

# French Accent

The Magazine of Learn French at Home

The Bilingual and Audio Online Magazine for Expatriates in France, French Students and Francophiles

## Living Organic in France

Eating Healthier:  
Products, Growers, Fairs  
With Audio Scenarios

Tips and Traps

S.O.S Emergency!

French Grammar,

French Scene, Politics...

## From the Editors

**I**n reading the newspapers or watching news reports on TV, it is rare that a day goes by without several articles appearing about the deteriorating condition of our planet: pollution levels are on the increase; the cost of basic food staples is rising dramatically because of increased energy costs and stress on the food chain from biofuel production; genetically engineered crops are posing tremendous problems around the world; and cancer rates, much of which is linked to environmental issues and lifestyles, continue to climb. Even without taking into consideration the problems imposed by global warming, it is not a very rosy picture. While there is an environmental section in every issue of *French Accent*, we felt it was extremely important to focus on the topic. Therefore, this issue is largely devoted to the organic scene in France and how to live organically and, in the process, reduce one's environmental footprint.

In the past the French have not been what you would call on the cutting edge of organic food, especially in comparison to England and to our neighbours across the Rhine. Organic food was almost exclusively sold in small, out-of-the-way shops and those who shopped there were considered to be on the fringes of society. It is only very recently that the average French citizen has become more interested in organic products, although it is still not always easy to find them, especially on the shelves of supermarkets. Fortunately, that is changing and along with the heightened awareness of the population, there is now an increasing number of outlets for organic food and other products, including many internet sites where one can order fresh fruits and vegetables as well as find additional information. As usual, we provide you with a wide choice of websites you can consult.

If you are like most of us, you undoubtedly ask yourself, "What can I do to change things? What possible difference can one individual make?" While many of the problems facing humanity in the twenty-first century will require enlightened leadership and a major revamping of many aspects of the infrastructures of our societies – all of which will only come about through the actions and decisions of elected authorities – there is much that each individual can do to exert influence on where this planet is heading and, most importantly, to live a healthier, more environmentally positive life. While individual actions seem small, together we can indeed make a difference. Eating organic food and preparing our meals with locally grown crops as much as possible will not only contribute to better health, but be a source of satisfaction because we have done something positive for the environment.

Happy reading and bon appétit!

## French Accent Magazine

**E-magazine, published every two months.  
Educational purposes. Printable.**

**Editorial team:** Céline and Vincent Anthonioz, Annick and Roger Stevenson.

**Copyright:** Reprints of the articles are permitted only with full mention of the title, the date and the web site address.

### Contacts

**Questions to the editor:** [editor@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:editor@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Subscriptions:** [admin@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:admin@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Advertisement:** [ad@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:ad@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Tél.:** +33 (0)870.46 .77.81.

**Web site:** [www.frenchaccentmagazine.com](http://www.frenchaccentmagazine.com)

### Subscriptions

**One issue (2 months) : 6 €**

**Three issues (6 months) : 15 €**

**Six issues (12 months) : 28 €**

**To subscribe: [click HERE](#)**

**When you see this symbol:  
click on it to print  
a full column, [pdf format](#),  
[without colours or pictures](#).**



**When you see this symbol:  
click on it to access the web page with the audio file**



**To download all the audio files of the magazine:  
[click HERE](#)**

# Sommaire

## Interactive French

Pronouns: <i>en</i> and <i>y</i> , plus 2 scenarios	Page 5
Two <i>dictées</i>	Page 7
<i>Le coin des branchés</i> : A few useful & interesting expressions	Page 8

## Interview

Jeff Steiner, an American living in Haute-Savoie	Page 10
--	---------

## Real Life

SOS Emergency!	Page 13
Tips & Traps	Page 18

## This is France

Living Organic	Page 20
- Organic Wine in France	Page 22
- Scenario: Dialogue With a Farmer	Page 23
- Correns: a Totally Organic Village!	Page 23
- Forthcoming Organic Fairs	Page 24
- A Few Useful Websites	Page 25

## French Politics

Just Who Is Bertrand Delanoë, the Mayor of Paris?	Page 26
---	---------



## Our Planet

Genetically Modified Organisms	Page 31
Don't Trust Labels!	Page 33

## The French Scene

Thomas Dutronc	Page 34
A Song: <i>J'aime plus Paris</i>	Page 35
A Film: <i>Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis!</i>	Page 35
A Children's Poem: <i>Coq</i> , by Louis Aragon	Page 36
A Selection of Books	Page 37
A Literary Text: <i>Le père Achille</i> , Second Instalment	Page 38

Our participation at the "Success in the Dordogne" Exhibition	Page 4
<i>Mots croisés</i>	Page 17
Oh la la la la!... Unbelievable but True Stories from France	Page 29
<i>Une recette de cuisine: Profiteroles au chocolat</i>	Page 39





*Our stand was the first to be visited by UK Ambassador in France, Sir Peter Westmacott.*

## “Success in the Dordogne” Périgueux, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April

**L**earn French at Home and French Accent Magazine spent two delightful days at their stand for the first exhibition ever organized in the Dordogne for English expatriates. The Dordogne (South-West France in the Aquitaine region) is the department with the largest number of expatriates, with a total of 25,000 permanent residents. According to the Managing Director of the Bergerac Airport, Olivier Gribelin, “The Dordogne economy would not be what it is today without the British community,” adding that “95% of the passengers using the airport are British.” However, many of them face problems dealing with the French bureaucracy, especially those who want to start a business in France. For this very reason the Chamber of Commerce and city

officials decided to organize the show, “Success in the Dordogne”, “a much needed and awaited event!”, as Project Manager Alexandra Thévenet explained. An event that drew local administrative offices, banks, notaries, legal, insurance and social security experts, tax services, etc..

It was an excellent opportunity for us to explain to the many visitors the possibilities of learning French from home, which was appreciated in a region where most British live in the countryside far from any French school. Visitors were also very interested in the magazine and understood very quickly how it could help them to adapt to life in France. As a result, we have decided that the Aquitaine region will be the main feature in our next issue so that all our readers can learn more about it!



*“Learn French at Home” students Shelley and Nadia (on the right in the photo below), who live in the area, kindly joined us to help.*

*Most visitors were very attentive and interested in our services.*



# Interactive French — The Pronouns: *en* and *y*



**W**e hear them and we see them everywhere. How do we use them?

## 1) *En*

Let's first start by defining *en*. As a pronoun (be sure not to confuse it with the preposition *en*) it is used for many reasons and in many contexts. Here are the most important ones.

*En* is a pronoun that replaces *de* or an indefinite determiner such as *du, de l', de la, des* + a noun; *en* can be translated as 'some' or 'of it', or 'not any' in a negative context. It is most often used for indefinite quantities of something, but can also be used to replace the preposition *de* + a noun (but not a person) in many expressions where verbs are followed by *de*.

**Note:** *en* is placed in front of the verb.

Examples:

*Voulez-vous du café ?* = Would you like some coffee?

*Oui, j'en veux !* = Yes, I would like some!

*Voulez-vous un peu de sucre dans votre café ?* = Would you like some sugar in your coffee?

*Non merci, je n'en veux pas* = No thank you, I don't want any.

*Est-ce que vous vous souvenez du dernier café que vous avez pris avec moi ?* = Do you remember the last coffee you took with me?

*Oui je m'en souviens !* = Yes I remember!

*Avez-vous parlé de vos vacances ?* = Did you talk about your holidays?

*Oui, nous en avons parlé pendant toute la soirée* = Yes, we talked about them all evening.

*Il adore discuter de politique* = He loves discussing politics.

*Ah oui, il m'énerve ! Il en discute tout le temps!* = Ah, yes, he really bugs me! He discusses it all the time.

When using *en* with the imperative (command form), *en* is placed after the verb, as in this example:

*Prenez du café ! Prenez-en* = Take/have some coffee!

However, if the command is negative, *en* goes back in front of the verb:

*Ne m'en parle plus !* = Don't talk to me about it any more!

If there is an expression of quantity like *beaucoup de* (a lot of), *peu de* (a little of) or a **number**, then *en* will replace the noun but the modifier or the number will be placed at the end of the sentence.

For example:

*Veux-tu un peu de crème dans ton café ?* = Do you want some cream in your coffee?

*Oui, j'en veux bien un peu, merci !* = Yes, I would like some, thank you!

*Aimerais-tu deux ou trois biscuits ?* = Would you like two or three cookies?

*Oh, j'en veux trois, s'il te plaît !* = Oh, I would like three (of them) please!

*As-tu un dictionnaire français chez toi ?* = Do you have a French dictionary in your home?

*Oui j'en ai un !* = Yes I have one (of them).

**Note:** *En* usually cannot replace **de + verb**.

Examples:

*J'ai décidé de prendre ce travail – J'ai décidé de le prendre.*  
= *I decided to take this work – I decided to take it.*

*J'ai essayé de mettre la robe – Je l'ai essayée.*  
= *I tried to put on the dress – I tried it on.*

Finally, you will find *en* in some everyday expressions – they are very useful to learn! The French use them quite

## 1st Role Play—Beginner Level

Une femme et son mari préparent les valises avant de partir pour deux semaines en voyage. La femme qui remplit l'essentiel de la valise pose des questions à son mari.

**Sarah :** Robert, combien de t-shirts je mets dans la valise ?

**Robert :** Tu peux en mettre 4 ou 5, s'il te plaît ?

**Sarah :** Oui. Est-ce que tu veux prendre un livre ?

**Robert :** Oui j'en veux bien un ! Je vais en choisir un maintenant.

**Sarah :** D'accord. Est-ce que tu vas aller à la pharmacie aujourd'hui ?

**Robert :** Oui je peux y aller. Pourquoi ?

**Sarah :** Tu peux acheter des aspirines et de l'Alka Seltzer ?

**Robert :** Oui bien sûr je peux en prendre.

**Sarah :** Est-ce que tu vas passer chez Yvette aussi ?

**Robert :** Oui j'y vais pour lui demander d'arroser nos plantes !

**Sarah :** Très bien ! N'oublie pas aussi de répondre au e-mail de Valérie !

**Robert :** Tu as raison ! Je vais y répondre immédiatement. Bon, j'ai beaucoup de choses à faire maintenant. Je m'en vais !

**Sarah :** Eh, mais j'ai encore des questions !!!

**Robert :** Plus tard ! Ciao !

A wife and her husband are packing before leaving on a two-week trip. The woman who is doing most of the packing is asking her husband some questions:

**Sarah:** Robert, how many t-shirts should I put in the suitcase?

**Robert:** You can put 4 or 5 please?

**Sarah:** Yes – do you want to take a book?

**Robert:** Yes, I would like one! I'm going to pick one now.

**Sarah:** OK, are you going to the pharmacy today?

**Robert:** Yes, I can go. Why?

**Sarah:** Can you buy some aspirins and Alka Seltzer?

**Robert:** Yes, of course I can get some.

**Sarah:** Can you also go by Yvette's?

**Robert:** Yes, I'm going to ask her to water our plants!

**Sarah:** Very well! Also, don't forget to answer Valerie's email!

**Robert:** You're right. I will answer it immediately! OK, I have lots of things to do now. I'm leaving!

**Sarah:** Hey I still have more questions!!!

**Robert:** Later! Ciao!



## 2 Pronouns (cont'd)

frequently:

*Je m'en vais !* = I'm leaving!

*J'en ai assez !* = I've had enough!

*J'en ai marre !* = I'm fed up!

*Je m'en fiche !* = I don't care!

*Je n'en peux plus !* = I can't handle this anymore!

*Ne vous en faites pas !* = Don't you worry about it! (a negative command)

*Je lui en veux, ou j'en veux à... !* = I cannot forgive him, or I am upset with...!

### 2) Y

**Y** is a pronoun that replaces a place, usually a prepositional phrase beginning with *à, chez, dans,* etc. You can translate **y** by 'there'. Even though you don't need to add 'there' systematically in English, you will need it in French.

Check the following examples:

*Est-ce que tu vas chez Annick aujourd'hui ? – Oui j'y vais !*

= Are you going to Annick's place today ? – Yes I'm going (there).

*Nous allons au marché – Vous voulez y aller ?*

= We're going to the market – Would you like to go (there)?

**Note:** If the verb happens to be *venir*, 'to come', then you will need to replace what follows it by **en**, not **y**! Why? Because when speaking about location, *venir* is always followed with the preposition *de*.

The other use of **y** is when a verb is followed by the preposition **à** before a noun (not a person though). This is tricky as this means that you have to know which verbs are normally followed by **à**. To

start, it is good to know a few of these verbs that you are most likely to use when speaking.

For example:

*Penser à* = to think of/to think about

*Je pense à mes vacances ! – J'y pense.*

= I'm thinking about my Holidays – I'm thinking of them.

*Répondre à* = to respond to

*Je réponds à mes e-mails – J'y réponds.*

= I'm replying to/answering my emails – I'm replying to/answering them.

**But:** *Je réponds à Jean – Je lui réponds.*

= I'm answering John – I'm answering him (John is a person and can't be replaced by *y*).

*Participer à* = to participate in  
*Je participe à ce film – J'y participe.*

I'm participating in this movie – I'm participating in it.

**Note:** **Y** usually cannot replace *à* + verb!

For example:

*Je pense à faire ce travail – Je pense à le faire.*

= I'm thinking about doing this job – I'm thinking about doing it.

Now it's time to practice both **en** and **y** with the scenarios (page 6 and below)!



*J'y réponds !*

Céline Anthonioz

## 2nd Role Play—Intermediate Level

**Deux personnes se plaignent de la situation de travail en France.**

**Cathy :** Mon employeur m'a proposé de travailler plus d'heures !

**Thierry :** Ah bon ! Combien d'heures en plus ?

**Cathy :** Il veut que je travaille 3 heures en plus par semaine !

**Thierry :** Oh la la la, tu vas pas te laisser faire ! Tu as déjà réfléchi à une réponse ?

**Cathy :** J'y réfléchis maintenant mais je t'avoue que j'en ai un peu marre de mon boulot !

**Thierry :** Tu n'as qu'à refuser les heures sup !

**Cathy :** Ouais, mais en même temps je gagnerais un peu plus de fric !

**Thierry :** Il faut bien calculer mais tu en gagnerais combien en plus ?

**Cathy :** Je n'en gagnerais pas des masses mais bon, il est vrai que j'en ai besoin !

**Thierry :** Ah oui ! C'est cher la vie de nos jours !

**Cathy :** C'est fou – tout augmente. Avec 100 euros, on n'a plus grand-chose. J'en veux vraiment au gouvernement actuel de ne pas avoir augmenté le pouvoir d'achat !

**Thierry :** Moi aussi, j'en ai assez de voir leur incompétence. On a l'impression que le gouvernement s'en fiche !

**Cathy :** Ah oui alors ! Dis-moi tu veux un apéro ?

**Thierry :** Oui, j'en veux bien un – tu as raison, c'est l'heure... On va au bar à côté ?

**Cathy :** Oui, allons-y – on va refaire le monde !

**Thierry :** Ah alors, il faudra plus qu'un apéro !!

**Two people are complaining about the work situation in France.**

**Cathy:** My boss offered me to work more hours!

**Thierry:** Oh really! How many more hours?

**Cathy:** He wants me to work 3 more hours per week!

**Thierry:** Wow, don't let him walk all over you! Did you already think of a response?

**Cathy:** I'm thinking about it now, but I confess that I'm a bit tired of my job!

**Thierry:** Just refuse the extra hours!

**Cathy:** Yeah, but at the same time I would make a bit more money!

**Thierry:** You need to calculate but how much more would you make?

**Cathy:** I wouldn't make a ton more but well, it is true that I need some!

**Thierry:** Oh yes! Life is expensive nowadays!

**Cathy:** It's crazy – everything is going up. With 100 euros, we don't get much anymore. I'm really upset with the current government for not having increased our buying power.

**Thierry:** Me too, I'm fed up seeing incompetence. We have the impression that the government doesn't give a damn.

**Cathy:** Yes, that's right! Tell me, you want an apéro?

**Thierry:** Yes, I would love one- you're right, it's that time... Should we go to the bar next door?

**Cathy:** Yes, let's go! We'll go remake the world!

**Thierry:** Well then, we'll need more than one apéro!



Note: *apéro* = *apéritif* (a before dinner drink).

