

appellation

WINE COUNTRY LIVING

The Sandra Jordan Collection



A CELEBRATION
OF WINE
COUNTRY LIVING

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SANDRA JORDAN EMERGES FROM A BARN DRESSED IN A RED SHIRT, KHAKIS AND A STRAW HAT. A BASKET OF FRESHLY HARVESTED LEEKS AND FAVA BEANS HANGS FROM ONE ARM. IT'S NOT THE FIRST IMPRESSION YOU'D EXPECT FROM A WOMAN KNEE-DEEP IN FINANCING, BRANDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANDRA JORDAN COLLECTION, A HIGH-END LINE OF WINE COUNTRY-INSPIRED OBJETS D'ART, CLASSIC CLOTHING AND JEWELRY.

But if there are burdens associated with running a household, acting as marketing director for Jordan Vineyard & Winery and starting a new business, the Peruvian-born Sonoma resident gives no indication. As she interweaves a tour of her home with stories of travel, history and the inspiration behind her new retail venture, the former head of foreign languages at a private San Francisco high school shows the calm assuredness of a tenured professor.

"Wine country design and lifestyle are about the juxtaposition of the gifts of the California soil with manmade beauty, where the outdoors and indoors come together," says Jordan. "My inspiration for products comes from entertaining—my surroundings, gardening and cooking."

Around every corner of Sandra and Tom Jordan's home, a California interpretation of a New England white clapboard residence, is a memento that Jordan has integrated in the surroundings, and in some cases included in her retail collection. A patinaed 18th-century Tole *lavabo* (cistern) that she found in France adorns the small dining room, where French-inspired dinners are often prepared by Jordan winery chef Udo Nechutnys, the original Domaine Chandon restaurant chef. The cistern, she says, jumpstarted her study of the design and historical context of French toleware—painted tin home and garden accessories—and she decided to create an enhanced reproduction of the antique.

In the living room, which feels as though some living really occurs in it, Jordan shows off an 18th-century *rafrachissoir*, or wine-tasting table, with Louis XV legs on casters. The Paris find, which became a reproduction, complements her notion that the Jordan line has "some wine relationship, but also a dual function." The refined new and aged cherry, walnut and oak wood table with a veined marble top and two recessed metal wine pails is as decorative as it is useful. "When the *rafrachissoir* is not in use for wine service," she points out, "the zinc pails can hold beautiful potted plants and other things."

You can learn a lot about the Jordans' life by touring the grounds. In the backyard, memories of a trip to Italy

This *rafrachissoir's* zinc pails can hold wine or potted plants, right. Peruvian-born Sandra Jordan strolls among Tuscan chestnut trees with a friendly alpaca, left.

