

Living room In this welcoming space, the home's limewashed walls are paired with 'Lady Roxana Wall' wallpaper by Rubelli, which lends a faded floral grandeur. The furniture, by contrast, is very modern, from the 'Osaka' sofa by Pierre Paulin, covered in green Pierre Frey linen, to the bright-red La Redoute chair. The pendant lights are the 'Knit-Wit' design by Iskos-Berlin for Made By Hand, and the travertine coffee table was found secondhand on Selency. More traditionally inspired wooden furniture finishes the look, including the low table behind the sofa and the bench in the corner by the window, which were found at one of the region's many *brocantes* ▶

PILGRIMS'

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PROGRESS

An annual ritual transformed into a life-changing project when a stylist and her husband stumbled upon this industrial gem ripe for renovation



Every year, Christèle Ageorges and husband Hubert Delance walk a section of the celebrated pilgrim's way, the Saint Jacques de Compostelle. In 2017, the path led them to the village of Lectoure. 'We were instantly enchanted,' Christèle recalls. The couple chanced upon the dilapidated remains of what was originally The Royal Tannery (the Manufacture Royale de Lectoure), built by Pierre Racine in 1754. Abandoned for 30 years, it had been on the market for over a decade.

'It was distressing to see a beautiful building in such decline,' says Christèle. The exterior was splendid, but behind the bricked-up windows it was dark and humid. 'Bizarrely, we both suddenly felt happy when we stepped inside,' she says, explaining, 'I was at a point in my life when I wanted to do something else. This place was offering me a blank page.'

Offer to buy accepted, the couple left Paris and embarked on a three-year transformation, creating a boutique-hotel experience under the building's original name, Manufacture Royale Lectoure. Christèle's Instagram posts attracted the attention of Parisian visual identity specialists Studio Foltzer, who came on board, while architect François Muracciole drew up the plans. The 1,200-square-metre building was stripped back, and five bedrooms and three suites were created.

Christèle – a stylist by profession – took a simple approach with the decor. 'This was an industrial building. That's significant,' she declares. 'It was designed as a tannery and so there are no decorative details. My vision was to make a place that I would have liked to stay in when I was walking the trail. I felt it was important to adhere to a sense of sobriety.' Walls have been limewashed in a palette of colours that speaks to the region's beauty. 'Our natural surroundings are my greatest inspiration,' she says. 'Faded rose, lichen green or artichoke, the beige of dried hemp and the grey of a turtle dove – the end result is subtle and ensures a soft light every dawn and dusk.'

In homage to the spirit that led the couple on this adventure in the first place, they have dedicated part of their project to walkers of the trail. The building's cellars have been carefully restored, and for just €40 a night, pilgrims can break their journey there in a peaceful, stylish haven. It's home for Christèle and her husband too – their children visit with friends and she organises afternoon teas, exhibitions and cooking lessons, which ensure a flow of creative energy within these old walls. By combining her experience and acute sense of colour, Christèle has created a retreat that's restorative, stylish and quietly simmering with that uniquely French *art de vivre*. As she says, 'I'm all for the simple things.' lamanufactureroyaledlectoure.com



Breakfast room A Moissonnier sofa upholstered in olive-coloured Pierre Frey fabric sits in front of a wall covered in the 'Au Bord du Lac' wallcovering, also by Pierre Frey. The 'Cadiero' chair by Jérémie du Chaffaut for Midi sits beside a small table by craftsman and designer Arnold de Vinck >

Kitchen Surrounded by 'Cadeiro' chairs by Jérémie du Chaffaut for Midi, Eero Saarinen's 'Tulip' table for Knoll makes an elegantly contemporary contrast with its ancient surroundings. The natural lime walls in this room have been left raw. All the appliances are by Gaggenau, while the blush-coloured cabinetry was supplied and fitted by a local firm. Lighting includes a vintage chandelier bought at a brocante and two 'Fluted' pendant lights by Epure Céramique, which hang above the worktop. The original floor tiles were found in another part of the building and relaid here

Staircase This monumental architectural intervention was designed and made by Artpage Creations. Limewash inspired by the colour of turtledove plumage is used on the walls. The resin floor is the perfect foil for the original timber beams overhead >





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Lounge Madura's translucent curtains and huge pink 'Knit-Wit' lamps from Made By Hand lead the eye into this sunlit space. The table lamp is the 'Form' by Hübsch, which also offers similar desks. The chair is a secondhand find and the sofa and rug are from Am.Pm
Bathroom The 'Racine' suite boasts a vast sanctuary with a central rain shower. The black wooden stool is by Sebastien Krier, and for a similar wooden set of coat hooks, try the 'Knoppbräda' by Iris Hantverk ▶



Bedroom In the cool, green-toned 'Jardin' suite, panoramic wallpaper from Papiers de Paris and wood panelling give the room a different feel to the limewashed walls throughout the rest of the house. The bed is dressed with bedding from La Chambre Paris and a blanket from Maison de Vacances. Next to it, a handmade 'Halo' table lamp by Grès Editions sits on the small 'Plec' table by Antoni Pallejà Office for RS Barcelona

Exterior Manufacture Royale de Lectoure sits on the edge of the village, which overlooks the fertile plains below the Pyrenees mountains between Bordeaux and Toulouse in France's Gers region
See Stockists page for details