## 2 Pronouns (cont'd)

### Try this exercise!

Respond to the following questions by replacing the noun or place with *en* or *y*:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Est-ce que vous voulez une bière?<br>Oui, _____                     | 6) Est-ce que tu achètes beaucoup de produits bios ?<br>Oui, _____              |
| 2) Est-ce que tu vas au cinéma ce soir?<br>Non, _____                  | 7) Est-ce que tu vas à Paris pour un an ou deux ans ?<br>_____ pour deux ans.   |
| 3) Est-ce que vous apportez un dessert ?<br>Oui, _____                 | 8) Est-ce que tu bois du coca-cola à midi ?<br>Non, _____ jamais !              |
| 4) Mon mari va au club de tennis ce soir, et vous ?<br>Oui, _____      | 9) Est-ce que vous vous souvenez de votre première voiture ?<br>Oh oui, _____ ! |
| 5) Est-ce que tu penses à l'anniversaire de Christophe ?<br>Oui, _____ | 10) Est-ce que vous écoutez de la musique classique ?<br>Non, _____             |

(Solutions page 36)

### Deux dictées au choix

We provide two *dictées* to choose from, according to your level in French: one for beginners, and another one for intermediate level French.

Click on the link below to listen to each of them. Then try and write it without making any mistakes. You can compare it to the original text on page 36.

N.B.: It would be a good idea to read all the articles of this issue of *French Accent* before doing the dictation, as you will recognize many expressions.

Beginner level:



Intermediate level:



### French lessons for children!

**“Learn French at Home” has recently started special lessons for children (6-12 years old)!**

Children learn quickly and are generally attracted and motivated to learn if the lesson is performed in a **relaxing and fun atmosphere**. Taking lessons via Skype is exciting because **kids love to use the computer and appreciate the real time interaction!**

The teacher targets the lesson's objective towards comprehension. **Through games, pictures, drawings, short role plays, songs** and more, he/she keeps the student's attention in a fun and relaxing atmosphere during the entire lesson. Only needed: a pair of earphones, a webcam and some visual teaching materials.

Every lesson lasts for **30 minutes** and after the lesson, the child will receive the vocabulary learned during the lesson via email as well as one or two exercises to do as homework. Lessons can be taken on a weekday or on a week-end at a suitable time for your child.

**Each lesson with the homework preparation and corrections costs 27 €. 4 lessons minimum sign-ups.**


[www.learnfrenchatome.com](http://www.learnfrenchatome.com)



Learn French at Home...but not alone!

[www.learnfrenchatome.com](http://www.learnfrenchatome.com)

Click here!

Translate into  
50 languages  
in 1 click: here!

Try it  
for free!

www.babylon.com

## Le coin des branchés

### A few strange words or expressions using X, Y or Z

**Rayons X** = X rays.

**Film X/classé X** = X rated movie.

**L'X** = often used to designate the *Ecole polytechnique* (prestigious polytechnic engineering school). *Après avoir fait l'X, il s'est inscrit à l'ENA (Ecole nationale d'Administration)*. **Un(e) X** = a student at the *Ecole polytechnique*.

**X ou Y** = Whatever. *Pour une raison X ou Y il a changé d'avis.*

**X fois** = many times. *Je te l'ai répété x fois et tu ne t'en souviens toujours pas !*

**Accoucher sous X** = to give birth in total anonymity, so that the child will not know who his/her parents are.

**Porter plainte contre X** = to lay charges against anybody who might be responsible.

**Youpi/youpie** = yuppie.

**Yéyé/yé-yé** = designates a pop singer or teenage fan in the 1950s. *Les années 1950, c'était la période yéyé.*

**Yoyo/yo-yo** = yo-yo. Often used in a figurative sense, particularly about losing or gaining weight. *J'en ai marre de faire du yoyo, j'ai déjà repris 5 kg !* One also says that the price of oil plays yo-yo, etc.

**Zapper** = to skip quickly from one TV channel to another without taking the time to see a full programme.

**Zèbre** = literally zebra, but also means a "guy" in a slightly pejorative sense. *C'est un drôle de zèbre, ce mec, tu sais qu'il a encore changé de métier ?*

**Zigoto** = another word to designate the same type of man. A bit outdated nowadays.

**Zozo** = a man who is a bit stupid. Still used by adults but a bit outdated. *Quel zozo celui-là !*

**Zen** = cool, relaxed. Very commonly used without any particular link to any Buddhism practice. *Moi je reste très zen quand mon mari s'énerve !*

**Tes zigs** = that guy. *Regarde-le, il est dingue de sa voiture, tes zigs !*

**Zigzag/zigzaguer** = same as zigzag in English.

**Zinc** = *café* or *bistrot* (the countertops in such establishments used to be covered with zinc). Used more in Paris than in other parts of France, and has become a bit outdated today, but several restaurants now bear the name of *Petit zinc*.

**Zip** = common word for zipper (the real word being *fermeture éclair*).

**Zipper** = to zip up.

**Zizanie** = dissension in a group. *S'il vient ce soir, il va encore semer la zizanie !*

**Zizi** = male sexual organ/dick. Became popular after a song by French singer Pierre Perret: *Le zizi*.

**Zone** = a part of a city; often used to designate the part of the city which is the most destitute, the territory of people who aren't very recommendable. *Ne va pas là-bas, c'est la zone !*

**Zoner** = to wander or roam about with no specific goal or purpose.

**Zonard** = young person living on the fringes of society, *un marginal*.

**Zut** = damn. *Oh zut, ils ne passent plus le film que je voulais voir !* (Oh damn, the film I wanted to see isn't playing anymore!)

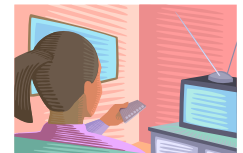
### Abbreviations

Several official French abbreviations, used to designate administrative subdivisions, start with Z:

**ZAC** (zone d'aménagement concerté) = housing zone designed according to a concerted agreement.

**ZEP** (zone d'éducation prioritaire) = priority education zone.

**ZUP** (zone à urbaniser en priorité) = priority housing zone (usually low-income housing).



Zapper d'une chaîne à l'autre...





# Learn French at Home... but not alone!

**A highly successful programme among expatriates. Lessons, with a French native-speaking private teacher, are geared to the student's level and needs and focuses on everyday practical living in France. It offers a wonderful scheduling and location flexibility, as the lessons can be taken at any time and any place.**

## • How Does it Work?

Each programme includes **a lesson via Skype** ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)) or on the telephone with a native-speaker French teacher located in France, Switzerland or North America. After each lesson, the student receives personalised homework and has the opportunity to practice their French via our on-line forum.



## • Teachers

They all have a diploma and have experience teaching French. They are very patient, friendly and encouraging. They understand the frustrations and the difficulties of learning a second language. They adapt to their students' levels and objectives. They make sure that the lesson is performed in a **fun and relaxed atmosphere**.

## • Students



The French learning programmes are adapted for expatriates living in France, tourists, students, Francophiles, business professionals and for children (from 6 yrs. up). So far, hundreds of students have experienced our French learning programmes, and they all **enjoy real progress** as every lesson is personalized.

## • Advantages

**Flexibility:** lessons can be taken from home, the office, hotel room, etc. The student can change the

date and time of the lesson on a weekly basis.

**Personalized:** every lesson is prepared according to the student's level and objectives. Constant feed-back is given during and in between each lesson.

**Affordable:** it is one flat fee per lesson which includes a follow-up homework assignment. There are no extra fees!



## 5 French Learning Programmes to choose from!

### Learn French at Home

+33 (0)8 70 40 81 17 (local call cost in France)

[www.learnfrenchathome.com](http://www.learnfrenchathome.com)

[contact@learnfrenchathome.com](mailto:contact@learnfrenchathome.com)

## TESTIMONIALS

*"The best method for me for progressing in the language. Tired of classes and groups of mixed ability and searching for a more personal, one-to-one contact with a teacher, this was the ideal answer."*

**Peta, Normandy, France**

*"I really enjoy the lessons and my neighbours and friends in my village comment on my progress, so it's great."*

**Alana, Aude, France**

*"The lessons are very enjoyable and we laugh a lot about the oddities of each other's language and the different ways in which language is used. If you want to make progress with your learning. I'm certainly enjoying the experience."*

**Peter, Northants, UK**

*"I like the flexibility of learning this way because I can have weekly lessons regardless of where I am in the world. I am also learning French quicker than other methods or lessons because it is easier for me to schedule them. Even my 9 year old son has commented how my French is improving and he is fluent!"*

**Paul, Dordogne, France**

*"A brilliant concept and one that I am enjoying immensely. The hour long phone call absolutely flies by, before I know it, the teacher is setting my homework, which I can then do at my convenience and e-mail to her for correcting."*

**Marian, Essex, England**

## Interview — Jeff Steiner



Advertise with us!



Click [HERE](#)

**T**his month's interview is with Jeff Steiner, an American living in La Roche-sur-Foron, in Haute-Savoie. Jeff has a French wife and has adapted remarkably well to living in France where he teaches, designs and manages web sites and stays on top of local politics.

**Roger Stevenson: Where do you hail from in the US?**

**Jeff Steiner:** I was born in Los Angeles but have also lived in Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston. In the US I last lived in Boston.

**RS: How long and in what capacities have you lived in France?**

**JS:** I've been living in France for almost 10 years now. When I first came to France it was with the NGO *ATD Quart Monde\**. This was from July 1994 to November 1996. I then moved back to France in

July 2001 with my French wife and son. I've been living in France ever since.

**RS: I know you have also been involved in working for an NGO in Central America, in Nicaragua. Was that your first experience living abroad and did that have any influence on your eventually settling in France?**

**JS:** Yes, you are right; I lived abroad in the early 90's in Nicaragua working on the Atlantic Coast in a village called Pearl Lagoon. This was a great experience, and I think from that point forward I knew I

wanted to experience life in other countries. Not because I didn't like the USA but because I really like living in another culture and learning how others live and think and how perceptions can be so different.

**RS: You are the first expat we've interviewed for *French Accent* who is married to a French person. How and where did you meet and why did you opt to live in France rather than in the US?**

**JS:** I met my wife in New York in 1993. We lived together in Boston for four years and then when our son was born we moved to France in 2001. We moved to France mostly because of the social programs and universal healthcare. Things like day-care are much cheaper in France than in the US, and there are no worries about being able to pay for healthcare. Also my wife

*I really like living in another culture and learning how others live and think and how perceptions can be so different.*





*The pace of life seems somewhat slower than in the US...*

## Interview (cont'd)

wanted to move back to France as she had lived in the US for almost ten years and felt it was time to come home.

**RS: Have you and your wife had any conflicts, even small ones, because of cultural differences?**

**JS:** Yes, most notably with our wedding, which took place in France and was very big and very, very long. Not what I was used to in the US. When we first got together cultural differences mostly had to do with things like eating. Being an American a meal for me is just that - a meal you eat. It's not like with the French where eating is almost a ritual. I still find myself getting restless during meals at my in-laws that typically last over an hour.

**RS: You are very fluent in French, but did you speak French when you first moved to France? How did you learn the language?**

**JS:** I really never took any classes but learned on the go. For me that just seems to be the best way. I've thought about taking classes here but

have never done it because of time constraints. I did have some tutoring when I first got here but that's about all. I now try to read as much as I can and have found this to be helpful.

**RS: Your son is quite bilingual. What do you and your wife do to encourage/help him to become fluent in both English and French? Is he enrolled in a local school and are you satisfied with the education system for young people in France?**

**JS:** My son goes to an English program in Annecy once a week on Wednesday mornings. I also read to him in English on a daily bases and he watches American DVDs. He is enrolled in a local French school, and so far I have had no complaints. The education he is getting seems to be fine and what is nice beyond that, is that there is both a before and after school childcare so that if both of us are working late, it's not a problem and there is someone to take care of him at school. As a working parent this is great.

**RS: What are the positive aspects of living in France?**

**JS:** Great food and scenery and the pace of life seems to be somewhat slower (or at least different) than in the US. People here aren't into working so much, and five weeks paid vacation is standard.

**RS: What was the most difficult thing for you personally to adapt to?**

**JS -** The little things like stores not being open on Sundays or during lunch time. Also the food, which, although it's great, is still different and does take some getting use to. Also I can't leave out the language. Being surrounded by a language other than the one you think in, can be a shock and tiring. Something like buying bread takes on a whole new meaning when you have to really think about what you need to say beforehand.

**RS: Have you had any meaningful or on-going problems with the French bureaucracy?**

**JS:** Not really. I guess I've gotten so used to all the paperwork and bureaucratic ins and outs that I've just come to see it as a part of life, like traffic in a big city. That's not to say I haven't had problems. For example, getting my permanent visa took quite a few trips to the local *Préfecture*.

**RS: Is there anything that you especially miss about the United States?**

**JS:** I guess the little stuff like TV and watching sports and of course family and friends.

**RS: Have you become a French citizen?**

**JS:** Yes I have and I would recommend that any American or other non-EU national become one if possible. It does take time (a little over a year for me) and now you have to pass a simple French language test, but

**RAIL EUROPE**

paris



from just

**£59**

return

CLICK HERE

ralleurope.co.uk

## Interview (cont'd)

still it's worth it, if for no other reason than you can legally work in over 25 countries.

**RS: You have designed and maintain a web site for Americans living in France\*\*. What was your motivation for creating the site? What kind of traffic does the site have? What kind of reader feedback do you get?**

**JS:** My motivation was to help people like myself, Americans in France, either expats or tourists. That's why *Americans in France* has information about living and travelling in France. In terms of traffic the site has anywhere from 1,500 to 2,500 visitors per day. I get all kinds of feedback, mostly from people who want to move to France. As I can't really answer all the questions I get, I often refer people to my Yahoo group discussion forum\*\*\*.

**RS: What would you say are the problems most frequently encountered by Americans living in France?**

**JS:** I think most people have a problem understanding the language and the bureaucracy. Also finding work isn't very easy. Another problem is that people find it difficult to realize they are in another country and that things are different. For example, you can't just start a business and then tell the government at the end of the year that you are self-employed. In France you

have to register your business right from the start, even if it's just something you do on the side.

**RS: You mentioned that Americans find it difficult to find a job in France. What do you do professionally in France and what difficulties did you encounter in finding employment?**

**JS:** I now work as an English teacher. When we moved to France I had just graduated from university and had a degree in Computer Information Systems. I was never able to find steady work in the computer field in France so I changed professions. At first it was also very difficult to find work teaching English. When we lived in Strasbourg I had my first try at looking for work as an English teacher. I could never find a job with a language school but was able to find individual students. This meant I was only working a few hours a week. Then over a few years I was able to find temporary work at language schools teaching English. This gave me experience but still not a lot of hours. It ended up taking over two years to get to the point where I had enough teaching hours (20 to 30 a week) in order to make a living.

**RS: You seem to be pretty up-to-date about the political scene in La Roche-sur-Foron. Are you actively involved in local politics and do you have any ambitions of running for political office in France?**

**JS:** I'm not actively involved in local politics in the sense that I'm not a member of an association. But I did follow the recent municipal elections and do find the process fascinating and very different than in the US. Whereas I might be interested in running for political office in France, I really don't yet have a good understanding of how things work and how one goes about getting elected.

**RS: What advice would you give to someone who was thinking of moving to France?**

**JS:** Do your homework and then some. Make sure you know what you are getting into and know the down sides of what you are doing. Have a plan B. France can be a great place to live, but like with any country, it has its problems: high unemployment and bureaucracy, for example.



\* *ATD Quart Monde* started as a French association created in 1957 by a Polish immigrant to France, the priest Joseph Wresinski. Now it has become the "International Movement ATD Fourth World", a NGO with no religious or political affiliation which engages with individuals and institutions to find solutions to eradicate extreme poverty.

Contact: [www.atd-fourthworld.org/en.html](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/en.html)

\*\* [www.americansinfrance.net](http://www.americansinfrance.net)

\*\*\* <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/live-in-france>

## Real Life — SOS Emergency!



Printable  
version

A sudden illness, an accident at home... What to do in France in case of an emergency? Even though at first glance it appears to be a bit complicated, the French system is considered to be one of the best and most efficient in Europe. The doctors are reputed to be excellent, and the costs involved are much lower than in other countries, and covered quite well by the Social Security system.

The most important thing to know is that in case of any serious emergency, you can simply dial **15**, which is the free and centralized number for medical emergencies for the entire country. This is the phone number of the **SAMU** (*Service d'aide médicale d'urgence*), the French administrative organization responsible for all emergencies. It coordinates all actions, depending on the needs and the available local means at

the time of the call. Its response can range from simple advice over the phone to dispatching an ambulance from **SMUR** (*Service mobile d'urgence et de réanimation*), a private ambulance, or a medically-equipped van from the fire-brigades, or from another medical service such as those operated by the *Croix-Rouge française* or the *Protection civile*. It is also good to note that the European number for emergencies is **112** (which connects you directly to **15** for France).

