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JUNE 2018 | Vol. 31 | Issue 6.



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By Michelle Mastro

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Cover photo by © living4media/Cecilia Möller

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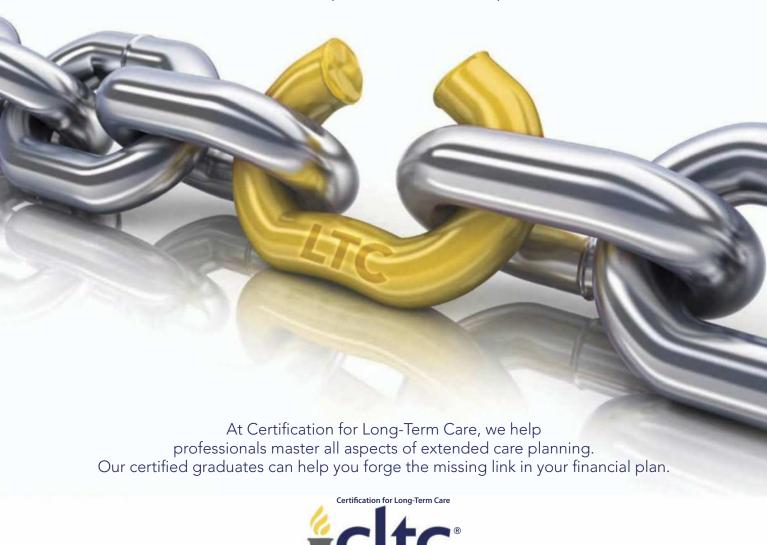
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[sincerely]

What's Old



When you're looking for that perfect vintage treasure, the thrill of the hunt never gets old.

Whether you are hitting the ground at a flea market and sorting through boxes of treasures, stopping by a neighborhood sale or shopping online, the feeling when you find that something wonderful you have been searching for is just incredible. And then the fun begins: finding the perfect spot to enjoy it.

Vintage pieces with a touch of romance and charm play a big part in the style we love here at Romantic Homes, and with summer just around the corner, that means tag-sale season is almost here.

This issue is jam-packed with flea-market and vintage style. You will find some of our favorite places to shop, things to collect (pages 14 and 18), ideas for decorating with your favorite elements (page 24). along with homes filled with beautiful flea-market style, to inspire you to add a touch of vintage to your own home.

While the pages of *Romantic Homes* offer much design inspiration, don't forget to head over to our website, romantichomes.com, for even more ideas, such as tips on shopping an estate sale for one-ofa-kind pieces, choosing a romantic color palette or collecting vintage postcards.

Happy shopping! /km



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EDITORIAL.

Editor/Brand Leader: Courtney Allison Executive Editor: Margie Monin Dombrowski Managing Editor: Anne Brink Contributina Editors: Kris Chri ting Editors: Kris Christ Editorial Intern: Camellia Ghothzadeh

Senior Art Director: Kelly Lee Design Director: Gabby Oh

CONTRIBUTORS Rochel Ashwell, Jo-Anne Coletti, Bret Gum, Michelle Mostro, Amy Neunsinger, Marian Parsons, Shannon Fontaine Photography, KariAnne Wood

ADVERTISING

Terry Rollman - Publisher, trollman@engagedmediainc.com Toby Childs - Ad Sales Director, tchilds@engagedmediainc.com Sherrie Norris - Account Executive • (704) 421-1517
Julie Hale - Account Executive • (770) 377-0072 Eric Gomez - Advertising Traffic Coordinato

MARKETING

Sabra Morris: Director of Content Marketing Brooke Sanders: Content Marketing Specialist

Robert Short: IT Manager Devender Hasija: Newsstand & Circulation Analyst Shailesh Khandelwal: Subscriptions Manage Melinda Magde: Project Coordinator Alex Mendoza: Administrative Assistant Victoria Van Vlear: Intern Program Manager

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

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[online extras]

On The WEB

CURATE YOUR OWN FLEA-MARKET LOOK WITH OUR TIPS AT ROMANTICHOMES.COM.



10 TIPS FOR ESTATE-SALE BARGAIN HUNTING

YOUR GUIDE TO ESTATE-SALE SUCCESS.



COLLECTING VINTAGE POSTCARDS

OUR FAVORITE SOUVENIRS COMBINE NOSTALGIA AND WANDERLUST, FOR AN INEXPENSIVE, EXPRESSIVE FORM OF ART.



PREPARING FOR THE FLEA MARKET

FIRST TIME FLEA MARKETER? GET READY WITH EXPERT TIPS!

CLOSE TO YOUR HEART

MYSTERIOUS AND ALLURING, LOCKETS HAVE BEEN A FAVORITE ACCESSORY FOR CENTURIES.





LET'S CLICK!

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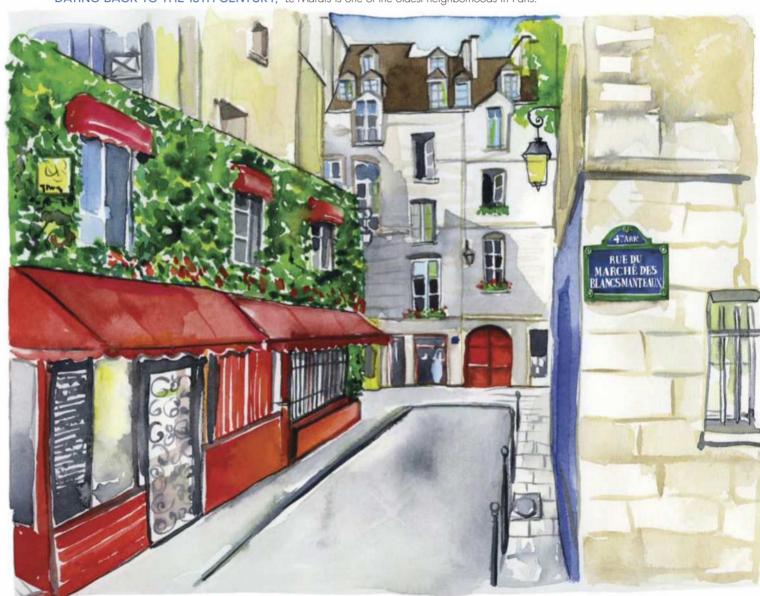
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PARIS in Pictures

THIS ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE CITY OF LIGHTS WILL GIVE YOU COUNTLESS REASONS TO BOOK A TRIP.

