

Autumn 2022

# P-O Life

*Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales*

N° 75  
FREE / GRATUIT



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© photo: Barry Blend  
Fête des Vendanges

**OUT** *for*  
**THE DAY**  
Urban Canal Walk  
in Perpignan

**FOOD**  
*and* **DRINK**  
Restaurant Reviews

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## Edito ☺



### Coucou les amis

After a sizzling summer, stylish September swept in to announce **another golden autumn in the P-O**. Definitely my favourite season of the year. Love the vivid reds and oranges that replace the faded summer greens. Love the light which continues to chase away the blues as summer wanes! Elle n'est pas belle, la vie?

And of course, whilst maybe a little sleepy, **the P-O certainly hasn't gone into hibernation yet!** What better season to stroll the uncrowded beaches, walk, cycle, picnic, visit.....? Dont miss the fabulous **Village de Noël in Le Barcarès**, starting in November, the **Fête des Vendanges in Banyuls-sur-Mer**, the autumn **exhibitions at the Galerie Marianne in Argelès** and other galleries and museums around the region. You certainly won't be bored in the P-O this autumn.

Don't forget that this paper version of P-O Life is just la cerise sur le gâteau! You can also **download the full mag online from our website**, where you can find all the stuff we couldn't fit in here, along with a growing directory of English speaking services here in the P-O.

**A big thank you as always to the talented guest writers** who make P-O Life special!

Stay safe my friends, stay well, Wherever you are, and whatever you're doing, **we hope your autumn is golden.**

Kate

### 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](mailto:info@anglophone-direct.com)

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### Cover by Barry Blend

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# TOUR DE LA MASSANE

*Circular from Château Valmy*



> (Torre de la Maçana 754m)

This is a very good circular walk from the Château Valmy near Argelès. The ascent is often in steep rocky gullies and the use of stout walking boots and a walking pole (or 2) are definitely recommended. Best enjoyed if you are used to mountain walking/fit. (For an easier route to the tower go up and down from Lavall above Sorède for a shady walk that is less challenging)

Total distance 12 km with approx 720m of ascent. Allow 5 hours including stops to take in scenery/visit la Tour. Much of the ascent is in woodland so suitable for our lovely hot P-O autumn days.

Access: map IGN 1:25000 Banyuls Col de Perthus Cote Vermeille 25490T



### START OF WALK

Take the D914 south from Perpignan, taking the exit signed Château de Valmy, between Argelès and Collioure. Follow road round to right and take second entrance to Valmy. Park on large car park near the Château. This car park has a huge information board with maps of local walks and routes for mountain biking. Water is supplied to fill containers or hose down after a hot walk/ride! The route is signed all the way up and down with yellow signs and waymarks.



### THE WALK

Walk down to the road from which you entered car park and turn left. Drop down 200m and take broad track on left signed to the Torre de la Maçana just before river and Clos des Mimosas camp site. Skirt high walls of the Château to the start of the ascent on the left. The rocky path sets the tone for almost all the upward part of the walk.



Quickly gain height and look down on the Château. Emerge on a piste, go left, then follow signed path off to right after short distance. About 30 mins into the walk arrive at a large cairn. A Dolmen is situated to the left if you wish to visit. Continue ahead on the marked path.



Danish architect Viggo Dorph Petersen created the art nouveau Château Valmy amongst several other Château residences in the P-O. Typical of the Belle époque, with stunning panoramic views of the Albères foothills, the fairytale castle overlooks rolling vines down to the sparkling Med.

Fast-forward 150 years and current owners, Martine and Bernard Carbonnell have brought the chateau well and truly into the 21st century, whilst remaining true to the estate's prestigious roots. The Château is a chic boutique hotel, the delightful restaurant is open from Thursday to Sunday lunchtime until the end of October - and the Valmy wine cellars are open all year round for tasting and sales. A rather lovely way to end a challenging walk don't you think?



# TOUR DE LA MASSANE

*Circular from Château Valmy*



Cross another piste as you climb, and **pass another Dolmen**. After a time the path comes out on a more level plateau with superb views over Argelès and the coast. **The Tour de la Massane can now be seen clearly on the top of the peak** to your right. There is a way-mark indicating a right turn but go straight on and drop down to a crossroads of pistes. (1h 15mins).



### THE TOWER...

Originally **set up by the Rois de Majorque** as part of the defence system monitoring enemy activity along the coastline, and across the Roussillon plain, **the Tour de la Massane transmitted smoke signals during the day** and bursts of fire at night to warn of imminent danger.

### THE NAME

Originally known in Catalan as 'Torre de Parabona', meaning 'tower of good stone', the name of Massane was given much later, after the River Massane running through the Albères hills.




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**Llauro €563,000**  
Ref: A13643 - 5 Bedroom villa with separate apartment, terrace, pool and views.

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**Perpignan €197,000**  
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**Argelès-sur-Mer €167,000**  
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## TOUR DE LA MASSANE

Circular from Château Valmy



➡ A left turn for 20m takes you to the foot of the next section of rocky path. In times of heavy rain this must be a canyoning exercise!

Cross another piste then continue to the next piste – turn left and walk up this piste about 350m to find the next section of the path.

At Font Andreas keep climbing to the left through woodland with a soft soil path until you meet the path arriving from Sallfort on your left. **Turn right up the last steep rocky section of 250m, to reach the summit. (2½ hours).**



### THE SIGNALS

**Signals from the watchtowers** around the region were called ‘farons’ and the ‘faraoner’ was trained to send out precise details of approaching danger.

**Smoke might be black or white**, discontinuous or continuous according to the danger. For example, **one cloud of smoke might indicate 500 men on foot.**

➡ Explore the tower and take in the fantastic views, then descend to the other side of the plateau to pick up the path to Lavall. Follow this along the hills, gradually descending, for at least 1½km to reach a very large cairn - Roc del Grill

The route back down to Valmy is clearly signed to the right – 4km.

We had thought of visiting the **Chapelle de St Laurent** and missed a trick by not taking a right turn towards the end of the ridge, because when we emerged at a piste lower down it was 1km back to the Chapelle. That will have to be for another day!



### THE CHAPELLE ST LAURENT

Set in a grove of cork oaks, the XII century chapel and surrounding picnic area is a beautiful and peaceful spot. Behind the chapel a footpath leads to a perfect orri (shepherd’s shelter). The simple stone building is one of the few Catalan Romanesque art monuments of the Albères whose restoration is finished. It was built in the twelfth century by order of the Abbot of Saint-Génis on a large parcel of land on the slopes of the mountain of Argelès. It was originally a parish church, serving the many small Mas nestled in the surrounding hills whose inhabitants survived by raising animals, farming, logging, making charcoal and a bit of smuggling!

➡ **The path back to Valmy** is a mixture of some piste and some footpath. **The bar at Clos des Mimosas** looked very inviting – it is open to walkers and both drinks and Tapas were on offer. (Open April to October)

**NB** If you find yourselves accompanied by a rather lovely Merle **border collie, don’t worry – he is known to lead walkers up to the Tour and back. He lives in the hamlet of Valmy.**



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# Wine HARVEST FESTIVAL *in* BANYULS

8th - 9th October

The very first Fête des Vendanges took place in Banyuls-sur-Mer in 1996, over 25 years ago! Whilst you might expect a celebration of wine to take place in the vineyards, this one takes place on the beach to make it more accessible to the public.

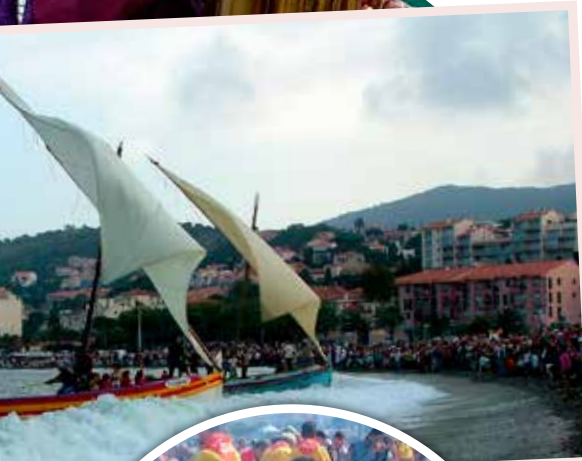
And oh boy, what a beach party! Smoke from endless grillades rises in the autumn air, mingling with the **smells from cargoladas and escalivadas, grilled fish and seafood...** Many wear Catalan flag colours and the beach positively sparkles red and yellow as zany bandas, and **brightly garbed musicians mingle with the crowd.** There is much laughter as wine is consumed in great quantities, and, towards the end of the afternoon, **Catalan Barques zig zag a ballet in the bay before bringing the 'harvest' in to shore.**



Book your own free table on the beach (info from town hall) and invite your friends to make a day of it with you. **Take your own food and drink, BBQ, or buy food and wine from the many beach bars and restaurants set up on the sands.**

Buy and keep your special Fête des Vendanges glass around your neck and just keep on getting it filled up....and up.....and up....

A lively and lovely day of fun and goodwill.



Argelès to Banyuls-sur-Mer is a short but fabulous coastal drive on a crisp autumn day, offering panoramic views over the bay of Collioure, row after row of steep, terraced vines, and a sparkling Mediterranean ever present throughout the drive.  
**BUT BEWARE!** Traffic going in and out of Banyuls on this festival weekend is usually severely constipated. Walk it, run it, bike it, bus it, train it, but expect long queues of cars unless you go very early

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OUT *for*  
THE DAY

Wine  
HARVEST  
FESTIVAL *in*  
BANYULS



•••>  
**Far from the madding crowds....**

Not everybody is happy in a large crowd, particularly with Covid ever present. **This pretty town with flower filled alleys, is delightful for a gentle stroll, but it is also a brilliant base for rambling and walking, so why not leave the party animals on the beach and head for the hills?**

The famous **GR 10**, running the length of the Pyrenees, **starts in Banyuls and ends in the Atlantic at Hendaye.** If you don't fancy walking for 50 – 60 days, **an easier option is the coastal path**, which will lead you to small coves and peaceful picnic spots.

High above the town, the little white **chapel of Notre Dame de la Salette** catches the first rays of the sun as it rises out of the bay. Above it, on the skyline, the Tour de Madeloc was once an important part of the Roussillon communications system.



A twisting road rises through the steep vineyards until, at 361 metres you reach the **Col de Banyuls, marking the frontier between France and Spain.** Stop there to enjoy the stupendous views: **behind you, France and the Côte Vermeille, ahead of you, Spain and the Bay of Roses.**

**MORE DETAILS OF ALL THE ABOVE FROM BANYULS TOURIST OFFICE.**

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**SORÈDE:** Exceptional 230sqm villa on two levels. Pool, well, workshop, 5 large terraces with view over Alberes. **High quality fittings throughout, Contemporary, comfortable and ideally located!**

PRICE: 320 000 €



**PORT-VENDRES:** Bright and lovely apartment with approx 87sq.m. Large living-room, fully equipped kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 large terraces. **Must see!**

PRICE: 594 000 €



**MONTESQUIEU DES ALBÈRES:** Heart of the village, superb 150 sqm 4 bedroom detached villa on 2300 sqm wooded land with pool. Master bedroom en suite with dressing room. Wood burning stove.

PRICE: 420 000 €



**PORT- VENDRES/ COSPRONS:** Villa with stunning views, located in a very quiet area. Large living-room approx 105sq.m, with fireplace, open plan kitchen, 4 bedrooms, garage.

PRICE: 212 000 €



**LAROQUE DES ALBÈRES:** Quiet street centre of the village, charming 3 bedroom stone village house on two levels with garage and balcony. Attic ripe for conversion into roof terrace with view! **Calm, within walking distance to shops!**

PRICE: 148 000 €



**BANYULS-SUR-MER:** Very pleasant 1 bed apartment of 36 sqm with sea view in **delightful residence close to the beach.** Living-room, separate kitchen. 1 bedroom, bathroom and toilet. Private car park.

**Contact us to successfully market your property now!**

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OUT <sup>for</sup>  
THE DAY

# LE BARCARÈS

A TOWN FOR ALL SEASONS!

Once a small fishing village, today a family-oriented, purpose-built town, Le Barcarès is a charming mix of modern and wild. With salt water lake, 8km of sandy beach, nature reserve and birdwatchers' paradise, outdoor art gallery along the sea front, all year round water sports, walking tracks, cycling paths, renovated fishermen's huts, skate park, Le Barcarès really is a town for all seasons.



Take a wander around **la Coudalère**, known as '**la petite Venise**' with its canals and marinas on the lagoon, head out to sea in a **Barque Catalane** with its latin sails and learn how to handle one of these **colourful, traditional fishing boats**, wander the '**étang**'



and '**le site des Dosses**', a paradise for lovers of wild birds, fauna and flora, dedicated to conservation and preservation, with **more than 200 plant and 50 bird species**, several of which are protected. Nature at its most natural.



If you're a **fan of thrills and spills**, (and we wish you more of the first and less of the second bien sûr!), **there is plenty of nautical fun for board and water sports fans and on land at the only INDOOR skate park in the region, adapted for all levels.**

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OUT *for*  
THE DAY

LE BARCARÈS  
A TOWN FOR ALL SEASONS!



## LE VILLAGE DE NOËL LE BARCARÈS

Have you been good this winter? If so, you deserve a treat, so how about a visit to the 'Village de Noël' in Le Barcarès? (and even if you've been bad....well, it's Christmas!)

Le Barcarès Village de Noël is right up there with some of the most well known and exciting villages de Noël in France.

This enchanting winter wonderland boasts more than 100 Alpine chalets, snow covered pine forest, ice skating rinks, ice museum, maze, sledge run, funfair, grande roue, Santa parades with elves and fairies galore, fireworks, parades, concerts and all things Christmassy...