If there is no reply when you call **15** or if the person on the phone doesn't seem to be very efficient or concerned, it is wise to call **18** immediately, the national phone number of the **pompiers** (firemen), who are always very well equipped and most of the time very efficient. And, of course, if the person involved can be transported in your car, you can also take

him/her to the *service des urgences* (emergency room) of the nearest hospital. Depending of the number of other emergencies, the welcome you will receive might vary, but it can be the quickest thing to do if you have the impression that the SAMU or the firemen won't or can't come rapidly to your home.

If you live in a big or medium-size city, and unless the emergency obviously requires an urgent hospitalization, another excellent system, which is also the simplest and nicest, is to call **SOS Médecins**. This is a network of about 1,000 doctors all over France. When you contact them at the number **3624**, a doctor will come to your place within a few hours, depending on his/her workload, but the same day in any case. The service is available seven days a week and at any hour of the day or night. Their record is



*The SAMU (Nr 15) coordinates all actions, depending on the needs and the available local means at the time of the call.*

## SOS! (cont'd)

impressive. Created in 1965, they handle 4 million calls everyday, and make more than 2 million house calls to private homes every year. And in fact, they handle most of the calls to the SAMU requiring urgent medical advice in urban and peri-urban areas.

Their website, English version:  
[www.sosmedecins-france.fr/en](http://www.sosmedecins-france.fr/en)

You can click on the link for your region to see if there is a doctor from the organization available. When you call them, always ask first for an English-speaking doctor if you aren't comfortable in French, you may very well get someone who speaks English.

In the countryside, where *SOS Médecins* is not present, many small villages or communities will have a local doctor (*médecin de famille*) who visits his/her patients at home in the case of an emergency. Ask your neighbours, they will know. And even in some cities there is a system of *médecins de garde* (on duty) who will make house calls at any time, any day. Call **15** to get the list.

### Call your neighbours

And in fact, if it is difficult for you to call these emergency telephone numbers because your knowledge of French is not good enough (even if you may sometimes be lucky enough to find someone who can speak English), don't ever

hesitate to ask your neighbour to place the call for you. You will most often see that a support system and mutual solidarity are very rapidly improvised in France in case of emergencies – even if there are exceptions, unfortunately.

Sometimes, for a minor injury or the beginning of an illness that doesn't seem too serious, you can always check with the **pharmacy** first, which, in many cases, can be a source of good advice for immediate help. There will always be a **pharmacie de garde** (on duty) on weekends not too far from your home. Its address is indicated on the door of every pharmacy and is listed in the local newspaper.

*Annick Stevenson*

## The Basic Vocabulary

**Le docteur** = the doctor.

**Le médecin** = the doctor.

**La doctoresse** = the doctor (female).

**Le toubib** = slang for doctor

**Le service médical** = the medical service.

**Une urgence** = an emergency.

**Les urgences** = the emergency room

**Un appel d'urgence** = an emergency call.

**Homéopathie** = homeopathic medicine

**Une ordonnance** = a prescription

**Les médicaments génériques** = generic drugs

**L'hôpital** = the hospital.

**L'hospitalisation** = the hospitalization.

**La clinique** = the clinic (private).

**Etre malade** = to be sick.

**Souffrir/avoir des douleurs** = to have pain.

**Un symptôme** = a symptom.

**Une piqûre** = a vaccination

**Une intraveineuse** = an intravenous injection.

**Une allergie** = an allergy.

**Les antibiotiques** = antibiotics.

**Tousser** = to cough.

**Vomir** = to vomit.

**Une grippe** = a flu.

**Un rhume** = a cold.

**Un bobo** = a little pain, scratch or bump (a word used by small children).

**Un virus** = a virus.

**Un vaccin** = a vaccination.

**Etre vacciné** = to be vaccinated.

**Une indigestion** = an indigestion.

**Une entorse** = a sprain.

**Une fracture** = a fracture.

**Avoir fait une chute** = to have fallen down.

**Avoir des courbatures** = to be stiff; have stiff muscles

**Avoir le cœur fragile** = to have a weak heart.

**Avoir une attaque cardiaque/un infarctus** = to have a heart attack.

**Avoir de la fièvre, une migraine, etc.** = to have a fever, a headache

**Avoir mal** = to hurt, have a pain somewhere *J'ai mal à la tête, etc.*

**Un accident vasculaire cérébral** = a stroke.

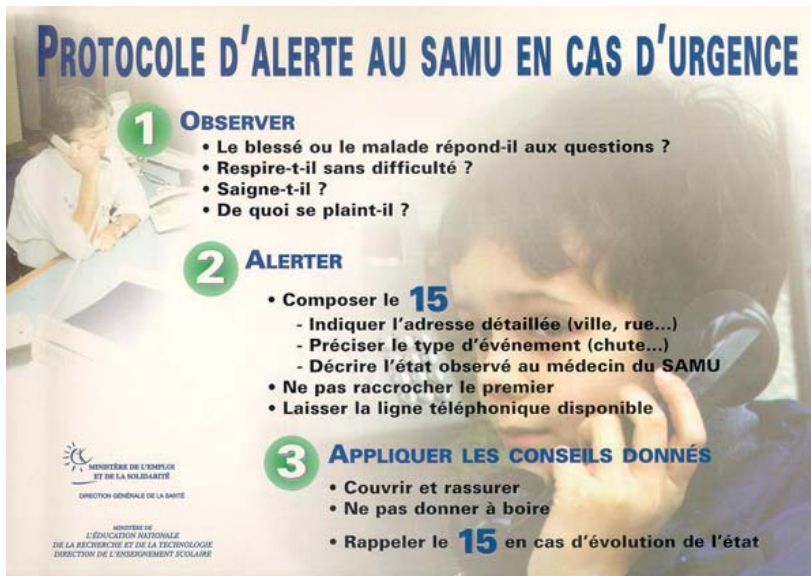
**Un évanouissement** = a blackout, fainting spell.



Great deals  
on rental cars



auto@europe.



## Scenario 1 : A Call to *SOS Médecins*

Dimanche à 18 heures dans une ville de province, une maman constate que sa fille, Julie, a une très forte fièvre. Elle téléphone à SOS Médecins.

**La maman :** Bonsoir Madame, j'ai ma fille qui a une forte fièvre. Est-ce que quelqu'un pourrait venir voir ce qu'elle a ?

**La réceptionniste :** Bonsoir Madame. Oui bien, sûr, mais ce ne sera pas pour tout de suite, nos équipes sont très occupées. Qu'est-ce qu'elle a exactement ?

**La maman :** Elle a 40 degrés de fièvre, elle n'en a pas eu de la journée, elle a monté d'un seul coup.

**La réceptionniste :** Est-ce qu'elle a d'autres symptômes ? Elle tousse ? Elle a mal à la gorge ?

**La maman :** Non, mais elle est vraiment fatiguée, elle ne veut rien manger.

**La réceptionniste :** C'est normal avec la fièvre. Elle n'a pas de douleurs quelque part ?

**La maman :** Si, en fait elle a mal un peu partout, comme si elle avait des courbatures.

**La réceptionniste :** Bon. Je regarde... Oui un docteur viendra chez vous, mais pas avant 23 heures ce soir.

**La maman :** Il ne peut pas venir plus tôt ?

**La réceptionniste :** Ce sera difficile, il y a beaucoup d'urgences aujourd'hui. Il fera le plus vite possible. Donnez-moi votre adresse.

**La maman :** Voilà... Merci madame, au revoir.

**La réceptionniste :** Au revoir, et ne vous inquiétez pas, le docteur sera bientôt chez vous.



Sunday at 6:00pm in a city in the provinces, a mother realizes that her daughter, Julie, has a very high fever. She calls *SOS Médecins*.

**The mother:** Good evening, Madam, I have my daughter who has a very high fever. Could someone come and see what she has?

**The receptionist:** Good evening, Madame. Yes, of course, but it won't be immediately, our teams are very busy. What does she have exactly?

**The mother:** She has a fever of 40 degrees, she didn't have it during the day, but it came on very suddenly.

**The receptionist:** Does she have any other symptoms? Does she have a cough? Does she have a sore throat?

**The mother:** No, but she is very tired, she doesn't want anything to eat.

**The receptionist:** This is normal with a fever. She doesn't have any pain anywhere else?

**The mother:** Yes, in fact she aches all over, just like if she had stiff muscles.

**The receptionist:** Well. Let me see... Yes, a doctor will come to your place, but not before 11:00 pm tonight.

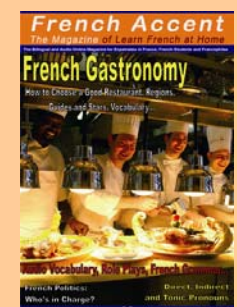
**The mother:** He can't come earlier?

**The receptionist:** It will be difficult, there are many emergencies today. He will come as soon as he can. Give me your address.

**The mother:** Here it is... Thank you Madam, goodbye.

**The receptionist:** Goodbye, and don't worry, the doctor will be there soon.

Advertise with us!



Click [HERE](#)

## Scenario 2 : With the Doctor



**Un peu avant minuit, le médecin vient d'arriver.**

**Le docteur :** Bonsoir Madame. Désolé, je ne suis pas arrivé à venir plus tôt. C'est pour votre fille n'est-ce pas que vous avez appelé ? Elle a de la fièvre ? Je vais aller voir ça.

**La maman :** Merci docteur. Elle ne dort pas encore. Elle n'arrive ni à dormir ni à manger, et elle a sans arrêt froid.

**Le docteur :** Bonsoir ma petite, tu t'appelles comment ? Et tu as quel âge ?

**Julie :** Je m'appelle Julie. Et j'ai 8 ans.

**Le docteur :** Quelle grande fille ! Alors dis-moi ce qui t'arrive ?

**Julie :** J'ai beaucoup de fièvre, et j'ai mal partout !

**Le docteur :** Partout ! Fais-moi voir ça. Tu as des frissons ?

**Julie :** Oui, souvent.

**Le docteur :** On va ouvrir ta veste de pyjama. Est-ce que tu tousses ?

**Julie :** Non.

**La maman :** En fait elle a un peu toussé tout à l'heure.

**Le docteur :** Bon eh bien tu vas essayer de tousser pour moi. Comme ça, voilà, c'est bien... Ça te fait mal, là, à la gorge ?

**Julie :** Un peu.

**La maman :** Qu'est-ce qu'elle a docteur ?

**Le docteur :** Ça m'a tout l'air d'être une bonne\* grippe. Il y a une vraie épidémie en ce moment. Vous allez la garder bien au chaud, et voilà ce que vous allez faire...

**La maman :** Merci docteur.

**Julie :** Je vais pas aller à l'école demain ?

**Le docteur :** Bien sûr que non ! Je vais donner un mot à la maîtresse pour ta maman. Au revoir, Julie, tu verras, tu seras guérie très vite. Et essaie de dormir un peu maintenant !

**Julie :** Oui, merci docteur, je vais essayer. Au revoir !

**La maman :** Elle sera bientôt remise, vous pensez ?

**Le docteur :** Oh oui, ne vous inquiétez pas, d'ici 4-5 jours cela devrait être passé.

**La maman :** Ah très bien, merci ! Je peux vous faire un chèque ?

**Le docteur :** Bien sûr.

**La maman :** Voilà... Merci beaucoup, docteur. Au revoir !

**Le docteur :** Merci. Et voilà votre ordonnance, et le mot d'absence pour l'école. Au revoir !



\* Strangely enough, the French either use *bonne* (good) or *méchante / mauvaise* (bad) to qualify a disease, or anything else (like the rain), but the meaning is the same: definitely bad...

**A little before midnight, the doctor has just arrived.**

**The doctor:** Good evening, Madam. I am sorry, I couldn't make it earlier. It is for your daughter that you called, isn't it? She has a fever? Let me take a look.

**The mother:** Thank you doctor. She isn't asleep yet. She cannot sleep or eat, and she feels constantly cold.

**The doctor:** Good evening my little one, what's your name? And how old are you?

**Julie:** My name is Julie. And I am 8 years old.

**The doctor:** What a big girl! So, tell me, what's happening with you?

**Julie:** I have a high fever, and I ache everywhere!

**The doctor:** Everywhere! Let me see. Are you shivering?

**Julie:** Yes, often.

**The doctor:** We'll open your pyjama top. Do you have a cough?

**Julie:** No.

**The mother:** In fact, she coughed a little, earlier.

**The doctor:** Well, now you are going to try and cough for me. Like this, there we are... Do you feel any pain, here, in your throat?

**Julie:** A little.

**The mother:** What does she have, doctor?

**The doctor:** It seems to me to be a bad case of flu. There is a real epidemic now. You must keep her warm, and here is what you have to do...

**The mother:** Thank you doctor.

**Julie:** I am not going to school tomorrow?

**The doctor:** Of course not! I am going to write a note for your teacher, I'll give it to your mom. Goodbye, Julie, you'll see, you'll soon be better again! And try to sleep a little now!

**Julie:** Yes, thank you doctor, I'll try. Goodbye!

**The mother:** Do you think she'll be well soon?

**The doctor:** Yes, don't worry, within 4-5 days it should be over.

**The mother:** Ah good, thank you! Can I give you a check?

**The doctor:** Of course.

**The mother:** Here it is... Thank you very much doctor, goodbye!

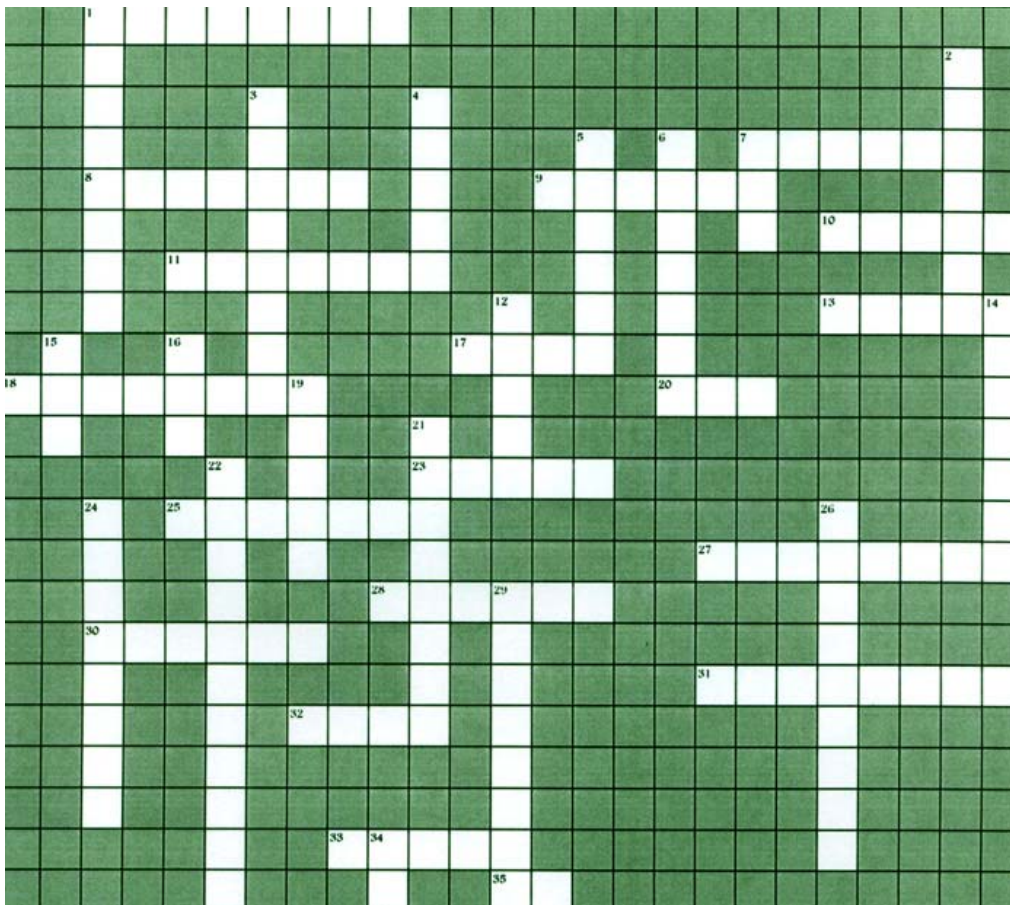
**The doctor:** Thank you. And here is your prescription, and the excuse for the school. Goodbye!