By Margie Monin Dombrowski **Illustrations by** Jessie Kanelos Weiner

DATING BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY, Le Marais is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Paris.



aris is always a good idea. Beauty abounds in the art, architecture, markets, cuisine and cultural attractions that make this city so alluring. In their new book, *Paris in Stride:*

An Insider's Walking Guide, friends and expats Jessie Kanelos



Weiner and Sarah Moroz show you in watercolor illustrations, walking tour maps and words where to visit, shop and dine in the City of Lights.

Paris in Stride: An Insider's Walking Guide by Jessie Kanelos Weiner and Sarah Moroz, published by Rizzoli New York,
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TOP 5 MARKETS

THESE ARE JESSIE AND SARAH'S FAVES.

Marché Bastille (Thursday & Sunday)

Marché Raspail (Sunday)

Marché Anvers (Friday)

Marché President Wilson (Wednesday

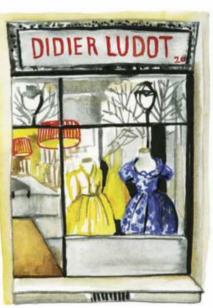
& Saturday)

Marché Aligre (Tuesday–Sunday)









[Get the look]

FOUND Style

3 FI FMFNTS OF AN ELEGANTLY CURATED FLEA-MARKET LOOK.



By Margie Monin Dombrowski

ecorating with unique finds allows you to easily piece together a collected look.

Here are a few basic tips on how to infuse your home with an elegant flea-market flair.

•MIX AND MATCH: Whether it's old meets new or you're merging different styles, mixing and matching decor instantly adds a personal touch. In this room, the dining table came from a Swedish antiques store, the rug below is new and the kitchen lamp was imported from Russia and bought in an antiques market.

• COLLECTIONS: Displaying collections can say a lot about you and also enhance your design style. These books, purchased at a flea market, bring an Old World feel and a beautiful hint of patina.

• REPURPOSED PIECES: Antique furniture and repurposed pieces can add flea-market character and coziness. An old crib was fashioned into a sofa by removing one side and adding a blanket and pillows. The kitchen cabinet is made from old windows that feature original wainscoting.



[shopkeeping]

FRENCH Passion

HOW ONE WOMAN'S LOVE FOR FRENCH FLEA MARKETS BECAME A BEAUTIFUL ONLINE SHOP.

By Camellia Ghotbzadeh Photographed and styled by Charlotte Reiss





t's hard not to fall in love with the French countryside. Originally from England and a visitor to France in her youth, Charlotte Reiss moved to the U.S. in her early 20s. Watching *House Hunters International* one day, Charlotte fell head over heels for France and wished for a country house there. Within a month, that wish came true with a 200-year-old farmhouse in western France near the Bordeaux, Deux-Sèvres region.

Over months of construction and renovation on the house, she visited the flea markets, or "brocantes,"

of the area, finding French items for the home. Her affinity for these vintage French pieces grew, and she brought items back to the U.S. from the French flea markets such as baskets, vintage wooden spoons and linens.

Visitors to her Los Angeles home had such curiosity about where and how to get these items that Charlotte asked herself, why not open a store that focused on making these items more accessible to everyone?

During her second pregnancy, Charlotte decided to open her online shop, Vivi et Margot, to sell "beautiful



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[shopkeeping]





things" from France. The traditional French homewares store, named after her daughters Vivienne and Margot, combines vintage items and pure French authenticity. From olive-oil soap to French market baskets and ceramic pots, the store offers that sophisticated French touch that any home can incorporate.

"Everything sold is originally purchased in France and imported to the United States," Charlotte says. She curates 100 percent of the items and that way, she is able to "keep the authenticity of the brand," she says.

She's become familiar with what's offered at French flea markets, how to get the best value on items and what to look for. Charlotte strategically plans entire days, going to four or five of the best flea markets in the area primarily during the summer. She buys what she would like to see in her own home that she believes others would also like.

Typically she looks for items that match her white-and-gray color palette, aren't damaged and are also popular among customers, such as café-au-lait pots and linens. However, her favorite and best-selling items are French market baskets because of their versatility, durability and functionality. "I use them for everything, and they never fall apart," Charlotte says. With free shipping within the U.S., the only response can be *Oui!* vivietmargot.com.

5 TIPS & TRICKS FOR FIRST-TIME FLEA MARKETERS

CHARLOTTE REISS OF VIVI ET MARGOT SHARES THE DETAILS.

• BE EARLY! Due to flea-market popularity, get there early to beat the rush!

•DON'T HAGGLE: "There's value in the items being sold, and vendors know the items' worth," Charlotte says.

•INVESTIGATE: When inspecting items, look inside or on the bottom to find signs of the item's origin and true authenticity.

•RESEARCH: If you're hunting for a particular item, know the value, so you're not overpaying for a false or not truly authentic item.

•BRING: A market basket is perfect for your flea-market finds!









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[collecting]

Favorite COLLECTIBLES

THE EDITORS SHARE THE ANTIQUES AND DECORATIVE OBJECTS THAT SPEAK TO THEIR HEARTS



ANTIQUE MIRRORS

By Courtney Allison

I once wandered into an old antiques store sale with a sign on the front door that read, "Enter at Your Own Risk." I laughed, but once inside, I could see it was a sale where you might have wanted a pair of gloves and a mask.

In the basement of the store, there were stacks and stacks of frames leaning against each other. I spotted one that felt heavier than the rest.

Wiping away the years of dirt and dust off a small corner off the "glass," I was delighted to find it was an old mirror. I hauled it upstairs and purchased it for the major bargain price of \$3, not even knowing what it looked like underneath the layers of grunge.

Once home, after cleaning it up, I found a charming pale-green paint covering the carved frame and the loveliest mottled finish in the glass. It is now a favorite mirror and one whose story it's always fun to tell.

I have a thing for mirrors—all shapes and sizes—and have been known to drag home the tiniest of mirrors for setting on a shelf. The largest of mirrors may require a truck and a few strong folks to help load.



