



# Here Comes The Sun

SUZANNE TUCKER GIVES AUBERGE DU SOLEIL A NEW LOOK

BY KENDRA BOUTELL

Few interior designers are fortunate enough to be invited back to a job they did almost twenty years ago and give it an update while honoring its past. Suzanne Tucker of Tucker & Marks in San Francisco is a part of that exclusive club. She was Michael Taylor's assistant when he worked on the internationally acclaimed villa, Auberge du Soleil in Napa Valley. Tucker was delighted when she was approached ten years ago to provide a revision, "It meant the world to me to be working on the Auberge again as I do tend to be somewhat sentimental. But it was time for a new look while still keeping the spirit of what Michael had designed—the scale, the textures, and the casual chic of such a renowned resort" she explained.

Tucker kept her mentor's spirit alive by weaving his "California Look" with the earthy colors of Provence in Maison Calais La Plage. Taylor was famous for his use of light and to this his protégée added a muted palette of sandstone, ochre and terra cotta all warmed by the brilliant Napa sun. The Maison, designed by the San Francisco architectural firm of Walker & Moody, features a living space with an inviting fireplace. Around this Tucker created an intimate seating area using an English Club style sofa upholstered in her own tactile textile. Sophie Chenille, color Mocha. From Oly she selected the Luke coffee table that marries a reclaimed teak top with a new hand hammered iron base. The designer companioned these with two Taylor-esque elements, an exotic Moroccan leather pouf and an organic petrified wood table. The room is reflected in a sunburst mirror and beyond its French doors is a dedicated terrace that beckons the guest with majestic views of the surrounding hillsides and olive groves.



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In the king bedroom, an overcalled oak headboard is upholstered with a Tree of Life motif embroidered by Chelsea Editions. One of Tucker's favorite fabrics, the tree is an ancient symbol of renewal, growth and abundance. This theme is continued in the spa like bathroom. Light honey toned wood is combined with basket weave mosaic tiles and a heated limestone floor. The light flooded room boasts a sculptural soaking tub and a separate walk in rain shower. For private dining the revitalized guest can go to Tucker's newly designed Maison d'Arbre. In The Tree House, the designer brought the outside in by covering the walls in a natural birch bark tile echoing the panoramic mosaic vistas of the vineyards. With the update of Auberge du Soleil, Tucker has created a sophisticated place for the worldly traveler to escape the worries of the world. 





**BATHROOM** For the bathroom Tucker designed a pair of custom olive wood framed mirrors for over the double vanities. Polished silver sconces add a touch of jewelry. For guests who do not want to escape reality, there is a 22" plasma TV.

**SHOWER INSET** The romantic bedroom is the ultimate in luxury and comfort with Italian linen and down bedding. It is reminiscent of a country-inn in the South of France yet with a view of the changing seasons of the Napa Valley.

**BEDROOM** The romantic bedroom is the ultimate in luxury and comfort with Italian linen and down bedding. It is reminiscent of a country-inn in the South of France yet with a view of the changing seasons of the Napa Valley.

**VANITY AREA** After a day of enjoying massages and treatments at Auberge Spa, guests can retreat to the vanity in their bathroom to prepare for a gourmet dinner. Amenities at the resort include "La Plage" Pool and Cabana, and a fitness center.