

Travels with Anzie – Bits & Pieces – Southern France

April 2022

Men's Pants

I remember way back in the 60's, the time of the Beatles, when the "Stovepipe" style of men's pants became all the rage: skinny pantlegs. Well, they're back, at least here in France. What a coup for the makers of men's pants: they use less material, and charge more.

I sure don't like them. It's way tougher to don and doff your pants. Plus, I don't know about you, but I like a more relaxed fit. Maybe it's my age.

Here's a photo taken of the display window of a local haberdashery here in Pezenas.



Church Steeples

Many steeples in So. France are decorative, wrought iron structures, like the one below.



Why, one would ask? Depends on who you ask. Some say it's cost: metal vs. stone. Others say it's the winds. Yes the winds can be notoriously strong here in the South. So much so that they have names: Mistral, Marin, Tramontane, Cers.. Even the Sirocco blows in from North Africa. How strong are they? Up to 70-80 mph. Is this strong enough to blow down a church steeple?

Where we'll be next year



One of the above will be our apt. next year. Located in the seaport town of Meze, it overlooks the Mediterranean. And, yes, there's a restaurant attached.

The Election

Macron beat Le Pen. It was an interesting process. Our landlords, Paul-Marie and Eric left three weeks ago for Paris, where they are still registered to vote, even though they have lived here in Pezenas for many years. They have a lot of family in Paris. At any rate there was a Primary in which there were twelve candidates. Two weeks later the final vote took place for the two winning candidates from the Primary – Macron and Le Pen.

How did everyone feel about the result? Again, it depends on who you ask. Paul-Marie and Eric were very happy. Whereas friend Roger responded, "It was a choice between the Plague and cholera."

French Nun Becomes World's Oldest Person

Sister Andre, who recently celebrated her 118th, became the world's oldest person after a Japanese woman died at age 119. Sister Andre said she was worried that she had been "forgotten by God".

French Burial Customs

We have visited several churches in France. They are beautiful and inspiring. We recently came upon an ancient church in the very small village of Cezenas, within ten kms of our home. This church is surrounded by a cemetery. What's unique about it is that each family has a primary crypt inscribed with the family name. On top and on all sides of the crypt are plaques that are inscribed like "sympathy cards" by a member of the family or a friend, or even a neighbor.



Your responsibility for dog poop



The town of Gourdon Is making a brave attempt to clean up dog poop on their streets. Here's a translation of their poster:

“ If your dog will not collect his poop by himself ... It's up to you to do it and to be civil for us all. In order to clean up what you dog has left it requires:

10 days of rain

35 crossings of a baby stroller

17 distracted passers-by

4 children chasing a ball

In case of non-respect, the fine is 135 euros.”

My question is: How did they train that dog to do that?

French Tobacco

This area of the Dordogne used to be the tobacco-raising capital of France. Back in my smoking days in the 60's the popular brands were Gauloise and Gitanes. According to the popular belief at the time, French “brown” tobacco was sooo much better for your health than our Virginia “blonde” tobacco. Of course, these cigarettes were non-filtered. Although we see more smokers here than in the U.S., tobacco farms are now virtually non-existent. The only remnants we see are old tobacco barns with their side ventilation panels. The fields are now used for growing grains.



That's all for now.

We love ya!

Chuck & Anzie