

Summer 2022

P-O Life

Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales

N° 74
FREE / GRATUIT



© Anne Reymond . "Du Côté de Banyuls"



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ART LIFE
From Paris
to Céret

**FOOD
and DRINK**
Reader
Restaurant Reviews

**P-O
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Edito ☺



Youpi, it's summer. The crickets are a-chirping, the frogs are a-croaking, the scent of wild lavender, rosemary and thyme growing wild in the garrigue wafts in on a light breeze of heat, mingling with suntan oil and barbecue, as the P-O turns into a whirling hurricane of entertainment and restauration hurtling along its dizzy course towards the end of the season.....but try getting a plumber, builder, tiler, baker or candlestick maker! They're all on their hols!

Fortunately we have a willing selection of all the trades at your service here in P-O Life (and many more on the website at www.anglophone-direct.com) along with walks, days out, festivals and music, summer fun suggestions, **incredibly bad jokes...**

And talking of which, we've rolled out a couple of the worst from past mags to get you into that summer mood. Go steady on the sun and heavy on the sun cream and have a great summer!

Kate & Laura

For the French students amongst you....
What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?
Philippe Floppe

And for the Spanish students...
What do you call a Spanish streaker?
Señor Willy

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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Email her on a.reymond@orange.fr or tel 06 64 47 01 63

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Or simply visit our website

www.anglophone-direct.com

for daily articles and have your say in the comments.

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Concepteur et rédacteur: Kate
Maquette & Création: Maite Sant

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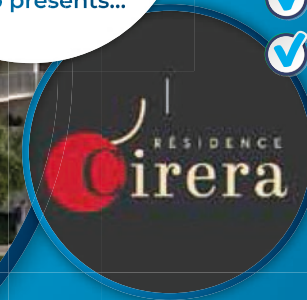
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VINEYARDS of Terrats* CIRCULAR

This circular walk through terraced vineyards in the foothills of Mount Canigou is the region's one and only 'Oenorandonnée', (wine walk) awarded by the Fédération Française de Randonnée (French hiking federation) to circular walks that set off and arrive back at a wine cellar.

Easy to moderate 2h - 7,7 km
185 m altitude
Clearly marked with yellow and white markers.

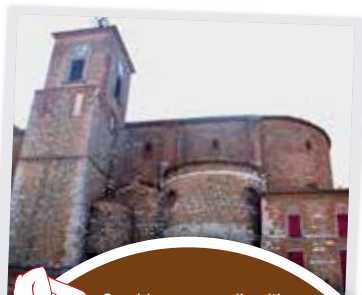
GETTING THERE

Heading from **Perpignan** towards **Le Boulou** on the D900, **turn off onto the D612 at Mas Sabole**, direction **Thuir**. Carry on for around 5km and left turn for **Terrats**. The winery is on the right, easily recognisable by its '**Tour Bouteillé**', the only three storied wine tower in France.

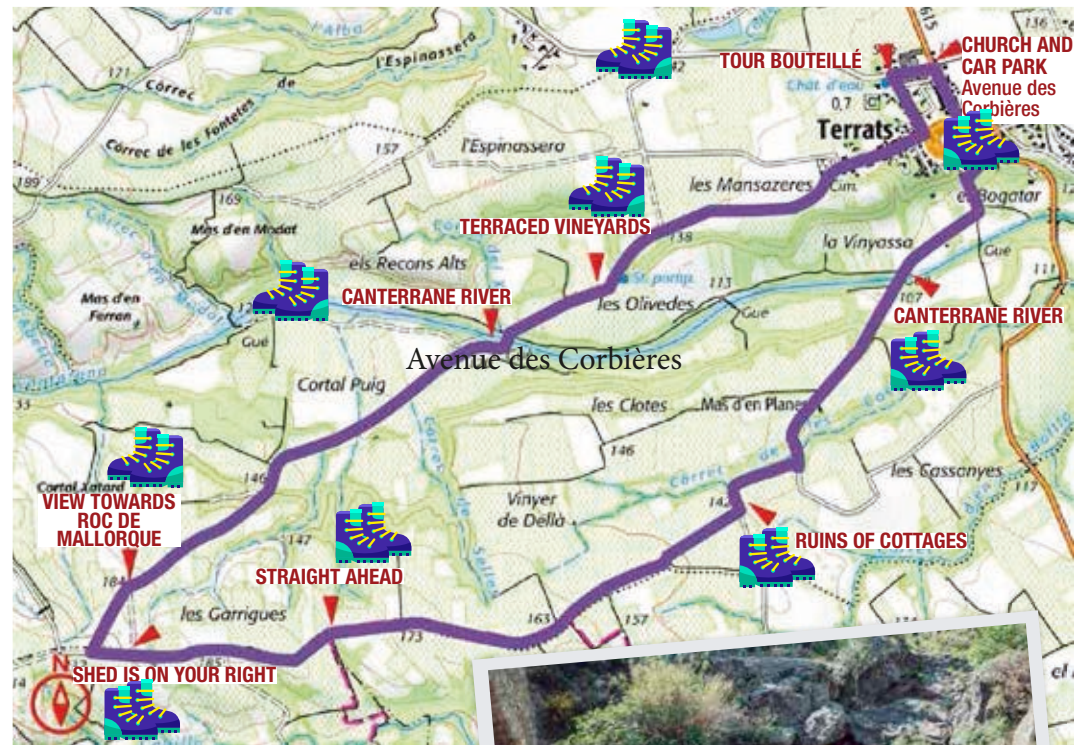
Parking Park in Terrats winery car park or nearby.

The labelled circuit **starts (and ends) at the Cave de Terrats in the heart of the Aspres**. What better way to follow fresh air and good healthy exercise than a tasting of this excellent and well priced wine? It would practically be rude not to!

DID YOU KNOW....
...that "Aspres" means "poor" or "arid" in Catalan, although the regional wines are anything but!



Combine your walk with a visit to nearby Thuir. Visit the 18th century church of **Notre-Dame de la Victoire**, with its curious statue of the Virgin, created in the thirteenth century from black lead. According to **legend**, when **Charlemagne** went into battle against the Saracens on the heights of Passa, he placed this statue of the Virgin in the midst of his parched and exhausted army, just as they were about to desert the battlefield. A fountain of water gushed from the dry land, the soldiers drank to their fill, and, replenished, drove away the enemy.



START

Start in front of the **Tour Bouteillé** and take 1st street on left, following the signs.



Turn right, exit the village, and continue into vineyards.

Cross the River Canterrane (meaning frog song). Gold was

once mined in this river. Have a paddle and grab anything glittering in the sunshine. You may even find prospectors sifting through the riverbed for 'paillettes d'or'. To your right, you will see the '**Roc de Mallorca**' overlooking the plain.

Turn left by the **shepherd's hut** ('cortal' in Catalan), and continue straight ahead, ignoring path on right.

Follow the signs, turning left after the loop, by some ruined cottages.



According to legend, the vines of Terrats grow on land that was, once upon a time, a secret and magical village called **Mirmande**, invisible to ordinary mortals and home to many 'encantades' (fairies and enchantresses). Situated on the right bank of the River Canterrane, a river known for its infrequent but often violent and devastating rises in water level, it was destroyed by a sudden flood. This realm of magic was said to 'fill men's souls with joy and pleasure'. Or maybe that was the wine!



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VINEYARDS of Terrats CIRCULAR

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Reservation
www.caves-byrrh.fr

CORTAL

This Catalan word describes the stone sheep shelters of the Conflent region, built in village or pasture, often large enough to shelter both the sheep and the shepherd. As the building of these stone sheepfolds required hundreds of tons of stone and skilled masons to carry out the work, they tended to be financed and owned by wealthy farmers.

But this is more than just a walk! **You can order a 'Panier gourmand'**, from the cave, and once you've worked up an appetite (and a thirst!) the winemakers will meet you halfway with a picnic and a bottle. 10€ (reservations required)

LES CAVES BYRRH, THUIR

Created by the Violet brothers of Corsavy in 1873, this well known aperitif is created from good quality Roussillon wines and quinine water – and said to be medicinal! Today, not only Byrrh but Cinzano, Dubonnet, Ambassadeur and Suze are made and matured in the 600 huge oak barrels that line the chais leading to the biggest oak barrel in the world. At 10 metres high, it contains 1,000,200 litres. A fascinating guided tour takes you through the station concourse, **built by Gustave Eiffel**, shows you how the wines are flavoured and fortified to make the aperitifs, passes by evocative old advertising posters, and ends with a tasting. www.byrrh.com



ART & WAR

Gustave Violet, son of one of the Byrrh creators, chose not to follow in his father's footsteps. Instead, he became an artist, sculptor and architect. At the outbreak of WW1, he was conscripted. On his return in 1918 this gentle artist, totally traumatised both physically and mentally by the horrors of war, was commissioned by several of the towns of the P-O to sculpt their War Memorials. **ANTI-war**. In Thuir, at the gateway to the cemetery, his bas relief sculptures depict not glory but sorrow and despair. Other Violet memorials in Perpignan, Prades, Estagel, Tautavel and Clairat, follow similar themes; women waiting for sons and lovers who would never return, the tragedy of war....

RANDO LAURENCE

Need to escape? Join Laurence for commented walks in the Aspres accompanied by historic anecdotes
Reservation
www.aspres-thuir.com



GET LOST!

Walk and wine for the big kids, then **how about games around the water** and flower mazes of the **Labyrinthe aux 1000 fleurs?**



Cross the **River Canterrane** again via a new crossing, and walk along the gardens, until you reach Terrats. Stroll around the village with its romanesque church and bell tower, ice wells and ancient bread oven, before returning to the car park, just in time for a delightful wine taster in the pleasant winery.

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VINEYARDS of Terrats CIRCULAR

JAZZ IN PASSA... JULY 30TH
 Jazz fan delight! Don't miss this great festival, the place to be this summer!
 Food-trucks, and drinks
 Reservation
www.aspres-thuir.com

Check out their advert on page 11 for other wine-related activities throughout July and August; visite of chai vats and tasting of exceptional old Rivesaltes ambré, guided tour of the vineyard with wine tasting, apéro with the local winemakers.....

Find out more at any of their FOUR caves

TERRATS

Tel: 04 68 53 02 50
 46 avenue des Corbières,
 66300 Terrats

CÉRET

Tel: 04 68 09 71 07
 8 avenue des Aspres,
 66400 Céret
 Monday

FOURQUES

Tel: 04 68 38 89 65
 1 bis rue du Taste Vin,
 66300 Fourques

CAVE DE THUIR

Tel: 04 68 53 34 10
 1063 avenue de la Méditerranée (rond point),
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L'abus d'alcool est dangereux pour la santé, à consommer avec modération

OUT ^{for} THE DAY

Jaca d'En Calvet



Mobility Problems? Head for the Hills!

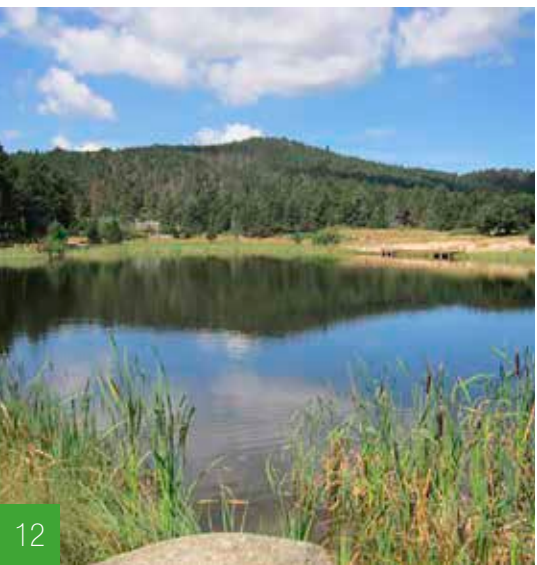
Need some cooler air but worried about access and mobility in the mountains?

