A Cottage Collection

After 30 years, these vintage charmers are getting another moment in the spotlight.

Ashley Wilson's introduction to The Lenox Spice Village was all thanks to her blog, *At Home with Ashley*. When one of Ashley's readers came across the cottage-shaped collectibles while thrifting, she thought they would be perfect for the interior designer and color enthusiast. According to Ashley, she was right. "My color scheme is all pastels," Ashley says, adding that the house motif spoke to her—and that she started buying them immediately.

Luckily for Ashley, that was in November of 2019, just before the line of kitchenware, which was originally produced between 1989 and 1993, was rediscovered on social media and launched into a second golden age. "I feel like I was in on it really early, and I built up my collection before it got expensive," she says.

When hunting down the next addition to your collection, blogger Ashley Wilson recommends looking to sites like *ebay.com* and *shopgoodwill.com* and sorting the search results from lowest to highest price. She adds that making an offer to the seller can occasionally help you get a deal. "And sometimes, the best way to get them is finding them in the wild, which is very exciting," she adds.

While Ashley uses all of her pieces for their intended purposes, she also loves to display them in her kitchen, whether by grouping canisters together or pairing coffee mugs with color-blocked dishes. "I just love having them there where I can see them and use them," she says. One of her favorite finds is her recipe box, which came with matching cards that she's happy to admit she does use.

In addition to Ashley's latest fun finds, her blog, *At Home with Ashley*, is home to endless inspiration. "I write about home décor and DIY, using color and showing off your personality with how you decorate," Ashley says. To see more, visit *athomewithashley.com*.

While the entire line features delicate detailing in an array of soft pastels, the star of the show is still the original entry in the line. "I have all 24 of the spice houses," Ashley says. In addition to the name of the spice they hold, each 3-inch cottage also features a rendering of the corresponding flower on the exterior, and the architectural styles range from Colonial to Queen Anne.

After the village was met with enthusiasm in '89, Lenox expanded the collection to include everything from sugar canisters and planters to teapots, trivets, and even clocks. "When they were originally made, all the Lenox pieces came with a certificate of authenticity," Ashley says, "and I think it just made them more exciting to collect."

While the recent rise in popularity has made pieces a little more costly and challenging to find, Ashley hasn't given up on her treasure hunt, and she's currently looking for a condiment set to add to her display. "When Lenox put [the line] out, it was kind of the height of collecting," she says, noting that it's been exciting to see the initial enthusiasm revived more than 30 years later. "I just think it's fun that old things can live again."

TEXT BY BETHANY ADAMS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUTH COZIER AND MICHAEL REYES

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