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[collecting]





BEAUTIFUL BASKETS

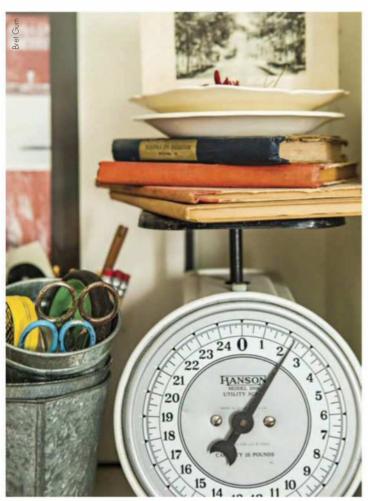
By Anne Brink

My favorite collectibles are baskets. They have a very long history, dating back to at least 7000-8000 BCE. They appear in every country and culture, not to mention folklore and literature. From Moses' basket bed in the bulrushes to the basket Little Red Riding Hood carried for her grandmother to the brown-and-yellow basket of the jazz standard "A Tisket, a Tasket," baskets are functional and beautiful. And their uses are without limit.

Whether made of reeds, rattan, cane, wood, wicker, wire, sheet metal or baleen, baskets help us store, gather, organize and transport everything from fabric remnants to papers to jewelry to coffee beans to a picnic lunch.

I love using old baskets in my home as décor. They might be antique, French, early American, African, Brazilian or made by indigenous people from Alaska or anywhere. They come in all sorts of sizes and colors, with handles or not, and with or without lids. I have used baskets to hold rings, mail, receipts, bread, faux flowers, important papers, fruit, laundry, and many other items. A large, handsome basket prominently displayed can be a statement piece in a room. I like to show them off as beautiful objects, on their own or as part of a vignette.

I've found lovely baskets at flea markets, antiques shops, friends' attics, garage sales—almost anywhere. Just be sure to take your shopping basket, and happy hunting!





VINTAGE KITCHEN SCALES

By Margie Monin Dombrowski

I don't know what it is exactly that draws me to vintage scales. Maybe it's because there's a certain nostalgia behind the trustworthy tools of yesteryear that makes them relics. Even with chips and rust stains, these timeworn items can decorate your home like pieces of sculpture.

Modern versions pale in comparison to the charm of vintage kitchen scales. While you can find kitchen scales from the turn of the 20th century, you don't necessarily have to buy an authentic antique; believable reproductions are readily available as well.

Whether the look you're creating is industrial,



retro, girly-romantic or cute and country, there are many different styles of kitchen scales to choose from. Your best bets for sourcing one could be your local antiques store, an online Etsy shop or a flea market. Proudly display your vintage scale on a shelf, decorated with fresh flowers, in an antique cupboard or on your countertop for all to see and admire.

[collecting]





OLD BOOKS

By Kris Christensen

I am more than willing to judge a book by its cover—and also by its spine, interior illustrations and that comforting fragrance wafting from old pages. Out of my assorted collections, I continually find myself investing time, energy and appreciation in my old books. I hunt for them at Friends of the Library sales or antiques shops, I arrange and rearrange them in vignettes throughout my house and, of course, I read them. Usually with a large mug of English breakfast tea.

When I was growing up, my parents' house was filled by the volumes handed down from generations of avid readers. When I first picked up *Pride and Prejudice* or *Huckleberry Finn*, I was reading a vintage edition with the names of my ancestors inscribed on the front pages. Some of these family heirlooms moved with me to my own home, but most of my books are strays—picked up here and there for a few dollars—with an occasional splurge when I see a gorgeously gilded cover with fancy lettering.



PRETTY PLATES

By KariAnne Wood

I collect white luncheon plates. You know, it's the mini plate with a place for a cup on one side. These luncheon plates used to be a staple at bridge parties in the 1940s. My obsession began when I found one at a thrift store for \$1.00, and then it became a giant treasure hunt for me. I'd scour estate sales, yard sales and junk shops—all in the hope of finding another elusive luncheon plate. The only rule I had was that I couldn't pay over \$1.

The collection that started with one plate and one cup is now rounding on 75 sets. The plates are stacked four or five high on the shelves in my butler's pantry. This is also a collection that we use on a regular basis. I pull them out for every party, graduation, shower and celebration. They're so much more affordable than paper plates and paper cups. And the best part? When the party is over and the guests leave, I rinse them off, dry them and put them back on the shelf until it's time to party again.



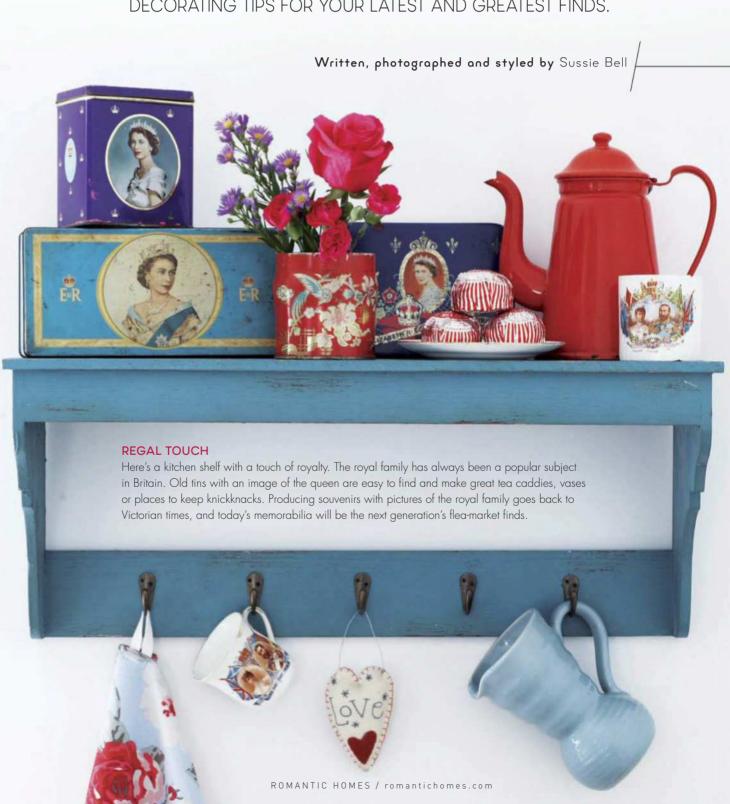




[adorn]

FLEA-ING Romance

DECORATING TIPS FOR YOUR LATEST AND GREATEST FINDS.



hatever antiques or brocantes appeal to you most, you're bound to find something special on your next flea-market trip.

