

Pyrénées Orientales
All you need to know... and more!

P.O Life



Walk
**FORESTS
of upper
CONFLENT**



**DISCOVER THE
REGION**

DAY OUT FOR THE DAY OUT

**AMÉLIOREZ VOTRE ANGLAIS
& TEST YOUR FRENCH**

FrenchLife **SETTING UP A
small business**

What's On
**EVENTS AROUND
THE REGION**



A selection of events
from the Palais des Congrès

FREE / GRATUIT

n°19

**October
November**

Builders

A & G Développements	04 68 05 23 44
ag-developpements@hotmail.com	06 71 82 89 63
AluBâtiment Technique	04 68 61 29 66
Doors, windows, roller shutters	
Artetra - Building, renovation	04 68 73 77 41
Hecko - scaffolding	04 68 89 30 42
Hussell Building - Céret	04 68 98 03 24
www.hussellbuilding.co.uk	
Ian Rye - builder - Elne	04 68 39 75 45
ianrye_2000@yahoo.co.uk	
IGC - Camélas	06 20 84 00 24
John Renov Building Services	06 16 07 73 25
Renovation, construction, conversions	
PA Installations	06 06 96 11 86
building and plumbing	
P. H. Insulations - Céret	04 68 22 56 65
plaques de plâtre - Plasterboards	
Phill Ward - Alberes	04 68 89 15 60
kitchens/bathrooms - pwardrenovations@orange.fr	
P.O. Interiors	06 72 42 07 04
carpentry, general building, total renovation	
Roussillon Developpements Ltd	04 68 96 08 01
English-builders-66.com	

Car repair/breakdown

Garage du Tech - Céret	04 68 87 33 51
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Computer help & Maintenance

Philippe Kessler -	06 30 41 07 13
04 68 98 02 33 - philippe.kessler@free.fr	

Education & translation

ALFMED - Perpignan & Céret	04 68 62 20 20
Accredited French training centre www.alfmed.com/uk	
Carole Howarth - Perpignan	06 01 93 55 04
Language training - carole.howarth@neuf.fr	
Carole Cassoly	04 68 96 21 46
help with administration - translation	
Lucie Grimal - Albères, Vallespir	06 80 67 83 29
PromoLangues - Céret	04 68 39 58 21
Schola Mediterranea - Argelès	04 30 44 63 41
Susan Ramond	04 68 96 08 31
French / English language services	

Estate agencies

Banyuls Immobilier - Banyuls	04 68 88 33 79
Cas Immo - www.casimmo.fr	04 68 05 41 55
First Immo	04 68 84 81 81
Ille sur Têt - first-immo2@wanadoo.fr	
La Bagéenne - Bages	04 68 37 26 07
Loreto Immobilier	04 68 82 05 70
Collioure - loreto.immobilier@wanadoo.fr	
Med & Mountain Properties	04 68 56 54 22
throughout P-0 - www.medandmountain.com	
Nimbo Immobilier	04 68 96 40 66
Port Vendres Immobilier	04 68 82 59 39
Port Vendres - www.port-vendres-immobilier.com	

Health and Well Being

Chantal - Clairvoyance	06 73 11 94 84
Life-Coaching - www.ShantalOneSupport.com	
Radiant light yoga	04 68 05 77 45
Kate Marney - robertoandkate02@gmail.com	
Shiatsu - massage	06 63 15 96 25

Home, garden and decoration

ABC Jardins - gardens	04 68 87 25 07
Aubergine - made to measure	06 25 18 18 10
curtains, upholstery - aubergine.deco@aliceadsl.fr	
Design Alu (all joinery)	06 28 14 65 91
Windows, doors, shutters, verandas, kitchens	
Hans Peters	06 09 85 94 39
Gardens Zen spirit and minimalist gardens	
Torredemer - Shutters / blinds	04 68 87 01 96
Vallespir Paysage - gardens	06 12 99 25 52

Insurance

AGF Céret - R. Estebe-Rigall	06 43 80 73 51
Home, car, health, business 4006701@agents.agf.fr	
Générali - Argelès	04 68 81 02 10
Åxa Assurances - Prades	04 68 81 02 10
agence.alabert@axa.fr	

Internet cafe

Café Cyberia Céret	0468 55 35 72
Rue Saint Ferreol, Mon-Sat 9 a.m. - 7 p.m	

Locksmith

SECURICLE	04.68.21.86.26
Locked out ? Call us ! (houses, cars.....)	

Opticians

Vision Plus	04 68 22 05 05
13 rue des Thermes Amélie-les-Bains	

Plumbers/Electricians

Robert Morley	04 68 83 38 54
----------------------	----------------

Pools

TPM - info@tpm66.com	06 75 46 93 65
cleaning, maintenance, accessories	

Property & Project management

Eye solution - Port-Vendres	06 70 70 62 10
TPM - Maureillas	06 75 45 93 65
www.tpm66.com - info@tpm66.com	

Removal

Britannia Sandersteads	020 8669 6688
fortnightly around France - info@sandersteads.co.uk	

Restaurant

L'entre Mer - Ille sur Têt	04 68 84 25 95
Le pied dans le plat - Céret	04 68 87 17 65

Sky TV installation

British TV in France	04 68 69 83 76
06.82.10.55.35 www.british-tv-in-france.co.uk	
CS Services	04 68 82 08 53

Taxi

EUROPA TAXI	06 75 10 75 91
online reservation www.europataxi.fr	

Wines

Château Esparrou	04 68 73 30 93
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Bonjour

My dear friend Jane has escaped from the centre pages and joined me here on page three as my partner in crime! However, despite the fact that she is now here, there and everywhere, her central 'Out for the Day' section continues to sparkle as she takes us from anchovies and crocodiles in Collioure to Lamanère, the most southerly village in France.

This month, amongst the interesting facts, wine and food, language exercises, walks, drives and English speaking advertisers, we are pleased to present P-O Properties, introducing you, in our own inimitable style, to Estate Agents around the region.

Apologies once again to those whose ads we were unable to include this month. It is so difficult maintaining the delicate balance between content and advertising. Do please support our sponsors wherever possible as without them we would not exist!

We do hope your P-O autumn is golden

Kate & Jane

PS As Christmas approaches (argghhh – already!!) if you're not sure what to offer to family and friends who live in or love the P-O, why not give them a year's subscription to P-O Life? (see page 2)

CONTACTEZ-NOUS

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www.anglophone-direct.com

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06 11 25 63 31

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Edito ...

