



1 / 2

Sea Change

With its enviable lifestyle and vivid landscapes, the Mediterranean has plenty to inspire a home makeover

Words: Ben Olsen

The azure blue sea, scorched earth and endless skies of the Mediterranean – from Andalusia to Athens – has been a rich vein of home inspiration for those of us in colder climes for generations. And characterised by the saturated hues of the surrounding landscapes, including rich terracottas, citrus shades and vivid blues (this being the year that Santorini Blue entered the vocabulary for even those yet to visit the sun-kissed Greek isle), it's easy to see why. Yet it goes further than just palette choices, the laid-back lifestyle and focus on communal meals often associated with the region having an impact on everything from furniture choices to how rooms in the home are used. With this year's summer homeware collections packed with these visual touchstones, now's the time to embrace the joys of the Mediterranean without having to brave Heathrow.

FIVE WAYS TO MASTER MEDITERRANEAN CHIC

1. A pared-down palette of white walls and wooden furniture is the perfect backdrop for accessories and furnishings in zesty yellows, vivid blues and earthy terracottas to really stand out.
2. Make a meal of communal dining with rustic earthenware, tactile linens and generous serving dishes made for sharing. And as the evenings lengthen, take it outdoors.
3. Traditional azulejo tiles can add graphic impact and a sense of symmetry to any room, be that edging a bathroom or kitchen unit or as a statement wall or floor covering.
4. Opt for pared-down furniture in natural materials for timeless style that never seems to date.
5. Add further colour and texture with burnished bronze and kiln-fired terracotta pieces and rattan, wicker or seagrass accessories – available everywhere from Habitat to Heal's this year – which make lightweight storage options.



INTO THE DEEP

Linea's vivid blue ombre vases recall long summer holidays far from home (from £14, houseoffraser.co.uk).

1 / 5