

# Arena

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TTMAGAZINE.COM

ENTERTAINING WITH

## A Reunion By the Ocean

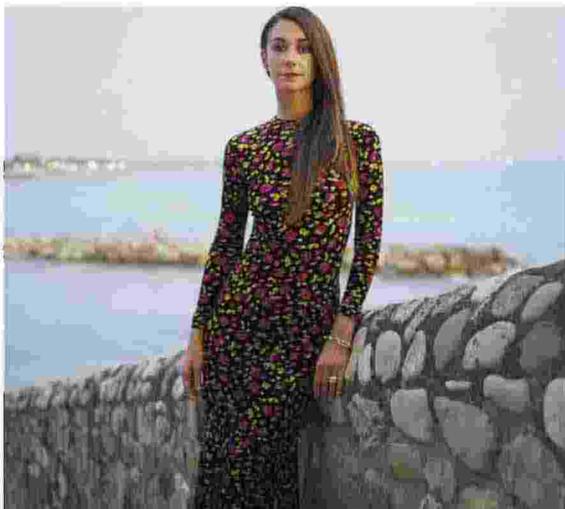
In 1960, the oil tycoon J. Paul Getty bought his dream vacation home in Ladispoli, Italy, a quiet seaside town 30 miles outside Rome. His house there was a vast villa built in 1640 for guests of the noble Orsini clan, who lived in the 13th-century castle next door. During extensive renovations, builders unearthed the ruins of a second-century Roman villa, pieces of which are displayed in the home's basement-turned-antiquities gallery. "He would have trains arriving from all over Europe with antiques," said Marie-Louise Sciò, the chief executive and creative director of the Pellicano Hotels Group, whose family bought the property in 1980. Ms. Sciò lived there with her family for almost a decade before 1990, when her father transformed it into a 19-room hotel called La Posta Vecchia. The place has certainly seen its fair share of memorable nights, but Ms. Sciò mostly recalls playing hide-and-seek during them with the other children on the grounds. Recently, a last-minute cancellation meant that, for an entire weekend early last month, La Posta Vecchia was free. And so Ms. Sciò, bolstered by newly loosened travel restrictions, decided to host an impromptu soiree for her far-flung circle. "We planned the entire thing in three weeks," she said.

She invited her 90-odd guests — among them the fashion designer Haider Ackermann, the decorator Luke Edward Hall and the knitwear designer Nimi Ponnudurai — via a card illustrated with a rendering of an old oil painting of La Posta Vecchia and, atop it in neon yellow, the words "Let's Dance." The idea was to throw a festive Saturday lunch in the hotel's garden. The forecast led her to abandon that plan and move the party to the restaurant's wrap-

around terrace, which would allow for a quick escape indoors if the weather turned. The night before, to kick things off, there was an intimate dinner in the dining room, with its high vaulted ceilings, ornamental door frames and arched windows that look out onto the water. Ms. Sciò, swathed in a body-hugging floral Balenciaga dress, greeted the first arrivals to the dinner with Champagne on the terrace. "It was like a high school reunion," she said of seeing friends in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. "The vibe was really light and excited." The complete article is at [ttmagazine.com](https://www.ttmagazine.com). **LAURA MAY TODD**



DANILO SCARFATI (MARIE-LOUISE SCIÒ AND HER PARTY); ANDRÉ LARROW (TOYIN OJIH ODUTOLA); VIA TOYIN OJIH ODUTOLA AND JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK (ODUTOLA'S "THIS IS HOW YOU WERE MADE, FINAL STAGES"; 2019)



Ritaglio stampa ad uso esclusivo del destinatario, non riproducibile.

091141