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Meet the agents



Welcome to the Pyrénées-Orientales!

www.cdt-66.com

Comité Départemental du Tourisme des Pyrénées-Orientales
16 avenue des Palmiers - BP 60540 - 66605 Perpignan cedex - France
Tél. +33(0)4 68 51 52 53 • Fax +33(0)4 68 51 52 50 • cdt66@wanadoo.fr



FORESTS Walk with «le Petit Train Jaune» of UPPER CONFLENT

Build your own walking programme between altitudes 1500m and 1100m by combining it with the train timetable* and a day in the forests of the upper Têt valley. Walk the enchanting village of Planès, on the borders of Cerdagne, to the hot springs of Saint Thomas or further down to the village of Fontpédrouse.

Access : Drive the RN 116 to Villefranche or Fontpédrouse (depending on your programme; see options below) and park near the railway station. Take train to Planès.

Walk :

The round walk: 50m from the train station, turn left under railway bridge onto footpath (yellow signpost) and go under the railway line. Continue by suspended Gisclard bridge across beautiful forest. At the crossroads, turn left and leave the forest. From the viewpoint, the path goes abruptly down to Saint Thomas (40mn there and back). At a fork, turn left for village or right for spa. Return same way to crossroads and continue straight up (signpost "Les arbres du Haut Conflent"), crossing forest and lush meadows. At TV pylon, the village of Planès appears. Take track back to station next to Mairie. Total walking time: 3 hours. Yellow signs all the way.

Christian Piquemal is a registered walking guide.

Contact him on 04 68 37 73 02 - mobile: 06 21 66 42 15 - enchemin@mail.com



✓ OPTIONS:

2/ Detour to Mont Louis: Cross the village of Planès following the white-red signs of the GR10 to La Cabanasse. Under railway bridge, leave the station on your left and walk up the

main road to the fortress of Mont Louis. Walking time Planès-Mont Louis: 1 h.

3/ Down to Fontpédrouse: After leaving the baths of Saint Thomas, reach the path on the right (wooden steps - yellow signs). It goes uphill then down to a road near a narrow bridge. Follow the road leading to Fontpédrouse and cross the village. On the left side of the RN 116, a little road goes straight up to the train station. Walking time Planès-Fontpédrouse: 2 h 30.

* Trains leave Villefranche at 9:05 am and 10:05 am. Please check the complete timetable for departure time on your way back, possibly at intermediary stations. Tel: 04 68 96 63 62 or visit <http://www.ter-sncf.com/languedoc>



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Don't look up!

More than 40 years ago, thousands of starlings, (étourneaux) on their way to Africa chose Perpignan as their ideal stop-over holiday destination. Food 'à volonté' of fruit, grapes, olives... mild climate, and well lit town with tree lined streets put our capital of Catalan culture at the very top of the starling 'Must visit' hit list.

Over the years, these feathered tourists have doubled, tripled and quadrupled in number and most nights, around sunset, between mid-October and February, the skies of Perpignan are assailed by tens of thousands of small dark shadows. In a Hitchcockesque tableau, they settle and roost on tree and telephone line, plane tree and rooftop until morning when they swoop down on the fields and pillage seedlings, corn and crop. All sorts of methods have been deployed, unsuccessfully, to get rid of them, including loud speakers imitating their predators, fireworks, bright lights, cutting down of trees, and more recently a fake 'starling town' on the outskirts to tempt them out of the town centre.

Agricultural menace, hygiene and health risk, (did you know that each starling produces one gramme of poo per day, according to ornithologists?), there is also the high risk of arriving in Perpignan a brunette, and returning home a blonde!!



How things have changed!

Famous writer Ernest Hemingway wrote in 'Hemingway Finds France is Neutral' in March 1937

"Yesterday I travelled from Toulouse to the Spanish Mediterranean frontier to check the efficacy of French border control Up a winding road lined with trees through which we could see the cloud-circled, snow-topped mountains of the Pyrénées, ours was the only car. . . . Twenty kilometres from the important frontier passage of Le Perthus we were stopped by two Mobile Guards with fixed bayonets. . . . before arriving at the final barrier at Le Perthus, where we were questioned by the Commissary of Police. . . . On our return we passed only one motor car in forty miles on this road. There is much espionage and counter-espionage on both sides along the border, and people with anything to communicate are very careful about choosing their seats in cafés, which are clearing houses for all information.

An attentive waiter receives a dirty look now instead of a tip, but, no matter on which side of the Spanish war people may be, they all agree on one thing -- that the French border is closed up and airtight."

PERPIGNAN PEOPLE-WATCHING

As you wander around Perpignan, or sip a cool drink on a café trottoir, keep an eye out for Emile Mustacchi, unusual, eccentric, well known and much loved Perpignan character who has lived in the city for the last 10 years and wanders around, chatting to all and sundry.

Artist, painter,



friend of the famous (Marlene Murreau, Alain Prost, Ophélie Winter), sex symbol (according to Emile Mustacchi), actor, Emile was born in Palermo Sicily, and lived in Brussels and Casablanca before settling in Perpignan. If you would

like a very special photo of this 'institution' contact

Grégory Herpe on gregoryherpe@free.fr

LE CHÊNE DES TRABUCAYRES

There's a great story behind the oak tree 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 Chêne). In fact, it was completely hollow and could hide up to nine baddies. Armed with 'trabuc' (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 '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.

STARTING UP A SMALL BUSINESS



If you're hoping to start up a small business in France but have been put off by the horror stories of high taxes and charges, you will be interested to hear of the new scheme of 'auto-entrepreneur' which will come into effect from the 1st January 2009. The 'loi sur la Modernisation de l'Economie' is intended to simplify and speed up the process for individuals (students, employees, retired and unemployed people) wishing to set up small scale, legally registered enterprises in France.

✓ How it works

The 'auto-entrepreneur' will only be expected to pay charges on revenue earned and there will be no VAT involved. Potential income will be limited to 80,000 euros for a commercial activity and 32,000 euros for a service. It will operate on a 'simple declaration' of turnover taxed at 13% of sales for commercial activity and 23% for a service, and most importantly for foreigners, will allow the auto-entrepreneur access to social security and pension contributions. (subject to charges)

✓ The advantages

- In theory anybody can register. If you don't earn any money, you don't pay any charges.
- There is so much skill amongst the retired population of France – now they can try out business ideas with the minimum of financial risk and close down

Weather to travel or not!
 Check out www.asf.fr (French and English) which provides you with detailed weather forecasts for each motorway to help you plan your travel itinerary, as well as hourly and daily traffic forecasts, real-time traffic conditions, facilities available at the motorway service stations and other info useful for travellers.

if unsuccessful without penalty.

