

Spring 2022

P-O Life

Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales

N° 73
FREE / GRATUIT



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**OUT for
THE DAY**
...in the Valley
of Flowers

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and DRINK**
Ideas for
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Edito 😊

Spring is in the air, and although our thoughts and minds must naturally stray constantly to the tragic events around the world, nothing can stop the flowers from bursting into colour or the sun from shining through the cloud. We have beaches, sea, lakes, mountains, cycle paths and marked walks, pretty villages, perfect picnic spots, wine tasting...and peace to enjoy them. How lucky are we?

Between Covid and Brexit, many people have missed out on their slice of life in the P-O this year, so **in this edition we bring you even more days out, walks and bike rides to catch up on your P-O fix.**

Please support our advertisers wherever you can so we can continue to print. Paper prices have doubled and financing the mag is an uphill struggle.

Digital is easier, (Don't forget to pop in regularly to our website) MUCH cheaper, and involves less stress (because we can delete our mistakes) but isn't there just something about the feel of paper in your hands?

Wishing you sunshine and a springtime of laughter and relaxation in this beautiful region.

Stay safe and well mes amis.
Joyeux printemps.

Kate

UN-BRIE-LIEVABLY (CHEESY) JOKE
What did the Cypriot cheese say when it looked at itself in the mirror?
Halloumi!!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR FREE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FULL OF ALL THE STUFF THAT WE COULDN'T CRAM IN HERE? OR DROPPED IN ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGES WHERE YOU CAN CHAT, RECOMMEND, ASK QUESTIONS, BUY AND SELL YOUR BITS AND BOBS....

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We'd love to hear from you!
Tell us a P-O story. What do you love here? What do you hate here? Have you had a good experience? A bad one? A weird one? **Tell us about your favourite restaurant, a fascinating 'Did you Know' about the region, a favourite walk, drive or picnic spot... Maybe you have a French language booboo to pass on or a good French joke...or even better, a really bad one!** If you'd like to share it, we'd love to publish it. **Contact us on info@anglophone-direct.com**

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Index!

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say in the comments.

Impression: **ROTIMPRES** (Girona): 13.000 ex.
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Concepteur et rédacteur: Kate
Maquette & Création: Maite Sant

OUT FOR THE DAY

Walk: Puig de les Daines, Collioure	6
Cin the Valley of Flowers, Eyne	12
Bike: Palau Del Vidre to Villeneuve de la Raho	16
There's nowhere like the Vallespir	36

ART LIFE

Céret Art Gallery: New Beginnings	22
Marca Hispanica	24

FESTIVALS & PROCESSIONS

The Procession de la Sanch, Perpignan	26
Les Reginas, Ille sur Têt	28

FOOD AND DRINK

Perfect Fondue	30
The apéro	32
Restaurant Reviews	38
Fancy a chayote salad?	43
Ideas for Eating Out	44
Springtime Gin and Prosecco Cocktail	49

P-O LIFE

Lest We Forget: Mary Elmes	52
Festivals & Traditions	56
When Urine Barcelona	58
P-O Naturally: What's that bird of prey?	66
Parlez-vous Covid?	84
Things You Might Need to Know	86

BOOKLIFE

Menu from the Midi	54
--------------------	----

AIRPORT NEWS

Spring/summer 2022	62
--------------------	----

LANGUAGE

Incredibly Bad Joke	60
Test your French	76
Améliorez votre Anglais	80

ENGLISH SPEAKING SERVICES

Emergency numbers	90
Directory	91



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PUIG DE les Daines

A circular 2 1/4 hour walk from Collioure with good paths and lovely views. For those who know the area, a lot of variations are possible in order to make a longer/slightly different walk.

333m of ascent. Yellow signs at some points on the route but it is not a way-marked route. Walking boots recommended.

START

🚗 Park in **Collioure** (be there by 8.30am in July/August!) OR after taking the Collioure Centre exit from the D914 and passing under it, turn immediately right into the valley (before first roundabout), descend to below viaduct and turn right to park near the start of the path to La Consolation (end of walk)



Access: map IGN 1:25,000
Banyuls, Col de Perthus,
Cote Vermeille 25490T

> View of coast from Puig de les Daines

THE WALK

🚶 Walk back into town if you have used the second option for car parking.

🚶 **Start from the main road (D114) in Collioure opposite the Tour D'Avall** and small car park at the Port Vendres end of town. Drop down into **Rue de la Coma Xeric**.



> junction with la consolation

START OF WALK

🚶 Follow the street round to right then keep left onto **Rue du Correc** d'en Baus and **look for Carrer de St Elme on left**.

Turn left uphill, past several properties to emerge on broad track where a footpath to **Fort Dugommier/ Fort St Elme** is soon signed on left.

Follow the narrow path upwards through trees. Path becomes broader and **delightful views of Collioure** open up. Continue ascent to emerge on road at ridge. Turn left if you would like to visit Fort St Elme. Otherwise, turn right on ridge.



FORT ST ELME

Originally a military fort built in the 16th century by Charles V, St Elme was strategically positioned for defence, with clear views of the sea, the Spanish coast, the Château Royal and the natural harbour of Port Vendres. The location of many a border skirmish, badly damaged at the end of the 18th century by more than 11,000 Spanish cannonballs, it was sold at auction in 1913, and later occupied by the Kriegs marine, the German navy, between 1942 and 1944, a lookout for allied landing.

Now an important Renaissance Arsenal museum with armaments collection, nooks and crannies to explore, and organised fun for the kids, hire it for wedding and events, an amazing venue with spectacular views from the tower, and beautiful gardens.

Open from February to November

PUIG DE
les Daines

Turn right on ridge and follow footpath to right of road emerging at **Fort Dugommier**, (or walk along road), pass the Fort, continue to **Col d'en Raixat**. Note the stripped cork oaks en route.

On bend at Col ignore waymarked piste to left, walk a few yards and look for a narrow path on left just after 2 steel posts to left of right hand bend. If you miss it, turn left at wide track also just round bend, onto a flat square area of shale. At far left corner of this square a stony footpath rises to **Puig de les Daines**.



> View to Fort Dugommier on ascent



> start Puig Ascent

This is a great place to take a break, maybe take out your picnic, and **enjoy 360 degree views of coast and mountains**.



> View to Fort St Elme

More fabulous views - FORT DUGOMMIER

Built to protect Collioure and Port Vendres from invasion by sea, and particularly from the British, General Dugommier was head of the Army of the Eastern Pyrenees, constantly battling with the Spanish to retake the Roussillon. He led decisive battle wins for the Tech, the Alberes, Le Boulou and Coustouges amongst others. He died in battle. Originally buried at Fort Bellegarde in Le Perhus, he was dug up and placed in a tomb in the Place de la Republique, then moved again to a pyramid in the Saint Martin cemetery where he lies to this day. The fort is being renovated by passionate volunteers to become an art and science research centre. There are benches in front of the church which provide a pleasant refreshment stop.

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PRICE: 318 000 €



BANYULS-SUR-MER: Beautiful 3 bed apartment with large terrace south facing, private parking and pool. Located in a quiet area close the beach.

PRICE: 180 000 €



BANYULS SUR MER: Very pleasant village house with 70sq.m set on 3 levels. Located 2 steps away from beach. 2 bedrooms and separated studio.

PRICE: 139 000 €



CERBÈRE: South facing building land with 1895sq.m, possibility to build a villa with 385sq.m ! fantastic view over mountains !

PRICE: 289 000 €



VILLELONGUE-DELS -MONTS: 3 bedroom, 84sqm semi detached villa. The private garden has two terraces, a fantastic pool area with a 6 x 2.5 meters swimming pool, a south facing view onto the Alberes mountains and a shed.

PRICE: 368 000 €



VILLELONGUE- DELS- MONTS: 5 bedroom, 122 sqm detached villa on two levels located in a very quite area. It has a 619 sqm fenced land with swimming pool and its self-contained apartment and garage.

PRICE: 640 000 €



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PUIG DE les Daines

Path continues over the top and down to **Col de Mollo**, a crossroad of tracks and roads.



Turn right. A narrow tarmac road descends to right.

OPTION 1 is to follow this downhill.

OPTION 2 is to take the lower piste on right from Col, passing beneath ruins of Mas de la Colona. After Mas, turn left off this onto grass/earth track into vines then cut through vines to lower edge of vineyard and follow right to emerge on road – this cuts out a zig zag on the road.

Follow road downhill until a concrete track is seen on left going down into valley and more vineyards. **Take the track downhill and follow it through vines to emerge at foot of 'La Consolation'** (footpath to Ermitage) on narrow tarmac road.



NOTRE DAME DE CONSOLATION

A quiet haven of perfection and reflection, if a little tired in areas, huge plane trees shade old stone buildings, limes, chestnuts, and poplars create a haven of cooling green. In the chapel at its centre, crocodiles guard marble plaques and icons from centuries of fishermen and sailors, given in thanks to our Lady of Notre Dame, patron saint of fishermen, for safe return from storms and tempests. Drinks and simple food can be bought in season and you can stay the night or even get married there!



Turn right and walk **under the viaduct back into Collioure**. If you have put plenty of time on your parking ticket, take time to wander round this pretty town, and reward yourself with a drink or lunch amidst sounds, sights, and scents of this jewel in the P-O crown.



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FOR DIVERS...L'ASTRÉE, COLLIOURE - BANYULS

The Astrée was a **British ship, built in 1921** but captured by the Germans in 1942. On May 1st 1944, on its way back from Egypt, the Astrée was torpedooed by the British submarine 'Untering'. The wreck now lies in two parts on the seabed between Collioure and Banyuls.

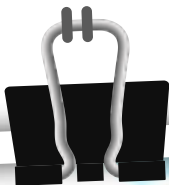


> View to Madeloc

OUT ^{for} THE DAY

IN THE VALLEY of flowers

Need a tonic? How about fresh mountain air, kaleidoscopes of wild flowers, serene mouflon and shy isards grazing, bubbling water features, bumblebees, butterflies and beetles, maybe even a little late snow?



You need a **day out in the Nature Reserve of the Valley of Eyne**, its nickname of **Valley of Flowers** well deserved and popular with botanists for its floral diversity.

Put a reminder in your diary to **visit this charming valley from June to August** when it is at its most enchanting.

Wander amidst alpine flowers in the springy grass: **bright yellow adonis, lupins, rhododendrons, martagon lilies, roses, crocuses.....**



Skip through meadows of daffodils, forget-me-nots, blueberries, dazzling blue gentians, buttercups, pale primrose alpine anemones, wild narcissi, golden kingcups, delight in the bright and fragile beauty of more than sixty species of butterflies.

Here you will also find the **largest concentration of bumblebees** in the world with at least **33 species out of 42 known** in the whole of France!

Many of the flowers are rare and unique, appearing on the national list of protected species, such as Botrichium simplex, a very small and rare wetland fern, the beautiful Felwort, or the butterwort, carnivorous plant trapping insects thanks to its sticky leaves. The Nature reserve is a protected area. **Keep dogs on leads, no fires of course and PLEASE DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS.**



> Delphinium_montanum_montage@Fanny Boissier

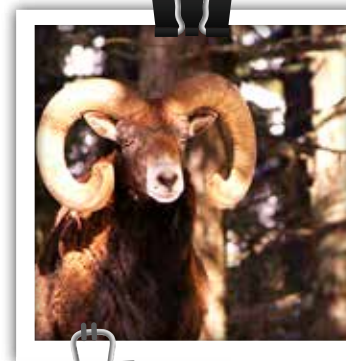
To get there, **take the N116 to Mont Louis and follow signs to Saillagouse turning off to Eyne.** Drive straight through the village till you come to a well marked parking place with a small hut and map of walks.

