



At Home in France: Tales of an American and Her House Abroad

Ann Barry

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Ann Barry was a single woman, working and living in New York, when she fell in love with a charming house in Carennac in southwestern France. Even though she knew it was the stuff of fantasy, even though she knew she would rarely be able to spend more than four weeks a year there, she was hooked. This spirited, captivating memoir traces Ms. Barry's adventures as she follows her dream of living in the French countryside: Her fascinating (and often humorous) excursions to Brittany and Provence, charmed nights spent at majestic chateaux and back-road inns, and quiet moments in cool Gothic churches become our own.

And as the years go by, and "l'Americaine," as she is known, returns again and again to her real home, she becomes a recognizable fixture in the neighborhood. Ann Barry is a foreigner enchanted with an unpredictable world that seems constantly fresh and exciting. In this vivid memoir, she shares the colorful world that is her France.

At Home in France: Tales of an American and Her House Abroad Details

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Author : Ann Barry

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From Reader Review At Home in France: Tales of an American and Her House Abroad for online ebook

Carol Best says

Loved this book...I felt like was in France with the author.

Todd Smith says

A Poignant End to Reading ‘A Home in France’

After I read “A Home in France,” I did what I always do, I wanted to know what the author did after she published it. Author Ann Barry was not able to share more tales of her life in her second home near Carennac, France, since she died of cancer at age 53 and sadly the book was printed posthumously.

We have things in common; she was from St. Louis, a city I now call home, and a graduate of St. Louis University, where my husband teaches. If she was still a live, I might have reached out to her, but regrettably this is not possible.

Now for the review, she provided a vivid picture of her day-to-day life in France. This was her second home, she was always an outsider, but she was able to become friends with some of the locals and share insights into their lives in this pastoral setting. She gave the reader glimpses of the French language sharing her translations throughout. Her meticulous notes made you feel like you were with her watching the sunrise over the hills or grabbing a French baguette. I wished she had lived longer, more tales of France, but this was to be the end of her journey in life as in the book.

Jennifer says

Reading this book led me to want to visit the Dordogne section of SW France, and it became one of my favorite regions when we visited in 2006. It might have been my very favorite region, full of castles, rivers, small villages, and 15,000 year-old cave paintings, but I couldn't completely get past their obsession with foie gras and duck pate. We visited many of the villages and monuments that Barry describes, and I was never disappointed. Of all the memoirs about buying a house in France, this one is very real and not overly romanticized, which I really appreciated.

Virginia Van says

A charming memoir by American journalist and editor Ann Barry of making her dream of life in France come true after she purchase of Pech Farguet, a small house in the Dordogne region. No renovations to this house, but lots of local friends and food and travel. An example of what a single woman can do if motivated!

Carissa says

Such a great memoir of Ann's time owning a home in France and getting to know the neighbors. Makes you want to jump on a plane!

Deborahkemp says

Loved, loved, loved this book. I read it again every few years. Great about life in France, about living in another culture, about growing older. Barry was a New Yorker editor. Sadly, she died of cancer at age 53.

Kimberlyn says

an American journalist buys a home in the Lot district in France. Nice stories

Deb says

nonfiction. Author is single, lives in NY and falls in love w/a home in Carennac in the sw of France. This book is endearing as it really describes everything about her getting her house fixed up to live in, her neighbors, her life. I wanted to go there from reading her book! Ann was a writer for the New Yorker and the NYTimes. I couldnt wait for her next book; however, Ann died of cancer in 1996. This book is very special to read and be glad she enjoyed her short life so much!

Sharon says

This is the true story of Ann Barry of Manhatten. She had travelled to a small village in France while on vacation, staying at the cottage of a friend. She loved the area and ended up purchasing a nearby rustic cottage in Carennac in southwestern France. There are beautiful descriptions of the local food and her week trying to find the best bread. Barry has actually written food and travel articles for The New Yorker and the New York Times, which is probably why her book excells in this detail. As a single woman living alone for only a few weeks a year in a village of 300 people, she is widely known as "the American." She has close neighbors, who go out of their way to help her. It was a nice story in a charming setting. A movie is even filmed here during one of her stays. The story would probably be even more enjoyable to someone who has traveled in the area.

Laurie says

Some moments were warm and funny, most moments it was like reading a housewives not so interesting diary. Too much use of French without translation. I guessed at what the French probably meant based on the context of the paragraph, but really would have liked English, at least in parenthesis, to tell me what was being said.

Robin says

My French teacher loaned this to me - a nice escape. Wish I was there! This was a very fun read. The experiences of the author/home owner were exciting enough to keep your interest and mundane enough to support the title of the book - I felt right "at home". (or wished ...)

Tif says

Took me forever to read because I keep setting it aside. I liked her descriptions of her little town in France. Makes me want to move there—but everything does.

Teresa says

This book is based on actual events in the author's life, and, as such, was enjoyable to read the experiences of another American in the Provence. This was fun to read, and I'm going to go back and read it again soon.

Calee Spinney says

A very cute book about a woman's experiences owning a house and living part-time in France. There was a bit of everything: quirky neighbors, house improvement trouble, delicious food descriptions, and the travails of finding your place in a new space. I wished there was more!

Karijean31 says

This is why I read books: you slip into a story, someone else's adventures and you get whisked away into another world. So fun to read the little fun things that happen to her. Made me want to eat and travel.
