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Pyrénées-Orientales - 66

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P.O. Life

December/January 2006/07 - N°8

Le magazine anglais des Pyrénées-Orientales

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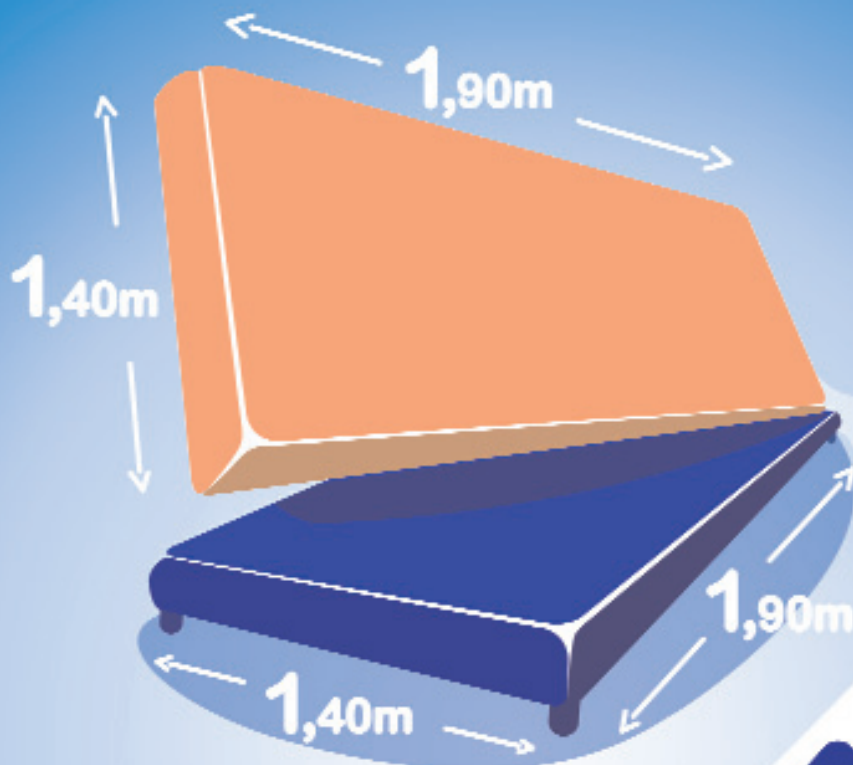
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**Joyeux Noël
et Bonne Année !**

Bon Nadal i Felic any Nou !

Mais non ! I haven't had ear extensions and grown a moustache ! I just thought that it might be a refreshing change to have something other than my ugly mug staring out from the first page of PO Life – so meet my hairy mutt, Bisou !

Et oui, it's that time again ! Dare I say it – Noel ? Whether you're heading for the ski slopes this winter, or curling up in front of a log fire with a good book, why not make your Christmas into a Catalan feast with our Christmas recipe of Escudella i carn d'olla, or follow some of the time-honoured Catalan traditions such as La Cago tio (see Christmas Catalan traditions).

Don't forget to visit our site on www.anglophone-direct.com to find out what's going on over Christmas – markets, foires au gras, entertainment and events – or check out our forum for restaurant reviews, wine recommendations, items for sale or wanted...

Above all, have a fantastic Christmas, and a Happy New Year out here, in the shade of the snow topped Canigou.

Fins aviats

Kate

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Welcome to the Pyrénées-Orientales !

*The regional tourist board would like to wish you a
Sunny, Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy New Year
in our beautiful Catalan region !*



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C.J. Buzière-PNRPC

Walk the region

Une blonde parle à une autre :

- Tu sais quoi ? cette année, Noël tombe un vendredi !

ON THE TRACKS OF THE HIGHWAYMEN...

With Christian Piquemal

Cross the border like the bandits used to do only 160 years ago. Discover vestiges of a medieval fortress and an enchanting hermitage. Enjoy sweeping views over the plains of Roussillon and Empordà as well as the complete coastline on French and Spanish sides. Three options, easy, medium or strenuous, are available to suit any type of walker.



Access : Drive to Maureillas, between Le Boulou and Céret. In the middle of the village, at the crossroads, take the direction " Las Illas " (10 km up the dramatic " Vallées Sauvages ") Cross the hamlet and park near the restaurant " Hostal des Trabucaines ", one of the most famous hideaway for the highwaymen.