## Mots croisés

The words for the Crossword Puzzle are taken from the articles in the current issue.

Click [HERE](#) for a more readable version:



### Vertical

- 1. multinationale qui favorise les OGM
- 2. habite et travaille à la ferme
- 3. contraire d'endormir
- 4. l'élu qui est responsable d'une ville
- 5. température élevée
- 6. n'aime plus Paris
- 7. pas énervé
- 12. plante qui pique. On peut en faire un engrais
- 14. fait mieux pousser une plante
- 15. stupide
- 16. cultivé sans produits chimiques
- 19. chambre supérieure du parlement
- 21. magazine parisien
- 22. douleurs musculaires
- 24. travailler la terre pour produire des légumes
- 26. produit qui tue les mauvaises herbes
- 29. département du sud-ouest de la France
- 34. label écologique

Created with ElipseCrossword—[www.elipsecrossword.com](http://www.elipsecrossword.com)

### Horizontal

- 1. SOS \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. changer rapidement de chaîne
- 8. nourriture
- 9. vaccination
- 10. programme de location de vélos
- 11. réélu maire de Paris
- 13. sorte de salon ou expo
- 17. où les électeurs placent leurs bulletins de vote
- 18. soldats du feu
- 20. oiseau qui chante au lever du jour
- 23. boisson avant le repas
- 25. jardin de légumes
- 27. service hospitalier
- 28. auteur des "Lettres de mon moulin"
- 30. médecin
- 31. médicament contre les maux de tête
- 32. il proteste contre les OGM
- 33. exposition organisée pour présenter des nouveautés
- 35. pronom associé avec de

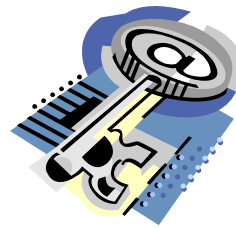
Solution on page 30

## Tips & Traps

### Free Wi-fi in Hotels?

When travelling in France, it is always surprising, and frustrating, to see that so many hotels are equipped with Wi-fi but charge totally unjustified fees for it. An article published in the daily *Le Monde* on 23 March reveals that it is not uncommon for hotels to charge their clients 14 € sometimes much more, for a Wi-fi connexion for 24 hours. After having received so many complaints from travellers who don't understand why they have to pay so much for a connexion which only costs the hotel 30 € per month for the entire hotel, the profession is starting to rethink its policies.

Roland Héguy, Vice-President of the *Union des métiers de l'industrie hôtelière* (Union of the hotel industry trade) admits that it is unfair, and not good for competition, especially as several hotels have realized that they are losing clients because of this. For example, the 200 hotels of the B&B chain will start providing free connexions for all customers as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, all Best Western Hotels in France will do the same as they already do in the US (But why wait until 2009?...). A few apartment hotels are also changing, such as the *Citea* Group that now offers free internet access in all rooms and is using it as a major marketing strategy. While the *All Seasons* corporation, owner of the *Acor* Group, is just starting similar services. For the time being, only 20 hotels offer the "all included" formula of Wi-fi included in the room fees. In other hotels of the group, the Wi-fi access has to be paid for in the room but is free in the reception area, where one or more computers



are at the disposal of their clients – a very inconvenient formula. One can only hope that they will all soon change their policy.

### House for Sale?

If you have a house to sell, be careful with whom you list the property. A recent enquiry of the official French organization *Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes* (General Direction of Competition, Consuming and Repression of Fraud) revealed that real estate agencies are not always doing their best or respecting the rules of the profession. According to the daily consumer magazine *Le Particulier\**, if you list your house with three separate agencies, it may very well happen that only one will really do anything. The magazine offers some advice on the choice of an agency, the most important being to try to find out locally (by talking with neighbours for example) if the agency has been established in the area for a long time and if it has a good reputation (you can't simply blindly trust a specific group, as everything depends of the seriousness of the local agent). And it is a good thing, too, to check what kind of advertising they do for their houses for sale (newspapers, internet with good pictures, etc.)

However, another way to sell a house, which works quite well in France, is to sell it yourself

directly from owner to buyer, which saves you the percentage that the estate agency charges (from 5 to 10% of the total sale).

To do so, you can either try putting an ad (*placer une annonce*) in the local newspaper or on the internet. Or you can place an ad in the newspaper *De particulier à particulier*, which has an excellent reputation and is used very much in France. They also have a website\*\*, but it is recommended that you run the ad both in the printed newspaper and on their website, as most people looking to buy a house in France still rely more on newspapers than on the internet.

The newspaper also gives a lot of concrete and useful information on all the formalities involved in selling or buying a house. It even has an English page, but unfortunately only for the ads and not for such information. For that, you can always consult a few websites specially conceived for expats, such as *Anglo Info*.

\* [www.leparticulier.fr](http://www.leparticulier.fr)

\*\* [www.pap.fr](http://www.pap.fr)

### An interesting comparative study

On the theme "Buying for a better world", the *Fédération européenne pour l'éthique et le développement durable\** (European Federation for Ethics and Sustainable Development), a French organization based in Paris, recently did a very thorough comparative study of 1,000 companies and products. The extremely interesting, and surprising results have just been published in a book\*\*.

skype

No computer required

DualPhone 3088

Free yourself from the computer with both Skype and landline calling.

£85

Tips & Traps (cont'd)

The analyses are based on 5 main criteria:

- 1) **Governance:** does the company have a deontological charter? Is it based on values, responsibility, dialogue, esteem, transparency, etc.?
- 2) **Social relations:** how are employees treated and appreciated, does the company encourage employment, etc.?
- 3) **Environment:** is the company making efforts to preserve the environment, is it respecting international rules, avoiding pollution, etc.? Do the products themselves conform to such constraints as well?
- 4) **Quality,** as well as providing reliable information to the consumer.
- 5) **Good "citizenship":** is the company concerned with ethics, non-violence, does it have commitments to the city, the country, etc.?

1 to 4), and then in a more detailed way by company. And the results are rather surprising. One can see for example:

- that the milk products *Biolait*, *Candia* (and in fact all products of the Company *Sodiaal-Yoplait*) have a rather poor governance and especially social record, while all *Danone* products have 3 stars – an interesting change since just a few years ago, *Danone* was seriously criticized for the way the company treated its employees;
- that the *Yves Rocher* products, supposedly independent and more authentic than other more commercial brands, are not rated that well, even in terms of quality (only the environment side earns three stars); while – but this is not a big surprise – *Procter & Gamble* products have a very bad record, especially in social and environment realms;
- that when one compares French banks, *BNP Paribas* does better than the rural and highly regarded *Credit agricole* in terms of governance, social issues and quality;
- that your *HP*, *Compaq*, *IBM* and *Sony* computers are much better for the environment and are generally more highly rated than *Apple*, which has a very poor record in almost every area; and that your *Philips*, *Sony* and *Motorola* cell phones are rated much better than *Nokia*, which has the worst ratings except in the "citizenship" area;

- that in the *Grande distribution* sector, *Benetton* gets the lowest rating in absolutely every aspect, while *FNAC* does quite well, and *Auchan* gets 3 stars for everything, etc.

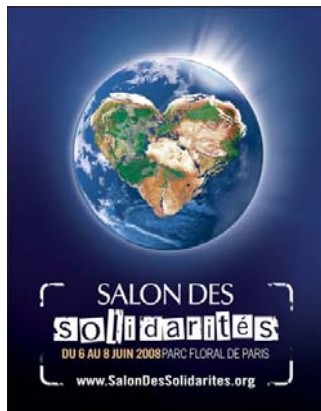
\* [www.fedd-asso.org](http://www.fedd-asso.org)  
 \*\* *Acheter pour un monde meilleur*, Ed. Eyrolles, 16 €

**Salon des solidarités**

An interesting exhibit to check out in Paris, 6-8 June: *Le Salon des solidarités* (Solidarity fair), covering all the following aspects: humanitarian work, development, international cooperation, equitable trade and integration. More than 250 stands will present some 20,000 visitors with the many possibilities for getting involved in interesting projects and initiatives by NGOs and other activist movements or to help in some small way. The fair will also introduce consumers to products of better quality made in the developing world – another way to show more solidarity. All details on: [www.salondessolidarites.org](http://www.salondessolidarites.org)



The book provides extensive comparisons company by company, product by product, brand by brand, first in a set of tables (with stars ranging from



# This is France — Living Organic

## Vivre bio en France



For many years, it was very difficult in France to find organic products, i.e. grown without any synthetic chemicals or pesticides. And it was even more difficult to find French people interested in them, or aware of the value and advantages of this means of production, and consumers of such products were a minority. However, over the last few years the situation has changed considerably, especially with regards to the consumption of fresh produce. The figures are explicit: in 2007 the French purchased 30% more organic fruit and vegetables than in 2005, 50% more than in 2002 and 70% more than in 1999. According to a survey done by the CSA Institute for the *Agence française pour le développement et la promotion de l'agriculture biologique*, usually simply called *Agence bio*, 42% of French people regularly consume them. And, more importantly, attitudes have changed. Today, 90% of the French recognize that organic products contribute to the preservation of the environment, and most agree that they are much better for their health.

And more and more farmers are making the switch to organic, to more natural farming techniques – which doesn't necessarily mean that it is simplified, as it often requires rather elaborated methods. Today, there are more than 10,000 organic farms in France that have made the change since the adoption on 4 July 1980 of a law regulating the production of organic products. Although less than 2% of the cultivated land was devoted to organic production at the end of 2006, the number of producers is constantly increasing.

The chains of organic retail outlets themselves are on the increase, particularly those of "Biocoop" and "Satoriz", and more and more one can find at least one organic producer at the local open-air markets. All over the country, there is an increasing number of organic fairs or *salons* held at least once a year or more often in some areas. You will find a list of the most important ones which will take place in the coming weeks on page 24. And, a relatively new development is the possibility of having what

Durant de longues années, il était très difficile en France de trouver des produits nés de l'agriculture biologique, c'est-à-dire ne faisant usage d'aucun produit chimique de synthèse ni de pesticides. Et il était encore plus difficile de trouver des Français qui s'y intéressaient, ou étaient sensibles aux valeurs et avantages de ce mode de production, et les consommateurs de tels produits étaient une minorité. Mais ces dernières années, la situation a beaucoup changé, surtout en ce qui concerne la consommation de produits frais. Les chiffres parlent d'eux-mêmes : en 2007 les Français ont acheté 30% de plus de fruits et légumes bio qu'en 2006, 50% de plus qu'en 2002 et 70% de plus qu'en 1999. Selon une enquête de l'institut CSA réalisé par l'Agence française pour le développement et la promotion de l'agriculture biologique, habituellement appelée simplement Agence bio, ils sont 42% à en consommer occasionnellement. Et, surtout, les mentalités ont changé. Aujourd'hui, 90% des Français reconnaissent que les produits bio contribuent à préserver l'environnement, et la plupart ad-

mettent qu'ils sont meilleurs pour la santé.

Et de plus en plus d'agriculteurs se mettent au bio, à des modes d'exploitation plus naturels – mais ce qui ne veut pas nécessairement dire simplifiée, car elle emploie des méthodes souvent très élaborées. Ils sont aujourd'hui plus de 10.000 en France à avoir pris le virage depuis l'adoption le 4 juillet 1980 d'une loi réglant les conditions de production de l'agriculture biologique. A peine 2% du territoire français cultivé était toutefois consacré fin 2006 à la production bio, mais le nombre de producteurs augmente constamment.

Les chaînes de magasins bio de détail elles-mêmes se multiplient, notamment les réseaux Biocoop et Satoriz, et de plus en plus de marchés locaux intègrent au moins un maraîcher bio. Dans tout le pays, on compte aussi un nombre de plus en plus grand de foires, salons ou marchés bio, organisés une fois par an ou davantage en certains endroits. Vous trouverez page 24 une liste des plus importants qui vont se tenir les prochaines semaines.

*90% of the French recognize that organic products contribute to the preservation of the environment, and most agree that they are much better for their health.*



## Living Organic (cont'd)

is called *paniers bio*, a selection of organic products grown by individual farmers or groups of producers, delivered directly to your home – a very useful formula, especially for those who don't have access to an organic shop or farmer close to their home. You will also find a list of websites offering this possibility. Other rather interesting initiatives are becoming popular, such as several families sharing a vegetable garden plot.

And, little by little, the concept of organic extends far beyond fruits and vegetables. Today, one can find more organic dairy products or eggs, as well as organic pasta, cereals, jams or honeys, and even organic meat products. And, as you will see on page 22 organic wine is another increasingly important part of the organic scene. Market progress is slower for other products, such as clothing made of natural cloth, or cosmetics, but consumers are becoming more interested in them, which will encourage producers and distributors to respond to their expectations.

Be careful, however: the keen interest in organic products has also resulted in a few abuses, and it is always a good idea to compare the prices, and the quality, from one retailer to the next. Some of them apply prices which are obviously exaggerated or offer products of a questionable freshness. Simply because a vegetable has been grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers doesn't mean that it has to be dirty and damaged. And while it is only normal that organic products carry a slightly higher price tag than those grown on large-scale agribusiness operations, there are limits.



And finally, we strongly encourage those of our readers who have their own vegetable garden to use organic gardening methods. Nothing tastes better than vine-ripened tomatoes or lettuce harvested fresh from the garden. Many books on organic gardening that are sold in most specialized shops provide useful advice and explanations for both beginner and seasoned gardener alike.

Living organic in France is quite feasible today. Let's try to continue to encourage this trend!

## Vivre bio (suite)

Et, relative nouveauté, il est désormais possible de se faire livrer à domicile ce que l'on appelle souvent des "paniers bio", c'est-à-dire un assortiment de produits bio par des fermiers individuels et groupes de producteurs, une formule très pratique, surtout pour les personnes n'ayant pas de magasins ou fermiers bio à proximité. Vous trouverez également plus loin une liste de sites internet offrant cette possibilité. Tandis que d'autres initiatives assez intéressantes prennent naissance, comme celle du partage de jardins entre plusieurs familles.

Et peu à peu le concept du bio dépasse les produits du potager. On trouve davantage aujourd'hui des produits laitiers ou des œufs bio, mais aussi des pâtes artisanales, céréales, confitures et miels bio, et même de la viande. Et, comme vous le verrez page 22, le vin bio prend une part de plus en plus importante du marché du bio. L'évolution est un peu plus lente pour les autres produits, tels les vêtements en textiles bio ou les cosmétiques, mais les consommateurs s'y intéressent davantage, ce qui va encourager les producteurs et distributeurs à répondre à leur attente.

Attention toutefois : l'engouement pour le bio provoque certains abus, et il est toujours prudent de comparer les prix, et la qualité, d'un commerçant à l'autre. Certains appliquent des tarifs manifestement exagérés ou présentent des produits d'une fraîcheur douteuse. Ce n'est pas parce qu'un légume a été cultivé sans pesticides ou engrais chimiques qu'il doit être sale et abîmé, et s'il est un peu normal que les produits bio restent légèrement plus chers que ceux cultivés en masse dans de grandes exploitations traditionnelles, il y a des limites à ne pas dépasser.

Et enfin, nous ne pouvons que fortement encourager ceux de nos lecteurs qui ont leur propre petit jardin potager d'utiliser des méthodes biologiques. Car rien n'est meilleur que les tomates mûries sur pied ou salades cueillies le matin même. De nombreux livres sur le jardinage bio, en vente dans la plupart des magasins spécialisés, donnent de judicieux conseils et explications, à la fois pour les débutants et pour les jardiniers aguerris.

Vivre bio en France est donc désormais possible, essayons de continuer à encourager cette tendance !

*Annick Stevenson*

## The eco-label AB

The label *agriculture biologique*, usually called *label AB*, that is found on French organic products, is the French label of quality created in 1985 by the French Ministry of Agriculture. The label is constantly promoted by *Agence Bio*, the official agency for the development of organic agriculture, and organic growers and producers are regularly inspected.



For a product to be rated AB, it must meet the following conditions:

- be composed of at least 95% of ingredients made using organic production methods, using agronomic and animal husbandry practices which are respectful of the natural balance, of the environment and of the well-being of animals;
- be free of genetically modified organisms – GMO (*OGM* in French);
- all French regulations must be fully respected;
- the certification of these conditions must be carried out by an officially recognized organization.

