



Authentic Provence

By Sarah Locke

PALM BEACH'S GO-TO GARDEN DÉCOR COMPANY TAKES ORDINARY OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS AND MAKES THEM EXTRAORDINARY.

Noted architect Luis Barragán once said, "A garden must combine the poetic and the mysterious with a feeling of serenity and joy." It is not an easy task to

achieve; beyond just being a space to cultivate and enjoy nature's bounty, Barragán believes that a garden must also be aesthetically pleasing and inviting to all who encounter it.

In Palm Beach, natural beauty is abundant. Yet, to elevate any garden to a poetic haven requires a bit of finesse—and a few additions. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Our admiration of the antique is not admiration of the old, but of the natural."

Authentic Provence, an impeccable space in West Palm Beach, is devoted to the world of the finest garden antiques, works of art that enhance and complement nature's wonders.

The name—Authentic Provence—is reflective of the company's offerings. The 15,000-square-foot enterprise is filled with garden antiques, urns, architectural elements, and antique flooring from the Old World, with a focus on treasures from Italy and France. Upon stepping into Authentic Provence, clients and guests are transported to another time and place; Renaissance and Rococo-inspired elements are visible at every turn. With feminine, curvaceous cherub angel statues from the Baroque period; rustic-yet-chic scrolling wrought iron framework; bronze Italian planters; haute couture pavilions and tents; and more; Authentic Provence has the ability to transform any ordinary outdoor space into a haven of luxury.

Austrian Wolfgang Hofherr and his wife Susan are the masterminds behind this extraordinary garden décor establishment. When the couple came to the U.S. in the 1990s, they wanted to offer *authentic* French and Italian lifestyles



to American consumers, and sought to bring true Provençal to the States. Wolfgang, an art historian with a passion for architecture, developed his knowledge about fine antiques at Parisian auction house Drouot while working for Commissaire priseur Lodmer Poullain. Susan's eye for style is evidenced by her celebrated career across Europe as a fashion designer, where she even created her own couture line.

Their relationships with European antique dealers and artisans allowed the Hofherrs to quickly establish Authentic Provence as the garden décor company of choice in the American market. Their reputation has spread across the country, catching the eyes of national media outlets such as *Architectural*

Digest, which sang their praises.

The showroom's newest offering, The Secret Garden, provides ample reason to continue singing. The collection is the only of its kind in the U.S., as it is comprised of centuries-old stone fountains and statues imported from French manor houses. The juxtaposition of the bubbling water amidst lush landscaping certainly epitomizes the combination of the poetic and the mysterious, leaving any enthusiast with that coveted feeling of serenity and joy. ■

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