The walk up to Salines :

The path starts on the corner of the building (yellow sign). Keep left at the crossroads, reach a wider track and follow it for 50 m to find the old path continuing on the left.

Going out of the forest, you reach the pass called "Col de Li". (notice the border boundary n° 557). 0:30. Turn right

on the Spanish side. At the signpost "Castell de Cabrera", make the short detour to the panoramic viewpoint of the 11th century fortress. (0:55). Back on the track, you soon walk across forests of oaks and pine trees. Don't miss the old footpath starting on the right side. After 15 mn, you go out of the forest not far from the remarkable "Font dels 3 Raigs" (fountain of the 3 water streams) and reach the hermitage of Salines (church & refuge). Total time: 1:45. 2 mn from there, walking ahead, look for an outstanding little chapel hollowed in the rock.

The 3 options to go back :

1. The family walk. Same way down. 1:30 (TOTAL walking time : 3:15)

2. To the Pic des Salines. Take the footpath on the right of the cave to reach the pass "Col du Puits de la Neige". 0 :10. Turn right (yellow signs) on the steep path along the mountain crest towards the peak (altitude 1333 m) 0:45. The path takes direction NE on the other side (still yellow) to finally meet a crossroads ("Col des Cireres") and the GR10 (white-red signs). Follow it down to La Selva (old farmhouse) where it joins to the tarred road. Turn right along it to reach Las Illas. 2:25. (TOTAL walking time : 4:10)

3. The Trabucaines trail. Same as option 2 to Col du Puits de la Neige (or Coll de les Pedrisses). Continue straight forward to meet the white-red signs of the GR10 and follow it downwards. Midway through, find the narrow path going straight up to a cave, "Cova dels Trabucaines" (used by the bandits to hide their loot). Go back on the main path. It leads to Col des Cireres. From there, follow the same instructions as in option 2 to reach the hamlet of Las Illas. 2:50 (TOTAL walking time: 4:45).



For guided walks contact :

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Did you know... ?

Some funny equivalents...

Filer à l'Anglaise.....to take French leave
Une capote anglaise.....a french letter !

Catalan National Anthem.



Els Segadors (the reapers) was declared the national anthem of Catalonia in 1993 by the Catalan Parliament.

It is based upon an anonymous ballad written in the second half of 1640,

and refers to the Revolt of the Reapers in a Catalonia occupied by the troops of Philip IV in which the peasants played a key role. The anthem is a fierce call to defend the freedom of the land, calling upon the peasants to cut down the Spanish oppressors with their scythe !

In contrast, another well known national song is El cant dels ocells (Birds song), spread around by Pau Casals as a message of peace and freedom.

Useful phrases in Catalan for the festive season

Pau i salut ! (paoo ee saloot)

Cheesr (lit : peace and health)

Vols ballar amb mi ? (bolz beuya um mee ?)

Would you like to dance with me ?

Què voldrien beure vostre's ? (keh vuldree-en bayoor, boostess?)

What would you like to drink?

El compte si us plau. (ell conte see ousse plow)

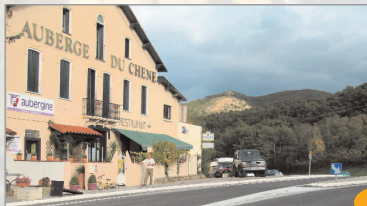
The bill please.

T'estimo. (tesstimmoo)

I love you.

Le Chene des Trabucayres.

The oak tree of the Trabucayres, which used to stand on the crossroads of the turn-off to Maureillas on the N9 coming out of Le Boulou to Le Perthus (very near the

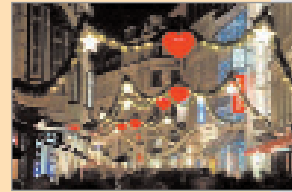


Auberge du Chene) was hollow and could hide up to nine villains. Armed with " trabucs " (muskets), the trabucayres used to hide in the tree and attack passing coaches, taking prisoners and demanding ransoms. Their hide out was up in Las Illas, from where they would take the " pas del cirarer " track to arrive at the " cova dels llops " (cave of wolves) or the la " grotte de Bassagoda ". They were finally arrested at Corsavy and executed in Céret and Perpignan in 1846.

There are some fantastic walks in that area in the tracks of the Trabucayres.

Christmas in Perpignan.