## Organic Wine in France

One of the magnets that lure expats and tourists alike to France is the quality and variety of its food and wine. Indeed, some of the very best, and most expensive, wines in the world are French, and even a short stay in the country is all that is needed to discover the important role wine plays not just in the economy but in the day-to-day patterns of life. There are thousands of both large and small wine growers and producers, wine fairs all over the country draw thousands of visitors, even the supermarkets and small grocery stores feature an impressive selection of wines, and many wine aficionados have elaborate wine cellars and make annual pilgrimages to their favourite wine makers to

replenish their stocks. But just where does organic wine fit in this larger scheme of things? Just what is organic wine and how does it differ from other wines? Where can one find organic wines, and how can one be sure of its quality?

The number of organic wine producers increases each year and their number is now close to 2000. There are several certifying organizations in France (*Agence Bio* or *Ecocert*) that verify that an organic wine meets the standards imposed by the government. It should be noted that the certification applies only to the production of the grapes and not necessarily to the wine making process itself. Most organic wines are referred to as *vin issu de viticulture biologique* (wine



*A public presentation of organic wines by the Fnivab: Fédération nationale interprofessionnelle des vins de l'agriculture biologique.*

### Organic Wine: A few websites

[www.eco-bacchus.com](http://www.eco-bacchus.com)

Excellent lists of organic wine producers, organized by region.

<http://vinbio.free.fr>

English and French versions – explanations of processes, regulations, etc.

[www.vin-biologique.bien-boire.info](http://www.vin-biologique.bien-boire.info)

A wine tasters association of organic wines. Registration required.



made from organic vineyards), food stores and coops (Satoriz, Biocoop, etc.) or else find local fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides have been applied to the vines during the growing season. Only natural products like copper sulphate or sulphur can be used to control mildew and other problems on the vine.

For those wanting to buy organic wines, the problem is where to find them. You may have noticed that they are not readily available in supermarkets or the corner grocery. The best place to find them is at organic

made from organic vineyards), food stores and coops (Satoriz, Biocoop, etc.) or else find local organic wine producers and buy directly from them, which can be an excellent way of meeting and making new friends. Some of the websites listed below provide information on organic wine producers throughout France.

One of the touted qualities of organic wine is that it is less prone to give you a hangover, because it contains little or no sulphur. *Santé!*

## La bio or le bio?

If it is always difficult for an English-speaking person to know when a word in French is feminine or masculine, it is sometimes not at all obvious for the French either, especially for recently-created words. *Bio*, the abbreviation of “*agriculture biologique*” or “*issu de l'agriculture biologique*” when it is used with the word product (in the expression *produit bio*), or alone referring to anything organic, is a good example.

As most non-official websites reveal, and as we notice while talking to people, farmers or distributors, or watching what is written in organic shops, most non-specialists (like us) have a tendency to use it as a masculine noun. Examples:

*Changez vos habitudes : le bio c'est bien plus sain !* = Change your habits, organic (products) are so much healthier!

*Le supermarché commence à vendre du bio* = The supermarket has started selling organic (products).

But for the government, the feminine seems to be preferred, as one can see on the official *Agence Bio* website, in which *la bio* is always used. However the website of the *Interprofession des fruits et légumes frais*, an official group of professional producers of fruits and vegetables, uses *le bio*.

Without surprise, journalists and authors are confused and some of them invariably use one or another. For example among the many books published on the subject, one can read this title: “*La bio : de la terre à l'assiette*” or this one “*Le Guide Hachette du bio*”. And to further confuse the issue, it should be pointed out that *La bio* can also refer to a biography (*Envoie-moi ta bio*).

## A Scenario: Dialogue With an Organic Producer

La scène se situe dans un marché de village.

**Jean-Marc** : Bonjour Monsieur, je vois que vous vendez des légumes bio ?

**Le fermier** : Oui en effet, je les cultive moi-même.

**Jean-Marc** : J'ai bien envie d'essayer dans mon jardin, mais je ne sais pas comment m'y prendre. C'est pas trop difficile ?

**Le fermier** : Pas du tout. C'est une autre méthode, mais bien plus satisfaisante. J'apprécie vraiment de ne plus empoisonner mes enfants avec les produits chimiques !

**Jean-Marc** : Il y a beaucoup d'avantages ?

**Le fermier** : Oh oui, énormément ! C'est bien mieux pour la préservation des sols, et surtout pour la santé. Et je dirais que ça permet même une plus grande diversité.

**Jean-Marc** : Vraiment ? Comment ça ?

**Le fermier** : Eh bien par exemple, je me suis mis à produire des légumes un peu oubliés, ceux que mes ancêtres cultivaient autrefois – avant les insecticides !

**Jean-Marc** : Mais justement, comment vous faites pour chasser les insectes ?

**Le fermier** : Oh, il y a bien d'autres moyens ! Par exemple de planter du basilic ou d'autres plantes aromatiques à côté de vos tomates, ou de faire un lit d'orties sous vos plants, et bien d'autres choses. Et l'engrais d'orties remplace d'ailleurs largement les engrais chimiques !

**Jean-Marc** : Vraiment ? Il faudra donc que j'essaie.

**Le fermier** : Mais venez donc me voir un jour ! Mon exploitation est tout près d'ici. Voici l'adresse.

**Jean-Marc** : Merci. D'accord, je passerai. Et on peut acheter vos produits bio sur place ?

**Le fermier** : Bien sûr ! La vente à la ferme a un grand succès. A bientôt !

**Jean-Marc** : A bientôt ! Et bonne journée !

The scene takes place at a village market.

**Jean-Marc**: Good morning Sir, I see that you sell organic vegetables?

**The farmer**: Yes indeed, I grow them myself.

**Jean-Marc**: I'd like to try that in my garden, but I don't know how to go about it. Is it not too difficult?

**The farmer**: Not at all. It's just a different method, but much more satisfying. I really appreciate not poisoning my kids anymore with chemical products!

**Jean-Marc**: Are there many advantages?

**The farmer**: Oh yes, many! It is much better for the protection of the soil, and most of all for your health. And I would even say that it offers a wider diversity.

**Jean-Marc**: Really? How is that?

**The farmer**: Well, for example, I have started growing vegetables that had been somewhat forgotten, those that my ancestors used to grow in the past – before insecticides!

**Jean-Marc**: But, precisely, what do you do to deal with the insects?

**The farmer**: Oh, there are many other ways! For example, to plant basil or other aromatic plants close to your tomatoes, or to place a layer of nettle under your seedlings, and many other things. And the nettle fertilizer easily replaces chemical fertilizers!

**Jean-Marc**: Really? I should try, then.

**The farmer**: Why don't you come and see me some day! My farm is very close from here. Here is the address.

**Jean-Marc**: Thank you. OK, I'll stop by. And can one buy your organic products at the farm?

**The farmer**: Of course! On-site purchases are a big success. See you soon!

**Jean-Marc**: See you soon! Have a good day!



## Correns: A Village Totally Organic!

The tiny and quite typical village of Correns, located in the Department of Var (north of Brignolles), calls itself *Le premier village bio de France* (the first organic village of France).

And indeed, everything is organic: all agricultural products, the wine (reputed to be excellent!) and everything else produced locally. Even the children at school are served at least one organic meal a day.

And the population of the village is trying its best to preserve the environment in many aspects: for example,

instead of using polluting machinery, they are using goats to clear forests of brushwood and thereby diminish the risk of fires, etc.

Correns is also a lovely place to visit, full of beautiful old buildings from the Middle Ages and very typical of Provence.

On the 1st of May the annual fair takes place in the village. The occasion to purchase organic plants and to taste the local products.



For more information: [www.correns.fr](http://www.correns.fr)

Photo Georges B.

## Forthcoming Organic Fairs



19 & 20 April: **Relanges Bio 2008**

Relanges (Vosges), in the village located between Vittel and Darney.

No website. Information by e-mail: banvoy-j@caramail.com

20 April: **Rencontres Souleu, foire artisanale, bio, équitable et solidaire**

La Farlède (Var), in the heart of the city.  
www.souleu.org/foire.htm

25 & 26 April: **Forum national du commerce équitable**

La Plaine-Saint-Denis (Seine-Saint-Denis), Paris region. Alternacom, 379 av. du Pt Wilson.  
www.forumequitable.org

26 & 27 April: **Naturavignon, fête écobioologique**

Avignon (Vaucluse), Domaine de la Souvine.  
http://avenir84.org

26 & 27 April: **Foire bio et alternative**

Riec sur Belon (Finistère), in the city.  
No website. Information by e-mail: foirebioriec@voila.fr

1 to 4 May: **3° Salon aquaviva à Ricamarie**

Ricamarie (Sàone et Loire)  
No website. Information by e-mail: lorenzo.gelsumini@wanadoo.fr

1 to 5 May: **Foire éco bio d'Alsace**, "le futur sera bio"

Colmar (Haut-Rhin), Parc des expositions.  
www.foireecobioalsace.fr

2 to 4 May: **Naturellement, foire écobioologique**

Nyons (Drôme), promenade de la Digue.  
www.ceder-provence.fr/#eco-biologique

3 & 4 May: **Humus, foire écobio-logique**

Chateldon (Puy-de-Dôme), in the city.  
http://foire.humus.free.fr/

11 May: **Salon biologique**

Signes (Var)  
No website. Information by e-mail: yves.care@wanadoo.fr

11 & 12 May: **Biocybèle, foire aux produits de l'agriculture biologique**

Gaillac (Tarn), Parc de Foucaud.  
http://pagesperso-orange.fr/nptarn

16 to 18 May: **Naturels et éconhome, bien-être et saveurs au naturel et habitat**

Chassieu (Rhône), Eurexpo, in the suburb of Lyon.  
www.naturels-ecohome.com

17 & 18 May: **Eco-forum des Alpilles et marché bio**

Fontvieille (Bouches-du-Rhône), in the village.  
http://assef.fontvieille.free.fr

17 & 18 May: **Marché bio vide-jardins**

Orléans (Loiret)  
No website. Information by e-mail: comitedesfetesduinois@caramail.com

18 May: **Fête du jardinage au naturel**

Belle-Isle-en-Terre (Côtes d'Armor)  
http://educatif.eau-et-rivieres.asso.fr/index.php?Rub=7

22 to 26 May: **Vivez nature, Salon de l'agriculture biologique et de l'habitat naturel**

Paris, Cité des Sciences et de l'industrie.  
www.vivez-nature.com

7 & 8 June: **Salon nature, bien-être & beauté**

Flamanville (Manche), au Château.  
No website. Information on: www.rezobio.com/sortie

7 & 8 June: **Naturezen, salon bio et environnement**

Le Fayet (Haute-Savoie), aux Thermes de Saint-Gervais-les-Bains.  
www.st-gervais.net/fr/detail\_agenda.aspx?Id=126

8 June: **Journée Bio de la Contrée de Durban**

Villesèq (Aude), Château de Bonnafous.  
No website. Information on www.rezobio.com/sortie or by e-mail: journeebio.durban@aliceadsl.fr

13 to 15 June: **Salon Bionazur, produits bio et nature**

Nice (Alpes-Maritimes), Promenade des Anglais.  
http://bionazur.nicexpo.org/evenements/bionazur  
English page on the website.

14 & 15 June: **Foire bio des Ardennes**

Wadelincourt (Ardennes), in the village.  
No website. Information by e-mail: a.renard@ardennes.chambagri.fr

14 & 15 June: **Prairial, foire écologique**

Aytré (Charente-Maritime), Parc Jean Macé.  
www.aytre.fr/programme.php

21 & 22 June: **Naturez-vous, au jardin**

Saint-Jean-de-Monts (Vendée), Palais des Congrès.  
www.saint-jean-de-monts.com/content.cfm?id=549



## A Few Useful Websites

### General Information

\*[www.agencebio.org](http://www.agencebio.org)

The website of *Agence Bio* (*Agence française pour le développement et la promotion de l'agriculture biologique*), the official public interest organization in charge of development and promotion of organic agriculture. What is most useful for the public is the official professional directory of producers (farmers), transformers, distributors and importers of organic products in France:  
<http://annuaire.agencebio.org>

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

[www.bioannuaire.com](http://www.bioannuaire.com)

[www.rezobio.com](http://www.rezobio.com)

[www.ecoou.com](http://www.ecoou.com)

A few websites with directories, events calendars and other practical info.

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

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

Networks of organic shops, with the addresses of their shops all over France.

### Regional Groups of Producers

**Brittany:** [www.interbiobretagne.asso.fr](http://www.interbiobretagne.asso.fr)

Aquitaine, Languedoc-Roussillon & Pyrénées :

[www.grainvert.com](http://www.grainvert.com)

**Rhône-Alpes:** [www.bio-rhone-alpes.org](http://www.bio-rhone-alpes.org)

**Périgord:** [www.agrobioperigord.fr](http://www.agrobioperigord.fr)

**Région Provence, Alpes, Côte**

**d'Azur:** <http://bio-provence.org>

**Drôme:** [www.agrobiodrom.fr](http://www.agrobiodrom.fr)

### Home Delivery

[www.alimenthus.com](http://www.alimenthus.com)

A particularly dynamic organic producer based in Sadirac (Gironde, Aquitaine) which delivers its products all over France and even outside the country. On 1 April

they opened their "*Musée gourmand*" which can be visited throughout the summer until November. They even have an English version of the website.

[www.sud-bio.com](http://www.sud-bio.com)

An organic producer based close to Perpignan (Pyrénées Orientales, Roussillon), which delivers primarily in South-West France but also all over the country.

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

A company that is the intermediary between a group of organic producers based in the region of Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine, Brittany). They deliver only in this department and in the proximity of Dinan (Côtes d'Armor).

[www.secondenature.net](http://www.secondenature.net)

An organic producer who delivers in part of the Bouches-du-Rhône Department (Provence), from Marseilles to cities located all around the Etang de Berre.

[www.materre.net](http://www.materre.net)

Another producer in Provence, delivering from Aix-en-Provence to Marseilles.

[www.lespetitspaniers.com](http://www.lespetitspaniers.com)

Another producer, delivering around Bordeaux (Gironde, Aquitaine). Organic fruit and vegetables are part of their production, mixed with non-organic (specify *panier bio* for organic).

[www.campanier.com](http://www.campanier.com)

Delivers *petits paniers bio* in Paris and the suburbs.

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

An online supermarket, with a few shops around Paris, and delivery all over the country.

[www.monpetitproducteur.com](http://www.monpetitproducteur.com)

Delivery in Nantes and all over the Department of Loire-Atlantique.

[www.lespaniersdemartin.com](http://www.lespaniersdemartin.com)

Delivery in Lyon (Rhône) only, from producers in the city and the whole region.



## Basic words and expressions

**Un agriculteur bio** = an organic farmer

**L'agriculture bio/biologique** = organic agriculture

**Un aliment bio/biologique** = an organic food

**Bio** = organic

**La biodiversité** = biodiversity

**Certifier/certifié** = to certify/certified

**Un désherbant** = a weed killer

**Le développement durable** = sustainable development

**Un éleveur bio** = a breeder of organic cattle

**Un engrais** = a fertilizer

**Un herbicide** = a herbicide

**Un insecticide** = an insecticide

**Le jardinage bio** = the organic gardening

**Des OGM/organismes génétiquement modifiés** = GMOs, genetically modified organisms

**Un panier bio** = a basket of organic food

**Un pesticide** = a pesticide

**Préservation de l'environnement** = environmental protection

**Un producteur bio** = an organic producer/farmer

**Les produits chimiques** = chemical products

**Les produits chimiques de synthèse** = synthetic chemicals

**Des produits naturels** = natural products

**Des semences bio** = organic seeds





## French Politics — Just Who Is Bertrand Delanoë?

## Mais qui est donc Bertrand Delanoë ?

In the aftermath of the March municipal elections in France, one of the political figures who has assumed an increasingly important stature on the French political scene is the newly re-elected Socialist mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë. Just who is this unconventional rising star on the left who, according to many political pundits, will most like be the candidate from the left who could unseat Nicolas Sarkozy in the 2012 presidential elections?

À l'issue des élections municipales de mars, l'une des personnalités politiques à avoir acquis une stature de plus en plus importante dans la scène politique française est le maire socialiste de Paris, nouvellement ré-élu, Bertrand Delanoë. Mais qui est donc cette étoile montante, non conventionnelle, qui, selon de nombreux experts politiques, sera très probablement le candidat de gauche le mieux placé pour évincer Nicolas Sarkozy lors des élections présidentielles de 2012 ?