MAISON DE LA VALLÉE D'EYNE

Start your visit by popping into the **Maison de la Vallée d'Eyne**, where you will find maps, local produce, and all the information you need on guided walks, local plants (edible, poisonous, medicinal....) local birds and wildlife..... From June to September, you can also visit the fabulous botanical garden, representing the floral diversity of the valley.



Set off up the valley, past tumbling mountain streams, the scents of spring flowers drawing you further up. Tread softly through a pine forest, emerging on a wider path amidst ancient rock landslides with trickling tributaries as the river runs close to the path. Keep your eyes peeled for **Mouflons, Isards, the Bearded and Griffin Vulture** looking for updrafts, the **Snow Vole**, the **Water Shrew**, or a **marmot sentinel** guarding its warren. It's also a corridor route for migrating birds so don't forget your binoculars.



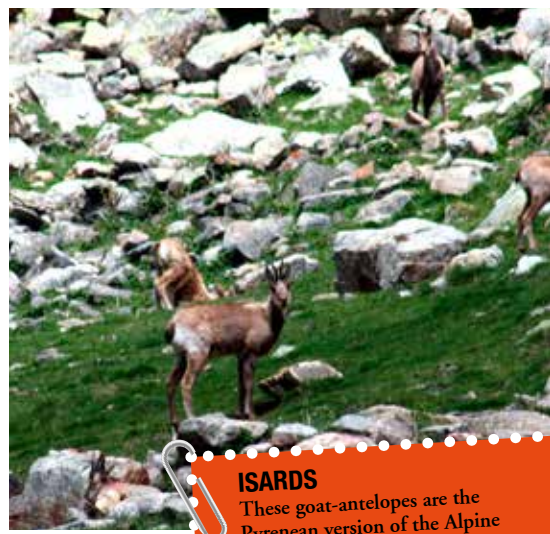
Look out too for **Rock ptarmigans**, medium sized games birds which move silently about thanks to their snowshoe-shaped feet and their grey stone camouflage in summer, turning snow-white in winter.





MOUFLONS

These wild sheep with enormous curled horns were ancient forerunners of our domestic sheep, reintroduced into the P-O in the 50's and 60's from Corsica after disappearing from the Pyrenees thousands of years ago.



ISARDS

These goat-antelopes are the Pyrenean version of the Alpine chamois, with short pointed horns and striped faces.

When you reach the waterfall, with the Spanish border ahead in the distance, and views of Font Romeu behind, the going gets steeper. Probably time to turn back although this linear meander can be as long or as short as you choose to make it.

Certainly **allow a couple of hours each way**. It's not difficult, it's beautiful, it's invigorating and the picnicking possibilities along the way are unlimited.

EYNE

Traditional Catalan village with pretty church, and lively ski resort in winter connecting to St Pierre de Forcats and the Cambre d'Aze. Take an interesting 2 hour walk along the 'sentier archéologique' to find menhirs, dolmens and other archaeological wonders.



More info...

Email: maisondelavallee@eyne.fr
or contact the aptly named Lily on lily.dunyach@espaces-naturels.fr
Tel: 04 68 04 97 05
www.valleedeyne.wordpress.com

LOOK OUT FOR THE MIGOU OF MONTALBA

According to legend, the Migou, a sort of Catalan yeti, is to be found (only if you go looking for him) around Montalba, near Amélie-les-Bains, living in a hidden cave in the depths of the Roc St Sauveur. Is he friend or is he foe? Nobody really knows but if you hear a roar and a rumble, and feel hot breath on the back of your neck, it may be time to test out your running skills!



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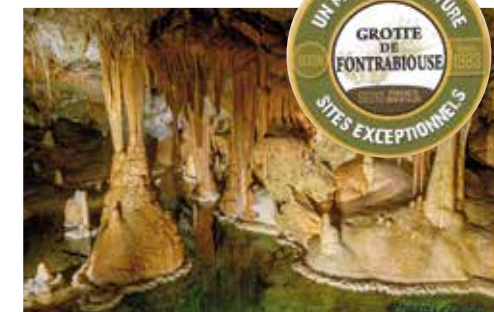
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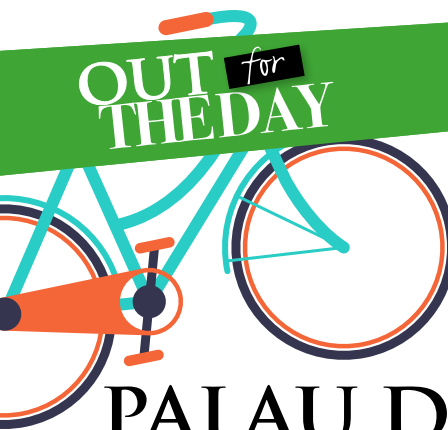


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OUT *for*
THE DAY



CYCLE the region

With Leigh and Merry Foster

PALAU DEL VIDRE To VILLENEUVE DE LA RAHO

CIRCUIT

Total length 25km.
Difficulty – medium.
Mostly easy but some slightly
bumpy bits.

The "circuit" part of this ride actually goes from Ortaffa to the lake, but if you start in Palau del Vidre you can go via one of our favourite spots in the whole region, the river crossing at Ortaffa. More about that later though!

Park and **start your ride at the Post Office in Palau del Vidre**. Set off on the **Chemin d'Ortaffa** heading north west. After about 100 metres you come to a T junction, **follow the sign left to Ortaffa** and head out of the village. Look out for the bizarre garden on the right where there are **life-size concrete animals!**



Keep going and soon you're in the fields and farms surrounding Palau. **Equestrian centres abound, and farms producing olive oil, honey, fruit and veg.**



About 2.3 km from the start you come to the river crossing. This is worth a stop to take in the peaceful riverside and lovely country views, families and dogs paddling, fish swimming, frogs, birds and insects singing depending on the season.

Sometimes horses are ridden alongside the river, which looks great fun to the scenery is amazing. The crossing was damaged by winter floods a couple of years ago, but has been completely rebuilt at a cost of over €1 million, and now even has a separate cycle lane.



Follow the road **towards Bages** up the hill, keeping right near the top and continuing until you cross the railway leaving the village. **Now you are out in the countryside again**, climbing a gentle incline until you come to a bigger road, the **D8 from Brouilla to Villeneuve**. Turn right towards Perpignan, but don't worry you won't be on the main road for long.

After about 400 metres turn left on the D49 towards Bages. You're out in the vineyards, and can also see a **huge solar power installation built in 2014**, supplying clean power for up to 10,000 homes.



After your brief stop, continue in to Ortaffa past the rugby pitch. In the centre of the village you come to the main road, turn left towards Bages.

Just along the road on your left is the quirky Ortaffa clock tower **with its ornate wrought-iron bell frame on top**.



Continue on the road into **Bages passing the sports hall Louis Noguères on the right**. In the centre of the village, cross the main road and take the **Rue Camille Desmoulins** towards Villeneuve directly opposite.

Follow this road about 200 metres until you come to a **crossroads, where you turn right onto Rue Joseph Lakanal**. This is signposted to Villeneuve, but easy to miss. Continue on this road out of the village for **about 1km where you cross a small river**. Just after this take the fork to the right up a gentle incline through the vineyards.



CYCLE the region

As you come to the crest of the hill **you suddenly see Villeneuve de la Raho** ahead and the lake laid out spectacularly below you. Not much further on there is a car park on the left which you can cycle through, on to the dirt track that encircles the lake.



On the other hand, in summer there are cafés and restaurants on the northern shore of the lake, so you can stop for a drink or even lunch if they're open. Out of season, everything is closed but there are chairs and tables all round the lake so take a picnic.

If you choose to cycle around the lake this adds about 6km to your ride, so bear that in mind before you decide.



Even if you don't go all the way round, it's worth visiting the nature reserve on the south west corner of the lake to see the birds, and sometimes even the turtles that live there. Another option is to climb the hill in the centre of Villeneuve where the **"you-can't-miss-it" water tower is on the rue du Chateau d'eau.**



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There is a small public space there with a couple of benches where you can sit in the shade and appreciate the **magnificent view of Canigou** with the lake below.

After exploring Villeneuve you start your return journey by making your way to the main D8 road which runs all along the eastern side of the village.

Head south about 3km on this road until you reach a roundabout with a large InterMarché on the right. Turn left here and **continue into Montescot.** After about 700 metres you cross a bridge and turn right onto the **Chemin de St Martin.** This is a bit bumpy but lovely varied countryside, open fields and wooded lanes, as you cycle towards the Alberes hills in the distance.

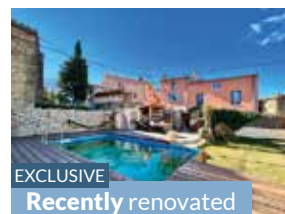
After about 2km you cross the railway, and after a short downhill stretch you **reach the D40 from Elne to Ortaffa.** Turn right here and continue along the pretty tree-lined road for about 2km into the centre of the village, where you **turn left on the Rue des Ecoles.** There isn't a signpost to Palau, but if you look carefully on the left there is a sign to the Parking and the école primaire, and at the bottom it says "Passage à gué".

Retrace your track past the rugby pitch and take the right fork towards the river crossing. After that, simply follow the road back to Palau del Vidre, remembering to turn right where the sign says 'Toutes Directions' to bring you back to your start point.



When in Palau, **why not celebrate your ride with lunch or dinner at the fabulous Ancienne Ecole,** pick up some lovely **wine from Château Villeclare,** or just **have a coffee on the terrace at Café de France?**

Bon vélo!



EXCLUSIVE
Recently renovated

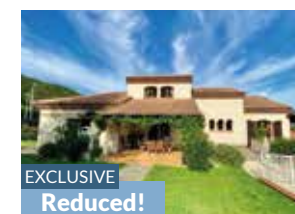
Vinça €325,000
Ref: A11177 - 6 Bedroom renovated village house with independent apartment.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: A CLIMATE CLASS: B



Céret €249,000
Ref: 117020 - 2 Bedroom luxury apartment with communal pool, garden and sauna.

Agency fees paid by seller.
DPE: Not required.



EXCLUSIVE
Reduced!

Vernet-les-Bains €495,000
Ref: A08789 - 6 Bedroom villa with garden, pool, garage and breathtaking mountain views.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



Le Boulou €510,000
Ref: A04549 - 4 Bedroom house with pool, on a large plot with stunning views.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: D CLIMATE CLASS: E



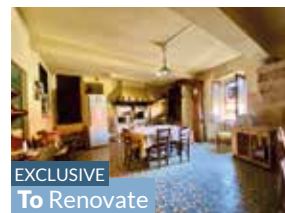
Arboussols €435,000
Ref: A11518 - Superb, single storey, 4 bedroom villa with garden, pool and outbuildings.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: B CLIMATE CLASS: A



Saint-André €367,800
Ref: A11644 - 4 Bedroom family villa with apartment, pool, garden and garage.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



EXCLUSIVE
To Renovate

Bouleternère €49,000
Ref: A07802 - Fantastic stone house renovation project!

Agency fees paid by seller.
DPE: Not required.



