

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## For Kingston couple, there's no place like home

By **CHRISTINE SPARTA**  
Staff Writer

**SOUTH BRUNSWICK** — You've probably heard of Armani and Gucci, but if Sue and Greg Evans have anything to say about it, Busatti and Caporali soon will be household names.

The Evanses own Tuscan Hills, a home-furnishings shop in Kingston. The store features goods imported from Italy.

Busatti is a linen company, and Caporali is a wrought iron furniture-maker known throughout Europe, Greg Evans said. Both companies were founded in the 1800s, and their merchandise takes up a great deal of floor space at Tuscan Hills.

The couple started the store in Princeton six years ago, but they moved the operation to Kingston last month — on April Fool's Day.

Sue Evans, studied abroad in the late 1980s and has been traveling to Italy for years. On her many trips, she became acquainted with artisans who make ceramics, furniture and linens.

"When you meet these people, you're in awe of them," she said. The 43-year-old added that in Italy, small, family-run businesses often go back several generations.

On a recent trip, she visited the Busatti family to see their linen operation firsthand. The company — which began during World War I to make uniforms for soldiers — mills and hand-dyes the yard and thread for the linens, a rarity these days, she said. She was especially thrilled to see the Busatti family home, an old palace filled with 18th-century antiques.

The couple bought property in Italy just south of Pisa in 2002 and spent \$500,000 restoring their villa. They travel to Italy several times a year visiting trade shows and factories to see how products are made. When they're not in Europe, they offer their house for rent to tourists.

Having a home in a foreign country has a bonus for the Evans family: an international education for the couple's 6-year-old twin daughters, Ainsley and Olivia.

### TUSCAN HILLS

**ADDRESS:** 4438 Route 27, Kingston

**OWNERS:** Greg and Sue Evans

**HOW LONG IN BUSINESS:** Since 2003 in Princeton; moved to Kingston on April 1

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** One full-time and four part-time

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 609-921-9015

**WEB SITE:** [www.tuscanhills.com](http://www.tuscanhills.com)

This will give them a chance to "be open-minded, see the world and understand a different culture," said Sue Evans.

Both Greg and Sue Evans have business backgrounds. He had a career in banking, and she worked in New York City for a firm trading in international currencies.

"I've always been passionate about design," said Sue Evans. She was downsized from her job in January, but plans to find another position in the field. The affluent clients she's known have also become customers.

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Staff photo by Joe McLaughlin

**Suzanne Evans is co-owner of Tuscan Hills, a furniture store dealing in Italian hand-crafted furniture, linens and home accessories.**