**D**elanoë was born in Tunis in 1950 where his grandparents had settled after moving from France. His parents resettled in the south of France when the young Bertrand was a teenager, and he was educated in the local schools of Rodez in the Department of Aveyron. His first involvement in politics was at the age of 23 when he became the secretary of the local Federation of Socialists in Rodez. His skills as an orator caught the attention of François Mitterrand who encouraged the young Delanoë to join him in Paris in the early 1970s. It was here, in the company of Lionel Jospin and other prominent Socialists, that he began to forge his political credentials in a variety of elected and appointed positions, including a seat on the Paris City Council, spokesperson for the Socialist Party, election as a deputy and later as a senator from Paris, and he also served as the chief of the Paris section of the party in which role he led the opposition to the 1995 election of Jean Tiberi who succeeded Jacques Chirac as mayor of Paris.

In spite of his active and varied participation in politics, Delanoë remained relatively unknown nationally until his stunning upset of Tiberi for mayor of Paris in the 2001 municipal elections. Delanoë



put together a coalition of Socialists, Greens and Communists that wrested the city hall from Tiberi and his conflict-ridden association with Philippe Séguin. It was the first time the left had been in control of the city since 1871 and the ill-fated Commune, and Delanoë's victory was really the defining moment for the beginning of his rise in influence and prominence in French politics and has to be seen as a relative anomaly in French politics; he has become a rising star in French politics

**B**ertrand Delanoë est né en 1950 à Tunis, où ses grands-parents s'étaient établis après avoir quitté la France. Ses parents se sont réinstallés au sud de la France lorsque le jeune Bertrand était adolescent, et il a suivi ses études dans les écoles de Rodez, département de l'Aveyron. À l'âge de 23 ans, il a occupé le poste de secrétaire de la fédération des socialistes de Rodez – son premier engagement politique. Ses talents d'orateur ont attiré l'attention de François Mitterrand, qui a en-

couragé le jeune Delanoë à le rejoindre à Paris au début des années 1970. C'est là, en compagnie de Lionel Jospin et d'autres têtes de file du Parti socialiste, qu'il a commencé à faire ses armes en matière politique dans divers postes, en tant qu'élu ou sur nomination. Il a ainsi occupé un siège au conseil municipal de la ville de Paris, a été le porte-parole du Parti socialiste, s'est fait élire en tant que député, et plus tard en tant que sénateur, de Paris, et il a aussi été le chef de la section parisienne du PS, poste qu'il occupait lorsqu'il avait conduit l'opposition contre l'élection en 1995 de Jean Tiberi, qui avait succédé à Jacques Chirac en tant que maire de Paris.

En dépit de cette participation active et variée à la politique, Bertrand Delanoë est resté relativement peu connu au plan national, jusqu'à ce qu'il soit devenu à son tour le maire de Paris, après être parvenu, à la surprise de tous, à renverser Jean Tiberi lors des élections municipales de 2001. La coalition de socialistes, de Verts et de communistes qu'il avait mise en place était en effet parvenue à arracher la mairie de Paris des mains de Jean Tiberi et de Philippe Seguin (avec lequel il entretenait une relation conflictuelle). C'était la première fois que la gauche prenait le contrôle de la ville depuis 1871 et l'époque douloureuse de la Commune, de sorte que la

## Delanoë (cont'd)

without being a graduate of France's prestigious and elite *Ecole nationale d'administration*, which in the past has been considered to be an essential stepping stone to success in the national political arena. Also, he has never served as a minister in any government at the national level.

As mayor, Bertrand Delanoë has put in place many projects and innovations designed to improve the quality of life in the nation's capital. His administration has attempted to increase the number and quality of the city's nursery schools, and the mayor, who chose to live in his own apartment rather than in the mayoral living quarters in the city hall, had the vast apartment converted into a municipal nursery school. He has also widened the dedicated

bus lanes for rapid transit and extended the bike paths, initiated the wildly popular bicycle rental program (*Vélib*), pushed through a new tramway along the southern periphery of the city, and launched the programme called *Paris-plage* where the banks of the Seine are turned into a beach during the month of August. He has sought to increase subsidized housing for low income families, and has been a strong advocate for making culture more accessible, especially for the city's youth.

In terms of the major issues of our times, Delanoë has adopted positions in defence of Human Rights and against anti-Semitism, racism and sexism. He is in favour of non-French residents being able to vote in local elections and is opposed to the on-going French practise of elected officials holding more than one

## Delanoë (suite)

victoire de Delanoë a été réellement une étape marquante de sa prise d'influence, et de son importance dans la politique française, ce qui a été vu comme une anomalie. En effet, il avait réussi à devenir une tête d'affiche de la politique sans être titulaire du prestigieux diplôme de l'ENA (*Ecole nationale d'administration*), établissement d'élite qui, par le passé, était considéré comme indispensable pour réussir sur l'arène politique nationale. Et en outre, il n'avait jamais été ministre d'aucun gouvernement.

En tant que maire, Bertrand Delanoë a mis en place de nombreux projets et innovations visant à améliorer la qualité de la vie dans la capitale du pays. Son administration a tenté d'augmenter le nombre et la qualité des crèches municipales, et lui-même, choisissant de continuer

de vivre dans son propre appartement plutôt que dans les vastes espaces de la mairie qui étaient autrefois la résidence du maire, a converti ceux-ci en crèche. Il a également élargi les voies réservées aux bus pour faciliter leur circulation et a multiplié les pistes cyclables, a initié le programme de location de vélo très populaire Vélib, a créé une nouvelle ligne de tram s'étirant tout le long du périphérique sud de la ville, et a lancé un programme appelé Paris-plage consistant à transformer les rives de la Seine en plage chaque mois d'août. Il a également cherché à augmenter le nombre de logements sociaux destinées aux personnes à faible revenu, et a été un ardent défenseur de la culture accessible à tous, en particulier aux jeunes.

Pour ce qui concerne les grandes questions de notre époque, Bertrand Delanoë a adopté des positions de défense des droits de l'homme et d'opposition à l'antisémitisme, le racisme et le sexisme. Il s'est déclaré en faveur du vote des résidents non français lors des élections municipales, et s'est opposé à la pratique courante en France de cumul des mandats. Il a lui-même démissionné du Sénat lorsqu'il a été élu maire de Paris.

Lors d'une interview télévisée en 1998, bien avant son élection comme maire, il a révélé qu'il était gay. Il est en faveur du mariage entre personnes du même sexe, subventionne avec le fonds de la mairie de nombreux groupes de défense des droits des homosexuels et soutient tout particulièrement les mesures visant à prévenir la propagation du SIDA.

Certes le maire est l'objet de critiques par ses détracteurs. Des associations de promotion des droits des automobilistes protestent contre l'extension des voies dédiées au bus, pré-



*Among the many innovations made by Bertrand Delanoë in Paris since he became the mayor of the capital are the multiplication of bike paths all over the city and a very popular bike rental programme...*



*... and a new tramway along the southern periphery of the city.*

## Delanoë (cont'd)

office at a time. Delanoë himself resigned from the Senate when he was elected mayor of Paris.

Delanoë revealed in a televised interview in 1998, well before his election as mayor, that he was gay. He favours same-sex marriages and has provided funding through city hall for many gay-rights groups and activities and has especially been supportive of measures aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS.

### A legendary temper

The mayor is certainly not without his detractors and critics. Associations promoting the rights of drivers rail against the extension of dedicated bus lanes saying that traffic congestion has instead increased and that pollution levels have not dropped. The tramway was much more expensive than originally announced, and some see his financial support of homosexual groups and associations as unwarranted and symbolic of his personal preferences. *Paris-plage* is seen as more of a publicity stunt, and the right in particular has accused him of not really doing anything to reduce the wide gap between the haves and the have-nots, saying that the capital has become the city of *les aisés* (the well-to-do) *et les aidés* (those on the dole). Delanoë also has a legendary temper, often directed at his close associates. He suffered a major political “defeat” when the city of Paris’ bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games lost out to London, and Delanoë remains very sensitive about the issue. Many observers, however, feel that Paris really lost out because of several rather negative statements about British and Finnish cooking made by then president Jacques Chirac

and not because of any failure on the part of Delanoë. In fact, his overall popularity rose immediately following the Olympic Games announcement.

With Delanoë’s resounding re-election as mayor of Paris, his hand has been considerably strengthened with regard to his future political ambitions. If he is indeed serious about running for president in 2012, his most immediate objective will be to control the Socialist Party itself, and that is a battle that he will have to wage against Ségolène Royal. He has already announced his colours by taking firm control of the Paris chapter of the Socialist party and purging the chapter leadership of any supporters of Royal. Should he emerge from the annual party convention this summer in La Rochelle firmly in control, it can be taken for granted that Bertrand Delanoë will be the party’s official candidate for the 2012 presidential elections. However, an important faction within the party known as *Les reconstituteurs* feels that rather than seeing this summer’s party convention degenerate into a heated battle for the party leadership, the party would be far better served in the long run to rebuild the party and form a strong platform and enduring ties with their natural allies on the left. If Delanoë agrees with the *reconstituteurs* and accepts putting his presidential ambitions on the back burner for a few years, he could very likely emerge in an even stronger position when the final jockeying for the party’s presidential nomination takes place closer to 2012. At any rate, Bertrand Delanoë remains a fascinating and important politician to watch in the ever-complicated game of French politics.

Roger Stevenson

## Delanoë (suite)

tendant qu’elles ont fait augmenter la congestion du trafic, et que les niveaux de pollution n’ont pas diminué. Le tram s’est révélé bien plus cher qu’annoncé initialement, et certains considèrent le soutien financier du maire aux groupes et associations d’homosexuels comme sans fondement et justifié seulement par ses préférences personnelles. Paris-plage est vu davantage comme un coup publicitaire, et la droite en particulier l’a accusé de ne pas faire grand-chose en réalité pour diminuer les écarts entre les nantis et les personnes de faibles moyens, disant que la capitale est devenue “la ville des aisés et des aidés”. Et enfin Bertrand Delanoë a un mauvais caractère légendaire, dont ses proches sont les victimes directes. Il a subi une défaite politique majeure lorsqu’il a perdu son pari que la capitale française accueillerait les Jeux olympiques d’été de 2012 et que Londres a été choisi, un sujet qui est toujours sensible pour lui. De nombreux observateurs, toutefois, considèrent que Paris a davantage perdu en raison des remarques assez négatives faites par l’ancien Président Jacques Chirac à propos de la cuisine anglaise et finlandaise qu’à cause de Delanoë lui-même. Et de fait, sa popularité a augmenté immédiatement après cette annonce relative aux Jeux olympiques.

Avec le retentissant succès que Delanoë a connu lors de sa réélection comme maire de Paris, il se retrouve considérablement renforcé pour ce qui concerne ses ambitions politiques futures. S’il envisage sérieusement de se présenter à l’élection présidentielle de 2012, son objectif immédiat sera de prendre le contrôle du Parti socialiste lui-même, une bataille



Sur la voie de la présidence ?

qu’il devra mener contre Ségolène Royal. Il a déjà annoncé la couleur en reprenant en mains fermement le PS parisien, purgeant sa direction de tous les supporters de Ségolène. S’il ressort avec les pleins pouvoirs de la convention annuelle du parti qui se tiendra cet été à La Rochelle, il est tenu pour acquis qu’il sera le candidat officiel du PS pour les présidentielles de 2012. Toutefois, une faction importante du parti, connue sous le nom des “reconstituteurs”, considère que plutôt que de voir la convention de l’été prochain dégénérer en une bataille pour la tête du parti, celui-ci serait mieux servi à long terme s’il se reconstruisait en édifiant une forte plateforme et en tissant des liens étroits avec ses alliés naturels à gauche. Si Delanoë se met d’accord avec eux et accepte de mettre de côté ses ambitions présidentielles pour quelques années, il pourrait très bien se retrouver en position encore plus forte lors de la dernière ligne droite de la nomination par le parti de son candidat à la présidence, juste avant 2012. Quoi qu’il en soit, Bertrand Delanoë demeure un politicien d’importance, fascinant à observer dans le jeu souvent compliqué de la politique française.

## Get lost, you bloody idiot!



“What does: ‘*casse-toi pauvre con*’ mean in English?” was the title of an interesting article published on 2 March in the very serious French daily *Le Monde* by journalist Eric Azan.

A quick reminder of the context for those few who may not have heard of the incident. As is the custom for French presidents, Nicolas Sarkozy was visiting the annual Parisian *Salon de l'agriculture* (Agriculture Fair) on opening day. But contrary to his predecessor Jacques Chirac, (who loved the event, would stay for several hours, chat with the peasants, and sample with obvious pleasure every bit of food or glass of wine or beer thrust in front of him), Sarkozy is a city man and doesn't really relish such a rural setting. He was

already a bit nervous when he arrived at the fair and was also obviously in a rush to finish and leave. He was greeted by applause from some and by boos from another faction of the crowd. And then while he was in the middle of the crowd shaking hands with everyone close to him, one fair goer told him in no uncertain terms that he didn't want to shake hands with him, which resulted in a very crisp exchange in which Sarkozy uttered the now famous retort, “*Casse-toi, alors, pauvre con*”. A reply which, unfortunately for the French president, was filmed and the video was immediately spread on the web, starting with the website of the French daily *Le Parisien*. By the evening of that same day it had already been seen 700,000 times.

Thanks to sites like YouTube and Daily Motion, the video was soon accessible anywhere on the planet, but the challenge for the international media was how to translate the by now famous quote. As Eric Azan explains, tons of proposals were made on the web, from “Piss off, poor idiot” to “Get lost, asshole” with many other proposals. As for the media, if the International Herald Tribune voted for “Then get lost, you poor jerk!”, and the English language French news agency AFP used “Get lost, you stupid bastard!”, the BBC decided that the best translation was “Get lost then, you bloody idiot, just get lost!”

As the French journalist Eric Azan recalls, it was much easier with Jacques Chirac, who not only made friend with peasants, but had a much more elegant way of replying to any insult that came his way: one day, while he was leaving a mass at the church of Bormes-les-Mimosas, a man insulted him with: “*Connard!*” (another way of saying *pauvre con*), the former president smiled and replied: “*Enchanté. Moi c'est Jacques Chirac*” (Nice to meet you. Me, I am Jacques Chirac).

A.S.

## Oh la la la la !!!... Unbelievable but True Stories from France...

**LETTER TO HEAVEN** — A 13 year old girl wrote a letter to her mother who had passed away. She addressed the unstamped envelop: “Street of Paradise, in Heaven”. Two days later the letter was returned with “Not at this address” and a demand for 1.35 € postage due. The post office explained that there is indeed a village called Heaven (Ciel) in Saône-et-Loire, but there is no “Street of Paradise”...

**EARN MORE** — French magazines are overjoyed: since Sarkozy has been president, their sales have increased by 6.77% compared to 2006. *Marianne*, a magazine very critical of Sarkozy, has enjoyed the biggest increase in sales with 34.9%. Thanks to Sarkozy, *Marianne's* journalists can work more to earn more. Who said he doesn't keep his promises?

**LETTRE AU CIEL** — Une fillette de 13 ans écrit une lettre à sa mère, décédée. Sur l'enveloppe, non timbrée, elle écrit : “rue du Paradis, au Ciel”. Deux jours plus tard, la lettre lui revient avec la mention “n'habite pas à l'adresse indiquée” et l'obligation de payer une taxe de 1,35 €. La poste a expliqué que le village de Ciel existe bien en Saône-et-Loire, mais que la “rue du Paradis y est inconnue”...

**GAGNER PLUS** — Les magazines français se frottent les mains: depuis que Sarkozy est Président, leurs ventes ont augmenté de 6,77% comparé à 2006. La plus forte hausse revient à *Marianne*, magazine très critique, avec 34,9% de ventes en plus. Grâce à Sarkozy, ses journalistes peuvent travailler plus pour gagner plus. Qui a dit qu'il ne tenait pas ses promesses?

**LONG LIVE THE QUEEN** — The French love Queen Elizabeth. The proof: no fewer than 8 ministers joined Sarkozy for his official visit to London in March. They included The Secretary of State for Human Rights, Rama Yade, who, according to *Le Canard enchaîné*, is reported to have said: “A dinner with the Queen in Windsor Castle, I wouldn't have missed it for anything!”

**STOCKINGS** — In Perpignan in the south of France, Georges Garcia, the president of a polling station, was caught red-handed stuffing the ballot box with ballots for his friend the mayor. He had hidden the ballots in his stockings... The mayor, Jean-Paul Alduy (UMP) was re-elected, but the ballot-stuffing culprit was arrested and will be investigated — from head to foot.

