

Welcome to the Quercy in Glorious June!

We're all recovering from one of the most arduous fetes of the year! Albas Wine Festival is an outstanding event. Six or seven thousand people – according to the Mairie – crammed tightly into one of the smallest and prettiest villages on the river. Naturally we always feel obliged to attend, as we happen to be in the commune of Albas. So - purely in the course of duty - we went along to sample this year's vintages. It happened to be an exceptionally hot day and by six o'clock the narrow road that winds downhill to the little medieval village was shimmering in a heat haze. After payment of our statutory twelve euros and receipt of the little glass engraved with the legend:

'Le bon air est dans les caves'
27th Mai 2006 – Albas

We were free to wander the cobbled streets and imbibe as much as we liked of the nine wines on offer. Now if you happen to be doing this in a truly scholarly sense – as of course I was – it soon becomes a little tricky to distinguish one from another, if you happen to have an empty tummy as well it rapidly becomes rather difficult to walk in a straight line! I reached this point in the cool darkness of cave number six.

These caves are the original cellars of the village houses, hewn out of the very rock on which Albas was built. I found myself leaning against the wall grinning inanely at the Maire. Shortly afterwards I was force fed a Rocamadour sandwich to sober me up.



The Maire of course had been working incredibly hard all day. There had been a vast official luncheon at midday. Anyone can attend, although you have to book well in advance and it isn't cheap, you must also be able to sit through five or six courses without passing out. The Maire, naturally, is forced to do so and one can clearly see he takes his duties very seriously indeed. In the evening there's a second marathon meal, strictly limited to twelve hundred. If you don't feel inclined to partake, there are the goat's cheese and foie gras sandwich stalls – fortunately for me – who do a roaring trade till the early hours. The streets are absolutely thronged from six till after two in the morning. The village brass band gives it all they've got under the

official awning, while several (actually, there were fourteen) more bands throb with ear-splitting rhythm, deep down in the caves. Above the little alleyways and narrow passages intricate paper sculptures – all with a vinous connection – are cunningly suspended.

I tell you, it's quite a party! If you happen to be around next May you should definitely give it a go.

Now that we'd decided on our house wine for the next year I turned my attention to the markets. Every wonderful village market from Souillac to the Mediterranean is laden with cherries, artichokes and melons. Glorious cherries, huge sweet, scarlet orbs that lure you to a bagful just for the sheer pleasure of it. Melons are getting sweeter by the day and the purveyors of Bayonne ham are sharpening their knives in anticipation. However the real bargains are the artichokes, they're so

expensive in England but here I can buy enough to make an elegant entrée for eight people with just a couple of euros. I accosted my favourite stallholder in Cahors. Four immense artichokes, several handfuls of delicate lambs lettuce and some lemony sorrel. Just a couple fromagerie next door and a scoop of violet olives from the man across the



Delicious! Just the dish to accompany our new wine.

© Amanda Lawrence 2006

All rights reserved.

Email: editor@frenchentree-lotandquercy.com

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 565 31 39 57

What's New on FrenchEntrée-LotandQuercy.com?



Our Plot in the Lot - Building a House in the South of France

Bill and Rosalind spent 3 years trying to find their dream home in France. They couldn't find what they wanted and decided to build their own. In the first of a series of articles they describe finding their perfect plot and why they ended up much further south than they first expected.

[The Plotters in the Lot](#)



An American Perspective on Buying a House in the Lot

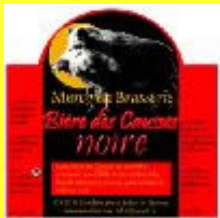
I bought what? Well, we really didn't plan a purchase, but... While we were vacationing in France last year, we decided to act on our previous plans to take a look at a few properties, and one thing led to another... [An American in the Lot.](#)



NEW Lot and Quercy Business Directory

Every day, hundreds of people view our pages searching for houses, holidays, local tradesmen and other service providers. If you have a Lot and Quercy related product or service you can add a basic listing to our Business Directory completely FREE. If you're looking for something, we already have more than 200 local businesses listed..

