

## Vacances Provençales Vacations

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### New Houses

We are always adding new properties to our long-standing list of houses.

Call us to find your dream vacation home.

Toll-free:  
1-800-263-7152

Look for our next newsletter where exciting destinations will be featured. If you cannot wait please call us at:  
1-800-263-7152 and talk with one of our experienced staff, or visit our web site at:  
[www.europeanhome rentals.com](http://www.europeanhome rentals.com)

## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

It all started with my eldest brother wanting to take a 'food' trip. Since spending the last few holidays on his BMW touring motorcycle, he was getting very tired of North American truck stop food, and was hungering for things decadent such as foie gras, confit de canard and some of the best wines in the world. These delights were holding a very strong allure to my gastronomically starved brother, so obviously France was our chosen destination.



Now began the discussions! By now the party had swelled to eleven people, including brothers, sisters, and nieces! Now to find a place large enough for eleven with more than one bathroom! I contacted Vacances Provençales and they suggested Mas de la Treille – a beautiful 7 bedroom house with 5 bathrooms, a wonderful courtyard, a large swimming pool and surrounded by vineyards! It was exactly what we were looking for and it just happened to be available the three weeks in July we were interested in. We decided to take it.

We flew to Marseille, picked up three vehicles through the Renault leasing plan, and made the hour and a half drive to our 'home away from home'. The house



exceeded our expectations! It was very clean, well appointed and spacious. Now we just needed to figure out how to spend our days. This proved to be no problem at all, as we found the location ideal for visiting the many sites and tastes of the Languedoc Rousillon region of southeast France. We



were twenty minutes from Avignon, with Arles, Nimes, Orange, Pont du Gard, Chateaufort de Pape and the Mediterranean Coast all within easy driving distance.



Some days were spent on trips to towns and wineries – others were filled with shopping for local produce and meats for the meal of the day and still others were saved for lounging by the pool.

As it turned out, three weeks was not enough time to explore all that this beautiful region of France has to offer but we sure gave it a try.

Luckily my eldest brother decided to purchase that BMW bike.....

Peter Ryan

Pictures, top to bottom, l-r:

p.1 Douro River/Porto; Montanhas Town

p.2 Sicilian Coastline; Taormina Amphitheatre; Isola Bella; Sicilian Balcony/View

p.3 Eiffel Tower; Rodin Thinker; Arc de Triomphe

p.4 French Market; Mas de la Treille; Staff; Pont du Gard; Mas de la Treille Vineyard



1-800-263-7152 France Italy U.K. Ireland Portugal Spain Turkey Barging

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www.europeanhome rentals.com

**Services we offer:**

- Country and city **homes and villas** in France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, The UK, Ireland, Malta and Turkey
- **Apartments** in Paris, the Cote d'Azur, Aquitaine, London, Rome, Florence, Siena and Venice
- **Car** leasing and rentals in Europe
- **Rail** reservations
- **Barging** in France, UK, Ireland for 1 to 12 persons
- **Cooking schools** in France, Italy and on barge trips
- **Golf** holidays in France
- Health and trip interruption **insurance**

Our **experienced specialists** will be happy to help you plan your vacation.



**Sicilia**

Arriving in Castelmola...  
p.2

**Paris**

It has been said that...  
p.3

**A Home Away**

It all started with...  
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**About Us**

We are now into our eighteenth year of serving you, our clients. During the past three years, we have upgraded our internet site and have compiled a comprehensive file of pictures, descriptions and personal experiences that we are able to send by email, to help you with your rental decisions.

To meet our clients' needs, we have expanded our listings of homes in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey, added to our apartments in Paris, London and Rome and we now offer Sicily and Malta as new destinations for winter travel.

Through the following articles, we hope to share our experiences of some of the areas we are passionate about. We hope you enjoy reading them.

**Sale**

We have, for the remainder of 2003 season, a discount on a wide range of rental villas in the Tuscan and Umbrian regions of Italy. These rentals range from simple apartments in converted farmhouses to luxury villas with a large number of amenities such as en-suite bathrooms and large terraces ideal for 'al fresco' dinning. For more information on these properties please contact Vacances Provençales at 1-800-263-7152.