Just off the roadside leading into Les Angles, you will find a wooden boardwalk round a small lake, Jaca D'en Calvet. It's not big but it is beautiful.



The lake, wild flowers and views make it a magic place to relax. Picnic tables for wheelchairs, with bench seats on one side and space for the wheelchair on the other make it perfect for the disabled. There are two fishing platforms, also accessible to wheelchairs, and some great walking circuits for the more dynamic members of the party.

Parking spaces are wider for people to get out and access their chair. The whole place is really well thought out for those with mobility problems, so if you feel that the mountains are not for you, do consider this little spot of heaven made easy to access.



Grotte de Fontrabieuse

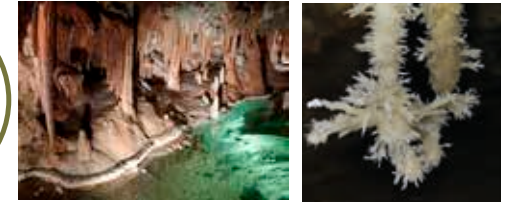
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OUT ^{for} THE DAY

VISA & PERPIGNAN

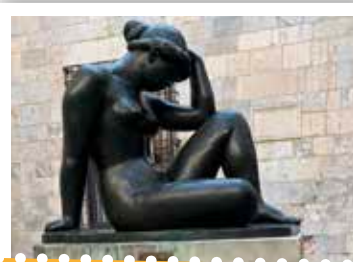
Perpignan is once again the proud host of the prestigious 'VISA Pour l'Image' festival, bearing witness to some of the world's biggest stories. Some made the news, others were kept quiet; images of our troubled times, the horrors of war, natural disasters...but also tales of hope and a glimpse of the quirky side of life.

From August 27 to September 11, there will be 25 free exhibitions in venues around Perpignan. There will also be 6 evening shows, with events projected on a giant screen amidst the graceful arcades of the Campo Santo, the largest and oldest funeral cloister in France.

Visit exhibitions by some of the world's leading documentary photographers, as well as up-and-coming professionals and skilled amateurs (through the "OFF" programme of fringe events in local cafés, shops and other spaces).



The photos are varied and fascinating but many of the venues are worth a visit in their own right. **What a great way to explore and enjoy Perpignan**, as you wander from location to location in this historic centre or take the weight off with a commented ride around town in style on the little train.



The XVI century Town Hall next to the Tourist Office in place de la Loge has three hands sprouting from the wall, representing each of the main 3 social classes, and their right to vote. Step through the attractive arched entrance into a pleasant courtyard where "La Méditerranéenne" (also known as 'La Pensée'), bronze statue by Maillol, sits in a pretty pool.

Le petit TRAIN de PERPIGNAN
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HOTEL PAMS

This art deco gem in the Rue Emile Zola is one of several beautiful old 'hotels particuliers', elegant private mansions of the Perpignan Bourgeoisie. It has enormous Art Deco Pre-Raphaelite paintings on the walls, a stunning entrance hall with an amazing light well, and a delightful hidden garden. **During Visa, it is the meeting place for all the press photographers.** Pop your head around the door for a glimpse of how the other half lived in Perpignan a century ago.



During the Middle Ages Perpignan was blessed with many monasteries. Almost all religious orders were well represented. Many are now used for exhibitions and concerts.

COUVENT DES MINIMES

Named after the order of 'Minimes' monks for whom it was built, you will find many award winning photos hanging on the walls of the old monk's dormitories, the grand corridors, the kitchens, the cloisters and courtyard of this the 15th century convent.



EGLISE DES DOMINICAINS

Move on to this nearby chapel, where the **Visa photographs are hung on long wires** in the impressive exhibition space, almost dwarfed by the height of their surroundings. Part of the Cloisters was sold to the army in the XVIII century and was, until recently, the base of the French Foreign Legion. Now, it is a venue for festivals and events.



ANCIENNE UNIVERSITE

The XVIII century 'university' was commissioned by Marechal Mailly, commander of the Roussillon in 1760, who personally donated 20,000 books. A library, then a museum, **today it is the home of the city archives**.....and another venue for VISA.



LE CASTILLET

The city walls built by Vauban are long gone but this former gateway, fortress and prison is today a museum of Catalan History - and another Visa venue. Climb the spiral staircase of La Casa Pairal (entrance: 2€) to the terrace, added to support cannons. The views across the city, the plain of Roussillon, and the sacred Mount Canigou are spectacular.



CHAPELLE DU TIERS ORDRE

Cross a small courtyard on the **Place de la Revolution Francaise** to another **VISA venue**, full of dramatic 19th century art. The building took almost a century to complete. The notorious "**Trabucayres**", Catalan highwaymen who terrorised the roads of the Albères in the mid 19th century, were tried and condemned to death or hard labour here.



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SHORT STAY VISAS:

what if you overstay your 90 days?

BREXIT, BREXIT, BREXIT!

Without residency rights, Brits with second homes, like all other third country nationals, are limited to 90 days in France (or any other EU country) over a 180-day period.



For British passport holders, the **short stay (90 day) visa is automatically assigned on your arrival into the Schengen area**, you do not need to apply for it in advance.

***Note: your passport must be valid for AT LEAST 3 months after the day you plan to leave.**

Make sure you ask border officers to stamp your passport on arrival and departure or officials may presume you have overstayed your 90-day **WELCOME!**

If you don't receive a stamp in your passport, keep hold of boarding cards and/or tickets as proof of your movements, **particularly those applying for a visa extension in France (see below) who flew into a Spanish airport and drove over the border to France.**

CALCULATORS

Keep track of your totals with the EU's short stay Schengen calculator

<https://ec.europa.eu>

EXTENSIONS

You can apply for a **short stay visa extension if, during your trip to France, you encounter unforeseeable extenuating circumstances, humanitarian, family or professional.**

Complete and send a visa extension form (*demande de prolongation de visa de court séjour*) to your local prefecture with details for your request, and date of departure.

INCLUDE:

- photocopies of all pages of passport (proof of entry and exit stamps, particularly arrival onto French territory)
- proof of insurance, including repatriation
- evidence of the extenuating circumstances (medical certificates, professional event etc.)

CONTACT THE PRÉFECTURE DES PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES

Address:

24 quai Sadi Carnot - 66951 Perpignan Cedex

Email: pref-dde-sejour@pyrenees-orientales.gouv.fr

Website: <http://www.pyrenees-orientales.gouv.fr/>

***Note: you can only apply for an extension from within France. If you leave the territory, you will need to apply for a re-entry visa from the British Embassy or a long-stay visa from TLS in the UK.**

OVERSTAYING

Tempted to try your luck and stay beyond the regulation 90 days? According to official websites, **immigration authorities register every arrival and departure in their SIS** (Système d'information Schengen) database, flagging up overstays, **even just for 1 day!**

Overstaying could result in immediate deportation, fines and a ban from re-entering the Schengen zone.

The cost of the fine and the length of the ban are not set in stone but worst-case scenarios **seem to indicate 1200€ and a 5 year ban.**

LONGER-STAY VISAS

If you need/want to stay longer than 90 days, **you will need to apply for a longer stay visa from your country of residence.**

Use the French government's official visa guide (<https://france-visas.gouv.fr>) to check which visa you require and your eligibility.

For British residents, longer stay visas are **managed by TLS**, who have centres in London, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Read their step-by-step guide to the French visa application process at <https://fr.tiscontact.com>

A number of P-O Life readers have gone through the process and report that the overall cost per visa is around £112 (without counting the additional costs of getting to the interview etc). As with all similar application processes, the amount of paperwork can be daunting!

BON COURAGE!



P-O Life

CROSS-BORDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR JUST 1€? MOLT BÉ*



Fancy a flaunt in Figuerès?
A jolly in Girona?
A blast in Barcelona?
Five new cross-border lines have been implemented to link North and South Catalonia through the project 'CONNECT'.

Ligne C1: Porté Puymorens – Puigcerdá – Mont-Louis

Ligne C2: Formiguères – Puigcerdá – Err

Ligne C3: Figueres – Le Boulou

Ligne C4: Figueres – Maçanet de Cabrenys – Saint Laurent de Cerdans

Ligne C5: Camprodon – Mollo – Prats de Mollo

Lines C1, C2 and C3: lines have connections with Perpignan.

Line C4: has connections with Arles sur Tech and Perpignan.

Line C5: line has connections with Arles sur Tech, Perpignan and Ripoll.

There are also 2 long distance lines connection **Barcelone-Puigcerdá-Illivia-Bourg-Madame** and **Girona-Puigcerdá-Illivia-Bourg-Madame**.

All for just 1€, but it's a bit of a challenge to work out the website. Check out www.mou-te.genca.cat for more info on timetables and/or keep an eye on the regional transport website, LiO. **Bon viatge***.

VISIT THE EXILE MEMORIAL MUSEUM (MUME)

in La Jonquera village, a poignant reminder of war. Distressing photos and original footage of crowded beach camps, the wreckage of emaciated bodies piled up in concentration camps, eye witness drawings and paintings of desperation and despair, lists and lists of names of the dead and disappeared..... You won't come away unmoved.



www.museuexili.cat/en/



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Festivals and TRADITIONS

14TH JULY FETE NATIONALE

The most important holiday of the year for the French, this date celebrates the overthrowing of the monarchy and the beginning of the democratic republic. Although we're now into the 5th version of the republic (created by De Gaulle in 1952), the storming of the Bastille on the afternoon of 14 July 1789 is still a great cause for celebration today. Expect fireworks, music and flyovers from the Patrouille de France (14th - 15th July in Port Barcarès and 17th July in Saint Cyprien).



BOOMBANGABANG!

As well as the big bank holidays, the coastal towns celebrate summer with regular fireworks displays. Between Argelès and Barcarès, there are explosions pretty much every week. Check out the programme online: www.anglophone-direct.com/summer-fireworks-in-pyrenees-orientales/



15TH AUGUST - ASSOMPTION

Although France is supposedly *laïque* (secular), the 15th August is traditionally the celebration of the Virgin Mary's ascension to Heaven. For non Catholics, the date has been appropriated as a mid-summer celebration so whatever your beliefs, there will be plenty of entertainment for everyone. Again, fireworks and music are *de rigueur*, but beware... according to an old French saying, if it rains for Assomption, it'll rain through until the nativity!!

NIGHT MARKETS



Nothing says 'summer' quite like a night market. Stroll up and down the stalls, enjoy an apéro or an ice-cream, watch the world go by. Obviously, some markets are bigger and better than others but it's a great excuse to get out and about around the region.

www.anglophone-direct.com/night-markets-july-and-august



Laroca Immobilier

Property Experts for *Les Albères* and *La Côte Vermeille*

PRICE: 159 000 €

Ref. 491A



BANYULS-SUR-MER: Quiet residence with pool, close to beach. Fully renovated 1 bedroom apartment with terrace, living-room, separate kitchen, bathroom and laundry room.

PRICE: 272 000 €

Ref. 1496m



BANYULS SUR MER: Pleasant village house of 58 sqm with terrace, living-room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower-room + guest house of 26 sqm with 1 bedroom. Courtyard and cellar.