And when you return home, your next challenge will be to figure out how to display your treasures with a romantic flair. Here are just a few ideas for curating your precious pieces. In

BOTTLED BEAUTIES

This little table centerpiece is put together with beautifully shaped tincture bottles and old ink wells, decorated with a few flowers to enhance the blues and greens in the glass. The bottles also look great in a line down the middle of the dinner table, each with a single flower in it. People used to discard them in garbage pits at the bottom of gardens back before garbage collection, and sometimes you find them while digging flowerbeds. I've often bought them with traces of soil in them, but after a soak they clean up nicely.



/26 [adorn]





SHELFIE STYLE

Use a small wooden shelf to display your favorite flea-market finds. They can be changed according to the seasons or your mood, and will be a lovely focal point dressed with flowers and candles. On the bottom right a green glass Victorian tea light doubles as a tiny flower vase. Adorned with an old Moroccan storage jar and candlesticks, the shelf presents a harmonious whole.

PRETTY POSTCARDS We seem to forget that before the Internet people used to communicate with letters and postcards. The flowers on postcards had meanings: A red rose represented true love; violets, faithfulness; and lilacs symbolized love, beauty and sweetness. These old postcards are not just pretty, but often have heartfelt messages on the back from lovers and dear ones, from a time long gone. When I find blank cards, I save them for special birthdays or occasions, or keep them to use as decorations on trinket boxes and notebooks, to add a romantic touch.

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Bright and Happy be your Birthday





TREASURE HUNTING

By Courtney Allison

The thrill of the hunt at a flea market is always exhilarating, not knowing just what waits around the next corner. Maybe it'll be that elusive piece of china or stack of old signs you have been scouring every tag sale for. Or perhaps it's the treasure you didn't know you needed but suddenly realized you have to have.

I love shopping flea markets and tag sales simply to peruse or to search for something specific. And one of my favorite sources is shopping from the comfort of home. I have scored some of my most amazing antiques on Craigslist: the French buffet from the 1800s in the living room, that tall gilded floor mirror and even the French armoire in my bathroom—all found for bargain prices online.





But if you are more hands-on and want to roll up your sleeves and collect items as you go, here are some favorite spots to find the most unique and interesting pieces here in California:

- Alameda Point Antiques Faire— Alameda, CA (1st Sunday of the month)
- Goat Hill Fair—Santa Cruz, CA (twice a year)
- Tumbleweed and Company— Roseville, CA (varies)

MY FAVORITE THINGS

My favorite things to look for are always changing, depending on what I am obsessed with at the moment or what I may need for styling, but there are some things that always repeat no matter what.

- VINTAGE CHINA with intricate and detailed patterns, and simple ironstone.
- •ANYTHING BRASS OR SILVER—I'm currently collecting silver trophies for flowers, old dome covers and brass candlesticks for a bigger splash on the fireplace mantel.
- OLD BOOKS WITHOUT COVERS, chunky baskets and wood pieces that have weathered away a bit.
- VINTAGE MIRRORS The more mottled the glass, the better.



DIGGING FOR GEMS

By Marian Parsons

My love of flea markets started when I was just in high school, when my friends and I one day stumbled across one of the largest flea markets in Florida, and I knew immediately that this was my kind of place!

Since then, I have frequented hundreds of antique and flea markets from small roadside offerings to large-scale special events that draw hundreds of dealers and thousands of buyers from all over the country. These are a few tips I picked up along the way.

NOT ALL FLEA MARKETS ARE CREATED EQUAL. You really don't know what the vibe of a flea market is until you get there. All the merchandise might be garage sale and auction leftovers or you might find



high-end antiques (with high-end prices.) Go there knowing it might be a waste of time or it might be a goldmine.

HAVE A PLAN. Flea markets can be distracting and overwhelming—there's so much stuff! A list of things you're looking for will help you stay focused. It's also a good idea to have dimensions of your space and a measuring tape, so you don't buy something that doesn't fit in your house!

CASH IS KING, but credit isn't irrelevant. Cash used to be the only payment method accepted at flea markets, but more and more dealers are accepting credit cards. Cash will usually get you a better deal, though, so it's still a good idea to have plenty on hand.

COME PREPARED. Flea markets can be as exhausting as a day at an amusement park, so it helps to come prepared. Bring a cart, large canvas shopping bag or wagon to carry your purchases. I would also suggest bringing some plastic shopping bags to wrap around pieces that might be rusty or need a good cleaning. Also, bring a water bottle, hand sanitizer and some snacks in your bag to get through the day.

BE REALISTIC. It's easy to get carried away at a flea market. When you're assessing a piece to purchase, especially a larger, highticket item, take a minute to think through the purchase. Do you love it? Will it work well with your style and in your home? Do you have the perfect spot for it? Is it in good condition? If it needs work, are you capable of doing it? Asking these questions can confirm that the purchase is a good one or help you avoid buyer's remorse. Also, make sure you can get the piece home. Will it fit in your vehicle? Will you have help to unload it at the other end?

So grab some friends, take out some cash and go hunt for treasure!







SEEKING AUTHENTICITY

By Rachel Ashwell

I've been going to flea markets since I was a little girl in London. On early mornings before daylight, I would arrive as vendors were setting up with flashlights—their only source of light. There was something magical to me about this world.

My dad dealt in rare illustrated books and my mum in antique dolls, which she painstakingly restored. I learned the tricks of the trade from my parents. From my dad, I learned how to be focused and a quick walker and thinker. From my mum, I learned patience and being selective (going home empty-handed is preferable to buying things you don't need), creativity and finding precious bits and bobs to repurpose.

Today I frequent flea markets for the purposes of resale, inspiration and occasionally for my home. I'm always happy when I can find one-of-a-kind, authentic treasures. When you're at flea markets, it's

important to know what you're looking for, or it can be quite overwhelming. Make a wish list, get rough measurements of what you are looking for and keep notes on the clearance measurements for access.

Take along the following:

- A tape measure.
- A flashlight if going early in the morning.
- Layers of clothing, good walking shoes and a hat.
- Cash is the best tool for negotiating.
- To bring items home, it might be worthwhile renting a pick-up truck, furniture blankets and bungie cords. However, some of the bigger antiques shows have shippers and porters on sight.

•If you aren't taking something home right away, get the phone number of the vendor and pictures of the surrounding area on your phone, or jot down some notes, just in case. Authentic paint is a must for me. Rarely do I ever repaint anything. My restoration process is to make sure a piece functions well (i.e., drawers open and close, legs aren't wobbly, hardware works). If new hardware is needed, I try to replace it with vintage similar to what was likely on the piece originally. Sometimes, if a top of a table or dresser is beyond repair, I will buy a piece of honed Carrara marble for a fresh, modern edge.

