



LAFOURCADE  
Magic in Provence

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Photographs: Bruno Suet

La Grange Neuve







A row of rooms, including the living room and dining room, leads from the orangery to the kitchen. The painted wood that once characterized furniture in Provence is present in the *bastide's* doorframes and kitchen cupboards.





Created from scratch, the entrance staircase was made from Baux stone. Tapestries, flowery fabrics, small paintings and antique furniture reflect the refined taste of the owners, who are fervent lovers of Provencal culture.



Redesigned as small, refined suites, the rooms revive the sweetness of life in a Provence of the past, just before the storms of the Revolution.







This is a love story of a cultured, refined American family and a beautiful Provençal farmhouse in the middle of an orchard. Seduced by the old-fashioned charm of the property they rented during the summer, Shauna Varvel decided to buy it and turn it into a holiday home for her husband Eric and their five children, thus perpetuating the tradition of their delightful summers in Provence. The coordination of this sizeable project was entrusted to Alexandre who, as usual, completely rethought it. For the makeover, he chose to focus on consistency and functionality, inverting the main entrance and playing on transparency. To grant the Varvels' wish for a bright family home, he created an orangery by closing a barn and its awning. With its glass façade, the room has a magnificent view over the park and boasts a state-of-the-art gym on the mezzanine. The entrance, with its monumental staircase crowned with a wrought iron banister, attests to the home's patrician spirit. To accentuate the fluidity of the space, Alexandre made large openings between the rooms, which are all aligned in a row, on the ground floor. The large living room and dining room evoke great elegance, with a recurring blue theme that reflects the taste of Shauna Varvel, who carefully chose each decorative element with the help of designer Susan Bednard Long. The kitchen, another *ex nihilo* creation, combines 21st-century technology and a traditional look, with its painted wooden cupboards. The technological aspect is offset by a cozy nook around a gigantic fireplace. In the bedrooms, with their romantic décor, the Provençal spirit remains in the spotlight. From one end of the *bastide* to the other, the redesign and subtle decoration were instrumental in creating this dream home. The redefinition of volumes, floors and walls, embellished by the natural light, creates a sense of calm and nobility. The total coherency of this restoration work gives one the impression that nothing has changed in 200 years.