- It will give access to social security and pension contributions.
- It can be set up alongside another salaried job
- You can protect your personal wealth (property etc) by completing a declaration with a 'notaire', so that it cannot be seized.
- You can work from home as long as there is no 'nuisance or danger'.
- It will generate more revenue for the government!!!

✓ How to get started

You will need to inform the Centre de Formalités des Entreprises by internet or by letter. There will also be a 'kit' available with specimen form and all necessary information CCI de Perpignan et des Pyrénées-Orientales Quai de-Latre-de-Tassigny - BP 10941 - 66020 Perpignan cedex - Phone number : + 33 4 68 35 66 33 Site : www.perpignan.cci.fr/

Useful vocab

<i>Holiday pay</i>	<i>congés payés</i>
<i>Contributions</i>	<i>Cotisations</i>
<i>Exemption from contributions</i>	<i>Exonération (de cotisations)</i>
<i>Monthly payment of contributions</i>	<i>Mensualisation des cotisations</i>
<i>Statement of contributions</i>	<i>Bordereau récapitulatif des cotisations</i>
<i>Income</i>	<i>Revenus</i>
<i>Rate</i>	<i>Taux</i>
<i>Application form</i>	<i>Formulaire d'adhésion</i>

General conditions of policies available in English

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English speaking staff, contact Marie Reynaud or Jean-Paul Sicre
 Tél : 04 68 81.02.10 - Fax : 04 68 81.35.78



Things you might need to know...

LES CADASTRES

If you are buying a property or already have a house but are considering an extension, it is worth checking with the 'cadastres' (local land registry) which give you details of the area, boundaries, property value etc and are particularly useful for resolving boundary disputes.

www.cadastre.gouv.fr, a website launched by the Direction Générale des Impôts (Tax Department), allows you to search, view and order these maps and there is an English version available. To get started simply enter the address of the property. (Of course, bear in mind that the site is only as good as the communes supplying it with information!)



VESTE DE SÉCURITÉ

Just a reminder that it is now compulsory in France for all vehicles to carry a fluorescent safety jacket (as well as

Bank holidays (Autumn 2008)

The many bank holidays in France are often extended into a long weekend called a "pont" or bridge. For example, if the holiday falls on a Tuesday or a Thursday, many businesses will "faire le pont" and take the Monday or the Friday off as well (major chains are unlikely to do this).

1st November: La Toussaint (All Saints Day) is the festival of the dead. Traditionally, people visit cemeteries and place chrysanthemums on the graves of family members (most shops closed).

11th November: Bank holiday to celebrate the Armistice of WW1 (1918). Flowers are placed on the tomb of the "soldat inconnu" (Unknown Soldier) beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and other war memorials (most shops closed).

25th November: La Sainte Catherine - unmarried ladies of 25 years old or more wear eccentric hats for the day. They are known as "les Catherinettes" (not a public holiday!).

School holidays (Autumn 2008)

Half term - Friday 24th October – Thursday 6th November

Christmas - Friday 19th December – Monday 5th January 2009

a warning triangle), which should comply with current legislation and must be worn by drivers before exiting their stationary vehicle, either on the hard shoulder or on the side of the road.

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

◆ SPECIAL OFFER FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER 2008

FREE if you join the AGF scheme during that time, even if you wish for your private insurance to commence in 2009. Comprehensive covers available which include hospitalisation with single room, dentists' and opticians' charges. If you are in possession of a French 'Carte Vitale', you may wish to top-up reimbursements to 100% for you and your family. (Sec.Sociale pays only 70%) No medical formalities, no waiting period, direct settlement, immediate lifelong guarantee.

Why not phone (details below) for an informal chat, or pop into our office on a Saturday morning ?

2
MONTHS
FREE



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Car Insurance
Health Insurance
Commercial Insurance
Travel Insurance
Life Insurance etc.

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Regine Estebe Rigall (AGF Insurance) can offer you individually tailored insurance cover for all your needs, plus information on Savings Plans and Mortgages.

English advice and consultation, please phone:

Hortense -- 06 43 80 73 51 e-mail:4006701@agents.agf.fr

Offices: 28, place de la Liberte 66400 Ceret

(Open Mon pm, Tues - Fri and Sat.mornings)

and 18 Rue du Marechal-Foch 66000 Perpignan



What's on?

Our pick of events around the region. For a more detailed events calendar, visit us on www.anglophone-direct.com

4th -5th October

Vernet-les-Bains

FÊTE DE L'ARBRE



Visits, lectures, guided tours and various organised entertainment on the tree theme.

Designated a "Centre for green tourism" Vernet-les-Bains is also the first "Village-Arboretum" in France with over 1,500 identified and listed trees in the village.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back Sunday 26th October 2008 (clocks go back one hour during the night of Saturday/Sunday morning)

4th -5th October

Palalda

FÊTE DU ROSAIRE

Palalda celebrates the Fête du Rosaire with a programme of songs, traditional dancing, prayers and concerts. In 1571 Christian troops provided by the Vatican overcame a Turkish armada in the entrance to the Corinth gulf. The Pope at the time, Grégoire XIII, attributed this victory to the daily processions of St Rosaire brotherhoods who promoted the rosary in the streets of Rome. He promptly changed his planned 'Victory Day' to 'St Rosaire day', to be celebrated on the 7th October. The celebration continues to this day, with special masses held in St Rosaire sanctuaries all over the world.

26th October

Le Boulou

MARATHON TRANSPYRÉNÉEN CATALAN

This Marathon will take place over a distance of 42,195 Km and departure will be at 9h from Le Boulou passing through St Jean Pla de Corts, Maureillas, Ruinogues, Le Perthus, L'Ecluse, Mas Anglade, Mas Rossignol and returning to Le Boulou for the finish.

Brazilian dance shows and workshops with Kalimbao and Coco Bahia will provide colour and rhythm throughout the weekend.

Agenda

12th October - Canet

Olive festival

25th - 26th October - Canet

Chocolate festival – yummy, yummy!

25th October - Céret

Autumn fair (bigger-than-usual market)

30th Oct-3rd November - Collioure

Antiques fair at the Château Royal

11th November - Corsavy

La Fête Saint Martin: 'Castagnade' accompanied by vin nouveau, music, dancing and a cosy autumn atmosphere

11th-12th October - Banyuls

Fête des Vendanges: Beach barbecues, bands, dancing, juggling, medieval merriment and excessive tasting of Banyuls!

