

# ELLE COUNTRY

DECORATION

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*Volume 6*  
2015

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## NEW WORLD VINTAGE

*Inspired by rustic French châteaux, this  
new-build in California's wine country  
has given its owners room to breathe*

Words CHARLOTTE BROOK Photography LISA ROMEREIN



A Bordeaux-style farmhouse that fits seamlessly into the rolling hills of the Californian landscape: this was the brief given to Alison Davin of design practice Jute, who was tasked with creating an interior for this architect-built property just north of San Francisco. Set in sprawling wine country, the house's scheme complements its surroundings beautifully, with a low-key-yet-luxe aesthetic that's truly evocative of the South of France.

The majority of the property is occupied by a series of vast entertaining spaces arranged in a free-flowing floorplan. 'With grandchildren on the way, the owners wanted the layout to be open, so that the children and dogs can stream through from garden to house, to pool, and back again,' Alison explains. They requested a stylish but sturdy interior, so the ceiling is clad with tough reclaimed wood, and polished-nickel handles adorn the cabinets. The scale of the place is large, with double-height, grain store-style rooms, but the materials used are modest. Even the 'grown-up' entertaining areas, where furnishings are more refined, are still hardwearing: a durable leather rug, linen blinds and an antique Kurdish carpet soften the stone floors and curtainless windows.

The colour scheme is earthy and neutral, so as not to distract from the views of the richly verdant landscape. Nowhere are these vistas more in evidence than from the covered terrace. In this indoor/outdoor space, the large shutters can be closed on colder days but, when fully raised, they provide a breathtaking panoramic snapshot of the California countryside. [jutehome.com](http://jutehome.com)

## SNAPSHOT

**Who?** A retired couple in their early 60s who chose to swap the city for rural California

**Where?** Dry Creek Valley, a 90-minute drive north of San Francisco

**What?** A modern French-style home built in place of a derelict 20th-century farmhouse







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REFINED YET HARDWEARING





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THE LUSH COLOURS OF THE LANDSCAPE



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