PRICE: 382 000 €

Ref. 1499m



BANYULS-SUR-MER: Fantastic sea view from this bright, beach-side house with large living-room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, shower-room + bathroom, terraces, garden, garage and cellar.

PRICE: 579 000 €

Ref. 1484m



SOREDE: Beautiful 5 bedroom stone house with view over Les Albères and covered terrace. Outstanding renovation in ideal location. Separate garden with terrace and workshop. Very rare in the Albères!

PRICE: 689 000 €

Ref. 1495m



LAROQUE-DES-ALBERES: Fantastic 5 bedroom property with superb flat garden, two covered terraces, patio and heated swimming pool with pool house, bar, BBQ and petanque ground. Privileged position in Laroque.

PRICE: 368 000 €

Ref. 1501m



SOREDE: 3 bedroom Mediterranean style detached villa in the Vallée Heureuse. Large living room, spacious terrace with swimming pool and breathtaking views over valley and surrounding mountains!

Contact us to successfully market your property now!



2 agencies at your service:
Place de la Mairie, LAROQUE-DES-ALBERES
1 rue Saint Pierre, BANYULS-SUR-MER
www.laroca-immobilier.com

+33 (0)4 68 39 20 94
laroca@live.fr



The CURIOUS CASE of a CÉRET PAVEMENT

PART I by Peter Spencer



I've lived in the P-O since 2001, visiting Céret on many occasions with visitors, the market, a meal, the cherry festival, the Feria or a visit to the museum or church.

During all that time I've noticed that Céret has a penchant for digging up their roads and pavements on a regular basis. I'm not sure if they have ever found what they were looking for (a bit like U2), but **one recent piece of pavement art attracted my attention** - the **pavement adjacent to the Mairie** and the old tourist office where you will find an interesting commemoration to the artists that have been drawn to the area and have links to Céret and the P-O.

Of the 32 names, I knew of maybe seven or eight and some purely by seeing their names on street signs. I dug deeper. **The discoveries I made were truly enlightening from a human and artistic viewpoint** with many of them instigating some of the greatest art movements of our time.



Representing music, painting, sculpture, cinema, and the written word, predominately French/Spanish Catalans (but amazingly not one woman apart from the statue), **their common denominator is their link to Céret and the Pyrénées-Orientales.**

Quim Domene

The Céret tourist office informed me that **Quim Domene**, Spanish artist born in Olot, was **responsible for the monument**; in metal, marble, and brick, it's a work of art in itself.



(MARIE JOSEPH ALEXANDER) Deodat de Severac



Deodat is the only composer commemorated on the monument. He was born into a noble, artistic family in Saint-Felix-Lauragais, P-O side of Toulouse. He studied in both Toulouse and Paris before moving to Céret, where he died in 1921.

Ramon Pichot

Ramon was a Spanish/Catalan painter, **friend of Picasso and an early mentor to Dali**. After Pichot's sudden death in 1925, Picasso included a commemoration to him in a painting he was working on at the time, namely **'The three dancers'**.

Manolo Hugue

Manolo Hugue, better known as just **Manolo**, was a Catalan/Spanish **sculptor and part of the 20th century noucentism movement**, which pushed back against modernism and avant-gardism. Although a friend of Picasso, his style was more reminiscent of another local artist, Aristide Maillol.



Frank Burty Haviland

Born in Perpignan, **Haviland was a cubist painter**, as well as a friend and **client of both Picasso and Braque**. He was an avid **collector of African art**, which can be seen in his own works.



Pablo Picasso

Arguably our biggest claim to fame, homegrown hero **Picasso tried his hand at an astonishing array of media: painting, sculpting, collage, ceramics, theatre...** He spent most of his life north of the border in France and **became one of the most influential artists of the 20th century**, within the cubism movement but also across the artistic spectrum. The newly reopened **Musée d'art moderne in Céret houses a number of his works.**



Georges Braque

A **big contributor to the cubism and fauvism movements**, Braque was a close friend and colleague of Picasso, so much so that it was difficult to distinguish the artists in many of their early works. **Braque's quiet nature meant he was largely eclipsed by the more flamboyant Picasso.**

JOSÉ VICTORIANO (Carmelo Carlos) González-Pérez

Madrid-born, **Juan Gris, as he's more commonly known**, spent most of his working life in France. **Another big name in the cubism movement**, his innovative works are among the most distinctive.



MORE TO COME IN THE NEXT EDITION

From
PARIS
to Céret

Small Céret may be, but that doesn't stop the Musée d'Art being up there with some of the national gallery greats.

The latest expo at the **Céret Musée d'Art Moderne** celebrates **foreign artists on the Paris art scene of the early 20th century**, particularly during the war years. Many were fleeing rising tensions, restricted freedom and persecution in their homelands. **They came from Russia and Central Europe, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Asia.** They mostly lived in poverty, but **found inspiration in the streets and cafés of this 'capitale des arts'** where they

forged friendships with other like-minded artists, displaying their works in the many exhibitions, art fairs, and galleries happy to welcome foreign artists.

SO WHY CÉRET?

Because of Braque, Picasso, Miro, Dali and other great artists who made the pretty town their home or their muse-town, and because the original 1950s museum has recently added a fabulous new contemporary wing.

MORE INFO

**CHAGALL, MODIGLIANI,
SOUTINE & C^{ie}**

L'ÉCOLE DE PARIS (1900 - 1939)

9 juillet - 13 novembre 2022



Céret - musée d'art moderne



Chaim Soutine, *Le Groom*, 1925, huile sur toile, 98x80,5 cm, Paris, Centre Pompidou, musée national d'art moderne, © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/ Philippe Migeat/Dist.RMN-GP

Automne musical
en Vallespir

2022 From 18th September

A HEADS UP on this renowned music festival, celebrating the best in regional, national and international music.

Friday 23rd September at 8pm
Salle des Fêtes, Le PERTHUS
Duo I FRANGINI
Two brothers, tenor, accordion and saxophones and a family passion for music. Opera, jazz....

Sunday 18th September at 5pm
Église Saint Nazaire, Les CLUSES
'Le Beau Voyage des Violons'
Two musicians with different pasts come together in the present to take you on a musical violin voyage.

FOR THE REST....
Check out their website at www.amuvall.org or refer to the autumn P-O Life Mag for full programme throughout the autumn.
BOOKINGS 06 31 14 77 14 or email billets@amuvall.org

Exposition organisée par le Centre Pompidou, Paris et le musée d'art moderne, Céret



OUT ^{for}
THE DAY

July 22nd – August 9th
FESTIVAL

JAZZ



EN TECH

Don't miss the 7th
edition of this popular
cross border jazz
festival travelling
throughout the P-O
& Catalonia with 16
exclusive concerts in
fascinating & atmospheric
venues



65 of the best
jazzmen & women
from around
Europe & the USA

Absolute tributes
to jazz legends

A PRESTIGIOUS VISIT
FROM THE USA

Mrs Mandy Gaines - Cincinnati's
First Lady of Song

A PROGRAMME
BURSTING WITH TALENT

This year's
award-winning
European releases

LAST BUT CERTAINLY
NOT LEAST!

Solidarity Concert to the
Ukrainian People
In partnership with the
Conseil Départemental des P-O

PROGRAM JAZZ EN TECH

July 22nd at 9:30 pm
Saint-Cyprien, Botanical Garden
Miles Davis "So Miles"
NICOLAS FOLMER QUINTET
Special opening price €5.00 !



July 23rd at 6.30pm
Serralongue - Conjurador
"Jazz & Migration, Music in Liberty"
TAIB & SILVESTRI DUET €15.00

July 26th at 9pm
Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines Cloister
"Half a Century of NYC's Greatest
Standards"
ANDRÉ MALLAU QUARTET €15.00

July 27th at 9pm
Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines Cloister
"A Million Dreams" - RAYNALD
COLOM QUARTET €15.00

July 28th at 9pm
Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines Cloister
"Cincinnati's First Lady of Song"
MANDY GAINES WITH HER FRENCH
QUARTET €15.00



July 29th at 9pm
Corsavy Parc Communal
Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong !
JEROME ETCHEBERRY SEXTET
€15.00



July 30 at 9pm
Prats-de-Mollo La Preste
Eglise des Saintes Juste & Ruffine
Front of church
"Jazz & Migration,
Music in Liberty"
TAIB & SILVESTRI DUET €15.00

August 2nd at 9pm
Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines Cloister
"Unfolkettable 2"
NICO MORELLI QUINTET €15.00



August 3rd at 9pm
Palau-del-Vidre
Eglise Saint Sébastien
Front of church
Bill Evans "The Magician":
INTERPLAY
ALAIN JEAN-MARIE & DIEGO
IMBERT DUET €15.00



August 4th at 9pm
Amélie-les-Bains Palalda,
Place de la République
Benny Goodman "The King of
Swing" - MISTER JACK & HIS
FREE MEN
Love dancing in the streets? Join
us for the Lindy Hop, Jitterbug etc...
FREE

August 5th at 9pm - Céret,
Place de l'Eglise Saint Pierre
Nat King Cole's
"American Songbook"
PABLO CAMPOS QUARTET €15.00



August 6th at 9pm - Céret,
Place de l'Eglise Saint Pierre
The "Big Fabs" Blue Note Era -
FABIEN MARY &
DMITRY BAEVSKY QUINTET €15.00

August 7th at 9pm
Amélie-les-Bains Palalda,
Villa Castany
"Ricercare"
PHILIPPE MOURATOGLUO TRIO FREE



August 8th at 5:30pm
Céret Modern Art Museum (MAMC)
"Jazz & Migration,
Music in Liberty"
TAIB & SILVESTRI DUET €10.00

August 9th at 9pm -
Céret, Place de la Liberté
"Colors"
PIERRE BERTRAND QUINTET €15.00

August 24th - 9pm
Perpignan
Palais des Rois de Majorque
SOLIDARITY CONCERT TO THE
UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

L'INDEPENDANT

SPEDIDAM



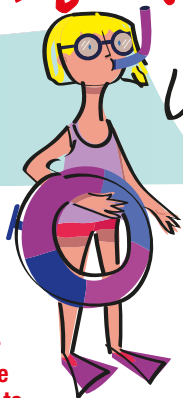
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MAJORQUE

More Details & Booking:
www.jazzentech.com

Va-Va-Voom



in THE



OUTSIDE.... THE LAKE

Top activities for the whole family! Look out for signs for Plan d'Eau off the main road from Le Boulou to Saint Jean Pla de Corts, and you quickly arrive at the perfect spot for picnics, summer swims, and lakeside walks, with 2 restaurants on site.

AQUAJUMP 66: Diving, jumping, trampolines, slides, diving boards and balance games.

Contact: **+33 (0)6 71 36 93 98/**
contact@aquajump.fun/www.aquajump.fun



NAUTICAL FUN: Paddle, pedal boat, kayak.

Contact: **+33 (0)6 30 94 06 92**

LES AVENTURIERS DE SAINT JEAN:

9 increasingly difficult runs high up in the trees, nets, ropes, zip wires, Tyrollean splash across the lake....from 3 years old

Contact: **+33 (0)6 71 60 37 44**
aventurier66@orange.fr
www.lesaventuriers66.com

TELESKI (SECOND LAKE):

8 Waterjump runs from 4 years old, ski lessons from 7 years old

Contact: **+33 (0)6 67 83 56 62**

waterparksj@gmail.com
www.tsjwakepark.com



GET CLOSE TO NATURE

You don't get any closer to nature on the plain than **Le col de l'Ullat at l'Albère**. Panoramic views, forest strolls, picnic tables - or treat yourself to a meal at the chalet de l'Albère.



WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THE CROWDS?

From pleasant stroll to strenuous climbs, try our 16 marked walks. Download at www.vallespir-tourisme.fr/en/ or scan our walking guide

with detailed itineraries of great walks throughout the Vallespir or pop into any tourist office for the booklet.



LOOKING FOR GUIDED WALKS, FOREST BATHING AND NATURE ACTIVITIES?

Check out **'En Route'** with **Christian Piquemal**

+33 (0)6 21 66 42 15
enchemin@mail.com
www.enchemin.com or

"Randôtremement" with **Vanessa Guérin**

+33 (0)6 03 91 28 52
randotremement@yahoo.com
www.randotremement.com



PREFER TWO WHEELS TO TWO FEET?

Ecological and free, ride the varied itineraries of the 33kms of bike paths and green ways, from completely flat to as steep as you like it! Forgot to bring your bike? Ne vous inquiétez pas (don't worry!)

Just hire one **Aloha Aventure / Aloha Camping Club** **+33 (0)4 68 39 43 12 /** info@aloha-aventure.fr / www.aloha-aventure.com

Everybody loves a night market!

Don't miss **Les Vespérales**...craft in the streets of Céret **every Tuesday** evening from July 5 to August 30



LOOKING FOR MORE OF A CHALLENGE? DARE YOU!

CANYONS DES TERRES CATALANES:
+33 (0)6 08 68 95 58 / jeanguitard@wanadoo.fr / www.canyons-catalans.com

ADVENTURE TOUT TERRAIN: **+33 (0)6 87 59 92 23 /** **+33 (0)6 84 45 71 41 /** contact@att66.fr / www.adventuretoutterrain.com

CANYONING CÔTÉ SUD: **+33 (0)6 07 43 41 42** montagne.canyon.66@gmail.com / www.canyoningcotesud.com

IN EXTREMIS AVENTURA: **+33 (0)6 29 56 40 36 /** info@intextremis-aventure.com / www.intextremis-aventure.fr

AQUACANYON: **+33 (0)4 13 33 10 00 /** infos@aquacanyon.fr / www.aquacanyon.fr

PARAGLIDING FLIGHT to get you high
Parapente 66: **+33 (0)7 69 29 61 05 /** contact@parapente66.com / www.parapente66.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- > July 2/3 **Le Boulou** Fête de l'eau
- > July 7/10 **Céret**
Les déferlantes Sud de France
- > July 15/17 **Céret** Feria de Céret
- > July 22/24 **Céret** Festival de sardanes
- > September 18 **Céret** Ronde Cérétane

THE VALLESPİR INTERCOMMUNAL TOURIST OFFICE TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU...

We're happy to help and answer any questions to make your visit to the Vallespir even better.

FOR ANY QUESTION RELATING TO YOUR STAY, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE ON
+33 (0)4 68 87 00 53

OR BY EMAIL AT

accueiltourisme@vallespir.com



SCAN THE QR CODE AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUR WEBSITE!

OUT for
THE DAY

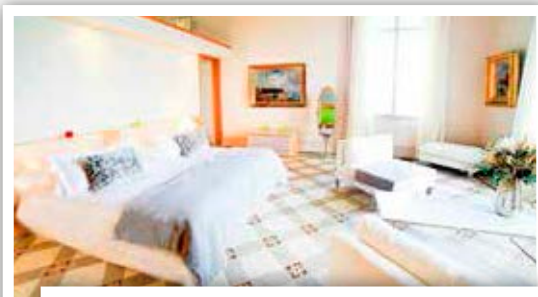


When Perpignan baker Joseph Bardou made his fortune from the invention of JOB cigarette papers, his son Pierre commissioned the Danish Architect Viggo Dorph-Petersen, well known for his extravagant Belle Epoque style, to build a château for each of his three children.

For his son Justin, Chateau d'Aubiry in Céret, for his daughter Camille, Chateau Ducup St Paul in Perpignan, and for his daughter Jeanne, recently married to Jules Pams, Château de Valmy. Her portrait hangs today in the salon on the first floor.

Wine, DINE and wake up with a view

Today **Château Valmy** is a chic and elegant guest house, peaceful, and picturesque, **with five gracious en suite rooms, looking out across the vines and down to the sea.**



A smart tasting 'cave' with endless views over the perfectly manicured vineyards leads into the stylish restaurant, **La Table de Valmy**, reviewed in an earlier edition of **P-O Life**. 'The whole package of location, view, wine, food and general ambiance was terrific', wrote the reviewer.

And really, dining on that pretty terrace with **spectacular views over the vines and the sea** – well, what's not to like?

WINE TASTING – RESTAURANT – CHAMBRES D'HOTES – EVENT MANAGEMENT



DINE AT LA TABLE DE VALMY

LUNCH-TIME MENU

FROM 28€ FOR 2 COURSES + MINERAL WATER (NOT SUNDAY OR BANK HOLIDAYS)

EVENING MENU

41€ FOR 4 COURSES + MINERAL WATER OR 56€ INCLUDING WINE (ONE GLASS PER COURSE - CHOSEN TO ENHANCE YOUR CHOICE OF DISH)



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RESTAURANT OPEN 7/7 JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER

FOR LUNCH AND DINNER

AND FROM THURSDAY LUNCHTIME TO SUNDAY LUNCHTIME
FROM MID SEPTEMBER TO END OF OCTOBER



RESERVATIONS BY PHONE ONLY 04 68 95 95 25

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CONTACT@CHATEAU-VALMY.COM

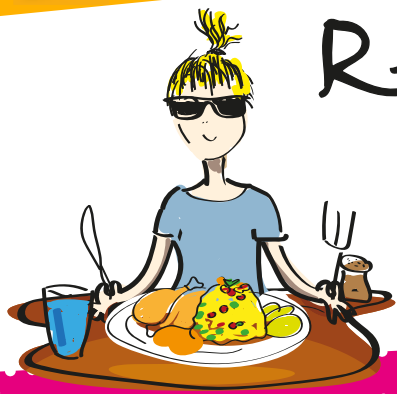
CHÂTEAU VALMY :::: ARGELÈS-SUR-MER :::: WWW.CHATEAU-VALMY.COM





Restaurant REVIEWS

SPRING 2022



We're no gourmet 'foodies' but we know what we like. Fresh, tasty food, good and friendly service, clean cutlery, crockery and loos, and prices that don't send P-O Life into liquidation compared to the quality of the meal. The following reviews are not adverts. They are just restaurants that friends and readers have recommended. Bon appétit.

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.

DU NORD AU SUD

Perpignan....with Jeff

A very reasonably priced restaurant with great food and friendly and helpful service. **Shared starter, 2 huge main courses, litre of house red €50**



14 Rue du Théâtre, Perpignan
Tel: 06 50 72 95 8

LE REFUGE DU CLOCHER

Laroque des Albères....with Jessica

A great **new addition to Laroque**, with lovely views and a great atmosphere. The wine list respects all budgets, and **we enjoyed everything from melt in your mouth** lamb served with roasted veg to a huge 'cote de boeuf' for 2 served with homemade chips and salad. The homemade desserts are just as good. **We will be returning, especially to try out the new brunch menu.**



1 Rue des Évadés,
Laroque-des-Albères
Tel: 04 68 73 43 59

LA CASA LINGA

Collioure....with Eileen

While Collioure has a plethora of restaurants to suit all budgets, **we had a beautiful lunch here, priced at €23.50 for three courses.** Fresh, local produce, beautifully presented and served. The entry level wine was Abbé Rous, local and very acceptable. **We were very impressed and will return.**



8 Rue Saint-Vincent, Collioure
Tel: 04 68 61 93 99

CHEZ ANNE ET DIDIER

Port Vendres....with Jane

I return here regularly because it is always good value and the owners are so friendly. Not high end cuisine, but good food and wine at a reasonable price. **They normally have a vegetarian option and fresh fish.** Use the time to people-watch as it is usually pretty busy. **You are advised to book.**



4 quai Pierre Forgas, Port-Vendres
Tel: 07 65 27 85 87

LA SALAMANDRE

Sorède....with Merry

Eating in the square in Sorède, **this was one of the prettiest meals we've had, starting with one of their house cocktails.** Dishes are a **mixture of traditional French cooking with creamy sauces and some original touches.** Super food in a lovely village setting. Three courses for 34€. **Best to book as they do get busy.**



3 Rte de Laroque des Albères, Sorède
Tel: 04 68 89 26 67

BISTROT

Llauro....with Miranda

Llauro's only restaurant offers imaginative locally sourced food at a very reasonable price. There is limited seating, including **a terrace with amazing views over the Plaine de Roussillon.** Service is friendly and professional, they will cater for food allergies, and the wine couldn't be more local. There is also an excellent **takeaway service at €10 per large portion.** Bon appétit.



1 bis Rue du Platane, Llauro
Tel: 06 48 57 57 98



LA QUETE

Argeles sur Mer...with Malcolm

The food could be described as tapas but that doesn't do justice to the small sharing plates (or big tapas)! We shared Thon tartare, Moules, Acras, Joue de porc, Filet du Boeuf, Lentilles, and Potimarron between 4, with two bottles of excellent white wine. We followed with a chocolate mousse and the best citron coupe Colonel any of us could remember tasting. All of exceptional quality with great, smiley service. Total bill 184€. **Looking forward to sitting outside on the traffic free square.**



9 Pl. Gambetta, Argelès-sur-Mer
Tel: 04 68 08 23 19



DOMAINE DE FALGOS

St Laurent de Cerdans...with Philippa

We decided to try out the lunch and spa offer at **Domaine de Falgos** as advertised in the spring PO Life magazine. Highly recommend it - we used the gym, went for a swim, checked out the whirlpool & sauna & hammam all before a delicious lunch. All for 45€ per head including wine and coffee. **Excellent service too.**



Saint Laurent de Cerdans
Tel: 04 68 39 51 42



LES CAPELLANS

Centre Commercial Saint Cyprien

Far from the madding crowd, but not too far, more relaxed, safe for the kids to run around, sit on the dock in the bay (no tide rolling in though) in one of several café restaurants in Les Capellans. Parking is easy, (though less so in August) some great takeaway shops if you want to eat on the beach, excellent fishmonger, butcher, veggie shops, supermarket, souvenirs, bread, cheese, and a Wednesday morning craft market with a portion of the profits going to charity. A dynamic little quayside shopping centre which is easily overlooked and could do with our support.



Saint Cyprien Port



OVER THE BORDER
...IN SPAIN

RESTAURANT L'ERMITA

Sant Pol de Mar...with Robyn



Less than 2 hours from Perpignan, just north of Barcelona, this restaurant is open 365 days a year and is associated with a catering college. It has a fabulous seasonal menu with all the dishes beautifully presented. Menu prices are just 24 or 26 euros depending on the day of the week. We celebrated my husband's birthday there on a Monday evening and virtually had the place to ourselves. Lunchtimes seem to be busy though. And it is part of the **Hotel Gran Sol**, a great place to stay with terraces overlooking the sea.

N-II, km 664, 08395
Sant Pol de Mar, Spain
Tel: +34 937 60 00 51



TWO FIRSTS

Did you know that the first real chocolate factory in France was created in 1814 in Arles-sur-Tech?

AND ANOTHER FIRST.

