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Perfect Kitchens

The Best Looks,
Floor Plans & Features

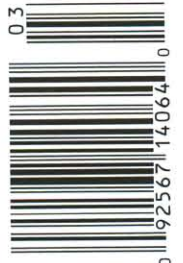
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BHG SIP Red Checkout

Rustic Reveler

You have a taste for wine country's rough patinas, but you need a space that hosts big parties smoothly.

WRITTEN BY CHRISTIANNA MCCAUSLAND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JEFF HERR
PRODUCED BY LISA MOWRY STYLED BY ANNETTE JOSEPH

The island is a hub of activity during parties. Soft colors and earthy patinas are a fresh take on wine-country style.





on making comfortably scaled areas for the furnishings and playing off the spectacular existing features," he says.

The most striking of those is a set of six skylights over the breakfast area. To help the openings blend in with the rustic, timeless look of Sonoma, the design team wrapped the existing beams framing the skylights in reclaimed wood to create the appearance of hefty timbers. The beams also act as a demarcation between the breakfast area and the cooking area, breaking up the kitchen's length.

One quality Muir wanted for her take on Sonoma style was warmth, which was missing from the walls. "Everything was Sheetrock," Muir says. "Adding the tongue-and-groove paneling gave a more substantial feeling. We painted rather than stained it to give the room the integrity that a wood wall can."

Natural materials underscore the rustic look that Muir says so captures the feel of California's wine country. She opted for quartersawn-oak cabinets that "almost look like driftwood," she says. Yet their rough-hewn quality isn't too



rustic—the big-city setting called for a hint of urban sophistication. Reclaimed pine covers the floor. Tumbled marble behind the range completes a design that showcases texture while keeping the color scheme simple.

To soften the linear quality of the room, Muir chose a curved copper range hood. Visible from the great-room through a pass-through in the sink wall, the hood aligns with a stone fireplace to create focal points in the neighboring spaces.

A graceful, sweeping chandelier over the island further softens the lines. The high-profile

ABOVE One of three arched doorways in the breakfast area was enclosed to create hutchlike storage and block an unattractive exterior view.

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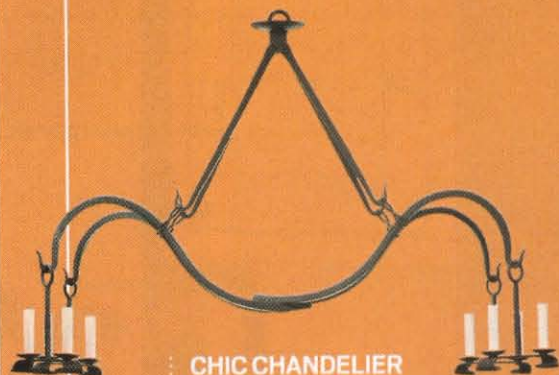
Rustic Refinement

This rustic kitchen's standout features inspired our product picks for getting the look in your home.



CHERRY ON TOP

Brazilian cherry countertop (\$120 per square foot) with French Baroque edge (\$20 per linear foot). J. Aaron; 404/298-4200; jaaroncaststone.com



CHIC CHANDELIER

Slender wrought iron wows without weighing down. Gothic chandelier (\$3,960 to the trade). Dennis & Leen; 310/652-0855; dennisandleen.com



STONE AGE

Create instant age-old beauty. Tumbled natural stone in Sienna Gold (\$13.40 per tile). DalTile; 214/398-1411; daltile.com