[Business Directory](#)



Beer Making in the Quercy - The Merchien Brewery Starts Production

Not content with buying their own vineyard in the Quercy, nor with winning medals every year for their Coteaux de Quercy wine, David and Sarah Meakin have teamed up with Stuart Jones and set up their own brewery...

[Beer Making in the Quercy](#)



Advertising with FrenchEntrée - Does it work?

In the increasingly competitive French rental property market, making the right marketing decisions has never been more important and with so many rental property listing sites around with vastly differing prices, it can be very difficult to make a choice. We've been taking a look at some data from two of our advertisers to try to find an answer to the question...

[FrenchEntrée Advertising Statistics.](#)



Les Plus Beaux Villages - The Most Beautiful Villages in the Lot and Quercy

Throughout the Lot and Quercy region there are simply hundreds of charming stone built villages, often perching on a hilltop with magnificent views of the surrounding area. Each village has its own individual character... [Plus Beaux Villages.](#)



Holiday Accommodation - Including on line Availability Chart

Some new properties added this month - and some with availability for this summer, but be quick! Find out which properties are still available by checking our [Availability Chart](#), or go straight to the [Holiday Accommodation Pages](#).



Reclaimed Building Materials in the Lot - A Visit to Quercy Recupe

As I wanted to find some old oak flooring to put in my living room, I paid a visit today to Quercy Recupe to see their reclamation business east of Prayssac at Castel franc. Although John and Ben are always happy to see clients and show them round the yard, I had to make an appointment as they're often out either making deliveries or looking for new stock...

[Reclaimed Building Materials.](#)



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](#)

Featured Rental Properties - Available This Summer!



Beautiful Country House in the Lot Valley near Cahors (sleeps 9 +2)

A beautiful old vigneron's house nestling among vineyards and overlooking the river Lot in the south of France. Set in it's own grounds, with a heated 6 x 12 m pool, it is very private yet within walking distance (2.5Km) of a medieval village with market and all facilities. Full linen and maid service included.... [Beautiful Country House](#)



Superb Country House in the Lot (sleeps 6-14)

La Chave is an attractive, American owned house finished to a very high standard. The main house sleeps six in three bedrooms (plus a double pull out couch) and the converted barn sleeps a further six. The swimming pool (10m x 5m) has beautiful views down and across the valley.

[Superb Country House](#)



Comfortable 2 Bedroom Gite (sleeps 4) - Lot Valley

Les Gardiens - A delightful two bedroom gite set in 17 acres of rolling woodland a couple of minutes drive from Prayssac on the borders of the river Lot. The house is centrally heated throughout and available all year... [Les Gardiens Gite](#)

Sponsored Links



Swimming Pools and Pool Security Systems from Piscine-Plus

Do you want an in-ground swimming pool that looks beautiful, can be installed quickly and doesn't cost the Earth? Piscine-Plus have the answer. A 37 square metre pool, fully installed in two weeks for only 14,150 euros!

[Swimming Pools and Pool Security](#)



Agence Immobilière Quercy Gascogne

Looking for that perfect property in the beautiful Quercy Blanc? A dream stone holiday cottage with stunning views, or a pretty village house or historic Maison de Maitre? Perhaps a fabulous barn conversion or a modern built home? Agence Immobilière Quercy Gascogne - Estate Agents and Property Finders are at your service...

[Quercy Gascogne Estate Agent](#)

MONEYCORP
Commercial Foreign Exchange

www.moneycorp.com

Exchange Rate Comparison - Moneycorp can save you money

Buying euros for your property purchase in France? Save money by using a specialist foreign currency dealer. Moneycorp offers:

- Extremely competitive exchange rates
- No commission charges
- Low transfer fees
- Fast transfer times
- The ability to "fix" an exchange rate for up to two years

[Find out more...](#)

You have received this email because you have subscribed to "Lot and Quercy Life".

To unsubscribe, please follow this link: **[Unsubscribe](#)**