



LIVING IN ARGENTINA

Lured by the seductive rhythms of the tango and promise of

afternoons spent lingering in outdoor cafes, thousands of savvy travelers make the pilgrimage to Argentina to enjoy the bohemian sophistication of Buenos Aires. But very few catch more than a glimpse of what lies behind the thick planks of heavy wooden doors or receive an invitation to actually enter the extended sea of private terraces and gated estates. Inside these interiors, famous artists, designers, aristocrats and writers live out their daily lives away from public view.

Living in Argentina offers unprecedented access to these private residences, as well as cultural landmarks throughout the country. In the 200-page volume, Argentinean photographer Ricardo Labougle and Argentinean authors Isabel de Estrada and Ana Cardinale illuminate the interior and exterior lives of this global destination with 22 descriptive essays and 216 color photographs.

Private homes of aristocratic origin blend seamlessly into the country's decadent landscape. Federico Álvarez Castillo and wife Paula Cahen d'Anvers open their doors to reveal a lush, expansive vista outside Buenos Aires. The two-story guest house and infinity pool are surrounded with rose-covered pergolas, as well as an orchard and garden—all designed by the couple. "We looked for a style that would bring new life to the traditional approach, with antique touches that would help to create the feeling that this house has been standing here for many years," say the owners.

But de Estrada and Cardinale took great care to move beyond the private realm and include extravagant public spaces as well, such as Victoria Ocampo's estate in San Isidro. One of Argentina's most famous women, Ocampo, a prolific editor and writer, lived and worked in the stately home until her death in 1979. Today, guests at San Isidro can view Villa Ocampo and its



fertile grounds, now owned by UNESCO. Visitors are welcomed with original furnishings, artworks and personal artifacts—including a photograph of Ocampo adorned in Chanel snapped by Man Ray in Paris during the 1940s.

The magic of this treasured volume lives in the intimate details captured in each image: the otter skin throw and collection of nude photography languishing in the bedroom of graphic designer Juan Gatti; the handcrafted stools and tables made from eucalyptus tree trunks inside designer Alicia Goñi's garden and, of course, the mountain spring meandering down the hills of Volcan through Susana Gronda's hacienda-style ranch home.

Living in Argentina is a tactile journey into the heart of one of the world's diverse landscapes and acts as a lively companion for the armchair traveler or design aficionado with an excess of frequent flier miles ■ *Maya Dollarhide*—*Living in Argentina*, Ricardo Labougle, Isabel de Estrada and Ana Cardinale, 200 pages, \$29.00/hardcover, Taschen