

Country French

Decorate with
What You *LOVE*

PLUS:
Paint Maven
Annie Sloan
Takes Us
Inside Her
Villa

Fall/Winter 2016
Display until October 25
TraditionalHome.com/CountryFrench



\$12.99 US

meredithSpecials®

Provence Interiors

Furnishings, Fabrics, and Colors
Inspired by the French Countryside

genuine **panache**

True to its European inspiration, an Arizona cottage honors the best of fine craftsmanship while encouraging rejuvenation and family togetherness.

writer: MARA BOO photographer: ED GOHLICH producer: JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM

Whether hosting long afternoon lunches or dinners that last far into the inky night, the loggia by the pool is everyone's favorite place to while away time. Weather-resistant fabric cushions top French-style wood bistro chairs.



THIS PHOTO: The living room is distinguished by an imported stone fireplace lined with reclaimed bricks. Matching wire-brushed chairs sit to one side of a textured leather ottoman used as a coffee table; the antique tall cabinet behind the sofa hides a television. OPPOSITE: A whimsically scrolled, patina-rich iron gate greets guests at the entrance to the cottage.



When the doors are opened wide and the flickering flames of gas-lit lanterns dance in reflections on the pool, this compact stucco-and-stone Arizona cottage transports its guests. "You really think you're in the South of France," architectural consultant Jim Smith says.

Maybe that's because Smith counts France among the European countries in which he's lived, and builder Jerry Meek visited Provence during construction, returning with fresh ways to foster authenticity. Not to be left out, interior designer Donna Vallone travels regularly to Paris, sleuthing an improbable mix of the crusty and the elegant, and architect Mark Candelaria conducts twice-yearly tours of Italy, Spain, and France for clients who share his enthusiasm for Mediterranean buildings.

It's little wonder then that this team's combined experience and passion for European design produced a cottage that passes for a dwelling in the French countryside. "The team's objective was to give it the feel and essence of a true European cottage," says Candelaria who worked on the project with architect Jeff Kramer.





OPPOSITE: An antique corner cabinet in the dining area hails from New Orleans; its doors open to reveal storage for table linens and serving pieces. **LEFT:** Heavily distressed, knotty alder cabinets embellished with open shelves and chicken wire further the kitchen's farmhouse feel. Pearlescent Moroccan tiles float above a soapstone countertop. **BELOW:** To achieve the appearance of softly worn, nipped edges, the stonework on the house was washed with mortar mixed with dirt sifted from the property.

Drifts of lavender, olive trees, and an expert blend of Mediterranean and desert-perfect plants assembled by landscape designer Jeff Berghoff soften the cottage's meticulously planned use of new, yet convincingly aged, building materials. The exterior is defined by a red clay tile roof, hand-troweled stucco, and wire-brushed cedar windows and doors, as well as mortar-washed stone walls and decomposed granite pathways. "When you have quality local tradesmen, you do not need to go to Europe to achieve an excellent outcome," Meek says.

Integral to the cottage's authenticity—and chief among its charms—is its size. Designed as part of a larger estate, the cottage features two bedrooms and baths, along with a living room, dining area, and galley-style kitchen to accommodate guests. "It has everything you need, and nothing you don't," Smith says.

Of course, its alfresco quality enables the cottage to live larger than its square footage would suggest. The

living and dining areas extend to the outdoors courtesy of fully retractable doors that open the house to a lushly landscaped courtyard and pool. "The pool area is where generations gather," Smith says. "It's for fun, for sharing, for playing, for entertaining, for families—it could not be more welcoming, casual, or relaxed."



THIS PHOTO: The king-size bed in this guest room is upholstered in cotton duck and anchored by a favorite Oriental rug. OPPOSITE: LEFT: A guest bath is home to a restored antique knotty pine vanity featuring bamboo detailing and an original honed marble top. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Built-in, distressed bookcases add charm to a guest bedroom housing two queen beds.



“There are so many details in this house. Like ingredients in a recipe, they all add to the *flavor*. You can’t taste them individually, but you need them all to make the recipe work.”
—architect MARK CANDELARIA

The same may be said of interior spaces, layered by Vallone and interior designer Niki Saulino with a nuanced fusion of put-your-feet-up upholstered furnishings and European antiques. “Every room has a personal touch to create a warm, welcoming ambience,” Vallone says. Sturdy linens and cottons keep the furnishings and windows at ease, and a velvet-cloaked sofa practically begs for nap-taking in the living room. Cushions are generously plumped with down; fine Oriental rugs carpet the bedrooms. Rich textural accents, such as

reclaimed cedar beams and a stone fireplace imported from France (it was so deep, half the back was shaved off to get the scale right), temper the more refined aspects of the decor and amplify the cottage’s seemingly ages-old pedigree.

“Give me a glass of Sauvignon Blanc, and I could sit in front of the fireplace all day,” Smith says. Candelaria concurs. “I could live in this guesthouse and be totally happy,” he says. “I love the size and scale. It’s a European thing—you don’t have to have big to have great.”