

Tuscan Style

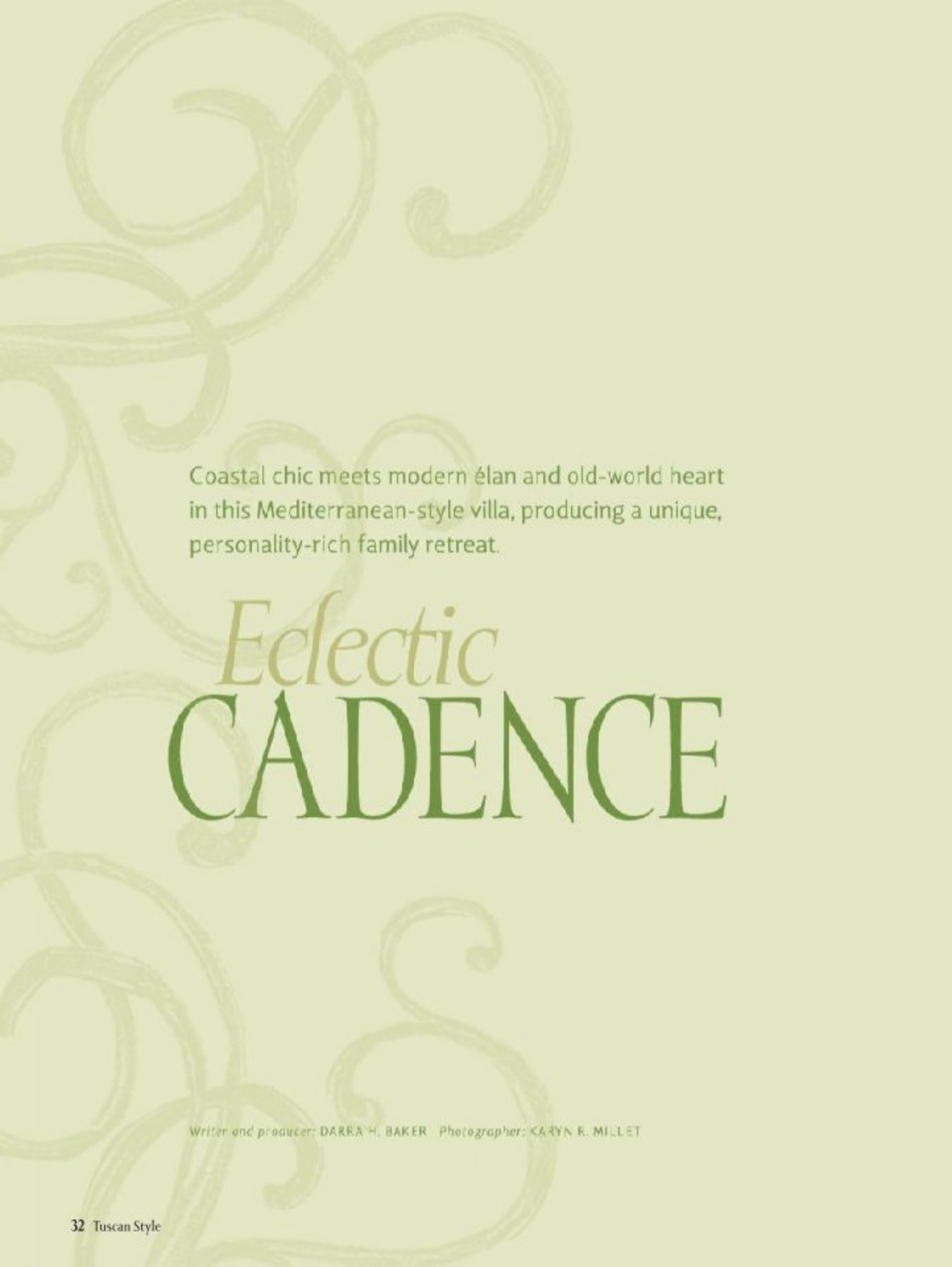
Rustic & Refined
14 Homes with
Old-World Charm



Carved in Stone
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Alfresco Allure
Outdoor rooms
made for relaxing

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Coastal chic meets modern élan and old-world heart
in this Mediterranean-style villa, producing a unique,
personality-rich family retreat.

Eclectic
CADENCE

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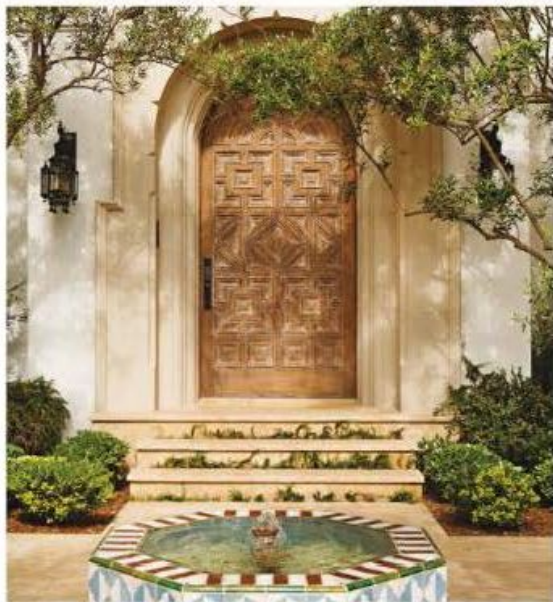
Inspired by an image of an old iron gate, interior designer Lynn Pepe had an artisan forge wrought-iron doors to turn a wine cabinet in the dining room into a focal point. Reclaimed beams arranged in a diamond-grid motif mimic the look of a coffered ceiling in rustic fashion.





