

# Country Home

APRIL 2006

100  
LOOKS  
WE  
LOVE

## START FRESH

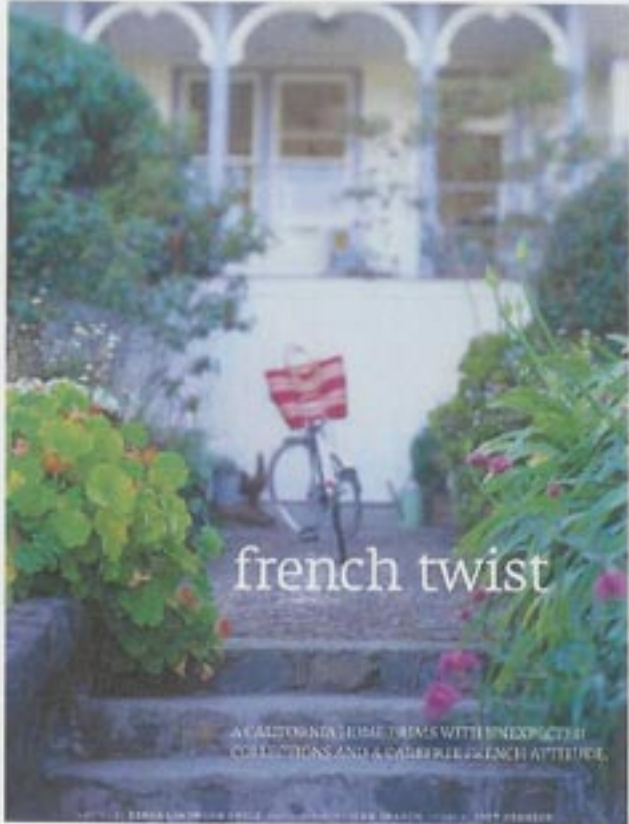
with  
**GREAT  
DECORATING  
IDEAS**

**KITCHEN EXTRA**  
*Simple Storage to  
Dramatic Remodels*

**EASY RECIPES for  
SPECIAL WEEKENDS**

\$4.95 US / \$6.95 CAN. Display until April 18







**IT'S A BALMY DAY IN THE BAY AREA OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND YASMINE MCGRANE IS OUT ON THE FRONT PORCH, WORKING ON HER LAPTOP.**

It doesn't much look like working, however, since she's sitting at a vintage linen table with the sort of black waffling in front of her—and any time she lifts the view on the laptop she can look up to admire birds on the bay sailing out to the horizon. The Victorian farmhouse in which Yasmine lives with her husband, David, and two dogs is called Specter House, named for Ed Specter, a former sea captain and San Francisco Chronicle editor who built it in 1865. The couple bought it for less than the asking price, promising the generous owners they would maintain it as a family home. ¶ To Yasmine, having this home reflects the driving theme in her life: appreciating things for what they are and finding beauty in everyday items. In fact, Yasmine has built an entire business around that philosophy. She is the owner of Maison Mère, which means “home as home” in French, a store featuring the kinds of salvaged goods and Provence pieces that fill the McGrane home. ¶ She often takes David, who is president of an advertising agency on her early-morning shopping trips to estate sales and antique markets. He drives the truck and trailer while Yasmine hand picks through heaps of vintage goods. “My life is all about slowing down, going to markets, and having dinner parties with friends,” says Yasmine. ¶ She calls her style “French farmhouse”—a blend of all the simple ingredients you might find in an old farmhouse in Provence, coupled with a modern edge and creativity. ¶ So, an antique a hanging of white walls and old brass antelope horns. Yasmine’s simple treasures take center stage. “The objects become their own life,” she says. A cluster of sea-green wicker bottles, for instance, sits on the linen perch, whose changing light picks up the color and makes them glow. Other items are “re-purposed” to give them new life. An industrial trolley can now serve as a coffee table, while a chaise-longue hangs on the wall as a candleholder. ¶ “I try to see things in unexpected ways,” Yasmine says. “That’s what makes a home feel inspired.”



1991-1992  
 The author's home is a perfect example of a country home. It is a small, white, two-story house with a red roof and a large front porch. The house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees. The author's home is a perfect example of a country home. It is a small, white, two-story house with a red roof and a large front porch. The house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees.



Detailed description of the country home. The author's home is a perfect example of a country home. It is a small, white, two-story house with a red roof and a large front porch. The house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees.





MAY 1981  
 THE HOUSE IS A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF A  
 COUNTRY HOME WITH A TOUCH OF  
 CLASS. THE INTERIOR IS A PERFECT  
 BLEND OF COMFORT AND ELEGANCE.  
 THE GARDEN IS A WONDERFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY GARDEN.  
 THE HOUSE IS A BEAUTIFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY HOME.  
 THE INTERIOR IS A PERFECT  
 BLEND OF COMFORT AND ELEGANCE.  
 THE GARDEN IS A WONDERFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY GARDEN.  
 THE HOUSE IS A BEAUTIFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY HOME.



