



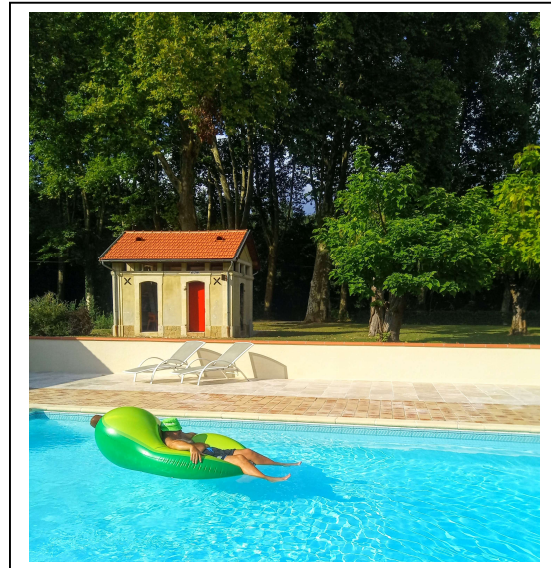
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Lee & Tracey “*Green for Go France*” Newsletter

As tinges of Autumn start to arrive, we’re making the most of every drop of warmth & sunshine. The French say that this has been a rather disappointing Summer, cooler & damper than usual. Our prefecture town, Agen, was hit by horrendous flash flooding this month and a lightning storm in our valley took out our power & phones again with a huge electrical surge blowing up two TVs, an oven and the WIFI and satellite TV boxes. Thank goodness we’d managed to watch the early kick-off Man U/Villa game and crammed in a quick swim before being plunged into darkness and hailed on by ice-balls! Here’s Lee enjoying the late summer sun on an Avocado Float - (that’s got to be a recipe title). And there’s Daphne, in the vines, with the huge harvesting machine. I like the image of gatherings of rural folk hand picking bunches of grapes into wicker baskets and sitting around long tables together eating bread & cheese and slugging red wine in the vineyards. The reality is more often these clever mechanical machines which fit neatly between the rows, up & down, up & down, shaking the grapes from the vines. I was horrified to learn this year, that inevitably (and obviously really) bugs & slugs & lizards also end up in the harvest!



Daphne is wearing her HV vest because the hunting season is underway again - the third most popular sporting pastime, we’re told, and it isn’t just dangerous for the wild boar & deer around here - there are regular news reports of hunting accidents, amongst hunters and the innocent. It can make a weekend walk a little bit tense when the gunshots are ringing out. La Chasse (The Hunt) and Ruralité (Rural life) go hand in hand around here and 20,000 pro-hunters were at a protest rally not far from us, Mont de Marsan this month. Whilst we won’t be doing any hunting, we do love most aspects of rural life and just to prove our yokeldom credentials - Lee popped up to the bar in the village on his Massey Ferguson.





Above, Tracey having her "pression" beer and the little old dear coming out of her house at Rue Porte du Mas, directly opposite our Bar & Tabac; she crosses the road every day, just before midday to buy her cornet ice-cream to have as her treat after her lunch - she's 97 and fabulous. And, talking of our little bar, I spent the summer mainly asking for "un verre de vin rosé s'il vous plait" - a lovely fresh easy drinking rosé wine, generally one after another, after another, but note the accent on the é - pronounced like "ro-zay". Well, now Autumn is creeping on us, I've switched to a glass of red / rouge. In proper Del Boy French, without even thinking, I asked for "un verre de vin roo-jhay s'il vous plait". Fortunately, the lovely team in the bar & tabac, who call me Stacey, are used to my Franglais by now! For months Daphne had so much attention from the locals because I'd been explaining how she'd been kidnapped to work in a cotton mill in Manchester when I was trying to tell them about the breed of Manchester Terriers being bred for catching rats in the Northern mills, getting my verbs élever and enlever mixed up. We have made progress with our French but it's a slow progress and we're all still wearing our masks here, so that doesn't help. Lee was super impressive with his French in the vets today, coming out with "trés complex", talking to the vet about Brexit changes to pet travel!



Above, the 16 windows and a door have finally been fitted in the old toilet block, 2 doors still to fit, & below the old patio around the pool joins the new stone patio & privacy wall. As well as giving some more privacy when sunbathing & swimming the extended patio offers more space for the sun loungers, avoiding that shadow that appears early evening this time of the year.



"September has passed by very quickly this year, and we miss it already - it's a lovely time of the year, the grape harvest, the hedges full of blackberries for crumbles, the misty mornings followed by the warm sunshine, and this year, a hail & lightning storm to boot!



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 France Tel 05 53 65 63 37 International 00 33 5 53 65 63 37 lgreen68@icloud.com tracey1of6@gmail.com