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BHG SIP Orange Checkout

timeless tuscan

Earthy color palettes, warm woods, wrought iron scrollwork, and spun pottery characterize the warm glow of Tuscan style.

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The Inspiration

These urns may be reproductions, but their weathered-look surfaces and gracefully edged lids inspired our dreams of a Tuscan-style kitchen. Decorative rustic paneled urn vases with lids (\$169.99 each). Gordon Companies; available on amazon.com

keys to tuscan style

Weathered Wood

Cabinets that appear to withstand time and still look beautiful and natural are a must for any Tuscan-inspired kitchen. For a gorgeous weathered-wood look, choose alder—a species with the grain of burled wood but with lots of earthy mottling. Subtle color shifts in the wood's hue almost anticipate the patina of time.

Earthy Texture

Floors made of various-size terra-cotta bricks, laid in different patterns, combat wear and tear and add the feel of sun-baked earth to the backsplash and floors to contrast with the woodwork.

Aged-Look Surfaces

Nothing says age like stone, especially in distressed finishes. For perimeter countertops, we love the hues and grain of marble but crave something less polished. Acid-washed marble offers a smooth, earthy surface that plays against more rustic terra-cotta backsplash tiles and floor pavers.

Mix in Metals

From cabinet hardware and faucets to ornate iron scrollwork, opt for metals that take on a patina over time—known to the trade as “living finishes.” Although metals are usually protected against oxidizing with a sealer, these finishes (available in bronze, copper, pewter, or brass) are oil-rubbed or brushed, then left uncoated. The result, after time, is one-of-a-kind because no two finishes will age precisely the same. They change in color, tone, and glow.

Clean Backdrop

Even the most gradual changes over time are easy to perceive in this kitchen, thanks to one element that remains the same. The smooth plaster walls painted in a natural white create a clean, consistent backdrop against which to view subtle variations in the room's evolving finishes.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LOHMAN