E A

A collection of crosses and a side table that belonged to her grandmother—that's all Lori Wymbs wanted to bring



OPPOSITE: Pepe found a place of pride on the staircase wall leading from the living room to the upstairs bedrooms for homeowner Lori Wymbs' collection of antique crosses, which she's gathered on European and Californian travels. **ABOVE:** An artisan crafted the oak front door, smudging layers of gray and cream paint into the edges and cracks to produce an instant patina.

with her to the new home she and her husband, Bob, planned to build in Manhattan Beach, California. The huge binder of inspiration images Lori shared with interior designer Lynn Pepe filled in the missing pieces. The couple's goal of keeping the family cozy and together—no easy feat with three teenagers—was obvious, as was their desire for a family-friendly home with a European sensibility and a few modern surprises to keep it fresh. "I've never had a client who trusted me the way Lori trusted me," Pepe says. "She was so open and excited! I knew it was important that the home have a collected, meaningful feeling."

Believing a strong, character-rich architectural backdrop was key to laying the groundwork for the interior decor, Pepe collaborated with architect Louie Tomaro, builder Shawn Nelson, and landscape architect Sammy Castro, as well as local craftspeople, to create a Mediterranean-style house with Italian, Spanish, Moorish, French, and Santa Barbara influences. "The family's travels were our inspiration," Pepe says. "And because the Wymbses had the unusual advantage of a sprawling 13,000-square-foot hillside lot—whereas a typical Manhattan Beach lot size is a tight, narrow 30x90 feet—we were able to create something with a sense of history and soul."

Plaster walls, rustic hand-hewn ceiling beams, and old wide-plank oak floors finished with an oil rub ground the interiors in an old-world aesthetic. Pepe opted for neutral walls, calling on old rugs, interesting textiles, and tactile furnishings to introduce subtle color and textural depth. The living room, for instance, boasts Katavolos midcentury leather sling chairs as well as midcentury French wing chairs sporting seats covered in charcoal-dyed French linen sheets and backs encased in burlap for a deconstructed look. An oversize pale blue-and-yellow flat-weave Turkish rug underpins the lively collection of furnishings. "I layered things that you might not expect to go together or in a European-inspired home, such as vintage '60s and '70s pieces with modern art," Pepe says.

The kitchen also features surprising elements to offset the raw simplicity of the Mediterranean shell. Early 1980s Cleo Baldon metal stools with worn leather cushions pull up to an island accented with icebox latches and metal feet, where they partner with cream chiseled-edge Moroccan backsplash tiles to produce a warm, friendly atmosphere with just the right amount of spunk. It's yet another area where Lori and Bob's three teenagers and friends can roll in on a moment's notice and feel right at home. And that was the goal: to create a collected, comfortable space with plenty of history, heart, and soul.





A large antique French limestone mantel with a herringbone brick pattern inside, wide-plank old oak flooring, and salvaged oak beams hand-selected by builder Shawn Nelson lend timeless appeal to the living room. However, a lively collection of midcentury sling chairs, wing chairs, and unusual metal tables keeps the mood fresh in the ocean-facing space.



"We used softer colors, leather, and lots of modern art to lighten up the house. I didn't want things to feel too serious or fussy."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER LYNN PEPE

OPPOSITE: Quartzite countertops echo the grays, blacks, browns, and creams in the kitchen's cabinetry, flooring, and light fixtures. The rustic edges on the backsplash's 4x4-inch glazed terra-cotta tiles—which lend the wall its unusual finish—required expert installation. **THIS PHOTO:** An antique Italian brass-and-leather-top desk provides a work space just off the kitchen. The painting is by Brooklyn artist Kathryn Lynch.







"I like to layer unexpected things. But you can't overthink it, or it won't feel relaxed and inviting."

—LYNN PEPE



OPPOSITE: Pepe welcomed a sea-fresh blue into a guest room by giving a new four-poster a distressed teal finish. To continue the blue theme, Pepe removed the glass from a lantern-style light fixture, slipcovering it instead with a simple indigo-pattern textile. **ABOVE:** In the master bath, a dainty 17th-century chandelier illuminates reclaimed French marble floor tiles and a soaking tub with a pewter finish. "I tend to avoid anything too shiny," Pepe says. "I like matte finishes that look as though they've been there for a long time." **RIGHT:** Antique tile from Mallorca, Spain, installed as a backsplash, and distressed matte black hexagon floor tiles keep the eye moving around the powder room. An antique console converted into a sink vanity contributes to the room's pattern play.