Arles was one of the first villages in France to produce and use its own electricity.



QUELQUES
QUICKIES

LES 9 JETS,

Céret...with Wendy
Very impressed by the food, (we both had the 24,50€ set menu) it was extremely tasty, well presented and the staff were attentive and friendly. We will definitely go again.
FB: www.facebook.com/Les-9-jets

NEW DELHI,

Perpignan...with David
Absolutely amazing Indian meal. Loads of flavour and spice. Not your normal bland French Indian. 10/10
FB: www.facebook.com/New.Delhi.Perpignan

TRULL D'EN FRANCESC

Pont de molins...with Mwana
Fantastic, fantastic, fantastic. Excellent food and service, lovely setting
www.trull-boadella.com

L'ATELIER DE FRED,

Céret...with Lesley Anne
Superb lunch or dinner - thank you David and the welcome from Fred is just the best in the PO. For the quality and choice of food, the price is unbelievable. Bravo Fred. We love you.

LA TABLE CAN CERET,

Sant Pere Pescador...with Martin
We had an amazing time at this restaurant south of Roses. Owned by the most friendly French folks we've ever met and a true passion for their dishes.
www.latablecanceret.com/

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!! :-)



FOOD and DRINK



LAURA'S VEGGIE (HO)ICES

Now I love hummus as much as the next person but if **you think being veggie is all about salad and chick peas... think again!** The P-O has come on in leaps and bounds in terms of restaurants serving plant-based diets. Here are another two of my faves. **Know a restaurant worth a mention?** Let me know at laura@anglophone-direct.com

YORIMICHI

Perpignan



Tucked away in the Saint Jacques quartier of Perpignan, **this is an absolute those-in-the-know gem.** Booking is essential because it's always jam packed. They also do take away and delivery. Far from the generic sushi/sashimi that seems to be all the rage these days, **Hitomi and Jonathon serve refined, tasty authentic Japanese cooking.** Vegetarian, vegan, meat, fish... **something delicious for everyone.** They even have a Japanese 'tapas' tasting menu. Jonathon speaks perfect English too.

11 Rue Jean-Baptiste Duchalmeau, Perpignan
Tel.: 06 70 88 07 98

LES DÉLICES DU LIBAN

Perpignan

Opposite the Théâtre de l'Archipel, Avenue Général Leclerc, also known as Thirsty Street (rue de la Soif), has loads of great bars and restaurants. Before a recent dance spectacle, we called in to this restaurant by chance and we'll certainly be going back. **Previously a buffet (I'm always wary!), it's now à la carte and there's loads on the menu,** including 4 different mezze plates, one veggie and one vegan.



41 Avenue Général Leclerc, Perpignan
Tel.: 06 08 68 81 46

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YOU NEED SOME RENOVATION WORK DONE?



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DREAM OF BUILDING YOUR OWN CHALET?



www.evo-chalets.fr



 **Contact our English agent Caroline OLIVER 06 20 60 19 49 caroline.oliver@evo-construction.fr**

We offer a personalised free quote We can even help with plots of land

Ideas for EATING OUT

...ARGELES

La Table du Coin, port Argelès 04 68 55 46 54
58-59 Esplanade du Nouveau Monde, Port Argelès

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FORT LES BAINS -AND HUNGRY MEN

Many have heard of Fort Lagarde in Prats de Mollo and Fort de Bellegarde in Le Perthus, but did you know that Amélie also has a fort, Fort les Bains?

First a medieval chateau, then a fort built to cut off access to the High Vallespir, Fort les Bains resisted canon ball assaults from the Spanish, occupying Palalda - but the 144 strong garrison surrendered due to hunger!



...PERPIGNAN

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LOAD OF EURO
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**Watermelon
Mojitos**



The sun is out, the sky
is blue, the temperature's
rising, the BBQ's
sizzling.....

**What better time to treat
yourself or your guests to
this refreshing cocktail**

with a bit (or a lot!) of an
alcoholic zing to it?

INGREDIENTS

- > 1/2 - 1 watermelon chopped up
- > mint leaves coarsely torn
- > juice of 3 freshly squeezed limes
- > light rum, such as Bacardi (to taste)
- > 1/2 cup sugar solution
- > Sprigs of mint for serving

METHOD

Mash up the mint leaves. Puree water melon.
Place mashed up mint into large jug and pour in
pureed watermelon, rum, and sugar solution, add
lime juice and stir to combine.
Pour over ice cubes and garnish with sprigs of
fresh mint and spears of watermelon. Serve ice
cold.



According to researcher
in America, the chemical **citrulline**
found in watermelon has a similar
effect to **Viagra!** Eating watermelon
helps the blood to circulate more
easily as well as being good for your
heart and immune system. It also
contains the anti-oxidant
lycopene which is good
for your skin.

PAELLA



It was originally cooked over a wood fire by farmers and labourers in the fields, using rice and anything else that was available, such as snails, rabbit or anything they could catch. **The dish was traditionally eaten straight from the wide, shallow pan, each worker using his or her own wooden spoon.**

As the dish spread beyond the fields, and along the coasts, fresh seafood was added, and today there are many different versions of this versatile Spanish dish - mostly created with little resemblance to its humble origins.

THE REAL THING

Did you know that most of us probably haven't been eating 'real' pukka paella on our Spanish sorties?

Researchers from the University of Valencia, home of the famous dish, have published the results of a study in the International Journal of Gastronomy and Food Science. **The real paella has no chorizo - and no seafood!** In fact, the **official paella** is made with just 10 essential ingredients: **rice, water, olive oil, salt, saffron, tomato, flat beans, arrofón (beans from Valencia), chicken and rabbit.**

Valencia is the undisputed home of paella, and in fact, the word itself comes from old Valencian meaning frying pan.



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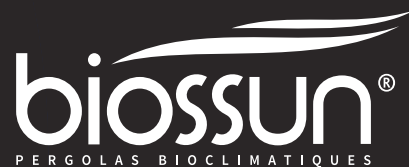


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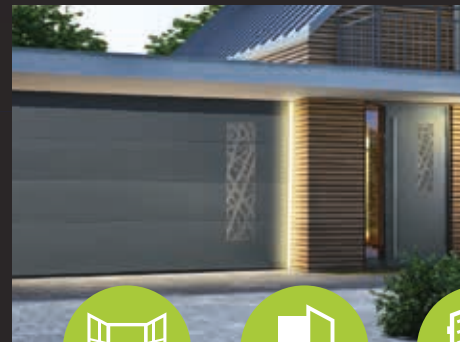
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EATING STRANGE THINGS

SEA URCHINS



Aie aie aie!

If you've had the misfortune to accidentally step on a sea urchin (oursin) on bare footed paddles in the sea, you will be very aware how painful it can be. Though not actively aggressive, sea urchins have two defences to protect them from predators; long, venomous spikes that can puncture skin, and 'pedicellariae', forceps-like jaws that release venom. Ouch! However, the good news is that you can get your own back - by eating their gonads!

REVENGE IS SWEET

Hidden away under that thorny exterior lies a delicate, subtle, fresh-from-the-Med taste, sometimes compared to oysters. Eat them raw, with a spoon, straight out of the sea, maybe with a drizzle of lemon if you happen to take one to the beach, or check out the coastal tourist offices for an 'oursinade', a communal and convivial sea urchin fest held in many resorts along the coast. Look out for them too on the menu of specialist fish restaurants, ask for 'uni' in sushi restaurants - or why not save a euro or two and dive for them yourself?



HEALTHY

Rich in protein and dietary fibre, minerals, and Beta Carotene, high in Vitamins C and A, usually found in dark leafy greens, and high in omega-3 fatty acids.

ON THE ROCKS

Sea urchins have small tube feet that allow them to cling to rocks, so you'll usually find them in the shallows of rocky coastal areas. Our own 'Cote Rocheuse' from Collioure to Cerbère and beyond is a perfect hunting ground. As well as your mask, snorkel and flippers, take a knife or gloves to help pry them from the rocks. Choose those with hints of red, green or purple rather than pitch black in colour.

Bon app!

DID YOU KNOW....

- ...Sea urchins live around 50 to 100 years.
- > The word 'urchin' comes from Old French herichun meaning hedgehog (Modern French - hérisson)
- > Sea urchin or 'uni' is considered an aphrodisiac in Japan.



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OUT ^{for} THE DAY

DRIVE OLETTE TO LES ANGLES VIA SANSA

When the heat of the plain becomes oppressive, it's time to head up the mountain and fill your lungs with sweet fresh air.



And if you're looking for some spectacular mountain scenery on your way up to the high cantons of the Cerdagne and Capcir, **you can't beat the twisty-turny road from Olette to Les Angles via Sansa.**

Drive up the N16 past Prades and Villefranche de Conflent. At Olette, take the road towards Evol and turn left onto the D4. The twisting and turning begins pretty well toot sweet!

Pass the tiny chapel of Cabrils perched on a rocky out-crop above a stream of the same name, isolated farms

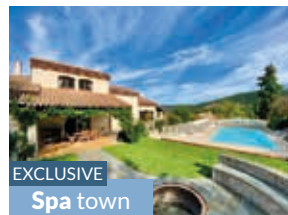
and breathtaking scenery on your way to the remote village of **Sansa in the valley of Garrotxes**, site of French resistance activity during WW2. Stretch your legs in this stone and slate village, **the starting point of several great walks to the Col Sansa or the Massif of the Madres.** Look out too for the 21m by 5m 'orri', ancient shepherd's hut built from dry stone and big enough to shelter 300 to 400 sheep - and one shepherd!

Continue your drive along either the D4, or the D5 which will bring you out in the high Capcir, **via the Col de la Llose or the Col de Creu.**

Not a drive for faint hearts, or weak tummies, but for lovers of wild and remote country, it is a joy!



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



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EXCLUSIVE
City living

Perpignan €266,000
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Saint-André €360,000
Ref: A11644 - Lovely villa with 2 apartments, pool, garden, garage and plenty of parking.

Agency fees paid by seller.
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St.Laurent €552,650
Ref: A12065 - Beautiful villa with separate apartment, terrace, garages and garden.

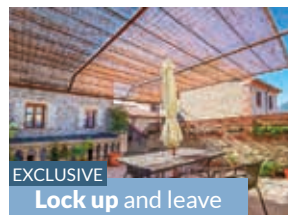
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EXCLUSIVE
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Canet Plage €220,000
Ref: A13236 - Sea view apartment 90m from the beach at Canet Plage Sud.

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ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



EXCLUSIVE
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Prades €225,000
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Agency fees paid by seller.
DPE: Not required.



St.Paul-de-Fenouillet €256,800
Ref: A11935 - 5 Bedroom house on a quiet cul de sac, with a terrace, garden, and views.

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EXCLUSIVE
Sea & Ski

Prades €210,000
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UNTIL 29th OCTOBER 2022 by Robbie Shaw

London Heathrow recorded over five million outbound passengers in April 2022, and other UK airports also report a post pandemic increase following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in the UK and Europe. But more passengers and staff shortages mean longer queues, with waits of several hours reported in some airports, so give yourself plenty of time to get through security this summer.

Please remember that changes are taking place constantly and several flights could have been added or cancelled by the time you read this. Monitor the airline websites yourself to be sure of receiving the latest and most up-to-date info.

Winter schedules will start on Sunday 30 October.

PS Have you noticed the price of car hire recently? Arrrggghhh!

