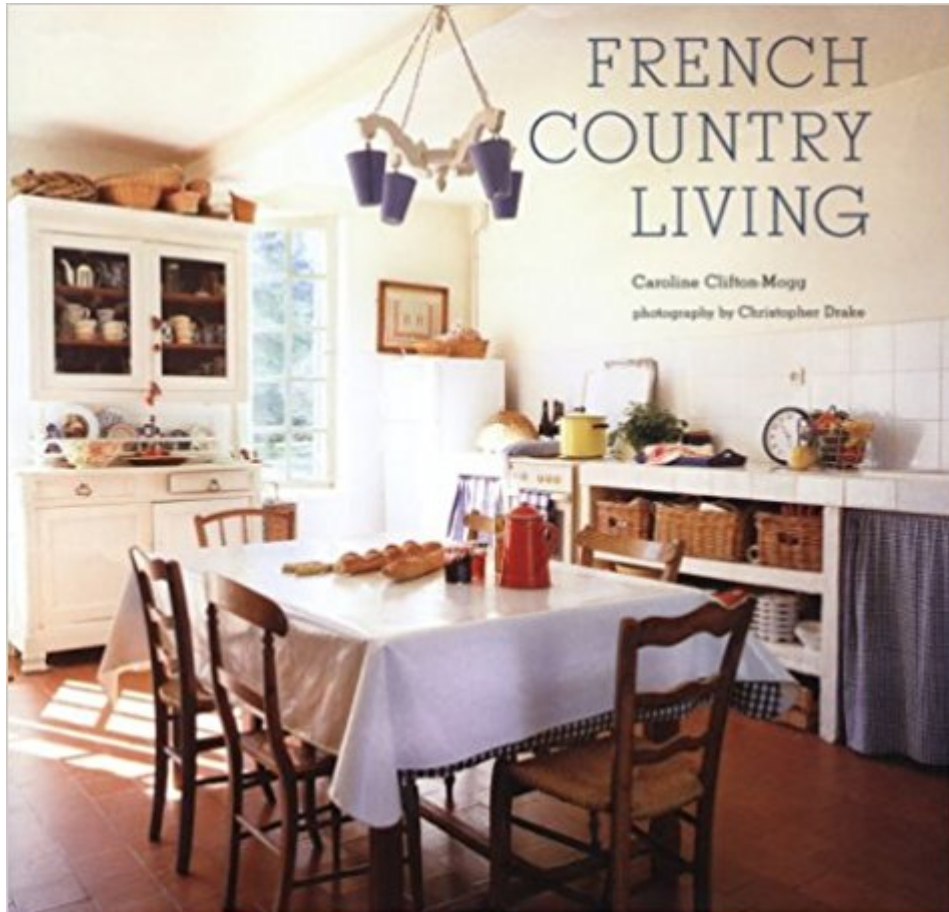




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French Country Living



Synopsis

Celebrating the distinctive decorative style inspired over many centuries by the French countryside. French Country Living is an invaluable resource for anyone who has ever longed to bring home a piece of France. Combining evocative photographs with elegant and illuminating text by Caroline Clifton-Mogg, the book argues that the familiar romantic landscape is still a vital part of France, and that the roots of most French people lie firmly in the rural way of life. The first part, The Elements, explores the ingredients that make up the whole: the subtle color palette of soft warm grays, cloudy pinks, and misty greens, the traditional materials, the furniture, and the textiles. Then there are the distinctive, often unchanging, objects and accessories, from ceramics to silver to pictures. The second part, The Spaces, looks at the overall style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Drake was brought up in Norway and now lives in London. After working as a photographer's assistant at Vogue, he moved into interiors photography. His work is featured in many magazines, including Homes and Gardens, the World of Interiors, and Country Living. For Ryland Peters and Small he has photographed Open Air Living, Comfortable Country, Interiors by Design, and Hallways, Corridors, and Staircases. Caroline Clifton-Mogg is an experienced journalist and author, writing about interior design, gardens, and other subjects. She contributes to several magazines, including House and Garden and the Telegraph Magazine. Her books include Inspired by Antiques, The Curtain Design Source Book, and The Color Design Source Book (all Ryland

Peters and Small).

If I could give 2 1/2 stars I would. After reading the customer reviews I purchased this book with great expectations and was very disappointed. The photographs are stunning. Five stars to Christopher Drake! It's Caroline Clifton-Mogg's writing that is so much blah, blah, blah. In the text all you have to do is concede to the fact that the French originally invented every style, that they don't like color - except when they do, they only like simplicity - except when they don't and that everything must have a purpose - except things that don't. Example: On page 74, in describing a kitchen, Ms. Clifton-Mogg says "A French country kitchen has no need of any ornament that has only a decorative purpose. Each element, including the most ephemeral - a string of dried herbs, for example - is decoration enough." So, one wonders just what practical purpose the starfish and carved birds in the kitchen pictured on the page before serve. Or the empty bird cage suspended from the ceiling in the kitchen a couple of pages later. I would have suggested skipping her written text and just reading the photographic descriptions but these are also a problem. Besides what I mentioned above, some of the descriptions just don't match the photos. In the bathroom section - as one example - she's talking about how the tub is painted to match the blue walls. The tub is white! No matter how you look at it, that tub has no blue tint to it at all. As I looked at the photos on the rest of the page, I found the blue tub in a completely different bathroom. And so it goes in the rest of the book. Sometimes she writes just to be using words. Her thesaurus must be worn out. Bottom line - If you like lovely photographs and can get ideas just from them then you will like this book. If you want to read about French country style - try something else. This would be a waste of your time.

This book was a gift to a dear friend who loves country french decor. The book had beautiful photography, but a style of decor that relied too much on the architecture and not enough accessories to make it work in our modern USA homes. If you purchasing the book for lovely old french country homes, look at this book, but if you were looking for ideas for remodels, and accessories, I would not recommend the book.

This book was love at first sight. So often "French decor" is either stilted or over-the-top and shown in reproduction homes. This is true French style in its varied forms in authentic rooms. A book full of eye candy and inspiration.

This is a beautiful and inspiring book. Modern French, with Antiques and clean white linens. Lot os

white ironstone dishes and slightly shabby furniture...my favorite!

I love French Country Living. I bought it because I have another of her books, "Comforts of Home" which I love, so I knew "French Country" would be great, too.

Beautiful pictures! Probably good text as well, though I haven't gotten past the beautifully-reproduced photographs to read any of it.

After having borrowed a copy of this book from a public library, I bought my own copy because I liked it so much.

Fantastic photography, and a generous, diverse selection of beautiful interiors. From iconic over-the-top French decorating, to simple Provençal country style, this book celebrates the special environments for real living evoked by good French decorating style.

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