

Byron Bay, Australia

Soulful Spaces

In the hinterland of northern New South Wales, a Tuscan farmhouse lovingly crafted with bespoke skills is testament to a treasured heritage

PHOTOGRAPHY ALICIA TAYLOR
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Angelica and Charlie
Arnott at their property,
Lo Scoglio, in Coopers
Shoot, outside Byron Bay



The conservatory is the perfect space to enjoy the local climate. Here, the vintage cane sofa, chair and cushions are all from Tigmi Trading, as are the runners and the Italian wooden lamp. **OPPOSITE PAGE** Angelica and Charlie in the main room.



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hen Angelica Arnott found Lo Scoglio, her plan was simple: knock it down and start afresh. Then she changed her mind. “We realised we didn’t need to erase what was there,” she tells *marie claire*. “We just needed to work with it.” Set in the hinterland of Byron Bay, Lo Scoglio is now a masterclass in considered living.

“The original vision for Lo Scoglio was to create a place of belonging – where family felt connected, where heritage and nature could come together,” Arnott explains. “Over time, it evolved into a soulful expression of legacy. It became less about just building a home and more about honouring ancestry, slowing down and creating something that would endure: a legacy for future generations.”

Arnott, who has had careers as a model and musician, is no stranger to spaces with soul. “I’ve always been drawn to things with history. Pieces that speak without shouting,” she says. So it was fortuitous that she decided to work with Tigmi Trading on all the interiors. Based locally in Byron, the Tigmi curation of artisan rugs and handpicked pieces aligned perfectly with Arnott’s philosophy.

That attraction to pieces with history is the ethos that drives every detail of Lo Scoglio. Nothing feels off-the-shelf. Every material, from oak floors to jute rugs, was chosen for feel, not flash. There’s aged brass, handmade ceramics, layered textures ... “We weren’t chasing trends,” Arnott says. “We were building something that lasts.” Every object in the home has a purpose. Nothing is purely decorative. “I want things that work hard but age well. That’s real luxury to me.”

The house is a nod to Arnott’s Sicilian roots. “My Sicilian heritage is woven into every corner of Lo Scoglio: the textures and tones evoke old-world Italy. The choices of materials and fixtures were inspired by the neo-classical villas of Sicily, where beauty and function coexist without pretence. It honours the rituals of slow living and the warmth of generational hospitality.” She adds, “Food, family, warmth. That’s what I wanted Lo Scoglio to hold.”

The interiors reflect this deep connection with history. “We took an inherent approach to curating the house. Each piece was chosen for its provenance and craftsmanship, its patina, its sense of time and place. We wanted each piece to resonate and tell a story. We were drawn to pieces that felt soulful and enduring: vintage lights, artisanal ceramics, and

layered textures that would complement the home's subtle elegance and lived-in warmth."

Nowhere is that more evident than the kitchen, a light-filled space with marble island and café-style banquette. "It's the heartbeat," she says. "Every day, life unfolds here. Mornings, meals, conversations, mess – it all happens in the kitchen." That room "embodies the heart of Italian life: food, family and connection. It's a place for lingering, for laughter, for passing down recipes and stories alike."

The renovation followed regenerative principles – minimal impact, maximum respect for the land. The original structure stayed intact. Local craftspeople, many from families in which skills were handed down over generations, were brought in. "Collaboration is everything," Arnott says. "We worked closely with local craftsmen who understood not only the materials but the spirit of the project. Craftsmanship was never rushed. It was about reverence for process, for tradition and for the people behind the work." Arnott says they realised the importance of working with what already existed. "After living in the original house for a few years, we saw that preserving the footprint would reduce our impact on the land. It was a regenerative approach, much like what we practise on our farm [the family has a 2000 hectare cattle farm in Boorowa, NSW]: adapting rather than erasing, layering history rather than starting anew."

Texture is key to the home's charm. "Oak floorboards give warmth, jute rugs offer simplicity and brass adds a quiet glow. Together they form a palette that feels timeless and tactile. Each material invites touch, which deepens our connection to the space." Arnott explains how she balanced the luxurious elements with an earthy feel: "We leaned into natural materials – stone, timber, marble – and softened them with lived-in textures."

Wellness features are woven into daily life. The house has a sauna, a yoga deck and an ice bath. "These aren't indulgences, they're how we reset," she says. "Whether it's an early morning sauna, a yoga flow as the sun rises or an evening ice plunge, these rituals ground us. Part of living in a way that honours both body and soul – guilt-free self-care is a core principle in the regenerative way of life."

About a decade ago, Angelica, her farmer husband, Charlie Arnott (of the biscuit family), and their four children left Sydney for Byron Bay and a house overlooking Wategos Beach. But the bustle of Byron wasn't to their liking, and their subsequent move to the quieter hinterland brought clarity. "It's slowed us down, in the best way. We became more intentional, more connected to our space. Byron gave us beauty, but the hinterland gave us breath. Lo Scoglio became a place to land, to create, to be more present, and with a young family that is everything."

Arnott's background as a performer – she was a member of '90s rock band The Chantoozies – and storyteller also shaped the interiors. "The home is where we are our most authentic selves. Our stories are real, and the emotion of those stories informs how the space should feel; drawing from childhood memories and adult adventures is the greatest

The generously accommodating kitchen features cupboards by second generation cabinet-maker Martin Johnston, from nearby Billinudgel.



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– Angelica Arnott



The spacious living area features a Nara modular sofa and two mosaic custom coffee tables from Tigmi Trading

The island bench is topped with vintage encaustic tiles from Jatana Interiors



“We weren’t chasing trends. We were building something that lasts”



In the Principessa bedroom, a vintage Oushak rug, embroidered linen and custom cushions create a textural embrace

“I was guided by feeling: how light moved, how a chair invited you to pause, how materials echoed memories of my childhood and my father’s Sicilian home”

influence. Every room tells a story, and the details are characters in that narrative. I was guided by feeling: how light moved, how a chair invited you to pause, how materials echoed memories of my childhood and my father’s Sicilian home.”

Above all, Lo Scoglio is a tribute to her late father and Italian roots. “There is no greater legacy than a lifetime of love from a parent. My hope was to honour my father by creating a home that felt like an embrace. Lo Scoglio is all about connections.”

Now, the family is preparing to sell, but the spirit of Lo Scoglio isn’t going anywhere. Arnott is launching Lo Scoglio x Di Lunedì - a collection of hand-thrown ceramic bowls inspired by the rituals of the house. “It’s about telling stories through objects. Things you pass down. Things that hold memory.”

When asked what Lo Scoglio has taught her, Angelica sums it up simply: “Honour what’s come before. Build with heart. And make beauty that lasts.”



A shady outdoor dining space. "We leaned into natural materials – stone, timber, marble – and softened them with lived-in textures," says Arnott.



Create layers of lived-in luxe by mixing vintage pieces with contemporary fixtures for a design narrative that's rich in worldly charm

ETC compiled by Kate Hassett.