

[Library ebook] The Great Houses of Cayetana, Duchess of Alba

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Naty Abascal, Rafael Manzano
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Naty Abascal, Rafael Manzano : The Great Houses of Cayetana, Duchess of Alba before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Houses of Cayetana, Duchess of Alba:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Visual delight
By Angel I lived in Seville for several years having lived only steps away from the Duchess of Alba's "Palacio de las Dueas". I often passed the front gates of the Palacio and peered through the tall metal gates mesmerized by the front entry and gardens. The Duchess is a very informal person and I have on a number of occasions seen her passing under my balcony in Seville and I have called out to her "Cayetana Guapa!", and she has often returned the gesture with a wave and a humble smile. This book was my opportunity to explore Cayetana's contribution to Spain through her houses and intimate photos that surround her in these spaces. The collection of art the Alba dynasty have accumulated are referenced in the Palaces only in context of the interior spaces and decorations. I love this book as much as I love the Duchess of Alba's independent spirit, color, love of flamenco, love of Seville and the love of life.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good book
By Lola This book is well documented and has beautiful pictures. An opportunity to have a peek into the great houses of

the Duchess of Alba.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Guillermo EliasVery good book. Beautiful color photographs, fine paper and well documented text.

This publication, which features 220 large-format photographs, offers us a visual tour of the houses that belong to the Duchess of Alba in Madrid (The Liria Palace), Seville (The Palace of Las Dueas), Salamanca (The Palace of Monterrey), Ibiza and San Sebastin. The images were taken by the renowned interior photographer, Ricardo Labougle, whilst the architectural notes were written by the architect and university professor, Rafael Manzano. The whole project was coordinated by Naty Abascal. Born in 1926, the goddaughter of Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain, the Duchess of Alba holds the world record for the most aristocratic titles. Indeed, her full name is Maria del Rosario Cayetana Alfonsa Victoria Eugenia Francisca Fitz-James Stuart y de Silva and she is a duchess seven times over, a countess 19 times and a marquesa 23 times. The 86-year-old noble, who is internationally famous for holding more titles than anyone else in the world (and for having fabulously eccentric style) is head of the 530-year-old House of Alba, and as such is entitled to ride her horse into Seville Cathedral, and according to protocol does not have to kneel before the Pope. It is said she could walk from the northern tip of Spain to the southernmost point without leaving her native lands. In 1947, the Duchess married Don Pedro Luis Martinez de Irujo y Artaco, son of the Duke of Sotomayor. The wedding was considered to be the last great feudal wedding in Spain and attracted the attention of the international media. The Duchess has been the subject of much media attention in her native Spain, and is admired for her eccentric and bohemian fashion sense. A famed beauty in her youth, she once famously declared that her style icon was "myself".

Her passions are reflected vividly on the pages of this amazing book, and the level of detail, thought, value, and historical significance leave the reader in awe. (hello lovely) This is an EVOCATION OF PURE SPANISH TRADITION not before seen These residences feel lived in and cared for unto even the Spanish Room at the Liria Palace, a stunningly beautiful gallery with its Rubens, de Zurbaran, Velazquez and Veronese bringing an immediacy to these historic surroundings in which this family lives. (Decorators Insider)