

CONDÉ NAST

# House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST DECOR MAGAZINE

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## SEASONAL SPIRIT

**105**  
Stylish Gifts  
For Everyone



**SA SPECIAL**  
Dream Designer Homes

Ingenious Ways To  
Glam Up Your Garden

Inspiring Table  
Settings For  
All Occasions

Best Villas From  
Bush To Beach



# gardens

Inspiring spaces, practical ideas and must-have species

## Make it Med

Garden designer Debby Tenquist gives practical tips on how to create a Mediterranean-style garden, from choosing the right plant palette to timeless garden artefacts





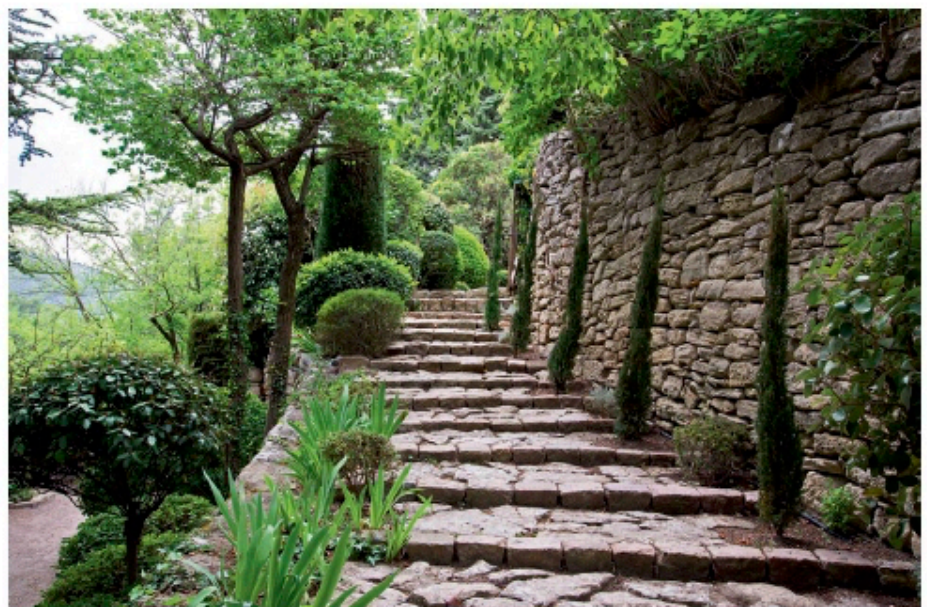
## Inside Scoop

Debby's tips on how to achieve a timeless Mediterranean style in your garden

- Bright flower colour is a no-no. Rather go for knocked-back shades of blues and silvers.
- Do use clippable, evergreen small-leaved shrubs such as westringia, teucrium and *Myrtus communis* to create a soft, textural mosaic of green planting.
- Clipped shapes should be rounded and organic.
- Include dry-packed stone – perfect for low retaining walls.
- Garden artefacts and objects such as basketware and roughly-hewn stone balls add patina and character.
- Use gravel paths, stone stairways and stone-lined plant beds.
- Incorporate weather-worn silvery-grey wooden bench seats in the garden.
- Provençal tradition dictates that three cypress trees are planted at the entrance to the garden as a sign of greeting and welcome.

**O**n her latest garden tour, garden designer Debby Tenquist visited the Hermès designer Nicole de Vésian's lush property, La Louve, in Provence, France.

A garden that has influenced generations of designers and gardeners, La Louve (which translates as 'The She-wolf'), was begun when Nicole was already 70 years old. It would end up taking her 10 years to build. Her respect for the terrain is evident – a vital consideration when designing any garden. The carefully clipped, evergreen Mediterranean plants were specially selected for their successful adaptation to extreme weather conditions – this is a no-irrigation garden, a concept that translates well to the South African vernacular and times of drought. The absence of flower colour is remarkable, and is replaced by an undulating tapestry of varying shades of green that embrace the dry stone walls, and sculptural vertical cypress trees. The focus is on textural combinations, plant form and scent, with the fragrance of



lavender and rosemary filling the air. Plants native to Provence, like buxus, are essential ingredients to achieve this Mediterranean aesthetic. ■ La Louve, Chemin Saint Gervais, 84480, Bonnieux is open by appointment only. ☎ [lalouve.eu](http://lalouve.eu) ■ Garden Tours by Debby Tenquist ☎ [botanicatrading.com](http://botanicatrading.com)

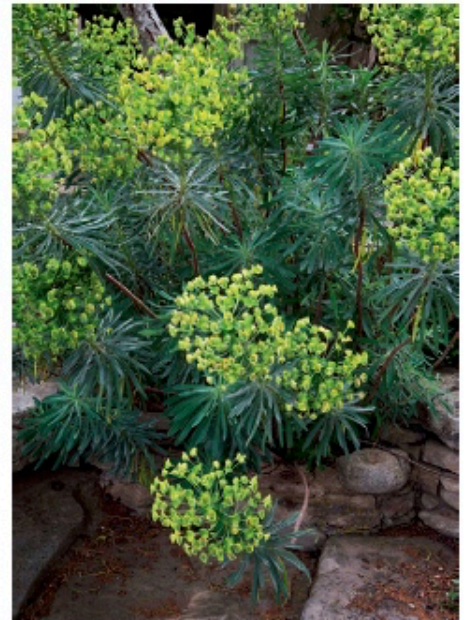
FROM TOP *Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea' frame an arched window; the stone stairs to the main terrace are lined with Pencil Cypresses OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT *Centranthus ruber* 'Albus'; lavender and truncated cypresses on the lower terrace; *Euphorbia characias* subs. *wulfenii*; cypress, buxus and irises; evergreens flank a path; bronze 'she-wolf' motif handle





### Plant Wise

- For vertical elements: *Cypress leylandii* (tall and fast growing), *Cypress sempervirens* (tall with pencil-thin shape), or *Thuja* (stubby).
- For local clipped domes in shades of green: *Spekboom* or *Myrtus communis* (CT and JHB), *buxus* or *abelia* (JHB), and *Rhus crenata* (CT). In shades of grey: *westringia* or *teucrium* (JHB and CT), *santolina* or *Rhagoda histata* (CT). Position three plants in a triangle 20cm apart and continually clip into a dome shape.
- For a drought-tolerant planting palette use irises in cool blues and soft purples, rosemary, *Euphorbia characias* 'Wulfenii', *Echium candicans* (Pride of Madeira), *Centranthus ruber* 'Albus' and *Helichrysum petiolare* 'Limelight'.



### Where to Buy

- Best for natural stone: Stone Age Construction ☎ [stonemasons.co.za](http://stonemasons.co.za) or Mazista ☎ [mazista.co.za](http://mazista.co.za)
- Best for stone artefacts: Akzentos ☎ [akzentosandstone.co.za](http://akzentosandstone.co.za) or Private Collections ☎ [privatecollections.co.za](http://privatecollections.co.za)
- Best for basketware: Plaisir du Jardin ☎ [plaisirdujardin.co.za](http://plaisirdujardin.co.za) or La Grange Interiors ☎ [lagrangeinteriors.co.za](http://lagrangeinteriors.co.za)
- Best for drought-tolerant Mediterranean plants: Botanica Trading ☎ [botanicatrading.com](http://botanicatrading.com) or Stellenberg Nursery ☎ [stellenberggardens.co.za](http://stellenberggardens.co.za)