Joch €425,000
Ref: A09309 - 4 Bedroom villa with garage, apartment, garden and mountain views.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: C



EXCLUSIVE
Sea & Ski

Prades €398,000
Ref: A07005 - Superb 4 bedroom house with large garden, garage and pool.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: F CLIMATE CLASS: G



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CÉRET MUSÉE D'ART

MODERNE: *New Beginnings*

BY MIRANDA SMITH

Before its temporary closure, more than two years ago, the Musée welcomed more than 62,000 visitors per year, so with the addition of Covid, Céret, suffered twin blows to its commerce and cultural life.

Described as the birthplace of Cubism, the art gallery first opened in 1950 as the result of an initiative by **painters Peter Brown and Frank Burty Haviland**, with the active encouragement of **Picasso** himself, who donated a number of his works.

For a small town, with an amazing artistic heritage, this Museum punches well above its



© photo Manolo Mylonas/Musée de Céret.



I particularly liked the abstract paintings by **Auguste Herbin**. They appear to be infused with light in an almost magical way, and are a huge contrast to the more muted palette of some of his contemporaries.



EACH FACE IS A PLACE' (CHAQUE VISAGE C'EST UN LIEU)

by **JAUME PLENSA**.

Until 6th June at Céret Musée d'Art.

An exhibition which explores the theme of the face, with a set of twelve sculptures and around twenty large-format original and recent drawings. **The title is taken from texts and poems written by Jaume Plensa**, published in the book that accompanies the exhibition.

www.musee-ceret.com

DOMAINE DE FALGOS

RESORT - GOLF - SPA

It's time to meet again...
DOMAIN REOPENING ON APRIL 1ST
- SEASON 2022 -

LUNCH & SPA

7 DAYS ON 7

Lunch + unlimited access to the SPA (heated swimming pool, sauna, hammam, jacuzzis and fitness centre - Treatments are extra)

LUNCH & SPA DAY
45€/PERSON



RICARDO BOFILL

and Marca Hispanica



We've all passed it on the way from Spain into France or vice versa and wondered what it is!

Built in 1976 from stones and rubble excavated from the building of the motorway, the pyramid overlooking the A9 at the old French/Spanish border point is a purely decorative sculpture created by Catalan architect Ricardo Bofill, a symbol of the junction of the two Catalonias, north and south, French and Spanish.

Commissioned by 'Autoroutes du Sud', the architect's brief was to restore dignity to the area after tearing it up for the motorway. It was also significant for Bofill, an anti-Franco activist in his youth, that he built the pyramid just a year after Franco's death, symbol of new freedom between France and Spain.

Known as Marca Hispanica, the pyramid is somewhat Aztec in style, despite its design in red brick to represent the coat of arms and the Catalan flag.

Bofill died at the beginning of this year, 2022, from Covid related complications, but his architectural legacy of public and private structures lives on in the Le Perthus Pyramid, Terminal 1 of Barcelona airport, and many other well known buildings throughout Catalonia.



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With its strong Catholic roots, it is not surprising that many ancient religious parades have survived over the years in Catalonia..

LA SANCH



The Procession de la Sanch opens the **“Semaine Sainte”** (Easter Holy week) on 15th April in Perpignan.

THE ORIGINS

The brotherhood of **“La Sanch”** (the blood) was founded in **1416** by **Vincent Ferrier** at the church of St-Jacques of Perpignan, its mission to assist and accompany the condemned to their execution.

Ferrier is said to have undergone a life changing experience in 1398 when he nearly died of the fever. Miraculously cured **when Jesus appeared to him in an apparition, he became a preacher, attracting followers from all walks of life who he led around Europe**, preaching penance and helping sinners to prepare for judgement and punishment.



THE PROCESSION

Only the sound of the tambourine, and the occasional peal of the bell breaks the eerie atmosphere, along with the Goigs, traditional Easter songs, which accompany the march.

Impressive, mysterious, just a little frightening, sinister black hooded and robed figures walk slowly through the silent streets of Perpignan.

At their head, robed in red, walks ‘le regidor’, intermittently ringing an iron bell to warn of their approach as he leads the penitents to the gallows.



Some walk bare-foot, others are on their knees as **they move slowly forward to the solemn beat of black veiled tambourines.**

They carry ‘misteris’, full-size representations of the different scenes of the Passion, and crosses, crucifixes and religious statues weighing up to fifty kilos. Under these weights, their suffering is not feigned.

Over the years the Sanch has become a great crowd puller and a fabulous photo opportunity but for the ‘penitents’ carrying crosses, crucifixes and religious statues weighing up to thirty to fifty kilos, this re-enactment of Christ’s Passion is real enough.

THE SANCH LIVES ON IN PERPIGNAN

Over the centuries **the Sanch** has been forbidden several times but it **has always been resurrected.**

Check out your local tourist office for other sanch processions around the region

LES REGINAS

Ille sur Têt

17th April

As Perpignan parades death in the Festival of the Sanch, a dawn drum roll in Ille sur Têt announces life. An annual event, this age old Illois custom celebrates the Resurrection and the beginnings of spring.

At exactly 8 am, accompanied by a sombre drumbeat, the 'statue du Ressuscité' (Resurrection) and the 'statue de la Vierge' (virgin) arrive from opposite ends of the place de la mairie, upon the shoulders of 'porteurs'.

They salute each other three times. This is the 'acato'.



The Regina is a chorus starting with three voices, moving onto trumpet, tenors, solo, separate sections of the band, and building up to the whole choir and band.



Suddenly, the first Régina, the Régina de Coll, blasts out, a 130 strong choir, accompanied by 40 musicians.

Follow the procession to the Jardins de la Rodona, where the second Régina, the Régina de Colomer is performed.

Coll and Colomer were two talented composers who wrote these 'Réginas', religious music for Easter.

Believers and non-believers alike find this unique ceremony moving and memorable.

Absolutely NON-SEPARATING PERFECT *fondue*

WITH SUZANNE DUNAWAY



Not everyone is a fondue lover, but if, like me, you have odd bits of leftover cheese lying around because you had to buy a decent piece from the cheese seller and there are only two of you, you probably end up with little pieces that are a little past their prime and need a home. This is where a lovely fondue is the answer.

I have used **gouda, Tomme Catalan, Gruyere, Pyrenees, White Cheddar** and more in my **oddball fondues**, but all have been delicious and appreciated by the dippers. The only **exception** is **strong blue cheese like Roquefort or Bleu de Bresse**, which can take over a fondue's subtle flavors.

HERE'S THE TRICK. A WELL-KNOWN CHEF ONCE TOLD ME THAT HE USES PROCESSED CHEESE, YOU KNOW THOSE LITTLE TRIANGLES OF "KID" CHEESE LIKE LAUGHING COW (VACHE QUI RIT) OR GRUYERE BECAUSE IT MELTS SO SMOOTHLY WITH THE OTHER CHEESES AND THE FONDUE NEVER SEPARATES. IT WORKS. YOU NEED ONLY A COUPLE OF THESE TO KEEP YOUR FONDUE FROM TAKING A BAD TURN.

MELT DOWN THE ODDS AND ENDS OF YOUR FAVORITE CHEESES, SLICE A CRUSTY BAGUETTE, POUR A GLASS OF A NICE RED PYRENEES VINO AND PLUNGE YOUR FORK IN A WINTER AND SPRING FAVORITE.



Ingredients

- > 1 generous tablespoon butter
- > 1 pound gruyere, gouda, Emmenthal, Appenzeller, or any bits of whatever you have lying around (**NOT mozzarella**)
- > 2 or 3 vache qui rit or processed gruyere cheese (kid cheeses I call them)
- > 2 cloves of garlic one cut in half & the other minced finely.
- > 1/2 can beer
- > 1/2 cup dry white wine
- > 3 tablespoons kirsch
- > Pinch of salt

Method

In a heavy casserole or fondue dish you have rubbed with the cut garlic, melt the butter over very low heat, add all the bits of cheese, and as they slowly melt, stir in the beer and wine with a whisk, making sure the heat stays steady and very low so as not to toughen your fondue. When you have a creamy mixture, add the kirch and salt and serve. I like to have a pepper grinder on hand, too, which livens it up!

AFTER YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN HER OWN KITCHEN, COOKING SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE CLASSES ALL OVER THE WORLD, TALENTED ARTIST, COLUMNIST, AND COOKBOOK AUTHOR SUZANNE DUNAWAY SHARES HER P-O-INSPIRED CREATIONS.





The apéro

LA PRIÈRE DU SOIR DES FRANÇAIS

The 'heure de l'apéro' is often a social occasion, a time for friends, families and neighbours to get together. before returning to their own homes for their meal.

It's rarely just an hour, particularly if the company is good, but it does give you the option of feeding your guests a few crisps and a nut or two, and throwing them out with clear conscience.

Covid has sent many people onto WhatsApp, Zoom, FaceTime and Skype for online aperos but it doesn't really compare with the real thing.

ORIGINS

In the mid 19th century, chemist **Joseph Dubonnet** entered a competition run by the French authorities to find a way of **persuading French soldiers in North Africa to drink bitter quinine**, to protect themselves against malaria. He created a **wine-based drink containing herbs, spices and peels, along with the medicinal quinine**. It may be an excuse you have heard before but **this original aperitif was genuinely 'purely for medicinal purposes'**. It was not really until the 20th century that the social drinking of alcohol before a meal became fashionable.



In 1926, The Larousse Guide to Homemaking suggested drinking "a bowl of bouillon with the fat skimmed off half hour before a meal to stimulate salivation and the secretion of stomach enzymes and increase the production of pepsin in the gastric juice." Fortunately it didn't catch on!

SOME TYPICAL APEROS

LOCAL....

BYRRH (pronounced beer—can be confusing!) A **local red-wine-based quinine drink created in 1866 by Simon Violet in Thuir** and promoted as "tonic, stimulant and hygienic". In fact, the **Caves Byrrh, now part of the Pernod-Ricard group**, is apparently the **largest producer of wine-based aperitifs in France.**



MUSCAT DE RIVESALTES

This fortified wine (**vin doux naturel**) from the Roussillon **goes particularly well with foie gras, white meats, and fish**, and should be drunk at a temperature of **8° to 10°** for the best flavour. One of the oldest grape families in the world, **Muscat grapes are believed to have originated in the Middle East.**

BANYULS

In 1870, **Abbé François Rous, new Curé at the Chapelle de la Rectorie**, and clever businessman, set up a network of Catholic contacts, to make **naturally sweet Banyuls wine the communion wine throughout France**, marketing it as 'œuvre du vin de messe'. The venture was so successful that, **in 1879**, it was banned! A victim of his own success, our clever curé was proving to be too much competition for the local vigneron!



....AND NOT SO LOCAL

PASTIS

One of **France's national treasures**, a result of soaking anise, liquorice root and other aromatics in alcohol, **pastis became popular in the 1920'S** after absinthe was made illegal. (Pernod was the original absinthe maker). It is produced under many labels, each having its own secret recipe and variation.



KIR AND KIR ROYALE

A mix of **white wine and crème de cassis (Kir)**, or **champagne/fizzy wine and cassis (Kir Royal)**, this drink is actually named after **Canon Felix Kir**, priest and hero of the **French resistance during World War II** and mayor of Dijon from 1945-1968.



SUZE

Distilled from the roots of the gentian plant, and immortalised in a **Pablo Picasso collage entitled "Glass and bottle of Suze"**, it is believed that Suze was **created by Fernand Moureaux in 1885** and named after his sister-in-law, **Suzanne**, who was known to be partial to a drop or two of the hard stuff!



