

# Casa Cotta by Abalos (2013)

*“Attract native birds to your garden with CASA COTTA Bird houses”*

## **Background –**

Many bird species rely on hollows in trees for shelter and for breeding. These hollows are formed when the centres of tree limbs rot away due to fungal or termite action.

Tree Hollows take many years to form and don't develop hollows for a century or more.

It has been common practice to remove old trees from urban parks for aesthetic and safety reasons, reducing the nesting opportunities of many native birds.

The Casa Cotta birdhouse is designed to provide homes for wildlife in urban areas — and allow other people the pleasure of having birds live and breed in their backyard.

Designed to provide for rehabilitating lost habitat for local wildlife, adding a Casa Cotta bird house in your garden or woodland can provide much-needed breeding and roosting space for cavity-nesting species.

Casa Cotta is the perfect shelter for all manner of garden birds. The design and size can accommodate a wide range of bird species.

The Oval entrance hole is made to a specific size for small to medium native Australian bird species but small enough to deter predators coming in.

These birds include; Small birds such as Finch's, Eastern Robin's, Grey Fantail's, Wagtail's, Sparrow's, Spinebill's, Fairy-Wren's and Pardalote's.

Medium sized birds may include King Parrot's, Crimson Rosella's and Rainbow Lorikeet's.

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## Design Features –

The Casa Cotta is a sleek, modern version on the traditional bird house/bird feeder that is beautiful to look at, whether hanging from a tree in the backyard or just outside a window for easy viewing.

The intent was to create a beautiful, modern, sleek-looking bird house that is functional as well.

It's custom made by artisans through hand thrown clay terracotta in a simple oval-like shape, with an opening and 4 perches on each side.

The shape allows for simple cleaning and an easy way to maintain the bird seed supply.

The Casa Cotta is a clay terracotta earthenware birdhouse. Using organic materials such as terracotta clay adds to the natural feel of the birdhouse.

The design offers them protection from the elements whilst nesting. Allows birds to enter the house for protection against the weather, or there are several places for them to perch if they choose.

The simplicity of this bird house allows for easy installation and cleaning.

The outer surface can be left natural terracotta or can be coated with non-toxic white glaze, and the strong Manila rope is made from natural fibres, making it extremely environmentally friendly.

The inside surface walls are rough and coarse to enable for the young birds to climb out.

To keep the Casa Cotta birdhouse dry, the base cap features a small 5mm drainage hole bored into the wooden floor. The large ceiling in the form design and the oval entrance hole also allows for good ventilation

The Casa Cotta birdhouse is a great way to add colour to your backyard and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. The unique design makes the Casa Cotta a great gift for children and families.

In addition to hanging at home, these birdhouses can be hung in the courtyard, terrace, garden, where desirable because it is practical so that makes it easier to place anywhere.

It is intended for functional use in the garden where birds can collect food placed inside the house.

It features 4 trig perches at its small entrance, which deters predators. These perches hold the base cap together and can be easily removed, which will make it easy to clean.

These feeders are a labour of love and all are individually made.

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## **CASA COTTA Bird House - FEATURES SUMMARY:**

**Eco Friendly** – The Casa Cotta is designed and made from environmentally friendly materials that can be re-used and recycled back into the backyard or garden.

Only natural ingredients are used. No bleaches or chlorine (or glaze if natural finish is chosen), so when the Casa Cotta finally reaches the end of its life, it's disposal does not present a hazard.

Fragments of the Casa Cotta birdhouse can even be used at the bottom of your pots when you re-pot your houseplants to help drainage or for use in garden beds.

The rope used for Casa Cotta bird houses is Manila rope. Made from fibres obtained from the leaves of abacca plants, Manila rope is the strongest of the natural fibres and results in hard wearing, low stretch, resistance to weathering fungal attacks and moisture.

The benefits of our ceramic birdhouse, feeders or bath are: Handmade art, each design is unique, easy cleaning, will last much longer than wood or metal.

Birdhouses are often constructed out of pieces of wood, which are hammered into familiar house shapes. Although this is the most common form of birdhouse construction, wood does not hold up as well as other materials when exposed to outdoor conditions on a regular basis.

Unlike wooden boxes these will not rot and can be left outside year round. Terracotta does not become damaged from constant precipitation or direct sunlight

**Easy to Use** - The Casa Cotta bird house has a 2" diameter oval hole with a wooden bottom that is easily removed for quick clean out.

The wooden bottom cap features a ventilation/drainage hole that keep's the interior dry.

**Beautiful & Durable** - The beautifully handmade terracotta clay and timber base assembly are perfect for the extremes of outdoor weather.

The earthenware finish can come natural or glazed white, both can withstand yearlong temperature extremes. The timber cap is made from species durable for outdoor climates and the Manila rope is the strongest natural fibres available.

**Hand Made** - Like a thumbprint, no two birdhouses are the same. Each Casa Cotta Bird House is hand-thrown, hand-glazed, and fired in Australia by master potters in Sydney making each one unique.

**Predator Proof** - The terracotta organic shaped surface of the Casa Cotta Bird House and its removable wooden perches deter predators from entering during nesting season.

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## **Installation Instructions:**

Different species prefer birdhouses at different heights. Please check which bird species are native to your local area for best use.

The Casa Cotta bird house should be placed at locations inaccessible to natural predators. The opening should face away from the prevailing wind, and if possible, the houses should be situated in the shade with partial sunlight.

Casa Cotta birdhouses should be placed where people, cats, foxes or dogs will not disturb them.

Casa Cotta birdhouses should be sheltered from the prevailing wind and the hot sun.

Make sure that they are firmly positioned and stable

Avoid disturbing the Casa Cotta birdhouse once it is installed. It may take some time for birds to 'accept' it and take up residence.

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## **Care Instructions:**

Wipe clean earthenware and wooden surfaces with a damp cloth.

We recommend cleaning your bird house after each brood has left. Use a 5-10% bleach to water solution, scrub with a firm brush and rinse thoroughly. Allow to dry. If you live in an area that freezes please make sure the interior of the Casa Cotta Bird House remains dry during the critical times of year when it freezes and thaws. Damage to the egg may occur during the freeze/thaw cycles if the interior is wet.

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## **Specifications:**

### **Dimensions:**

180mm Diameter. Entrance hole 25-28mm.

### **Materials:**

Hand thrown Terracotta, 12mm Natural Fibre - Manila Rope, FSC certified timber (Teak).

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