Les Canadeils

New fish & seafood menu
Catalan specialities

4 rue Général de Gaulle - Banyuls sur Mer

04 68 88 02 59



Fresh fish specialities

"Le patron" does the cooking & speaks English

closed on Wenesdays

19 place de la république

66 130 Ille sur Têt 04 68 84 25 95

It seems that a chemical called citrulline found in watermelon has a similar effect to **Viagra!** Researchers in America have found that eating watermelon helps the blood to circulate more easily as well as being good for your heart and immune system.



24th-26th October

Tressere

FESTA DE LAS *BRUIXES

Fairies foul and foulies fair...witches and wizards from around the region arrive on their broomsticks this weekend when the village and its visitors dress up for a weekend of myth, legend and Catalane culture.

bruixes - (pron: brooshas) catalan for 'witch'

LA FÊTE DE LA PATATE

18th -19th October

Matemale



Potato festival – loads of different potatoes and local produce market plus a great excuse to sit down for a communal lunchtime "trinxat" a cabbage and potato dish from the Cerdanya. Evening 'bal', music and entertainment

Taxi? ring

06-75-10-75-91
english speaking

FESTIVAL JAZZEBRE

An annual event, the Festival JAZZEBRE will present all kinds of jazz, from contemporary, salsa and blues to bossa nova and international, supported by surrounding vineyards who offer jazz and wine-themed itineraries and excursions. and "musical picnics" For details of concerts, times and places, visit www.jazzebre.com

Throughout October

Perpignan

26th October -1st November Thuir

AMATEUR THEATRE FESTIVAL

Discover amateur theatre, participate in workshops, and of course taste local produce every afternoon, in an apéro-théâtre, as you watch a play. The festival opens with « LA SOURCIERE » by Agatha Christie.

...and don't forget to check out your local tourist office for the date and location of the many fairs and festivals around the region in October, celebrating every imaginable animal, vegetable and mineral – wine, figs, eels, trees, olives, olive oil, chestnuts, mushrooms, chocolate, potatoes, horses, birds, apples, books, records...



Selection of events from the Palais des Congrès, Perpignan

For the full programme of events visit www.congresperpignan.com

PARC des EXPOSITIONS

10th -13th October- Salon Rêves d'Intérieurs- Decoration and design ideas, demos and workshops, cookery (presented by the Toques blanches).

18th - 19th October - 8.30 am / 6.00 pm
Exposition Canine Internationale
International dog Show
more info: 04 68 68 26 03

18 and 19th October / 15th and 22nd October / 25th October - 5th November- Magic Park - Bouncy castle theme park- Festive fun in this indoor theme park for children with jungle run, mini slides, ball park, soft mountain.

8th- 9th November - Salon du Mariage
Everything you need for getting married in the P-O!

PALAIS des CONGRÈS

18th-19th October - Salon du Champignon: learn all about mushrooms / Free

4th November - Les Rendez-vous du Caveau de la Huchette Named after the famed Paris Jazz club, «Caveau de la Huchette», this regular jazz 'club' brings together talented jazz musicians. In this concert, we meet quartet Eric Luter & Charles Prevost Washboard group

I spent a lot of my money on wine, birds, and fast cars. The rest I just squandered.

George Best

WINE Recommendations

VIGNERONS DE RASIGUERES

Vin de Pays Muscat Sec

Rasigueres may be better known for its rich rosé but to my mind their lovely muscat sec is a real bargain. The Muscat d'Alexandrie grapes are chosen exclusively from young vines, which add to its fresh fruitiness. Rasigueres land is, of course, predominantly granite, a fact borne out in this VdP.



Route des vins côte de Roussillon village

In this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness it seems appropriate to lead

you towards the fruits of one of the P-O's main harvests. Welcome to the Route des Vins! In particular that of the Côte de Roussillon Villages. Throw in a Roman Aquaduct and you have a pretty good Autumn's Day Out.

A spectacular drive through some of the villages and vineyards of the Côtes de Roussillon Villages starts either in Ille sur Têt, taking the D21 to Belesta then on to Caramany, or in Estagel taking the D17 to Latour de France. Either way the views over rolling vineyards backed by the Corbieres, almost blue in the distance, are stunning. Little villages, all with wine cellars, caves co-operatives and tasting opportunities abound. The chateau of Quéribus stands guard on the skyline and the Barrage of

A straw yellow wine, its classic Muscat perfume is tempered with hints of lemon and grapefruit, so it is bone dry, providing a nice change from some Muscat secs that are often a little sweet for my taste. Ideal with fish, shellfish and some white meats. I've never seen this in supermarkets, but it is available from the Cave or local shops.

3€80 a and 12% ABV

the Agly River makes a jewel of a lake in the centre of the circuit.

The Roman Aquaduct at Ansignan is the perfect spot to stop for a picnic. Set in the vines, it is a hundred metres long with numerous arches and a vaulted passage over the river, still working after more than 200 years. The Romans were good builders. It may not be quite in the Pont du Gard league but well worth a visit nevertheless. If a restaurant is what you are after the Auberge du Cellier 0468290978 at Montner serves top rate dishes made from local produce and has a lengthy and well chosen list of 150 local wines.

Côtes de Roussillon wines are rich and predominantly red. Robust and spicy, reflect the hot, sunny, windswept land from which they spring. In either direction the route is



Le pied dans le plat

Restaurant - grill

Grilled fish

Terrace

English spoken

Tel. 04 68 87 17 65

Place des Neuf Jets - 66400 Cèret

Chez Bruno

receptions fonctions - take away

CATERER

5, av. du Puig del Mas - BANYULS SUR MER

Tél : 04 68 88 43 86

Port : 06 87 57 15 09

contact@chezbrunotraiteur.com



Restaurant reviews

With John Fairclough



CHEZ CLAUDE Banyuls Sur Mer

The dining scene in Banyuls is alive and well, and this is no more clearly in evidence than Chez Claude, at 5 pl Paul Reig, slap bang in the town centre, right by the mairie. Claude is a genial host, having run the place since 1967, and likes to greet his customers personally (worry not – he does not greet them all with a stranglehold – this was reserved for Big John! - Ed) whether they choose to sit in the elegant dining room or in the shade of the plane trees on the wide terrace. It should be noted that the demarcation line between Claude's tables and those of "Le Pressoir" next door is a bit vague, so you should ensure on arrival you are sat at the correct table! Claude himself speaks little English, but the waiters speak it fluently.

