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Provence Interiors/Interieurs De Provence (in English)



Synopsis

This volume presents the range of Provence interiors, from the private apartments of a duchess to a beekeeper's home, from an art collector's stud farm to the brightly-painted weekend retreat of a sculptor. Personalities whose homes are featured include Christine Picasso and Ewa Truffaut.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a gorgeously photographed journey into the homes of wealthy and/or very stylish residents of Provence. Not a book of typical 'French Country Interiors', it covers a wide range of styles from super modern to 17th century grandeur, from 'to the manor born', to gypsy caravans (stunning). As with all things French I adore the way they so gracefully combine the old and the new. These are for the most part not homes that were 'designed', but instead homes that 'grew' with thier owners over time. This book is one of a series of books by this publisher/editor team and they are all wonderful. I have this one, the book on Indian Interiors, the book on Moroccan Interiors (my favorite) and the one on Tuscan Interiors. Each of these books is pure quality. The photography, the variety of well chosen homes, the layout and design of the books, including paper quality, binding etc. is superb. There isn't one aspect of any of these books, including this one, that is run-of-the-mill or poorly conceived. If you are interested in Provencial style, creative interiors, use of colour and texture, and French Culture, you will adore this book. It is without a doubt the best book on French Interiors that I have found.

I have never been there, but through samplings such as this treasure of a book, I have seen on print what I most want to see: Provence! This "gift" presents the reader with the best views of interiors that I am aware of. I have combed my library and bookstores for views of Provence for almost forever. This book almost makes me cry, I long to see it so! Until I do, this sumptuous look at this magical region is available in this outstanding book. I am SO glad I have my copy!

Instead of authentic Provençal houses and interiors, the book features the play-things and holiday villas of the international art-elite. Many featured 'houses' are in fact villas and palace-like, several properties boast both indoor- and outdoor-pools, nearly all are owned by the connected Taschen-jetset. As a cynical gambit for evenness, the book opens with two features on gypsy caravans. A featured house belongs to an eccentric who has built his house out of washing machine parts, another is peopled by a disturbing collection of life-size puppets in period costume; interesting maybe, belonging in a different book- most likely. The number of genuinely interesting Provence dwellings comes down to just 2 or 3. I expected several things from a book on Provence interiors, firstly properties that are french-mediterranean and secondly that have a certain unpretentious rural style; the selection of houses in this publication have either had their french charm eclipsed by the anglo-saxon tastes & faddish preferences of the owners/decorators or the rural style of the buildings is disfigured by idle leisure, vulgarity and wealth. It is a shame neither the author nor the editor were alive to this, and did not take an interest in discovering the soul of Provence, but instead fell back on their contact books.

In this rich photographic essay of interiors in Provence, Lovatt-Smith captures the design, style, essence, texture, life and breath of this magical location and its occupant's beautiful interiors.

I've owned this book for years & I return to it regularly. There is something magical about this book. Although most of us will never experience living in a Provence villa, the photography takes you away & it is absolutely wonderful to look at. Every page offers delightful discoveries. This book has it all and is by far my favorite interior design book in my collection.

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