Putting the **CHIC**
Back into the Shabby

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In today's throwaway culture, Shabby Chic stands out from the rest

Shabby Chic's outlet in Birkirkara is anything but your run-of-the-mill furniture store.

At first glance, the shop displays all kinds of nick-nacks within a small space, such as storage chests and dressers, shelves filled with teapots and cups, small items like beautifully ornate doorknobs as well as big hand-painted headboards and panels. However, it is not just a simple shop. Shabby Chic is about refurbishing and painting old furniture by hand to give it new life and reimagining old things to create something new.

People from all over the island either bring their old furniture or buy a piece from the vast selection of vintage items Shabby Chic has to offer, and then the shop's team restores and re-paints these items according to their wishes. Their projects may vary from restoring an antique wardrobe to designing and building an entirely new piece of furniture out of other things.

While most smaller portable pieces can be picked up and restored by the team at the workshop and then delivered back to the client, bigger projects like the renovation of a kitchen have to be done on site by the team, which usually happens within a day of work. Additionally, the shop sells custom-made paint to those who want to get involved in the DIY refurbishment of furniture themselves.

This approach is as far away from the IKEA concept as you can get, as instead of buying cookie-cutter furniture that may only hold up for a few years, this shop is all about craftsmanship, and durability and appreciating tradition. In today's throwaway culture, Shabby Chic stands out from the rest for putting emphasis on the appreciation of what is old instead of constantly replacing cheap instant furniture. Often this kind of work entails a restructuring of the piece, so the team at Shabby Chic is not only made up of artists, but also carpenters and other specialized members, all with the goal of creating something that not only has the vintage charm, but also maintains the original durability.