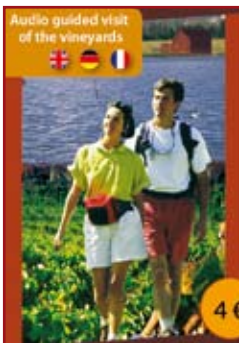
The 19€ menu is the only thing on offer, but this gives you plenty of scope for all 3 courses and includes quarter litre per person of excellent local carafe wine. Starters include, warm goats cheese salad, moules gratinées, Serrano ham, country terrine and anchovies with roasted peppers. To be fair, if you

are not a fish eater, Chez Claude is probably not for you, as the only non-fish main is a Sirloin steak, but the list of water born delights is long, with sole, turbot, flambéed prawns, morue, and whitebait amongst the features, mostly simply fried or grilled and accompanied by fresh veg and tasty aioli. Sweets are fairly standard.

Mention must be made of the aperitif arrangements. If a Banyuls, pastis, whisky, vermouth etc is desired, a full bottle is plonked onto your table and you are invited to help yourself. Claude is exceptionally busy in the summer months when he is open both lunch and dinner 7 days per week, so from 12 October through till Easter he is only open at lunchtimes. He is also closed at Christmas and New Year. To book a table ring 04 68 88 55 20. If you are having a day out in the Banyuls area over the next few months, Chez Claude would be an ideal lunch stop, but bear in mind that he doesn't take cards of any description, so, unless you have a French cheque book, it's good old cash or nothing.

sheer pleasure to drive through. Latour de France with its old fortified centre rising up from a bend in the Agly, by Planezes the dear little chapel of St Pierre, in Rasiguères an interesting pottery. Belesta has its Chateau Museum of Prehistory, a cave and dolmen to visit and the nearby Chateau de Caladroy, ancient border fortress, is a spectacular Domaine whose wines feature on the lists of the best restaurants of the Côte d'Azur. You will be made welcome in as many of the wine cellars as

you have time and tasting capacity for. A non tasting driver is much to be recommended.



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Banyuls sur Mer

Banyuls sur Mer is a delightful seaside town on the Côte Vermeille. The beach, lined by palms, cafés and restaurants, forms the perfect setting for family holidays. Swimming is safe and supervised, pedalos and windsurfers can be hired, sailing and diving are available.

Banyuls is also a brilliant base for rambling and walking. The famous **GR 10** running the length of the Pyrénées starts on the Mediterranean in Banyuls and ends in the Atlantic at Hendaye. It takes about 42 days. If you have less time you could try the coastal path in either direction and discover small coves and peaceful picnic spots all the year round. Or, without even leaving the town, the flower filled alleys of **Cap d'Osme**, are rewarding to explore.

Dozens of bars and restaurants provide a wide choice of cuisines for every taste and pocket.

The vineyards of the naturally sweet Banyuls and the rich red Collioure wines terrace their way down the mountains to the edge of the town. It was in 1860 that the **Abbé Rous**, the new Curé at the **Chapelle de la Rectorie**, first tasted the local wine and found it good. So good in fact that he decided, through his network of Catholic contacts, to make it the communion wine of France. In 1870 the railway reached Banyuls and he could shift as much wine as the locals could produce. Soon Banyuls was being drunk as the perfect accompaniment to foie gras in the best restaurants in the land. The production has grown ever since.

Every October the **Fête de Vendanges** takes place, this year on the 11th and 12th. The tastings, and merriment has to be seen and experienced to be believed. On the Sunday the beach becomes positively medieval, the smoke from endless grillades rising in to the autumn air, musicians, stilt walkers and jugglers mingling with the crowd, food is consumed in great quantities, much wine is drunk and, towards the end of the afternoon, **Catalan Barques** zig zag a ballet in the bay before bring the "harvest" in to the shore.

Banyuls sur Mer is the birthplace of **Aristide Maillol**. His large thighed ladies tumble in the Tuileries in Paris and his "Jeune Fille Allongée" relaxes on the sea-front of Banyuls. His tomb lies beneath his beautiful "La Méditerranée" sculpture in the garden of the little museum in the Roume valley just outside the town. He was very much part of the turn of the century art scene, friends with Matisse, Derrain, Picasso, Dali. A sculpture of Diane Viernay, his last muse and model, stands, aged 17, beneath the huge jacaranda tree behind the town hall.

High above the town the little white chapel of **Notre Dame de la Salette** catches the first rays of the sun as it rises out of the bay. Above it, on the skyline, the **Tour de Madeloc** was once an important part of James the First of Majorca's communications system. It is used now by the local fire brigade. The drive via Madeloc from Banyuls to

Collioure is breathtaking:
twisting hairpin
bends through
the terraced
vineyards,



the whole
of the Côte
Vermeille
spread out
below you.





Crocodiles also



There are **Crocodiles** in Collioure. To discover them you must first find L'**Ermitage de N.D. de Consolation**. This is easy. Exit 14 off the express way from Perpignan to Port Vendres, follow signs to Le Rimbau and the Consolation. Or walk from Collioure taking the Route de Consolation.

It is a beautiful spot. Huge plane trees shade the old stone buildings, limes, chestnuts, and poplars surround the walls and create a haven of cooling green. You are made welcome at the Bar, you can stay in the Hotel, eat in the dining room or bring your own picnic/barbecue. It is the starting point of many footpaths and walks.

The surrounding hills are arid in the extreme but, around Consolation, abundant waters flow. This strange phenomenon did not go unnoticed in ancient times. Long before Christianity came to Iberian Gaul, **Cybele** and other prehistoric deities were, most probably, being worshipped here. Nymphs would have cavorted beneath the tall trees. Indeed, the romantic "**Blue Fountain**," an early 17th century monument with terrace and pillars, puts one in mind of Renaissance Italian gardens populated by nymphs. **Neptune** could have been God of this valley, calming the waves and protecting the sailors setting forth from Collioure until Our Lady the Virgin Mary took over the task.

It is in the little Chapel dedicated to Her that you will find the **crocodiles**. One is suspended from the first arch, a very small one lurks beneath a table in the side chapel on the left. A larger, fiercer one guards the many marble plaques thanking Our Lady for saving sailors and fisher-

men from numerous storms and tempests. It has been claimed that the original beast was captured in the port of Collioure but, in fact, it was brought back from the Senegal at the end of the 19th century and, having been preserved during the voyage, was offered to the Chapel by the grateful navigator.

There are oil paintings of further storms, all ex votos. A particularly dramatic one donated by **Captain Peroneille** in gratitude for the saving of his three-master on 30th November 1888 shows his ship, struggling to survive in tempestuous seas, lashed by relentless wind and rain. Our Lady is depicted in the stormy clouds, radiating her protection and defending the entire crew from drowning and disaster.

There are tales of hermits, of healing, of saints, of treasure, of pilgrimages and festivals. Some of the festivals ended in "**regrettable incidents**". Quarrels between the folk of Port Vendres and the folk of Collioure ended in blows in 1806 and, the next year, eight soldiers were placed on guard to prevent "**Troubles at Consolation**".