**(NATURAL BEAUTY)**

SIMPLE TOUCHES BRING THE LINES INSIDE AND OUT AT  
 THE MEDITERRANEAN HOUSE. A FEW OF FARMHOUSE DECOR  
 TIPS: 1) FURNISH A COVERED PORCH WITH COMFY  
 SEATING AND ENOUGH FOR TWO. 2) DON'T TAKE AWAY  
 SEATING. BRING INFINITE SEATING ON UNFRAMED  
 PAPER. 3) USE REFLECTIVE BOTTLES AND MIRRORS  
 WITH THEM IN NATURAL COLORS, SUCH AS SEA  
 GREEN AND METAL PINK. 4) KEEP FLOWERS GROOMED  
 SIMPLE TO STRETCH AROUND AND SCATTER  
 COLOR AROUND. 5) BOOKEND A PORCH WITH WHITE  
 CHAIRS FOR A ROMANTIC OUTDOOR ROOM.



THE HOUSE IS A BEAUTIFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY HOME.  
 THE INTERIOR IS A PERFECT  
 BLEND OF COMFORT AND ELEGANCE.  
 THE GARDEN IS A WONDERFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY GARDEN.  
 THE HOUSE IS A BEAUTIFUL  
 EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY HOME.

## WE LOVE IT

Check it out.

Find one-of-a-kind inspirations for your “maison rêve.”



### WHAT DO YOUR CUSTOMERS LOVE?

*“We’re famous for our antique hand-sewn pillows. My favorites are sea-glass bottles. The different heights and shapes of the bottles represent the style of the urban farmhouse.”*

*—Yasmine McGrane*

### MAISON RÊVE ~ MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

This home and garden shop in the San Francisco Bay area is a French-inspired oasis. Owner Yasmine McGrane fills Maison Rêve—which means “dream home” in French—with treasures from France, along with items culled from antiques markets, estate sales, and local artists from across the United States. New clean-lined accessories, clusters of vintage objects, and monochromatic color schemes reflect the simpler lifestyle of Europe. 11 Throckmorton, Mill Valley, CA 94941; 415/383-9700; [www.maisonreve.com](http://www.maisonreve.com). (See Yasmine’s own home on page xxx.)

### HIGH AND DRY

Add a touch of cool country to your bath with plush Catalina Island towels, rugs, and bath mats from Ralph Lauren Home. The clean denim blue and cream stripes look as good as they feel. Shower curtains also available. \$xx-xx; [www.polo.com](http://www.polo.com).



# Country Home

NOVEMBER 2005

## THE DISH

Bottoms up!  
A wineglass is  
never just a glass.

Orrforys, makers of fine Scandinavian crystal, call their new wine flight "Difference" for a good reason. When it comes to enjoying all the properties of a good glass of wine—say, the scent of peaches or a hint of black pepper—the proper glass makes all the difference. Designer Erika Lagerbielke and wine critic Bengt G. Kronstam shaped each of the six glasses to produce optimal smell and flavor. They include (below, left to right): Sweet, for dessert wines, such as Sauternes; Manuse, for aged red wines, such as Bordeaux; Primeur, for younger, fruitier red wines, such as Beaujolais; Crisp, for younger white wines, such as Sauvignon Blanc; Fruit, for complex white wines, such as Chardonnay; and Sparkling, for Champagne and sparkling wines. \$40–\$50 per stem at department stores and specialty stores. [www.orrforys.us](http://www.orrforys.us).



### 1) TINY TARTS

Here's a stylish and flavorful option for your holiday table: tart fillings in bay leaf, cherry, apple, lemon, red raspberry, and vanilla to spoon into mini tart shells from Clearbrook Bakery. Visit [www.clearbrookbakery.com](http://www.clearbrookbakery.com) for product locator, or call 800/212-9988.

### 2) HAVE WINE, WILL TRAVEL

You'll be a welcome guest indeed when you come bearing a screwball Travel Corkscrew & Taster—and a bottle of B.B. Quid 2000 Merlot (154) to try it out on. Pair this wine with the tapas on page 124. The corker makes opening the bottle a breeze—it works on any kind of cork and has a handy flip-up handle. Corkscrew & Taster set \$30 at [www.cooking.com](http://www.cooking.com).

### \* 3) THE PERFECT PLATE

With artful simplicity, San Francisco ceramicist Ron Dunn designed this line of minimalist appetizer plates to look hand-thrown. The 3-inch bowls each have a cordial glaze to inspire, and the 6-inch rounds feature colorware and lacquer designs. Call Magenta, Inc., at 800/855-8888 for retail shops or [www.magenta.com](http://www.magenta.com). **Here at Maison Reve!**

### 4) PICK A PEPPER

Mason Jar named his amazing pickled. The perfect pickled pepper's after his mother-in-law, who was a master pickle maker. Serve both hot and sweet varieties with good cheese, fish, and bread or crackers, or eat them out of the jar. Use the seaweed all they are packed in as salad or on a martini. [www.masonjars.com](http://www.masonjars.com).



COUNTRY HOME NOV 2005

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMY LEE