

WHERE
NORMANDY
FRANCE

WHO
PIERRE, ÉMILIE, GEORGES,
MARIN

WHAT
COZY
FARMHOUSE

A cozy farmhouse anchors happy family gatherings

Escaping to the country is what makes Pierre Frey happy. Director of communications for the luxury French textile company Pierre Frey that bears his grandfather's name, Pierre loves recharging his batteries in the Normandy-based farmhouse he purchased two years ago with his scriptwriter and film director wife Émilie. A place to retreat from the city, it provides the perfect way to keep his well-traveled professional life in balance while passing his love of nature onto his sons Georges (5) and Marin (9 months). The couple chose this region, close to Paris, to enjoy as much quality time with their wider family as is possible: "Our house is near my father's, so it makes it easy to take the kids from one place to the other and have the whole crew of cousins over," says Pierre. "The benefits of spending time with friends and family in a different context are amazing: rather than running between two places to have dinner together in Paris, we head to the countryside to unwind, to succumb to the charm of nature and gardening. Whatever the season is, I'm here in the garden with my son Georges all weekend long."

The traditional farmhouse is located in Vallée de l'Eure, a picturesque region of undulating landscapes, sloping rivers, and impressive aqueducts. It's a perfectly lush, bucolic setting for this comfortable home, the charming interior of which infuses elegant yet unassuming classic French style with a contemporary twist as the couple's eclectic selection of second-hand objects and furniture is skillfully mixed with curtains, cushions, and throws encapsulating the Pierre Frey aesthetic DNA: colors and motifs. The house is also filled with heirlooms that once belonged to Pierre's grandma: "My grandmother Geneviève [daughter of renowned designer René Prou] was a textile designer and a keen collector of antiques with an extraordinary eye for artifacts. She would be so happy to see our whole family here surrounded by some of her lamps, bowls, china, or paintings."

Passion for interior decoration is a family affair for the Freys, whose business began in 1935 as a designer and manufacturer of furnishing fabrics, expanding later into wallpapers, rugs, and carpets before launching their own line of furniture in 2002. "A family business indeed—these bonds of blood truly are our best working tools," adds Pierre.

