



Wouter and Maria Eshuis



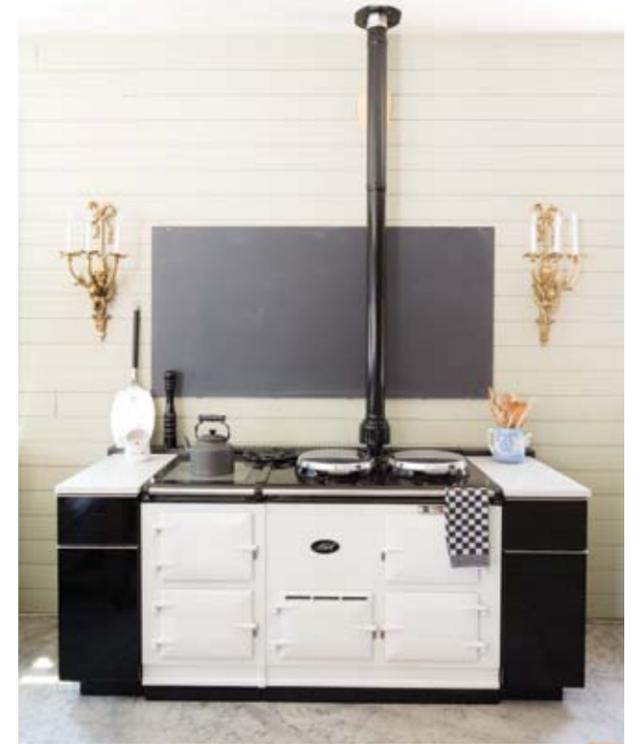
look that is classic yet contemporary. Countertops were created by Classic Granite & Marble Ltd. Maria, Wouter and Vandeborne have produced stand-out units which showcase appliances and inspire visitors. "Clients come here to create a lifestyle with functional and elegant appliances," Maria says. The showroom is a working kitchen as well, where Maria demonstrates how well the cookers perform. Complementary appliances, such as refrigerators by Liebherr, AEG and Faber, are also on display.

**WHAT'S HOT:** Falk Culinair's copper cookware conducts heat beautifully and has a matte finish that means no polishing. Maria says people really like clean profiles, such as the custom built-in cabinet with a third drawer hidden within two larger ones. Stainless finishes are giving way to panelled refrigerator doors. Wouter, Maria and Vandeborne collaborated on a built-in refrigerator that keeps people guessing: just where is that unit hiding? When it comes to AGA colours, black is back, replacing popular choices of cream and red.

**SEASONAL:** Belle Vie is preparing to welcome more clients to the studio now that Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and Maria's cooking demonstrations are booking up.

**FUN FACT:** The Eshuis family hatched baby chicks on top of one of the showroom's AGA cookers, thanks to an even, gentle heat that is consistently released.

**GET THERE:** 21475 Denfield Rd., London. Call for an appointment. 519.666.0998, [www.bellevie.ca](http://www.bellevie.ca) OH



## COOK LIKE A CHEF

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



**THE PLACE:** The Studio at Belle Vie may offer the finest appliances around, but its setting is so extraordinary you'd never believe you were in an appliance store. In fact, owners Wouter and Maria Eshuis have created a luxurious experience for aspiring home chefs. Cabinetry by Paul Vandeborne is also showcased here. Maria, who

specializes in kitchen design, works with Vandeborne to create pieces that integrate seamlessly with Belle Vie's appliances. Idyllic countryside surrounds the studio, yet the place is far from countrified as visitors are welcomed to an elegant, airy showroom. Belle Vie is a platinum AGA dealer, selling the entire line of cast iron, enamel-surface cookers. Wouter and Maria, who have represented AGA since 1998, are trained AGA specialists. Wouter looks after installations. You'll also find French La Cornue Chateau cookers and Belgian Falk Culinair cookware. The Belle Vie showroom has been a three-year project. "It had to be beautiful, yet practical," says Maria.

**THE STYLE:** "We wanted the showroom to look like a European kitchen," Maria explains. The predominant material inside and out is wood, and the floors are polished concrete for a

