

Nor does it cost a great deal more to enjoy a city lifestyle. During a recent stay in Aix-en-Provence, I rented a studio apartment in a lovely residence just a 10-minute walk from the city's main boulevard. Weekly rents for this property start at \$325. Even if it's only for a few days, I think there's something extra special about knowing you're part of a residential neighborhood. I thoroughly enjoyed going out to the *boulangerie* each morning for our breakfast *baguette* and *pain au chocolat*.

Naturally we include plenty of Paris options too - including *International Living's* own elegant apartment which is available as a vacation rental for readers.

All You Need To Know

France: The Owner's Manual is the complete guide. In it, I go well beyond telling you about our favorite parts of France and the kinds of properties that are available, both for sale and rental. Before you start contacting *immobiliers* (real estate agents), you need to understand the practicalities - the legalities and procedures involved with buying property in this country...how to obtain a residency card...how to open a bank account...how to navigate the French tax system...what to expect from the healthcare system...

Not that there's anything particularly complicated to worry about. We just think it's important to know in advance how things work...so you can make sure they work to your best advantage.

The Best Healthcare System In The World

Speaking of healthcare...does the name Jeanne Calment ring a bell? If you've read anything about longevity, you'll recognize it. A native of Arles in Provence, Jeanne passed away in 1997 at the age of 122, then holding the record for the oldest documented human being in the world. She smoked cigarettes, ate *foie gras*

and chocolate cake...in short, she did all the things that U.S. health professionals warn against. But how many seniors do you know who take up fencing at the age of 85...or who continue to ride a bicycle until they reach their centenary?

Obviously Jeanne Calment was a genetic marvel, but there's something to be said for French medical care, too. According to a recent study by the World Health Organization, France provides the best overall healthcare system in the world.

Many expatriates living in France find they enjoy substantial savings on health care costs. Annual premiums for comprehensive plans can be as low as \$1,400.

Triple-A Adventure

Living in France would be a triple-A adventure. You'd never run out of places to go or things to see: quaint Normandy fishing ports like Honfleur...the rose-pink town of Albi, birthplace of Toulouse-Lautrec...the dozens of fortified medieval towns and walled *bastide* villages of the Dordogne...racy and raucous Marseille...historic Rouen where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake...



Honfleur - the prettiest port in Normandy

The landscapes alone are as diverse as the people who live here. It could take a lifetime to get to know France thoroughly. From north to south, the country spins out a glorious kaleidoscope of sea and mountains, of sandy shores, craggy cliffs, and rolling green meadows, of silvery olive groves and waving fields of sunflowers.

And it hides a compelling past too. You'll see glimpses of it in the soaring cathedral of Chartres, the romantic castles of the Loire, and the standing stones left behind by a mysterious prehistoric people in Brittany. If there are such things as ghosts, imagine how many spirits must be jostling for their own bit of French space - the ghosts of everyone from Charlemagne to Jeanne d'Arc and Marie Antoinette...

No matter where you choose to live, you'll find fascinating towns and cities within easy reach for day-trips or leisurely weekend retreats. Toulouse...Lyon...Marseilles...Strasbourg...Nice...and, of course, Paris...They're all waiting for you. Provincial French cities are delightfully energetic, with art galleries, concerts, and sophisticated little shops at every turn. Terraced cafés for philosophical debate...for sipping a coffee, a *pastis*, or a *kir*...for indulging in wickedly sinful chocolate cake...

And, from France, many of Europe's other most attractive destinations are also within easy discovery distance. Imagine going out the front door after breakfast, knowing that in a short time you'll be walking down Las Ramblas in Barcelona or lunching on *moules* in Brussels. Switzerland? The lakeside town of Lucerne is only a little over two hours away from Alsace in eastern France. Choose to live in the Nice area, and you can be exploring the seaside towns of the Italian Riviera within an hour.

Make Your French Dreams Come True

France: The Owner's Manual is an invaluable guide. Specially prepared for *International Living* readers, it's crammed full of all the information we know you'll need to make your dreams of *la vie française* come true. It would take months to gather this information on your own. The manual is packed with details about residency rules, banking, medical matters, the cost of living, the investment climate, where to find daycare and schooling for your kids, employment, the process of buying property, how to obtain a French mortgage...

That's not all, of course. There's a special section laying out the various options that are available to you for learning the French language. Plus there is a full rundown of the regions...sections on France for the traveler, financial matters, and much, much more...including an in-depth look at our own favorite parts of the country.