And of course the emblematic Lydia, dressed up in her finest, centre stage for exhibitions and showcasing the local wines and specialities of this beautiful region.

With bars and restaurants open til 2am...it's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!



## LE LYDIA

This 1931-built 100 metre steamship had spa, nightclub, bars, restaurants... beached in the sands of Le Barcarès, since June 1967 it is now just an impressive monument of times gone-by.

Originally an Australian coastal passenger service, her engines were removed and she was towed to Le Barcarès where a special basin was cut into the sands and filled in, making her a permanent fixture at the Mediterranean town.

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# Pick the perfect P-O present THIS CHRISTMAS

*Gift-giving season is just around the corner and the P-O is bursting with unique ideas for treating the ones you love (or yourself!).*

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Léa Rôm, massages, Céret  
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### Food & drink

Arbequina, hampers, Thuir  
Domaine de la Perdrix, wine, Trouillas  
Le Fanal, hampers, Banyuls sur Mer  
Le Panier Gourmand, hampers, Céret  
Mas Cristine, wine, Argelès sur Mer

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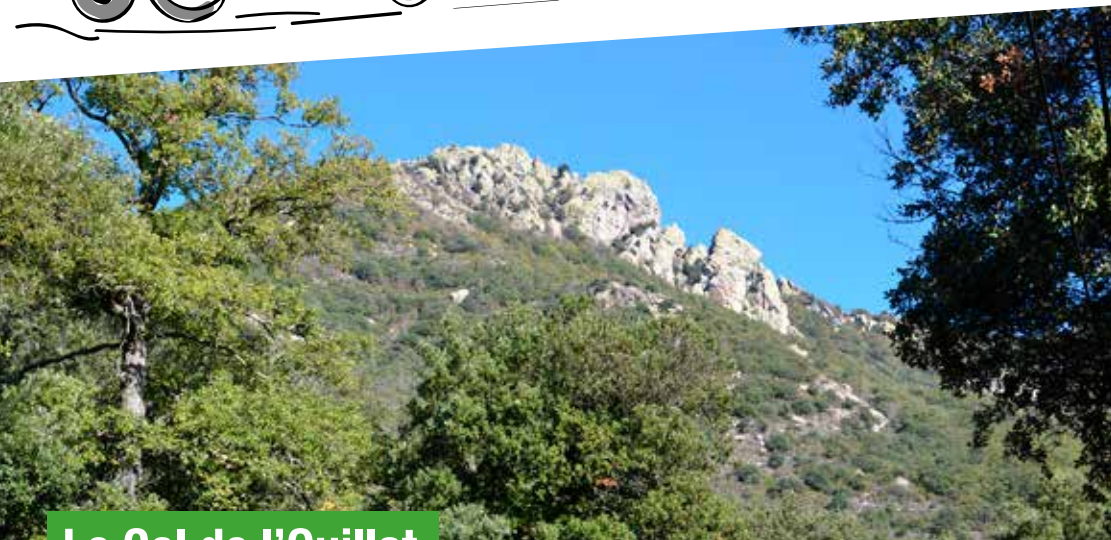
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OUT *for*  
THE DAY



# a SHADY AUTUMN DRIVE...



## Le Col de l'Ouillat

Take the RN9, le Boulou – Le Perthus road, and just before entering Le Perthus, look out for the filter lane on the left, the D71 towards **St Jean d'Albère**. This delightful drive twists and turns through ancient, gnarled cork oaks, chestnuts and beech, a narrow but spectacular tree-lined route, criss-crossed by well trodden footpaths formed over the years by escapees, smugglers, refugees and shepherds.



Pass through the hamlet of **St Jean d'Albère** and a left hand turn will soon put you on the approach to your destination, **the Col de l'Ouillat**.



Drive slowly, be patient as you pass pretty, unhurried cows grazing free along the roadside. Where the tree-lined road opens up, pass a perfect picnic spot with stone **barbecues for your use**.



Park up, grab some of that autumn/winter sun, light up a fire for your steaks, (‘though your grazing neighbours may make you wish you’d gone for veggie burgers) unpack your sandwiches and wine, or sit on the terrace of the on-site ‘**Chalet de l’Albère**’, where there are loos for the disabled, with a warm drink or a cold beer...

### TIME TO WALK OFF LUNCH.

A short and easy walk straight on will bring you to signs welcoming the disabled to a small parking area and the beginning of a path on your left which has been specially adapted and equipped for the disabled, prams, wheelchairs, or those just wanting a short, easy trot amidst autumn colours.



A flat, ten minute woodland stroll past tables and benches, sparkling waterfalls, tree identification signs, brings you out at a stunning viewpoint with orientation panel.



The whole of the P-O and beyond lies at your feet, edged by miles of sparkling blue Mediterranean. **On any day, it is spectacular. On a clear day, it will take your breath away.**





...and **SUNNY WINTER WALK**



**The Parc Natural Cap de Creus**



This protected national park extends from Port de la Selva to Roses, just south of the Spanish border, and is the easternmost point of the Iberian Peninsula.



It is **the largest uninhabited area in the Spanish Mediterranean** and with its stunning views, unique fauna and flora, clear emerald waters and hidden coves, the park is an absolute paradise for walkers, scuba divers, bird watchers.....



It is also easily accessible for those who just want to sit down with a book and a picnic on the cliff tops, look around them and say 'wow!'

**This peninsula sits on geological rocks that are more than 450 million years old** and quite fascinating in their formations of bizarre, sculptural rock tableaux, several of which influenced the work of **Salvador Dalí**.

This 'moonscape' scenery, and rock formations eroded and distorted by centuries of wind inspired one of his works, "**The Great Masturbator**", based on what he thought he saw in the rocks! Don't ask!



The park can be reached via several winding roads, (don't forget the sick bag!) which take you through an incredible lunar style landscape, with startling views of the ocean around each impressive curve.

There are three natural sites, **Cap Gros-Cap de Creus to the North, Punta Falconera-Cap Norfeu to the South, and Serra de Rodes to the West**, and the whole park is a wonder of walking trails and archaeological and cultural sites of interest.



> Cap Norfeu from Punta Falconera

To get there, head towards Figueras and take the direction "**Llançà-Port de la Selva**". Alternatively, **head for Roses and take the Cadaques Road**, a route which goes high over the Park with **stunning views back to Roses and forwards to Port de la Selva and Cadaques. Enjoy!**

# The CURIOUS CASE of a CÉRET PAVEMENT



## PART II

by Peter Spencer

A long time P-O resident and frequent visitor to Céret, **Peter Spencer** was fascinated to discover a **piece of pavement art adjacent to the Mairie** and the old tourist office.

This interesting commemoration is to the artists that have been drawn to the area and have links to Céret and the P-O.

Of the 32 names, he already knew of seven or eight, mainly by seeing their names on street signs.



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 Pyrenées-Orientales.**

Check out the last edition for Part I

### Max Jacobs

One of **Picasso's first friends in Paris**, a friendship that lasted a lifetime. In fact, **Picasso honoured him in his 'Three Musicians' painting.** Jacobs moved in impressive circles, amidst names such as Apollinaire, Modigliani and the future leader of the Résistance, Jean Moulin.



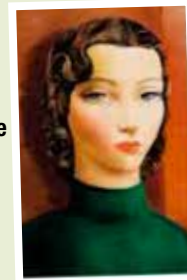
### Auguste Herbin



Having initially started with impressionist inspirations, **Herbin moved** to his iconic, **colourful, geometric modern art** under the influences of his cubist and fauvist friends: Picasso, Braque and co. He was a familiar face in the great salons of 20th century Paris.

### Moïse Kisling

This Polish Jewish artist moved to Paris after studying at the Academy of Fine Art in Krakow. **He came to Céret just before World War I**, joining the French Foreign Legion to fight the Nazis. Seriously injured at the Battle of the Somme, he was awarded French citizenship. **Best known for his surrealist portraits and female nudes**, his landscape paintings were likened to Chagall.



### Jean Marchand

A big favourite with the Bloomsberrys and the London art scene, **Marchand was a key player in the post-impressionism movement**, leaning towards cubism in his later works.

### Enric Casanovas i Roy



Barcelona-born, **Casanovas's sculptures are peppered around the Mediterranean.** Hailed for their innovation, he was **awarded gold at the 1929 Exposition Universelle in his home town.** Exiled in France during the Retirada of 1939, he spent time in Céret before finally returning home 4 years later.

### Joaquim Sunyer

Another Catalan painter, **born in Sitges**, Sunyer started off depicting urban nightlife and poverty, in keeping with the salon fashion of the time. Later, he found **his true passion: pastoral landscapes and family scenes**, capturing the Mediterranean light full of evocative power.

### Pierre Brune

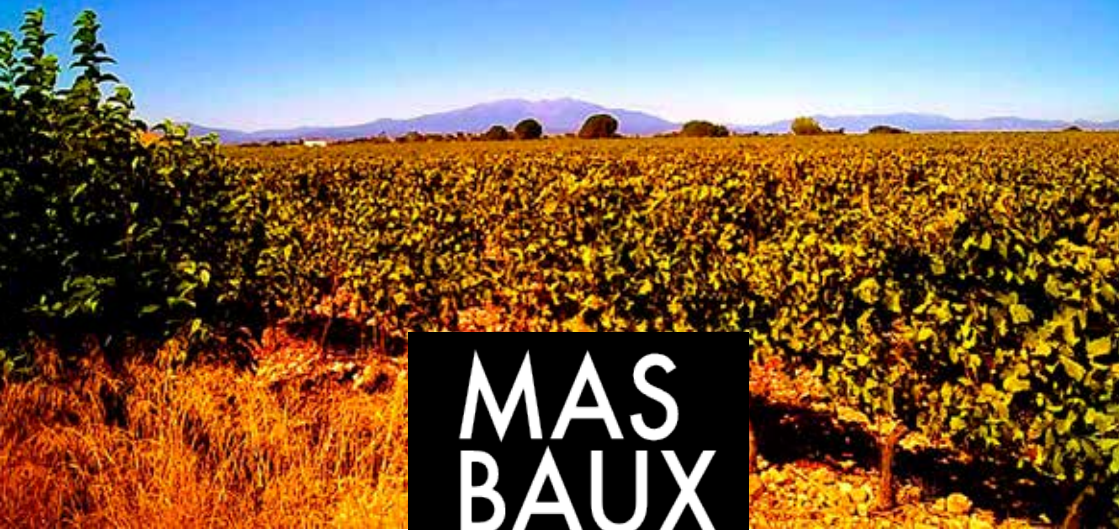
**Founder and first director of our beloved Musée d'art moderne in Céret**, Brune moved to the south of France to convalesce from an illness contracted during WWI. Once here, he fell in love with the area and only left to exhibit his works in Paris or Toulouse. **As a genre painter, he loved the Vallespir landscapes as well as the urban scenes of Marseille, Lyon and Montauban.**



### Pinkus Cremeone

This Lithuanian Jewish artist was a **sculptor, painter and lithographer.** He fled to Paris to escape the pogroms of the early 20th century and spent time among the **artistic circles of Montparnasse.** He moved to Céret and had a house built there around 1960, which you can walk past if you take the Picasso Walk (see tourist office for more info). **In his later life, Cremeone gave up sculpture and dedicated himself entirely to painting.**

MORE TO COME IN THE NEXT EDITION



MAS BAUX

# C'est Baux la vie!

Tucked into a tranquil corner to the south of Canet en Roussillon sits Mas Baux, an authentic Catalan winery with an ancient link to the land.

The Catalan born couple instantly fell in love with the abandoned and dilapidated 18th century buildings. Pulling out all but a tiny parcel of grenache used for white and rosé, they replanted most of the estate with grapes destined for their preferred colour, red, renovating the crumbling barns and stables into the charming winery that you can visit today.



## history

The estate's history can be traced back over 2000 years, to the Roman Empire and the Via Domitia... although Serge and Marie-Pierre's adventure began just 22 years ago.



## HOLIDAY RENTAL APARTMENT

### Laroque des Albères

Unique, tranquil 2 bed/2 bathroom holiday apartment, surrounded by landscaped terraces with stunning views and available all year round. Delightful communal pool open 1st June – 30th September, a short walk away with tennis court all year round.

Short drive from Spanish border, superb local beaches and pretty towns and villages, with Pyrenean ski resorts just 90 minutes away. Boulangerie, chemist and all amenities including several excellent bars and restaurants in Laroque Village.



### MAKE YOUR STAY INTO A PEMF WELL-BEING HOLIDAY

Interested in improving your health and wellbeing?

PEMF (Pulsed Electro Magnetic Field Therapy) is non-invasive, has no side effects and benefits everyone, improving sleep and circulation, balancing circadian rhythm, and promoting deep relaxation. Relax on a full body mat for as little as 8 minutes, twice a day. Effective for improving many kinds of chronic pain conditions, anti-aging and promotes overall wellbeing. A MRET water activator for deep cellular hydration and juicer are all part of the wellbeing experience.



For further information on the apartment and holiday costs go to [www.wherееaglesflyvilla.com](http://www.wherееaglesflyvilla.com)  
For more details on PEMF and MRET water go to [www.pemfcentre.com](http://www.pemfcentre.com)  
Or contact Gill Wilson email [gwilson@middletonrobb.com](mailto:gwilson@middletonrobb.com) Tel: +44 7860 201685



Mas Baux is not only certified 'bio' (organic) but also 'haute valeur environnementale' (of high environmental value). Whilst organic wine production is not easy, the estate maximises the very best of what mother nature provides: hot, sunny climate, humidity from the Mediterranean and the Tramontane, a natural mildew repellent!