I have a specific palette for any material, woods or fabrics that I'm usually on the lookout for. It ranges from smoky to pastel, pale pink to raspberry, pale blue to teal, pale green to turquoise, bright white to taupe and gray, and natural wood.

My favorite markets are the following:

LOS ANGELES. CA:

Rose Bowl

Long Beach

Santa Monica

ENGLAND:

Kempton Park

Ardingly

Shepton Mallett

My favorite of all is The Round Top Antiques Fair in Round Top, Texas, and I particularly love the following:

- Marburger Farm Antique Show
- Blue Hills
- Warrenton
- Zapp Hall
- La Bahia In Excess

See Shopping Guide, PAGE 96.

MY FAVORITE THINGS

- · VINTAGE WALLPAPER—I use it to line drawers.
- ANYTHING FLORAL—I love floral carvings and floral prints on art and fabrics.
- CHANDELIERS AND TABLE LAMPS—Whenever I buy lighting, I always get it checked out for safety.
- RUGS OF ALL SIZES—I like to layer them, even smaller ones, always in my palette.









PIECES to Remember

TOUR A HISTORIC HOME BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED WITH UNIQUE FLEA-MARKET FINDS.

By Michelle Mastro
Photography by Shannon Fontaine Photography
Styling by Melissa Lewis

OVING FROM THE ARID CLIMES OF ARIZONA TO BUSTLING NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, Melissa Lewis, interior designer and owner of Found Interiors, was happy to discover the city's many flea markets.

"It wasn't easy finding antiques in the deserts of Arizona," she admits, recalling with a laugh how she carefully boxed her treasures for the move. Nothing was left behind, especially not her cherished chandelier. "I was afraid potential buyers would think it came with the house!" The chandelier fits her aesthetic of gilt edges and understated elegance.

But it was in Franklin, a suburb just outside Nashville, where Melissa embraced her passion for flea-market finds. From historic bricks reassembled to adorn her fireplace to antique lanterns hanging above her kitchen table, her décor embraces a mix of old and new. "It's hard having your house look like a model home, where people are afraid to touch anything or sit down," she says. "The old and imperfect pieces make people feel more comfortable."









PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER

Many of the unique fixtures and antiques in Melissa's home have their own stories to tell. The kitchen's exquisite lanterns, for example, hail from New Orleans, where Melissa had discovered them in a tiny, humble shop off the beaten track. "It made no sense to buy them. They weren't even electrified! I just knew I wanted to bring them back to life," she says.

One of the home's most striking design features is a once-bare wall leading to the basement that was revived with a hodgepodge of gorgeous cameo portraits. Displaying a collection together, Melissa says, creates a powerful vibe.

But in many ways, her home also celebrates incomplete items in various states of disrepair. A lone Roman column leans in a corner of the house, while in the same room pieces of discarded







[left] A ROMAN COLUMN leans in the corner, which Melissa says brings out their interesting dimensions. An old French frame encircles mini cameos, while behind the table sits the top of an old doorway that Melissa admired for its chipped paint and rustic feel.

[right] INSIDE THIS SILVER BOWL,

Melissa placed one of her sacred hearts from Mexico along with her collection of discarded crystals from chandeliers long gone. crystals from chandeliers long gone rest in an ornate silver cup. Hanging on the wall in the dining room, a broken mirror charms many a guest to the home.

Melissa had seen the mirror crack and break one day, as it tumbled down off a shelf in a flea market. She repurposed the frame by attaching it to some barn wood. "I enjoy seeing two pieces not meant to be together suddenly brought together," she says. "If something really speaks to me, I'll find a place for it and a way to use it."

SIMPLE TREASURES

Sprinkled throughout her home, numerous gilt frames and vintage sign holders in tarnished silver add pops of understated elegance. Sometimes the sign holders feature old book pages and postcards from Melissa's adventures. Other times, they are left empty on purpose.

In the dining room, an elegant mirror frame has been attached to some barn wood to create a beautiful display. Sometimes ornate frames can be more









A NEW LIFE

With her own home, Melissa tries to think outside the box, and many of the items in her home she has repurposed, fixed or made herself. An old sack meant for grain covers an antique bench in her master bedroom. Meanwhile, vintage metal signs now feature old book pages and postcards she collected on her adventures. And a table, once another color, is now white. "I liked its silhouette and lines," she says, but the original paint job failed to complement the home's color scheme—white, black, gold and silver. "Paint is your best friend! It's amazing what can be done with it!"

"Don't be afraid to break the rules," Melissa says of decorating. Besides, she insists, repurposed pieces add character to a home. "I never settle for something as is." ||







A Garaen

SWEET FLORALS AND A FLEA-MARKET FLAIR ENLIVEN ONE WOMAN'S HOME WITH A FRESH VIBE

By Mieke Vendel/Cocofeatures.com
Photography by Renée Frinking
Styling by Linda van der Ham

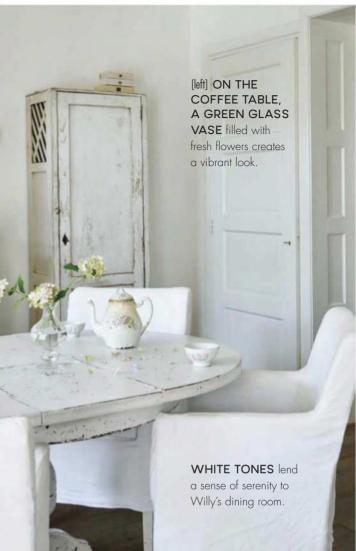
ILLY KOPPENOL HAS TWO PASSIONS: collecting flea market-style furniture and tending to her lush, green garden with lots of sumptuous flowers. When visiting her charming home, it's easy to see how she has merged the two with ease in the way she has decorated every space indoors and out.

While the background of her interiors is mostly white, it's Willy's accessorizing that adds personality, with vintage vases, bowls and bottles filled with home-grown flowers from her flourishing garden. These elements, along with her collection of timeworn furniture, create a serene environment that feels like a breath of fresh air. Here we'll take a look at all the beautiful details that give her home character.

A BLANK CANVAS

Settling on a paint color can be tricky. Selecting your favorite hue doesn't always work out best as a wall color. Important to consider is how the hue will impact the mood of each room.





