

## Welcome to the Quercy in the sparkling springtime!

We've finally shaken off the last of the winter clouds and spirits are soaring. All along the grassy banks little darns of lemon yellow have suddenly spread to become huge patches of glorious cowslips. The willows are a delicious lime green, the almonds and wild cherries laden with delicate white blossom.

In the towns and villages café tables have spread onto the pavements, overflowing with people enjoying the first few outdoor lunches of the year, their pale faces raised to the sun, the clink of glasses a fitting celebration.

In the markets the produce has changed completely. Gone are the stalwart cabbages and leeks, elbowed aside by the glamorous drama queens of spring, asparagus and strawberries. The first of the new crop of broad beans has appeared, there are exquisite new peas and potatoes, sprouting broccoli, herbs and a dozen varieties of new spring greens.



In Cahors and Prayssac the old lady who usually sells eggs and prunes is now selling bunches of wild daffodils wrapped in damp newspaper. Totally unnecessary of course, but who can resist a cheery little bouquet peering from the rim of the basket? Not me, I succumb every time. She's placed her stall very cunningly between the man-with-a-van, who sells eggs, chickens, *pintade* and live rabbits, and the wonderful vegetable stall, which is currently overflowing with asparagus.

I saw her eyeing me as I dithered amongst bunches of slender green or fat white shoots. With my fair English hair and hesitant French I stand out, she knows I'm a likely one. As I tiptoed past her on my way to the egg man, she called out,

"*Jonquilles, Madame?*" And held out a neat little handful already wrapped in its damp newspaper. How could I refuse?

Back home on the terrace the table had been laid for lunch. The lemon trees, full of creamy blossom, were scenting the warm breeze and a lizard had crept out to bask in the midday heat. A light bottle of the new rose seemed like a good idea, so we decided to indulge a little. Asparagus fresh from the market and served warm with delicious hollandaise sauce and a baguette from the little village boulangerie, followed by a disc of tangy goats cheese from Rocamadour. We leaned back and lazily surveyed the one wisp of cloud in the thirty-kilometre view.

Could anything be more perfect?



Telephone: 00 33 (0) 565 31 39 57

## What's New on FrenchEntrée-LotandQuercy.com?



### Rescuing Stray Dogs in France

There are three kinds of dogs in France. Firstly there are the upper classes, the pampered and protected pooches, coiffured within an inch of their lives that trot obediently beside their mistresses in the elegant city streets. Then there are their country cousins, farm dogs and family pets living the outdoor, rough and tumble life on vast tracts of agricultural land in and around the little villages and hamlets. But it's the third kind that are probably the most vulnerable... [A waggy dog story](#)



### New Build Houses in the South of France

Many people dream of moving to France, and as a general rule these dreams include derelict stone houses that within the year look like something out of the pages of House and Garden. It does happen of course but not very often.... [A little corner of a foreign field.](#)



### Property Sales in South West France

Rey Immobilier are located in the beautiful hilltop bastide of Lauzerte one of the many "Plus beaux villages" in this region of France. Bilingual mother and daughter team Marie-Helene and Aurelie Franqueville have been helping clients find their dream home in the Lot and Quercy for more than 15 years. We spoke to them recently to get their views on the current state of the property market, who is buying what and for how much.... [Who is buying what.](#)



### Lunch at the Lion d'Or

Spring rains were falling in sheets as we drove up on to the high Causses, north east of Cahors, to the historic little town of Gramat. We'd been invited to lunch at the town's most prestigious hotel and restaurant - The Lion d'Or... [Out to lunch.](#)



### The Wines of the Lot in South West France

In recent years, the vineyards of South West France have benefited, not only from increased consumer awareness, but also from much improved production techniques. Greater dedication on the part of the growers and significant investment in new equipment has been well supported by the banks... [Wines from the Lot.](#)



### Holiday Accommodation - Including on line Availability Chart

Booked your holiday yet? If you are still looking for dates in high season, you need to be quick as many of our properties are already booked for the school holiday period. Find out which properties are still available by checking our [Availability Chart](#), or go straight to the [Holiday Accommodation Pages](#).



### Mardi Gras Carnival in the South of France

Last week, we went to a Carnival in the local village. It was organised by the local *Comité des fêtes* and involved three of the local schools singing and dancing on stage to the accompaniment of the older residents singing in Occitan, an ancient language in the South of France. At the end of the concert we asked what happened next and were told to go outside to see Monsieur Carnaval burn! [The burning of Monsieur Carnaval](#)



### What's New on the Discussion Forum?

Our Forum now has over 300 articles with topics ranging from cheap mortgages to divorce lawyers! Our FREE classified ads section is proving popular as a way of selling of those unwanted items that may be of use to other English speaking people in the region. Read the latest postings on Building and Renovation and find out about the apparently growing number of mobile speed traps... [Discussion Forum.](#)



### Barquettes de Fraises

April in southern France is a gastronomic feast. The markets overflow with the luscious new vegetables and fruits of spring. Foremost amongst these are asparagus and strawberries, the perfect beginning and end to any spring dinner party.... [Strawberry Tarts](#)



### Properties For Sale

Looking for a dream home in the Lot and Quercy? Start your search here for properties in the Lot, Lot et Garonne and Tarn et Garonne regions of France. Across this region the database contains over 250 properties and land for sale. With land prices starting at 15,000 euros and properties from 45,000, a place in the sun could be cheaper than you'd think. [Property for Sale](#)

### Sponsored Links



### Cahors Gourmet Wine Tours with Michael Sanders

Join us for a spectacular week, a luxurious off-the-beaten path experience to learn hands-on about great French wine and food, meeting the families of the vine and their *terroir*. Sumptuous Cahors red wines, local foie gras and other specialties. An intimate week in France's last undiscovered wine region located near Bordeaux in southwest France. [Cahors Wine Tours](#)



### L'Oustal Immobilier in Montaignu de Quercy

Welcome to L'Oustal Immobilier. Trui Seys and her multi lingual team have years of experience of finding people their dream homes in this beautiful region of South West France. They have developed an enviable reputation for providing a professional and friendly service.... [L'Oustal Immobilier](#)



### Decorative Ironwork for Home and Garden

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