**VIVE LA REINE** — Les Français adorent la reine Elizabeth. La preuve: pas moins de 8 ministres ont accompagné Sarkozy lors de son voyage officiel à Londres en mars. Parmi eux, figurait la Secrétaire d'Etat aux droits de l'homme Rama Yade, qui, selon *Le Canard enchaîné*, aurait déclaré : “Un dîner à Windsor avec la reine, j'allais pas rater ça!”

**CHAUSSETTES** — A Perpignan, au sud de la France, Georges Garcia, président d'un bureau de vote, a été pris en flagrant délit de remplir l'urne avec des bulletins de vote portant le nom de son ami le maire, qu'il avait cachés dans ses chaussettes... Le maire, Jean-Paul Alduy (UMP) a été réélu, mais le fraudeur est mis en examen. De la tête aux pieds.



# Our Planet — Genetically Modified Organisms: Have They Lived up to Their Promise?



The recent broadcast on French television (ARTE) of a documentary called *The World According to Monsanto* (see below) by French filmmaker Marie-Monique Robin has once again called into question not just the safety and environmental impact, but the very motives behind the increasingly widespread use of genetically modified food products that eventually find their way to our supermarket shelves. GMOs have been with us for several decades now ever since work began on recombinant DNA research in the 1970s and 80s and have provided some beneficial applications, particularly in the fields of medicine and pharmaceuticals. However, the most wide-spread and controversial use of GMOs is in the field of developing transgenic plants in the production of herbicide resistant strains of corn and soybeans, and in the heavy-handed commercial arm twisting by large corporations like Monsanto to hook farmers on using their GM seeds. The agricultural sector of the

world's economy was told that GM technology would permit the world's farmers to grow pest-resistant crops that were hardier, healthier, and with increased nutrition and longer shelf life, and that they would eventually wipe out starvation in the world. That was the promise. But, has the promise been fulfilled?

The largest producer and promoter of GM food is the multinational Monsanto. Besides being the manufacturer of the infamous Agent Orange used to defoliate the forest canopies of the Vietnamese jungles during the war there, they are best known for developing GM corn that is referred to as "Roundup Ready Corn." The principle being that the genetic modification has made their corn seeds resistant to the herbicide Roundup, so that spraying a corn field with Roundup will kill all other vegetation, but leave the corn

unharmed. It is, therefore, supposed to reduce the amount and variety of herbicides that are used to control weeds. Monsanto has been experimenting with GM corn for some time, mostly in the US where a large percentage of the world's GM crops are grown. Field studies in Europe with GM seeds have been highly controversial and restrictions governing these field studies have been much tighter than is the case in the US. Bowing to public pressure from the French public, which is overwhelmingly opposed to GM crops, the French government has placed a temporary ban on GM field studies, and strict labelling laws require that the labels on manufactured food products list any GM ingredients on the packaging.

In brief, the problems with Monsanto's Roundup Ready corn, as so vividly shown in the documentary, are many and should be the objective of serious concern for government leaders, farmers and consumers alike:



## Monsanto: a book and a film

In a recently book, which accompanies a documentary film, *The World According to Monsanto*, a French journalist, Marie-Monique Robin, presents a very in-depth and highly critical expose of Monsanto. Monsanto is one of the largest chemical companies in the world and the provider of the seed technology for 90 percent of the world's genetically engineered crops, as Greenpeace\*, commenting on the film, explains. In the film, the journalist paints a grim picture of a company with a long track record of environmental crimes and health scandals. A film which shows the terrible truth, something important to know, which is really alarming. The film was recently shown on European TV Arte and is already available on DVD (French English and Spanish).

It can be purchased directly from Arte\*\*, at the price of 14.99 €

\* [www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto\\_movie080307](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto_movie080307)

\*\* <http://www.arte-boutique.fr/detailProduct.action?product.id=245754>

Marie-Monique Robin  
**LE MONDE SELON  
MONSANTO**



DE LA DIOXINE AUX OGM,  
UNE MULTINATIONALE  
QUI VOUS VEUT DU BIEN



## GMOs (cont'd)

- Roundup Ready corn actually increases the use of pesticides, since over time weeds develop a resistance to Roundup and new, more powerful agents must be used to control their growth.

- Contamination through the wind and other factors of non-GM crops by pollen from GM fields is of serious concern. Such unintentional cross-pollination could represent a major problem for organic farmers whose contaminated crops could not be certified as organic.

- Cross-pollination and the increased pressure on farmers to use Monsanto GM corn seeds threaten to drastically change biodiversity. In Mexico, where hundreds of natural species of corn are grown, there is strong evidence of contamination of these species by pollen from GM corn. Monsanto has also quietly acquired a huge number of seed companies world wide, thereby tightening its grip on the seed industry.

- Sowing Monsanto patented seeds ensnars the farmer in a vicious cycle of dependence on the company and on using its seeds. When they first begin to sow Monsanto's GM corn, farmers must sign a contract that legally binds them to purchase their seeds from Monsanto for subsequent crops. Monsanto employs an increasingly large team of agents who inspect fields and signal any farmer suspected of saving seeds from his previous crop to plant the following year. Legal proceedings can be financially disastrous for farmers who are taken to court by Monsanto. Even unintentional cross-pollinated corn seeds that are subsequently planted by unsuspecting farmers can lead to legal action to



*José Bové,  
has inspired  
a ferocious  
opposition  
to GM foods.*

*Photo  
Guillaume  
Paumier*

force payment of royalties. Unfortunately, on several occasions the courts have sided with Monsanto. The incidence of suicide among cotton growers in India who have been hooked on using Monsanto's GM cotton is startling. These Indian farmers have been reduced to poverty and driven to take their own lives by the financial burdens associated with using GM products.

- There is still insufficient research on the health hazards posed from consuming GM food, but several studies, many of which have been denigrated by Monsanto, suggest that genetically modified food products can cause serious

harm to one's health.

- Even where labelling laws exist, it isn't always possible to know whether or not we are eating GM tainted food. A recent study by The Soil Association reveals that nearly all of the milk, dairy products, pork, red meat and other processed meat and dairy products sold in supermarkets in England are made from animals fed on genetically modified crops and are being sold without GM labels.

- The current rush to produce more biofuels to replace energy sources from oil is not only adding to the pressure to use GM crops, but is contributing to the devastation of the rain forest in the Amazon in order to grow more soy and corn that will be turned into ethanol.

The above list can only make us appreciate all the more the struggle that France's peasant folk hero José Bové has been pursuing over the past decade to eradicate GM crops in France. The French in general are largely opposed to GM foods. In some opinion polls, as many as 73% are concerned about the problem, but the percentage of those expressing concern has been declining slightly over the past several years. Most are, nevertheless, willing to pay more for non-GM

**RAILEUROPE**

bordeaux

from just  
**£99**  
standard  
return

**CLICK HERE**

[ralleurope.co.uk](http://ralleurope.co.uk)



*A demonstration against GM food.*

## GMOs (cont'd)

foods and nearly 50% of the French support the actions of groups that have taken it upon themselves to destroy crops of GM corn.

José Bové has risen to prominence in France as the peasant farmer who has inspired a ferocious opposition to GM foods. He is best known internationally for his opposition to globalisation and anti-militarism, but he has achieved national notoriety in France because of the actions of his *Confédération paysanne*, which have included the dismantling of a McDonalds restaurant in the city of Millau to demonstrate opposition to what Bové calls *La malbouffe*, and for the repeated destruction of parcels of GM corn. Bové has been arrested on numerous occasions and sentenced to prison for the McDonalds attack and for destroying fields of GM crops, all of which has only seemed to increase his popularity in France. He was one of the candidates for president in the 2007 elections in France. He has earned the respect of concerned French citizens and the scorn of Monsanto, McDonalds and other multinational corporations, and his actions have been very effective

in drawing attention to the safety of our food chain. However, I'm afraid it will take more than simply uprooting a few experimental GM corn fields to stop the potential damage posed by GM crops to the food we eat and to nature's biodiversity. Films like *The World According to Monsanto* can go a long way in raising public awareness and lead to citizens demanding concrete actions from governments throughout the world.

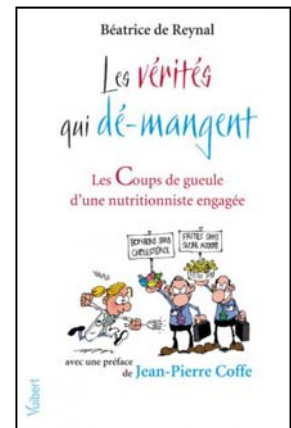
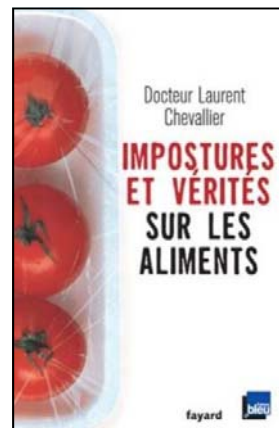
José Bové is currently leading a campaign against a bill to allow further experimentation with GM crops in France. The Senate has already passed it, but the left is fiercely opposed to it when it is debated in the National Assembly. When *The World According to Monsanto* was shown to French deputies on March 31<sup>st</sup>, not a single member of the majority UMP party attended. It appears that the temporary moratorium on GM plantings announced after the highly-touted Grenelle on the environment is in serious jeopardy and that it will take more than just uprooting a few parcels of Monsanto's Roundup Ready corn to stop the potential damage posed by GM crops to the food we eat and to nature's biodiversity.

Roger Stevenson

## Don't Trust Labels!

Two recently-published books draw our attention to the need to be very careful about an unfortunate trend in labelling of pre-processed food products on the shelves in supermarkets all over France.

In *Impostures et réalités sur les aliments* (Fayard, 20 €), French doctor Laurent Chevallier, a expert in nutrition, provides some very interesting revelations about the many additives, such as non-natural flavouring, preservatives, colouring substances, artificial sweeteners, often mixed together with even more devastating and poisonous products such as pesticides. And he draws our attention to slogans on labels designed to increase sales: "fat-free" or full of good calcium, etc., most of which are totally untrue and misleading.



In *Les vérités qui dé-mangent* (Vuibert, 13.50 €), French nutritionist Béatrice de Reynal confirms, and explains how to double check labels.

The two books' primary message: try to avoid as much as possible readymade meals, already-chopped meat or breaded fish, and prepare your meals yourself using natural products... organic as often as possible.

## A Few Useful Websites on Genetically Modified Organisms

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetically\\_modified\\_organism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetically_modified_organism)  
Wikipedia's very balanced discussion of the issue.

[www.soilassociation.org/web/sa/saweb.nsf/Getinvolved/geneng.html](http://www.soilassociation.org/web/sa/saweb.nsf/Getinvolved/geneng.html)  
The Soil Association report.

[www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto\\_movie080307.com](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto_movie080307.com)  
A Greenpeace article on the film with a link for ordering the DVD, available in French, English and Spanish.

[www.saynotogmos.org](http://www.saynotogmos.org)  
A website devoted to providing information about the negative aspects of GMOs.

<http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2008/03/22/the-world-according-to-monsanto-a-documentary-that-americans-wont-ever-see>  
A lengthy article on the documentary.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9\\_Bov%C3%A9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Bov%C3%A9)  
A Wikipedia article on José Bové.

## The French Scene — Thomas Dutronc



Printable  
version



**W**hen listening to Thomas Dutronc for the first time, you find yourself thinking that you've tuned in his father Jacques, as he resembles him a lot. But the more you listen, the more you realize that you are listening to a gifted young man who sings with a seductive voice with some slow pop and jazzy musical influences.

Thomas Dutronc is the son of two popular French singers and actors Jacques Dutronc

and Françoise Hardy. You might have heard some of Jacques Dutronc's very popular songs, such as *Il est 5 heures*, *Paris s'éveille* (Paris awakens) or *Et moi, et moi et moi*, or you might have seen him in one of the French movies such as *Embrassez qui vous voudrez*. Françoise Hardy, Thomas' mother was also a popular singer in the sixties and is mostly known for the songs *Tous les garçons et les filles* and *Comment te dire adieu*, which was also done by the British singer Jimmy Sommerville in 1989. Jacques Dutronc and Françoise Hardy are still singing and/or acting and are very active on the French scene.

### A seductive voice and jazzy influence

Thomas, who was a very gifted student in school, started early on to display his artistic talents. He began with photography and soon found that he had some writing talent. He wrote the lyrics for three of the tunes on his father's album *Brèves rencontres*. At the age of 18, he discovered the guitar and fell in love with the music of the legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt (*jazz manouche*), and thus his career in music began.

Recognized as a gifted guitarist, Thomas has performed in some well-known jazz clubs in Paris. He has a light, gypsy-jazz style inspired, as one would expect, more by Django Reinhardt than by his father. Thomas is obsessed with everything associated with Django. These last few years he has toured France with his quartet "*Thomas Dutronc et les esprits manouches*". Finally, in October 2007, at the age of 35, he released his first album, *Comme un manouche sans guitare*. On his CD, he stays faithful to the musical style he has always loved. He was nominated as best artist at the 2008 *Victoires de la musique* (the French music awards), and his album was nominated as one of the musical revelations of the year.

The song that we reproduce on page 33, *J'aime plus Paris*, is a big success. It's an amusing song about the downside of Paris. But, of course, he finishes the song with a declaration of love for the city. The song also contains an amusing allusion to his father's very famous song, *Il est 5 heures*, *Paris s'éveille* (It is 5 am, Paris is awakening), when he sings, *Il est cinq heures, Paris s'endort* (It is 5 am, Paris is falling asleep).

Vincent Antonioz



Left to right:  
Françoise Hardy  
and Jacques Dutronc,  
Thomas's famous  
parents.

More on:  
[www.thomasdutronc.fr](http://www.thomasdutronc.fr)

## J'aime plus Paris

J'fais le plein d'essence  
Je pense aux vacances  
Je fais la gueule  
Et je suis pas le seul

Le ciel est gris  
Les gens aigris  
Je suis pressé  
Je suis stressé

J'aime plus Paris  
On court partout, ça m'ennuie  
J'vois trop de gens  
Je me fous de leur vie  
J'ai pas le temps  
Je suis si bien dans mon lit

Prépare une arche  
Delanoë,  
Tu vois bien  
Qu'on veut se barrer  
Même plaqué or, Paris est mort  
Il est cinq heures, Paris s'endort

Je sens qu'j'étouffe  
Je manque de souffle  
Je suis tout pâle  
Sur un petit pouf

J'aime plus Paris  
Non mais on se prend pour qui ?  
J'veux voir personne  
Couper mon téléphone  
Vivre comme les nonnes  
J'parle pas de John

J'aime plus Paris  
Passé l'périph,  
Les pauvres bères  
N'ont pas le bon goût  
D'être millionnaires

Pour ces parias, la ville lumière  
C'est tout au bout du RER  
Y a plus de titi mais des minets  
Paris sous cloche, ça me gavoche  
Il est fini l'Paris d'Audiard  
Mais aujourd'hui, voir celui d'Hé-  
diard

J'aime plus Paris  
Non mais on se prend pour qui ?  
Je vois trop de gens  
Je me fous de leur vie  
J'ai pas le temps  
Je suis si bien dans mon lit

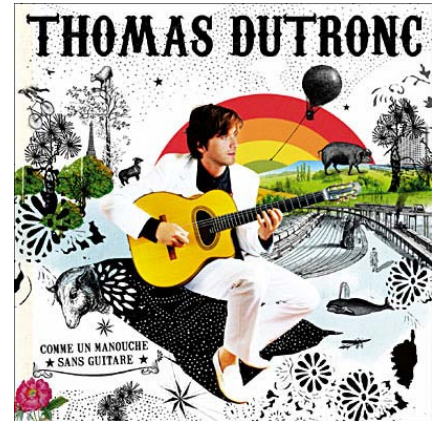
J'irais bien voir la mer  
Ecouter les gens se taire  
J'irais bien boire une bière  
Faire le tour de la Terre

J'aime plus Paris  
Non mais on se prend pour qui ?  
J' vois trop de gens  
Je me fous de leur vie  
J'ai pas le temps  
Je suis si bien dans  
mon lit

Pourtant Paris  
C'est toute ma vie  
C'est la plus belle  
J'en fais le pari  
Il n'y a qu'elle  
C'est bien l'ennui

J'aime plus Paris

From the CD:  
*Comme un manouche  
sans guitare*



[www.dailymotion.com/video/x3qcuo\\_thomas-dutronc-jaime-plus-paris\\_music](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3qcuo_thomas-dutronc-jaime-plus-paris_music)

## Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis.\*

If you live in Pas-de-Calais or if you've just heard of the region and you've acquired a reasonable level of comprehension of French, then I would definitely suggest that you take a trip to the cinema and see this entertaining film that is breaking box office records all over France. So far, it has pulled in more than 17 million viewers since it was released on February 27! The thread of the story is quite simple: a post office director who lives in the south of France is forced by his company to relocate to Northern France and who finds, once he has mastered the often impenetrable accent, people who open their hearts to strangers.