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



J'ai demandé à une hôtesse de l'air de changer de siège à cause d'un bébé qui pleurerait à côté de moi.
Il s'avère que vous ne pouvez pas faire cela si le bébé est à vous

(siège - seat qui... pleurerait - who was crying... Il s'avère que it turns out that...)





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
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 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



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



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PUNCTUREVINE

looks can be deceptive!

If you have ever ridden your bike over puncturevine seeds (Croix-de-Malte in French), or even worse, stepped on them with bare feet, you will understand exactly how they got their name!



Also called goat's-head thanks to the resemblance of its burrs to goats 'or bulls' heads, this annual weed is mostly found on dry or gravelly sites, such as orchards, vineyards, a tree lined path alongside the beach....



It grows in a mat that spreads across the ground, producing these unpleasant and harmful spiked seeds which are dispersed by sticking into tyres, shoes, clothing, fur, feathers and animal feet.

One plant can produce 300 to 5,000 seeds per season. If you do have them 'chez vous' wear thick gloves to pull them up, try not to shake seed heads loose and don't add them to your compost as they will probably survive to skewer you another day!



Don't be fooled by the pretty yellow flowers which bloom from late spring onwards; their Latin name of *Tribulus terrestris*, (a tribulation on the earth) also reminds us that looks can be deceptive.

Its Latin name of tribulus was originally associated with a spiky defence weapon used to slow the advance of troops, horses, chariots, and war elephants, and later used to repel wheeled vehicles by puncturing the tyres.



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QUEL LIGNE MARCHÉ???

Really, really silly joke...but good for your French :-)

Il est une heure du matin.
Sur une grande place à Perpignan où se croisent pas mal de lignes d'autobus, un type qui a visiblement bien arrosé sa soirée s'approche, en zigzaguant, d'un employé de la R.A.T.P. en train de fermer sa guérite.



L'homme repart en titubant, rejoint son copain, éroulé sur un banc, dans le même état que lui et lui dit:
- Viens! On peut traverser...

Excusez-moi de m'excuser...bredouille t-il. Pourriez-vous me dire s'il y a encore des 84?
Non, monsieur, c'est terminé.
Et des 92 ?
Non plus.
Et des 32 ?
Non plus.
Des 174 peut-être ?
Non plus.
Alors... Quelle ligne marche encore ?
Aucune, monsieur. Il n'y a plus d'autobus avant cinq heures du matin.

USEFUL VOCAB

se croisent - **meet**
pas mal de - **quite a lot**
bien arrosé sa soirée - **had a lot to drink**
en train de - **in the middle of (doing something)**
guérite - **wooden hut/sentry box**
bredouille - **mumble/mutter**

Quelle ligne marche - **what line is running?**
Aucune - **none**
Il n'y a plus - **there are no more...**
repart en titubant - **staggers away**
éroulé - **slumped**
un banc - **bench**
dans le même état - **in the same state**



We certainly don't want to wish away the summer... but any time is a good time to save money!



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SNAKE IN THE GRASS

Among seven species of grass snake to be found in the south of France, the largest is the couleuvre de Montpellier, whose males can measure (exceptionally) up to 2,50 meters. Newspaper 'Le Réveil Catalan' reported on 23 juin 1907 that a shepherd near Sournia village came across one of his sheep being strangled to death by an enormous 3 metre long 'couleuvre' or grass snake. Unable to save the poor beast, he nevertheless went back a few days later with a gun and killed it. Calmez-vous! Grass snakes of this size are very rare in this region.



LA STATUE DU PETIT TAMBOUR

Have you seen the statue of the Little Drummer Boy in Le Boulou? This statue, by sculptor Gérard Vié, represents the first child to die for his motherland on November 1st, 1794, during the battle of Le Boulou (30 April-1 May 1794). This French victory in the eastern Pyrenees was fought against the Spanish who came close to conquering Perpignan but were obliged to retreat to the Tech River.

LOVE READING? LOVE THE PYRENEES-ORIENTALES? WHY NOT COMBINE THE TWO?

All of these books can be bought on Amazon or found in local book shops. **Bonne lecture!**

THE CHRONICLES OF ISAAC OF GIRONA...

CAROLINE ROE

Medieval medical mysteries. Follow the adventures of the Bishop Of Girona's blind Jewish physician, a 14th-century doctor with important patients and a nose for wrong-doing, as he travels throughout Catalonia, including Perpignan, healing and solving mysteries. There are 8 volumes so it should keep you going for summer!

LITTLE MONEY STREET...FERNANDA EBERSTADT

An insight into gypsies and their music in Perpignan, centring around the gypsy band Tekameli. In 1998, Fernanda Eberstadt, her husband, and their two small children moved from New York to the Quartier Saint Jacques in Perpignan. Here she found a jealously guarded culture, a society made, in part, of lawlessness and defiance of non-Gypsy norms, and met Molse Espinas, the lead singer of the Gypsy band, Tekameli.

ALBUM OF EXILE.....THÉRÈSE CAU

Thérèse Cau, daughter of Spanish Republicans and native of Port Vendres, recounts the tumultuous history of her family, from their origins in Catalonia to their lives in France today. It is the story of family divided, the experiences of her father and uncles on the frontline of the Spanish Civil War, in the internment camps in France, the struggle to reconstruct their lives in a new land where they did not speak the language.

LE LYCAN BLANC...PHIL BECKER

Test your French in this heroic-fantasy that takes place in Catalonia, following an albino werewolf, Corcinos, in a alternative XII century. All the fantasy archetypes are present: wizards, chivalry, fantastic creatures such as werewolves, minotaurs and titans... but the beauty of this fantasy is that it takes place around the Canigo, Perpignan, and Collioure!

Raised on the Mount Canigo, follow the werewolf on his journey to discover how he became a monster.

CÔTE VERMEILLE STORIES..... ELLEN TURNER HALL

Carefully crafted prose exploring characters who, like the author, have fallen under the spell of one or other of the four villages of the Côte Vermeille.

Their stories, twist and turn, basking in and buffeted by the eccentric charms of Catalonia's rocky coast as Ellen guides the reader on a voyage of discovery along the Côte Vermeille.

A WORLDLY TALE TOLD OF MOTHY CHAMBERS...

KATE BARNWELL

Of great interest to those who know and love Collioure, Mothy Chambers is a sixteen year old schoolboy in England in the sixties, who is packed off by his indifferent family to learn French in Collioure, where he meets Bette, a recently married, mesmeric young woman. Ten years later, he returns to Collioure.

DAUGHTER OF CATALONIA...

JANE MACKENZIE

In war-torn France, charismatic Spaniard Luis elopes with high-born Elise from Paris and takes her to live in a small village in Catalonia. Little do they know that war will rip them apart. Many years later their daughter Madeleine returns to France to seek out her roots and the truth of her parents' story. The town of Vermeilla is fictional but the central characters visit Collioure, Port Vendres, Amélie-les-Bains, the Vallespir and Céret.

Well researched, a gripping summer read.

COMINGS AND GOINGS IN CÉRET...

JULIE ROUSSEL CROS & LAETITIA ROUSSEL

Two sisters, having fallen under the charm of the Vallespir capital, transport the reader back to XVII century Céret. Follow Matthieu Barbet, a Parisian police officer brought to Céret to investigate poisoned bonnets. Discover the town as it was back in 1673. Those in the know will also enjoy recognising local references such as the magnificent Canigou, Perpignan, Le Boulou, the Fontaine des Neuf Jets, le pont du Diable, les bruixas and more.

A fun and light-hearted way to (re)discover the history of the region.

LOVE AND WAR IN THE PYRENEES... ROSEMARY BAILEY

It was a tattered pair of roped soled espadrilles hanging in the St Laurent museum that initially sparked Rosemary's curiosity. They had belonged to one of the men who helped the refugees escaping Franco's forces at the end of the Spanish Civil War and now she felt an immediate need to know more of the recent history of her adopted second home. The resulting book uncovers love, brutality and conflicting loyalties of war. A brilliantly written record of a dark period in the history of the Pyrenees Orientales

SHEPHERD'S PRAYER ...KATJA WILLEMSSEN

Having run from a marriage proposal in London to the history-steeped Pyrenees, Raisin Radcliffe is visited by her estranged brother, Geoffrey. Together, they explore the labyrinthine caves in the scenic hills behind Collioure, and the secrets of their traumatic childhood begin to unravel before them, with shocking consequences. Many of the locations are real and can be explored.

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SARDANES

This traditional Catalanian circle dance, **believed to be of Greek origin, is designed to bring whole villages together.** Circles within circles, hands raised and joined together, small, precise steps..... but don't be fooled. **This 'hokey cokey' style dance requires effort, muscle control and coordination.** Music for the sardane is played by a 'cobla', a wind band with double bass including **typical Catalan instruments tenora, tible, flabiol and tambori, alongside trumpet, trombone, fiscorns and double bass.**



CORREFOCS

If you're out and about in **Catalonia** this summer, there's a **good chance that you'll be treated to a Correfoc display.** Their meaning of **"fire runs"** says it all as the 'colles de diables' (groups of 'devils') dance amongst the crowds waving sparklers, firecrackers, and roman candles, spitting fire into the crowd. The 'Generalitat de Catalunya' suggests "If by any chance your clothing catches fire, throw yourself on the ground and roll over to put out the flames. Above all, do not run, as this will spread the flames and make them burn more fiercely."



CASTELLS

Castells (Catalan for castles) originated at the end of the 18th century in Valls, Tarragona, when rival "colles" (groups) began to compete in constructing human towers. These castellers (castle-makers), wear traditional Catalan costume and climb on to each others shoulders to create a human pyramid, sometimes up to eight or nine storeys high, usually topped off with a brave child, a bit like a cherry on a cake!!



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CREEPERS & CRAWLERS



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Biters &
harmless
passersby

You've lit the barbecue & poured the wine... or you're bathing in the lovely warm sea... It's a perfect summer's day & your mood is mellow ... until uninvited guests spoil your day. Some are out for trouble; some might just be passing through, minding their own business – despite appearances – while others might punish you for unwittingly bombing their party!



Lesley McLaren is one of "The Warblers" a group of natural history enthusiasts in the PO.
www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com
Twitter @66warblers

TICK
(TIQUE)

April is the worst month for ticks, but they're still around in the summer. The one below looks flat because it hasn't fed yet. They love long grass – crawling up stems and waiting for a victim to brush past. But they also sometimes drop out of trees when they sense a warm body below. Although their bite isn't usually painful or itchy, some ticks transmit dangerous diseases to humans and dogs.



YELLOW SCORPION
(SCORPION LANGUEDOCIEN)

Uncommon, but if you are unlucky enough to get stung on the toe, it will swell up and – so we understand – turn blue! But don't panic – you're not going to die.



© Alvaro Rodriguez Alberch

The PO also has the
BLACK SCORPION

(SCORPION NOIR A QUEUE JAUNE) but its sting is not venomous. They lurk in dark, damp places in old buildings and if disturbed will try to scurry away.

MEGARIAN BANDED CENTIPEDE

(SCOLOPENDRE)

It's big, fast and aggressive, grows up to 20cm long, and scuttles out from under leaf litter and flat stones at night. It will attack and consume almost any creature... smaller than itself. Phew. But stand on one in bare feet at your peril. Its defensive bite won't kill you, but the pain will be severe for about 15 minutes. It's another rarity though.



© Fritz Geller-Grimm

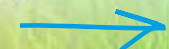
BLACK WIDOW SPIDER

(L'ARAIGNÉE VEUVE NOIRE)

This small spider lives in dark places in caves, under bushes and stones. Hairy, black, with little red spots, and highly venomous, but not deadly. Nevertheless, medical advice is to get to a doctor if you are bitten, because you will be in pain and feel ill for three or four days. It's rare, however – a little more common in Corsica and Provence than in the P-O.



