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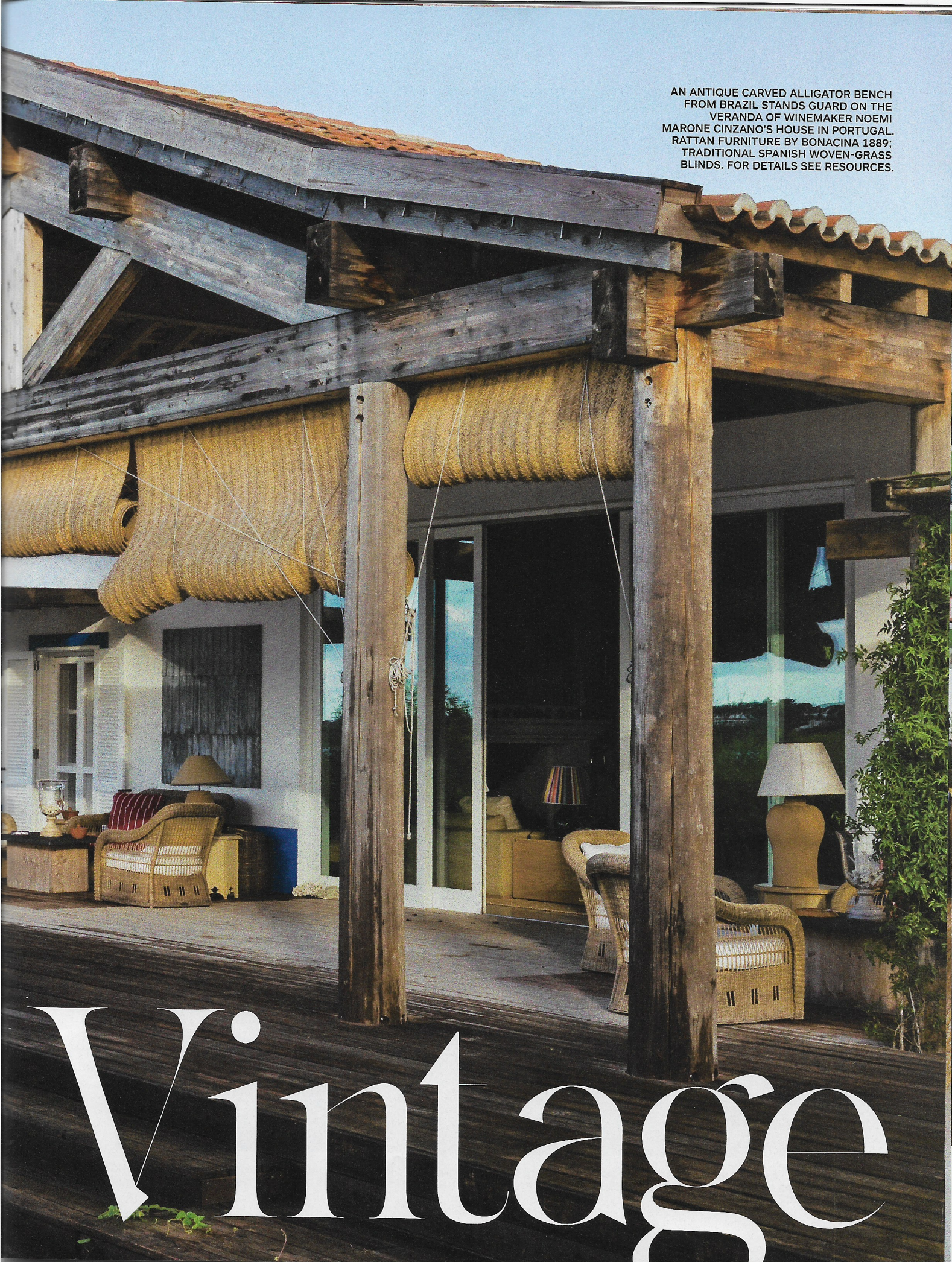
Winemaker *Noemi Marone Cinzano* uncorks her new getaway—a laid-back Portuguese villa designed inside and out by decorator *John Stefanidis*

TEXT BY **DANA THOMAS**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA**



A Fine



AN ANTIQUE CARVED ALLIGATOR BENCH
FROM BRAZIL STANDS GUARD ON THE
VERANDA OF WINEMAKER NOEMI
MARONE CINZANO'S HOUSE IN PORTUGAL.
RATTAN FURNITURE BY BONACINA 1889;
TRADITIONAL SPANISH WOVEN-GRASS
BLINDS. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.

Vintage

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oemi Marone Cinzano wasn't looking to fall in love. She was simply exploring, and her curiosity led her to a most beautiful place: a secluded stretch of pristine marsh and groves tucked behind the

dunes of an impossibly long beach on Portugal's Tróia Peninsula. That the 50 acres sat next to the latest retreat of her friend Christian Louboutin, the French shoe designer, made it that much more alluring. Cinzano, the very blond, very tan heiress and former head of the famed Italian vermouth brand, already had a deeply satisfying home: an estate and vineyard in Argentina, where she produces Bodega Noemía de Patagonia, an award-winning biodynamic Malbec. But she liked the idea of having a foothold in Europe again, to be closer to her two grown children by her former husband, Count Gelasio Gaetani d'Aragona Lovatelli, a writer who happens to be a noted vintner himself. And, despite the Portuguese property's proximity to the jet-set resort of Comporta, she found it wonderfully discreet, she says, "like a little secret."

Cinzano bought the parcel, knocked down its existing nondescript 1980s building, and called on a longtime chum, the revered London-based designer John Stefanidis, to conjure a new haven that would embody both where she has been and where she is going. Stefanidis—an elegant Egyptian-born Greek known for his splendid decors and whose clients have included Westminsters and Rothschilds—first worked with Cinzano in the early 1990s on her former home in London, a handsome Regency house called Broom Villa. "John has a very Mediterranean style, and he likes light," Cinzano explains over breakfast at the Berkeley hotel, just off Hyde Park. "I love light too."

As for Stefanidis, he was more than pleased to take the assignment. "Noemi is heaven, and so chic," he effuses, as he gently strokes his pug Billie in the comfortable drawing room of his mews house in posh Belgravia. "And she knows how to make a very nice atmosphere. Italians have lovely lives. They have a gift." Talent runs in his client's family, too: Cinzano's brother Enrico cofounded Project Alabama, the American artisanal fashion house, before moving on to become an admired designer of industrial-strength furniture, and their great-great-grandfather Giovanni Agnelli was the creator of Fiat. →





ONE OF THE OWNER'S 14 DOGS, FUBA, A RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK, NAPS IN THE DRAWING ROOM, WHICH OVERLOOKS THE PROPERTY'S LAGOON. STEFANIDIS DRESSED A SOFA (AT LEFT) IN AN EGYPTIAN FABRIC FOUND IN CAIRO AND AN ARMCHAIR IN A CLAREMONT STRIPE.

“It has lots of flamingos—and not too many mosquitoes,” *Stefanidis* says with a smile.

THE DINING ROOM
OPENS TO ROWS OF
GRAPEVINES.

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PAULINA COTTON
IN PINK AND NAVY BY JOHN
STEFANIDIS; TO THE TRADE.
TISSUSDHELENE.CO.UK

DESIGN NOTES

John Stefanidis's formula for
Noemi Marone Cinzano's home?
Succulent colors, punchy
patterns, and loads of light

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“Here, I want to
enjoy the country-
side, not spend
time chitchatting,”
Cinzano explains.

1925/6 RATTAN LOUNGE CHAIR BY MARIO BONACINA;
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