The tiny team of 4, **Serge**, **Marie-Pierre**, **Gabriel** (sommelier) and **Mélissa** (wine tourism expert), harvest, work, market and sell the 35 000 bottles produced each year.

**Their priority is low-yield, high quality wines, and they harvest and sort the grapes by hand.**



They are passionate about what they do, and love to share their story with visitors via guided tours and tastings (perfect English spoken). Because they are such a small team, it's best to ring ahead!



**MAS BAUX**

**CONTACT: MAS BAUX**  
[www.mas-baux.com](http://www.mas-baux.com)



# IMMOTech

Now more than ever

[agence-immotech.com](http://agence-immotech.com)



## THE VALLESPIR...

**Le Boulou**...spa town, easy shopping...

**Céret**...cherries, art, old town...  
**Amélie-les-Bains**...spa town, well being, great views...

**Arles-sur-Tech**... traditional Catalan town

**Saint Laurent de Cerdans**...small town, museum, Catalan crafts

**Prats de Mollo**... pretty walled town, amazing views...

**Le Perthus**...castle, shopping, walking, French and Spanish

**Maureillas**...cork museum, great views...

**Saint Jean Pla de Corts**...nautical fun on pretty lake, popular village living...

**Reynes**...small village, big views...

Everybody agrees that the property market here in the P-O has gone a little crazy over the past year. In the Vallespir, property has been selling like hot cakes and there is currently a shortage of properties on the market, both for sale and to rent.

**Benjamin LaSalle**, director of the very local Immotech estate agencies explains...

### What's going on with the property market at the moment?

2021 saw an explosion in sales of older houses, an average property rise of 10% and a stable loan market. 2022 seems to be following the same trend.

### Why choose the Vallespir region of the P-O?

Covid has changed many lives in all sorts of ways. More working from home, stronger desire for rural surroundings. **The Vallespir has mountains, lakes and rivers, small towns, villages, hamlets... Il fait bon de vivre en Vallespir !**

### Is this a good time to buy?

A difficult question in these strange times. It's certainly a great time to sell...and as good a time as any to buy.

Buy/Sell • Rent • Management • Expertise



Introducing **Ian Stephens**, native English speaker living in Amélie  
Tel.: 06 24 65 00 15

**TEL. 04 68 39 84 87** [contact@agence-immotech.com](mailto:contact@agence-immotech.com)



**Automne musical**  
en Vallespir

**2022** 18th September - 6th November

**PROGRAMME**

2 down  
8 to go

Promoting the very best of regional, national and international music, the renowned 'Automne musical en Vallespir' (Amuval) festival is back to brighten up your autumn with this collection of 10 superb concerts by professional musicians across the 10 communes that make up the Communauté de Commune du Vallespir.

**Saturday 1st October at 5pm**

**TAILLET. Église Saint Valentin**  
'Quatuor Lucia'

Flûte, violin, cello and harp come together to present a programme of 19th and 20th century music.



**Sunday 2nd October at 5pm**

**VIVÈS. Salle Communale**

Le New Lyrico Boys Band - 4 vocalists who will bust your preconceived ideas of opera wide open! Opéra, Jazz, pop...Mozart, Michael Jackson, Verdi, the Beatles, Bizet, Queen...



**Saturday 8th October at 8pm**

**CÉRET. Église Saint Pierre,**  
**Rossini's Stabat Mater.** Vocals and piano.



During the festival, why not tie in the concert with a visit to the Musée de MúSIC (Céret) offering FREE entry on presentation of your concert ticket!

And perhaps a meal in one of the restaurants across the Vallespir offering a discount on production of your ticket (see website for details).

**A NEW PARTNER FOR 2022**  
Reduced entry with your concert ticket to the fascinating  
**MUSÉE DE L'EAU ET DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**  
in Le Boulou.

**Sunday 9th October at 5pm**

**L'ALBÈRE. Église Saint Jean**  
'Des deux côtés des Pyrénées'

Flute and guitar for this repertoire of great classics on both sides of the border.



**Saturday 15th October at 8pm**



**Le BOULOU. Église Sainte Marie,**  
**Requiem de FAURÉ,**  
**Les DJINNS, Cantique de RACINE.**  
Organ, violin, cello, harp and vocals.

**Sunday 16th October at 5pm**

**Chapelle Saint Paul, REYNÈS**

**Brass Band Quintet and choir.** Travel centuries of different music and styles. (trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba)



**Saturday 22nd October at 8pm**

**MAUREILLAS . Foyer Municipal**

«Découverte Opéra»

BELLINI, BIZET, OFFENBACH, DONIZETTI, MOZART... Airs, duos and ensembles... a bit of all things opera



**Sunday 6th November at 5:30pm**

**SAINT JEAN PLA de CORTS. Salle polyvalente**

**Mozart's 'Petite Flûte Enchantée' (Enchanted Flute)**

A fun, educational and joyous show full of surprises.



**OFF-SERIES**

Sunday 19th December

**CÉRET**

**Eglise St Pierre at 4pm**

Our traditional Christmas Concert.

(Check our website for more details)

**Full price admission: 19€**  
**Members: 14€**  
**Free for under 15s**

**https://amuvall.org**  
**for info and reservation.**

- Ticket office open online at [www.amuvall.org](http://www.amuvall.org) – available in English
- Select your seats for the concerts on line.
- **Become a member** for just 20€ per person or 30€ per couple to get reduced prices.
- For more information or any problems booking, please call 06 31 14 77 14 or email [billets@amuvall.org](mailto:billets@amuvall.org)



# Urban CANALS *in* PERPIGNAN

The charming alleyways and streets of Perpignan city centre are ideal to 'flâner' (stroll or meander). But if you fancy seeing a different side to city life, we've got an urban hike just for you.

## KEY INFO

5km (there and back)

Easy, mostly flat, well-marked path.

Shady and protected from the wind

Additional circuits can easily be added (or removed!)

GPS: 42.681439, 2.892720



## Start

Park in the car park behind KFC at the north end of Porte d'Espagne. **The walk starts along the cycle path**, which can be found off the main roundabout, running to the northwest corner of the carpark and then along **the canal, signposted Les Arcades**.

## The walk

Follow the cycle path along the canal, passing around the back of **Castorama and the tennis/squash/padel club, le Mas**, until you reach **the Aqueduc des Arcades**.



## AQUEDUC DES ARCADES.

Built between 1368 and 1378, the aqueduct is 300m long, 4m wide and 13m high. Its 21 arches brought water from the Têt river in Ille sur Têt to Perpignan, supplying the mills, the fountains and a noria, a bucket wheel that brought water to the royals in the Palais des Rois de Majorque.

When the path crosses over the train tracks, turn right and pass under the aqueduct to a pleasant grassy area and follow signs for **Serrat d'en Vaquer**



You will climb up to meet the canal and then **cross the bridge over the D900**.

Over the other side, **turn right and follow the road to the roundabout by the 4\* hotel, Villa Dufлот**, still following signs to Serrat d'en Vaquer.

Cross the roundabout diagonally to the walkway and follow the path as it gently climbs across scrubland.

This path comes out at the top of the road, continue straight over to the former military and **paleontological site of Serrat d'en Vaquer**.



## SERRAT D'EN VAQUER

Set on the highest hill of the Roussillon plain, this 19th century fortress was built to protect Perpignan from Spanish invasion. Walkers can enjoy panoramic views of the Mediterranean and the mountains.

Despite its name, meaning 'Hill of Cows', dog walkers should beware of the proud shepherd occasionally attending his flock of sheep, and his protective sheepdogs. Walkers should also be aware that they may not be the only visitors to this historical site, which is also a meeting and pick up point for men in search of a different type of exercise!

Open every day from 10am to 8pm



After your visit, come back to the gated entrance and **follow the footpath around the moat** (in either direction!) giving incredible panoramic views of the mountains and the sea.

The surrounding landscape is marked by **the fire of 22nd July 2022** and from the higher vantage point, you can see just how close the flames came to the shopping centre (Leroy Merlin in particular!).



Retrace your steps back to the car, and if you need refreshments, there's the full range of fast-food options along the **Porte d'Espagne**. Or head into the town centre for something more authentic.

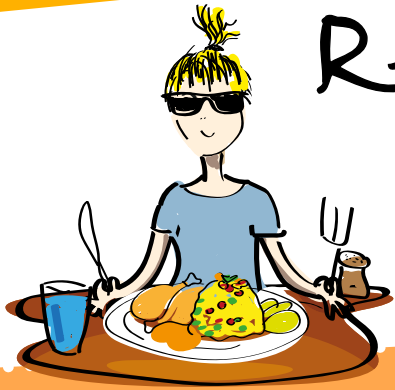
## Optional additions

If you're still feeling spritely up at Serrat d'en Vaquer, you can take the footpath **down to Auchan shopping complex car park**, cross over and rejoin the canal, which then runs through **to Canohès and beyond (Chemin des Carlettes)**!



# Restaurant REVIEWS

AUTUMN 2022



Summer may be over but it's still warm enough to eat lunch outside in the autumn sunshine or dine en terrasse beneath the stars, "though you might need 'une petite laine'!"

The following are not adverts, they are just restaurants that we have enjoyed, or that friends or readers have recommended.

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

## EL BISBÉE

Céret...with Mavis

With 2 friends I went to El Bisbée restaurant in Céret on Sunday evening. I haven't been for quite a while due to Covid. **It is still a superb restaurant.** We ate on the delightful vine covered terrace and the food was excellent. Three plentiful courses for 34 euros, beautifully served by extremely efficient and charming waitress. **We will definitely return.**



4 Place Chaim Soutine, 66400 Céret  
Tel: 04 68 87 00 85



8 Route Nationale, Serdinya  
Tel: 04 68 30 02 55

## LA TABLE DE SERDINYA

Serdinya...with David

Check out La **Table de Serdinya** on the N116 towards **Andorra**. After struggling for several years, new management have turned what was once just the village bar into a great restaurant. **Chef Max and partner Samantha** provide excellent quality menus at reasonable prices. There's always a choice of fish or meat for main course. And if the weather is good, **sit on the terrace for views of the Têt valley**, old Serdinya and Canigou.

## MIAM COLLECTIF

Perpignan...with Maria

**Something rather different.** We came upon this Restaurant Collectif when we took a wrong turning. There's an annual joining fee of €5.00. The price of the meal is what you can afford min. €2.00 actual cost: €9.00. We had two choices for each course. Everything was delicious and vegetarian. **We will gladly head there again.**



22 Place Rigaud, Perpignan  
[www.facebook.com/miamcollectif](http://www.facebook.com/miamcollectif)

## LE SQUARE

Ille-sur-Têt...with Rosaleen

**Delicious food and great very kid friendly.**

Set menu for lunch with food prepared to order. The chips alone are worth the trip. Really nice atmosphere with lots of locals. They made us feel very welcome with the children and the kids menu has the option of a crepe with nutella. It can be quite hard to take our 3 out (5 and 4 year old twins) and feel relaxed enough to enjoy our meal. They went out of their way to make our meal pleasant and **I would really recommend it for grown ups and families.**

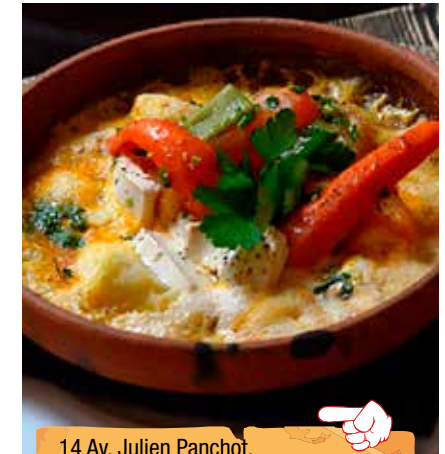


55 Av. Pasteur, Ille-sur-Têt  
Tel: 04 68 61 48 40

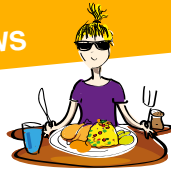
## L'ATELIER DE JEAN-PAUL

Perpignan...with Eliane

Never a disappointment. **Located near Lycée Arago**, so easy parking, the Chef knows how to sublimate fish and seafood, is a **master at wok preparation including perfectly and scrumptiously cooked vegetables.** Good local wine available by the « pichet ». Desserts include «rum-flambéd banana» and roasted fresh pineapple with a sweetly and lightly spiced fudgy sauce. Also available on the menu is vegan, vegetarian but also local meats with home-made frites. Oh and they also offer a wide selection of «rhum arrangé». **Lovely welcome and service - our favourite restaurant in Perpignan.**



14 Av. Julien Panchot,  
Tel: 04 68 21 42 45



### A TABLE

#### Couiza...with Phil Lambert

So many to choose from, but a **personal favourite is A Table in Couiza**. **Andy Blyth** is such a talented chef, and will cater for a variety of dietary needs (given a tad notice for very specific needs), and we've always loved dining there. Average prices for well above average food. **Bookings recommended to avoid disappointment as they say.**

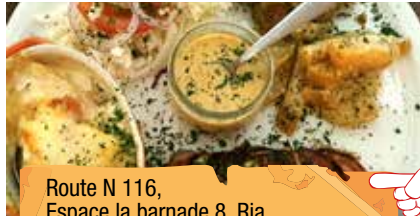


7 Rue du Stade, Couiza  
Tel: 07 81 71 32 84

### L'ENTRE-NOUS

#### Ria-Sirach...with Suse

Not the best of positions but don't be put off as **it's really good**. Everything **fait-maison, good portions and good value**. Very welcoming. Home-made pasta, pizza, desserts - lovely plats as well - filet-mignon de cochon, veau Savoyarde - lots to choose from. Check out their facebook page. Every Friday evening is a **fondue de boeuf Bourguignonne**, then **the first weekend of each month (I think) is a speciality** - Italian, Greek, etc



Route N 116,  
Espace la barnade 8, Ria  
Tel: 07 49 27 00 50

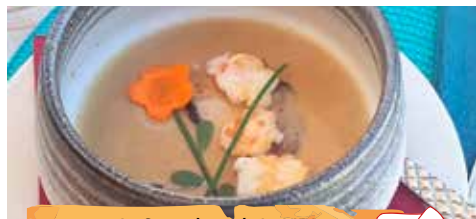
### TWO REYNES RESTAURANTS with Suzanne

Two to recommend at **Pont de Reynes** just outside Céret.

