

ELLE DECORATION

IT'S SPRING!
Let the outside in





LOVE NEST

Trendsetter Paola Navone has reimagined quintessentially British furniture brand Ercol's retro stick-back beechwood sofas by upholstering them in her trademark textiles. The limited-edition range includes large and small sofas and an armchair, all of which make perfect updates for sunny spots in the home. A design classic just got even better. Pictured: 'Nest' large sofa, £5,395 (ercol.com).

INSIDE STORY **SEGUSO**

The tale of a historic glassware dynasty

ITALIAN BRAND SEGUSO has been producing glass on the Venetian island of Murano since the 14th century, making it one of the oldest glassblowing companies in the world. Seguso goblets and carafes may well have been among those immortalised by Renaissance painters such as Caravaggio and Titian. Since those beginnings, it has been commissioned to make bespoke pieces by everyone from the Vatican to fashion brands Fendi and Dior. Seguso also creates its own unique and beautiful colours, which are mixed in a closely guarded chamber known as the 'room of secrets' at its Murano headquarters.

Making everything from chandeliers to stemware and objets d'art, the brand has maintained its tradition of hand craftsmanship – its glassblowing skills have been passed from father to son over 22 generations. Today, the company is led by brothers Gianluca and Pierpaolo Seguso. Their father, Giampaolo, is a senior artisan who creates colourful, one-of-a-kind designs that he then hand-etches with his own poems. This is his way of adding a personal touch to a centuries-old craft. In 1993, he established Seguso Viro, creating contemporary glass objects using ancient techniques. Examples of his work are owned by the V&A in London and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

If you want to own a Seguso piece for your own home, you'll have to make the trip to Murano, where you can see the glass being blown and marvel at the strength and skill of the craftspeople. However, there are plans afoot to bring a selection of designs to the UK later this year, so watch this space (seguso.com).

From top Talented artisans at work in Seguso's Murano workshop; the 'Coppa Vago' vase by Giampaolo Seguso

