

= La Pausa =

La Pausa is a large detached villa in Roquebrune @-@ Cap @-@ Martin , in the Alpes @-@ Maritimes department of France . It was designed and built by the French fashion designer Coco Chanel in the early 1930s , and owned by Chanel until 1953 . La Pausa was sold by Chanel to the Hungarian publisher Emery Reves . The British Prime Minister Winston Churchill spent roughly a third year at La Pausa from 1956 to 1958 with Reves and his wife , Wendy , and wrote and edited part of his History of the English Speaking Peoples there . La Pausa was occupied by Wendy Reves until 2007 . The principal rooms of La Pausa and its significant art collection were recreated at the Dallas Museum of Art during her lifetime and under her direction . The Reves wing was opened in 1985 .

Situated above the village of Roquebrune , the house enjoys views toward Menton and the French border with Italy on one side , and Monaco on the other . Its name refers to the legend that Mary Magdalene " paused " near here on her journey from Jerusalem following the crucifixion of Jesus .

= = Coco Chanel = =

Chanel bought the five acre plot on which La Pausa was built for 1 @. @ 8 million French francs in February 1929 . The plot had formerly been part of the hunting grounds of the ruling family of Monaco , the Grimaldis , and contained wild olive and orange groves . The villa was built less than a year later . The final cost of the villa was 6 million francs , a large sum for the time . It is not clear whether Chanel or her lover , Hugh Grosvenor , 2nd Duke of Westminster financed the building and furnishing of La Pausa . La Pausa was built by architect Robert Streitz , who sought to build ' the ideal Mediterranean villa ' .

The design of the house modelled on the 12th @-@ century convent @-@ orphanage in Aubazine , in the department of Corrèze , which Chanel spent her childhood . A stone staircase leads up from the main entrance hall and a cloister encloses a courtyard . A design of five windows is repeated throughout the house , in tribute to Chanel 's perfume , Chanel No. 5 . Chanel ordered more than 20 @, @ 000 curved handmade tiles to be handmade for the roof , and furnished the house sparsely in shades of white and beige . Each bathroom has a servants entrance . Chanel would take Le Train Bleu from Paris every month to inspect the progress of the building . If Chanel was unable to make the trip , local craftsmen would be sent to Paris to meet her .

The colour scheme of the house was beige , which included a beige piano . Chanel may have been assisted in her design of the interior of La Pausa by Stéphane Boudin , the president of the interior design firm Maison Jansen .

The central villa is 10 @, @ 000 sq ft in size , with two smaller villas built for guests . The main house consists of seven bedrooms , with three living rooms , a dining room , two kitchens and staff quarters . Streitz had previously restored another local villa for Chanel 's friend , Count Jean de Segonzac .

La Pausa contains three wings that face onto a shaded courtyard , with the rooms containing large fireplaces . The rooms were filled by Chanel with 16th @-@ century English oak furniture , given to her by the Duke of Westminster ; English oak was also used for floors and panelling . The large reception rooms were lit by wrought @-@ iron chandeliers from Spain .

The poet Pierre Reverdy stayed at La Pausa for long periods during the 1930s , and the poet Paul Iribé , Chanel 's lover , collapsed and died while playing tennis with Chanel at La Pausa in 1935 . Guests of Chanel 's at La Pausa included Igor Stravinsky , Pablo Picasso , Salvador Dalí and Luchino Visconti .

La Pausa was profiled by American Vogue magazine in 1938 , with the garden described as containing " groves of orange trees , great slopes of lavender , masses of purple iris , and huge clusters of climbing roses . " Twenty olive trees from Antibes were replanted in the garden . The designer Roderick Cameron said that at La Pausa , Chanel was the first to cultivate lavender and other flora previously regarded as " poor plants " .

The architect of La Pausa , Robert Streitz , was a member of the French Resistance during the

German occupation of France in the Second World War . Streitz hid in La Pausa 's cellars from where he transmitted covert messages . Jewish refugees were also able to utilise La Pausa , using its gardens as a staging post in their escape from France to the Italian border . During the German occupation of France , Chanel made several visits to La Pausa with her lover , the German spy Baron von Dincklage .