Did you know that the Christmas decorations around Perpignan would cover thousands of metres if put end to end ? This year, there will be 9,679 metres of garlands in the street, 3,335 metres of decorations



on the trees, 514 metres of fairy lights at the Castillet and pont, and another 4,200 metres of lights in the trees with 156 luminous nets on the streets.

The total cost of this fairy tale world is a mere 358,500 euros of which 60,000 is electricity cost ! Cheap at half the price !

Phew !



The weather station at Perpignan airport recorded 28.7° at the end of November 2006 (29.1° in Eus) - the highest recorded temperature since 1926 ! It is apparently all down to the Tramontane which has been blowing at a speed of 30km/hr as opposed to the expected 50km/hr, not fast enough to cool down the atmosphere but just enough to push already warm air masses towards Perpignan.

New Year in Spain.

As the twelve strokes of midnight sound on the 31st December, the Spaniards pop a grape into their mouth for each bong to bring good luck for the 12 months ahead, leading of course to much hilarity, spitting and dribbling - an excellent way to start off a new year in my opinion ! !



CHOOSING YOUR GP

(Le médecin traitant)

- Residents of France over 16, who have not registered with an attending physician, a *médecin traitant*, will now be taxed on their reimbursement and therefore receive less money back than those who have nominated a specific doctor. If you have not yet designated a doctor, you can obtain lists of doctors in your region from your local CPAM (Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie).

- If you are resident, and registered with the health system, you should have automatically received Cerfa form No 12485*01 Déclaration de Choix du médecin traitant.

On this form, you state your choice of doctor. The doctor does not have to be a GP - he may be a specialist if you prefer, but obviously you need to take into account his proximity for visits.



- The form should be taken first to your chosen doctor, who will fill it in with you, and stamp it. He is in fact agreeing to be your *médecin traitant*. The form should then be submitted by you to CPAM (Caisse d'Assurance Maladie) office.

- If you wish to change your *médecin traitant*, you may do so at any time by filling in another form and submitting it to the CPAM. You do not have to consult your *médecin traitant* every time if you do not wish, but you will be reimbursed at a lower rate for visiting another doctor.

- If you are on holiday elsewhere in France, and cannot attend your chosen *médecin traitant*, you may attend any doctor and will be reimbursed at the same rate.

- Once you have chosen your *médecin traitant* he or she will be responsible for your records, results and referrals to specialists. However, there are certain exceptions for referrals. You may make appointments directly with : gynaecologists, dentists, ophthalmologists.

- Holiday makers visiting France will not be affected by these new initiatives.

Deux pneus se rencontrent :

- Alors ça roule ?

- Non je suis un pneu crevé.



Useful phrases for visiting the doctors (for ailments see also last issue " Useful phrases for visiting the chemist ")

• May I have an appointment... ?

Puis-je avoir un rendez-vous ... ? (pweej av-wah an ron-day-voo...)

• ...as soon as possible/today/tomorrow

Dès que possible / aujourd'hui / demain (day kuh posseeb/aw-jord-wee/duman)

• Can you give me a prescription for ... ?

Pouvez-vous me donner une ordonnance pour... ? (poovay voo muh donnay oon ord-an-onse poor... ?)

• Could the doctor come and visit me ?

Le médecin pourrait-il venir me voir ? (luh medsan poorate eel veneer muh vwar ?)

• It hurts.

Ca me fait mal. (sa muh fay mal)

• Where can I find a doctor who speaks English ?

Où puis-je trouver un médecin qui parle anglais ? (oo pweej troo-vay an medsan kee parl onglay ?)


• This is my usual medicine.

Voici mon médicament habituel. (vwasse mon medickamon abit-choo-ell)

• There has been an accident.

Il y a eu un accident (eel ee-ah-oo an ax-idon).

Next month... all about the Carte Vitale.



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TIPS FROM OUR FORUM.....

Could anyone tell me where to go for a reasonably priced meal on 31st Dec ?



As with everywhere New Years Eve here is not exactly the " bargain basement " occasion for eating out. I'd suggest that you do as we have tended to do in the past, and be prepared to shell out albeit over the odds for the

best restaurant within walking distance of where you live. As in the UK, taxis charge a hefty premium on St Sylvestre, and the Gendarmes do a nice line in " alcometer " stoppings too.

Be wary of places that are not charging a mark up on Dec 31st. In one of my cheap skate moments a few years ago we ate on the normal menu at a place in St Cyprien who rushed our food and chucked us out at 23h00, so they could all get to their family booze up. We were left out in the cold (literally).

