

BASTION OF MODERNITY

*This intriguing Sicilian manor house recalls the majesty of the Byzantine
and Roman empires, yet is furnished with an eye for the contemporary*

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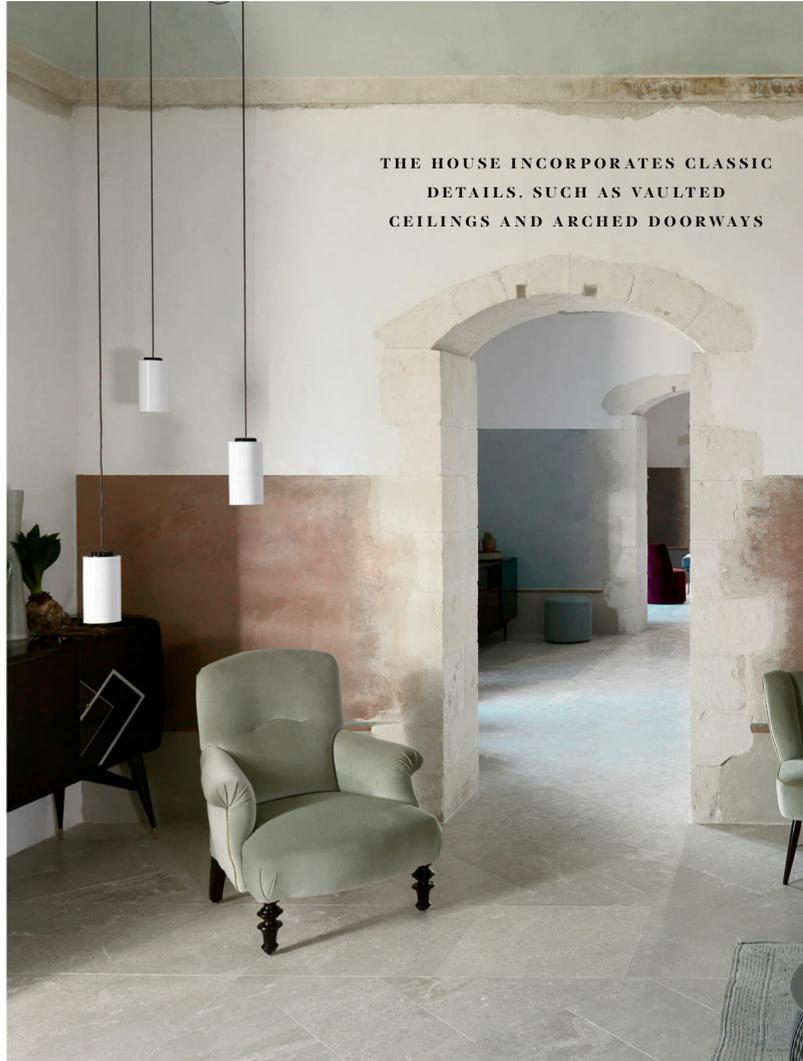
As you approach Dimora delle Balze the air is heavy with the sweet scent of herbs and spices from the estate's beautiful gardens and the carob trees that line the driveway. This Sicilian manor has a magical, ancient quality about it, epitomised by its tall turreted entrance. Situated between the historic towns of Noto and Syracuse, it is surrounded by Mediterranean scrubland that has remained unchanged for centuries.

Pino Lops bought the house in September 2000 as a 60th birthday gift for his wife, Elena. 'We celebrated for three days with three hundred guests, including our large family and friends,' Elena recalls. She handed over the renovation of the property to designers Draga Obradovic and Stefano Guidotti, who transformed the building and its 14 rooms over two years. Each space is named after Sicilian artworks and artists and specifically designed using different colours and concepts. Some rooms have private terraces looking out over the courtyards or to the valley beyond. 'Our love of travel and art led us to search for unique and characterful vintage and design pieces to furnish the rooms,' Stefano says. 'We combined these to create a place where the beauty of the past frames the contemporary.'

The name of the house, translated as 'Ruffle Manor', is inspired by the undulating rocks on which the property is built. Although it only dates back to the 19th century, Dimora delle Balze incorporates earlier Byzantine remains, classical columns, vaulted ceilings and Renaissance frescoes, which have been restored to their original splendour. Time seems to have stood still here: the walls, the floors and the ceiling are filled with Mediterranean mystery.

dragaobradovic.com; dimoradellebalze.com for events

THE HOUSE INCORPORATES CLASSIC
DETAILS. SUCH AS VAULTED
CEILING AND ARCHED DOORWAYS



EACH ROOM IS INSPIRED BY A SICILIAN
ARTIST, AND HAS BEEN DESIGNED USING
DIFFERENT COLOURS AND CONCEPTS

