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HOME FRONT

By LORI SEARS : SUN STAFF

FRENCH STYLE IN HAMPDEN



ELIZABETH MALBY : SUN STAFF

Marie-Noelle Walsh buys antiques at estate sales in France and sells them in Hampden.

If the flowerpots are sitting outside the new French country antiques shop Bastille, Marie-Noelle Walsh is in.

And if you wander inside the new Hampden shop, you'll find 17th-, 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century armoires, buffets, chests, tables, chairs, mirrors and other accessories, each imported from France. Walsh selects every piece herself at estate sales and repossessions in France and ships them to her store.

"I consider [Bastille] more like a showroom gallery ... with pieces of art. I don't consider it a store," says Walsh, who loves to tell customers about the history of her unique items.

You can find accessories, such as a vine

corkscrew that sells for \$50, up to a Louis XIII-style armoire that sells for \$12,500. The average price for a piece of furniture is around \$2,000.

If you don't find exactly what you're looking for in the shop, Walsh will custom-search, keeping specific measurements and preferred styles or eras in mind.

Although there are no exact store hours — Walsh is often on appointments at customers' homes — the flowerpots out front mean the store is open.

Bastille is located at 3620 Falls Road in Hampden. Call 410-338-0506 or visit www.bastilleantiques.com for more information.