...Secondly.

### LA DULCINE

is going from strength to strength. **The proprietress is Peruvian/Japanese and the cuisine reflects that, French with a twist**. Medium price range, charming staff excellent chef (husband). Seven hour lamb with aubergine confit a particular highlight and very imaginative fish dishes.



1 route de Ceret à côté du LIDL,  
Tel: +33 4 68 87 02 22

### LE COURT BOUILLON

A simple restaurant with a menu that changes weekly - almost unheard of in France. **Food beautifully cooked and presented and seasonal. Best Entrecôte my husband and I have ever eaten** and the one constant, a hot vanilla soufflé, is not to be missed! Extremely reasonable **35 Euros for three courses and 29 Euros for two.**



route departementale 115  
Tel: 04 68 07 54 88

## OVER THE BORDER ...IN SPAIN

### EL SUPREM

#### Figueres...with Malcom

**Three course weekday lunch including wine 13€** (Saturday 19€) closed Sunday. **The place is spotless, friendly and efficient**. We had a choice of 4 starters, 4 mains and 4 desserts with wine included. **Everything was excellent with a number of dishes well beyond what anyone could expect**. Two large croquettas starter served with egg yolk pipette, amazing cod dish for main course that would hold its head high in a fine dining restaurant followed by vanilla ice cream fried in tempura batter served with a red fruit coulis. Extraordinary value and fast, friendly service. Menus in French, Spanish and English. **A bit out of town on the way to Vilafant station but Google maps will take you straight to the door. Gets very busy.**



Carrer Llobregat, 4, Figueres  
Tel: +34 972 09 83 00

## QUELQUES QUICKIES

### L'ÉMOTION

Caudiès de Fenouillèdes...

#### with Suzi Hélène

Shortly to be under new owners so get in quick before the end of October! Front doesn't look like much but the chefs are excellent and back patio is lovely for lunch or dinner.

[www.facebook.com/lemotion.caudies](http://www.facebook.com/lemotion.caudies)

### BISTROT CORTAL

#### Vernet les Bains...with Johnny

Great young chef, fresh produce, attention to detail and taste. Booked out high season, for good reason, will always appreciate diners at other times.

<https://bistrot-lecortal.fr/>

### LE CHALET DE PIZZAS

#### Saillagouse...with Nath

When in Cerdagne we like to stop for lunch here. Best pizza in the PO. Obviously not fine dining but nice to have a really tasty pizza once in a while.

[www.chaletdespizzas.fr](http://www.chaletdespizzas.fr)

### PAMPA

#### Collioure...with Karen

Fantastic food. Uruguay influences. Small but changing menu full of unusual flavours. Perfect service. Tiny restaurant with beautiful decor inside.

[www.facebook.com/PampaCollioure](http://www.facebook.com/PampaCollioure)

### L'ASIE DU SUD

#### Le Boulou...with Ken

Food excellent service excellent, prices excellent. Beautiful and clean.

<https://lasie-du-sud.business.site>



**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 ravis de vous entendre.

Send your comments to us at [info@anglophone-direct.com](mailto:info@anglophone-direct.com)

(no restaurant owners please!! :-)

# Brits BIKES and BAGUETTES

by Susie Hughes



I now have the scars to prove that **bikes, Brits and baguettes do not mix**, unlike the French who were born with the ability to cycle casually around the countryside while carrying up to half a dozen three foot loaves.

Having wobbled home on my bike after many sangria nights without incident, **all it took was a trip to the boulangerie to buy a baguette** yesterday morning for me to **experience at first hand** how the French medical system works.

**First mistake** was trying to negotiate a high pavement on the bike, **second mistake** was deciding to **try to keep hold of the baguette at the first sign of tilt**, **third mistake** was **using my face to break my fall** rather than my hands.

Until then I hadn't realised that in France you must stop and offer help if you witness an accident.



**A DUTY TO RESCUE**  
(non assistance à personne en danger)

According to French law, anyone who fails to help a person in danger can be found liable in a French Court, and fined or even imprisoned.



So **from a sleepy street on a sleepy morning in a sleepy village, people arrived from everywhere.**

Clearly the baker had tipped them off that a Brit on a bicycle had just bought a baguette so they hid in the trees waiting for the inevitable to happen.

There were people sorting out my bike, my ruck sack, discussing 'Samu' (ambulances), offering tissues, making phone calls, talking too fast for me to understand in a dazed state, organising cars, while I sat on the pavement counting my teeth and trying unnecessarily to recall the correct past tense to say 'I have just fallen off my bicycle'.



**Finally someone prised the still intact baguette from my hands and a kind young man put me in his car** (advising me to try to catch the blood rather than let it drip on his upholstery) and took me to my friends. But as I'd forgotten the French for left and right, in fact I was struggling in English at this point, the two minute trip took some time.

I turned up on Marie's doorstep and I am still sorry for giving her a fright by looking like I'd gone 12 rounds with Mike Tyson. Not sure what protocol was at this point, **Darren and Marie drove me to two doctors' surgeries unsuccessfully.**

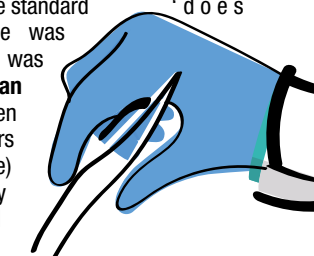
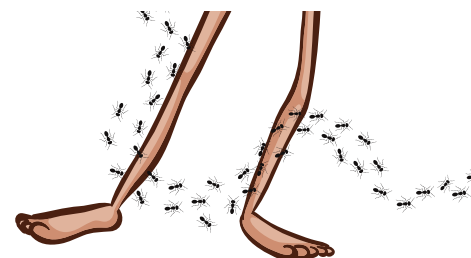
Word of advice, **if you're going to have an**

**accident in France, don't do it at the beginning of everyone's three hour lunch break.** The third was also closed but had left the door open so **Darren entered shouting 'Bonjour, bonjour.'** Fortunately when the doctor found us I was looking rather pathetic and bleeding on her reception floor, so **her Hippocratic Oath kicked in and she agreed to cancel her lunch break and deal with me.**

Brilliant first aid overhaul. She tested for any obvious breaks with the standard 'does that hurt?'. Language was not required as she was either **answered with an 'Ow!' or a 'Non'.** Then (squeamish readers avert your eyes here) I had unfortunately chosen a gravel surface to land on, so **she spent her lunch hour with tweezers and picking bits of dirt out of my face, hands, arms and legs.**

I'd met this doctor on a couple of previous occasions when I'd required a medical certificate for a local sports team and she has never spoken a word of English to me. **But this time, bless her cotton socks, she was clearly trying to help the situation by recalling her school-girl lessons and getting annoyed with herself when she couldn't remember a particular word.** So in a form of '**Franglais**' we struggled through having to resort to lengthy descriptions of cars being rear-ended to convey 'whip lash'.

We almost 'high fived' when I finally worked out that **she wasn't asking me 'If I had ants' – the literal translation for 'Avez-vous les fourmis dans les jambes ?' – but was in fact asking if I had pins and needles in my legs.**



Centre d'Imagerie Médicale

Next stop the X-ray department. **So, armed with a letter and the doc's phone call to prepare for our arrival**, we headed off to the radiologie department. **A clean, state-of-the-art facility in Argeles' industrial zone.** After a short wait I was ushered in to the **X-ray room**, had multiple images of nose, neck and face taken. A few minutes later, in fact I hadn't even had time to put my earrings back in, the dishy doctor arrived to tell me that **'ce n'est pas grave, mais vous n'etes pas très belle'**, which in any another circumstances I'd have taken offence at, but roughly translated seemed to say 'nothing broken but you're going to look like Shrek for the immediate future'.

The other bit of paper from the docs was a **prescription for every single item in the chemist.** Fortunately, Darren has a **people-carrier** so we were able to fit it all in.

Off to the pharmacist, where I was fitted for a surgical collar (think I wore that for about two hours), **lotions, potions and pills sufficient to stock a local Boots for a week.** And again, a combination of Franglais and miming worthy of **Marcel Marceau** explained how I had to **scrub wounds with one potion, disinfect them with another, protect them with a third, take pills against swelling, another set for nausea, another set to counter the side effects of one of the other lots, how to adjust the collar etc, etc etc..**

I was shown so much kindness by total strangers I met from the people who picked me up through to the medics.

**LESSON I'VE LEARNT...OBVIOUS ONE** – don't try to balance a baguette on your handlebars while negotiating a steep pavement. **My French next door neighbour came round later** (word travels fast in our neighbourhood), to see how I was and **explain that the correct way to carry a baguette when cycling is under one's arm, not across the handlebars.**

I guess a sweaty armpit flavoured baguette is always preferable to a broken nose in any language.



*"The correct way to carry a baguette when cycling is under one's arm"*

# Inheritance planning in France. Protect your heirs.

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## LES POILUS

Le Poilu, informal term of **endearment for a French World War I infantryman**, and literally meaning **'hairy one'** was also used to **describe soldiers in the time of Napoleon Bonaparte.** (The term 'grognard' (grumbler) was also common.)

The word was coined from the caricature image of the bear-like, bearded and moustached French soldier, much used in propaganda at the time.



**The stereotype of the Poilu was brave but undisciplined.** During the disastrous **'Chemin des Dames' offensive of 1917**, they were said to have gone into battle baa'ing like sheep, to symbolize lambs to the slaughter..... as proved to be the case. Widespread mutiny followed, and a mini military revolution was only avoided by withdrawing from the whole offensive.



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**warm days, fresh  
evenings, a bit of a  
zing in the air....** Most of  
the restaurants advertising  
in this edition remain open  
throughout much of the  
season. Please support them  
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them, we would not exist.

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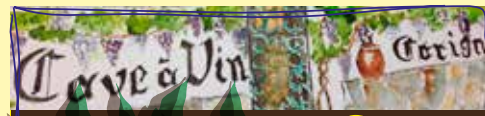
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**TRICK OR TREAT!**  
'Des bonbons ou une farce' is one way to beg for sweets on Hallo' eve, 'FRIANDISES OU BÊTISES' is another, but as there is no literal translation, just about anything goes

**Renovation of  
Place Rigaud.  
Check  
opening times**

**...PORT-VENDRES**

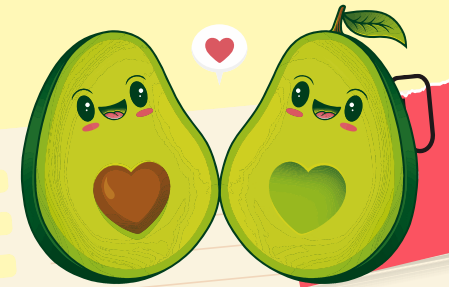
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This word origin has absolutely nothing to do with the French language but it made me giggle. The avocado was originally named "ahucatl" by the Aztecs - their word for testicle – both because of its appearance and the fact that it is supposed to be an aphrodisiac. To the Spaniards "ahucatl" sounded like avocado, and so the fruit came to Europe, via Spain, under that name.



**...SAINT CYPRIEN**

**Le pub à la française, Village** .....07 86 68 60 33  
Tapas, Music, nights, etc .....f.lepubalafrancaise/



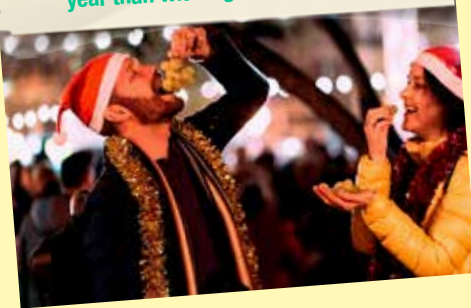
**BIG MOUTH?**

**Spend New Year in Spain**

Start off the New Year with a slobber and a dribble! As the **twelve strokes of midnight sound on the 31st December, the Spaniards pop a grape into their mouth for each bong** –

**12 grapes to bring good luck for the 12 months ahead.** All twelve grapes have to be crammed in before that 12th bong, which can lead to much hilarity.

**What better way to start off a new year than with a good giggle?**



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**(SAR-SOO-EH-LAH)**

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*Ideas for*  
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OUT**

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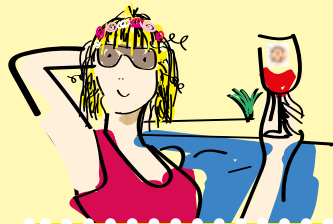
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**IN TRANSIT!**

If your doctor asks you  
questions about your 'transit',  
s/he is NOT asking you about  
the state of your van!

transit - bowel movement



*Mayor* **Cristine**

Many of you will have tasted the excellent **Mas Cristine wines** (and if you haven't yet, you really must) but **have you ever wondered how it got its name?**

**Léon Cristine** was the **mayor of Collioure from 1919 to 1935**. A well-heeled chap, as village mayors tend to be, his estate on his death consisted of half the houses of Collioure... and the rather dilapidated Mas Cristine and winery, established in 1810, in the hills above Collioure.

