

INVITING US INTO HER IDYLIC HOME IN IBIZA, INTERIOR DESIGNER
CAROLINE LEGRAND
ON FINDING PARADISE, FEELING FREE AND
LIVING IT UP WITH HER FAMOUS FRIENDS



'From the moment I arrived I had the best time. I realised I had finally found my happy place'

As the last of the removal trucks disappeared down the driveway and she finally got the chance to step back and take in her new home on the beautiful Balearic island of Ibiza in all its finished glory, interior designer Caroline Legrand admits she had a little cry.

"It was a real 'wow' moment for me, seeing what I'd created here and knowing that I had done it by myself," says the warm and friendly Belgian-born, London-based divorcee of her tranquil holiday retreat, Can Mimosa.

"It truly is a paradise and being able to buy somewhere so special on my own was a huge thing for me and very emotional."

The sprawling villa, which is situated moments from the picturesque beach of Es Torrent, is set in lush gardens rich with scented pines, swaying palms, sweet-smelling orange blossom and the aromatic mimosa from which it gets its name. With its large pool, alfresco "chill-out zone" and luxurious guest cabana, Caroline's summer home is, unsurprisingly, a magnet to friends.

HOST WITH THE MOST

"I love to cook and to host when I am here and sometimes find myself preparing lunch for 80 to 100 people," says the mum of two, whose sons Oscar, 14, and Arthur, 12, join her for HELLO!'s exclusive photoshoot. Evening parties have been known to go on until 9am, with guests embracing themes such as "gypset" (bohemian nomads) and the Nevada-based festival Burning Man.

"People love dressing up in Ibiza so it's never a problem getting them to join in," smiles Caroline, whose clients include her now close friend, swimwear supremo Melissa Odabash, a fellow Ibiza devotee to whom she was first introduced by event planner Yasmin Mills. Melissa's

