

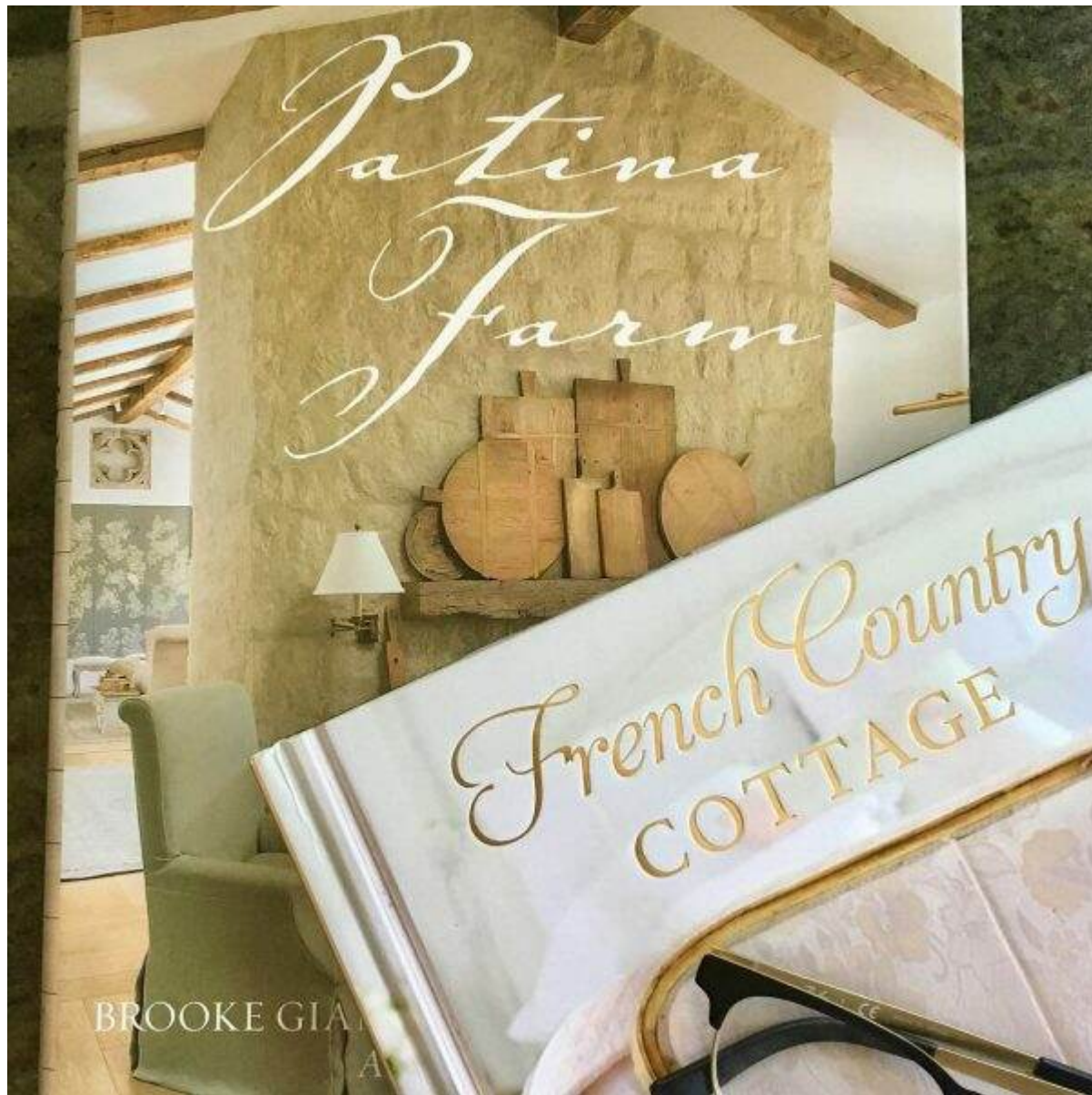
Book Signing at Patina Farm

This past weekend, I was fortunate to attend the book signing of one of my favorite bloggers, Courtney Allison of **French Country Cottage**. I've never met Courtney and just started following her this year. However, she has inspired me to learn more about photography because every single thing she posts is stunning.



The photos in her first book are truly drool worthy. It was such an opportunity to meet her since being a relatively new

blogger, there is so much I don't know. I am always grateful when others share their knowledge. Having the book signing at Patina Farm was an **extra** special gift!



On our drive in to the farm from Santa Barbara, we passed a sign that said, "Flowers Ahead". We pulled over to this sweet unmanned flower stand and purchased a few bunches of lilies to give the hosts. They were only a \$1.00 per bunch and the money was left in a box ~~simply on the honor system.



Here we are at the entrance of the event. Janie is a dear friend who is an artist and an expert in anything to do with home decor and antiques. Janie also has the best jewelry!



Patina Farm is the home of Brooke (@velvetandlinen) and Steve Giannetti (@stevegiannetti)~~a design/architect duo that continues to impress the design world. Their 5 acre farm was designed and built by them~~including cherished pieces they have collected around the world. The color palette is neutrals and soft pastels both in the home and garden.