Jonathan Hesford of Domaine Treloar in Trouillas takes a look at which wine to take when invited 'à l'apéro'.

A tricky one, particularly if you don't know what will be served when you get there! In fact, some people find it so difficult that they opt for a bunch of flowers instead.

However, I'd like to persuade you to consider other options, especially local ones.

Fizz is fine and works in any season, but in France there is an unwritten rule that if it's not Champagne you are being cheap. Of course, if you know your hosts well, you could take a good local Limoux but never take cheap bubbles unless you don't care about being invited back.

In summer, take a chilled bottle of rosé, white or sparkling wine. The current fashion for rosé is the pale Cotes-de-Provence style, but there is nothing wrong with taking a nice Roussillon or Languedoc rosé, even if it is more deeply coloured.

White wine is risky because there are so many styles which may clash with the food if it's an apéro dinatoire. If you do know what's going to be served, you can take something more interesting to match the food, so don't be afraid to ask.

In cooler months you could take a bottle of red wine but stick to something relatively simple, **fruity and easy-drinking.**

Sweet fortified apéro wines are the speciality of this region but are less fashionable with the younger generation. However, they are a good match with foie gras and sweet snacks. **Look for Banyuls, Maury or Rivesaltes in white, ambré and red.** All should be served chilled.



For canapés, savoury hors-d'oeuvres and seafood, a good dry white wine would be the best choice. Chardonnay from Burgundy, Alsace Riesling and Chenin Blanc from the Loire are classic choices but **the Roussillon also produces some great dry white wines.** Hardly any of them are to be found in the supermarkets so a visit to one of the cavistes (wine merchants) will be required.

If you are going to be eating **charcuterie then red wine is an option.** Stick to something relatively light and fruity and avoid anything too heavy or oaky. Unlike Burgundy and Beaujolais, the **Roussillon** isn't known for light reds, but there are some innovative producers making reds suitable for aperitifs and again, a trip to your local caviste for advice will make that choice simpler.

If it's a special occasion or your hosts are known for their taste in food and wine, you should make a bit more effort. **Although an apéro probably isn't the occasion to dust off that vintage bottle of Condrieu or Puligny-Montrachet,** we are lucky to live in a region which produces some excellent wines at very reasonable prices compared to other parts of France.

At the risk of repeating myself, if you don't already have something suitable in your own cellar, visit a local caviste and ask for advice. **As a rule of thumb I would say that a budget of 10-20€ should get you something that will be appreciated.**

My last piece of advice is not to feel intimidated. Your knowledge of wine is probably not the reason that you have been invited. Most French people will assume that, being a foreigner (especially an Anglo-Saxon one), you won't have a clue about wine!



Yorkshireman Jonathan Hesford and his Kiwi wife **Rachel** bought an old cave in the village of **Trouillas** and built their home around it. It is from here that they run their small, quality vineyard and winery. **Visit Domaine Treloar vineyards,** followed by a tour of the winery with its **100-year old large oak 'foudres'** and a tutored tasting of their wines.

Want to know more?

04 68 95 02 29
www.domainetreloar.com

OUT *for*
THE DAY

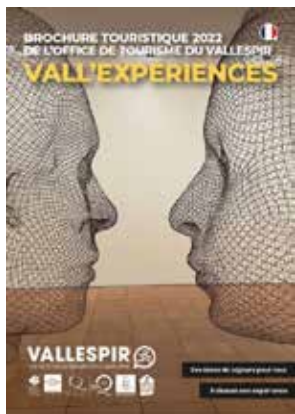
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like the Vallespir



You will find....

Catalan culture, new sensations, relaxation, excitement, outdoor pursuits and water sports, new adventures, art and culture, traditions, festivals and events, great food and wine...

There's something for everybody in the Vallespir!



Pick Up Your Free Tourist Guide and Enjoy the Vallespir Experience



Everybody
loves a MARKET!

Have you tried the local produce? Délicieux!
Olive oil, honey, all things cherry, jams, wine, beers....Find them all at our local markets, delicatessens - or direct from the farm!



CÉRET: Sat morning

More than 170 stalls in the historic streets and a feel-good market atmosphere of smells and sounds. Surely one of the best in the P-O.

Small but charming....

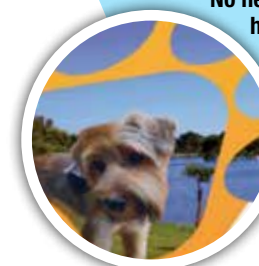
- LE BOULOU: Thurs & Sun am**
- SAINT-JEAN-PLA-DE-CORTS: Tues am**
- MAUREILLAS-LAS ILLAS: Thurs & Sat**
- REYNÉS: Tues, Weds, Thurs (Pont de Reynés)**
- LE PERTHUS: Thurs am**

Food only...

- (local produce)
- CÉRET: Weds am**
(Place Picasso)
- MAUREILLAS-LAS ILLAS: Thurs & Sat am**
- REYNÉS: Fri am**
(Pont de Reynés)

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No need to leave your four-legged friend at home! Ask for our dedicated pet brochure to find out.....



- > Useful addresses for **dog-sitters, vets, grooming salons, pet shops....**
- > **Hotels and restaurants** where your pet is always welcome
- > **Things to do and places to go** with your hairy friend.

What's on
in the Vallespir?

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM A PACKED EVENTS PROGRAM
(Check out our website for varied entertainment throughout the Vallespir)

What?

CÉRET CHERRY FESTIVAL

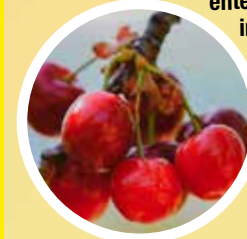
When?

21st - 22nd May

Where?

CÉRET

A colourful weekend of stone spitting, **music, dancing and entertainment** in the streets..... and loads of cherries!



What?

LES DÉFERLANTES SUD DE FRANCE

When?

7th - 10th July

Where?

CHÂTEAU D'AUBIRY, just outside Céret

Same great music, brand new site for this **exciting concert with international, star-studded line up** including ...Muse, Black Eyed Peas, Simple Minds, Ofenbach, -M-, Angèle, Clara Luciani, Hoshi, Tones and I, Vianney...

www.festival-lesdeferlantes.com



CONTACT

The Vallespir Tourist Office team is here for you, happy to help and answer any questions to make your visit to the Vallespir even better.
Tel: +33 (0)4 68 87 00 53 accueiltourisme@vallespir.com
www.vallespir-tourisme.fr

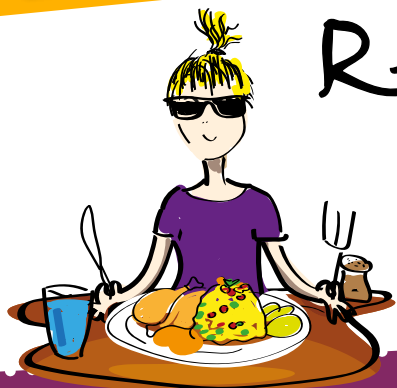


Scan the Qr Code and follow us out on Facebook, Instagram: #vallespirtourisme or @vallespirtourisme Trip Advisor



Restaurant REVIEWS

SPRING 2022



We love publishing your reviews. They're honest (we hope!) objective, (surely?) unrelated to advertising (bien sûr!) and cover a wide range of tastes, prices, and places. You might not always agree, the chef might be having a bad day, your standards might be higher....or lower – but they give you an idea of what's available.

LA COOPERATIVE

Domaine Riberach, Belesta....with Gillian & Mark

Modern restaurant/hotel encased in the shell of the old Cooperative building in Belesta, the restaurant opens to a **beautiful umbrella and tree covered terrace** with extensive views across the surrounding hills. Expensive compared to many restaurants but the quality of the food, its flavours and presentation are very special and worth every euro. **Probably one of, if not the, best lunch we have had in the region.**



2 Route de Caladroy, Belesta
Tel: 04 68 50 30 10

CLOS DE PAULILLES

Near Port Vendres....with Maria

Beautiful setting, excellent food and child friendly too. **Portions eg salads can be big.** Staff all very friendly. Must reserve during the season. Free parking for beach access if you have a reservation. Prices reasonable but watch what you choose if on a budget. **Love it.**



Paulilles, Port-Vendres
Tel: 04 68 81 49 79

LE JARDIN DE COLLIOURE

Collioure....with Jeremy & Katie

Far from the madding crowd, yet in the very heart of Collioure, the house and surrounding gardens of the Dominican Convent and St Dominique Church in Collioure were donated to the Dominican Order in 1290 and now showcase AOC Collioure and Banyuls wines of 160 vigneron. **A guided tour of the beautiful old building, wine tastings and a visit to the pretty little art gallery next door, following lunch or preceding dinner in the 'jardin de collioure' makes a delightful day out.**

Choose your fish from the freshly caught selection, and have it cooked grilled on the large outdoor **barbecue, baked, salt crusted, or 'à la plancha'**, before being filleted and prepared at your table. Go fully Catalan with a **cargolade of snails, or cochon de lait**, whole suckling pig roasted on a spit, or just a drink in the pleasant garden with no obligation to eat. Spacious, tranquil and comfortable, suitable for the disabled, **your first visit to Le Jardin de Collioure is unlikely to be your last.**



4 route de Port Vendres,
66190 Collioure
Tel: 04 68 95 12 52

PIZZERIA DU FORT DE SALSSES

Salses....with Virginie

Despite the name, **it's not situated right besides the fort but near a camp site.**

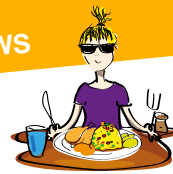
They have unusual cocktails made with local beverages (muscat ambré, Byrrh, etc... to name a couple). On the menu, there's something to please everyone, **from pizzas to parillade and even "boles de picolat", a traditional dish from this part of France.** Some desserts are homemade and it's clearly mentioned on the menu.

The **kids menu** is simple and easy to choose from thanks to an erasable menu on which kids can tick their choices. **There are also books and toys to keep them busy.**

The terrace is very pleasant during sunny days and the couple who runs the place are helpful and attentive. **A good place to try if you're in Salses le Château !**



Planal de Salses,
Salses-le-Château
Tel: 04 68 38 70 72



L'ANCIENNE ECOLE

Palau de Vidre...with Malcolm

We don't often have a full 3 courses each for a mid week lunch but glad we did. **Starter of Oeuf Parfait and Soupe a l'oignon, both delivering amazing flavours, followed by a pavé of seasonal white fish and fillet of Dorade.** Both were stunning to look at and equally stunning to eat. **The deserts were no sweet after thought either!** The house coupe de glace delivered flavours that my spouse had not found in ice cream before while I indulged in a Pineapple and Rosemary carousel. **It was mid week so we were happy to find we could have a demi pichet of house wine (Domain Depade Jorda) for 7.95.** The total bill for all of this deliciousness in comfortable and stylish surroundings was 104€. For us this is a benchmark by which we judge other restaurants. **I do wonder why we go anywhere else.**



20 Av. Joliot Curie, Palau-del-Vidre
Tel: 04 68 22 34 09

ARBOR & SENS

Argelès... with Alistair

Sublime food, much of it is grown in its own garden and an **excellent 3 course midi for 18 Euros** (Editor's Note: Need to get there early or you will only be offered the not-so-cheap carte) with great local wine at good prices. Honestly - it's one of the best meals I have ever had, the lunchtime menu is phenomenal value. **We had cured veal which melted, a good steak pavé and a wonderful fresh pineapple dessert with lovely home made ice cream.** Wonderful food. **Good options for vegetarians** meat lovers and pescatarians. It's **just round the corner from the Total garage roundabout** and funfair in Taxo amidst the campsites - only been open about for a year. **Definitely worth experiencing.**



Route de Taxo la mer,
Argelès-sur-Mer
Tel: 04 68 21 35 63



DO YOU KNOW A RESTAURANT YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND?
We'd love to hear from you.
CONNAISSEZ-VOUS UN RESTAURANT QUE VOUS VOUDRIEZ RECOMMANDER?