The design of La Pausa also influenced Chanel 's fashion designs , with her collections evoking the pink and grey palettes of the house and landscape . In 2007 Chanel released a perfume inspired by La Pausa , 28 La Pausa , as part of their " Les Exclusifs " collection . It was created by Chanel 's perfumer Jacques Polge .

= = Emery and Wendy Reves = =

Chanel sold La Pausa in 1953 to the Hungarian émigré publisher Emery Reves . Reves bought La Pausa from the proceeds of the foreign @-@ language rights to the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill 's book on the Second World War . Churchill subsequently became a guest of Reves and Reves 's wife , Wendy Russell Reves , at La Pausa , often staying for weeks at a time . Churchill found the atmosphere with the Reves 's at La Pausa relaxing , with his secretary describing him as seeming " twenty years younger " when at the house , which Churchill nicknamed " Pausaland " . Guests hosted by the Reves with Churchill included Noël Coward , Somerset Maugham and Edward Molyneux . However , Churchill 's wife , Clementine , found La Pausa claustrophobic , and only stayed with Churchill for four of his eleven visits to the house . Churchill would spend a total of 54 weeks at La Pausa over the three and a half years from his first visit in 1956 , spending roughly a third of a year at the house from 1956 to 1958 . While at the house Churchill wrote and edited part of his History of the English Speaking Peoples . Churchill would occupy an entire floor when he stayed at La Pausa , his private secretary Anthony Montague Brown , had his own office and Clementine Churchill , her own suite . Churchill 's visits to La Pausa were curtailed in 1960 after Emery Reves declined to host him , with an apparent snub by Churchill and Wendy 's mental health contributory factors in his decision .

Other notable high society guests hosted by the Reves at La Pausa included the aristocrats Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco , the Duke and Duchess of Windsor , and the actors Greta Garbo , Errol Flynn and Clark Gable .

= = = Art collection , Dallas Museum of Art = = =

Emery and Wendy Reves created an important collection of impressionist and post @-@ impressionist art at La Pausa , with such artists as Paul Cézanne , Claude Monet , Paul Gauguin , Pierre @-@ Auguste Renoir , Vincent van Gogh and Edgar Degas represented in their collection of seventy paintings . In addition to paintings their collection at La Pausa included 300 pieces of Chinese export porcelain , more than 150 silver objects , Medieval ironwork and Arabic and Spanish carpets .

Following Emery Reves 's death in 1981 , the Dallas Museum of Art in the United States approached Wendy Reves knowing that there was a possibility that her art collection at La Pausa might be given to a museum . In exchange for the 1985 donation Reves insisted that the museum recreate six of the principal rooms at La Pausa , and display the collection there as she had arranged it . The collection of 1 @,@ 400 objet d 'art is displayed at the museum as the Wendy and Emery Reves Collection in a reconstruction of five rooms from La Pausa . The villa 's central courtyard and patio were reconstructed at the museum along with the villa 's dining room , library , salon , bedroom , and hall. situated in a purpose built 16 @,@ 500 @-@ square @-@ foot wing designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes .

= = Present status = =

Wendy Reves continued to occupy the house until her death in 2007 . La Pausa was shut after her

death , and remained unaltered several years later . In 2013 the house was described as requiring modernisation , and needing a new heating and electrical system , as well as plumbing , and a modern kitchen and bathrooms . Repairs were also required to the stone steps and road leading to the house .

Following Reves 's death La Pausa was put up for sale , with the sale of items from the house to benefit the Reves Foundation . In 2012 La Pausa was withdrawn from sale by Sotheby 's due to pending litigation . After the legal problems were resolved , Knight Frank put La Pausa up for sale in May 2013 for 40 million euros . In 2013 the French ambassador to Monaco , Hugues Moret , said of the sale that La Pausa was " ... part of France 's heritage , " adding that " We have to find a way to keep it in the family . "

La Pausa has now been acquired by the House of Chanel again , with plans to restore it to its original decor and spirit .

= = Works from the Wendy and Emery Reves Collection = =