This area, just off the kitchen, is the cover photo of their book, [Patina Farm](#).



Fresh flowers were in every room.



LIFE AT
Bella Terra



LIFE AT
Bella Terra





Here are more house details. It is very apparent why they call their lovely home "Patina" farm. There is an abundance of textures and finishes.



LIFE AT
Bella Terra



Bowls of fruits and vegetables were in abundance.



Courtney was signing her book in the shade of an enormous oak tree.





I cannot recommend her book enough. Drawn to a French country look, Courtney's home is filled with wonderful decorating

ideas and stories.

The property at Patina Farm is on different elevations.
Pebbled paths lined with lavender and rosemary lead you to
secret spaces.





These fun wooden mushroom statues can be purchased from the [Giannetti Home](http://giannettihome.com) store or giannettihome.com



Bella Terra



Steps lead you down to the donkey barn, greenhouse, shed, vegetable garden, rose trellis and lavender maze.





The guest cottage is set above the small pond and boat dock.





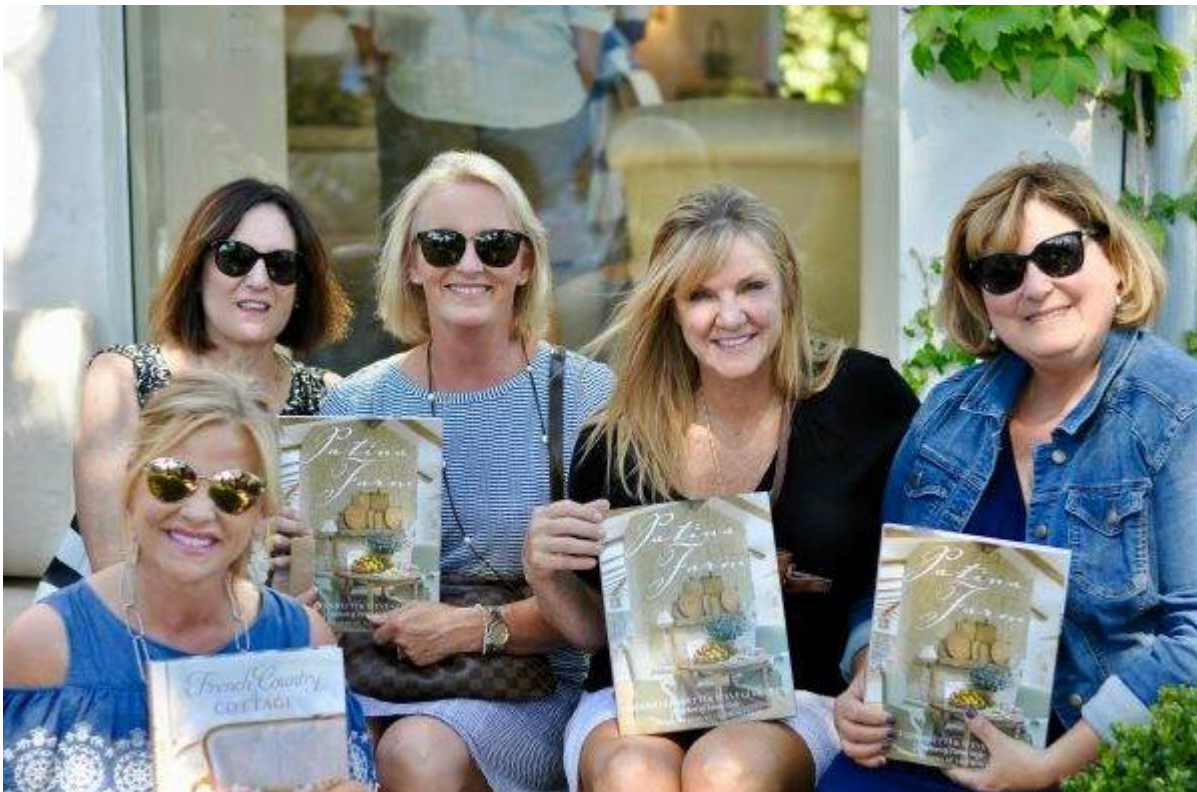
Brooke and Steve Giannetti were such gracious hosts. They served light appetizers and lavender lemonade, with or without

sparkling wine.

I was so happy to finally meet some of the bloggers I just know through the internet~~Karen from [Sanctuary Home Decor](#). I am disappointed to know I missed meeting [Julie Blanner](#) and [Slim Paley](#), but respect and admire all the work they do. It was also such a pleasure to meet the agent who provided all the guidance to both books~~[Jill Cohen](#).

Being with others who love beauty and simplicity fed my soul.

We also met a group of 5 women (Debra, Cindy, Beth, Melissa and Tori) who traveled from Northern California together in celebration of Cindy's birthday. Within minutes, we became fast friends and I hope we keep in touch!



It was a very civilized way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Rubbing elbows with a house filled with talented individuals is inspiration at its best!

Even the cat seemed to enjoy it!



Have a wonderful week!

Mary

P.S. All the photos were taken by me...I think I see some improvement!