**The estate was split down the middle and one 'héritier' received the houses whilst the other received the Mas.**

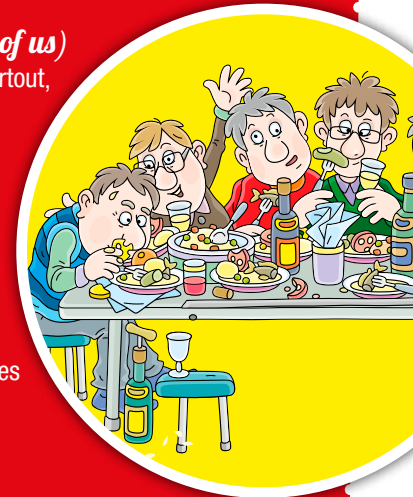
**I know which half I'd have put my name down for!**

**SING ALONG  
WITH P-O LIFE**

The Brits may have a bit of a boozy reputation but **did you know that the French have a long tradition of toasts with body parts.** Here is one of the most famous drinking songs. **Ask any French friend for the simple tune.** You will note that the body parts mentioned have been 'latinised'. Can you work out what they are?

*Il est des nôtres (He's one of us)*

Ami [name] lève ton verre, et surtout,  
ne le **renverse** pas  
et porte le  
du frontibus  
au nasibus  
au mentibus  
au ventribus  
au sexibus  
et glou et glou et glou  
*Chorus*  
Il est des nôtres  
Il a bu son verre comme les autres  
C'est un **ivrogne**  
Ca se voit rien qu'à sa **trogne**



renverse - spill · ivrogne - drunkard · trogne - face (mug)

**DÍA DE LA HISPANIDAD  
SPAIN CLOSED!**



According to **American Professor Estelle Izarry** in her book **'The DNA of the writings of Columbus'**, Christopher Columbus was a Catalan, proven by DNA from bone fragments said to belong to the explorer. Whatever, celebration **Fiesta Nacional de España** is held annually on **October 12th** to celebrate the day when **Cristóbal Colón** (in Spanish) arguably discovered America in 1492, and claimed the land for Spain. When he returned to Spain, it is believed he also brought syphilis back with him!

OUTDOOR DESIGNER

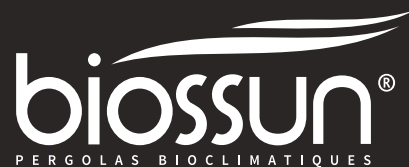


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# THE RED BOX

PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN PHOTOS OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (1936-1939) DISCOVERED IN 2018



### ANTONI CAMPAÑÀ I BANDRANAS (1906-1989)

was one of the great Catalan photojournalists. Fiercely republican, **he documented 3 years of the war** close up and personal: militia men and women, refugees arriving in Barcelona, buildings in ruins after bombing raids, scenes of everyday life - and death. Traumatized by the war, **he hid his photos away.**

**In 2018, his family discovered nearly 5,000 photographs in two red boxes**, hidden for nearly 80 years in his Barcelona home.

**This collection covers the Civil War in Barcelona and Republican Catalonia**, from the failed coup and the anarchist revolution of 1936, to Franco's victory and the exodus of the Retirada.

In an exhibition coordinated by his nephew, you can see 77 of the prints for the first time in France at the **Galerie Marianne in Argelès Village**, from September 3 to October 29.

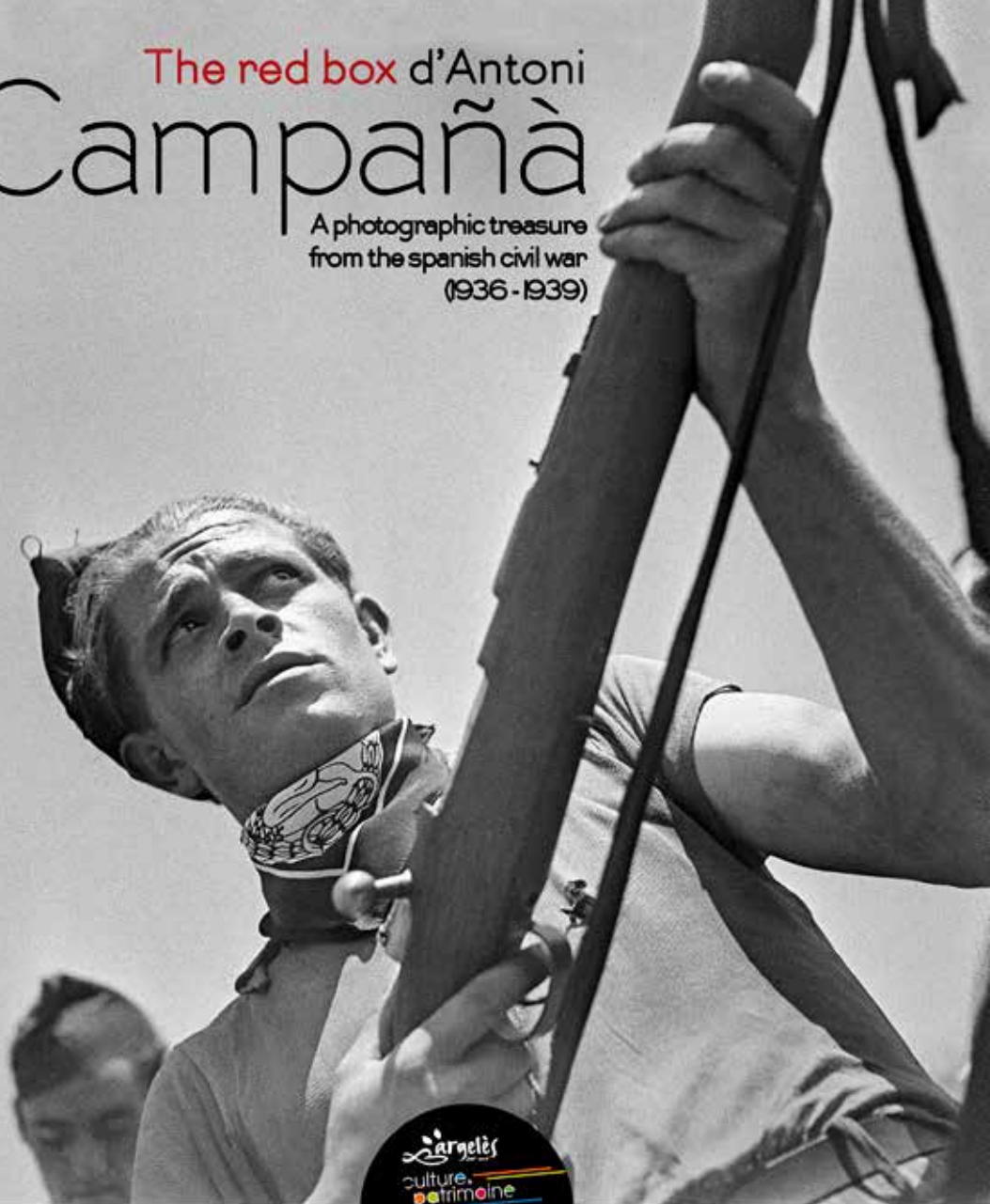
**Free Admission**

**This Argelès-sur-Mer municipal art gallery, run by the Mairie, is free for all and showcases regular temporary exhibitions from internationally renowned artists.**



# The red box d'Antoni Campañà

A photographic treasure from the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939)



Argelès culture patrimoine

Galerie Marianne, Argelès-sur-Mer

Exhibition from September 3 to October 29, 2022

Espace liberté, rue du 14 juillet, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m to 1 p.m and from 2 p.m to 6 p.m

Argelès la naturelle

Mémorial du Camp

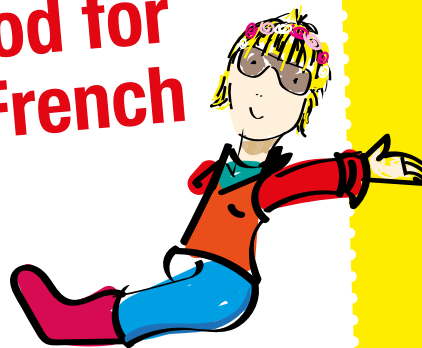
MUM/E Musée Memorial de l'Exili

Unbelievably Bad Joke....  
but **good for your French**

## UN PARISIEN DANS LES PYRENEES-ORIENTALES

Un *citadin* arrive à sa maison secondaire dans un petit village des P-O. *Ayant besoin de se débarrasser* d'un arbre dans son jardin qui lui cache la vue du Canigou, et *ne trouvant pas un élagueur disponible* dans les pages jaunes de son P-O Life mag, (pourtant, il y en a), il va chez un vendeur en motoculture qui lui propose une *tronçonneuse*.

Il garantit à notre jardinier novice *l'abattage* de 6 arbres à l'heure *grâce* à cette *tronçonneuse* révolutionnaire avec *lame en titane*, chaîne en *acier trempé*, *double arbre à cames en tête*, pot.....



## ET BIEN SÛR AVEC TOUS CES FANFRELUCHES ET TRALALAS - SATISFAIT OU REMBOURSÉ!

Dix jours plus tard, *il revient* voir le vendeur, rouge de colère, et *exige* un remboursement immédiat de cette "tronçonneuse de m-rde". "Comment?" s'exclame le vendeur, "Vous n'êtes pas satisfait?"

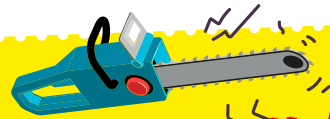
"*De la camelote* je te dis" répond le citadin; "*Je me suis rendu malade* pour abattre *un seul* arbre en une journée! J'ai des *ampoules* partout. *Rembourse-moi* comme promis"

"Un arbre en un jour? Ce n'est pas possible" dit le vendeur "*Celle-ci* doit avoir un défaut! *Laissez-moi voir ça.*"

Il tire sur le *lanceur* et la *tronçonneuse* répond immédiatement par un *rugissement* impressionnant.

Le citadin, étonné, crie:

"Attendez, mais, mais.....  
c'est quoi ce bruit?"



## VOCABULARY

*citadin* - city dweller  
*Ayant besoin de* - needing (having need of..)

*se débarrasser* - get rid of  
*ne trouvant* - not finding  
*élagueur* - tree surgeon

*disponible* - available, free  
*tronçonneuse* - chain saw

*l'abattage* - the felling  
*grâce à* - thanks to  
*lame en titane* - titanium chain

*acier trempé* - tempered steel  
*double arbre à cames en tête* - double camshaft  
*fanfreluches et tralalas* - bells and whistles

*satisfait ou remboursé* - satisfied or your money back

*il revient* - he comes back  
*exige* - demands  
*De la camelote* - junk  
*Je me suis rendu malade* - I made myself ill

*un seul* - just one  
*ampoules* - blisters  
*Rembourse-moi* - give me my money back

*Celle-ci* - this one  
*Laissez-moi voir ça* - let me take a look

*lanceur* - starter handle  
*rugissement* - roar  
*bruit* - noise



## PRETTY PICS IN CASTELNOU

When you visit the pretty village of Castelnou, check under the eaves of the village houses for the **red brick 'cairous'** painted with triangles, suns and various other protective designs to ward off bad luck, illnesses, witches.....

Nobody is quite sure where this 18th century tradition comes from but it's pretty to look at!



## LE BLUET DE FRANCE

The poppy is a powerful and iconic symbol of remembrance in the UK, but did you know that the French have an equivalent, 'Le Bleuet de France', their own poignant reminder of the First World War?

In 'flowerspeak', the 'Bleuet' or cornflower symbolises delicacy and innocence. It used to grow abundantly in France, and, like the poppy, was often the only sign of life and colour amidst the mud and desolation of WW1. It was also used to describe fresh, young soldiers of WW1, whose bright blue uniforms initially stood out in sharp contrast to the grey and muddy misery of the trenches.



# Is there anybody there?



Obvious when you think about it but did you know that the "Ouija" board used in seances got its name from the combination of the French and German words for 'yes' - oui and ja?





# TIPPING IN FRANCE

**Here in France**, waiters are paid a liveable wage, with benefits and paid holidays and do not depend on tips, so **they really don't need to go out of their way to please the customer!** Leaving a few euros for a great meal or great service is always appreciated but never expected. Many people simply round off the bill, so might pay 70€ on a 67€ total or round their 2€70 coffee bill up to 3€.

As the meal draws to an end and the bill is being prepared, are you one of those people who is already stressing about whether to leave a tip, and if so how much?

Of course **it is always appreciated when good service is rewarded**, but when questioned, French people in the region agreed that **the tipping culture in France is not the same as in English-speaking countries!**

**In America, tipping is practically obligatory.** Employees expect a large tip, and many receive no benefits so rely on these tips to make up their wage.



A l'aéroport, l'alarme du détecteur de métaux se déclencha au passage d'un voyageur.

Le préposé à la sécurité lui demanda s'il avait des pièces de monnaie sur lui.  
— Décidément, protesta-t-il en se tournant vers sa femme, il faut laisser un pourboire partout...

In **France**, bars and restaurants are **required by law to include and display the service/cover charge**. Tipping is strictly optional as 'service compris' (SC), 'service et taxe compris' (STC) or 'prix nets/toutes taxes comprises' (TTC) all mean that the service charges (usually 15%, even 20% of the price of the meal) are included. **In fact, when you leave a tip, you are really paying twice for your service.**

## What the tippers say.....

**Jean Yves, retired**

"Le service est très important. Pour un bon accueil, je donnerais deux à trois euros. Dix pour cent, ça fait beaucoup trop !"

**Brigitte, housewife**

"Je donne aussi des pourboires au plombier (plumber), livreur (deliveryman), déménageur (removal man).... mais seulement s'ils ont été efficaces."

**Bruno, financial director**

"En France aujourd'hui, on paie tout par carte bancaire. On n'a plus de monnaie dans la poche car même pour payer le parking c'est par CB. Après ça reste exceptionnel le pourboire en France; il faut vraiment un serveur attentionné."