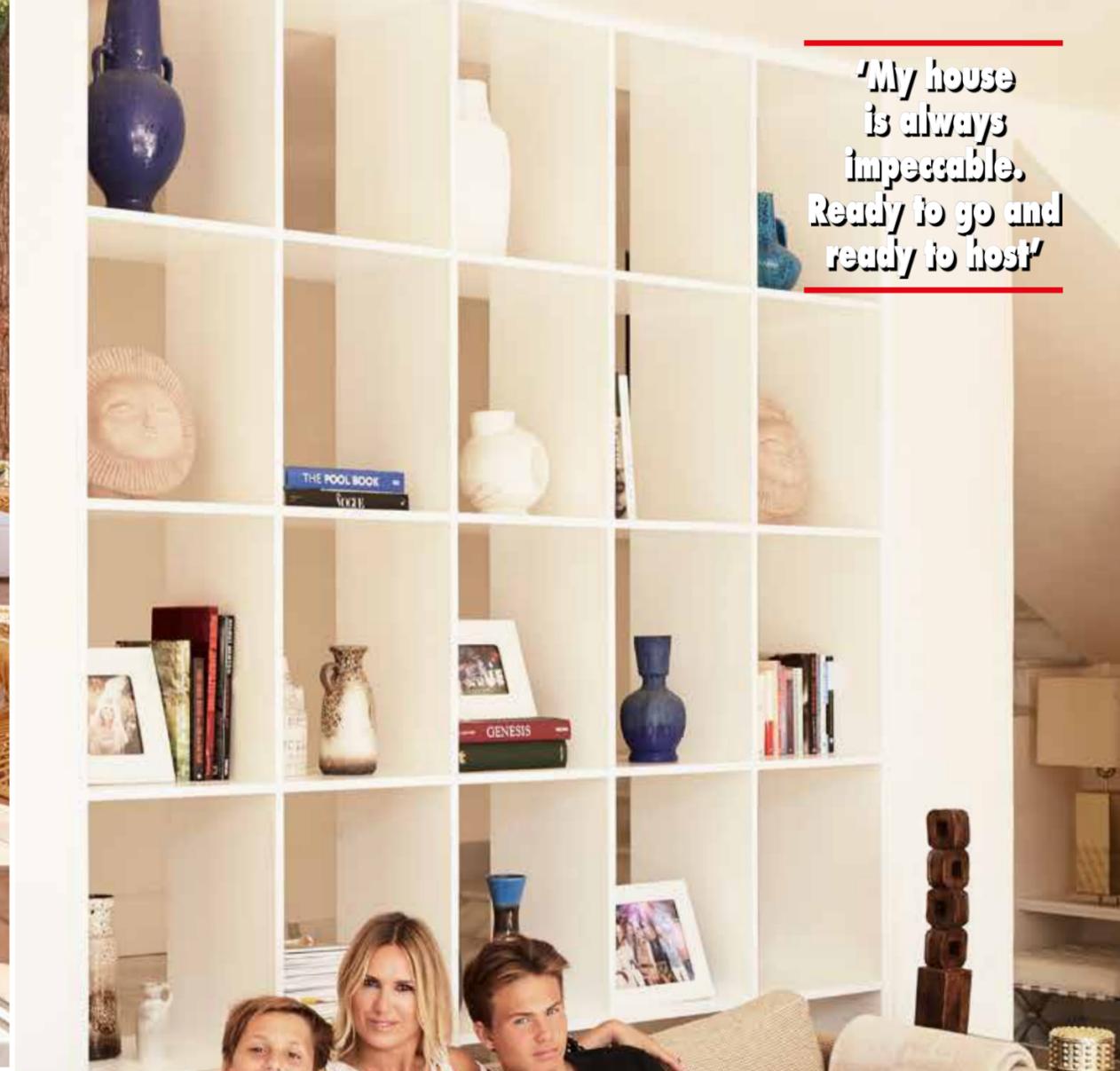


Set in lush gardens rich with pines, palms and mimosa, from which the villa gets its name, Can Mimosa is, says Caroline (above), "a paradise. This was the first house I saw and the beauty of the land blew me away"

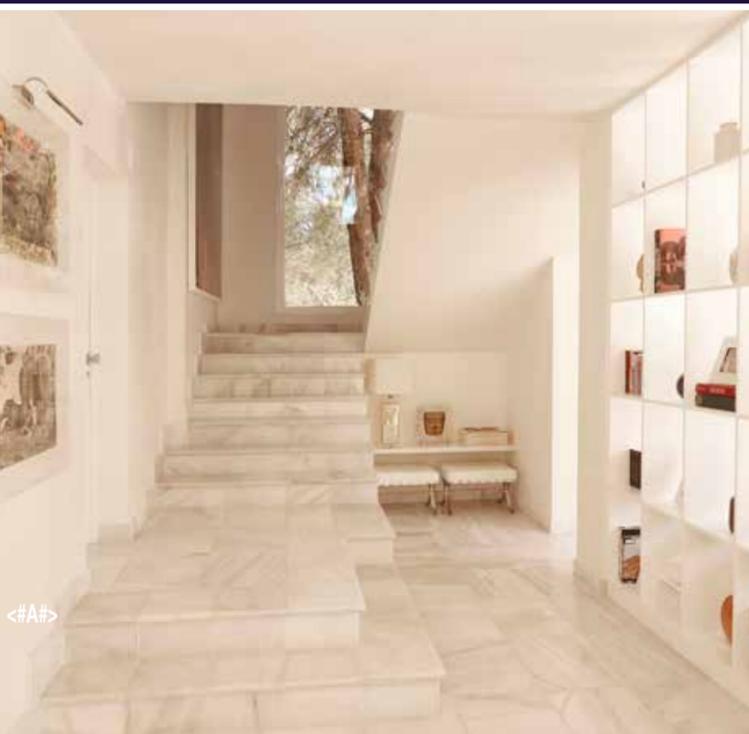
'I kept the interior cool while keeping an easy connection with the outdoors'



'My house is always impeccable. Ready to go and ready to host'



The light and airy rooms already had Ibiza marble floors but Caroline added the sliding glass door in the living room (above). She bought the astrological sculpture (on the wall) in Miami. "I'm very into astrology and I had to have it for this house because Ibiza is very spiritual," she says



London house was one of Caroline's first projects when she launched her business four years ago.

"And of course music is so important out here," continues Caroline, "so we always have great DJs playing amazing music."

"Another of my girlfriends is Serena Cook of [Ibiza VIP concierge service] Deliciously Sorted and she is the queen of parties."

"We recently hosted the launch of the magical Assouline coffee table book *Ibiza Bohemia* by Renu Kashyap here at Can Mimosa and it was one of the most beautiful events ever, with over 300 guests including Patrick Cox, Lisa Bilton, Nellee Hooper and Lucas White."

"My home actually features in the book, which makes me very proud."

Taking us for a tour around the place that has become her haven, Caroline, 47, who also has homes in London and Los Angeles, tells us more about her life in the Balearics and her designs for the future.

How did you find Can Mimosa and what was your first impression?

"I had been coming to Ibiza on and off for nine years, but in 2013 I came out for the whole of July and from the moment I arrived I had the best time. I realised I had finally found my happy place. I could go to the

best clubs in the world, enjoy nature, be on the cleanest part of the Mediterranean, do yoga, go hiking, chill, read, go to healthy restaurants... It's probably the only place where you lose weight on holiday."