© Wikipedia



stingers, Biters & harmless passersby



CREEPERS & CRAWLERS

SOCIAL WASP (GUEPE COMMUNE)

Anti-social might be a better name, as out of all the wasps, these are the real baddies, deserving of ASBOs. They will defend their nests (as bees will defend their hives) aggressively... **and did you know that when a wasp or bee stings, a pheromone is released, attracting all the rest to wade in!**



© Soebe

So there's no need to swat them! The **MUD-DAUBER** (PELOPEE MAÇONNE) is one of them:



EUROPEAN HORNET (FRELON EUROPEEN)

They're big – especially queens, which can measure up to **35mm**. They usually mind their own business and are far less bothersome than social wasps above. **But if angered, they can sting any number of times.**



PAPER WASPS (GUEPES CARTONNIERES OR POLISTES)

look very similar but generally form smaller colonies & build smaller nests.



There are other much bigger – and often scarier-looking – wasps in the PO, but they are solitary, not aggressive and more interested in hunting spiders than attacking us or our barbecued spare ribs.

THE ASIAN HORNET (FRELON ASIATIQUE)

Orange face and legs, they are more interested in attacking bees than us, and can destroy a whole hive, but they will still sting in defence or if angered.



These build impressive spherical nests too, usually near the tops of trees but sometimes in hedges. **Poke one at your peril!**



All wasps & hornets (apart from non-native Asian species) **play an important part in the eco system so it's best not to kill them if possible.**

WOOL CARDER BEES (ABEILLES COTONNIERES)

On the other hand, **look very wasplike but are only aggressive towards one another.** And then it's usually the males territorially guarding flowers for a female to feed or gather soft plant fibres (hence "wool carder") to line her nest.



TIGER MOSQUITO (MOUSTIQUE TIGRE)

These unpleasant devils, **identifiable by their black and white markings** are different from the common mozzie in that **they fly and attack during the day as well as night**, and their stinger is able to pierce clothing! Keep yourself covered up or sprayed with repellent (available at all supermarkets and pharmacies). More scarce at the coast, where there is less vegetation and stagnant water to breed in.



© James Gathany

HORSEFLY (TAON BRUANT)

Found mainly in wooded areas during hot, humid weather, anything warm blooded is dinner as far as these gals are concerned – **the boys only suck nectar, not blood.** They're not that big; you don't hear them coming and don't feel them land. They flatten themselves on you, keep a tight grip, don't fly away when you bat at them, and are surprisingly hard to squash after you've picked them off. **Their bite itches like hell.**



© Bruce Marlin

P-O Life

Stingers, Biters & harmless passersby



SLIPPERY CUSTOMERS

ADDER

(VIPÈRE ASPIC)

This snake is distinctive by the triangular shape of its head, zigzag pattern on its back and vertical pupils (if you get close enough to look into its eyes!). Up to 50-60cm long, they like wooded and rough, stony ground. Their bite and venom are painful, causing skin to swell and turn blue around the site itself. If bruising appears elsewhere on the body within 6 – 8 hours, advice is to get to a hospital for an anti-venom injection.



© Orchi

The longest snakes that might cross your garden path are totally harmless **GRASS SNAKES (GOULEUVRES)**, like this one (note its round pupil):



SLIPPERY CUSTOMERS



© Hans Hillewaert

WEEVER FISH

(VIVE)

Its English name makes it sound innocuous, while the French "vive" reflects the level of pain inflicted by its poisonous dorsal spine: Intense. They like to partially bury themselves in sand, often near beaches, leaving just their eyes and the tip of the first dorsal fin exposed. They're not deliberately out to get you but don't appreciate being stood upon and will punish you severely. The acute pain is said to last around 20 minutes. Although the venom itself isn't considered lethal, there's a danger the agony could cause drowning. Anti-inflammatory tablets should help and heat is said to reduce the agony of Vive venom. It's best to soak your stung foot in water as hot as you can bear without scalding (with a little bleach added as disinfectant).



© Alexandre Vasenin

MOON JELLYFISH

(MEDUSE)

Not all jellyfish sting, but this common species does have filaments under its bell that irritate skin, causing a burning sensation. Again, the main danger here is that a swimmer might panic and risk drowning. Although reputedly less painful than a Vive fish sting, it will be very unpleasant for at least ten minutes. Anyone with sensitive skin may suffer for several hours. For jellyfish stings the recommendation is to soak the affected area in alkaline water or vinegar.

IF YOU ARE STUNG BY ANYTHING IN THE SEA, GET OUT OF THE WATER ASAP!

WARNING: We can't vouch for any suggested treatments. Some people – especially children – may react more severely than others to stings and bites. If in doubt or if the wound shows signs of infection, seek medical advice.

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BARCELONA is Beautiful....

But...

Barcelona is beautiful, many P-O visitors start or end their holiday at the busy El Prat airport....but like any big city, it's a hotspot for street crime. Crooks and scammers stalk the streets, and public transport constantly on the lookout for new and inventive ways of relieving tourists of their valuables. In particular, they target tourists, usually relaxed and feeling mellow, putting them right at the top of the hit-list of potential victims.

Unfortunately, Spanish law classes any theft worth less than €400 as a 'falta', a misdemeanour, rather than a 'delito' or crime, resulting in such a very small fine if caught, the same each time, that it is no deterrent!

OUR THANKS TO READERS FOR SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES

"In Barcelona airport **we were distracted for no longer than 20 seconds** as we picked up our keys in the hire car compound. In that time some of our smaller cases including my wife's handbag were stolen. Not a nice start to a holiday."

"**Barcelona** is such a stunningly beautiful city I regret having to pass on this warning. Friends (a young couple – the man tall and well built - not obvious choice for victims) report that within a five day break in Barcelona last week **they were targeted no fewer than 3 times by trios of street robbers**. They had been warned to carry nothing of value but this did not stop the gangs blatantly approaching and – for example – **simply going through the man's pockets as he had his hands full carrying a baby and stroller up metro escalator**.

"**My 19 year old daughter was a victim of a purse snatcher** on a recent visit to Barça. She had been careful all day but got her purse out to pay for some fruit and had it snatched from her hand. Be careful out there!"

"**A common scam** on the streets of Barcelona is where a young man comes up to you and asks for directions to a popular landmark. He is followed by 2 or 3 men who flash police ID cards. "Do you know this person?" they ask "He is wanted for drug smuggling/fraud/burglary..... You may be a material witness. **Can we see some ID?" You take your wallet out of your pocket/ bag..... and the rest is easy!**



"Some friends stopped for a drink at a motorway services near Girona. When they set off again, they discovered they had a puncture. **A helpful chap stopped and helped them change the wheel. He also helped himself to their money, credit cards and passports.**"

"As we were walking in Barcelona, **a thief cut through the straps of my handbag with large scissors**"

In Les Rambles our son **had his tobacco pouch in his back pocket**. A pick-pocket lifted it thinking it was a wallet. **Realising his mistake he handed it back to him!**

And from our very own P-O Life designer, Barcelona resident Maite.....

"Ara, a l'estiu, un dels llocs més productius per als lladres és la **Platja de Barcelona**. On grups perfectament organitzats aprofiten qualsevol distracció per robar totes les teves coses. Encara que estiguis a la tovallola dormint..."



SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY

Help! - *Socorro!*
 Mugger - *Atracador*
 Pickpocket - *Carterista*
 Robber - *Ladrón*
 I was robbed - *Me robaron*
 I was mugged - *Me atracaron*
 My wallet/bag/luggage was stolen- *Me robaron mi /cartera/ bolso/equipaje*
 I was attacked- *Fui atacado*
 I would like to report- *Quisiera denunciar*
 A police report - *Una denuncia*

Whilst the majority of tourists are not victims of crime and have a great holiday, it doesn't do any harm to take a few simple precautions.



✓ DO

- keep the car locked even when you are inside
- be vigilant if approached by a motor cyclist
- avoid stopping at deserted rest areas on the motorways
- keep your bag/wallet completely out of sight
- familiarise yourself with your travel insurance policy (ie do you need to make a police report for it to be valid?)
- try not to look too much like a tourist!!!! (No knotted hankies around the head please...)

✗ DO NOT

- stop if you are flagged down by a stranger
- stop to give directions, answer queries....
- have maps on display inside the car clearly identifying you as a tourist
- assume that any 'official' approaching you is genuine.
- carry more than the bare minimum around with you. Leave passports, money, credit cards locked in your hotel. Take photocopies if you have to. Use a money belt.
- stop (unless driving is dangerous) for a flat tyre until you find somewhere safe (eg a police station!)

If, after all that, you are still pick pocketed, it is now possible to make a complaint online by visiting <https://web.gencat.cat>
 Click on EN for the English site, then PROCEDURES, then WHAT TO DO IF.

Tongue Twister

Répétez trois fois

Croque quatre crevettes crues et quatre crabes creux

Test your FRENCH

See Page 89 for answers



G pour Graine

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

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

- | | | | |
|----------|----|---|---------------------------|
| grillade | 1 | a | grande antilope africaine |
| guerre | 2 | b | qui ne coûte rien |
| guère | 3 | c | personne qui dirige |
| gnou | 4 | d | conflit entre nations |
| gras | 5 | e | sous les combles |
| gratuit | 6 | f | caillou arrondi |
| gazon | 7 | g | terre couverte d'herbe |
| gérant | 8 | h | barbecue |
| grenier | 9 | i | presque pas |
| galet | 10 | j | formé de graisse |



Just for fun!

Take a look at these literal translations of popular French idioms and see if you can work out their English equivalents!

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|-------------------------------|
| I have nothing to polish | 1 | a | He fainted |
| It's very owl | 2 | b | He is very lucky |
| He's fallen into the apples | 3 | c | It's nothing special |
| Don't push Granny into the nettles | 4 | d | It's like talking to a wall |
| His bottom is surrounded by noodles | 5 | e | He is fed up |
| He has the cockroach | 6 | f | He has a screw loose |
| It's like peeing into a violin | 7 | g | I don't give a damn |
| There is a testicle in the soup | 8 | h | There's a fly in the ointment |
| He has a spider on the ceiling | 9 | i | Don't exaggerate |
| It doesn't break three legs of a duck | 10 | j | It's great |



SILLY JOKE
Comment s'appelle un pot de yaourt qui se promène dans les bois?
Un yaourt nature



Trouvez la bonne définition

1 piste

- a) drunk
- b) ski run, track
- c) glue stick

2. ortie

- a) nettle
- b) big toe
- c) should do (in Scottish)

....and a little bit harder....

3 échec

- a) pion, utilisé dans le jeu d'échecs
- b) Insuccès, défaite ou revers
- c) morceau de papier utilisé pour payer quelque chose

4 las

- a) corde pour attraper un cheval
- b) heureux et détendu
- c) décrit une personne fatiguée

5 une canicule

- a) cabane pour abriter un chien
- b) morceau de peau dure à l'extrémité d'un doigt
- c) période de temps très chaud

Useful Expression
C'est pas donné
It's not cheap

SAY IT IN FRENCH!

Next time you hit your finger with the hammer, enter a delicious smelling restaurant, or sit next to a noisy couple in the library... say it in French!!

