

COUNTRY HOMES

AND INTERIORS

**ELTON JOHN'S
FLOWER FILLED
COUNTRY HOUSE**

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Exclusive decorating ideas

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27 PAGES OF MATERIAL
PLEASURES



FREE
A tree
for every
reader
Details page 104

**Tessa Tennant's
Scottish castle**

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...rosehips gracing the jam maker's table.

We are giving away this *Rosa Canina*, painted for Country Homes by Camilla Speight (0958) 641586, botanical artist to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medallist. It has been framed by specialist traditional framer Artefact, 0171-580 4878. Send your name and address on a postcard to Rosehip Offer, Room 1214, Country Homes, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS, to arrive by 7 November.

....a taste of autumn

Rosa Canina, November flower of the month

...original oranges.

Add a little zest to your Christmas punch by plucking a ripe specimen from your very own Calamondin orange tree (left). The tree, which produces fruit all winter long, is delivered to your door in a slatted wooden crate. It comes complete with care instructions, and recipe ideas for using the fruit, £46 including p and p, from the Gluttonous Gardener, 0171-371 0775.

...growing bulbous.

Now is the time for planting bulbs of garlic – that essential cooking ingredient, and good for your health too. Four large bulbs (enough to fill a ten foot row) are available from Thompson and Morgan for £6.24 including p and p. Ring (01473) 690869.

...seashells from the seashore.

Famous for its seafood and wonderful cookery courses, the Allen family's Ballymaloe House Hotel (00 353 21 652531) and cookery school (00 353 21 646785) in County Cork, Ireland, makes certain nothing goes to waste. In the idyllic grounds you can see cookery school founder's Darina Allen's beautiful shell house folly (above), by artist and decorator Blot Kerr Wilson (00 33 2 47 65 69 82), decorated with mussels and scallop shells left over from lunch and dinner. Or start planning your own seafood feast with Darina's new book, *A Year at Ballymaloe Cookery School* (Kyle Cathie, £19.99).

s, oysters and garlic spice

...drinking in a taste of autumn apples..

Those inspired by the fruits of Apple Day (18 October) will delight in the Reverend Mervyn Wilson's cider and juice making class at his seventeenth century Bulwick Rectory (right) in Corby, Northamptonshire. The Reverend Wilson comes from a long line of apple growers – the Royal Horticultural Society named 'Chad's Favourite' after his uncle, Sir Chad Woodward – and after the class you can admire the 40 or so varieties of apple trees that he has planted in his garden. The class runs from 9am-12pm, 22 November, and costs £8.30 per person; places are limited, ring (01780) 450249.

...singing for your supper.

The glitter and gaiety of the Glyndebourne festival will be available to the whole country as the Glyndebourne Touring Opera begins its run (6 October-11 December). This year's repertoire includes Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* and Janacek's *The Makropulos Case*, featuring English National Opera singer Kristine Ciesinski (left) as Emilia Marty, a 337 year old singer whose long life is due to an elixir devised by her father 300 years ago. Ring (01273) 815000.

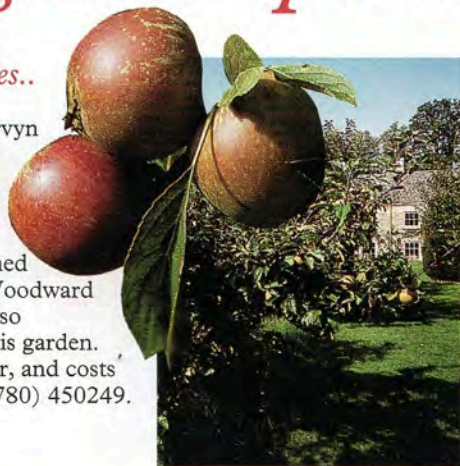
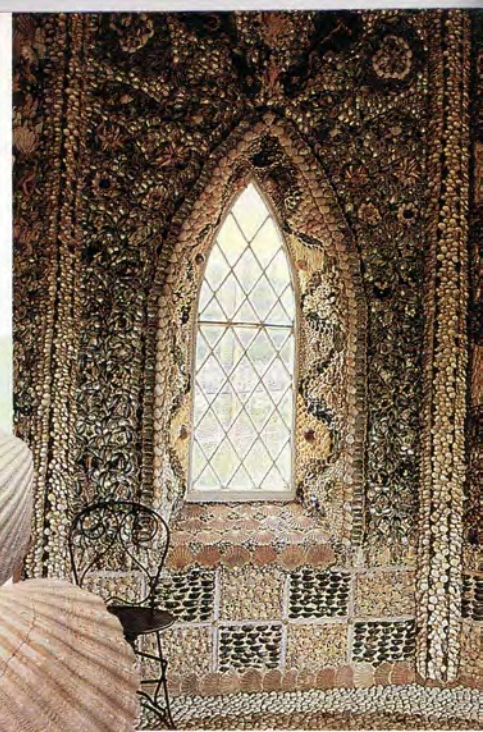
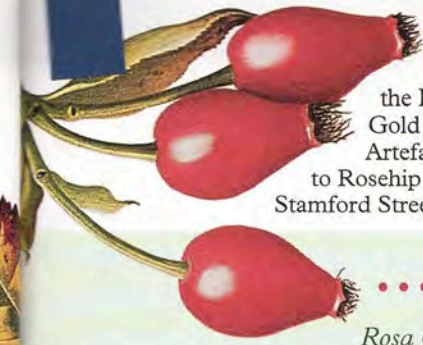
...WINNING

a six month supply of fresh coffee.

There's nothing like the smell of real coffee brewing to entice the most reluctant limbs from warm duvets on chilly autumn mornings. But who wants to trail around the shops to buy it in this weather? Leading coffee and tea specialist, Whittard of Chelsea, has come up with an answer – a new coffee by post service. For £10 (incl. p and p) a month, subscribers can choose 1lb of freshly roasted coffee, in beans or ground, every month, from its range of over 20 pure Arabica coffees. The first fifteen readers to ring Whittard Direct on 0171-924 1888 and quote reference Country Homes and Interiors Whittard Direct will receive six months' membership free of charge, worth £60.

Whittard Direct

COFFEE FRESHLY ROASTED & POSTED



Photographs: (John Noble) Scenes from the Glyndebourne Touring Opera; (Melanie Tiffin) Whittard of Chelsea; (Dorothy Huxford) and (Brian Chapple) (Kristine Ciesinski) Matthew Ward; (Gardner) Garden Picture Library