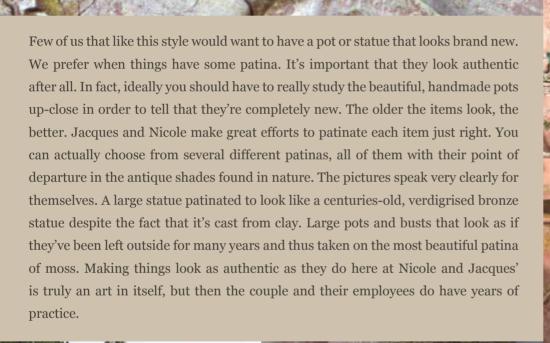
## AMPHOLIA

tos & text: Pia van Spaendonck. Editing: Rikke V



In the South of France in the town of Anduze is an amazing pottery. Nicole and Jacques are the owners of this wonderful place where they've worked together for the past 30 years. The design of the beautiful pots dates all the way back to ancient times but they've also drawn inspiration from the Italian parks and gardens that were laid out in the 18th century. These beautifully landscaped gardens were filled with large, lavishly decorated pots and beautiful statues. So their inspiration comes primarily from the Italian renaissance but also reaches into the Romantic period where the French gardens came into fashion. Vases, pots, bowls and statues are still very popular, and they fit in especially well with those of us who love the French country style and swear by brocante. Everything is made by hand. The clay is kneaded by hand before it's placed in casting mold and turned into pots, statues or busts. The fact that everything is made by hand ensures that the items have a very authentic look that's highly sought-after.





## ANDHOLIA

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The surroundings here in the pottery and in the courtyard certainly contribute to the authenticity of the production as well. It's so wonderful here – very rustic with the beautiful, old stone walls as a backdrop for the wet pots that are left out to dry for a certain amount of time before it's time to bake them. The pots have their natural, red clay color, which is what they're all made from. Only once their dried and ready will it be decided whether they're going to look like old iron urns with spots of rust, aged, verdigrised copper or red clay pots that have been sitting outside for 100 years. You really can't help but have the greatest respect for this craft.

Jacques et Nicole Bertrand Ampholia, Anduze, France www.ampholia-anduze.com