SAY "NO" TO THE THT

(Très Haute Tension)

This is a project, first proposed in the 1980s, to install a double extra-high voltage line (400,000 volts each way) in the department of the Pyrénées-Orientales, leading into



Spain, in order to supply electricity to South Catalonia. The RTE (Reseau de

Transport Electrique) are proposing to install through the Vallespir Valley two cables of 400,000 volts between Baixas and Bescano, sending a total of 800,000 volts through the region ! According to an article published in the DIARI DE GIRONA of 6th October, the GENERALITAT has announced its intention to start work on the THT line



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this year (2006) with the aim of completing the project for 2009. The action group " Non à la THT " are working to prevent this initiative and you will see their slogan wherever you go in the Pyrenees-Orientales. Contact them on 04.68.54.31.84 E mail: collectif-nonlatht@wanadoo.fr or visit their website www.collectif-nonlatht.com.

SHOP OPENING HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Main supermarkets (Carrefour, Auchan, Intermarché, Champion etc) will be closed on Christmas day and New Year's Day but open as usual at all other times. (early closing - 19h - on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve). Boxing Day is not a bank holiday in France. Smaller shops will be open at the discretion of the owner but closed on Christmas day and New Year's Day.

TNT

(Télévision Numérique Terrestre)

Known as " La Télévision Numérique pour Tous " (*digital television for all)

From Sunday 15th October 200 TNT is available in the Pyrenees-Orientales for those within reception distance of the Pic Neoulous. As a result of a joint venture between public broadcaster France Televisions and a number of cable and satellite operators, there are now a further 11 free viewing channels available on French television. All you need is a " boitier de décodage " (TNT decoder box) which you should now be able to buy from any electrical shop throughout the department for around 40€ - 50€. Also available are double boxes which allow you to watch one channel whilst recording another. Take a look at our web site for details of the new channels available or to check whether you have reception in your area.



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Pouvez-vous nous aider
à distribuer PO Life
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CATALAN CUISINE

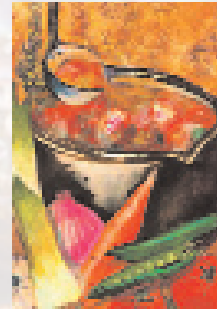
Escudella i carn d'olla

Escudella (meaning bowl in Catalan)

A large stew- soup traditionally made at Christmas, a favourite cold-weather dish to warm the soul ! Normally made from anything available and boiled all day. Here is one of many versions !

Ingredients :

- Water
- Ham bone
- Marrow bone (veal or beef)
- Generous pinch of saffron
- 3 tablespoons Olive oil
- 4 oz Salt pork (soak 1hr in water beforehand to reduce salt)
- 1 smoked sausage (butifarra)
- 4 oz Peeled, chopped onions
- 1/2 chicken cut into bite-sized pieces OR
- 1/2 lb veal cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/2 lb potatoes
- 1 medium Leek
- 5 oz carrots
- 4 oz cabbage
- 4 oz rice
- 3 oz pasta
- 1/2 cup white beans/chickpeas



Make a broth with the water, veal and ham bones, simmering slowly. Add the saffron.

Blanch the salt pork to remove excess salt, and dice. Heat the oil in a large frying pan, add the diced salt pork and chopped onions. When the onions begin to brown, add the pieces of chicken and/or veal and sausage and cook slowly. Cook slowly. Peel potatoes, leek and carrots, chop, and add to sausage, chicken and/or veal. Chop cabbage finely and add. Remove bones from broth and discard. Empty contents of frying pan into broth, adding beans, rice and pasta, and pepper to taste. Continue cooking over medium flame until newly added ingredients are cooked through and serve.

Wine to accompany this recipe : Cuvée Jean Pull du [domaine Les SOULANES](#) (red 6€50). [Domaine SEMPER](#) la cuvée Regain (white 9€)

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

La Réserve, Rivesaltes (John Fairclough)

It is just off the central " Place " in Rivesaltes, on the rue Simon Bonafos that one can find " La Reserve ". It is run by a pleasant Breton couple, Marie-Paul and Olivier, although there is little of Celtic note in the decor. Instead the warm local Catalan red and gold is much in evidence. A welcome glass of " kir " is offered to all customers while choosing which menu to go for. As usual the less expensive " formules " and " plats du jour " (13€ and 9€ respectively) are only available at lunchtimes, but evening diners are well catered for with the 15€ and 21€ menus, in addition to la carte and a choice of salads for the less hungry.

