

## Salut Mes Amies!

The festive season has arrived! And here in sunny southern France the Quercy has been frozen into a Narnian landscape, enchanting and exceptionally beautiful but wickedly cold. A wardrobe full of fur coats would be a definite asset.

The markets are winding up for Christmas, the geese are already fat and glorious and the Christmas Eve market in Cahors will be the centre of the commercial celebrations this Saturday. Magnificent, be-ribboned birds will be laid out in all their glory. Ducks, guinea fowl, black turkeys and pheasants will all be jostling for position if you don't fancy – or can't accommodate – the traditional bird. But the famous Quercy goose will take pride of place and comes away with all the honours.

In days gone by the traditional Christmas goose used to be sold '*avec foie*' so that the housewife could make the most delicious treat of all. Not any more, you'd be lucky indeed to find buried treasure within your golden goose now.

I bought my *marrons glacés* in Cahors market last week and was cajoled into trying a nip of *aperitif de noix* on the side.



"Strong stuff!" The old boy told me and displayed his lack of formal dentistry as I sneezed in assent. I'm not really used to a strong dose of liqueur in the early morning. I snuffled about for a tissue whilst he tempted me with a splendidly laid out box of dark chocolate *pruneaux d'Agen*. I'm sorry to say I succumbed to those too. My boxes were carefully wrapped in an old copy of *La Depeche* and ceremoniously placed in the bottom of my market bag.

"*Bon appetit et Bonne fetes, Madame.*" He coughed, taking a swig from the aperitif bottle to promote an appropriately festive mood, and thaw his vocal chords. I thanked him and moved away to stock up on the deliciously salty

goats cheeses from the high causses, then spotted a small pile of turnip-tops at the edge of another stall. Delicious, just the thing to toss with Bayonne ham and buttery pasta on a cold night.

I passed the *marron glacés* man as I made my way back through the market, he was well away, that one liberal swig had fully revived his frozen spirits.

"*Joyeux Noel, Madame!*" He bellowed across the cobbles to me. And so say all of us!

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful New Year!

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Email: [editor@frenchentree-lotandquercy.com](mailto:editor@frenchentree-lotandquercy.com)

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 565 31 39 57

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



### Christmas Card from FrenchEntrée-LotandQuercy

Click on the image or the link below to see your Lot and Quercy Christmas Card.

You can use your mouse to make the falling snow change direction.

Festive fun - enjoy! [Christmas Card.](#)



### New Discussion Forum Launched

The Discussion Forum has been completely revised and is now much easier to use and has a lot of extra features. We have a FREE classified ads section and you can upload your own images to include with your messages. Note that existing forum users will need to re-register.

[New Forum.](#)



### Quercy Christmas Mincemeat

This is unashamedly an Anglo-French recipe. Taking all that's wonderful, and quite impossible to give up, from an English Christmas whilst using classic Quercy ingredients. [More...](#)



### Crumbly Orange Pastry

If you've gone to the trouble of making your own mincemeat, you don't want to let the side down by buying the pastry do you? The secret of a good short, pastry is to use a little more butter than you normally would...[More...](#)



### 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. [Property for sale](#)



### Property Buying Guide

Planning a French property purchase? Know what to look out for and how much it's going to cost? Our Property Guide pages are packed with useful information, hints and tips to help you find your "Place in the Sun". [Property Guide](#)



### Food and Drink

Find out all about the fabulous products of the region and try out some of our regional recipes. Did we mention the wine? There is so much to say about the "Black Wine of Cahors" that we had to start a new section of the site to fit it all in! [Food and Drink](#)



### The Black Wine of Cahors

The greatest undiscovered French wine? Older than Bordeaux and with a reputation for darkness and strength it is the only French red wine to harness the power of the Malbec grape.

[Cahors wine](#)



### **Holiday Accommodation**

Now that Christmas is here it's time to start planning for next year's holiday. Forget the dark, cold dreary weather and think about the clear blue skies, colourful markets and leisurely lunches on the terrace. Summer will be along sooner than you think and it's never to soon to book your accommodation. [Holiday Accommodation](#)

### **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](#)



### **Rey Immobilier - Property Sales in the Quercy**

So, you've decided you want to buy – a permanent residence, a holiday home, a DIY project, somewhere you can relax with your friends and family, the dream house you've always wanted. You need look no further than Rey Immobilier to get you started.. [Rey Immobilier](#)



### **Decorative Ironwork for Home and Garden**

Ironwood Motif - using metals alongside the wood, stone and tiles traditionally found in the area to create vibrant living and working environments. Everything from weather vanes to ornate summer houses, beautifully hand crafted.. [Ironwood Motif](#)

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