Willy found that keeping the overall palette crisp and clean allows her flea-market finds and flower arrangements to be the focus of each space. "I prefer white tones in my home. Beautiful flowers and furniture contrast wonderfully if they are placed against a quiet white background," Willy says. "I did try colors on my walls once or twice, but it just doesn't feel right. I keep coming back to white walls being the perfect and most harmonious basis for my interior decoration."

This same design idea extends to furnishings and linens too, as Willy has discovered the peaceful effect that white can have, especially in a bedroom. "In our bedroom even the wardrobe, the nightstand and the bed linens are white," she says. "On the nightstand an elegantly placed single white larkspur is calming and soothing, perfect for a good night's sleep."

FRESH STYLE

A collected style can easily become overdecorated, but the key to preserving the fresh feel of Willy's home is restraint. By mixing in a curated selection of flea-market pieces, she creates a beautiful balance.

"My interior decoration is not typically brocante, mostly because I don't like too many frills or crowded nooks. Less is more I always say," Willy explains. "But I do think that a thoughtfully placed flower here and there, in a vase or a bowl, can make a world of a difference. I can hardly imagine my house without flowers."









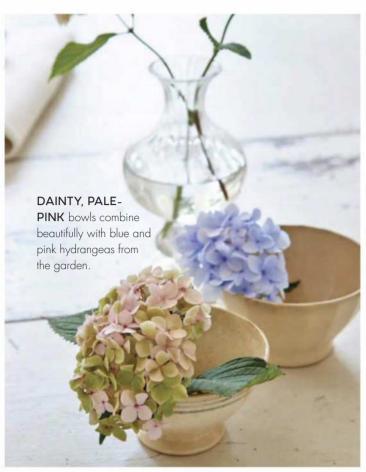
Flowers are a simple way to decorate, but they can add so much color and personality in a unique way. Delightful floral patterns and delicate flowers tucked inside flea-market vases are a natural fit for Willy's style.

"I always have flowers in my home, preferably freshly picked from my garden, which is my pride and joy," Willy says. "Among the various flowers in my garden you will find *Pandorea jasminoides*, geranium, hydrangea and larkspur, but I also planted fruit trees and ferns. I have a preference for fabrics with a floral print, which can be found all over my house, like the fabric of some of the lampshades and pillow covers."

ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Infusing something unexpected into your décor can add whimsy and personality to your home. "I love it when things have a twist, but not too much. Like a wisteria branch that winds itself alongside an antique mirror on the mantelpiece," Willy says. "Artificial flowers can be equally beautiful, like the fragile roses hanging from the chandelier."













INTERIOR Past

PERFECT FOR ITS OWNERS, THIS CHARMING HOME IS DECORATED WITH ENGLISH ANTIQUES AND FLEA-MARKET FINDS.

By Monique van der Pauw/Cocofeatures.com
Photography by Joyce Vloet
Styling by Astrid Bosmans

HEN ASTRID, AN ANTIQUES SHOP OWNER, and her husband, Jan, saw this house for the first time they immediately fell in love with it, 1970s-era design flaws and all.

They had been living in the Dutch city of Eindhoven for many years when they decided to move to a village for a change of scenery and more tranquil environment. "We approached the house, located on a corner of the street and surrounded by lush greenery, and we thought, 'This is it," says Astrid.

On entering the house, they discovered '70s decoration everywhere: "woodwork painted brown, orange and pink; walls wallpapered with large patterns; floors covered with plastic. The kitchen and bathroom were old and tiled with green and blue tiles," says Astrid. "But behind all this we saw the opportunities."









"FLOWERS LOOK SO WONDERFUL

in old pots," explains Astrid. The pot in front was once used in the process of cheese making.

PAINT AND PERSONALITY

When the couple renovated their home, all '70s remnants were removed, except for the doors, which Astrid describes as "very simple, construction-market doors, but we decided to paint them glossy and replace their handles with old doorknobs."

A new kitchen and bathroom were installed, complete with new floors: old pine planks in the living room, beech planks on the first floor and—a few years later—oak planks in the hallway and the kitchen. Some walls, such as behind the bed, were covered with planks as well, and Astrid's father installed wooden wainscoting in the kitchen.





Enriched by wood tones, the house had already gained much more charm. A carefully chosen color scheme with white nuances added extra warmth and ambience. "We wanted our house to be cozy and to have a nice country look and feel," Astrid says.

Downstairs, all woodwork is painted glossy white, inspired by the glossy old doors the couple found in England. The walls in the kitchen and bathroom are painted a sandy color, and the living room is painted a white with misty gray. The couple's bedroom walls are painted a classic white, and the woodwork is a matte white for tranquil atmosphere.

MIX AND MATCH

The woodwork and color scheme create a serene backdrop for the interior decoration, a marvelous mix-and-match of antiques and flea-market finds in different styles: country, romantic, industrial and classical.

The couple clearly isn't interested in only one décor style. "As long as something is beautiful and will match with the interior, it's okay for us," says Astrid. "Our interior developed over the years. We used to have only new furniture and

[left] THIS PRETTY
COLLECTION of English
spray bottles and a large
English "Colic Drink" bottle is
accompanied by roses.

[right] A FLOWERY BURBERRY FABRIC-COVERED FOOTSTOOL

is a feminine contrast to the wall-hung drawing of hunters.









[left] AN OLD SERVANTS' CABINET

is decorated with roses, one of Astrid's favorite flowers.

[right] A MIX OF OLD

English encyclopedias, tall candlelabras and an antique clock adds interest to this antique pharmacy cabinet. accessories, but this slowly changed when we moved into this house. Now [mostly] everything is old!"

Their love for English antiques grew during trips to England. On their overseas stays, Astrid and Jan discovered many villagers and farmers selling antiques. "They often clear a space, like a front room or part of a barn, to put their merchandise in," Astrid says.

Nowadays the couple visits England two or three times a year on holiday or to find new treasures for Astrid's antiques shop, Allegaartje (meaning "hodgepodge"). "Over the years, we had bought so many things in England that I decided to start selling," Astrid says.

Indeed, her private home houses a large collection of wonderful antiques, decorating every single space in the house, "but there sure are some empty spots as well!" Astrid laughs. "I don't like a packed interior. Therefore, I take good care of where and how I put things; by grouping them instead of having them all around everywhere, I keep it nice and calm."





