



La Mairena

By Irma Vitale

This Mediterranean style private villa is located on the southern coast of Spain in Ojén, Malaga, Spain. The architectural style is typical of the Iberian Peninsula. Ojén is nestled between the mountains and the sea; native vegetation includes cork and oak forests.



The garden design fuses the natural habitat with the garden landscape, blending with the natural beauty of the Ojén landscape against a backdrop of the majestic mountains. The plant species are resistant to drought and the salinity from the sea, the garden can be described as low maintenance.



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The garden's focal point is defined by one of the most precious trees of Mediterranean culture: the olive tree (*Olea europaea*) a resilient and highly ornamental tree. The planting scheme is based primarily on the use of perennial species giving an array of colour all year round. The following species predominate in the garden: *Ficus carica*, *Punica granatum*, *Citrus aurantium*, *Citrus Lemmon*, *Pyrus communis*, *Diospyros kaki*, etc.

With the purpose of reducing water consumption, groundcovers and pebbles of different sizes and colours and have been used to provide an alternative to grass. There are varied levels of landscape within the garden designated by building walls of native stones and constructing staircases of "railway sleepers". The entire landscape design is modelled to blend with the natural surroundings.

