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Grand opening: Via Mediterranée

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On the southeast corner of Goldwater Boulevard and First Avenue in Old Town Scottsdale lies a little piece of Europe.

Sometimes mistaken as a residence because of its homey charm, this little orange house is like walking into a secret shop on the backstreets of Provence, hidden away from tourists. From the soothing French music to the abundance of beautifully made pieces of art, this store will make your home *tout à fait unique*.

Behind the orange wall and wrought-iron fence is the vision of owner **Sophie Christian** and her husband, **Patrick**. After visiting a similar store in France, Sophie and Patrick discovered Via Mediterranée, which already had two stores stateside in Orlando and Sarasota, Fla.

Immediately Sophie knew that a location in Arizona was a necessity.

"European style is great for Arizona; it matches the lifestyle here very well," Sophie says. "These pieces go great with Mexican and Southwest styles."

Specializing in European pottery, the store also has a line made specifically for the three Via Mediterranée stores, marked with VM. These pots make a great statement inside or poolside.

From Moroccan fountains to French taffeta curtains, this store has it all. Constantly changing and offering new things from all over Europe and Morocco, the selection offers a piece perfect for any Arizona home. Don't miss the ceramic cicadas; although not well liked here in America, these bugs are the symbol of Provence and remind Europeans of vacation.

And check out the jewelry by Wanda Sikora, a Franco-Polish artist whose art is sold in only two upscale Parisian jewelry stores and at this Scottsdale Via Mediterranée.All the jewelry is handmade and painted with gold leaf.

Details: 7001 E. First Ave., Scottsdale. (480) 990-7263. viamed-az.com (LINK). Hours through the end of August are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Then hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Some products you can find at the store:
• Wanda Sikora necklace, $300.
• Kajine pot, $47.
• Oliver wall art, $135.
• Large pot, $372, with lion pot stands, $12 each.
• Ceramic cicada, $37.
• Blue Art, $64.
• Red ceramic bowl, $89.

N. Scott Trimble/The Arizona Republic