**Isabelle, teacher**

"On ne donne pas suffisamment de pourboires en général, même si l'excuse est que les pourboires sont comptés dans l'addition. Par comparaison aux USA, on laisse 15 à 20% de l'addition en plus en pourboires. C'est comme ça que les serveurs sont (mieux) rémunérés. On devrait suivre ce modèle en France et alors peut-être que les patrons auraient moins de problèmes pour recruter ?"

The English word 'tip' was originally an acronym for 'To Insure Promptness.' Innkeepers would write this on a box by the door, later simplified to 'T.I.P.', to enable customers to show their appreciation of good service. The French word 'pourboire' means 'in order to drink', as the original intention was of course for the 'tippee' to have a drink on the 'tipper'.



## USEFUL VOCAB

un bon accueil = a warm welcome  
efficaces = efficient/effective  
CB = carte bleue = credit/debit card  
plus de monnaie = no change  
exceptionnel = rare

même si = even if  
on devrait suivre ce modèle = we should follow this example  
auraient moins de problème = would have fewer problems



# TIPPING IN FRANCE

*What the tippees say.....*

**Céline**, restaurant owner

*C'est vrai que ça fait plaisir mais ce n'est pas du tout obligatoire. On ne doit pas se sentir obligé de donner un pourboire – on donne ou on ne donne pas. »*

**Hélène**, taxi firm owner

*Les Anglais trouvent que c'est cher de prendre un taxi en France mais c'est l'état qui décide la tarification, pas nous. Recevoir un pourboire est toujours agréable. Combien? Ah, ce n'est pas important – c'est le geste qui compte !*

**David**, builder

*"Dans le département c'est très rare. Les sommes vont de 5€ et encore plus rarement 20€ à 50€. Mais effectivement, bien sûr, on aimerait que ce soit plus courant parce que les clients demandent régulièrement des "petits services" qui sortent du cadre des travaux chiffrés. Du genre, "Puisque vous êtes là, pouvez-vous juste..." En plus, on bosse souvent dans des conditions difficiles- la Tramontane ou la canicule!"*

## USEFUL VOCAB

**ça fait plaisir** = it's nice  
**on ne doit pas se sentir**  
= you shouldn't feel

**ne donne rien** = gives nothing  
**on met** = we put  
**l'état** = state

**la tarification** = the pricing

**c'est le geste qui compte** = it's the thought that counts  
**on aimerait** = we would like  
**plus courant** = more common  
**petits services** = small favours  
**puisque vous êtes là, pouvez-vous juste...**  
= as your here, could you just...  
**on bosse** = we work

Of course, **Christmas tipping** for the **postman**, (facteur) **rubbish collectors** (éboueurs) and **firemen** (sapeurs-pompiers) when they come round with their Christmas calendars, is always advisable to ensure smooth post delivery, rubbish collection or house-fire help.

A contribution of **€5 to €15 euros** is much appreciated, and probably a worthwhile investment on your part!



## Grotte de Fontrabieuse

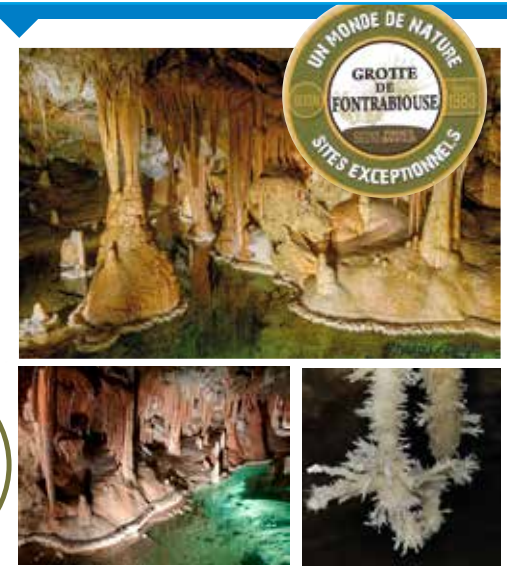
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## Fairies FOUL....

Watch out for low flying broomsticks on Halloween as stories of 'encantades' (enchantresses) or 'bruixas', (witches) are scattered throughout the history of the P-O.

Superstitious Catalans used to protect themselves from witchcraft with a variety of methods such as painting their windows blue, putting their shirts on backwards...and witch repellents. These 'espanta bruixes', were made from pieces of forged iron, jagged tiles or tall stones and placed to prevent witches making a comfortable landing on their roof.

Also called "cue de gall" (cockerels tail), these witch frighteners were believed to chase away bad spirits and bring prosperity to the inhabitants of the building. The bruixes were believed to do most harm to animals, so the espantes were often placed on barns, to protect the harvest and the cattle.

Look around the rooftops of ancient villages, as they can still be seen on some old buildings. In fact, its not unheard of for builders to be asked to build them into new constructions to this very day!





# Reader's WARNING

Driving back down to Prades from the UK, we stopped at a service station well south of Paris for petrol and some lunch. As we locked the car, a couple pushed past us. We were parked between two cars, with not much space in between so we didn't think anything of it. We had lunch, returned to the still locked car, filled up with petrol and continued our journey, excited to be getting closer to our destination.

It wasn't until our next stop that we realised that there were things missing from the boot as well as my husband's iPad (left under the seat - silly I know), spare money that we keep in a purse for emergencies, my son's wallet containing his cards which he had left in his rucksack, and basically anything they could grab easily.



From what we understand when we informed the gendarmes (who weren't overly interested or helpful, **this is a known scam**. The couple pushing past us must have scanned our key code - easy to do apparently - so that one of them could keep an eye on us in the service station whilst the other was able to open our car without a key....and lock it again afterward.

**Do please be careful out there. The most innocent looking people and the most normal looking behaviour is not always what it seems.**



**gfpeinture**

Frédéric Gaudry

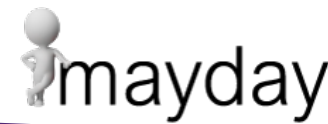
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**BANK HOLIDAYS**

## 1st November

**Saints Day 1ST NOVEMBER**

La Toussaint was created by the Catholic Church to honour lesser saints and martyrs who had no holy day of their own. It was also believed to be an attempt by the church to detract attention from the Celtic, Pagan and often over-the-top celebration of Samhain, born in the British Isles, later to become Halloween. Cemeteries are busy this weekend of remembrance and chrysanthemums are on sale on every street corner. Don't offer them to your hostess when invited out for dinner! They are for the dead!



## 11th november

**Armistice of WW1 (1918)**

The armistice of 11 November 1918 marked Germany's surrender and the end of the First World War. The date has become a day of remembrance to pay tribute to all soldiers.

Flowers are placed on the tomb of the "soldat inconnu" (Unknown Soldier) beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and other war memorials. Most shops closed.



Where does the time go? The good thing about Christmas is that it happens every year so here at P-O Life we can dig out the same old Christmas Catalan Traditions ...and here they are!

## EL CAGANER

Hat-wearing bare-bottomed bounder

What every Catalan child is really looking for amidst the 'pessebre' is that bare bottomed bounder, the 'caganer'. A popular and much loved Catalan Christmas figure, this small statue, originally of a pooping peasant wearing traditional floppy red Catalan cap (barretina), crouches with trousers half down, in a 'toilet' position, making his small contribution to the land. Often hidden behind a tree, or round the back of the stable, the fun is to find the cheeky chappie, symbol of fertility, hope and prosperity, health and happiness for the coming year. Some say that this uninhibited little figure is 'fertilising' the land to ensure a rich and successful harvest, others that he represents equality, in that we are all equal when it comes to biological functions.

All agree that he or she symbolises good luck for the coming year and after the past couple of years we all need a bit of that!



## Caga Tio

And staying on the same subject of poo, look out for the caga tió (literally "poop log"!), a hollow log standing up on four little stick legs with a smiley face painted on one end and red "barretina" hat. From December 8th, he is "fed" every night and on Christmas Day, beaten with sticks to make him drop the sweets and nougat placed inside him.

## Pessebre vivent

The 'pessebre', or nativity scene is nothing new, but here in Catalonia these nativity scenes come alive! The 'pessebre vivent' places leading characters in period clothes, on decorated stage-sets portraying historical and biblical scenes. Sometimes they will sing and talk, other times they will just stand or sit without moving! Often, there will be a commentary with spectacular special effects and lighting. Check out Perpignan Tourist Office and also over the border at Bascara near Figueres ([www.elpessebre.cat](http://www.elpessebre.cat))



## 31st december THE HOME DELS NASSOS

Legend says that the 'man of noses' starts the new year with as many noses as the year has days, losing one every day. By New Year's Eve day, the only day that he can be seen, he only has one nose left! One of his relatives is the 'home de les orelles', same story but this time with ears, who appears on the 30th.

## LA CASTANYADA

Historically, La Castanyada, celebrated on All Saints Day, would help the village to stay awake in vigil, and take turns ringing the heavy church bells throughout the night. To keep up their strength, they would eat 'castanyes' (roast chestnuts) along with 'moniatos' (roast sweet potatoes) and 'panellets' (small almond balls covered in pine nuts) and share Muscat in 'porrons', traditional glass wine pitchers with stem to pour wine into your mouth without touching lips, and avoid passing on bugs!

Very useful in the Covid days!



**Don't forget to turn your clocks back Sunday 30th October 2022**

(Mornings will be lighter but it will grow dark earlier)



**CHECK OUT OUR SITE AT WWW.ANGLOPHONE-DIRECT FOR MORE AUTUMN AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS, TRADITIONS, MARKETS AND ENTERTAINMENT.**





**30 OCTOBER 2022**  
**25 MARCH 2023**  
 by Robbie Shaw

I am writing this in late August. However, do bear in mind that if there is a large increase in Covid infections, things could change quickly. The bulk of flights to the region in 2022 have been operated by **Ryanair**, and to their credit they certainly have been the most reliable this summer, followed by **Jet2**. As usual, my best suggestion is to constantly monitor the airline websites yourself in these uncertain times.

What has been very noticeable in **2022 is the increase in car hire prices**, especially with the major companies. For instance, I have just been quoted over €2,000 for a small car for two weeks in Ireland. Do let us know if you hear of any companies that are still doing good deals! As always, as soon as I compile this there are bound to be changes.

**WINTER SCHEDULES START ON SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER.**

## FRANCE BEZIERS



Like Carcassonne, **Ryanair** has a free run at this small airport. Rather strangely their website shows only the **Luton service survives in the winter.**

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
LUTON	2	RYANAIR 30 Oct-22 Mar

## CARCASSONNE

**Ryanair** the sole operator here. Services are significantly reduced in winter season, with only Manchester, Stansted and Dublin featuring.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
MANCHESTER	2	RYANAIR 30 Oct-24 Mar
STANSTED	2	RYANAIR 30 Oct-24 Mar
DUBLIN	2	RYANAIR 30 Oct-24 Mar



## MONTPELLIER



**Easyjet** operate from both **Gatwick** and **Luton**. The latter only for a short period in summer only, so in winter is **Gatwick** only.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
GATWICK	4-8	EASYJET 30 Oct-25 Mar

## PERPIGNAN



As usual, **no UK flights to Perpignan** in the winter season.



## 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. Rather oddly Aer Lingus Dublin flights do not start until 26 December. This could change. New Ryanair service from Birmingham, and increased service to Stansted and Dublin. Increase in easyJet service.



FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	RYANAIR 31 Oct-24 Mar
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 30 Oct-22 Mar
GATWICK	10-19	EASYJET 30 Oct-25 Mar
HEATHROW	21	BRITISH AWYS 30 Oct-25 Mar
STANSTED	14	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
DUBLIN	2	AER LINGUS 26 Dec-24 Mar
	4	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar

MY NEW AND EXPENSIVE LUGGAGE WAS RIPPED TO PIECES AFTER MY LAST FLIGHT. I CONTACTED MY LAWYER TO SEE IF I COULD SUE THE AIRLINE BUT HE SAID, "YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CASE".



## SPAIN

### BARCELONA / EL PRAT



As always, a huge variety of flights to **Barcelona**, most of which run all year round, but with seasonal increases. For those unfamiliar, take care on the Barcelona ring-road, one wrong turn could be very time consuming. Quite a few changes. There are now four operators on the **Manchester** route. **easyJet** have dropped the **Belfast, Glasgow and Liverpool** services. This winter **Vueling** are no longer offering flights from **Belfast City, Cardiff, and Newcastle**. **Jet2** have added **Birmingham**. **Ryanair** have dropped **East Midlands and Prestwick** but added **Newcastle**. **British Airways** have increased their **Heathrow** service to a ridiculous 60 flights a week whilst **Vueling** have 48 a week from **Gatwick**. So from the three major London airports there are around 166 flights a week!

