



## THE DETAILS

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# INSPIRING SPACE

## Cristine Bedfor, Menorca

Style, charm and friendliness are in abundance at this very special boutique hotel in the Balearics

WORDS: **JOHN SMIGIELSKI** PHOTOS: **DANIEL SCHAEFER**

### THE SPACE

'Poc a poc', slowly, slowly, say the people of Menorca. A patchwork of fields – strangely reminiscent of the Irish landscape – are enclosed by dry stone walls and guarding this unspoilt oasis from its cliff top position is Mahon, the capital of the island. In its centre sits the Cristine Bedfor hotel. Opened in 2020, its 21 rooms are split between three 19th century whitewashed houses. A clever combination of flea markets finds, floral prints and geometrics create a layered, lived-in look that feels thrown together but is anything but. In the grounds, there's a simple lap pool with the smartest pool house in fashionable blue stripes and a secret garden dotted with antique tables against a backdrop of simple planting and the soothing sound of a fountain. Luxury can be so hard to define, but if you dream about a small, intimate, casual space that feels like a second home, adorned with embroidered napkins, hand-painted ceramics and bespoke toiletries, then this is the hotel for you.





## IDEAS TO STEAL

Spotting things that catch our eye is easy, but how do we transfer those ideas to our homes? I was inspired by so many things here, but I've narrowed it down to three: pattern, mixing old and new and the art of the unexpected. Interior designers recommend considering pattern from the moment you start planning your scheme, as it's far easier to find a paint colour to blend with your patterns than the other way around. Choose a hero design, perhaps a large-scale pattern, then select one or two others with smaller designs or a stripe. So, this might mean a headboard or window dressings in your dominant pattern and pillows in the smaller scale ones. There is no hard and fast rule, but generally mixing patterns of more than three designs can overwhelm a scheme. The hotel's interior draws on the island's history: Moorish, English and French influences inspired the choice of pieces, so guests are treated to a tapestry of styles. This approach to decorating stops rooms becoming a 'one-design note'. If you have inherited an old chair or sofa you could give it a new lease by reupholstering it; you might be surprised how it can add depth and history. Finally, don't be dictated by the norm. Most of us wouldn't think of adding pictures to our bathroom, but look at how the corner is enlivened with a formal display of botanical prints. Have fun and play with ideas. **H**