On serait ravi de vous entendre - send your comments to us at info@anglophone-direct.com

(no restaurant owners please!! :-)

**OVER THE BORDER
IN FRANCE**

LA TABLE LIONEL GIRAUD

Narbonne...with Jane

You're in for a treat at Lionel Giraud's Michelin starred restaurant in Narbonne, opposite the Grand Buffet. Credit card against no show when booking challenged me slightly. Service is excellent and tables well spaced out. **We went for 4 courses at 80€, an absolute feast of delights.** Elegant amuse bouche of flowers, fish and an oil capsule (sounds freaky but was delicious), **vegetable, fish, meat and dessert courses!** Each course was an array of dishes, each more delicious than the last. **The highlight was the five desserts!**

So I'm a bit of a creep and explained to our waiter I had seen Lionel on Top Chef and lo and behold we were offered a further course of the dish he featured on Top Chef!

The event concludes with a visit to meet the chef. Wine is pricey but you don't want much, you're here for the food - and wonderful it is. The final cost was just under 100€ per head with little wine and only one coffee. **I still felt it was superb value for money!**



Rond point de la Liberté,
68 Av. Général Leclerc, Narbonne
Tel: 04 68 41 37 37

**QUELQUES
QUICKIES**



QUATTROCENTO,
Céret...with NICK
Excellent value meals in a lovely, peaceful Céret square.
www.lequattrocento.net

ELSILEX,
Tautavel...with MICK
Excellent, plus a huge selection of local wines
FB: El.Silex.Tautavel

POINTD'ART,
Montbolo...with CLAIRE
Excellent. Friendly and great value for delicious food!
www.pointdart.fr

LEMAYA CLUB,
Torreilles...with SARAH
Torreilles plage sud. Fab food, fab location, fab staff
www.maya-club.fr

AUMATIN CALME,
Saillagouse...with ALISON
Korean Restaurant in the camping Ilisa just the village, I tried Korean pancake, kimchi, spicy pepper beef - all delicious
FB: AuMatinCalme

RACOU BEACHSNACK,
Racou, Argeles...with STEVEN
If you're pining for their famous fish and chips, they will be re-opening on the first weekend in April (weather permitting).
FB Racou-Beach-Snack



LAURA'S
VEGGIE (HO)KES

Over recent years there has been huge progress in terms of eating options for vegetarians in the P-O, although vegan dining remains a little trickier. **Look out in each edition for my top veggie tips...**

FRIDA'S

Perpignan



What can I say, I love the place!

Organic, vegan restaurant, an absolute delight. On our last visit, we shared a selection of starters, including **humus, shalima and maghreb cigars** (like Asian spring rolls, but stuffed with a mouthwatering concoction of veg and North African spices). **Colourful vegetable patras** (Indian curry), seaweed and vegetable lasagne followed by buza, coconut milk and dried fruits, and the devilishly-goo chocolate truffles! **All superb.**

24 Place Hyacinthe Rigaud
Perpignan Tel: 06 16 97 10 29

LA DROGUERIE

Perpignan



Another of my favourite go-to addresses!

A quirky setting, **it's like stepping back in time and into a brocante!** They have cute red-and-white checked table cloths, china plates and a menu that sets me drooling just thinking about it. **Extremely reasonable prices**, great veggie selection and laid-back, Italian trattoria ambiance. The menu changes regularly but **the homemade gnocci is DIVINE. If it's on the menu with truffle sauce, don't think twice!**

37 Rue des Augustins
29 Rue de la Cloche d'Or, Perpignan
Tel: 06 26 53 49 89

Fancy a
CHAYOTE
salad?

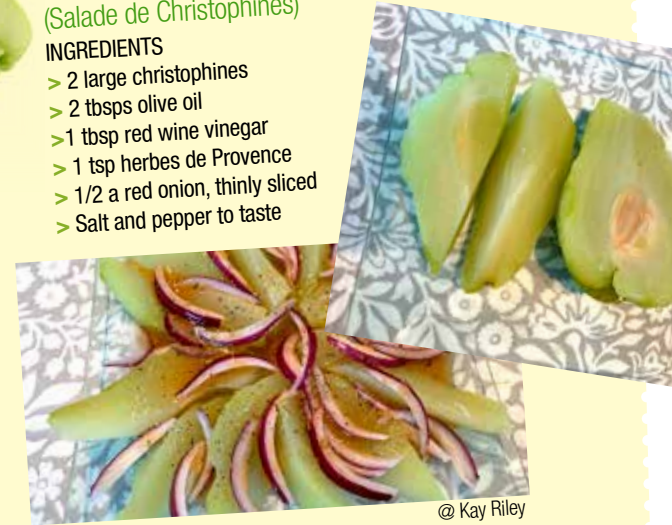


Here's a simple recipe from one of our lovely readers, **KAY RILEY.**

CHAYOTE SALAD
(Salade de Christophines)

INGREDIENTS

- > 2 large christophines
- > 2 tbsps olive oil
- > 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- > 1 tsp herbes de Provence
- > 1/2 a red onion, thinly sliced
- > Salt and pepper to taste



© Kay Riley

Unless we're fruitlogists, we can hardly be expected to know all the names of all the weird and wonderful fruits that flourish, often wild, here in the P-O. **Here's one that you might have seen around - the chayote**, also called a **christophine** in French, after its discovery in the Americas by **Christopher Columbus in the late 15th century.**

An alternatives to mild tasting squash like aubergine, the chayote is a green, pear-shaped fruit, **its taste sometimes described between apple and cucumber.** Mostly used as a vegetable, it is a versatile addition to a variety of dishes, high in many nutrients and **low in calories, and fat.**

Look out for it growing around the P-O in the summer.

METHOD

- 1) Place christophines in a large saucepan and cover with water. Cook over a medium heat until the skin is soft and you can easily pass a knife through them. Minimum 30 mins, can be more depending on the size.
 - 2) Whilst they are cooking, mix together olive oil, vinegar, herbs, salt and pepper
 - 3) When christophines are cooked, remove from the heat and drain. Remove the skins (with a vegetable peeler or knife). Remove central core part. Cut into slices about 2 cm thick.
 - 4) Places the slices onto a serving plate, drizzle with the dressing and serve hot or cold.
- The salad will last in the fridge for 1-2 days.taste



OTHER SERVING SUGGESTIONS

- > Use like potatoes (They are much lower in calories), use in stews etc
- > Cook them in a rich tomato sauce
- > Try them stuffed (farcies au riz)

Ideas for EATING OUT

Spring is in the air. Can't you just smell it?

P-O restaurants are setting out their 'trottoirs' and terraces, brushing up their barbecues and planchas, sprucing up their parasols, and looking forward to welcoming us back to sample their culinary creations. Bon Appétit .



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Springtime Gin & PROSECCO COCKTAIL

INGREDIENTS

- 50ml gin
- Plenty of sprigs of fresh mint
- Slices fresh cucumber
- Elderflower cordial or liqueur
- Tonic/lemonade/Prosecco
- Thin lemon slices to garnish
- Ice



>> Crush mint and some of cucumber in bottom of a cocktail shaker or glass jug, and stir, squashing down mint and cucumber with back of a spoon to release juices. Add a dash of elderflower cordial and gin. Fill up with Prosecco (or cold tonic/lemonade.) Garnish with more mint and lemon, Close your eyes, and imagine you're in the Pyrénées-Orientales! Santé

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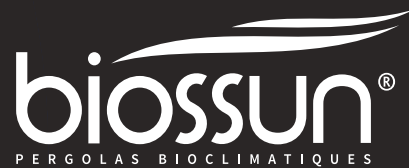


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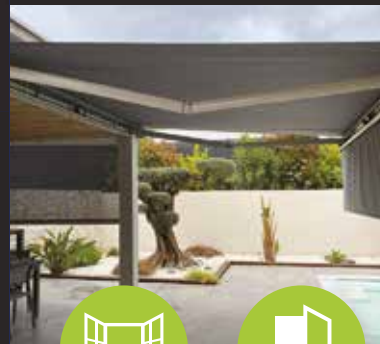
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LEST WE FORGET

Mary Elmes



One of the most well-known figures to emerge from the Holocaust of WW2 was **Oskar Schindler**, honoured in 1993 for saving an estimated 1,100 Jews from certain death, by employing them in his enamelware and ammunitions factories.

But there were many unsung heroes and heroines during those terrible years, such as **Mary Elmes**, Irish aid worker believed to have saved the lives of at least 200 Jewish children at various times during the Holocaust, by hiding them in the boot of her car.

Born in 1908 in Cork, Ireland, Mary joined the University of London Ambulance Unit in 1937. **Her first mission was at a children's hospital in Almeria in war-torn Spain**, where she set up and ran children's field hospitals ahead of Franco's advancing troops.

Joining the Retirada when it was no longer safe to remain in Spain, she fled over the border into France where **she continued to help refugees, organising workshops, schools and hospitals in makeshift camps in and around Perpignan, and in particular Rivesaltes Camp Joffre.**

When the Vichy government started to send Jewish children to concentration camps, **she joined up with a small group of friends and together they rescued dozens of children, often at great personal risk, by hiding them in the boot of her car.** They would then be taken to safe houses or across the border to relative safety.

Documents describe how she 'spirited away' nine Jewish children from the first convoy about to leave for Auschwitz in 1942, by taking them in her boot to safe homes around the Pyrenees-Orientales, set up earlier in the hope of providing some temporary respite from camp life for prisoners. One of these, **the Hotel du Portugal in Vernet les Bains**, still stands today.

The work that she and her friends were doing was difficult to keep secret. **In early 1943 she was arrested by the gestapo**, and jailed in the much feared Fresnes prison, outside Paris, **charged with espionage, hostile acts against Germany, and propaganda against the Reich.**

Her Irish neutrality saved her and she was released after 6 months.

After the war, she married **Roger Danjou** in Perpignan and just got on with her life, **refusing to accept any honours such as the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur)**, the highest civilian award in France at the time, on the grounds that it was undeserved, and rarely speaking of the war and the part she played.

She died in 2002, aged 94. Her funeral was attended by children she had saved from a terrible fate.

After her death, she was nominated for Israel's Righteous Among the Nations, the first and only Irish person to receive the honour.



Between August and October 1942, more than 2,000 adults and 171 children were sent from Rivesaltes to Auschwitz. **Mary Elmes and friends saved an estimated 427 of those children** from Rivesaltes transit camp, and likely deportation to Nazi extermination camps.

Unfortunately, wherever there is great good, there is great evil!



MENU FROM THE MIDI:

BY COLIN DUNCAN TAYLOR



Did you know that it took a revolution before peasants were allowed to keep pigeons? Find out about the oldest sparkling wine in the world, **le Rolls- Royce of olives**, **pink garlic soup**, **meats of the black Gascon pig**, the legendary **cassoulet**, cheese from the caves of Roquefort in **Colin Taylor's new book**.