- Aïe (aye) - Ouch!
- Miam miam (muh-yam) - Yum yum!
- Youpi (you-pee) - Yahoo!
- Chut (shoot) - Shush!
- Hop là (op-lah) - Oopsie-daisy!
- Beurk (burk) - Yuck!

- Chiche (sheesh) - Go on, I dare you!
- Holà (oh-lah) - Hey! Whoa!
- Merde (merd) - Sh-t! (Milder than English)
- Zut (zoot) - Flipping heck!
- Ouf (oof) - Phew!

Useful Expression

Ça y est

Right you are, all done, here we go.... (pron sigh-ay)

Interesting Expression

Être au four et au moulin
To be in two places at once

When somebody says 'merci', answer

- pas de quoi.....don't mention it
- de rien.....it's nothing
- je vous en prie.....it was my pleasure

Awfully bad joke!

Pourquoi est ce que le lapin est bleu? Parce qu'on lapin
(oh groan...l'a peint)



LANGUAGE

Test your FRENCH

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Most adverbs just add -ment (or ement)

Lentement
slowly
facilement
easily
agréablement
pleasantly

BUT

bien
well
mal
badly
vite
quickly
couramment
fluently



French the way my son speaks it!

Can you find the English equivalent of these French slang words and phrases? Beware. They're not rude but they are...casual

Un truc de ouf	1	a I'm feeling great/up for it
Tu captes rien	2	b I'm toast/I've had it!
C'est comme ça. Point barre	3	c That's how it is. End of!
Je kiffe cette meuf	4	d Get lost
J'ai la niaque	5	e Old people, parents
Yo, frérot, quoi de neuf?	6	f Hey, bro. Wassup
Je suis grillé	7	g It's a drag, a pain
C'est relou	8	h Incredible, amazing
Les viocs	9	i You don't get it
Casse-toi	10	j I like/love that girl

USEFUL GRAMMAR TIP

Etre en train de + infinitive
to be in the middle of (doing something)

Je suis en train de manger
I'm (in the middle of) eating

Il est en train de parler
He's (in the middle of) talking



Useful Expression

Plus ça change, (plus c'est la même chose)
Some things just never change.



Words that sound alike but are completely different.

l'amour - love (lamoo-r)
la mort - death (lamore)
l'humeur - mood (loomur)
l'humour - humour (loomoo-r)

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LANGUAGE



Tongue twister (virelangue)

Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 89 for answers

Repeat quickly x 3

I slit the sheet,
the sheet I slit,
and on the slitted
sheet I sit



1 N is for Nice!

Trouvez les définitions des mots suivants, qui commencent tous avec la lettre N.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| naked 1 | a busybody |
| nightmare 2 | b tidy and orderly |
| nosy 3 | c slim instrument with sharp point |
| needle 4 | d the people next door |
| neck 5 | e silly or foolish person |
| nightingale 6 | f in the nude |
| nanny 7 | g small songbird |
| neighbour 8 | h who looks after child at home |
| neat 9 | i bad dream |
| nitwit 10 | j connects head to body |



LANGUAGE TIP

To get (p.p got) – recevoir/
obtenir/s'acheter/devenir/
commencer à

What do you call
a funny Mountain?
Hill-arious

Et oui! 'Get' a plusieurs sens et est largement utilisé en anglais.
Pouvez -vous trouver le français pour ces phrases avec 'get'

2 TO GET.....

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ...a grip 1 | a Rien de mieux à faire? |
| ...over (something) 2 | b se faire virer |
| ...a word in edgeways 3 | c vieillir |
| ...away (with something) 4 | d se débrouiller |
| ...going 5 | e s'en tirer |
| ...by 6 | f en placer une |
| ...a life 7 | g s'en aller |
| ...in the way 8 | h faire obstacle |
| ...old 9 | i se ressaisir |
| ...the sack 10 | j se remettre |

Your teeth
don't need glasses!



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Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

3 Des idiomes très British! Trouvez leurs équivalents en Français

- | | | |
|------------------|----|--------------------|
| Bonkers | 1 | a super content |
| Chuffed | 2 | b louche |
| Dishy | 3 | c tant pis |
| Dodgy | 4 | d taré |
| Put a sock in it | 5 | e va-t-en |
| Fluke | 6 | f coup de chance |
| Hard lines | 7 | g mec |
| Chock-a-block | 8 | h séduisant |
| On your bike | 9 | i plein à craquer, |
| Bloke | 10 | j tais-toi |

Expression utile
Just saying!
Je dis ça, je dis rien !

Really Bad Joke
Student to French teacher "Can we start a new chapter today?"
French teacher "Mais Oui!"
Student "Okay. May we start a new chapter today?"

Useful Expression
It's as much use as a chocolate teapot!
Ca ne sert à rien

4 Confused? You soon will be! Remplissez les blancs

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What exactly did you ___ to him?
A say / B ask | 6. I often make ___ when speaking English
A mistakes / B faults |
| 2. Help! He has ___ my bag
A robbed / B stolen | 7. Sniff. I don't have ___ money left
A any / B some |
| 3. Yippee! I have won a ___
A price / B prize | 8. We went to the rugby ___ in Perpignan
A play / B game |
| 4. Be ___. He is sleeping
A quite / B quiet | 9. I spend time ___ all kinds of music.
A hearing / B listening to |
| 5. You must finish your work ___ six o'clock
A until / B by | 10. You should never ___ on a bend
A overtake / B take over |

NEW WORDS IN THE ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Double vaxxed
having received two vaccinations against a disease.

Range anxiety
concern of electric car driver that the battery may not last until the next charging point.

DID YOU KNOW
...that it's faster to say
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than www?

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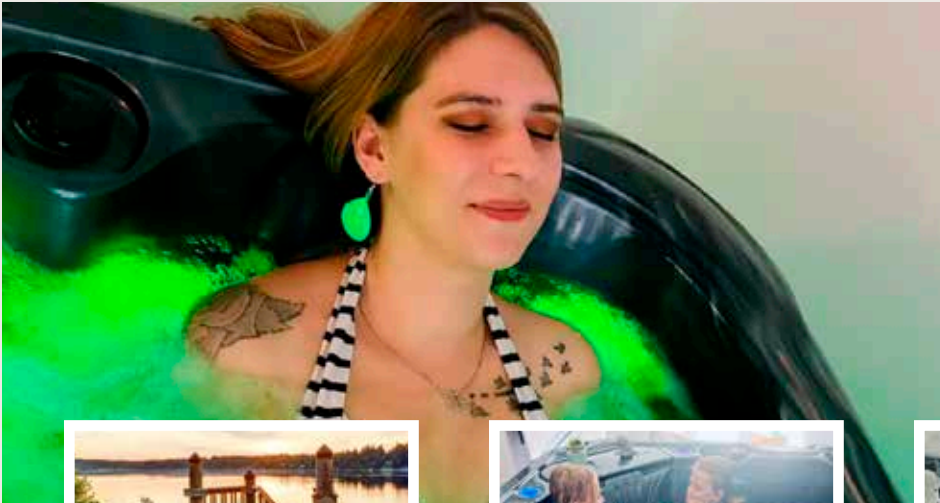
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Things You Might NEED TO KNOW



HANG ON OR HANG UP?

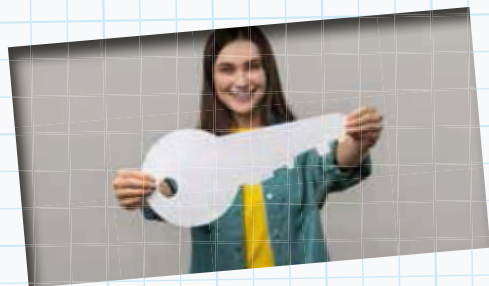
Fed up of waiting for parcels that just don't arrive, or interminable disputes and **hanging around on the phone with the provider about your mobile or internet connexion?**

WELL, NOW YOU CAN COMPLAIN ONLINE. **J'alerte l'Arcep** (www.arcep.fr) has been set up by Communications authority Arcep (Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques et des Postes) to review complaints. Whilst they will not deal with your complaint themselves, they will point visitors in the right direction to take their complaint further.



THOSE DAMN SCAMS

If your French is up to it, keep an eye on www.hoaxbuster.com a site which lists and describes all the latest scams, and hoaxes, including a list of 'Hoax les plus consultés'



FINDING A GOOD IMMO (ESTATE AGENT)

Buying or selling property probably involves dealing with the largest amount of money you are ever likely to handle, so you need to get it right!

Caroline Oliver of Trilles Immobilier gives us some tips, checks and questions to ask to find the right agent.

Every Immobilier or Estate agency must be registered with the **Chambre de Commerce** and hold a **Carte Professionnelle**. Ask to see this card and check it is in date. **A good agent will be carrying this card with them on visits and estimations.**

They will also be **affiliated with someone like the FNAIM – Federation Nationale de Immobilier**. Make sure that the Agency has **professional insurance** which should be clearly visible in the shops.

This is obligatory in all cases. Look them up on Google or Meilleur Agent (Best Agent). If they don't have a good score, think twice before using them.

SO HERE'S A WEIRD ONE.

Did you know that until recently, it was illegal for people who wear prescription glasses to drive in Spain without a spare pair in the car?

TAX!

Have you been incorrectly taxed by French income tax? What can you do about it?

- Check your tax declaration and make sure that the error is not yours.
- Pop into your local tax office and discuss it face to face.
- Submit a 'réclamation' (complaint) on line by logging in to your account and clicking on 'Effectuer une démarche'
 - > faire une réclamation
 - > réclamation sur l'impôt sur le revenu'

If you don't wish to make your claim on line, you can write directly to the address at the top of your tax form.

BONNE CHANCE!!

JUSTIF'ADRESSE

THE EASY WAY TO PROVE WHERE YOU LIVE

If you've done almost anything official in France, you'll know that they always ask for a 'justificatif de domicile' (proof of address), such as a recent utility bill.

Well, now you can sign up to **Justif'Adresse**, a government approved scheme, which allows officials to automatically verify your address without the hassle. Check it out at <https://passeport.ants.gouv.fr/aide-et-contact/justif-adresse>

OH LÀ BRA

Bra sizes

UK	FR
32	85
34	90
36	95
38	100
40	105
42	110
44	115

Cup sizes the same apart from

DD	E
E	F

And it goes no further. It would seem that France does not cater, off-the-shelf, for the buxom English rose!!!



PETROL STATION SECURITY

Card cloning in self service petrol stations is on the up, and French police are asking drivers to be vigilant and to contact them on 17 (**do not approach the person or people concerned**) if any unusual activity around the pumps is witnessed.

A device fitted to the pump payment area reads the card details, while a small camera films the numbers being tapped in. All very clever, and not at all obvious, so usually you will not know it's happened until you receive your next statement!

Take care out there!



IT'S SIESTA TIME

In Ancient Rome, the hours of the day were counted from sunrise to sunset. Noon of the Roman day was six hours after sunrise. **This sixth hour, (sexta hora in Latin), was nap time.** As Latin developed into Spanish on the Iberian Peninsula, **sexta became siesta.**



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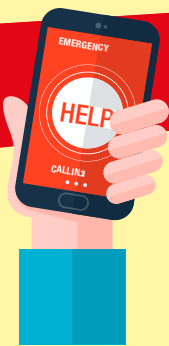
LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

TEST ^{your} FRENCH

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

AMÉLIOREZ ^{your} ANGLAIS

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



Emergency numbers

SAMU (medical emergency) 15

POLICE emergency 17

Fire service emergency 18

European emergency line 112

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Perpignan Hospital 04 68 61 66 33

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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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