DEAR BELONGINGS

She's not a collector per se, Astrid says, but she and Jan tend to be drawn to certain objects. "I do have a crush on certain things, like the Cosy teapots. I think I have 12 of them, in different models ... I'm also fond of old perfume bottles and small silver boxes. Jan loves old Dinky Toys, and he has a lot of them. But we both feel the same about collections: Enough is enough."

Astrid is attached to these "collections" of items, and they will never leave the house. Nor will most of the furniture, especially the old pine cabinet that houses her crockery. "This used to be a storage place for garlic and onions," Astrid says. "We've put old glass in the door, and I decorated the back wall with wallpaper. I've often considered painting the old wood white, but I cannot. This piece is lovely as it is."

There are more pieces of furniture and accessories in the house that have kept their original wood colors. "I'm fond of a white interior, but it shouldn't get too white," Astrid says. "Wood colors add warmth and life to an interior. I like to see the scratches and dents of old wood, for they show that it has been used, that it has a life." I'm

[left] WHITEWASHED
OAK FLOORING gives the kitchen a warm country feel.

[right] A RETRO ESPRESSO MAKER blends in nicely with the country kitchen objects.









[top] THE OLD DESK LAMP is made of Bakelite, an early plastic.

[bottom, left] JAN'S CHILDHOOD TOYS and portrait add nostalgia.

[bottom, right] AN OLD ENGLISH BOOK CABINET and vintage radio take this room back in time.











[left, bottom] A BEAUTIFULLY PATINAED WALL SHELF is topped with an old petrol can, a milk jug, an apothecary jar and a small syrup pot.

[right] BEAUTIFUL BED LINENS, textiles, silverware and perfume bottles are stashed in this ornate teak cabinet.











COUNTRY SCADO

HOW ONE COUPLE BUILT THE COUNTRY HOME OF THEIR DREAMS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

By GAP Interiors
Photography by Benjamin Mamet/GAP Interiors

HEN MARIE CALANCHA AND HER HUSBAND, JOSÉ,
DECIDED TO LEAVE THE URBAN LIFE OF LYON, they
planned to settle in the south of France, where they could open
a guest house under the Mediterranean sun and live a quiet, stress-free life. They
pictured themselves living among olive trees glowing in the sunset and surrounded
by the sweet scent of lavender fields. But that dreamy life comes with a cost.

Real estate prices in Provence were so steep that their hopes for buying an old mansion were quickly dashed. But they went on searching and eventually found an affordable plot for sale, near the medieval village of Uzès—a 32,000-square-foot jewel with an olive grove. All they would need to do was to plant the lavender—and then the house itself.

FROM THE GROUND UP

The owner of a construction company, José decided that he and Marie would build themselves the old farmhouse they had in mind. They commissioned a young, talented architect, Yves Garcia, who had specialized in bringing rundown houses back to life and converting them into modern properties with the charms and materials of the region's architectural tradition.



Starting from zero was a new challenge for Yves, which he took on with love and passion. He came up with a plan consisting of three houses—a main building for the family and two annexes for guests. Built stone by stone, shaped with time and care, the house creates the perfect illusion of "an old home that has always stood here," as Marie likes to describe it.

COUNTRY COZINESS

A vast kitchen with thick walls and terracotta tiling is located near the entrance of the biggest house, where the couple and their two children live. The large range hood, the vintage sideboards













[left] HEAVY AND ORNATE, this wooden sideboard is the perfect place to serve cheese platters and wine.

[right] THIS INVITING TABLE SETTING

features dainty plates and peonies in a large glass vase. and hutches, and the long wooden table endow this room with unique warmth and coziness. Also used as a dining room, the kitchen is where many guests have enjoyed the company of the owners, who like to invite people to share their family dinners and Marie's exquisite cuisine.

Across from the kitchen is a spacious living room. The stone-clad walls emphasize the rustic look of the house, while maintaining a highly appreciated coolness during the hot summers. The natural and restful colors brought in by the chocolate Chesterfield upholstered sofa, the wooden coffee table, the stone fireplace, the two beige squat armchairs, as well as the many objects from flea markets all around invite guests to rest and enjoy the slow, peaceful pace of Provence.

ROOMS WITH CHARACTER

José and Marie have decorated both guest houses with the same care and spirit as their own house. Opposite the main building, across from olive trees and the swimming pool, stands the "romantic room." It is a spacious open space paved with regional floor tiles and furnished with Venetian mirrors, a carved wooden headboard, authentic Provencal linen and a sweetly old-fashioned clawfoot bathtub. This room provides a delicate and precious atmosphere that perfectly suits an idyllic weekend.

Next is the second, smaller house, characterized by the delicate, feminine hues of purple fabrics, as well as the baroque headboard, which echo the lavender and the cypress trees planted



all around. The gray ceiling beams were decorated with stencil patterns by Marie herself, who imbued this room with all the tenderness of her character.

The romantic room opens to a private terrace where guests enjoy Marie's tasty breakfasts under a jasmine arbor. Indeed, the glorious light of the rising sun makes mornings a favorite time to enjoy the Clos des Arômes—the name José and Marie have given their dream come true. Literally meaning the "field of scents," it perfectly describes this unique haven surrounded by cypresses, lavender, oleanders and jasmine, hidden from all, next to medieval villages and the ever-stunning antique Roman bridge Pont du Gard.

THE ENSUITE COUNTRY-STYLE BATHROOM connects to the guest bedroom.









[left] PURPLE ACCENTS add a feminine feel to this bedroom.

[right] TEA AND BISCUITS are just one example of a homemade sweet treat by Marie that guests get to enjoy. The glorious light of the rising sun makes mornings a favorite time to enjoy the Clos des arôwes.

sweet

SUMMER Delights

AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP, ENJOY THE FRESH FRUITS OF THE SEASON WITH THESE GALETTE RECIPES.

By Margie Monin Dombrowski

ruit pies cooling on a window sill. Condensation running down an ice-cold cup of lemonade. Light breezes and squeaky, old wooden rocking chairs on the front porch are the stuff that laidback summers are made of. If you're searching for some new dessert ideas to make the most of your seasonal fruits, these recipes from Lomelino's Pies: A Sweet Celebration of Pies. Galettes, and Tarts, by Linda Lomelino, are sure to please your sweet-tooth cravings. In

GALETTE WITH STRAWBERRIES AND RHUBARB

Sweet strawberries and tart rhubarb is a heavenly combination. The pie dough with cream cheese produces a softer dough than one made with only butter. If it seems too soft, put it in the freezer for 5 minutes before you roll it out.

