



Just France

Entering the French Adventure

When it comes to lodgings, LA BELLE FRANCE readers can satisfy many of their vacation dreams in our pages. Perhaps they're trying to find that out-of-the-way Montparnasse hotel — the one next to all of the artists' studios. Perhaps they're dreaming of a Right Bank palace with champagne and three-star room service. Maybe they long for a tiny country inn near Chenonceaux.



Les Hauts des Chênes in the Luberon

Other readers have called us with more ambitious French housing fantasies. They want to lease a Left Bank apartment where they can set up their own easel. They want to hit the out-

door markets at dawn and whip up their own French room service. They want to invite twenty friends to an anniversary party in their own castle in the Loire . . .

Finding rental properties is a specialized field. LA BELLE FRANCE is delighted to refer you to **Just France** — based in Berwyn, Pennsylvania — which has that expertise. We hope that this supplement will help our readers who want to take that short-term plunge into French real estate. **Just France** has been helping match American

Francophiles with the *right* Right Bank pied-à-terre (or the 'perfect' Provençal mas) for fourteen years. When it comes to handing you a set of French keys, we think these are very safe hands.



On the Ile Saint Louis . . .

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sleek travertine floors, an immense wood-and-stone master bathroom, a separate studio apartment with its own bath, and two private terraces.

Traditional travelers can satisfy their *Renaissance* cravings — carved fireplaces, wood beams, stone walls — on the Ile Saint Louis. This two-bedroom, two-bath duplex has an open-plan kitchen filled with copper pots (and tastefully concealed modern appliances).





A chateau by the Loire

There is no need to worry about air-conditioning . . . it's done the old-fashioned way: one of the bedrooms and sitting rooms is nestled into the vaulted cellar.

Provincial properties include a twelve-bedroom castle in the Loire Valley, and a five-bedroom, 18th-century (air-conditioned!) *Côtes-du-Rhône* farmhouse outside Avignon with a private

swimming pool (heated or unheated . . . as you like it) and a flagstone sundeck surrounded by fragrant lavender and rosemary bushes.

One of **Just France's** trump cards is its direct relationship with the full-time owners of these French properties. Instead of processing rentals through a middle-man agency (which raises prices and increases the confusion factor), **Just France** keeps all of its information on a regularly updated website. **Just France** can also arrange for a full- or part-time cooking/cleaning staff.

Even though renting a French dream house is a fantasy, **Just France** is keenly aware of the practical pitfalls. French appliances — even in luxury apartments — have their own mystique. While most properties have state-of-the-art appliances, should yours have one of those Gallic washing machines (three hours for hot-wash cycle!), the U.S. staff provides advance advice on how to deal with these devices. And each property has its own French-based caretaker who will change that Edison-era two-pronged light bulb in the chandelier.

In other words, the surprises should all be pleasant: sipping chilled white wine as you grill fresh-caught *rouget* on the pine-shaded Provençal patio; watching the sun rise from your Dordogne kitchen windows while you prepare the *café au lait*. Maybe even waiting for your underwear to be sufficiently boiled in the washing machine will take on a poignant, Proustian charm.

We wish you best of luck with your French rental experience and hope that **Just France** will have the right home for you.



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A farmhouse near Beaumes-de-Venise