We plumped for the 15€ menu. Starters included salads, fish soup, jambon de pays ,and charcuterie. The Breton influence(unusual for the area) was evident in a number of the " plats ". I particularly enjoyed the " escalope bretonne " which was a tender piece of turkey baked in a cream and cider sauce topped with grilled cheese. Other possibilities were hampe with shallot sauce, and blanquette of veal. Sweets were very tasty, if a little predictable (glaces, crème catalane, ile flottante etc), though, in fairness, a slab of fudge brownie with crème anglaise was perhaps a little more unusual.

I try to judge a restaurant's wine on its " vin en pichet ". Both the white and red were of excellent standard for 5€ per " demi ",(the red was served a little too cold for some of our party's liking), and from what I could see, the wine list consisted exclusively of very local vintages.

La Réserve is open every day throughout the year, except Sunday evening and all day Monday. As ever, at busy times it may be wise to ring beforehand (04 68 64 14 41) to be sure of a table. The owners asked me to point out that they will be closed from 21 Dec to 8 Jan inclusive to enable them to enjoy a well-deserved Christmas and New Year break.



" *Work is the curse of the drinking class* "

Oscar Wilde

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR PO WINE FORUM

(more recommendations and advice on www.forum.anglophone-direct.com)
By Jonathan Hesford, oenologue.

Can anybody recommend a decent regional wine to serve to guests at Christmas ?

For the apero you can't go wrong with a **Muscat de Rivesaltes**, or for the more adventurous, try a **white Banyuls**. Don't get the cheap Muscats in the tacky bottles, they all lack flavour. Most of the Coops make decent Muscat.

For Fizzy, go for a good quality **Limoux**, but make sure you choose the sweetness level. Leclerc has the best range.

For white it can be tricky. There are lots of dry Muscats but not many are that brilliant. **Terrasous** is good. For a more complex white I would recommend **Les Terres Grillees** from **Domaine Piquemal**. There is a superb lightly oaked Chardonnay from Limoux called **Les Chemins du Martin** in Leclerc.

The choice for reds is huge and depends how much you want to spend. There are lots of recommendations on our forum at www.anglophone-direct.com. A good safe bet is **Les Pierres Plates** from **Terrasous** or **Tradition** from **Maury Coop**.

YOUR QUESTIONS

(answered by PO oenologue, Jonathan Hesford)

Why bother to age wine ?

Most wine in the UK (95% I think) is now drunk within 24 hours of purchase. One of the great appeals of New World wines is that they are made to be enjoyed younger. So why do some people lay down wine? Because aged wine is a completely different drink from young wine.

Certain characters only come out through bottle aging. For example, good red wine becomes softer, the tannins finer and more polished. The aromas and flavours become far more subtle and interesting.

With white wine, the acidity comes into balance and complexities develop. Classic examples are white Burgundy and Riesling.

Very old wine needs special treatment. Never decant it. Leave it to stand and pour small portions very gently into the glasses, stopper the bottle between servings. The reason is that the wine will oxidise far more quickly than

young wine and will lose all its lovely characters.
(next month : What wines are worth laying down ?)

To your very good health !

A molecule, called resveratrol, found in red grapes or wine, has been found to counteract the effect of fatty foods and could potentially improve health and increase life-expectancy. As there is more resveratrol in hearty red wines with plenty of tannin, grown in sunny, hot climates, this must mean that our very own Côtes du Roussillon is better for you than Beaujolais or Burgundy !

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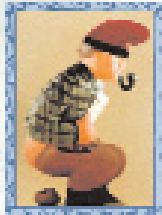
Situated in the Intermarché shopping precinct at the foot of the Canigou in Prades, you will find everything you need for your kitchen, bathroom dressing room.... Or visit our other shop in the centre of Perpignan, open on request only, where you will find a wide choice of kitchen and bathroom materials and accessories from modern to rustic to Provencal... In fact something for every taste !

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Some Catalan Christmas Traditions

EL PESSEBRE

El Pessebre is a representation of the Nativity Story. As in several countries, the Catalans have a Christmas tradition of creating a Crib Scene with the Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus, a tableau that they will often set up in home or gardens. A comical addition to this traditional scene is "El caganer", the statue of a Catalonian peasant with trousers half down, sitting in a "toilet" position and making his small contribution to the land, in order to fertilize and ensure a bumper crop the following year ! !