Makes 1 large galette, 6-8 servings

PIE CRUST

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
¼ teaspoon sea salt
5 tablespoons cold butter
3 ½ ounces cold cream cheese
1-2 tablespoons ice-cold water

STRAWBERRY AND RHUBARB FILLING

8 ounces fresh strawberries
8 ounces rhubarb (about 3 stalks)
6 tablespoons granulated sugar
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
½ teaspoon ground cardamom
3 tablespoons cornstarch



/90 [sweet]

GLAZE

1 egg 1 tablespoon milk Pinch of sea salt 1½ teaspoons Turbinado or raw cane sugar

PIE CRUST

- 1. Mix the flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Dice the butter and add it to the flour mixture. Pinch in the butter until the dough is crumbly. Add the cream cheese, and mix it in with a fork until the dough is again crumbly.
- 2. Gradually add the cold water, and mix with a fork until the dough coheres when pressed together.
- 3. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap, and refrigerate it for at least 1 hour, preferably overnight.

STRAWBERRY AND RHUBARB FILLING

- 1. Rinse and hull the strawberries. Cut them into halves or quarters.
- 2. Peel the rhubarb if it is coarse and cut it into 3%-inch pieces.
- 3. Mix the strawberries and rhubarb in a bowl. Add the granulated sugar, grated lemon zest, lemon juice, cardamom and cornstarch, and gently stir them together.

ASSEMBLING AND BAKING THE PIE

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- 2. On a lightly floured work surface, roll the dough out into a large circle, 1/8 inch thick. Carefully roll the dough onto the rolling pin, and transfer it to a cutting board or baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 3. Pour the strawberries and rhubarb onto the dough circle, leaving $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches around the edge free of filling. Fold the edge up around the berries, pressing down so the dough stays in place.
- 4. Put the galette in the freezer for about 15 minutes (so it will hold its shape better).
- 5. Take the galette out of the freezer, and place it on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 6. To make the glaze, whisk the egg with the milk and salt. Brush the edges with the glaze, and then sprinkle them with Turbinado sugar. Bake the galette on the lower rack for 40 to 45 minutes, until the pie is golden brown and the filling is bubbly and soft. Remove the galette from the oven, and let it cool completely.





GALETTE WITH APRICOTS, BLACKBERRIES AND THYME

Select apricots that are soft and firm, but not mushy. Thyme adds a wonderful flavor combination in this pie.

Makes 1 large galette, 6–8 servings

PIE CRUST

11/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon sea salt

12 tablespoons cold butter

3–5 tablespoons ice-cold water

Frangipane (almond cream)

51/4 tablespoons butter, at room temperature

1/3 cup granulated sugar

1 egg

3/3 cup almond flour

APRICOT AND BLACKBERRY FILLING

6 tablespoons slivered almonds

1 pound apricots (about 10)

8 ounces blackberries, fresh or frozen

1 1/4 tablespoons granulated sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1–2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme

GLAZE

1 egg

1 tablespoon milk

Pinch of sea salt

1 tablespoon Turbinado or raw cane sugar

/ 92 [sweet]

PIE CRUST

- 1. Mix the flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Dice the butter and add it to the flour mixture. Pinch in the butter until the dough is crumbly.
- 2. Gradually add the cold water and mix with a fork until the dough coheres when pressed together.
- 3. Lay a piece of plastic wrap over the dough and flatten the dough slightly. Cover the dough completely with plastic wrap, and refrigerate it for at least 1 hour, preferably overnight.

FRANGIPANE

Beat the butter and granulated sugar until creamy. Add the egg and almond flour, and beat until smooth and creamy.

APRICOT AND BLACKBERRY FILLING

- 1. Toast the slivered almonds in a hot. dry frying pan until golden brown. Stir occasionally. Set the nuts aside to cool.
- 2. Remove the apricot pits, slice the fruit, and mix it with the blackberries in a bowl. Mix in the granulated sugar, cornstarch and chopped thyme.

ASSEMBLING AND BAKING THE PIE

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- 2. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the dough to a large circle 1/8-inch thick. Carefully roll the dough onto the rolling pin, and transfer it to a cutting board or baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 3. Spread the frangipane evenly over the dough, leaving $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches around the edge free of cream. Layer the mixture and the toasted slivered almonds on top of the frangipane. Fold the edges of the dough over the filling, pressing down slightly so the crust stays in place.
- 4. Put the galette in the freezer for about 15 minutes (so it will hold its shape better).
- 5. Take the galette out of the freezer and place it on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 6. To make the glaze, whisk the egg with the milk and salt. Brush the crust edges with the glaze, and sprinkle the sugar over the galette. Bake it on the lower rack for 45 to 50 minutes. until the pie crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbly. Remove the galette from the oven, and let it cool completely.



From Lomelino's Pies: A Sweet Celebration of Pies, Galettes, and Tarts by Linda Lomelino, photographs by Linda Lomelino, © 2017 by Linda Lomelino. Reprinted by arrangement with Roost Books, an imprint of Shambhala Publications, Inc. Boulder, CO; roostbooks.com.











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For more on Courtney, frenchcountrycottage.net. For more on Rachel, shabbychic.com. For more on Marian, missmustardseed.com. White petticoat duvet collection (page 34), shabbychic.com.

The Prairie at Roundtop B&B (page 35): theprairieatroundtop.com

PIECES TO REMEMBER

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Large ruffle pillows: Pom Pom at Home, pompomathome.com.

Plates: Home Goods, (800) 888-0776 or homegoods.com.

Wire urns, moss balls, and boxwood wreaths: Scarlet Scales Antiques, (615) 791-4097 or scarlettscales.com.

Farm table and chairs: European Antique Pine, europeanantiquepine.com.

Bedding: Home Goods, (800) 888-0776 or homegoods.com.

INTERIOR WITH A PAST

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"Pointing" white paint: Farrow & Ball, us.farrow-ball.com.

French lamp: Jieldé, jielde.com.

TREASURES FROM THE PAST

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For more on Jo-Anne, vintagerosecollection.com. Roses: Eden climbing roses, Memorial Day hybrid tea roses, Heritage® David Austin roses and Blue Girl hybrid tea roses.



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ROSY Welcome

CREATE A ROMANTIC REFUGE WITH THE FRAGRANCE AND BEAUTY OF ROSES.











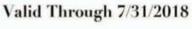




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