Nowadays the games of **Boules** are good-natured, the feasting that takes place beneath the plane trees needs no armed supervision. An association of 84 Collioure families bought the Ermitage from the State after the Revolution and their descendants still manage it.

This now involves so many Collioure residents that the village rightly considers it to be their private property. The grill/picnic place is closed at 8pm each evening to allow the natural peace and meditation of the Ermitage de Consolation to resume in tranquility.



A Drive through Mining History In the Iron Skirts of Canigou from Tech to Tet



Canigou, the sacred mountain, dominating the P.O, has skirts of iron. And they have been mined for about 3000 years. The

Romans were

the first to exploit the rich black rocks. They dug trenches and galleries at **La Batère**, they built a road 40 kms long to give easy access to Perpignan: The iron wheels of their carts transported the iron they mined to make armaments for their vast empire. The Romans left but the industry continued. In the Conflent villages of Fillols, Sahorre, Thorrent, Escaro; in Baillastavy and Valmanya in the valley of the Lentilla, in most of the villages of the Vallespir **the main industry was mining**. There were forges, charcoal burners, metal workers, blacksmiths. Generation after generation thrived and survived on mining right up until the end of the XX century. The vestiges of their industry



remain, and a drive through stunning mountain scenery and mining history is fascinating. In autumn, the colours in the wooded valleys, rich with sweet chestnut trees, beech, fir, and micocouliers are particularly beautiful.

Starting from Arles sur Tech, and heading up the Tech valley, turn right to **Corsavy**. Follow the signs to Batere and, 13 kms later, you can't miss the **ruins of the mines** dominating the landscape. Some open cast, some with entrances to deep tunnels, all abandoned after centuries of exploitation. Sheep shelter now where iron was extracted. The series of pylons that replaced the ox carts taking the iron ore to the forges of Arles sur Tech

are no longer there. The wagons hung empty on their high wires after the closure of the Batere in 1984. The stocks of mineral finally ran out in 1994. Now iron is imported from Brazil, from China, from Australia. There is a café in the old miner's housing and walkers and tourists can sleep in the miner's dormitories.

Continue to the **Tour de Batère**, an ancient lookout tower, whose sweeping 360 degree view is one of the best in the P.O. Circling the tower and bearing left follow the piste A121 leading to **Col Palomère**. At the Col, turn left on the D13 towards the Resistance stronghold of Valmanya. The exhibition "**Fer et Resistance**" reminds us not only of Valmanya's mining past but also of the tragic events of 1944 when the Germans decided to flush out the resistance fighters.

On July 30th their attack was held at bay by **Julien Panchot** and his group of fighters for long enough for the villagers to take refuge in the old mine buildings. Julien Panchot himself and three others were taken, tortured and shot. **Valmanya** was razed to the ground. The tiny village has been rebuilt, it is a peaceful place now, almost hidden in the steep valley of the Lentilla.

Descending, just before Baillastavy, on the right, a bright notice asks you to look out for **Salamanders**. On the left are two of the "**haut fourneaux**" smelting towers which had begun to replace the traditional Catalan forges in the late 1800s.

Eventually, at **Vinca** you will have reached the Tet Valley. At the **Café de France** you can relax, have a welcome beer or coffee, or a meal before returning home by the main N116 to Perpignan.



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HALLOWEEN (31st OCTOBER)

AND **TOUSSAINT** (1st NOVEMBER) IN FRANCE

All Saint's Day (la Toussaint), was originally created by the Catholic Church to honour the poor old saints and martyrs who didn't have their own holy day. It was also believed to be a sneaky attempt to detract attention from the Celtic, Pagan celebration of Samhain, (pronounced sow-in), born in the British Isles and later to become Halloween. This celebrated the end of the bright, warm days of summer and the beginning of the cold dark nights of winter, when spirits were supposed to rise from the dead. However, it was too late! Ghost, ghoulie and evil beastly celebrations had already caught on and Halloween soon became a yearly festival of masks and disguises to scare away the spooks and evil spirits.

Halloween in France however, has only recently become fashionable thanks (?) to films and American sit coms, McDo etc, all of which have given French children a taste for dressing up and 'trick and treating' (originally the poor used to go door to door receiving food in return for prayers for the dead.)

CASTANYADA

Here in Catalonia, All Saints' Day and the evening before are known as the Castanyada, meaning Day of the Chestnut. Traditionally, 'castanyes' (roast chestnuts) are eaten along with 'moniatos' (roast sweet potatoes) and 'panellets' (small almond balls covered in pine nuts). Tots Sants (All Saints') is also known as the Dia dels Difunts (Day of the Dead); when the Catalans eat white, bone-shaped 'ossos de sant' cakes.



Cemeteries will be busy this weekend as people visit to sprinkle the graves with holy water, leave flowers and hold vigils. If you see beautiful pots of chrysanthus for sale everywhere, don't be tempted to buy them for the mother-in-law like I did many years ago! They are for the dead!

Vide-greniers (car boot sales)

Taking place mainly on Sundays, the vide-grenier, the nearest equivalent to the car boot sale, is a chance to get rid of those unwanted bits and pieces. Get there early if you want to get the bargains and avoid the rush! NB If you wish to display/sell at a vide-grenier, you will normally need to register in advance to book your 'emplacement' and show some proof of identity when registering. More information on how to do this from your local town hall.

OCTOBER
Sunday 5th
Saillagouse
Villerach
Prades
Laroque

Sunday 12th
Maureillas
Elne
Saleilles
Tresserre

Sunday 19th
Pollestres
Saturday 26th
Pézilla-la-Rivière

NOVEMBER
Wednesday 12th
Port Vendres

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Hunting



Love it or loathe it, hunting has been going on in the Pyrénées Orientales since prehistory when Tautavel man caught lions on the plains of Roussillon with his bare hands.

Around the middle of August, men with dogs and guns in fluorescent orange gilets hang notices from trees warning the public that La Chasse has begun. The dogs are a hairy lot. Bells around their necks, bassets, griffons and beagles leap from the back of the vans and set off through the undergrowth to flush out the game.

"The dogs are a hairy lot"

By mid September deer and moufflon, pheasant and partridge are also considered "fair game". Luckily migrating birds are no longer on the list of permitted targets. The hunts are strictly controlled, each commune having its own hunt association. Permits are required and can only be used in the commune in which the hunter resides. It is possible to get day cards from neighbouring communes and outsiders possessing international hunting permits can also apply for a day's shooting.

