

Welcome to the Quercy - summer is on the way...

Bienvenue to the clear blue skies of the Quercy.

The weather is truly warm here now, meals are taken outside and the more exotic flowers are beginning to make their appearance. The oleanders are full of bud, numerous tamarisk trees drip with dusky pink blossom and on a recent five kilometre ramble I spotted seven different varieties of wild orchid - the Quercy is justly famed for its orchids - and after a copious amount of huffing and puffing and thumping through dusty tomes I eventually managed to identify my prizes. In all the years that I tramped the woods and fields the length and breadth of Sussex, I never found more than two at one time, thrilling.



In the markets the summer vegetables have finally arrived in all their tempting glory. Bunches of purple-pink aillet deceive you into thinking you're buying a bunch of red spring onions, but as the name proclaims it's actually young spring garlic, exquisite in a tomato salad and equally wonderful in a warm new potato salad, try it with olive oil and chopped black olives.

Tiny new courgettes are appearing alongside vast pyramids of damp lettuces, freshly pulled that morning. Pots of basil jostle for position beside the new spring onions, the afore-mentioned aillet and huge armfuls of multi-coloured lilacs. On the other side of the market the Rocamadour cheese stall was doing unusually brisk business, there's

nothing like some fresh goats cheese to accompany these delicious new salads.

A couple of baguettes and a bottle of Coteaux de Quercy from the stall next door and lunch can be served.

I removed myself from the scene before I got too carried away and went to seek refreshment at my favourite little café before they began to serve lunch. I took a chair facing the *place* in order to soak up the atmosphere and watch the world sail past the huge fountains in front of Gambetta's statue.

The restaurants and cafes are in full summer-mode now, tables laid for lunch outside on terraces, pavements and village squares, with menus that reflect the temperatures. The Toulouse sausage and lentil dishes, cassoulets and confits have gone and salads are back. Fish is the other summer favourite, fresh from the Atlantic ports and bought in the markets that morning, whatever happens to be abundant and reasonable.

As I'd just come from the market I could have predicted the *poisson de jour* without giving the menu a passing glance. Meanwhile the aromas issuing from the café kitchens were becoming a bit of a distraction, even more enticing than the market produce and as I watched one of the waiters chalking up the *plat du jour* I wondered whether I could possibly justify staying for lunch.



Sitting outside a café in the sun must surely be one of the greatest pleasures of life in France.

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What's New on FrenchEntrée-LotandQuercy.com?



Spring in Pictures from the Quercy

The spring sunshine has brought in a host of new contributions for our photograph of the month section. There are images of the Wisteria in the Place de Gambetta in Cahors, a painted bicycle to celebrate Pâques and a glimpse of a rare Early Spider Orchid.

[Photographs of the month](#)



Property Hot Spots in the Lot and Quercy

The Quercy has become enormously popular in the last few years, and popularity brings price rises. However it is only in the last five years that we have seen a real increase in the foreign population and the vast majority were retired older couples. The situation is just beginning to change again.... [Town mouse, country mouse.](#)



Key Decisions when Buying a House in France

With a background in international marketing and project management, Alison Hibbard took a carefully planned approach to buying her house in the Lot region four years ago. Here, she offers some useful advice for others embarking on a house hunting adventure and outlines the key decisions that should be analysed in advance to save a lot of time, money and heartache...

[Key decisions.](#)



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. This section of the site has just been expanded to include a complete listing of all of the AOC Cahors wine producers and their contact details (over 200 of them!).

[Cahors Wine](#)



House Purchase in France? Make sure you understand the inheritance laws.

When an English person purchases real estate in France, he worries about what will happen to it after his death. The inheritance law that applies is based on the location of the property. Your French property will therefore be governed by French Law....

[Inheritance laws in France.](#)



Cahors Wine

Cahors features amongst the oldest vineyards in France, dating back to the Gallo Roman era. Much appreciated by the French from early days, the wines rapidly gained an excellent reputation... [The winds of change.](#)



Holiday Accommodation - Including on line Availability Chart

Still a few dates left in high season in our Holiday Accommodation section, but not many! Find out which properties are still available by checking our [Availability Chart](#), or go straight to the

[Holiday Accommodation Pages.](#)



New Finance, Insurance and Legal Section

We are pleased to announce a new section of the Lot and Quercy site dedicated to providing information in these important areas. We receive a huge number of visitors looking for property in the region and have received many requests for advice on insurance, mortgages and currency exchange. This new section provides some of the answers. Don't forget, you can also seek advice by posting questions on our [forum](#). [Find out more...](#)



What's New on the Discussion Forum?

Our Forum now has over 360 articles and more than 100 active users. 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 follow the debate on mobile speed traps... [Discussion Forum.](#)



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



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](#)



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...](#)



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](#)



Hot Air Balloon Flights in the Lot and Quercy

Visiting the Lot and Quercy region this summer?

Planning a surprise gift for the person who has nearly everything?

What about a hot air balloon flight to experience the wonderful landscape of the region from a new perspective?

Flights are available throughout the summer from a variety of launch sites, each within 45 minutes of Cahors.

[Email us for more details](#)

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