

RealFrance Newsletter - Xmas 2010

Greetings,

It seems not so long ago that we entered the new millennium. And now, 2010 is almost past and gone. I'm still enjoying taking Kiwi's every year to discover my beloved Aquitaine. It seemed for this year that Troubadour Travel had become a real family business, with my husband working with me on the first two tours and my daughter on the third. Each of the boutique tours, two to Aquitaine and one to Morocco developed their own special flavour. I hope that these pix will give you a taste...

In **Morocco** after visiting Marrakech & Essaouira with a small and fit group we explored the secluded **M'goun Valley** in the **Atlas Mountains**.



The fertile river plain sandwiched between high ranges is the rugged home to the Berber people who still work and live off the land as they have done for millennia.



A welcoming people who took every opportunity to share their "joie de vive"...



The building of the Women's Health and Education Center which our travellers are helping to finance is making good progress.

In the beautiful months of June and September two tours took Kiwi groups through a discovery of **Aquitaine**.



Under a brooding mountain sky a friendly "Pottok" (endangered native horse of the Pyrenees) comes to greet us.



During the St.Emilion 'taste trail' hilarity takes over the kitchen when trying to replicate the French chef's directions.



In Julian's typical Basque dining room we share photos and histories of farming and of the mountains, of lives lived on opposite sides of the world. And yes...we have shared the same dreams.

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits.

Season's greeting and best wishes for the coming year.

Amitiés, Solange.



Visiting windmills in St.Emilion/Montagne

photo Di Martin

“Exploring the St. Emilion area & then the Dordogne was fascinating & fun - made all the more so by meeting & spending time with your friends in their homes adding an extra dimension & enjoyment to the trip -- all lovely people. The scenery, the beautiful towns & unusual places we visited with you were a joy - to say nothing of the figs, cheese, wines & other calorie-rich goodies that you endlessly provided! Thankyou for looking after us so well & getting us to all those places you had promised. We thought you were both extraordinarily adaptable & put up with us very well!”

-Marg and Barrie, Sept 2010

“What lovely memories of my truly French Experience---particularly special because of visiting so many of the homes and families of your friends...”

-Lorraine , Sept 2010

Tour options with RealFrance in 2011

Troubadour Travel continues to run tours for lovers of Real France with its “Classic” tours and is introducing for 2011 a slightly shorter economy tour.

Aquitaine “Classic” – June and September - 14 days, starting Bordeaux and finishing at St. Jean de Luz. Bordeaux, Dordogne, St Emilion, Pays Basque... Available June 11th -24th or Sept 3rd -16th.

Price NZ\$ 7980 per person.

Aquitaine New Economy Tour – July - 12 days, starting St Jean de Luz 1st July and finishing St. Bordeaux 12 July. Pays Basque, Dordogne, St Emilion, Bordeaux..

Price NZ\$ 5490 per person.

Morocco Trekking Tour - Tours to Morocco and the Atlas Mountains are still available for 2011 - Dates and pricing for groups by negotiation only. Contact Solange for tours tailored to your needs...

Call Solange Now on (09)43 43 314 or email solange@realfrance.co.nz

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