



La gare de Sos
47170
Sainte Maure de Peyriac
France

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Lee & Tracey "Green for Go France" Newsletter



A different bit of news from la gare de Sos for August - drumroll please....We had VISITORS!!!! So, no reports of jobs done, (except one family bonding session - read on), just lots of socialising, copious eating & drinking, a bit of cycling here & there, walks up to village, visits to vineyards, plenty of swimming, nights of Monopoly & star gazing, BBQs and croissant breakfasts *à la platform* - lovely!

All in all, after a year of navigating family relationships on screens, what a feeling of joy to actually hug & talk face to face, to laugh together and just be around family & friends again. It has felt like some sort of recovery. We are so sad that some couldn't make their planned trips - the Covid quarantine at the start of the holiday season made it impossible for ordinary folk that have to work to plan a trip abroad. We are really looking forward to those reunions in 2022 - they will be special.

Our first friends to arrive on 1st August, Nic & Ralph from Shropshire, flew into little Bergerac airport from East Midlands without any hiccups or Covid paperwork issues, picked up the hire car & were with us for Sunday lunchtime. Lee recollected his last visit to Bergerac Airport, well over a decade ago, when the carpark was just a field and the terminal a tin hut - it now boasts two small car parks with tarmac and a café with a viewing area. We would recommend Bergerac - very small & friendly - you can't go wrong - you step out of arrivals, hire car companies are on the left and the pick-up carpark is over the road. Currently, Ryanair and British Airways fly into Bergerac from the UK until October, Jet2 until late-September. The picture right is Nic & Tracey arriving at the town of Condom after about 10 miles cycling on the peaceful Voie-Verte cycleway from Lagraulet. Probably worth pointing out that there is no connection with this old medieval town & the contraceptive device but a grinning photo by the sign is, of course, mandatory!



We took our friends out and about locally, to get a flavour of the region which has to include wine tasting. We currently have Domaine de Chiroulet as our favourite vineyard visit. This family have been raising grapes since 1893 and they make some fabulously quaffable wines and special Armagnac. You'll receive a warm welcome if you go tasting here and get the opportunity to practise your French. (*Like Tracey trying to explain why 1982 was a special year to Aston Villa fans without success*)

Tracey & Lee pictured with the head of the Fezas family





Weeks two & three in August were spent catching up with family. With the family spread a bit around the world and Covid restrictions in the UK, it was great to be able to use la gare as a meeting place - Harry flew in from Norway to bake delicious Norwegain Kanelboller for us all - that's warm cinnamon buns, which I can memory smell as I type - Merci Beaucoup Harry. We can't persuade him to train as a baker sadly.

Above, a days work hedge trimming - all the nephews helping Lee with the hornbeam hedges & having great fun on the John Deere gator and then a bbq under the new abri.



The last week of August brought Tracey's sister to la gare to relax & re-charge those batteries - assisted by another wine tasting sess. Another lovely week to bring us to the end of August. The Sos Summer night markets were brilliant this year - only double vaccinated allowed entry, with music, great food stalls and chilled rosé wine for 6 euros a bottle - there's Ralph, pictured right, eating his Escargots - personally, we just can't fancy them ourselves - "*Chapeau Ralph*"!!



Thanks for reading, stay protected and we look forward to more visits in 2022, with our best wishes from Lee & Tracey, still staying safe in la gare de Sos
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