



beckons you to relax onto cushioned recliners, while a bubbling stream and birdsong provides music to sooth away the days' worries...

The path is set with simple paving stones and mulched with gravel through which an abundance of joyous flowers dance in the sunlight.

Many arid plants, such as aroids, succulents, and cacti thrive in this hot climate, perfect for an exotic Mediterranean style garden.

Even if your space is limited, you can still easily create a Mediterranean garden with the use of unglazed terra cotta pots. From doorsteps to patios and rooftops galore, the use of pots can provide the opportunity to include many types of plants.

In this Mediterranean garden, you'll find warm, dry air filled with many fragrant delights, like lavender. Numerous heat-loving and drought-tolerant plants can be found here, as well as large architectural plantings, such as palms, bay topiary, and tree ferns. Pots of bamboo make excellent additions to the Mediterranean garden too. Gaps are filled with grasses and a mix of exotic flowers and fruits, such as lemon.

Mosaic tiles are commonly used in this Mediterranean



A Mediterranean Haven

Text: Ally Mesnard Images: Michael Maherry & Eco Landscapes

The moment we arrived at Eco Landscapes

we were instantly swept away to another world. Landscape designer Reneé Wright has the unique talent to transform any garden into a tranquil abode, a place where you can relax and get in touch with your European roots.

The house is a sandstone colour, displaying the weathered look of the Mediterranean architectural style perfectly. One wall is covered in magnificent mural, scenes from a Mediterranean courtyard. Trees and plants have been carefully chosen to enhance this tranquil picture.

Leading from the entrance gate to the back garden is a long elegant Italian water feature, home to some of the most beautiful koi fish I've seen in a while. The sound of the water is refreshing and restful as it spills from the mouths of carved maidens and slips in a clear sheet from a spillway.

A well-designed garden normally contains surprising elements of wonder and in Reneé's case the private back garden takes one's breath away as you wander through the rustic gate.

Step into a haven, where two separate shady corners



garden, seen decorating walls, tables, and pots, regardless of size. Substitutes for mosaic tiles can come from broken dishes or stained glass. Simply use mosaic adhesive and sanded grout found in craft and tile stores.

Climbing crops (grapevine) and fragrant flowering vines (honeysuckle) on rustic-looking vertical supports were used for further ambiance, as well as privacy.

You too can create a Mediterranean garden, wherever you live, with bright colours and hot hues from flowers like coreopsis, blanket flower, sedum, and sunflower. Set these off with contrasting plants in shades of blue along with silvery-gray foliage plants. Artemisia, catmint, blue Festuca, Mexican-bush sage, and lamb's ear are good choices. Include a variety of fragrant herbs like lavender, rosemary, and thyme. Olive and citrus trees also provide a Mediterranean touch. Lightly coloured boulders placed within the garden will also help mimic the Mediterranean landscape and don't forget the water features. *RM*

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER: RENÉE WRIGHT

SOUTH AFRICA:

ITALY:

MOBILE: (0027) 83 271 0880

(0039) 340 253 1822

TELEPHONE: (0027)12 361 9644

(0039) 0187 460 087

renee@ecolandscapes.co.za

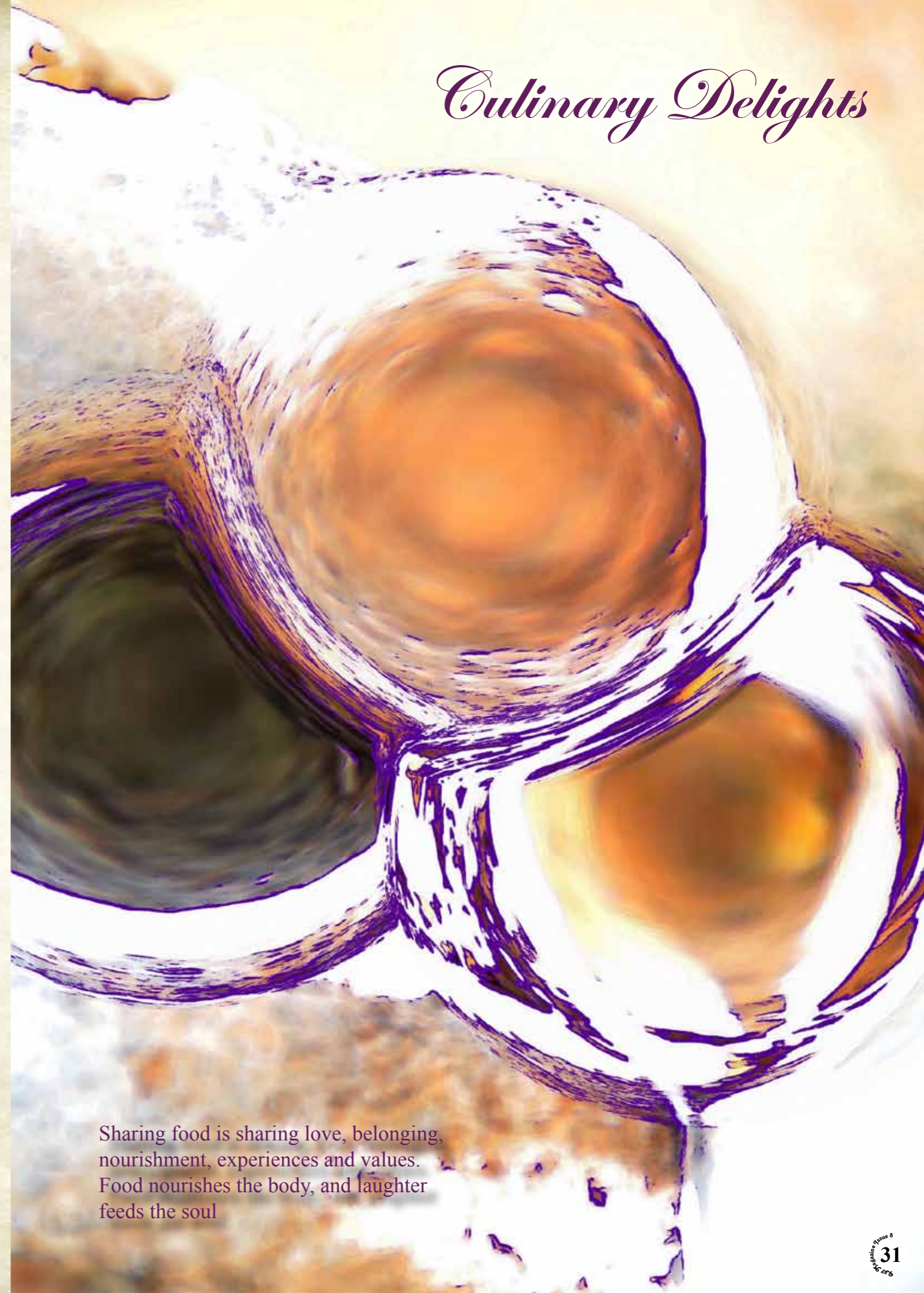
lesedi@gmail.com

www.ecolandscapes.co.za

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