LA CAGA TIÓ

La caga tió (literally "shit log" ! !), is a hollow log of about 0.3m length, painted with a smiley face. From December 8th, he is given something to "eat" every night and covered with a little blanket so that he will not be cold at night. On Christmas Day, he is beaten with sticks to make him drop the sweets, gifts and "torrons" (type of nougat) placed inside him.

SANTS INNOCENTS

28th December (Day of the Innocents)

Of pagan origin, this was the beginning of many days of festivity, culminating in a Carnival. "Por San Antón Carnestolendas son" and also known as the "Festival of the Crazy" Today, the festival is more for young children - practical jokes and silly stories, much like April Fool's Day in Britain. These pranks are usually innocent and funny, like sticking stickers on people's clothes without them knowing, and the newspapers sometimes take advantage of this day to invent news, so watch out for what you read !

THE "HOME DELS NASSOS"

31st December

The "home dels nassos" (man of noses) is a curious character in Catalan tradition, who appears on the 31st December, day of Saint Sylvester, and has as many noses on his face as days remaining in the year ! One of his relatives is the home de les orelles, the man of ears, who appears on the 30th.

THE DAY OF THE THREE KINGS

5th January

This is a big celebration for children telling of the arrival of the kings who lavish children with toys and sweets.

The children go to bed and leave shoes and a snack near the window or on the balcony. On the morning of the 6th, the children find the gifts, which the kings have left for them, sometimes accompanied by a piece of coal, if they have not been well behaved !



LA GALETTE DES ROIS

- Throughout France -

The French tradition of serving a frangipane filled tart known as the "galette des rois" (or the gâteau des rois in the South of France) on, or around the 6th January, (the first Sunday of each New Year) actually dates back to the 14th century, an ancient festival which celebrates the 3 kings who brought gifts to Jesus, soon after he was born.

Although a normal school and working day, La Fête des Rois is still very much a family tradition. A "fève" (*originally a bean but now tends to be a plastic trinket)



is baked inside the cake and the cake is shared around the table. Whoever receives the fève is then crowned king or queen for the day and has the much coveted opportunity of bossing the rest of the family about ! That

same person can also choose someone to be their king or queen. According to tradition, the cake should be cut into as many slices as there are people present, plus 1 extra. This extra slice is called either, the part du Bon Dieu (God's slice), the part de la Vierge (the Virgin Mary's slice) or the part du pauvre (poor man's slice) and should be offered to the first poor person who stops at the home! (*Tip : Watch out for your teeth if you are the lucky winner of the "fève"; Trust me - I talk from experience !)
Visit our site for a recipe for this cake

Année 1981 :

1. Le prince Charles s'est marié.
2. Liverpool a été champion d'Europe.
3. Le Pape est décédé.

Année 2005 :

1. Le prince Charles s'est marié.
2. Liverpool a été champion d'Europe.
3. Le Pape est décédé.

Si le prince veut se remarier et que Liverpool est en finale du Championnat d'Europe...

... **Merci d'en avertir le Pape.** (avertir - to warn)

Discovering the P.O.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

Before leaving, consult :

...the weather forecast (PO) : tel : 3250

...road conditions (PO) : 04 68 38 12 05

In 2005, the ski resorts of the Pyrenees invested 40 million euros into ski facilities, nine million of which was spent specifically in the Pyrenees Orientales.

The " Neiges Catalanes ", is a network of *nine stations all within easy reach of Perpignan (90 minute drive) and centred on Font-Romeu. One single ski pass will allow you access to all.

After a day on the slopes, why not visit the Roman hot spring-water spa baths at Dorres where you can lay in the hot waters surrounded by snow looking out over the Cerdagne Plateau into Spain ?

Font-Romeu / Pyrénées 2000 (alt : 1800m)

Developed as a ski resort as early as 1921, the linked ski area of Font-Romeu and Pyrenees 2000 boasts 40 ski runs to suit all levels (downhill and cross-country skiing), 52km of pistes, 80km of slopes for cross-country skiers and the biggest snow making machine in the Pyrenees.



Originally nothing but a small cluster of chalets, Font Romeu flourished as a result of the arrival of the Petit Train Jaune in 1908, followed in 1911 by the building of the fashionable and luxurious Grand hotel, frequented by royalty and the rich and famous from all over the world during the 1920s and 30s.

