



Spring into Summer...June update

It hardly seems possible Spring has flown by, and we are heading into the Summer. The Summer Solstice on 21st June marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. Balmy days have returned, we are dining alfresco most evenings, the parasols are out and the pool is open!

La Cachette

La Cachette gîte welcomed its first guests of this season. The terrace has had a little update, with new outdoor sofa and cushions, the front rendered and painted, and it's looking fresh, welcoming and summer ready!



Markets and brocantes

Brocante season has started and we look forward to browsing these and the vide grenier for treasures. We are always looking out for interesting items which we may be able to upcycle, repaint or use to decorate our gîtes or use in the garden.

The markets are busier now with an abundance of seasonal, colourful fruit and vegetables on display. We are growing some of our own produce but not quite enough to sustain us, and in any case there's lots of other interesting things to find. See

the [article on our website about French markets.](#)



Spring flowers bloomed cheerfully and we have now moved on to displays of gorgeous fragrant roses. These look so pretty against the stone walls at the front of the barn. The wisteria flowered and produced its glorious scent. It needs quite a drastic prune this year as it is very overgrown!

The meadow hay is shoulder height this year and now ready for cutting. [On our Instagram there is a reel of the meadow](#), and if you listen carefully you will hear the melodic song of the golden oriole. It is a very illusive bird despite being bright yellow, and we have yet to see it, but it's song is unmistakeable.



The tree frogs that sang every night and especially if it rained, have quietened. They still make their presence known but now it is the sound of grasshoppers and crickets chirping that we hear. The birds are up early in the morning with their chorus, and we have been trying to improve our identification skills! There are many butterflies in the meadow at the moment which is a joy to see.

Time out

Trip to Brantôme

We met up with friends in beautiful Brantôme, and enjoyed lunch and a

wander. A favourite place to visit and one we recommend to our guests.

Known as the Venice of the Perigord, it's a picturesque village on the river Dronne. There are often events on during the Summer, and a very good brocante that winds its way along the streets.

Brantôme is also a popular place to hire a canoe or kayak to go on a 'balade sur la Dronne'.



We've also enjoyed some meals out locally, purely so we can recommend good places to eat! Our current favourite is a quaint French restaurant that is open lunchtimes only. The menu is fixed, Madame decides what the five courses will be (seven at the weekend) depending on seasonality and availability of ingredients. If you are open to this then you will not be disappointed!

Le Petit Chat

Monsieur Olliver, our adopted cat, continues to do well, amusing and entertaining everyone with his antics. He is very friendly and sociable, but spends most of the day asleep, and the night exploring. He has mastered tree climbing recently.

Finally...

Work has commenced on the rockery and installing the cartwheel circle sculptures.



[Click here to view our website](#)



Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Wishing you all a fabulous Summer.

Mark & Jackie

Connect with us

We are on Instagram and Facebook and would love you to follow us!
If you have stayed with us before, did you visit a great restaurant or
visit somewhere you'd like to recommend to others? If you aren't
familiar with the area, do you have any questions?

Let us know.....



Helpful links

[Official tourist information website for South Charente](#)

[Google map location](#)

Le Gentil Retreat

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