So you decided to put down roots?

When my ex-husband [a banker from whom Caroline was divorced in 2008] and I were together, we had a holiday home in St Tropez. Although I could still make use of it after we broke up, it had become difficult. I decided to look for my own summer house on Ibiza and came back in October. This was the first house I saw and the beauty of the land blew me away. The first thing I did was touch the ground and I felt an instant connection. I couldn't believe my luck to find this paradise – and that I could afford it."

What was your design aesthetic for the house?

"I wanted to keep the interior cool in both senses of the word while keeping an easy connection with the outdoors. Because it's a summer house it had to be light and airy, but I also wanted to avoid the all-white rustic Bohemian look, which is typically Ibiza. The floors were already Ibiza marble and the structure was fine, but I added a library to make better use of the



Caroline with sons Arthur, 12, and Oscar, 14. "A house is the ultimate expression of who you are," she tells HELLO!. "My children love my homes because they feel safe and love the warmth and love and care that has been put into every room"



<#A#> Caroline loves this gold hand chair by Pedro Friedeberg so much that she also has one in her London apartment. "My inspiration comes from travelling the world and I find art that I love wherever I go," she says



'Being able to buy somewhere so special on my own was a huge thing and very emotional'

A bedroom in the cabana, with its view onto the exotic garden, is Caroline's favourite room. "My philosophy is simple," says the interior designer (below left with the boys in the cabana's second bedroom). "Buy less, choose well and make it last. That's how I shop and make decisions in terms of design"

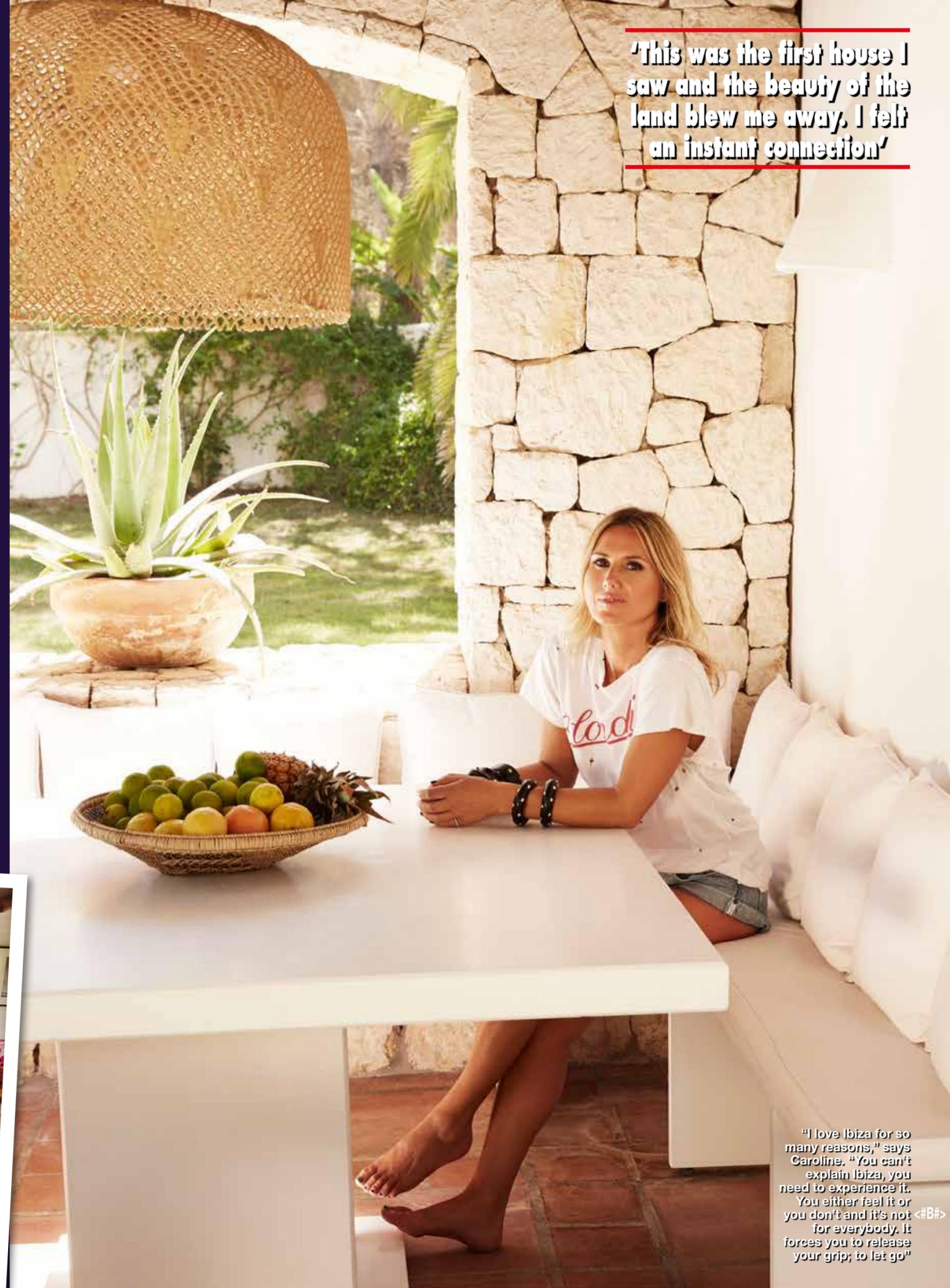
space and recently opened up the living-room windows by putting in an amazing glass sliding door."
Do you have a favourite room?
 "I converted the garage into a two-bedroom ensuite Palm Springs-style guest bungalow – the guest cabana – which has lots of glass, cork walls and cool furniture with a view onto the exotic garden. So I would say that was my favourite."
With two growing boys, how do you keep the house so pristine?
 "I grew up with a Virgo mother, neurotic about having everything tidy, so it comes easily to me. I can't live in a cluttered environment; a messy space means a messy head to me. My kids were never the messy types, either. I'm probably the only mother who had a cream sofa for seven years that never got dirty. Oscar has won praise at boarding school for having the tidiest room so I guess I have passed on the flame. My house is always impeccable, any time, any day. Ready to go and ready to host!"
Did you have a budget for this house – and did you blow it?
 "Yes, I had a budget and I kept to it. I'm pretty good at that. I ▶