The film, directed by and starring the comic Danny Boon, takes aim at the

prejudices about the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region bordering Belgium to reveal the warmth of its people. The area's ill-deserved reputation involves many clichés: bad weather, far-fetched accent, the lack of education, alcoholism, high unemployment... Some might even think that those who live there have pickled their brains with too much alcohol and that they live in coal mines because it's -30°C outside! Of course, when the post office director moves there, he is very pleasantly surprised...

Watching the movie, we pick up pointers on how to speak like a *ch'ti* – where the 's' and the 'c' are pronounced like a 'ch' – For example: *sien* (theirs) would be pronounced like *chien* (dog)... Even the French who do not live in the area would

need some real *ch'ti* language training in order to understand everything. A scene that takes place in a restaurant gives a glimpse on how to order food in the *ch'ti* language.

If you want to spend an enjoyable evening where you just might find yourself laughing until you cry, go see the movie – you won't regret it! And I would advise that you go to the movie theatre very early, as you will be queuing to get a seat.

C.A.

\* Welcome to the Land of the *Ch'tis* (*Chetemis*, or *Chtimis* – the people who live in the northern part of France).



## Deux dictées

### Beginner Level

Le bio ? Je pense tout le temps à changer pour vivre plus bio. Oui, il faut y penser, mais il vaut mieux agir aussi. La prochaine fois que je vais au marché, je vais demander des produits bio, et en manger plus souvent. Même si je dois les payer un peu plus cher, ce sera mieux pour ma santé et mieux pour la planète.



### Intermediate Level

Ne m'en parle plus ! Tu m'agaces toujours avec tes commentaires sur l'environnement. Je m'en fiche complètement, car il n'y a rien à faire. Malgré ton insistance, je vais continuer de manger chez McDo, parce qu'on y trouve des trucs pas chers et pleins de matière grasse, et on en a besoin pour être en forme et avoir plein d'énergie.



## Exercise on *en* and *y*: Solutions from page 7

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Oui j'en veux une.    | 6) Oui j'en achète beaucoup.  |
| 2) Non, je n'y vais pas. | 7) J'y vais pour deux ans.    |
| 3) Oui j'en apporte un.  | 8) Non, je n'en bois jamais ! |
| 4) Oui il y va.          | 9) Oh oui, je m'en souviens ! |
| 5) Oui j'y pense.        | 10) Non, je n'en écoute pas.  |

## Coq

*Oiseau de fer qui dit le vent*  
*Oiseau qui chante au jour levant*  
*Oiseau bel oiseau querelleur*  
*Oiseau plus fort que nos malheurs*  
*Oiseau sur l'église et l'auvent*  
*Oiseau de France comme avant*  
*Oiseau de toutes les couleurs*



*Le nouveau crève-cœur, by Louis Aragon*

### Rooster

Iron bird that signals the wind  
 Bird that crows at the dawning day  
 Beautiful quarrelsome bird  
 Bird stronger than our misfortune  
 Bird perched on church and rooftop  
 Bird of France of yesteryear  
 Bird of every colour

This poem by the famous French Surrealist Poet Aragon speaks of the rich and diverse symbolism of the rooster in France. First, *le coq* is the national emblem of France. The symbol existed already in the Middle Ages, but it became more well-defined during the Renaissance, and was strongly reinforced during the French Revolution. It is supposed to refer to the proud, obstinate, courageous and fertile peasant origins of France. Second, one can see the iron rooster above many church steeples, where it represents the Christian symbol of vigilance from the New Testament story of the Passion of Christ, and not to the national emblem. And, of course, the song also refers to the actual bird, noisy, quarrelsome, very colourful, and that you can hear very early in the morning in the French countryside.



Alexandra

*Chosen and read by Alexandra*

## A Selection of books

### *Le visuel*

An English-French illustrated dictionary with detailed drawings of almost every imaginable aspect of life (insects, bricolage, transportation, etc.) Every tiny element of all kind of things is shown with it's appropriate name, something that can be indispensable for finding exactly the right term to use. A smaller version of the

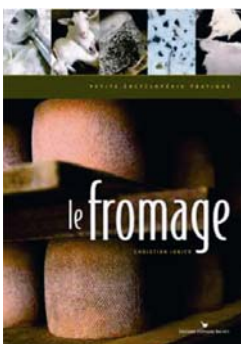
French-French *Le dictionnaire visuel*. These dictionaries have been a huge success and more than 7 million copies have been sold so far!

Ed. de la Martinière, 2006. 17 €

### *Le fromage*

This new book is an excellent introduction to the many different French cheeses. It is really a practical encyclopaedia of cheeses from all over the country, including how they are made, all the French habits linked to each of them, and how best to enjoy them. It was written by Christian Janier, who has earned the prestigious title of *Meilleur ouvrier de France* (best French worker), a title given after a rigorous competition to the very best in all the various professional categories.

Ed. Stéphane Bachès, 2008. 28 €



### *Mai 68, jour et nuit*

During the month of May, the French will be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the famous student uprising of *Mai 68*, an event which is considered to be a landmark in France's recent History. For the occasion, more than 60 books have been published! Most of them are essays, picture stories, documents or various commentaries, not all of them highly interesting...

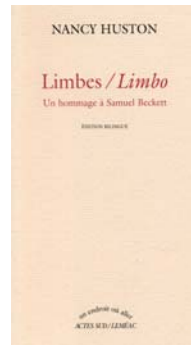


The easiest and simplest maybe for expatriates who want to understand better what happened back then is this short book, composed of documents, quotes, clear explanations of events, and tons of pictures and cartoons which are themselves an excellent way to understand better both the facts and the mood of the revolt that brought France to a standstill and nearly toppled the government.

By Christine Fauré  
Ed. Gallimard Découvertes, 2008.  
13,50 €

### *Limbes/Limbo*

A very short book (57 pages only), which has the immense advantage of being bilingual... And it is interesting to boot, as it is an homage that the well-known Canadian expatriate writer Nancy Huston pays to Samuel Beckett. It was published several years ago, but is



still available from amazon.fr Huston is very well-known and respected in France and writes her novels first in French and then does her own English translation. She has won several prizes for her novels, including the *Prix Fémina 2006* for one of her best novels, *Lignes de faille* (the English version came out in 2007 under the title: "Fault lines" (McArthur & Cie).

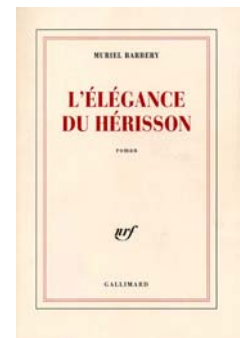
Ed. Actes Sud, 2000. 8.99 €

### *L'élégance du hérisson*

Here is a book which is much, more difficult to read if you aren't fluent in France. But we thought we had to recommend it anyway as it is a wonderful novel which has been a tremendous success. More than a million copies have been sold and it has won several prizes. The author, a very young and shy philosophy teacher, has been so overwhelmed by the media attention and insistent requests for interviews that she has now found refuge in Japan! And what is even more refreshing is that the success of the book was really through word-of-mouth recommendations by readers and not by the critics, who at first ignored it.

The novel is about a highly educated concierge, and a very intelligent little girl, both of them willing to live extremely discreetly, and observe life around them in a very clever way.

By Muriel Barbery,  
Ed. Gallimard, 2006. 20 €



## *Le père Achille* — Second Instalment

In this issue we present the second of two parts of a short story by Alphonse Daudet from the collection of short stories known as *Lettres de mon moulin*. Expecting her husband to return from the factory for lunch, La Mère Achille has an unknown visitor who announces that he is her husband's son from a relationship with a woman he knew before he married her.

**E**n effet, elle connaît ce nom. Dans le commencement du ménage, ça l'a même rendue bien malheureuse. On lui disait que cette Sidonie, une ancienne de son mari, était une très jolie fille et qu'à eux deux ils faisaient le plus joli couple du pays. Ces choses-là sont toujours dures à entendre.

Le garçon continue :

- Ma mère est une brave femme, allez ! D'abord, on m'avait mis aux Enfants trouvés ; mais, à dix ans, elle m'a repris. Elle a travaillé ferme pour m'élever, me faire apprendre un état... Ah ! je n'ai rien à lui reprocher, à elle ! Mon père, lui, c'est autre chose ; mais je ne suis pas venu pour cela... Je suis venu seulement pour le voir, pour le connaître. C'est vrai, ça m'a toujours taquiné, cette idée de ne pas connaître mon père. Tout petit, ça me tourmentait déjà et j'ai bien souvent fait pleurer ma mère avec mes questions : "Je n'ai donc pas de père, moi ? Où est-il ? Qu'est-ce qu'il fait ?" Enfin un jour elle m'a avoué la vérité, et tout de suite je me suis dit : Il est à Paris, eh bien ! j'irai le voir. Elle voulait m'en empêcher. "Puisque je te dis qu'il est marié, que tu ne lui es plus rien, qu'il ne s'est jamais informé de toi." Ça n'a rien fait. Je voulais le connaître à toute force, et ma foi ! en arrivant à Paris, j'avais son adresse, et je suis venu tout droit. Il ne faut pas m'en vouloir, c'était plus fort que moi... Oh ! non, elle ne lui en veut

pas ! Mais au fond du cœur elle est jalouse. Elle pense en le regardant qu'il y a de bien mauvaises chances dans la vie ; qu'il aurait dû être pour elle, cet enfant-là. Comme elle l'aurait bien soigné, bien élevé !... C'est qu'en vérité, c'est tout le portrait d'Achille ; seulement il a en plus un air d'effronterie, et elle ne peut pas s'empêcher de penser que son fils à elle, ce fils tant désiré, aurait eu quelque chose de plus posé, de plus honnête dans le regard et dans la voix. La situation est un peu embarrassante. Ils se taisent tous les deux. Chacun songe de son côté. Tout à coup on entend des pas dans l'escalier. C'est le père. Il entre, long, voûté, avec la démarche traînante de l'ouvrier qui a passé beaucoup de lundis à flâner par les rues.

"Tiens, Achille, dit la femme, voilà quelqu'un qui veut te parler", et elle s'en va dans la pièce à côté, laissant son mari et le fils de la belle Sidonie en face l'un de l'autre. Au premier mot, Achille change de figure, l'enfant le rassure : "Oh ! vous savez, je ne vous demande rien ; je n'ai besoin de personne pour vivre ; je suis seulement venu vous voir, pas plus".

Le père balbutie : "Sans doute, sans doute... Tu as... vous avez très bien fait, mon garçon."

C'est égal, cette paternité subite le gêne un peu, surtout devant sa femme. Il regarde du côté de la cuisine, et baissant la voix : "Tenez, descen-

dons, il y a un marchand de vin en bas, nous serons mieux pour causer... Attends-moi, la mère, je reviens."

Ils descendent, s'attablent devant un litre, et on cause.

- Qu'est-ce que vous faites ? demande le père, moi je suis dans la charpente.

Le fils répond : "Moi dans la menuiserie."

- Est-ce que ça va bien, chez vous, les affaires ?

- Non, pas fort.

Et la conversation continue sur ce ton. Quelques détails de métier, c'est par là seulement qu'ils se tiennent. Du reste, pas la moindre émotion de se voir. Rien à se dire, rien. Pas un souvenir commun, deux vies complètement séparées qui n'ont jamais eu la moindre influence l'une sur l'autre.

Le litre fini, le fils se lève : "Allons, mon père, je ne veux pas vous retarder davantage ; je vous ai vu, je m'en vais content. Au revoir.

- Bonne chance, mon garçon."

Ils se serrent la main froidement, l'enfant part de son côté, le père remonte chez lui ; ils ne se reverront jamais.

Alphonse Daudet  
*Contes choisis : la fantaisie et l'histoire.*

Paris : G. Charpentier, 1882



*A portrait of Alphonse Daudet.*

## Une recette de cuisine : Profiteroles au chocolat



### Ingredients (for 4-6 people)

#### choux pastry

¼ litre water  
100 grammes butter  
150 grammes flour  
4 eggs  
salt

200 grammes of dark chocolate  
vanilla ice cream  
whipped cream

### Preparation

Place the water and butter in a saucepan with a little bit of salt; heat slowly until the butter melts and then bring to a brisk boil.

Remove from heat and add the flour.

Put back on the stove and stir briskly for 5 minutes at a moderate heat so the water in the pastry will evaporate, and until the mixture forms a soft ball and doesn't stick to the sides of the pan.

Remove from the heat and allow it to cool.

Add the eggs one by one, mixing it vigorously until the mixture is smooth and shiny.

Preheat the oven to 220 degrees Celsius (gas mark 6).

On a greased baking tray or one lined with baking paper, use a spoon or a pastry piping pouch to deposit equal amounts of pastry in round mounds leaving plenty of room in between each one.

Beat an egg yolk and brush it on the choux so they will turn golden.

Bake at 220° for about 25 minutes until golden and well puffed up.

Remove from the oven and let it cool .

Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt it in bain-marie/double boiler with some butter.

When the choux are cold, cut the tops off and fill the choux with vanilla ice cream; place them on a plate and top them off with the warm chocolate.

Add a bit of whipped cream.

Yum, yum!  
Bon appétit



*Prepare all the ingredients*

*Add the flour in the saucepan*



*Stir briskly...*

*... until the mixture forms a soft ball*



*Deposit equal amounts of pastry in round mounds*

*And here we are!*



### Ingrédients (pour 4-6 personnes)

#### Pâte à choux

¼ litre d'eau  
100 grammes de beurre  
150 grammes de farine  
4 œufs  
sel

200 grammes de chocolat noir  
glace vanille  
crème chantilly

### Préparation

Mettre l'eau dans une casserole avec le beurre et un peu de sel. Faire fondre le beurre doucement et ensuite faire bouillir. Retirer du feu et ajouter la farine.

Remettre sur le feu et mélanger constamment pendant 5 minutes à feu doux afin de faire dessécher la pâte pour qu'elle forme une masse ferme et ne colle pas à la casserole.

Retirer du feu, laisser refroidir.

Ajouter les œufs un par un en mélangeant jusqu'à que le mélange soit lisse et brillant.

Préchauffer votre four à 220 degrés (N° 6 sur le four à gaz).

Prendre une poche à douille (ou une cuillère) et faire des petits ronds de pâtes sur une plaque beurrée, ou recouverte de papier sulfurisé, sans les serrer.

Mélanger un jaune d'œuf et en badigeonner les choux avec un pinceau pour qu'ils dorent.

Mettre au four et cuire pendant environ 25 minutes à 220 degrés jusqu'à ce que les choux soient dorés et bien durs.

Sortir la plaque du four et laisser refroidir. Casser le chocolat en morceaux et le faire fondre au bain marie avec un peu de beurre.

Quand les choux sont froids, couper la partie supérieure et remplir de glace vanille. Mettre sur une assiette et napper de chocolat chaud.

Ajouter un peu de crème chantilly.

C'est prêt. Miam, miam !  
Bon appétit,

*Vincent Antonioz*



At Le Poiron Bonjour our courses are specifically designed to cover many aspects of French life including language, cultural and social differences.

### **IMPROVING YOUR FRENCH**

We welcome anyone who wishes to improve his or her French language skills and have courses to cater to all levels.

### **MOVING TO FRANCE**

If you are considering a move to France, or have a second or holiday home, we can even provide a course that is particularly suited to you.

Your teacher and hosts are **Françoise** and **Mark Duffell**.  
Their home is the beautiful ' **Le Château du Poiron**' in the department of the **Vendee**.  
You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

### **Included in price:**

Full board en suite accommodation

All lessons, activities and lectures

Information pack

*For further information please contact*

Lorna Ditchburn (UK)

Tel: 01494 529152

or 07742 967775

Email: [Lorna@france4life.co.uk](mailto:Lorna@france4life.co.uk)

Françoise Duffell (FRANCE)

Tel: 0033 251 69 20 27

Or visit our website: [www.france4life.co.uk](http://www.france4life.co.uk)