**Bonne Annee 2014 from Jane from Zeste French Tours.**

2013 was quite a year! After the Warrandyte Pottery Expo in February, where we welcomed 7 French Potters as our guests and spent a very French few weeks with them, a group of 8 Australian Potters were invited as guests of the biannual Dieulefit Potters Market to exhibit and give demonstrations in May. We were welcomed by local potters and friends Maryse Tavernier and Claude Wolf for a week in the Drome region, where we explored and enjoyed the hospitality of many in this gorgeous part of the world. From there I met up with the first group for the year in Avignon for the tour to the Camargue.

**Dieulefit Potters Market May 2013**



Chris Pittard at Dieulefit At my stand at the potters market

Bridget Bodenham and Angela Nagel Mary Lou and Chris Pittard

with Claude Wolfe

Angela Nagel and Judy Pierce Rob Barron demonstrating

More information from [www.zestefrenchtours.com](http://www.zestefrenchtours.com)

Jane at jane@zestefrenchtours.com or 0422942216

**The Camargue 24 May – 7 June 2013**

However it was not only the Camargue. We spent the first few days in Usez, a duchy full of history and magnificent buildings, lively with colourful markets and music in the streets. It is not far from St Quentin la Poterie, where the original tiles for the Popes Palace in Avignon were made, now a maze of winding streets and laneways of contemporary ceramic artists. We followed the Roman route to the Pont du Gard, Nimes and Arles before staying at Aigues Mortes in the heart of the Camargue, famed for its pink flamingoes, white horses and black bulls. Onwards to Sete a town of boats, seafood and waterways before a very favourite place to stay for a while, Collioure. No wonder the impressionists and fauvists painted here. Our hotel was right on the beach- our balconies looked out over the beautiful bay to the chateau and fortress on the other side, with the twinkling lights of the bars and restaurants in the evening.

Just over the mountain is Spain, so a trip to the Dali Museum in Figueres was a fascinating adventure. Then through the mountains of the Cathars and Templars to explore ancient chateaux and fortresses on the way to a few days at Carcassonne. Our chambre d’hote was in easy walking distance to both the chateau and the old city, so we were able to explore both. Then finally back to Avignon.

Avignon, the Popes Palace The Pont du Gard

Usez market 

St Quentin la Poterie serenaded at Usez



Lunch at Nimes Roman Arena at Arles



Breakfast at Aigues Mortes Rounding up the bulls in the Camargue



Jazz Manouche at les Stes Maries de la Mer Flamingoes in the Camargue

Sete

**Collioure**



Collioure:



From the balcony at Collioure Dali Museum, Figueres, Spain



Mountains near Limoux



Carcassonne

I can’t wait to go back to this stunning part of the world in June 2015.

I will be taking a tour 6-20 June 2015, beginning and ending in Avignon $3,900.

**The Language Tour 12 -26 June 2013**

Practising our French for 2 weeks in rural France seemed to involve quite a lot of eating and drinking! It would start by discussing how to make apricot jam over the breakfast table to the history of a chateau dating from 12th Century including members of its family having fought in both the Crusades and the Resistance. We would have dinner with French friends, a party one night with the French potters, long summer lunches, chatting at Provencal markets and visiting artists in their studios. We learnt colloquial phrases, local slang and used everyday French in everyday settings. We would check vocab and grammar to explain language choices, but conversation was the focus. And it was so much fun.



Party time with the Fench potters St Antoine L’Abbaye



Pont en Royans Chateau Virieu





chez Maryse Tavernier and Claude Wolfe At Cassis

at Chateau La Coste restaurant and sculpture park

At La Coste Apt market



Our chambre d’hote at Saignon

Drinks at Lacoste in the Luberon At Roussillon

Roussillon with Olivia Tregaut at Oppede le Vieux

Lunch at La Pyramide in Vienne

Last night in Lyon Drinks at the Forum in Vienne

The Language tour took us through the Rhone Alpes, the Drome and Provence.

I will be taking this tour again next year 30 May – 12 June 2014 and again 20 May -3 June 2015. The tour from Lyon to Lyon is $3,900.

**The** Music Tour 29 June – 13 July 2013

Just a small group for the music tour this time, we packed so much in and could be flexible. We picked the 7 concerts we wanted to see from the 15 nights available and travelled to the Drome and Provence, around those dates. Fabulous weather, wonderful times.

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Hugh Coltman at the Facteur Cheval at Jazz at Vienne  
 

Marcus Miller at Jazz at Vienne driving through theDrome



Mirmande Chateau Grignan

Lavender near Taulignan in the Drome



Our gite with Bernard



Jazz at Vienne at le Facteur Cheval



Cecile McLorin Savant in the Gallo Roman museum

Outside the forum at Vienne Ben Harper



Robert Cray at Cassis



At Cassis



Cassis by night on the boat in the Calanques

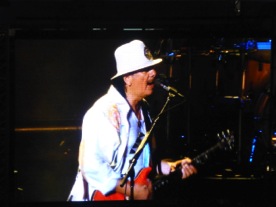
lunch at the beach at Cassis the lavender plateau of Valensole



Roussillon Roussillon market



Roussillon A swim before seeing Santana

Santana Youn Sun Nah



A standing ovation for Youn Sun Nah lunch at la Pyramide, Vienne



Favourite potters in Provence Gordes

The Tour de France arrives in Lyon Place des Terreaux, Lyon

La Fourviere, Lyon Bastille Day Fireworks in Lyon