

THE DECORATING ISSUE

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Home

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TAKE IT HOME



Give your home a romantic Italian accent *nel modo di* (à la) this revived farmhouse. **TOP** Surround a mosaic-lined pool with a dramatically lit landscape. **ABOVE** Juxtapose unadorned stone-and-brick walls and a smooth Venetian plaster wall in a terra-cotta tone. **LEFT** Expose wooden ceiling beams. Complement butter-yellow walls with window frames and shutters painted lavender.

a touch of tuscan

WISH YOU WERE HERE Castello di Casole, a 5,500-acre resort and luxury residence club, 26 miles southwest of Florence, Italy.

BE INSPIRED BY Renovated *casali* (farmhouses) surrounding a hilltop circa 1700 *castello* (castle), shown top left. Vernacular architectural elements, including travertine limestone and sandstone walls and terra cotta roof tiles—many of these elements locally salvaged—lend authentic charm to 4,000- to 7,000-square-foot homes on 20- to 50-acre lots. Seven four- and five-bedroom residences have been completed, with a dozen more due in 2008.

LOVE THESE LOOKS Foot-thick interior and exterior walls. Exposed structural elements, such as barrel-vaulted brick ceilings and arched doorways. Beamed ceilings of pine, chestnut, oak, and poplar. Aged-looking *intonaco* (plaster-over-stone) and colorful

Venetian plaster wall treatments. Travertine limestone, marble, and terra cotta floor tiles. Hand-forged iron light fixtures, balustrades, and banisters. Interior fabrics and wall colors in reds, oranges, sage greens, and golds. Regional antiques, including hand-painted chests. Bathrooms and pools tiled in glass mosaics.

CREDIT Italian brother architects Alessandro and Francesco Mendini, and architect Gary Ross of Colorado-based developer The Timbers Company. Interiors by J. Banks Design, Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Showcase Design, Carbondale, Colorado.

VISIT The *castello* will open in spring 2008 as a boutique hotel with two restaurants and a spa. Double rooms from \$550.

LEARN MORE *Casali* from \$585,000 (1/10 share) and \$6 million (to own). 866-963-5005, castellodicasole.com. —Laura Dye Lang