

“

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At Home with  
Patty Loveless

# Away From It All

THE SINGER FINDS CALM (AND PESKY ARMADILLOS) IN RURAL GEORGIA

Patty Loveless isn't usually awake past 1 a.m. But on nights when she keeps sleepless “musician’s hours,” she slips out into the darkness of her 170-acre property near Cartersville, Ga., with a quilt in hand and her German shepherd Shosta by her side. The final destination? The bed of her husband’s pickup truck. “I don’t

even tell him,” says Loveless, 51, of the middle-of-the-night escape. “I’ll just go out there and look up at the heavens. I love that.”

Quiet moments like that are easy to come by for the singer and her husband of nearly 20 years, producer Emory Gordy Jr., 63. In 2001 the pair left Nashville for the remote Georgia



The 7,500-sq.-ft. home has its own recording studio.

BY BETHANY LYE | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KURT MARKUS

HAIR & MAKEUP: PAULINA HALKOVA/STYLIST: CHRISTIAN VICK/ZENOBIA, HOUSES

"When we have friends over, sometimes we have a bluegrass jam in here," says Loveless of the living room.



When the weather is warm, the couple eat in the sun room/breakfast area.

— Get the Look! —



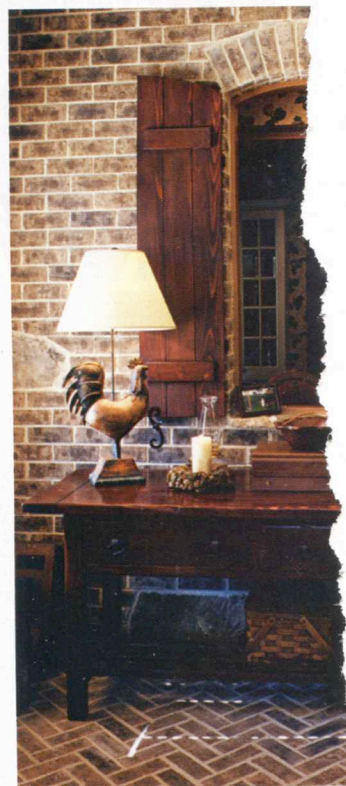
Deruta-style rooster dinner plate, \$12.95 each; [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com)



Rise and shine country rooster lamp, \$56.98; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



Toile accent pillow, \$34.95; [judd-home-decor.com](http://judd-home-decor.com)





The singer paddles with Shosta and Blue, the cat. "Blue is courageous, like me," says Loveless.

countryside to be closer to Gordy's family. The move wasn't easy. "I had to say good-bye to 20 years in Nashville," says Loveless softly. "Good-byes are hard, but life is about changes." Luckily, the Georgia property—with its English-Tudor-style house, guest house, three studio cabins and a pond stocked with catfish and bass—soon felt like home.

After laying low for a few years, the singer jumped back into the spotlight in September with *Sleepless Nights*, a collection of 14 country classics that showcases her rich alto voice. But even with the career revved up again, Loveless's focus is still her country home. Today's challenge? Armadillos, or as the Kentucky-born singer calls them, "rats on a half-shell." "I've had it," she says. "They're tearing up my yard!"

Loveless loves pouring her attention into household chores and her family, which—in addition to Gordy and Shosta—includes another German shepherd, named Bach, and a cat named Blue. "I feed all the animals," she says. "I go out and walk around the yard. Sometimes I'll cut grass." Her to-do list also often includes hiking the surrounding hills with gun in hand ("There's bears around here," she says, "and coyotes") and tending to her garden, which sprouts corn, okra and jalapeño peppers. And though the big house requires a lot of caretaking, Loveless wouldn't change a thing: "After living out of a suitcase for years, it's a feeling of peace to wake up in the night and know where I am."

LAMP: BURTON & BURTON; RIGHT (FROM TOP): COURTESY PATTY LOVELESS (2); TOVA BARUCH

## PATTY'S PLACE

### FAMILY ROOTS

The house (right, under construction in 2001) sits on land that once belonged to Gordy's ancestors. The property's original deed from 1832 hangs in the singer's dining room.



### DOWNTOWN CARTERSVILLE

Loveless gets her hair done in town, and she and Gordy are fans of the new-American fare at D. Morgan's restaurant. "We try to support local businesses," says Gordy.



### BACKYARD RETREAT

When she can, Loveless sits by the pond with Gordy and the dogs, a glass of white wine in hand. "You can see the sun setting over the house," she says. "I work all day so I can have that moment."

DOWNLOAD A SONG  
FROM PATTY'S NEW CD AT  
[PEOPLE.COM/FREE](http://PEOPLE.COM/FREE)

Loveless turned to Atlanta designer Mary Mac to pull together the house's country decor.