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Caroline hosts lunch (below) with guests including Renu Kashyap, opposite her, and Serena Cook, in pink, co-founder of Deliciously Sorted and the Ibiza Preservation Fund. "I put my heart into my food when I'm preparing it, just as I do with my homes," Caroline says



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was married to a Dutchman for far too long not to be! Seriously, I'm glad I had that experience because us Sagittarians aren't very good with money." **Is it true that Jennifer Aniston hailed your bathroom as "the sexiest on earth"?**

"That wasn't my own bathroom but I'll take the compliment. It was the powder room I created for my friend [New York-based facialist] Georgia Louise at her spa Georgia Louise Atelier. Her client list is like a who's who of the celebrity circuit. Jennifer's

right about the powder room being sexy. It's all black lacquer walls with beautiful James Mont Asian lamps. You don't want to leave that room." **Is there a man in your life at the moment?**

"After my marriage ended, I had a boyfriend for three years, so I've spent 20 years in two relationships and am in no rush to enter into another one. I have been happily single for the past six years, going out and meeting amazing and interesting people. I have done it in reverse to most: I settled down when

I was younger and am having my teenage phase of going out and having fun now."

So no room for romance?

"I have two amazing kids, a beautiful life, great, solid friends, a foot in three countries and a career I love every moment of. Romance is a great added plus but it has to add something to the picture."

How does the chilled environment you've created here impact on your own wellbeing?

"I do a lot of yoga when I'm here to balance ▶



The villa is a great party venue, with Caroline recently hosting the launch of *Ibiza Bohemia* with (below from right) co-author Renu Kashyap and Kristin Benedetto of its publisher, Assouline



"I love Ibiza for so many reasons," says Caroline. "You can't explain Ibiza, you need to experience it. You either feel it or you don't and it's not for everybody. It forces you to release your grip; to let go"

'Friends laugh because, regardless of what time I come home post-partying, I do an hour of exercise'



Watched by Mum, the boys have fun in the pool in its glorious rural setting. And if they tire of the pool, they can always take a trip to the idyllic beach at nearby Es Torrent (left)



my busy social life. I have regular massages and exercise daily in my gym. My friends laugh because, regardless of what time I come home post-partying, I always do an hour of exercise."

What are your ambitions?

"I have no desire to be heading up a huge company with multiple staff or buying my own private jet. I just want to do beautiful

projects, make people happy and feel creatively fulfilled. I believe life gives us opportunities all day long; it's up to us whether we ignore them or embrace them."

INTERVIEW: BELINDA ROBEY
PHOTOS: KATE MARTIN
HAIR & MAKE-UP: ANAI PEREZ

For more information on Caroline's interiors, visit carolinelegranddesign.com.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: ALAMY, CAROLINE LEGRAND, SACHA IBIZA PHOTOGRAPHY, ALL CLOTHES: CARAVANA TULUM, ALL JEWELLERY: ROSA DE LA CRUZ, VISIT IBIZAPRESERVATIONFUND.ORG