





ELECTRIC RENDEZVOUS

WELCOME TO THE NEW JERSEY HOME OF FUSION GREAT **AL DI MEOLA**, A PLAYER'S PLAYER WHO KNOWS A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT DECORATING, TOO.

■ STORY BY CHRIS GILL ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN PUSHNIK

AL DI MEOLA'S ESTATE may be situated in northern New Jersey, but with its whitewashed stucco walls and red tile roof, it looks like it could be in the vicinity of the Mediterranean. That sense is only strengthened when walking through the front door of the 5,600-square-foot palazzo, the decor of which instantly transports you to Madrid, Morocco, or Messina. All that's missing is the sight of swaying palm trees outside the windows.

New Jersey seems an unlikely setting for a musician whose Latin music-inspired jazz excursions evoke warm exotic locales and sensuous mystery. After all, Di Meola is best known for pioneering fusion in the Seventies with Return to Forever, on stunning solo albums like *Elegant Gypsy* and *Casino*, and on the landmark live recording *Friday Night in San Francisco* with John McLaughlin and Paco de Lucia. But while the guitarist