**Northern Portugal**  
an undiscovered land

Rolling hills, sandy beaches, vineyards, stone terracotta villages and churches, make up Costa Verde and Montanhas, the two Northern regions of Portugal, an area that is completely undiscovered by the North American traveler.

Porto is known worldwide as the manufacturer and exporter of Port Wine. The city is divided by the Rio Douro. On the northern bank is the historic center of Porto; on the southern, the "newer" quarter, is where the port-wine houses and docks are located. There are many attractions to see in Porto. A tour and tasting in the cellars of the port-wine houses tops the list, with the fish restaurants on the waterfront in the historic center running a close second.

The Douro Valley, directly east of Porto, is one of Portugal's scenic highlights, with expansive panoramas stretching from the city of Porto all the way to the Spanish

border. In the upper reaches, port-wine vineyards wrap around every crew-cut hillside, interrupted only by the occasional manor house. You can visit many of the producers for tastings and tours of their wineries.

**Vacances Provençales has a selection of homes** in Northern Portugal, so come explore the beauty of the countryside, the quality of the wines and generosity of spirit that this region has to offer you.



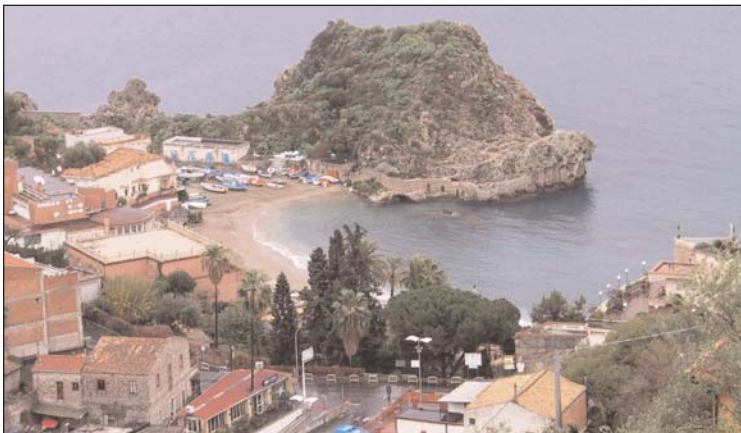
## La mia avventura in Sicilia

Arriving in Castelmola with only the full moon as my witness, I stopped long enough to pick up the loaf of bread the baker promised would be hanging from the olive tree. Finally on my terrace under the laurel tree, I sat, savouring my freedom, the fragrant bread and some aromatic local wine, all enhanced by red moonlight over the distant Ionian Sea, a sultry African breeze, and the pungent smell of jasmine. I relaxed....



Next morning, I woke to shouting. “Cardo, “Cardoooooh” Then, “Vengo vengo...aspettami Angelo!” from Riccardo, who appeared on the terrace below in his housecoat. Riccardo is my friend, host, storyteller extraordinaire, and owner of this lovely apartment, which is **one of Vacances Provençales rentals in Sicily**. Angelo is the fish vendor. Riccardo returned carrying a moving bag. We exchanged greetings, and he invited me down for caffè to catch up on news.

That was my first 12 hours on the mountainside outside Taormina! Needless to say, I fell in love... again. I have always loved everything about Italy. However, I have only recently discovered Sicily, and have been thrilled by her wonderful simplicity, diverse culture, and generosity, both of the island, as well as its inhabitants:



Mornings, I attempted to catch the bus into town. Suddenly, people would appear at the bus stop and conversation would inevitably start, which usually resulted in my getting a ride with a

friend of a friend. The one time I actually took the bus, the bus driver didn't charge me full price.... it was “troppo caldo”.

Taormina is charming, even with summer crowds. I headed towards the Teatro Greco via the main street, which hides glimpses of small cobblestone streets full of flower baskets and ceramics. The theatre is truly magnificent with its panoramic view of Etna and the sea. I got lost in history.