P IS FOR PIGEONNIER

As well as all the magnificent abbeys, churches, Cathar castles and Vauban forts, Occitanie is home to another outstanding category of architectural heritage: **it is the region with the greatest number of pigeoniers, or pigeon towers.**

Arguably, no creature has had more beautiful homes built for it than the pigeon, and the **6,000 that remain in our region display an astonishing variety of shapes, sizes and styles.**

Pigeonniers had two main roles: they were living larders providing fresh meat on demand, and fertiliser factories whose output was often reserved for vineyards and fields of hemp.

Who could own one varied from one province to the next, but **generally they were reserved for the rich and noble.** By **1650, there were 42,000 pigeoniers in France, typically containing between 400 and 4,000 adult birds plus a similar number of babies.** Such large flocks of pigeons caused immense damage to crops, and this created great resentment among the peasants who were forbidden from harming the birds.

On 4 August 1789 – three weeks after the fall of the Bastille – the French National Assembly passed a series of 19 decrees to overturn many of the privileges enjoyed by the upper echelons of society. **Second on this list was the abolition of the exclusive rights of the nobility to own a pigeonier.**



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FESTIVAL and TRADITIONS

Bank holidays

Don't count on getting much work done in May as the many bank holidays mean that school children (and teachers!) rejoice and tradespeople groan! Often extended into a long weekend 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 unlikely to do this.)



LES CLOCHES DE PAQUES

On Good Friday, every single church bell throughout France stops ringing in remembrance of the death of Christ. Children used to be told that the Bells had flown to Rome to see the Pope, and would return on Easter Sunday morning, bringing chocolate and eggs before returning to their towers on Friday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



LES FEUX DE LA SAINT JEAN

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE
Important annual event in the Catalan calendar, and the longest day of the year, this date is linked with ancient practices and white magic. Catalonia is set alight as relay runners bring burning torches down from the Canigou to light fires that have been prepared in towns and villages all over the region.



AN EGG A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY?

The giving and receiving of Easter eggs first began in France during the 4th Century A.D, when a law was passed forbidding the eating of meat or eggs during Lent. Bien sûr, the hens continued to lay, and the uneaten eggs led to a surplus after the 40 day fast, so many egggy gifts were offered around, particularly to make omelettes. Many believed that if they ate an egg for breakfast that had been laid on Good Friday, they would remain fit and healthy until the following Easter.



TUESDAY 21ST JUNE

This national annual festival celebrates music in all forms and is open to anyone, professional and amateur, the good, the bad and the ugly. Hard to avoid on this day the vibrant sounds of salsa, string quartets and steel bands playing on street corners, jazz, rock, roll, and blues, garage folk, heavy metal, accordionists wandering among the crowds.....



Festival of SANT JORDI BOOKS AND *Roses*

ON OR AROUND APRIL 23RD

On this day, exchange a rose and a book with friends and loved ones. You will find stalls selling both throughout Catalonia..

THE ROSE

When Sant Jordi, Patron saint of Catalonia, killed the dragon, roses grew from the ground where its blood had been shed.

THE BOOK

April 23rd is the anniversary of the death of two great writers, CERVANTES (Don Quixote) and SHAKESPEARE, so UNESCO declared it International Day of the Book.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER FASCINATING EASTER TRADITIONS IN CATALONIA

18th April
Lundi de Pâques (Easter Monday)

1st May
Fête du Travail (May Day)

8th May
Fête de la Victoire (WW2 Victory Day)

26th May
Ascension

5th June
Pentecôte (Whit Monday)

When urine BARCELONA.....

Taking the train to Barcelona?

At least 50% of you should be able to benefit from an analysis of your hydration levels, tested via your pipi! Definitely not bog standard, these innovational 'smart urinals' have been installed by Barcelona-based company Kamleon in the 'caballeros' at Sants station



A sensor designed to check for abnormalities in urine flow that might signal bladder or prostate problems, analyses urine parameters. A screen above the urinal gives the result as a score, to indicate the user's state of hydration, with the possibility in the future to scan the result with a QR code and obtain a more in-depth analysis.

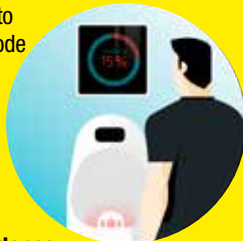
Kamleon CEO, Jordi Ferré explains the bottom line of these new urinals, which is to raise awareness and remind users of the importance of drinking regularly to improve well-being, health, and prevent possible diseases linked to lack of hydration.

The system has already been tested at the French Olympic Training Centre in Font Romeu, with very good results.

Many people don't drink enough, leading to moodiness, headaches or migraines, fatigue and dizziness amongst other health problems.

The same company is also working on a new ladyloo model of a smart urinal for women.

Butt you'd be potty to believe that there is such a thing as a free lunch! Both the smart urine analysis and the hydration station are free services as part of the paid toilet visit.





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Really, Really Silly Joke

...but good for your French learning.

Ir Oui Go!

Un type rentre dans un bar.
Il s'installe au comptoir et s'adresse au barman.

"Allez, un whisky avant que ça commence!"

Le barman, un peu perplexe, lui sert un verre de whisky que l'homme boit d'un trait avant de s'exclamer:

"Allez, un deuxième whisky avant que ça commence!"

Le barman, un peu éconcentré lui sert quand même son deuxième verre de whisky que l'homme boit encore cul sec avant de redemander, imperturbable:

"Allez, un troisième verre de whisky avant que ça commence!"

Le barman sert le troisième verre de whisky mais cette fois, avant de le donner à l'homme, lui dit:

"Bon, il faudrait peut-être penser à payer maintenant."

Et l'homme répond....

"Et voilà, ça commence"

Un type - guy
Allez...right...
Il s'installe - he settles down
perplexe/déconcentré - puzzled
quand même - anyway
avant que - before
d'un trait/cul sec - down in one



THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

It would make a great novel. Two young boys leave their native Ireland. The first, from Drumaroad, County Down, heads for France. The second, from New Ross, County Wexford, settles in the USA. Many years later, their descendants meet, each now president of his adoptive country. You might even have heard of them? Charles De Gaulle and John F Kennedy? A great legacy for a couple of Irish immigrants out to seek their fortunes?

USAP

L'Union Sportive Arlequins Perpignanaise was founded in 1902. Twelve years later, on May 3rd, 2014, the club won its first French championship, as 19-year-old fly-half Aimé Giral converted a late try to beat Tarbes 8-7 win. Giral went on to become captain. It was the last significant rugby match played in Europe before the outbreak of the First World War. Just 14 months after their victory, Aimé Giral died alongside seven other members of the team at the outbreak of WW1. It was to honour Giral and his team mates that USAP named their stadium. To this day l'USAP play in a light blue jersey, the same colour as that worn by the French soldiers in WW1.



PAIN IN THE GRASS!

Does your dog love running around in long grass?

Keep an eye out for signs of him shaking his

head violently, or pawing his ear, as this could mean that a seed of foxtail barley or similar species of grass has entered his ear. **If not removed, this can cause infection and even perforate the eardrum.** Seeds can become embedded in the paw, or even eyes and nose, all of which can be very harmful to your dog (and to your wallet if you have to visit the vet).

Take particular care where grass has been cut, and had time to dry



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28 MARCH - 29 OCTOBER 2022 by Robbie Shaw

It certainly has been a couple of years like no other!

I am writing this in February but as you might expect **following this pandemic, many airline schedules remain in chaos.**

My best suggestion is to constantly monitor the airline websites yourself.

What is very noticeable is **the hike in car hire prices, especially with the major companies.**

Winter schedules will start on Sunday 30 October.

FRANCE

BEZIERS

Like Carcassonne, **Ryanair** has a free run at this small airport. Rather strangely the **Luton service stops at the end of March**, restarting in June.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BRISTOL	3	RYANAIR 1 June-28 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 27 March-26 Oct
LUTON	2	RYANAIR 4 June-29 Oct
MANCHESTER	3	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct
STANSTED	2-3	RYANAIR 27 March-26 Oct



CARCASSONNE

Ryanair remains the sole operator here.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
EAST MIDLANDS	2	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct
MANCHESTER	3	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
STANSTED	4-7	RYANAIR 28 March-29 Oct
CORK	2	RYANAIR 3 June-28 Oct
DUBLIN	3	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct



MONTPELLIER

Easyjet operate from both **Gatwick and Luton**. The latter only for a short period. The **British Airways** flight from **Heathrow** which operated only in 2018 appears not to be operating again this year.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
GATWICK	11	E ASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
LUTON	3	EASYJET 28 June-3 Sep



NIMES

Ryanair is the sole operator. **Luton** has been dropped leaving only **Stansted**.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
STANSTED	2	RYANAIR 6 June-28 Oct

PERPIGNAN

Aer Lingus flights from **Dublin** restart, and the good news – no more 06h00 departures, so a better time, though fares have risen significantly.

If you are looking at the websites and find the fares to P.O. are very high, look at the rugby fixture list and that could explain it. Often changing just a few days can reduce the fare, and car hire prices. **Also fares are generally cheaper midweek, especially in the summer months – or ridiculously expensive in school mid-term.**

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	RYANAIR 27 March-26 Oct
DUBLIN	3	AER LINGUS 25 June-27 Aug
STANSTED	3-5	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct



TOULOUSE / BLAGNAC

There tends to be more flights to **Toulouse** from **UK regional airport** in the winter due to skiing opportunities, with Andorra not too far away. **Ryanair** have re-introduced service to **Edinburgh** whilst **Manchester** will be introduced by **Jet2**.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BRISTOL	6-7	EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
GATWICK	6-11	EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
HEATHROW	24	BRITISH A.S 27 Mar-29 Oct
STANSTED	9	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
DUBLIN	2-3	AER LINGUS 29 Mar-29 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct



A vulture turns up at the airport with two dead animals. The lady at check in says, "Sorry, only one carrion per passenger"





SPAIN



BARCELONA / EL PRAT

As always a huge variety of flights to Barcelona, most of which run all year round, but with seasonal increases. Quite a few changes. **Ryanair** will introduce flights from **Luton**. There are now four operators on the Manchester route. **EasyJet** have dropped the **Newcastle and Southend** service but added Manchester. This summer **Vueling** are no longer offering flights from **Belfast City, Cardiff, Cork and Newcastle**. **Norwegian** have dropped their UK flights to Barcelona. **Glasgow** has lost the **Jet2** service but gained **easyJet**. **Jet2** have added **Birmingham**. For those unfamiliar, take care on the Barcelona ring-road, one wrong turn could be very time consuming.

