



Monthly community newsletter

Highlights of our property purchasing tour of the southwest of France

Day 1: Some caught a little shut eye on the transfer from [Paris](#) leaving them refreshed to explore the touristy [La Rochelle](#) port with its *cafe* lined *quais*, before retiring to our hotel overlooking the historic harbour towers

Day 2: Heading up the coast through the *marais* (meaning 'swamp' - that area in Paris loses some charm knowing this) to another seaside resort of [Les Sables](#) where the guys relaxed at the beach bar while the girls checked out the cobblestone shopping streets, then to go through [our house in Pouzauges](#) before stopping in on the medieval festival at the nearby St Mesmin chateau complete with costumed battles and 12th century gastronomic pastry treats of *darioles et taillis* which whet appetites for the cheese wheel *racquette* at dinner

Day 3: In between visiting Pays de Pouzauges villages, the tour group went through our recently purchased [Le Boupere maison](#) and lunched at the exclusive Chateau Boisniard built in the 15th century by a local knight

Day 4/5: Pouzauges real estate agents showed everyone a wealth of interesting properties, including a lovely home Brit Keith showed a group who were treated to tea afterwards by the elderly owners and many local bargains the *gentile* Renan and other French agents Pierre and Johan had, with the dinner highlight being the Vendee speciality of white beans on toast with lashings of butter and garlic at the Casse Croute restaurant

Day 6: After meeting Bob 'the (UK) builder', the tour moved east to see the impressive four flower villages of Thoras and [Angles sur l'Anglin](#) as well as the spa town of La Roche Posay and the gated walled and formerly moated [Richellieu](#) which turned on the sun that day for the antique markets in the square in front of the hotel

Day 7: Poitou-Charentes real estate agents American Emer and Englishman Richard took the tour group through a range of properties with a number under \$100,000 AUD but one special property captivated everyone being a bourgeois mansion with an impressive *cave* which had its own escape tunnel to the back street - at only 250,000 euro it would have been a nice trip souvenir! *For more photos of our tour, [click here](#)*



Upcoming events

[Bastille Day Grand Dinner Ball](#) in Brisbane on 12 July

[Sydney property purchasing workshop](#) on Sat 16 August

Next France tour June 2009 - details to be released soon

We enjoyed taking people round to introduce them to our houses, region and contacts. It seems though that our tour group had a good time too with feedback such as 'I really enjoyed it - brilliantly put together, well thought out and very well organised'. As well as enjoying themselves, everyone learnt a bit more about French property with one person so far having purchased a property, the process for which seems to be going well so far.

For our next tour, we are looking to take people around [our new place in Provence](#) which at least one of the people we took on our recent tour was in favour of: 'Great idea going to Provence - I want to go on that one too!'

In July 2008 the *Tour de France* celebrates its 95th year and passes through the regions we have properties in

Le Tour de France is the most prestigious bike race in the world. Running from 5 to 27 July 2008, the 95th *Tour* is made up of 21 stages and covers a total distance of 3,500 km. It starts in Brittany in Brest and finishes, as usual, in [Paris](#) riding up the [Champs Elysees](#). While the *Tour* last year took a detour through London, this year it ventures briefly into Italy. Next year, the *Tour* starts in the principality of Monaco.



This year *Le Tour* passes through both our regions of Pays de Loire and Vaucluse in Provence. The race is running only 20 minutes away from our town of [Pouzauges](#) on 7 July and less than 20km away from [our new place in Isle sur la Sorgue](#) on 19 July. In addition, our recent tour of southwest France went through many of the same towns the *Tour* will be going through including Preuilly-sur-Claise, Thouars, Loudun, [Richellieu](#) - *bonne route!*

For full details of the tour go to [www.letour.fr](#) and for live TV coverage during the event go to [www.sbs.com.au](#)

CD review: Australian singer Tina Arena's recently released French album '7 vies' (7 lives)

7 vies is Tina Arena's second entirely French album. It debuted on the French album chart at no. 12, her highest debut position to date. She is now one of only five non-French artists to achieve album sales in excess of 1M in France which was aided by her debut album '*Un Autre Univers*' going platinum. The first single released off her new album, '*Entends-tu le monde?*'/Do you hear the world? reached no. 10 on the French singles chart making it her sixth top 10 single in France. The video of this single was shot in and around Sydney, her hometown. Tina has lived in Europe for the past 10 years with her French partner and now their two year old son. This album has the strong voice and melody qualities you expect from Tina but even more enhanced by being sung in French.



Crème caramel - custard dessert with caramel sauce



1 ¾ cup sugar, 1/3 cup water, 5 eggs, 3 cups milk, teas vanilla, pinch salt

Slowly heat a cup of sugar with water until dissolved, then raise the heat until caramel colour. Pour the caramel into 8 ramekins. In a bowl, whisk the eggs, sugar and salt. Bring the milk to a gentle simmer, add the vanilla and pour it over the egg mix then whisk. Pour into the ramekins. Put the ramekins in a water bath then bake at 160 deg for 50 min. Allow to cool then run a knife round the top of each before turning upside-down to release sauce.



Interesting facts about France

- Nîmes in the Languedoc-Rousillon region is the birthplace of jeans - denim is short for 'de Nimes'
- French was the official language of England for over 300 years up until around the 15th century
- France produces more nuclear electricity than Germany, Spain, Russia and the UK combined
- When Dom Perignon and his Benedictine monks first stumbled on champagne, they tried to work out ways to get rid of them until they had a sip then kept them