Hunters must take a training course and pass a theoretical and practical exam organised by the National Hunting and Wildlife Agency before they may legally obtain a licence. They must also carry proof of possession of legally required hunting insurance. (Assurance obligatoire de responsabilité civile)



The wild boar (sanglier) hunts that have turned many a peaceful Sunday walk into a nightmare for innocent ramblers are called 'battues', so named to describe the beating of woods and bushes to force the game to flee in the direction of waiting hunters who encircle the area. The battue is potentially dangerous! A male boar can weigh in at 150 kilos and have fearsome tusks. The population of both wild boar and deer has increased considerably in the P-O and with it the damage they

"The male can weigh in at 150 kilos and have fearsome tusks"

cause to crops and pastures. More efficient fencing and intensive harvesting have been tried, but, so far, only hunting seems provide effective damage control. It has been decided to extend the season by a month and a half. Money gained from hunting permits is to be given to the farmers to improve their fencing and limit the rampaging boar activity.



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trente-trois très gros crapauds gris
thirty three big grey toads !

✓ Dans or En (with time) - in

Use **dans** when describing the **point when an action begins**

Je finirai le travail dans quinze minutes. - I'll finish the work in 15 minutes.

(ie I will start the action 15 mins from now)

Use **en** when describing **the length of time an action takes**.

Je finirai le travail en 15 minutes - I'll finish the work in 15 minutes (ie I don't know when I will start but it will take me 15 mins)

Trouvez la bonne définition 1

1. Faire la grasse matinee

- a) to go on a low fat diet
- b) to have a lie in
- c) to watch an early film in the garden

2. un truc

- a) A thingy
- b) A heavy goods vehicle
- c) a truthful statement

3. Un store

- a) a shop
- b) a pantry
- c) an awning

4. Un mec

- a) a mechanic
- b) a make of car
- c) a guy

Who am I?

Je suis petit et souvent représenté avec une main à l'intérieur de ma veste. Empereur originaire de la Corse, je suis reconnu pour mes victoires mais aussi pour ma défaite en Belgique, dont Abba a chanté une chanson !

Qui suis-je ?



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Match up each word with its synonym and its definition 2

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| décoller 1 | a leurre |
| cure 2 | b promener |
| piège 3 | c quitter le sol |
| balader 4 | d traitement médical |
| lieu 5 | e endroit |

go for walk, take off, trap, place, spa treatment

Match up these useful words and sayings 3

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| faites gaffe (sl) 1 | a Please hold. (on telephone) |
| le strict nécessaire 2 | b unless I am mistaken |
| bouquiner 3 | c watch out |
| laissez tomber 4 | d Things will work themselves out. |
| Ca vous va? 5 | e forget it, never mind |
| Ca va s'arranger. 6 | f Is it OK with you? |
| C'est impossible à louper. 7 | g the bare essentials |
| Tu l'as fait exprès? 8 | h Did you do it on purpose? |
| Veuillez patienter 9 | i to read |
| sauf erreur 10 | j You can't miss it. (directions etc) |

✓ Don't confuse....

je suis crevé - I'm tired (knackered !)

J'ai crevé- I've a puncture

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exceptionnellement
mega
fort
vachement
trop
vraiment

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- 2 1a 2b 3a 4b 5a
- 3 1h 2a 3d 4b 5c 6i 7e 8g 9f
- 4 1j 2i 3g 4f 5h 6d 7c 8e 9b 10a

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✓ **Both - 'les deux / tous les deux'**

-Après le verbe 'to be'

We are both going to be there.

-devant le nom

Both restaurants are good (pour insister sur le fait un peu plus)

-avant le verbe

They both speak English

-devant un pronom (doit être suivi de 'of')

I would like both of them

Placez les phrases suivantes dans le bon ordre 2

- wines quite both expensive are
- for both the is you invitation of.
- in enjoy we nap (sieste) the both a afternoon.
- welcome in you both my are home

✓ **Attention! Few/a few**

Le 'a' change tout!

I have a few sweets left. (Quelques uns)

I have few sweets left (très peu)

Complétez les idioms 3

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Every penny 1 | there's a way 2 |
| And pigs 3 | of cake 4 |
| It's a piece 5 | the bend 6 |
| It's raining 7 | twice shy 8 |
| I have a frog 9 | will fly! 10 |
| You are pulling 11 | as can't 12 |
| He is round 13 | my leg . 14 |
| There is no such word 15 | counts 16 |
| Where there's a will 17 | in my throat 18 |
| Once bitten 19 | cats and dogs 20 |

Maintenant, trouvez et la bonne définition pour chaque phrase complétée

Quand les poules auront des dents! - Impossible n'est pas français - Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide. - Un sou est un sou - Vous me faites marcher - J'ai un chat dans la gorge - Vouloir c'est pouvoir - C'est facile - Il pleut des cordes - il est fou !

Placez les phrases suivantes dans le bon ordre 1

- 1 the me Can airport tell the to you way?
- 2 need Do hand you a?
- 3 year I Britain hoping visit next to am
- 4 little I English speak a
- 5 low one of Ryan air cost is airlines the

Remplissez les blancs 4

Halloween is 1 on October 31st, the 2 before All Saints' Day. More than 2,000 years 3, when the Celts lived in Britain, Ireland and parts of France, they celebrated the 4 of their year on October 31st and 5 that it was on this day that 6 came back to earth. Today, people around the 7 celebrate this 8 festival with parties, fancy dress and spooky stories about 9, skeletons, bats and ghosts. Children go "trick or treating" - 10 on doors and collecting sweets. Have a great Halloween!
a ago b believed c old d day e knocking f celebrated g ghosts h end i world j witches



Daft joke!

What has four eyes and a mouth?

The Mississippi.
(Réfléchissez sur celui là!)

✓ **Attention!**

- AT six o'clock
IN the morning (but AT night)
IN summer
AT the weekend

VOCABULAIRE!

Ne dites pas... very
Dites...
Really
Immensely
incredibly
Highly
Extremely
Terribly
awfully

Trouvez les contraires 5

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| forbidden 1 | hard-working 2 |
| high 3 | empty 4 |
| shallow 5 | cheap 6 |
| dry 7 | boring 8 |
| generous 9 | allowed 10 |
| lazy 11 | low 12 |
| expensive 13 | worse 14 |
| better 15 | sweet 16 |
| dangerous 17 | safe 18 |
| full 19 | mean 20 |
| bitter 21 | deep 22 |
| interesting 23 | wet 24 |

RÉPONSES d'AMÉLIOREZ VOTRE ANGLAIS PO Life n° 18

- 1d 2a 3j 4f 5(réponse pas fournie - sorry !) 6e 7h 8c 9i 10b
- 2 1b 2a (walking) 3 c 4 b
- 3 2j 3l 4h 5a 6k 7d 8f 9l 10 11e 12b
- 4 1e 2f 3h 4c 5g 6a 7d 8b

MasterCuzzi: high quality hot tubs at the best price!

