



COUNTRY LIFE Above: Pierre Sauvage's cottage in Normandy, with gardens that run alongside a 12th-century church **Opposite:** The main bedroom of the cottage has a collection of antique Chinese pots and a Casa Lopez rug

THREE'S A CHARM

The three French homes belonging to Pierre Sauvage in Provence, Normandy and Paris are a lesson in relaxed, ageless style. By **Kate Salter**



When it comes to dream homes in which to spend the summer,

Pierre Sauvage has three to choose from. Sauvage, owner of the homeware company Casa Lopez Paris, can decide between the pared-back elegance of his house in Provence, the English country cottage-inspired home in Normandy or the 18th-century grandeur of his apartment on the Rive Gauche in Paris.

A new book featuring these homes will inspire envy even in the most level-headed among us. They are beautiful but not overdone, sophisticated yet accessible. As the famous interior designer Michael Smith (the White House decorator since 2008) says in the book's introduction, "while the combinations of colours and materials may be highly sophisticated, it is never cold or pretentious".



ELECTRIC DREAM Clockwise from above: The electric blue of the walls and wool drapes in the main bedroom in Sauvage's Paris apartment. The large painting is by William Monk; agapanthus outside the house in Provence; Terre Melée plates from Casa Lopez; Sauvage says that the chandelier by Hervé van der Straeten "adds a note of enchantment amid the historic panelling of the salon" in his Paris apartment



Les Prés de Gisors, in a small village in Normandy, was bought six years ago as a weekend bolthole. "This was the village of my childhood, and the setting for some of my happiest memories," says Sauvage. It is incredibly picturesque. A pretty Virginia creeper covers the façade of the cottage which has blue wooden shutters and borders of roses and herbaceous perennials that run alongside a 12th-century church. There is a wooden pergola festooned with white Japanese wisteria and old English roses, a vegetable garden and three beehives.

Inspired by an English country cottage, it is Sauvage's cosiest home. All the rooms on the ground floor are painted the same colour, a French grey, to compliment the gardens, while the walls are hung with wool fabric and linen. Sauvage can't resist colour so the beams in the house are painted red and there are shots of bright green and red from the Casa Lopez ceramics. Sauvage even indulges in a little

chintz: one of the bedrooms has a wall covered in a cream and red floral design with matching headboard and valance (a silk fabric by Michael Smith).

Sauvage's home in the Lubéron in Provence is where he says he entertains the most, yet it is not fussy or grand and has the simplicity you often crave of a summer home. There are large

rugs, cushions, tablecloths and napkins made from Indian paisley prints, old Provençal quilts and Portuguese bedspreads. "Against the monochrome backdrop of the evergreen oaks, I wanted to add accents of strong colour – orange, indigo, fuchsia and purple," Sauvage says. On the veranda, the green, mauve and purple of the cushions on the Indian wicker

feeling of being in a château in the centre of Paris," he says. Yet, even among this grandeur there is room for comfort. The dark blue walls make the rooms feel warmer, as do the rugs and Sauvage's eclectic collection of trinkets, from ancient Chinese pots to the 19th-century silver pheasants gracing the dining table. In the 750sq ft bedroom, the walls and canopy of the four-poster bed are hung with electric blue drapes. The overall effect, says Sauvage, generates an exuberance "of which Parisians so often – and mistakenly – deprive themselves".

For Sauvage, style must never come at the expense of comfort. "Everything must be both visual and tactile, with sofas that are welcoming to sit on and textiles that are soft to the touch. Being able to feel comfortable in your own home is absolutely fundamental." ■

'Effortless Style: Casa Lopez' by Pierre Sauvage and Fabienne Reybaud, with photographs by Vincent Thibert, (Flammarion), £50, is out now

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beds of lavender and pots of agapanthus set against the honey coloured stone of the house. The walls of the house inside are lime-washed in traditional Provençal fashion and the woodwork is painted in neutral shades of taupe, putty and off-white. Once again the colour comes from accessories: brightly coloured

furniture echo the surrounding lavender, rosemary and perovskia.

With ceilings of over 18 feet, classic architecture and listed panelling, the Parisian apartment is the most formal home. "I was seduced by the magnificence of the rooms, the light that flooded them, the extraordinary quietness of the place, and the unique