Enjoy Your Own, Private VIP Tour

And that's only part of the story. *France: The Owner's Manual* is just one component of *IL's* new ***France: The Country Kit***. Also included in the kit is our brand-new, two-tape video series on living, investing, and doing business in France. Put together by my colleagues David and Lydia Dell, *France: Business and Investment Opportunities* and *Lifestyles and Real Estate in France* offer much more than an ordinary tourist trek through France. You'll meet bankers, real estate agents, resident expatriates, and more, including Bill Bonner, the founding publisher of *International Living*, who lives part-time in Paris.

What's more, you'll see examples of apartments, homes, and farmhouses for sale so you can get a realistic idea about how far, exactly, your money stretches in this country.



This is the next best thing to being



there on the ground when it comes to investigating your best options and getting a true, up-to-date picture of what you can expect in terms of residency rules, rental and purchase expenses and procedures, the best areas for living and investing, business regulations, tax obligations, and more...from people who live there.

This farmhouse in Limousin is listed for \$88,000, by Vivre en France

In France: Business and Investment Opportunities and Lifestyles and Real Estate in France you'll learn -

- Where you, as a foreign investor, will find the best opportunities for profit. One industry, in particular, makes smart use of the fact that millions of Anglo-Saxon visitors come to France each year. While France's mandatory 35-hour work week proved a strain on many industries, it benefited this one.
- How to get the absolutely best exchange rate for your dollars when you're living in France. Find out how to pay no fees and receive a superior rate. No long lines. No hassles.
- What everyday items cost. Where to find the best bargains on everything from cheese to earrings and scarves...take a walking tour of a grocery store, examining what's for sale and how everything from wine to water to fresh fruit is priced.

- How you can get a low-interest loan for your house in France. Take advantage of world currency markets to profit...and protect your wealth outside the U.S. dollar.
- What you can expect to pay for an apartment in Paris' best neighborhoods... find out how to rent one or buy one...the questions you should ask before you commit...the benefits and drawbacks to being a landlord in France...and more...
- The three keys you should understand about French visas...what to bring (and not to bring) when you move there...and the story about healthcare, including how you can get health-insurance coverage for a family (mom, dad, and a child) for a mere \$200 a month.
- What to know about French income and wealth taxes...and the key to minimizing your tax burden in France...

If you were to try to set up appointments and actually meet with all the guests you'll see and hear from on this video series, you'd be at it for months...probably longer. You'd have to track them all down, first of all. And then you'd have to pay for their time and expertise. Here we bring them directly to you.

In addition to Bill Bonner, *IL*'s founder, you'll hear from foreign-exchange broker Steve Lemon...Vice President at Jyske Bank, Thomas Fischer...Glen Cooper of Cooper Paris Flats...author and French bargain hunter Jeanne Feldman...journalist and resident expatriate Rose Burke...and real estate agent Florence Crain.

Plus, we'll take you to see a selection of cities, towns and villages where we think you'd enjoy living. Were you to explore them on your own, such a trip would cost you many thousands of dollars and demand a considerable investment in time. Yet here we introduce you to several of our favorite areas from the

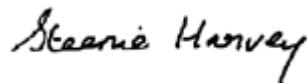
comfort of your own home.

Life As It's Supposed To Be Lived

Life in France is life as it's supposed to be lived. I've tried to put my finger on why this is true, exactly. What is it about France that keeps drawing me back? That attracts hundreds of thousands of travelers every year? Is it the wonderful food and the long dinners that linger on for three hours at a stretch? The best wines and aperitifs in the world? Or is it that every time I return I find new sights to see, new places to explore?

It's all these things, of course, but do you know something? I think it's primarily that, whenever I'm in France, I feel infected by the *joie de vivre*. It's a good feeling.

Sincerely,



Steenie Harvey
International Living's Roving Euro Editor

P.S. *International Living's* new **France: The Country Kit** includes, first, *France: The Owner's Manual*, with more than 200 pages of maps, property listings, details on cost of living, healthcare, banking, schooling, employment, residency requirements...plus contacts for help buying real estate, obtaining a mortgage, renting, renovating, starting a business, and traveling in this glorious country. It is a complete and current guide to help you obtain your own stake in Europe's most fascinating country.

Plus, as part of the kit you'll also receive our **two-video series** on living, investing, and doing business in France, complete with firsthand insights and helpful advice from our best on-the-ground contacts as well as full-color footage of many of France's most exciting areas. If *la vie française* appeals to you...as it does to me...I strongly recommend you take action now. Our new ***France: The Country Kit*** can help.

A rectangular button with a blue gradient background and the text "Order Now" in white, centered within the button.