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2 30 Oct-23 Mar
	7	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
	5	VUELING 30 Oct-25 Mar
BRISTOL	10	EASYJET 30 Oct-25 Mar
	4	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
EDINBURGH	7	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
GATWICK	30	EASYJET 30 Oct-25 Mar
	48	VUELING 30 Oct-25 Mar
HEATHROW	60	B. AWYS 30 Oct-25 Mar
LEEDS BRADFORD	2	JET2 31 Oct-23 Nov
		JET2 10 Feb-24 Mar
LIVERPOOL	2	RYANAIR 2 Nov-25 Mar
LUTON	14	EASYJET 30 Oct - 25 Mar
	4	RYANAIR 31 Oct-25 Mar
MANCHESTER	2	JET2 30 Oct-24 Mar
	2	EASYJET 31 Oct-24 Mar
	10	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
	6	VUELING 30 Oct-25 Mar

NEWCASTLE	2	RYANAIR 1 Nov-25 Mar
STANSTED	28	RYANAIR 30 Oct-25 Mar
CORK	3	VUELING 1 Nov-22 Mar
DUBLIN	14	AER LINGUS 30 Oct-24 Mar
	18	RYANAIR 30 Oct-24 Mar
STANSTED	7	VUELING 30 Oct-25 Mar

## 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. The **Ryanair** winter service from **Cork** and **Dublin** continues to 3 November. Winter service has been discontinued for all others except **Stansted**. **Jet2** who suddenly found the airport two years ago had a whole raft of flights. However for the winter they have dropped ALL routes, though **Birmingham** and **Stansted** do operate to the end of October. So come the winter season **Girona** becomes a ghost town for P-0 readers.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	0	JET2 only 28-31 Oct
CORK	0	RYANAIR only 1st and 3rd Nov
DUBLIN	0	RYANAIR only 1st and 3rd Nov
STANSTED	0	JET2 only 28-31 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 31 Oct-24 Mar



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Autumn days in the P-0 are usually very kind...but evenings start to grow a little chilly



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# Big beasts of our forests & HIGH PASTURES



The P-O might not be able to boast exciting animals like wolves, lynx or bears but, like the rest of the Pyrenees, it has **several interesting ruminants:** a type of chamois, a special sheep and three species of deer – some more common and easily seen than others.



Young chamois

## PYRENEAN CHAMOIS

Isard

This **goat-antelope** was **hunted almost to extinction**, especially in the 1940s, for leather production. The total population from east to west coast is now around 50,000 and it's our **most common alpine ruminant**, found in altitudes up to 3000m. Although a deadly virus has wiped out the population in some parts of the Pyrenees, for the time being the P-O chamois seem relatively immune.



**WINTER COAT** – thicker & greyer



**SUMMER COAT** – ruddy brown. Both sexes have similar markings & horns

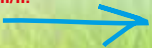
During the autumn rut they don't lock horns but do a lot of posturing to drive competitors away. **Males lead a solitary life outside the mating season.**



They can run up to 50 km/h!



Lesley McLaren is one of "The Warblers" a group of natural history enthusiasts in the PO. [www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com](http://www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com) Twitter @66warblers



## Big beasts of our forests & HIGH PASTURES



### MOUFLON

A wild sheep native to Corsica and introduced to the Pyrenees in 1960. Much less agile than chamois.

The sexes mix during the rut (October – January) and, not liking snow, they come down to lower slopes in winter, so may be more easily seen then. However, they can recognize a human from over 1,000m away, so are more likely to spot you before you spot them! I've yet to see one.



© Charles J Sharp

Males don't shed their horns.



© Doronenko

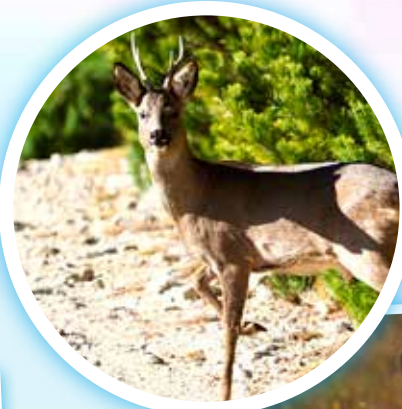
Females can have short horns too but most have none.

Summer coats are **cinnamon brown**, turning to more **chocolate brown** in winter.

### ROE DEER

Chevreuil

Unlike all our other ruminants, these rut in July/August.



© Marek Szczepanek



Roe deer do not have tails

More active at night, their "bark" alarm call can sound eerie if you can't see the animal.

### RED DEER

Cerf élaphe

The largest & most impressive of P-O species – but not nearly as numerous as in Scotland!



© Luc Viatour

Red Deer stag



© Charles J Sharp

Red Deer hind

### FALLOW DEER

Daim

Much less common than red or roe. It's the only species that has spots, but – just to confuse you – not all are spotty. Their coats can range from light to dark, gingery brown (at Aiguamolls in Spain, there's even an all-white one!) and they have a black stripe down the middle of their tail.



© Johann-Nikolaus Andreae

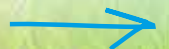
Fallow deer stag



© Taroth

Fallow deer doe

Like the other two species, the males' antlers have a distinctive shape.



# P-O NATURALLY

## Big beasts of our forests & HIGH PASTURES

### WHERE BEST TO SEE THEM:



**Mouflon & chamois – Puigmal & Porte-Puymorens** areas. (A few mouflon are also in the eastern end of the Albères.)

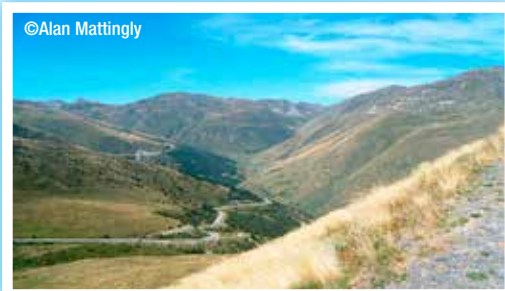
**Deer – roe & red** could be seen almost anywhere, especially where there is forest. Some companies lay on trips to watch the red deer rut in the Cerdagne and Capcir.

**Fallow** are very rarely seen in the Albères, apparently, having spread from a reintroduction in the 1980s to the wetlands reserve at Aiguamolls de l'Empordà near Empuria Brava in Spain.

I've also seen **chamois & roe deer** in the Prats de Mollo reserve in November.



Puigmal (Bad Mountain) in the Cerdagne



©Alan Mattingly

Porte-Puymorens



Réserve Naturel de Prats de Mollo

When I stayed with friends in a chalet in Eyne last September, we were surprised one evening when a young red deer stag appeared in the garden, unbothered by us standing on the balcony. In fact he was a regular visitor to the community and by this spring had got himself into the news. Most residents welcomed "Monsieur le cerf" but, inevitably, one complained to the Mairie after he ate their flowers! Worried that their mascot might be euthanized, other locals protested and launched a petition to save him. In April the mayor said it was up to the Préfecture and l'Office français pour la biodiversité to decide what to do, if anything. Let's hope he's still around and will survive this hunting season.



## Your teeth don't need glasses!



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# LEST we FORGET

## FEMMES FORMIDABLES DE LA RÉSISTANCE



When **Général de Gaulle** published a list of 1,038 resistance heroes who contributed to the liberation of France; **only six were women.** In fact, there were many more courageous 'résistantes' involved in the **clandestine 'maquis'**, often providing crucial intelligence, and participating in sabotage operations and armed combat. If caught, the punishment for a woman was no less severe than for a man: beatings, torture and execution.

The following courageous ladies all have links with the P-O.

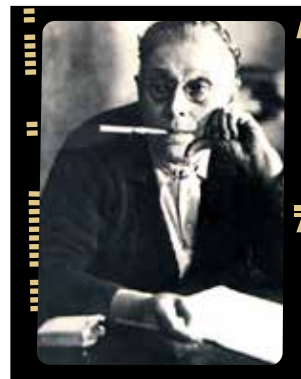


### LE MAQUIS

At the end of 1942, with full collaboration from the Vichy government, the Germans introduced compulsory labour service in Germany (**Service du travail obligatoire** or STO) rounding up men in towns and villages around France for forced enlistment and deportation. Almost immediately, thousands of young men, especially in the south, fled to the countryside, living in camps in the mountains, surrounded by thicket or scrubland, 'le maquis' in French. They therefore called themselves the Maquisards.

### MARIE-LOUISE DISSARD...

CODE NAME 'FRANÇOISE'



One of the few French women to lead a resistance group and escape network during WW2, **Dissard helped more than 500 Allied airmen to escape occupied France via the Françoise Line.**

In 1940, **at the age of 58, she started to distribute anti-Nazi propaganda, and went on to work alongside the Pat O' Leary Line,** (see insert) sheltering downed airmen in her own home, **ironically overlooked by Gestapo headquarters, and organising their escape across the Pyrenees into Spain.**

Described as 'small, cheerful, talkative, opinionated, and anti-fascist', she was so outspoken in her views that the French police opened an enquiry into her 'subversive' activities. She was quickly pronounced crazy and the file was closed!

As Vichy France and the Gestapo increased efforts to stamp out resistance and escape lines, the Pat Line was infiltrated and betrayed. One of the few survivors, Dissard organised funding from the British and took over the leadership, directing operations as she moved around from cellar to attic, **a master of disguise, organising safe houses, and appearing in public as many different characters.** She escorted many airmen herself to Perpignan where she turned them over to the 'passeurs' who would take them across the Pyrenees to the relative safety of Spain.

**She died in Toulouse in 1957.**



**THE PAT LINE,** named after the man who set it up, provided an escape route right here in the P-O, for as many as 600 escapers and evaders. Escapers were generally sent down a system of "safe houses" in Narbonne or Perpignan, and stayed close to the border in small villages such as Port Vendres to await their mainly Spanish guides who took them over small tracks such as the Col de Banyuls, where there is a memorial to these brave men and women. Some were taken away by ships and submarines that would wait off the beach at Canet. Most however, crossed the Pyrenees and were taken to Figueres where Spanish railworkers would help them get to Barcelona and the safety of the British Consulate.

### ANDRÉE DE JONGH

CODE NAME 'POSTMAN' (NICKNAME 'DÉDÉE')

**Belgian heroine, Andrée de Jongh helped around 400 allied evaders to cross the border to Spain.**



One of the main creators of the Comet escape line, she helped more than **400 Allied soldiers to escape from Belgium to Gibraltar,** personally accompanying more than 118 airmen over the rugged Pyrenees herself. **She was**

**supported by MI9, and famed Colditz escapee Airey Neave.**

Betrayed and captured in 1943, **she admitted, under Gestapo torture, to being the leader of Le Réseau Comète.** They didn't believe her due to her youthful appearance!

**She was sent to Mauthausen and Ravensbruck concentration camps until, desperately ill and undernourished, she was liberated by the allied armies in 1945.**

**Escaped airmen later described her as "... always smiling and brimful of enthusiasm" and "...the force, the power and the inspiration that brought us from Belgium to Spain."**

**She died in Brussels in October 2007**

**Kristin Hannah based her 2015 book 'The Nightingale' on Andrée.** NY Times bestseller, Wall Street Journal's Book of the Year... and, perhaps most prestigious of all, rave reviews from P-O Life readers.

ELISABETH EIDENBENZ



Swiss born Elisabeth Eidenbenz created La Maternité Suisse in Elne as a refuge for expectant mothers fleeing the Spanish Civil War, and later for displaced victims of World War 2. Situated on the road to Montescot just outside Elne, and classed as a Monument Historique since 2012, she obtained 30,000 francs from the Swiss Red Cross (Aide Suisse aux Enfants) for the repairs and renovations of the former dilapidated Château d'En Bardou and created a haven for these desperate ladies and their babies.

When the Gestapo arrived in their black leather coats looking for Jews, Elisabeth sent them packing. One time, they told her that if she did not produce a Jewish lady they were looking for, they would take Elisabeth instead. She simply asked for a few moments to pack her bags. The lady in question refused to accept the sacrifice and gave herself up, her fate a cattle wagon from Elne to Rivesaltes, and onwards to the gas chambers at Mauthausen via Drancy.

Elisabeth died in 2011 in Zürich at the age of 98.



BETTY PACK

Betty Pack, American debutante and sexy séductrice, has been described as one of the most successful Allied spies of World War II.

An agent for Britain's MI-6 and America's OSS, this 'femme fatale' with 'radiant smile and emerald-green eyes' used beauty and brains to seduce diplomats and officials across the globe in exchange for their bedroom secrets, including vital information about Vichy collaborators, naval codes for the Vichy flotilla, and even Germany's famous Enigma code machines. Her wartime base was the Château de Castelnuo and after the Armistice, she married Charles Brousse, press attaché at the Vichy French embassy in Washington, and returned with her husband to settle in the Château. She died in 1963 and is buried along with her two dogs in a discreet corner of the castle's grounds.

When asked after the war about her questionable morals, she said "My superiors told me that the results of my work saved thousands of British and American lives."



"Wars are not won by respectable methods."

NANCY WAKE

THE WHITE MOUSE



Feisty New Zealand born Nancy Wake led the Germans a merry dance as a major player in the French resistance. Her nickname of 'White Mouse', was bestowed on her by the Gestapo due to her ability to evade arrest. Even a reward of 5-million-francs offered by the Gestapo for her capture couldn't pin her down.

Nurse, then journalist, Nancy's life changed before war was declared when she interviewed Hitler in 1933, attended his mass rallies in Berlin and witnessed the random and brutal beating of Jews on the streets in Germany.

When war broke out, she quickly became a courier for the Pat escape line, helping Allied airmen cross over the Pyrenees. Her husband Henri was captured, tortured and executed.

Intensely loyal to Great Britain and France, Nancy never backed down from a dangerous mission.

Escaping to London in 1943, she joined the SOE and underwent rigorous training in silent killing, explosives, map reading, returning to France to work with and coordinate the Maquis, in the lead up to D-Day.

She was described as "the most feminine woman I know until the fighting starts, then she is like five men" and "I do not know what effect Nancy had on the Germans, but by God she frightened me!"

She died on in 2011 aged 98, her chosen funeral music 'Non, je ne regrette rien'.

MARI ELMES

This Irish aid worker is believed to have saved the lives of at least 200 Jewish children at various times during the Holocaust, by hiding them in the boot of her car.



Working first in a children's hospital in Almería in war-torn Spain, she went on to set up and run children's field hospitals ahead of Franco's advancing troops. Fleeing over the border when it was no longer safe to remain in Spain, she continued to help refugees, organising workshops, schools and hospitals in makeshift camps in and around Perpignan, and in particular Rivesaltes Camp Joffre.