Worth visiting amongst other things, is the Chapelle de l'Ermitage built in the 17th century on the site of a

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fountain (hence the name Font Romeu - the pilgrim's fountain) and Le Grand Hotel itself. Also in this area is the Four Solaire d'Odeillo, the biggest solar furnace in the world, so if you see any strange constructions in the country side, don't worry - the aliens haven't landed yet !

There are also numerous superb marked hiking trails taking in some fantastic countryside to explore. Follow the trail through the forest from Font Romeu to the pretty village of Egat, a thirty minute walk culminating in views to take your breath away.

Les Angles (1600 – 2400m)

Surrounded by forests and lakes, Les Angles offers 32 pistes, totalling over 40km and a snowpark for boarders with half and quarter pipes. If skiing's not your thing, why not

visit the 'parc animalier des Angles, Children will love it. The animals live in very large enclosures and the visit takes about 1h30. You can see wolves, bison, marmots, bear, elk, reindeer, mountain goats and many other animals that you would not normally see in a zoo.



Porté Puymorens (1600-2500m)

Situated in the Cerdagne area of the Pyrénées Orientales, in " la vallée du Carol " Porté Puymorens is just a fifteen minute drive from Pas de la Case, tax free " haven " and purpose built border town between France and Andorra. In the not too distant future, it is planned to link Porté with the vast skiing domaine in Andorra, Granvalira, making it the largest skiing area in the Pyrenees. For the time being, there is ample skiing for beginners and intermediates with a vast snow park 600m long with tables, slide etc and a half pipe 100m long for the snow boarders...

As yet, Porté is very much a " one hoss " village, with limited accommodation and facilities although there is everything you need for a good day's skiing. If you drive up the main road towards Pas de la Case, stop in at the general store on the left and say hello to Cousin Nelly ! She'll be happy to tell you everything you need to know about the region - but go easy on the English - she's not quite fluent yet !



*Cerdagne Puigmal 2900 ; Cambre d'Aze ; Font-Romeu/Pyrénées 2000 ; Formiguères ; La Quillane ; Les Angles ; Porté-Puymorens and Puyvalador.

Test your French

1. Test your idiomatic French.

1. Quand vous êtes en pleine forme, on dit que vous avez :

- a) la pomme
- b) la pêche
- c) la poire

2. Si vous êtes " crevé ", cela signifie que vous êtes :

- a) fatigué
- b) malade
- c) inquiet

3. Quand vous avez " la chair de poule " vous avez :

- a) froid
- b) honte
- c) faim

4. Si je suis " bien dans mes baskets " je suis :

- a) à l'aise
- b) sportif
- c) dépensier

5. Que signifie l'expression " perdre la boule " :

- a) être gros
- b) devenir fou
- c) perdre un jeu

6. Que signifie l'expression " filer à l'anglaise " ?

- a) partir en vacances
- b) courir après les filles
- c) partir sans permission

7. Quand vous avez " la dalle " vous avez :

- a) mal à la tête
- b) faim
- c) peur

8. Si vous faites beaucoup d'efforts sans résultats, on dit que vous pédalez dans :

- a) le cassoulet
- b) la choucroute
- c) le couscous

9. Quand vous faites quelque chose " à fond de train ", vous le faites :

- a) lentement
- b) en retard
- c) vite

10. L'expression " poser un lapin " veut dire :

- a) aller à la chasse
- b) ne pas aller à un rendez-vous
- c) manger un ragoût

2. Trouvez la couleur qui manque (find the missing colour).

- 1 --- à lèvres
- 2 ----de travail

- Lipstick
- Overalls

- 3 travail au ----
- 4 examen ----

- working illegally
- Mock exam

...et le chiffre ? (the number ?)

- 5 Couper la poire en ----
- 6 Grand ----
- 7 --- sur ---

- Fifty-fifty
- Roller coaster
- Twenty-twenty vision

3. Match up the idioms with the English equivalent.

- 1 Vous voulez le beurre et l'argent du beurre
- 2 A vos souhaits !
- 3 J'ai une faim de loup
- 4 de toute façon
- 5 Tomber dans les pommes
- 6 Revenons à nos moutons

A I'm starving !

A To faint

C You want to have your cake and eat it

D Bless you !

E Let's get back to business

F In any case, anyway

Word origins

Cul-de-sac

(dead-end, residential street)

The expression cul-de-sac originated in England during the period when French was spoken by the English aristocracy. Translated from the French, it literally means "arse of the bag".

