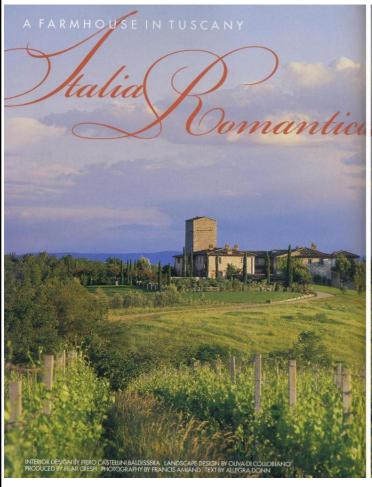
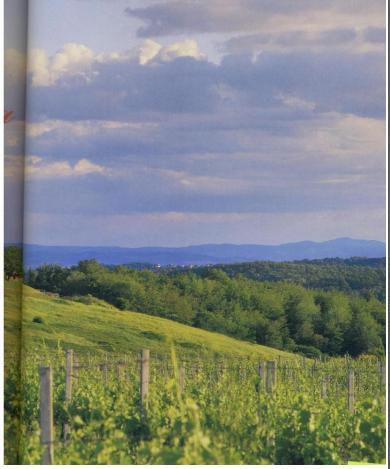
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hen an American man and an Italian woman met in

New York, fell in love and married, they began to dream of owning a home in Italy—a peaceful part-time retreat from their hectic life in Manhattan.

"It took us three years to find the right house," says the wife of the couple's forays in Italy. By the time they had narrowed their search to Tuscany, in particular the Chianti region, their real estate agent was running out of ideas. "He was desperate to know what we wanted, so he took us to see a house that was not on the market to better understand our requirements." Naturally, the couple fell in love with this very farmhouse, and they bought it.

The house is at the center of a stunning valley at the point where the land rises up to dominate an unobstructed, 360-degree view of virgin countryside. It is accessed from a long dirt road leading from a small village that consists of an ancient church and a cluster of homes. The farmhouse is divided into two sections, flanked on one side by an eleventh-century tower that once safeguarded a neighboring castle.

"Obviously, our constant to-ing and fro-ing with the U.S. meant we needed a designer to supervise the building work," explains the wife. They found him more quickly than the house. "I opened a book straight onto an interior designed by the architect Piero Castellini Baldissera and immediately knew he was our man."

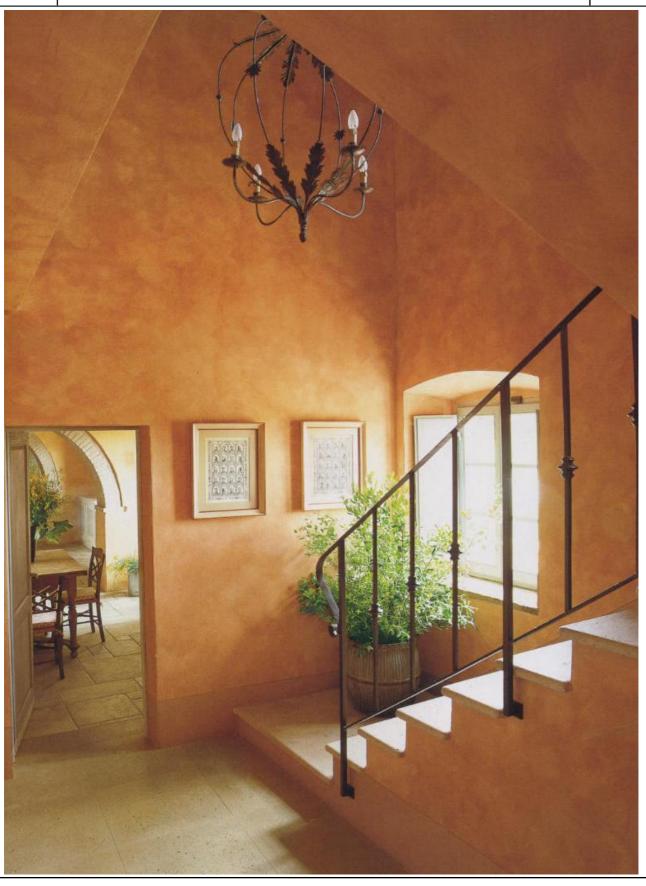
Castellini, one of the creative forces behind C&C Milano fabrics and home collection, was

OPENING PAGES: View of Tuscan farmhouse with tower from across vineyards. ABOVE Bookshelves with Louis XVI panels. Hom chair with leather seat, Drawings from Florence Terra-cotta floors with wood intersia. Kilim on sisal rug. OPPOSITE Tuscan cotto floors. French prints of Napoleonic generals Chandelier from the Piedmont region, 18th c



