iconic designs – from its famous coffee house chair and Bauhaus classics by Mart Stam, Marcel Breuer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, to contemporary pieces by leading modern designers. Combining the latest production technology with traditional craftsmanship has made Thonet one of the world's favourite furniture makers. Its production facility in Frankenberg continues to create innovative products that are designed to last. Thonet furniture is synonymous with quality, functionality and a timeless design language. Sustainability is engrained in the Thonet story. From the earliest days, Michael Thonet's first bentwood designs were not just aesthetically remarkable. They expressed a deep understanding of efficient use of resources. Thonet furniture has a very long life cycle and is built to be handed down from one generation to the next. It can also be revitalised in Frankenberg upon request. Thonet's commitment to sustainable design, which is firmly anchored in its DNA, was recognised in 2024 with the German Ecodesign Award: the iconic 214 coffee house chair picked up the special Timeless Design award in the Product category.

## Thonet press contact international

neumann communication  
Claudia Neumann, Anouk Freund  
Eigelstein 103-113  
50668 Cologne  
Germany  
Tel. +49 (0) 221 – 91 39 49 0  
E-mail [thonet@neumann-communication.de](mailto:thonet@neumann-communication.de)  
Website: <https://www.neumann-communication.de>

Thonet GmbH  
Susanne Korn  
Michael-Thonet-Straße 1  
35066 Frankenberg  
Germany  
Tel. +49 (0) 6451 – 508 160  
E-mail [susanne.korn@thonet.de](mailto:susanne.korn@thonet.de)  
Website: <https://www.thonet.de>

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