Boudoir

Literally, "a place to sulk in" from the French "bouder", to pout.

Debonair

French for "of good air". In the Middle Ages, people's health was judged partly by how they smelled. A person who gave off "good air" was presumed healthier and happier.

Anyone for Tennis ?

"Tennis", was first played France, and originally named "tenez" (pronounced tuh-nay) from the French verb "tenir" (conjugated in the "vous" form) meaning "there you go" or "try to get this one". The game lost popularity in France but gained popularity in England and the English continued to use "tenez" each time they hit the ball, spoken of course with an English accent, and therefore sounding more like tennis, which eventually it became.

4. Lisez le texte en Anglais et utilisez les mots en bas pour remplir les blancs.

Hunting

The majority of hunters are sensible, careful and polite, but accidents happen every year nevertheless. If you must go walking during a hunt, wear a brightly coloured hat and a florescent security jacket and do not allow your pets to leave your side.

La chasse

La 1 des chasseurs sont raisonnables, 2, et polis mais les accidents 3 chaque année 4. Si vous etes obligés de vous promener 5 la chasse, portez un 6 de couleur vive, et un 7 de 8 et 9 vos animaux 10 de vous.

gilet	gardez	sécurité	quand
même	près	pendant	prudents
bonnet	plupart	arrivent	

5. Match up the acronyms.

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1. CD | A tax not included |
| 2. Cie | B income support for over 25s |
| 3. HT | C mountain bike |
| 4. RMI | D payment slip |
| 5. VTT | E Co |

....and here they are in full

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Answers to last month's " Test your French "

- 1D 2F 3G 4A 5J 6B 7I 8C 9E 10H
- 1c 2b 3a 4b 5b 6a
- 1G 2F 3E 4H 5A 6C 7D 8I 9J 10B
- 2 grace aux 3 récoltée 4 fondée 5 maintenant 6 spécialement 7 passe 8 atteint 9 conserve 10 pendant 11 dressé
- 1b 2a 3b 4a 5a 6b 7a 8b 9b 10a



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Et améliorez votre anglais !

Repetez dix fois ! red lorry, yellow lorry

1. Complétez les idioms.

- 1 Practice **A in my throat**
2 And pigs..... **B be boys**
3 Boys will..... **C makes perfect**
4 It's raining... **D cats and dogs**
5 I have a frog... **E might fly**

Maintenant, trouvez la bonne définition pour chaque phrase complétée.

- Quand les poules auront des dents !
- C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron.
- J'ai un chat dans la gorge.
- Il faut que jeunesse se passe.
- Il pleut des cordes.

2. How many or how much ?

1. How ___ apples did you buy.
a. much
b. many
2. How ___ does it cost to fly to London ?
a. much
b. many
3. How ___ was your computer ?
a. much
b. many
4. How ___ water did you drink ?
a. much
b. many

3. Look, see or watch ?

1. Be quiet and ___ the film.
a. look
b. see
c. watch
2. I have to go. ___ you later !
a. look
b. see
c. watch
3. Don't ___ at me like that !
a. look
b. see
c. watch
4. The police are ___ for the suspect.
a. looking
b. seeing
c. watching

4. On, In or At ?

1. I have left my keys ___ the door.
a. on
b. in
c. at
- 2 Take the second street ___ your right.
a. on
b. in
c. at
3. What's ___ the telly tonight ?
a. on
b. in
c. at

5. Trouvez la bonne réponse.

1. How often do you go skiing ?
a. On Saturday.
b. For a week.
c. Every year
d. With friends.
2. Where do you usually eat lunch ?
a. Sandwich.
b. With Kate.
c. At 12:00.
d. In a restaurant.
3. What kind of work do you do ?
a. I work every day.
b. I'm a teacher.
c. I work in Perpignan
4. What do you like to drink ?
a. Tea of course! I'm British !
b. Saturday evening.
c. I'll have a pint please.
d. With my friends.

Réponses au mois dernier

" Et améliorez votre anglais "

1. 1b 2d 3a 4c 5b
2. goes - go introduce - introduced that - who followed - follows go - goes on - by as - like much - any peoples - people shadow - shadowed
3. 1I 2H 3G 4E 5B 6G 7A 8C 9D 10F (hot, mean, loud, thick, slow, fast)
4. 1 Where did you go? 2 How long did you stay there?
3. When were you born? 4 How much does it cost?

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