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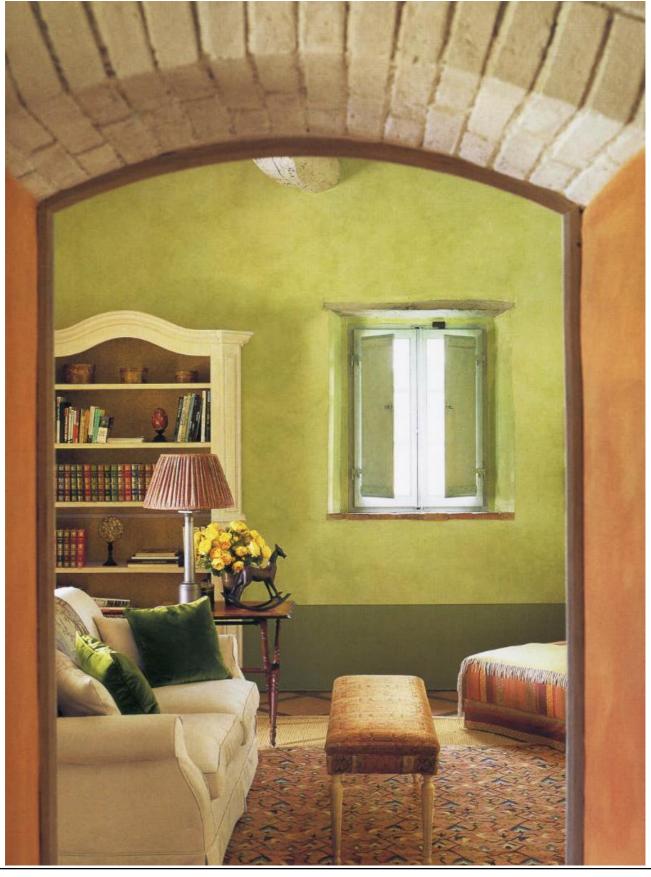


PRECEDING PAGES: Tuscan limestone mantel flanked by cushions in Osborne & Little fabric Tuscan 19th-c. prints. Locally made sofas in C&C Milano linen. Oak side tables by Piero Castellini, Church candlestick as lamp. Kilim on sisal rug. Louis XV chairs in Pierre Frey fabric. Ottoman in coshmere fabric by C&C Milano. Tole-style painted brass floor lamp. LET Intuglio impressions from the Grand Tour framed as art. Tuscan travertine mantel, French 19th-c. horn-framed mirrors. Cushions in C&C Milano linen. Louis-Philippe table with leather top. OPPOSITE: Locally made sofa and pillows, all in C&C Milano fabrics. French 19th-c. bench. Tole-style iron lamp. English folding table. Piedmont 18th-c. bookcase. Turkish kilim over sisal rug.



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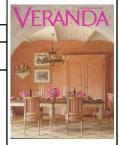
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races: Cabinet by Piero Castellini. Candleholders and sconces by Ilaria Miani, Tuscan 19th-c table. Napoleon III-style chairs in C&C Milana ulk stripe. Stenciled sisal rug by local artisans Gouaches of Tuscan villas Ligurian chandelier, 18th c. Glassware from Morocco. Linen napkins by C&C Milana. Villeroy & Boch flatware and china OPPOSITE: Bed linens, canopy and draperies, all C&C Milano linen fabrics, Bench from Provence, 19th c. in C&C Milano linen with Selezione Tessuti inset fabric. Venetian 19th-c. table. Sisal rug. Incert: Roses and lavender bushes. Arbutus and Italian cypress trees.

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the ideal choice. Able to interpret the couple's wishes without straying too far from a traditional Tuscan-style farmhouse, Castellini set to work creating interiors of warm pinks, lush apricots, sunny yellows and soft greens that perfectly complement the Italian countryside.

This was a made-to-measure house—a labor of love. Here, everything was created from scratch. Most of the furniture was carefully thought out and designed in workshops throughout Italy to fit the couple's aesthetic and practical requirements; cast-iron beds, functional side tables, dining chairs to go with the antique dining table, sofas and carpets. Some objects were found at antiques fairs and shops in Italy as well as around Europe and in Morocco. Among these finds are a nineteenth-century dining table bought in Umbria and old, painted wooden windows that were discovered in a Marrakech souk and that now decorate two walls.

"There's not a speck of white," adds the lady of the house. "We love color and have spent much time in search of the right shade for each room."

The ground floor, once used as a stable with extremely high ceilings, was converted into rooms for entertaining. Beyond the warm-hued dining room, an atrium dominated by a fire-place and a central round table leads into an apricot sitting room and a sage-green library.

Ceiling bricks throughout the house have been bleached, and some beams have been painted to match the walls of their respective rooms rather than using a standard black gloss.

The view from each window of the farmhouse suggests a framed old-master painting—simply Tuscany at its best. \Box

ASOVE AND COPPOSITE: Pool area beyond main house with covered dining terrace in distance. Bay laurel, lovender bushes and cork tree. Tower from 11th c. with tile roof. Travertine stone around pool. Royal Botania umbrella, table, chaises longues and pillows. Large square pillow in sailcloth. Illana Miani insulated container and glasses.



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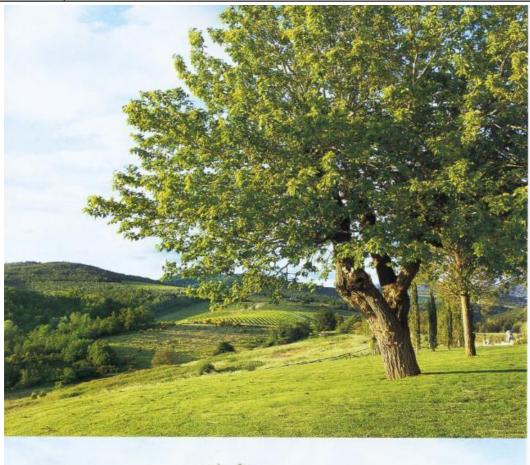






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TOPLET: Mulberry tree in peaceful landscape. BOTTOM LET: Entrance to citrus garden filled with leman, grapefruit and orange frees in terra-cotta pots. Lavender bushes between wooden gate and wall of Tuscan stone. Ilex tree at center, OPPOSITE: In covered dining terrace, table set with Unopiù glassware, flatware and china. flaria Miani vases contain roses, lemons and mint, all from owners' garden Flowers throughout home by Pilar Crespi



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