Why a hot tub?

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and spot. Close your eyes and dream away to the sound of the waterfall and fountains. The MasterCuzzi Excel exists in 2 versions: for 5 persons with 1 lounge chair and 4 seats or for 7 seated persons.

The surround is made of plain cherry wood with adapted stairs and furniture, giving the hot tub a natural finishing touch, and fitting superbly into any inside or outside setting.



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The MasterCuzzi excel is equipped with the high standard Balboa® technology, known worldwide for its high quality and reliability. The reinforced tub is from the famous brand Aristech®, and treated with a germicidal Microban® coat. The MasterCuzzi Excel comes with an isolating cover and a solid staircase. A two-year warranty is given on both parts and labour.

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ARISTECH SERVICE BALBOA WATER SYSTEMS UL CE

In every village graveyard wrought iron crosses bearing white enamel hearts record the deaths of generations of villagers.



So few are the families in the remoter hamlets most of the names are the same.

The graves are well tended by the living who hoe the graves, and remember. On All Saints Day pots of glowing chrysanths are placed by the crosses in the annual

flurry of ancestor worship.

And every town and village has its war memorial bearing witness to the decimation of the male population in that Great War to end all Wars.

In Ille sur Têt, above the plinth inscribed with the names of the "Sons of Ille" who gave their lives for France is an amazing statue. Marianne flies through bomb filled clouds of war, her hair streaming out behind her, her mouth wide open. She is stark naked. In Rivesaltes under the shadow of a wind-farm, desolate ruined huts and latrines bear witness to man's inhumanity to man. Camp Joffre



"Marianne flies through bomb filled clouds of war."

opened in 1938 and closed in 1970. Its history is horrific. Refugees from the Spanish Civil War, Jews and Gipsies joined other "undesirables". So handy for the railway. Destination:

Auschwitz, via Drancy. Before long it was seriously overcrowded, families separated, often starving. Stark figures remain: 2,551 Jews recorded as deported from Rivesaltes, 400 of them children.

Almost forgotten are the camps on the beach at Argeles, at

"2,551 Jews recorded as deported from Rivesaltes"

Barcares, at St Cyprien. Tourists and holiday makers now trample and play on the sands where refugees from the Spanish Civil war shivered and died.

When the South of France was liberated in 1944, Camp Joffre was a handy place to put German soldiers and prisoners of war and, at the end of the war, collaborators and traitors. And why stop there? In 1962 it once again became a ghetto. This time for the thousands of Algerians who fled their country as

it battled for independence from France.

Now it is empty. The moving panel at the entrance asks the question: How long have these ruined barracks, this barbed wire been here? And for how long will they remain to remind us of the blackest years of the XX Century? The Conseil General has decided to preserve the remains as a memorial, to prick the public conscience, to remind us:

**"NE PAS OUBLIER
Do not forget"**



P-O PROPERTY

From this issue onwards all property advice and advertisements will be bunched together in the P-O Property Pages. Those with no interest in immobilier can skip swiftly on. But for those who are interested, P-O Life will introduce you to the estate agents and, through them, show the variety of houses and apartments for sale all over the Department. Property prices are more stable in France than in the UK, they seem to have levelled out and still represent a very good investment.



In the tiny office of **Port Vendres Immobilier** Zora and her team will make you welcome.

Everyone in Port Vendres knows Zora. Her wild and wonderful wardrobe ensures she is never unnoticed. And she knows of every property on the market in the neighbourhood. Diminutive, dynamic Dominique speaks perfect English, Stephan less fluently, but makes up for it in charm, good looks and capability. The

agency always has a full range of properties to fit all tastes and budgets. They also offer a very useful and thorough "after sales service", arranging loans, following building and alteration projects and recommending architects and artisans.

P V Immo has been an independent Estate Agency for 45 years. Buying and selling houses through them is exciting and fun, their enthusiasm infectious, their advice invaluable.

In Collioure, Madame Loreto and her family will greet you in French, English, Spanish or Catalan. There is a branch of **Loreto Immobilier** in both



Collioure and Port Vendres and they know the area like the back of their hands. They are experienced in managing letting properties, both holiday and long term lets, so are the ideal people to talk to about property for investment as well as buying and selling.

In Ille sur Tet, **Jacques Gandou**

has properties on his extensive books priced from 50,000 to a million euros, from old barns and village houses in need of much work to luxuriously renovated Mas and villas. Indeed he sold us our seriously ruined Mas eight years of hard work ago... He is used to the Anglophone market and has a large selection of properties in village, town and country all around Ille sur Tet.



Banyuls Immobilier:

the name says it all! Patrice Chabron, a keen rugby-man, has been specialising in property in Banyuls sur Mer for the last 22 years. He deliberately keeps

to the town and surrounding countryside and has always an excellent selection of houses, apartments and land to suit most budgets. His colleague, M. Jacquottet speaks fluent English and deals with the letting side of the business. He is also director of the Côte Vermeille Rugby Club.

Ninbo Immobilier with offices in Vinca, Prades and Millas, is a brother and sister firm. Natalie in Vinca and Jean-



Jacques in Prades. They specialise in the Conflent, are equally as good at buying and selling as letting and managing. Efficient and charming, they have a wide range of reasonable properties.

Based in the heart of Perpignan, Mark and Louise Sayers of **Med and Mountain Properties** offer a comprehensive hassle-free homebuying service. If they do not have a property to suit you on their own books, they work with a network of 22 other agencies to make sure you find what you are looking for, staying with you throughout the entire buying process, at no extra charge for the buyer. Their thorough after sales service is invaluable in terms of finding builders, architects etc. They pride themselves on the honesty and professionalism of the service they offer.



In Bages, Stephanie of **La Bageenne Immobilier** has houses and apartments in all the wine villages in a wide circle around Bages itself at prices ranging from 150 – 500 thousand euros. She is happy to manage letting properties for investors and carries the all-important insurance against unpaid rent. Not far from the coast or from Perpignan, Bages ideally centrally situated for property that is both reasonable and convenient.



Loreto Immobilier estate agent

loreto.immobilier@wanadoo.fr

www.fnaim.fr/loretoimm



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area with panoramic
view over the sea.
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bedrooms, games room,
large shady garden....



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good rental potential

COLLIOURE

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