MANCHESTER	4	J	ET2 27 March-28 Oct
	3-5		EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
	10		RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
	6-7		VUELING 27 March-29 Oct
STANSTED	28		RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
DUBLIN	14		AER LINGUS 27 March-29 Oct
	19		RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
	4-7		VUELING 27 March-29 Oct

GIRONA

In the last couple of years there had been a big increase in flights to Girona. No doubt passenger confidence in the Boeing 737MAX will have taken a battering after two crashes, and the type being grounded for a considerable time. To counter this Ryanair has renamed the 737-MAX8 as the 737-8200, and several are now in service, with many more to come. Subject to aircraft deliveries the number of flights listed could well change. **Ryanair** have added **Cork**, but dropped several other destinations, including **East Midlands, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Luton and Manchester**. **Jet2** who suddenly found the airport two years ago once again have a whole raft of flights, but have dropped both **Edinburgh and Glasgow**. Bad news for **Belfast is that both Jet2 and Ryanair have no plans to operate the route this year**. Likewise, **no plans for TUI flights from Gatwick**.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BELFAST INT'L	4	EASYJET 27 March-28 Oct
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2 27 March-27 Oct
	6	RYANAIR 1 April-28 Oct
	5-7	VUELING 27 March-29 Oct
BRISTOL	12-14	EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
	4	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
EAST MIDLANDS	7	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
EDINBURGH	7	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
	2-3	VUELING 27 March-28 Oct
GATWICK	27-33	EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
	42	VUELING 27 March-29 Oct
GLASGOW INT'L	2-3	EASYJET 27 March-27 Oct
GLASGOW PRESTWICK	3	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct
HEATHROW	49	BRITISH AWYS 27 Mar-29 Oct
LEEDS BRADFORD	2-4	JET2 7 April-28 Oct
LIVERPOOL	6-7	EASYJET 27 March-27 Oct
	3-5	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
LUTON	16-20	EASYJET 27 March-29 Oct
	3-5	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2 2 May-28 Oct
BOURNEMOUTH	3	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
BRISTOL	1	JET2 28 May-29 Oct
	4-6	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct
CORK	2	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
DUBLIN	5	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
EAST MIDLANDS	1	JET2 28 May-29 Oct
LEEDS BRADFORD	2	JET2 From 1 May-27 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 29 March-29 Oct
MANCHESTER	2-3	JET2 29 April-28 Oct
NEWCASTLE	1	JET2 1 May-23 Oct
STANSTED	2	JET2 29 April-28 Oct
	7	RYANAIR 27 March-29 Oct



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What's that bird of prey?



FALCONS

KESTREL

(FAUCON CRÉCERELLE)

HOW COMMON	Very common
WHEN IN P-O	All year
WHERE IN P-O	Everywhere
WINGSPAN	65-80cm
UNDERSIDE	Pale, with black spots
ABOVE	Male: blue-grey head; slight moustache; back & inner wings red-brown, flecked with black; grey tail with black bar across the end. Female: brown head; back & inner wings pale brown, with black bars. Brown, barred tail.
KEY FEATURES	Pointed wings
FLIGHT	Often hovers, over fields & verges close to roads, before dropping onto prey. None of the other falcons or hawks hovers in this way.
OTHER	Often perches conspicuously on posts & tops of trees.



MALE KESTREL

Identification of raptors can be hard, especially during spring and autumn when all sorts of migrant species are just passing through. In a previous edition we looked at buzzards, harriers and eagles. This time, it's the turn of our smaller summer residents. Here are some pointers to help sort the falcons from the hawks that breed in the P-O.



Lesley McLaren is one of "The Warblers" a group of natural history enthusiasts in the PO.

www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com
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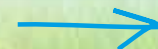


FEMALE KESTREL HOVERING

(Credit: Alexis Lours)



MALE KESTREL HOVERING



What's that bird of prey?



PEREGRINE FALCON

(FAUCON PÉLERIN)

HOW COMMON	Uncommon
WHEN IN P-O	All year
WHERE IN P-O	Rocky mountain ranges & coastal cliffs
WINGSPAN	0.95-1.15m
UNDERSIDE	White, closely barred
ABOVE	Blue-grey all over
KEY FEATURES	Black lobes on each side of face neck. Solid, chunky build compared with hobby. Look dark against the sky.
FLIGHT	Catch birds on the wing. Renowned for stooping on prey from a great height, at great speed (over 320km/h!)
OTHER	Females considerably larger than males.



MALE PEREGRINE FALCON

(Credit: Mykola Swarnyk)

You're more likely to get a fleeting glimpse of one in flight rather than perched. For example:



This is an immature peregrine I photographed, in bad light, over the river Tech near Montesquieu. Just to confuse matters, immatures appear streaked underneath, whereas adults are barred!

HOBBY

(FAUCON HOBEREAU)

HOW COMMON	Uncommon
WHEN IN P-O	April - September
WHERE IN P-O	Hunts over open farmland with trees; also likes marshy ground
WINGSPAN	70-84cm
UNDERSIDE	Pale with thick, dark streaks; red under the tail
ABOVE	Plain, slate grey back
KEY FEATURES	That red around legs & under the tail marks them out from all the others.
FLIGHT	Elegant & acrobatic, hawking for insects, the larger of which it takes with its feet; also chases & dives after small birds, including martins.
OTHER	Males & females have same markings. Usually seen at dawn & dusk.



HOBBY

(Credit: Shantanu Kuveskar)



PEREGRINE FALCON

(Credit: Hari K Patibanda)



HOBBY

(Credit: Artur Mikołajewski)



What's that bird of prey?



HAWKS

SPARROWHAWK

[EPERVIER D'EUROPE]

HOW COMMON	Fairly common
WHEN IN P-O	All year
WHERE IN P-O	Wooded farmland, hills & forest
WINGSPAN	60-80cm
UNDERSIDE	Male: barred orange on face & whole of underside. Female: Barred grey-white Both: broad bars across tail
ABOVE	Males & females: bluish-grey on head, back & tail; female has pale line over her eye
KEY FEATURES	Bright yellow eyes
FLIGHT	Dashes very fast, in pursuit of birds in flight (from sparrows to pigeons)
OTHER	Females are considerably bigger than males & are sometimes mistaken for goshawks. They rarely perch conspicuously.



MALE SPARROWHAWK
(Credit: Mykola Swarnyk)

GOSHAWK

[AUTOUR DES PALOMBES]

HOW COMMON	Uncommon
WHEN IN P-O	All year
WHERE IN P-O	Usually in mature woodland with tall conifers
WINGSPAN	0.95-1.25cm
UNDERSIDE	Whitish, with fine grey barring; broad bars across tail
ABOVE	Greyish to brownish all over (female browner); dark cap with pale stripe over eyes
KEY FEATURES	Orange eye. Our largest hawk. Sometimes confused with female sparrowhawk, but the smallest goshawk will be bigger than the biggest sparrowhawk.
FLIGHT	Similar to sparrowhawk but even more formidable, boldly dashing after birds up to crow-size.
OTHER	Secretive & very hard to see, as they rarely hunt in the open, but may be spotted in early spring, soaring over their woodland territories.



GOSHAWK
(Credit: Francesco Veronesi)



SPARROWHAWK
(Credit: Christian Knoch)

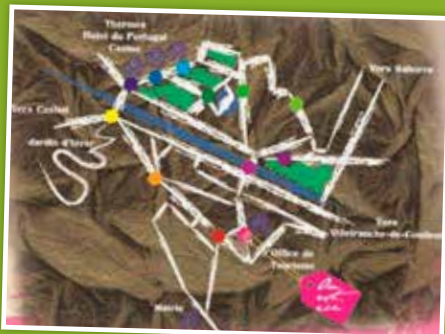


GOSHAWK
(Credit: Martin Mecnarowski)

DID YOU KNOW

EXCEEDINGLY NICE WALK

If you head up the Conflent to pretty Vernet-les-Bains, leave yourself some time to stroll around the 'Kipling circuit', a short walk around Vernet with illustrated panels and quotations from Kipling's own writings - the village seen through the pen of the celebrated author.



DID YOU KNOW

LA FÊTE DU MUGUET - 1ST MAY

According to French tradition, give those you love a little bouquet of Lily-of-the-Valley (Muguet), to wish them happiness and good luck in celebration of the arrival of spring. (Muguet is also a useful word to know if you go to the chemist with an itch you just can't scratch as it also describes the medical condition, thrush!!)

TARLÀ OF THE RAMBLAS

The legendary Tarlà hangs from a pole on the Ramblas throughout springtime in Girona.

Originally made out of sawdust, with a wooden head, today dressed as a jester, the tradition of this puppet dates back to the middle ages.

When the Black Death swept through the unsanitary, narrow streets, the authorities quarantined the rue de l'Argenteria to prevent further spreading of the plague.

Bored, unhappy residents, stuck for weeks or months in their homes, were entertained by a

young acrobat known as 'Tarlà' with displays of acrobatics on poles erected between the narrow buildings.

Five hundred years later, the puppet is hung every year at either end of the street, symbolising festivity and solidarity.



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Test your FRENCH

See Page 86 for answers

LANGUAGE TIP

Nouveau/nouvelle and neuf/neuve both mean **NEW**

Nouveau

Eg J'ai acheté une nouvelle voiture (new to you but may be second hand)

But

J'ai acheté une voiture neuve (brand new)

Great word

lourdinque
annoying, a pain

Useful Expression
C'est bien fait pour toi!
Serves you right!



F pour Frisé!

Match up the words, all beginning with F, with their definitions

(Why not try to work them out first just from the definitions?)

- | | | | |
|------------|----|---|--------------------------------------------|
| frileux | 1 | a | pas obligatoire |
| facultatif | 2 | b | grand oiseau rose au long cou |
| fondre | 3 | c | couper une bûche en deux |
| feuilleter | 4 | d | froid |
| froissé | 5 | e | paresseux |
| flamand | 6 | f | tourner les pages d'un livre |
| feuilleton | 7 | g | histoire (télévisée) en plusieurs épisodes |
| fanfare | 8 | h | devenir liquide |
| fainéant | 9 | i | orchestre qui défile dans la rue |
| fendre | 10 | j | plein de plis |



Trouvez la bonne définition

1 Un casot

- a) chapeau à visière
- b) cabanon dans les Pyrénées-Orientales
- c) toit pliant d'une voiture décapotable

2 Ronfler

- a) augmenter de volume
- b) faire un bruit en respirant quand on dort
- c) manger à petits coups

3 Un atelier

- a) un sportif
- b) un endroit où l'on fabrique ou répare des objets
- c) un vendeur de chapeaux

4 Un orteil

- a) un doigt de pied
- b) une plante qui pique
- c) un mammifère qui ressemble à un phoque

5 Un râteau

- a) un petit mammifère rongeur
- b) un trait pour barrer un mot
- c) un outil à dents pour le travail du jardin

6 L'ombre

- a) l'obscurité produite par la lumière
- b) un petit parasol
- c) la partie dure à l'extrémité du doigt

7 Une mouche

- a) un petit coquillage noir
- b) une insecte à 2 ailes et 6 pattes
- c) un carré de tissu pour vider le nez

8 Une limace

- a) un fruit vert
- b) un escargot sans coquille
- c) un poisson de mer plat



The following words describe the sea in its different states. Can you split them into 2 groups, 'mer calme' and 'mer agitée'?

- 1 une mer démontée
- 2 des vaguelettes
- 3 un raz de marée
- 4 une mer d'huile
- 5 une forte houle
- 6 une mer plate
- 7 une tempête
- 8 lisse et sans vague

Interesting Expression

Il y a trois pelés et un tondu
There's no one around

Que dit une imprimante dans l'eau ?
J'ai papier

(avoir pied – to be in your depth)

Comment est-ce que les abeilles communiquent entre elles ?

Par e-miel

OMG
Want to express surprise or disbelief?

Oh là là	Dis donc!
Oh là là là là	Purée!
(pause) là là !	Punaise!
Oh la vache	Putain! (vulgar)
Hou là	



Words that sound alike but are completely different.

Foi/foie/fois
la foi — faith • le foie — liver • une fois — a time

Reflexions

Pourquoi est ce que mon cerveau parle mieux français que ma bouche?

DIFICULT (SPELLING) GRAMMAR CONSTRUCTION

Avoir beau + infinitive
to do something in vain

J'ai beau essayer d'apprendre le français....
I've tried in vain to learn french...

