

Les aventures de Serge



Our resident snail is *en vacances* – do you know where he is?



WIN!

A signed copy of Oz Clarke Bordeaux and two bottles of Bordeaux wine

OZ CLARKE Bordeaux
GOOD FOOD WOULD CHOOSE BORDEAUX

If you know the tourist attraction that Serge is visiting, send the answer, plus your name and address, to editorial@francemag.com or write us a postcard (address on page 6) and you could win a signed copy of Oz Clarke Bordeaux (Pavilion, £25), a guide to the wine region, plus two bottles of Bordeaux wine (worth £25 in total) courtesy of Bordeaux Wines. The deadline is 5 February 2014.

The winner of the December competition is Danni Preece, from Reading, Berkshire, who correctly identified the town of Vaison-la-Romaine.



Southern charm

The Hérault *département* in Languedoc-Roussillon is sunny for much of the year and is the place to go for a dose of vitamin D after the dark winter months. The charming market town of Pézenas, 20 minutes inland from the Mediterranean coast, makes a delightful base for exploring the area. Steeped in history, the location is best discovered on foot as you stroll through the old town to find the arts and crafts heritage that continues to thrive in the *ateliers* lining the narrow streets. There are plenty of accommodation options, including Villa Ava (pictured), a modern four-bedroom holiday property just a few minutes' walk from the town centre. The property has a contemporary design and can sleep up to eight. It also has a 15-metre pool that's perfect for soaking up the sun or enjoying an alfresco aperitif after a day's sightseeing. Prices from €2,500 per week in the low season. Search for property HE070A on the website for more details. Tel: 0207 060 5414, www.southfrancevillas.com

An English education – in Paris



The British School of Paris is celebrating its diamond anniversary in 2014. Here its director of development, Alasdair Akass, explains its history. Founded by Mary Cosyn, who served undercover with Allied forces in occupied France during World War II, the British School of Paris began in 1954 with a handful of children on picnic rugs in the Champs de Mars next to the Eiffel Tower.

It is now situated on a campus, which combines a 19th-century manor house and a purpose-built junior school, on the river bank in Croissy-sur-Seine. The town, on the western outskirts of Paris, has strong links with Impressionist artists and the school is close to the spot where Claude Monet painted *Bain à la Grenouillère*.

The educational programme is based on the National Curriculum for England and Wales and there are nearly 800 pupils (from nursery through to university entrance) from more than 55 countries. Alumni include the author Yann Martel, who won the Man Booker Prize in 2002 for his novel *Life of Pi*, and Jochen Paesen, creative director of the BMW automobile company.

It is the tradition for British Ambassadors to France to serve as honorary patrons to the school. In 2013, the current incumbent, Sir Peter Ricketts, helped to organise a visit to the school by the Countess of Wessex (pictured) and to arrange for flag-waving pupils to welcome the Duchess of Cornwall to Paris on her first solo foreign tour.



The school has organised a range of events for its anniversary year, including *Around the World Day* – a celebration of the cultural diversity – on 14 March and a concert by its young musicians on 2 April. A commemorative diary for 2014, full of images from the school archive, has also been produced. Tel: (Fr) 1 78 64 70 04, www.britishschool.fr