

Welcome to early spring in the Quercy!

It's still a tad chilly here, cold nights and warm afternoons. There are few short-sleeved-shirts, with the strange exception of café waiters who seem to have an internal central heating system! There are fewer still bared shoulders, but there is an almost tangible air of expectancy, because when the warm weather comes to this land, it comes in a rush. Suddenly you're wondering where you put the broly because the terrace isn't yet shaded by the old vine and whether or not to risk sitting outside for lunch if you can't find it. Meanwhile the lemon trees that have spent the winter languishing in various cellars are cautiously re-appearing on terraces and balconies.



The vigneronns are doing the very last of their pruning, a hard days work in backbreaking posture over endless rows of tangled rusty wire, stretching over silent vineyards.



Markets are quiet places too. Cahors is greatly enlivened by the presence of the sax player, but it's not busy. It's too early for the new crop of luscious spring vegetables, so stalls are piled high with vast green and white stacks of the French winter favourite, leeks, supplemented by the last of the winter cabbages. Much heart squeezing goes on with these late season specimens and I had my first lesson in how-to-select-the-firmest-cabbage the other day. My brassica professor, swathed in characteristic navy print and obviously well qualified for the job, was giving an impromptu demonstration for the benefit of her younger pupils when I arrived on the scene.

"If the heart is squidgy there will be less leaves" she was explaining to a tot at her elbow. "*Non, non, non, Madame!*" She admonished me, as I prepared to take my chance. Then pushed up her sleeves and demonstrated, once more, the approved Quercy method for determining value. A fine game of hunt-the-hardest-cabbage ensued, the professor throwing them around with gusto and the stallholder entering into the spirit of things and tossing them back. I emerged triumphant with a fine specimen, paid my euro and turned to the leeks, more than happy with my specially selected greenstuff. Several minutes later as I weaved my way back through the stalls, my basket full of market produce, I noticed my preceptor still hard at it. In the early spring, with vegetables so thin on the ground, choosing a cabbage is a serious business, a very serious business indeed!

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What's New on FrenchEntrée-LotandQuercy.com?



The Property Market in the South of France

This month we feature an interview with an estate agent (Immobilier) from the Lot and Quercy region. Debbie Heeley who works for Immo 46 in Prayssac gives us her opinions on the state of the property market, who is buying what and why now could be the right time to make your move to the sunny south of France.... [An estate agent speaks.](#)



Buying a Dream Home in France - The pleasures and pitfalls

My heart pounded so loudly when we signed the "Compromis de Vente" I thought that everyone could hear it, I was excited, but so scared. We had just signed to say that we were buying our dream home in the small village of Carluçet, 12 kms south of Rocamadour... [Dream Home in France.](#)



Swimming Pool Safety in France - New laws are now in force

The recent changes to French Law mean that all privately owned swimming pools must now have a safety device in place that conforms to AFNOR Standards. The law is enforced by a fine of up to €45,000 and inspectors are checking swimming pools in all regions for the correct installation of alarms and barriers. [Swimming Pool Safety.](#)



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](#).



What's New on the Discussion Forum?

Our FREE classified ads section has a pressure washer, welder and concrete mixer for sale among many other things! Read the latest postings on Building and Renovation and what it takes to pass your Driving Test in France. Find out how you can get involved in the FrenchEntree-LotandQuercy site, and much more... [Discussion Forum.](#)



Winter Weather in the Quercy

As the weather starts to get warmer and bright sunny days make a welcome return, it is easy to forget the snow storm and chaos of less than four weeks ago. The worst snow the Quercy has seen for 20 years! [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. Across this region the database contains over 130 properties ranging from restoration projects at 45,000 euros up to Chateaux at over 1.5 million. [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](#)

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](#)



Chambres d'Hôtes near Cahors - Prayssac in the lot Valley

La Maison Rose is a former Tobacco Farm House over 100 years old and set in the quiet and peaceful hamlet of Niaudon, yet only a short distance from the picturesque market Town of Prayssac. Our comfortable and spacious Traditional French Farm house is set in over 15 acres of pasture and woodlands... [La Maison Rose](#)



Building Land for sale near Montaignu de Quercy

Wouldn't you like to escape from the rat race in the cold north with its cool damp summers and drizzly winters? Thinking of retiring to some glorious sun-drenched corner of Europe to enjoy a little peace and quiet? Why not buy a piece of land in the sunny south and build your own dream home? [Building Land For Sale](#)



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](#)

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