Nous avons beau dire la vérité mais on ne nous croit pas!
We tried (in vain) to tell the truth but no-one believes us.

J'ai beau cherché, je ne trouve pas mes gants
I've looked in vain but can't find my gloves

Useful Expression

Parler de la pluie et du beau temps
To make small talk

CAN THE JOKES GET ANY WORSE? THEY MOST CERTAINLY CAN

Est-ce qu'une poule peut parler anglais?
Yes chicken

Pourquoi est-ce que les bouteilles de bière coulent?
Parce qu'elles savent panaché

4

Yet another sunny day. How lucky are we? There'll always be something to talk about if you have a good weather vocabulary! Match up the weather words and phrases

- | | | |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| des intempéries | 1 | a puddle |
| la sécheresse | 2 | b flash of lightning |
| un coup de tonnerre | 3 | c heat wave |
| Un éclair | 4 | d gust (of wind) |
| une giboulée | 5 | e sandstorm |
| une averse | 6 | f drought |
| une flaque d'eau | 7 | g clap of thunder |
| un tempête de sable | 8 | h bad weather |
| une rafale | 9 | i shower |
| une canicule | 10 | j sudden downpour |

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LANGUAGE



Tongue twister (virelangue)

Repeat quickly x 3

Six ships sail
sure south

FUN EXPRESSION
To come a cropper
Se planter/se casser
la figure

Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 86 for answers

1 M is for Mum!

Trouvez la définition des mots suivants qui commencent tous avec la lettre M

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| mole 1 | a Lady sea creature |
| mane 2 | b Paste of ground almonds and sugar |
| mermaid 3 | c Animal closely related to man |
| moth 4 | d A dog of uncertain origin |
| moggie 5 | e To shed hair or feathers |
| marzipan 6 | f Long hair on back of horse or lion |
| monkey 7 | g Slang for cat |
| moult 8 | h Friend |
| mate 9 | i Small burrowing animal |
| mongrel 10 | j Insect resembling a butterfly |

2 False friends

Aie aie aie, ces faux amis. Ils sont partout. Ces mots anglais ressemblent à des mots français, mais ont un sens totalement différent. Pouvez vous trouver leur équivalent en français?

ENGLISH	FRENCH
Eventually 1	a pièce de monnaie
Rude 2	b danger
Sensible 3	c finalement
Actually 4	d costume
Coin 5	e grossier, mal poli
Delay 6	f grand magasin
Suit 7	g retard
Grave 8	h raisonnable
Store (US) 9	i tombe
Hazard 10	j en fait

QUELQUES PHRASES, VRAIMENT PAS TRÈS POLIES, POUR DEMANDER À QUELQU'UN DE S'EN ALLER. (A NE PAS UTILISER AVEC LA BELLE MÈRE!)

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Go to hell!
Beat it
Push off
Run along
Scram!
Shove off
Sod off



Your teeth
don't need glasses!

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Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

3 Trouvez l'équivalent en Français pour ces expressions idiomatiques

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| It's not rocket science | 1 | a Une chose très appréciée |
| Make yourself at home | 2 | b Reprends-toi |
| You must be kidding | 3 | c Ce n'est pas mon truc |
| I'm all ears | 4 | d Fais comme chez toi |
| Take it easy | 5 | e Bonne chance |
| Get your act together | 6 | f C'est pas sorcier |
| The best thing since sliced bread | 7 | g C'est tout/fini |
| Break a leg | 8 | h Détends-toi |
| Let's call it a day | 9 | i J'écoute |
| It's not my cup of tea | 10 | j Tu plaisantes! |

Too Silly!
What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?
Ouch!

Really good joke
What do you call a rooster staring at a pile of lettuce?
A chicken sees a salad.

4 Vous pensez que les Britanniques et les Américains parlent la même langue? Bien sûr... mais pas tout à fait! Trouvez l'équivalent en anglais pour ces mots américains

AMERICAN	ENGLISH
trunk	1 a rubber
sidewalk	2 b bottom
eraser	3 c crisps
check	4 d bill
apartment	5 e handbag
sneakers	6 f boot
butt	7 g flat
chips	8 h chips
fries	9 i trainers
purse	10 j pavement

FUN WORD

I am flabbergasted

Je suis époustoufflé

INFORMATION UTILE

Viagra is now available in powder form to put in tea. It might not help your sexual performance but it will certainly stop your biscuit from going soggy when dunked! (available – disponible dunk – tromper soggy – mou).



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 C₂ O₂ V₄ I₁ D₁

Language is all about evolution and new words appear regularly in every language. **This year, 2022, out of 170 new words to be added to the French dictionary, a large number of them are Covid related. No surprise there then!** Here are a few French words and phrases, both new and old, to throw into the conversation, should the Dreaded Lurgy rear its ugly head over an apero with French friends and neighbours.

L₂ E₁ C₂ O₂ V₄ I₁ D₁ or L₂ A₁ C₂ O₂ V₄ I₁ D₁
 Whilst most French say LE Covid, because of LE virus, the Academie Francaise, guardian of French language, informs us that it is actually LA Covid. **Pourquoi?** Because it is a 'maladie', a word that is feminine. However, le word coronavirus is masculine! Confused? You should be!

une quatorzaine	quarantine which lasts 14 days
le déconfinement	le déconfinement - lifting of confinement/lockdown
la distanciation physique/ social	social distancing
manuporté/aéroporté	hand born/airborn
la réa	intensive care (short for réanimation)
le click and collect	Just what it sounds like
une corona-piste	cycle track created to avoid crowds
le/la visioconférence/ Zoomapéro/skypéro	meetings etc on line
un/une vaccinosceptique/ vaccinophobe/vaccinophile/ vaccinodrome	similar to english
un masque jetable/à usage unique	disposable mask
une visière (de protection)	a face shield
un cluster	a group with same illness in same area
les gestes barrières	preventative measures
une comorbidité	one or more additional conditions co-occurring with primary condition
un super spreader	an infected person who contaminates many
Un test diagnostic/de dépistage	diagnostic/screening test
les postillons	spray of spit
l'essoufflement	shortness of breath
les courbatures	aches and pains
un prélèvement	sample/swab
la téléconsultation	online doc visit
Prenez bien soin de vous	Take care of yourself





Things You Might NEED To KNOW



GB OR UK?

Did you know that British motorists driving outside the UK should no longer display old-style GB stickers? British cars must now "cover or remove" their GB sticker and display a UK sticker or some kind of UK identifier on their number plate, according to UK government guidance published in September 2021.



RED LORRY, YELLOW LORRY... BUT NO MOTORWAY!

It's easy to understand why La Jonquera turned into a trucker's paradise of cheap booze, cigarettes sex shops, and ladies-in-waiting when you understand the motorway rules for lorry drivers. Most HGV's over 7.5 tonnes (excluding perishables) are banned from the French road and motorway network between 10pm Saturday and 10pm Sunday. From early July to mid August, the ban is even longer - Saturday 7 a.m. to Sunday 10 p.m. and they are also banned on public holidays, normally from 10 p.m the night before, until 10 p.m on the holiday itself.

This means that many truck drivers have to make a 24 hour stop in La Jonquera if they arrive on Saturday evening, as they can't carry on through France until Sunday evening.

NEED TO CHAT TO A GENDARME?

Ma sécurité is a new app launched by the Ministry of the Interior, with a chat function to contact a gendarme or a police officer directly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It also gives the contact details of security services near you, as well as the steps to follow if you are in need of assistance. The app can also be used to report a traffic accident, information for preventing burglary etc and pays particular attention to domestic violence.



LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

TEST YOUR FRENCH

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



AMÉLIOREZ VOTRE ANGLAIS

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

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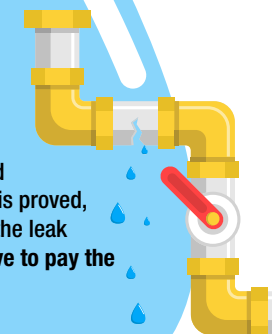
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SELLING YOUR HOME?

Attention! The exclusivity clause may be a little more exclusive than you expect. Although you sign a contract of exclusivity for **three or six months, this contract actually continues until you specifically cancel it, usually by registered letter.** If you assume that your three month exclusivity is over and sell privately or go with another estate agency, you may still be liable to pay a percentage of the sale to the original estate agency.

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If you find your self inundated with an abnormally large water bill, you could have a leak. In theory, it is down to the water company to contact you if your water consumption seems unusually large compared with past years. If a leak is proved, and as long as you have the leak repaired, you will not have to pay the excess cost.





If you have a medical emergency in France...

DIAL 15....

... for the SAMU (Service d'Aide Médicale Urgente), a hospital-based emergency medical service providing round-the-clock phone support and swift emergency call out.

DIAL 112....

... for any emergency from anywhere in the EU. Your call will be redirected to the local emergency telephone number. You can request an English speaker.

DIAL 08 20 20 41 42 (PERPIGNAN).....

... for SOS Médecins. Private doctor call-out service for less urgent medical problems. Visits reimbursed by Social Security if eligible.

(Check out p90 for other emergency numbers)

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10h15 to 12 noon, Third Wednesday of the month



and at our Book Exchange at

Laroque-des-Albères, Café des Artistes
10h30 to 12 noon,
Third Monday of the month

FEELING FLAT?

Between Brexit and Covid, and a wet, wet winter, many people will be coming home to flat batteries on their cars, campervans and garden machinery.



VISIT WILLIAM AT GERILEC FOR ADVICE ON CONSERVING YOUR BATTERY LIFE

Close and lock cars properly and ensure all lights off.

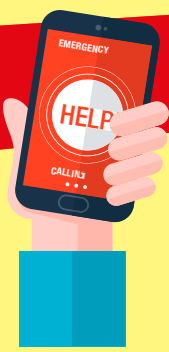
Buy a small booster pack, a little like a phone charger, to keep in your glove box and plug into the 12v socket.

Plug your car battery into a battery maintainer, which you can leave connected when away.

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POLICE emergency 17

Fire service emergency 18

European emergency line 112

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- Emergency vet 04 68 83 35 85
- Anti-poison centre 04 91 75 25 25
- Perpignan Hospital 04 68 61 66 33
- CPAM (English spk serv) 09 74 75 36 46
- Cancer Support France 04 68 69 01 37

- Directory enquiries 118 008
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- International Mastercard 08 00 90 13 87
- Local weather forecast 08 36 68 02 66
- GDF (gas problems) 08 10 43 30 66
- EDF (electricity problems) 05 56 17 40 70

You can use the **European emergency number 112** in any EU country from any telephone. You do not need a card or money to ring this number from a pay phone. 112 may also be used from a mobile to connect you with all emergency services.

Useful Vocabulary

Help > *Au secours!*

It's an emergency > *C'est un cas d'urgence*

I need an ambulance > *J'ai besoin d'une ambulance*

I've had an accident > *J'ai eu un accident*

The house/car is on fire > *La maison/voiture a pris feu*

My husband has had a heart attack/stroke > *Mon mari fait une crise cardiaque/a souffert un AVC (accident vasculaire cérébral – pronounced ai vai cai)*

My child is choking > *Mon enfant s'étouffe.*

I'm bleeding (a lot) > *Je saigne (beaucoup).*

I'm diabetic, I need insulin > *Je suis diabétique, j'ai besoin d'insuline.*

My wife is having the baby, her water has broken > *Ma femme accouche, le bébé arrive, la poche des eaux a percé.*

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