I took the gondola or 'funivia' to one of the many beaches for a daily swim in the crystal clear water. I recommend the opera singing boat driver to the blue grotto. What a voice! On Wednesdays I hit the local market and picked up some beautiful lace and tablecloths. I also took in the huge daily market in Catania, about an hour by bus. Other days were spent reading under the lemon trees, sipping cappuccino, talking to strangers or strolling, admiring the various antiquities Taormina has to offer.

Evenings were spent either at a local restaurant, serenaded by folk music, or at Riccardo's home, watching him prepare something delicious from the freshest of produce.



Nights were not complete without a 'vespa' ride into town. A seat at the Mokambo café in 'pole position' is the best place to sip a cocktail, and watch people go by... ah, che vita!!

Lynn Feagan-Marziale

## PARIS

### a magical city, at anytime of the year

It has been said that Paris, a series of delightful and rewarding explorations, is wonderful at any time of the year. It has everything – theatre, cinema, exhibits, restaurants...



Paris is the perfect introduction, or the grand finale to your France experience. It is magnificent on its own. Whatever you choose, spend as much time as you can in this fascinating city. Whether it is your first time or you are a returning visitor, you will find a city that is exciting and always changing. One can enjoy the many beautiful buildings, the museums, the theatres, strolls along the avenues, parks and gardens, or explore the culinary delights offered in the many cafes and bistros.

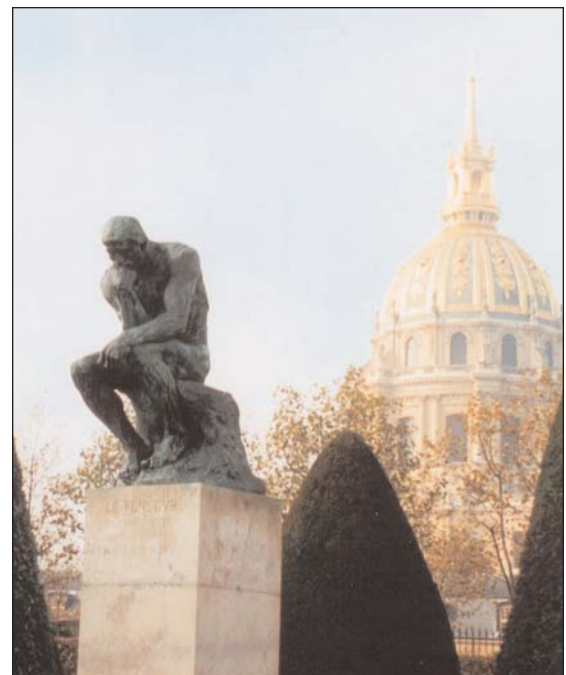


Paris is the ultimate pedestrian city, one that people love to walk through. Every boulevard and park beckons the walker or cyclist. It is built on a human scale, which gives it continuity and a cohesiveness that knits the city together. Paris is always changing.

When you return to areas you think you know, you find that while they haven't transformed materially, they do have a different feel about them. This is what makes the city exciting and why people love walking through Paris. Try walking the Champs-Élysées starting at the Arc de Triomphe to the Jardin des Tuileries and experience the entire history of

Paris unfold before you. Trace the steps of Toulouse-Lautrec in Montmartre or discover the secret life of the Marais.

There are so many options, one can spend days and months seeing new and different things.



Even the shopping is unique; for what you find in Paris, you won't find anywhere else. Foodstuffs have long been a good value, but other products that enhance that sense of well-being, or "bien être", are well-made clothes and divine accessories that are found in the numerous shops.

Festivals happen year round, so check with Paris' main tourist office located on the Champs-Élysées for the best source of information on the city's museums, concerts, festivals, exhibitions and the like.

Make sure you save a little time to live the Parisian style of enjoying good food, good wine and good atmosphere at one of the city's numerous bistros, brasseries and restaurants.

Paris is a very special city with a unique flavour and feel, which will have a lasting impression on you.

**Vacances Provençales has numerous apartments in each of Paris' 20 arrondissements (districts) to choose from, all within steps to major sites and the metro.**