When the Vichy government started to send Jewish children to concentration camps, she joined up with a small group of friends and together they rescued dozens of children, often at great personal risk. They would then be taken to safe houses or across the border to relative safety. One of the safe houses, the Hotel du Portugal in Vernet les Bains, still stands today.

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

Betrayed, captured by the Gestapo and interned in the much feared Fresnes prison, outside Paris, her Irish neutrality saved her and she was released after 6 months.

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

MORE FEMMES FORMIDABLES  
DE LA RÉSISTANCE in the next  
issue of P-O Life

## Chloé Bousquet!



### My Friend the Artist

This petite and pretty blonde had known from the age of 5 that she wanted to be an artist - and a princess - but her love of children drove her to join the national police, a small but formidable 'flic-ette' in the Brigade des Mineurs. She became fascinated with "le regard des enfants" expressing in oils the distress and raw emotion that she often saw in their eyes.



I first met my friend Chloé many years ago at an aerobics class in Saint Jean Pla de Corts. I liked her immediately, mainly because she was the only lady in the class who was as small as me! As I got to know her, I learnt that she was gentle, tenacious, ferocious, kind, generous minded - and one helluva talented artist.



When she went completely blind following health problems, she was determined to carry on painting and with the help of a 'healer' in Reynès, she regained her sight and went on to exhibit her paintings throughout France.



Today this talented lady paints superb portraits, particularly of children, as well as amazingly accurate reproductions of some of the most well-know international masterpieces. (Klimt's The Kiss, Da Vinci's Mona Lisa....)



She also composes religious icon paintings, painstakingly created, sometimes over more than 150 hours for one painting, often using solid gold leaf.



Chloe is a lady of hope and faith who is at peace with herself, reflected by her work and lifestyle and I'M PROUD TO CALL HER MY FRIEND.

Look out for her next exhibition, take a look at her website at <https://chloeportraits.com> and maybe even commission a portrait of your children or grandchildren.





# Test your FRENCH

## Tongue Twister

Répétez trois fois  
Un généreux déjeuner  
régénèrerait des généraux  
dégénérés

See Page 89 for answers

## 1 H is for horloge

Match up the words, all beginning with H, with their definitions  
(Why not try to work them out first just from the definitions?)

- |            |    |   |  |
|------------|----|---|--|
| habile     | 1  | a | Viande ou poisson hachés très fin      |
| hoquet     | 2  | b | Rémunération des professions libérales |
| haine      | 3  | c | Personne qui habite en un lieu         |
| habitude   | 4  | d | Compétent, intelligent                 |
| hachis     | 5  | e | Alignement d'arbres ou d'arbustes      |
| honoraires | 6  | f | Contraction involontaire du diaphragme |
| havre      | 7  | g | Cogner brutalement quelque chose.      |
| habitant   | 8  | h | Aversion ou antipathie profonde        |
| heurter    | 9  | i | Refuge sûr et tranquille               |
| haie       | 10 | j | Comportement régulier                  |

**Useful Expression**  
**J'arrive**  
I'm on my way/I'll be there soon

**One of longest words in the French dictionary**  
**hexakosioihexekontahexaphobie**  
(29 letters) describes a fear of the number 666.  
(or 999 if you're standing on your head)

## 2

Fill in the blanks, using the vocabulary below. Be careful! A couple of red herrings have snuck in sneakily amongst the answers!

Deux hommes 1.....dans la salle d'attente d'une maternité.  
L'....2..... arrive, souriante, et dit à l'un des 3..... hommes.  
« 4 ....., Monsieur! Vous 5..... un heureux papa... » L'6  
..... monsieur se lève, furieux:  
« Ce n'est pas 7..... ! Je suis arrivé 8..... lui ! »

a: autre b: faire c: deux d: juste e: Félicitations f: avant  
g: êtes h: médecin i: attendent j: infirmière

## 3

### Trouvez l'intrus

Find the odd one out. Which of the following is NOT a slang version of the given words

- Voiture** – a caisse, b bagnole, c motard
- Travail** – a nana, b taf, c boulot
- Enfant** – a môme, b pote, c gamin
- Policier** – a bécane, b flic, c keuf
- Chaussure** – a godasse, b pompe, c bouffe
- Argent** – a fringue, b fric, c pognon
- Chose** – a machin, b flotte, c truc
- Homme** – a teuf, b mec, c type
- Femme** – a nana, b meuf, c bahut



### GNAGNAGNA

Pronounced “nya nya nya” and roughly translated as “blah, blah, blah”, this fabulous word(s) and recent addition to the french dictionary is used to express ‘I so don’t care what you’re rambling on about’

### LETTER TO SANTA

*Cher Père Noël*

*Pour 2017, je voudrais un gros compte bancaire et un corps maigre.*

*N'inverse pas encore les deux s'il te plaît, comme tu as fait l'année dernière.*

*Je t'embrasse très fort,*

*Kate.*

*PS Désolée pour le petit problème avec la cheminée l'année dernière. J'éteindrai le feu cette année.*

**Un corps maigre** – thin body  
**N'inverse pas** – don't mix them up  
**J'éteindrai** – I will put out

### Confusing Grammar “avoir beau + infinitive”

although, despite –ing, in vain

Il a beau dormir, il est toujours fatigué  
Although he slept, he's still tired  
Despite sleeping, he's still tired

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



**VERY BAD JOKE**  
Comment appelle-t-on un steak qu'on ne voit pas? **Un steak haché!**

(steak caché)

# LANGUAGE

# Test your FRENCH



Many verbs in French need to be followed by the preposition **à** or **de** to link them to the infinitive

eg **il commence à pleuvoir**  
It is beginning to rain

**Je refuse de chanter**  
I refuse to sing

4

It won't stop people understanding you if you do get it wrong, so don't make it into a big thing...but you can be just a little bit smug if you do manage to throw in the right preposition!

Have a go now by filling in the **à** or **de** for the following

- 1 J'ai passé le weekend \_\_\_ faire du vélo
- 2 Vous acceptez \_\_\_ payer?
- 3 Il continue \_\_\_ faire du vent
- 4 J'ai décidé \_\_\_ rentrer
- 5 Elle a hésité \_\_\_ appeler la police
- 6 Vous m'invitez \_\_\_ manger chez vous?
- 7 J'essaie \_\_\_ comprendre
- 8 J'apprends \_\_\_ parler français
- 9 Tu as réussi \_\_\_ trouver la maison?
- 10 Je rêve \_\_\_ gagner à la loterie

## Awfully bad joke!

**Pourquoi les pêcheurs ne sont jamais gros?**

**Parce qu'ils surveillent leur ligne**  
(pêcheurs - fishermen, surveillent - watch, ligne - line or figure)

## Useful Expression

**Les hauts et les bas**  
(lez-oh-ay-lay-bah)  
highs and lows

## Useful Expression

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

## USEFUL GRAMMAR TIP

"quitte à + infinitive" - even if you have to  
Quitte à payer plus, je préfère voyager en première classe

Even if you have to pay more, I prefer travelling first class

## Useful Expression

**En flagrant délit**  
(To be caught) in the act, red-handed



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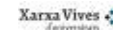
- ✓ From A1 to C2
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- ✓ Reinforce vocabulary and grammatical elements
- ✓ Develop understanding of French culture and civilisation



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Tongue twister  
(virelangue)

# Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 89 for answers

Repeat quickly x 3  
A snake sneaks  
to seek a snack

**Daft Joke**

Doctor, Doctor I feel like  
a vampire.  
Necks please!

How do you  
make cheese?  
Caerphilly  
(carefully)

## 1 O is for Oh!!

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

- |          |    |   |                                      |
|----------|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| outside  | 1  | a | strange or not matching              |
| oyster   | 2  | b | animal that swims and eats fish      |
| orchard  | 3  | c | shellfish sometimes containing pearl |
| ointment | 4  | d | pole with wide, flat blade           |
| our      | 5  | e | belonging to us                      |
| oboe     | 6  | f | musical instrument that you blow     |
| odd      | 7  | g | where fruits grow                    |
| oak      | 8  | h | in the open air                      |
| oar      | 9  | i | large tree bearing acorns            |
| otter    | 10 | j | sticky cream to heal wounds          |

## 2

### You know it Makes Sense!

Trouvez l'équivalent en anglais de ces expressions idiomatiques qui ont toutes un rapport avec les sens.

- |                                  |    |   |                              |
|----------------------------------|----|---|------------------------------|
| Let's stay in touch              | 1  | a | C'est une situation critique |
| He's a sound friend              | 2  | b | C'est un bon ami             |
| I smell a rat                    | 3  | c | Aimer les sucreries          |
| He touched me for a fiver        | 4  | d | Loin des yeux, loin du cœur  |
| Love at first sight              | 5  | e | A chacun ses goûts           |
| To have a sweet tooth            | 6  | f | Je soupçonne quelque chose   |
| It's touch and go                | 7  | g | Un coup de foudre            |
| Out of sight, out of mind        | 8  | h | C'est fade                   |
| There's no accounting for tastes | 9  | i | Il m'a taxé £5               |
| It's tasteless                   | 10 | j | Restons en contact           |

**IT'S OBVIOUS!**

Marriage is a  
relationship in which  
one person is always  
right, and the other is  
the husband.

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### 3 Trouvez la définition de ces mots d'argot anglais...

- |         |    |   |                               |
|---------|----|---|-------------------------------|
| Ta!     | 1  | a | une fille                     |
| bikkie  | 2  | b | un petit gâteau               |
| bimbo   | 3  | c | bête                          |
| bird    | 4  | d | rien                          |
| zilch   | 5  | e | fou                           |
| yobbo   | 6  | f | merci                         |
| tiddly  | 7  | g | des saucisses                 |
| thick   | 8  | h | un voyou                      |
| barmy   | 9  | i | un peu pompette               |
| bangers | 10 | j | belle femme peu intelligente! |

**Bon conseil**  
Sex on the television  
can only hurt you if  
you fall off.

**Phrase utile**  
To talk the hind leg  
off a donkey

**Etre très bavard**

### GET YOUR TONGUES ROUND THESE! PRACTICE YOUR PRONUNCIATION.

- Sixth (sik-th)
- Rural (ruor-ruhl)
- Colonel (kuh-nuhl)
- Anemone (uh-né-muh-né)
- Squirrel (skwi-)ruhl
- Choir (kwai-uh)
- Gloucestershire (glo-stuh-shuh)

### Very Bad Joke

How do you recognize a worm's head from its tail?  
Tickle it in the middle and see which end laughs!  
worm - ver de terre  
tickle - chatouiller

### 4 Remplissez les blancs English humour !

I was 1\_\_ down the road with my dog when a lady came 2\_\_ to me and 3\_\_ "What are you 4\_\_ with that smelly beast?"  
"He's not 5\_\_ at all!" I replied 6\_\_  
"I wasn't talking to you" replied the lady. "I was talking to the 7\_\_!"

- a smelly b said c dog d walking e indignantly f doing g up



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## Things You Might NEED To KNOW

### ONLY FUELS AND HORSEPOWERS

Have you noticed that you're not paying quite as much when you fill up your tank? The government rebate of **€0.18 per litre on fuel has been extended to €0.30 until the end of October** to help out with the massive rise in the price of fuel. After that date, the rebate will be reduced and then discontinued, though other subsidies may be available.



### WHAT'S THAT SPEED LIMIT?

Can you remember a couple of years ago when the 90kph speed limit changed to 80kph on all 'routes départementales' (the main roads linking towns within a department) and the government spent millions changing all the signs? Well, many departments have now changed the limit - and the signs - back! Confused? Well, you will certainly need an eagle eye when you drive down through France to the P-O as some departments you pass through will now have a 90 limit whilst in other departments, similar roads remain at 80.

80

90

??

### READER'S WARNING

>>Driving through Saint Cyprien past parked cars, I heard something that sounded like a stone hitting the car. I was then flashed, flagged down and stopped by a driver with a broken wing mirror, claiming to have been hit by my car.

**He demanded payment to cover the damage and avoid an insurance claim**, loss of no claims bonus etc. He was very intimidating.

**I took out my phone, saying I was going to call the police, and he disappeared.** If this happens to you..... Stay calm....Take a photo of the other driver AND their licence plate if you have a camera phone. **Ring 17 and talk to the Gendarmes** - they will usually be gone by the time you take your phone out.

### SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU

Allez vous en (but rather too polite)

Va t'en!

Fous le camp!

Fiche le camp!

Tire-toi!

Casse-toi!

Va te faire voir!

Dégage!

Va au diable!

File!

Allez ouste!

Zou (shoo)

.....and many more ruder versions!!



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and at our Book Exchange at

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

### LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

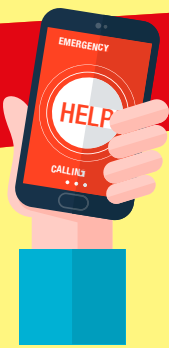
TEST ~~your~~ FRENCH

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

AMÉLIOREZ ~~your~~ ANGLAIS

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





# P-O Life

## Emergency numbers

**SAMU (medical emergency) 15**

**POLICE emergency 17**

**Fire service emergency 18**

**European emergency line 112**

SOS Doctor 24/24	08 20 20 41 42
Emergency vet	04 68 83 35 85
Anti-poison centre	04 91 75 25 25
Perpignan Hospital	04 68 61 66 33
CPAM (English spk serv)	09 74 75 36 46
Cancer Support France	04 68 69 01 37

**Directory enquiries 118 008**

**International directory enquiries 118 700**

**International Mastercard 08 00 90 13 87**

**Local weather forecast 08 36 68 02 66**

**GDF (gas problems) 08 10 43 30 66**

**EDF (electricity problems) 05 56 17 40 70**

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

## Useful Vocabulary

**Help > Au secours!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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