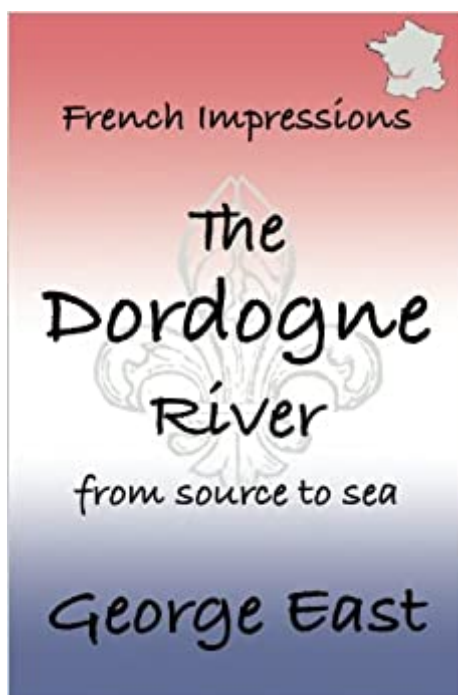


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French Impressions - The Dordogne River: From Source To Sea (Volume 4)



Synopsis

French Impressions: The Dordogne River is a travel book looking at the varying culture, cuisine and communities found along the 300 miles of riverbank of one of France's most iconic waterways. The book contains historical references and modern-day information and observations about the five regions and six departments en route from the source to outlet in the Gironde estuary. The book also contains dozens of traditional recipes. One of France's most iconic rivers, the Dordogne emerges as a trickle from the slopes of a dead volcano in the Auvergne. Then it makes its meandering way westwards to where it empties into the sea to the north of Bordeaux. On its long journey through the heart of France, the Dordogne constantly changes direction, size, shape and mood as it traverses six departments and five regions. It also passes through an ever-changing landscape of surprisingly diverse climates, cuisine and even language. This feast of history, food, drink and culture offered more than enough of an excuse for travel writer and humorist George East and his wife Donella to follow the Dordogne from start to finish. They managed to spin out nearly a year of exploring the river, the towns along its banks - and the food and drink of each area. Look inside and you will find some truly remarkable recipes. For sure, you will find this is not at all like your average travel book. You will find it crammed cover to cover with fascinating historical facts, reviews and recipes. Above all, you'll find it filled with George's sometimes quirky but always affectionate and certainly unique observations on a much-loved area of a great country.

George's latest book is the third in his French Impressions series, and joins he and his wife Donella as they follow the course of the Dordogne river from its source on the side of a hopefully dead volcano in the Auvergne to where it empties into the sea above Bordeaux. On the nearly 500 kilometre/300mile journey through the heart of France, the Dordogne constantly changes direction, size, shape and mood as it traverses six departments and five regions. In so doing, it also passes through an ever-changing landscape of surprisingly diverse climates, cuisine and even language. In all, this feast of history, food, drink and culture offered more than enough of an excuse for travel writer, humorist and plain man's bon vivant George and his wife to spin out nearly a year exploring the river, the towns along its banks - and the food and drink of each area.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Foreign muck' - The UKIP Cookbook Review; 'Wish I could write as well. He is my literary hero'- Michael Pallin (deck hand on the Isle of Wight ferry); 'Who?' - HM The Queen; 'The book and recipes are a load of carp'- The British Dyslexia Society;

George East has been wandering and wondering through France, it seems for ever, and writing about it for more than twenty years. His love affair started as a young boy on a cultural exchange and has lasted, in spite of some of his experiences in the country we love to love or hate. But George tells it how it is in his writings about France, the French and life in what some would say is an idyllic place to be. According to the literally thousands of George East enthusiasts and fans, the oversized author's style is a mixture of Bill Bryson, Eric 'A Short Walk In The Hindu Kush' Newby and P G Woodhouse, while his antics resemble more closely the worst excesses of Tony Hancock meets Frank Spencer and Basil Fawlty. As a leading critic once said, 'George does spectacular failure very well'. In his past George has enjoyed a diverse career path which includes pickled onion manufacturer, private detective, night club bouncer, demolition engineer, seamstress and the only human professional bed-tester in history. An eventful spell as a publican won him the title of Worst Landlord in Britain for two consecutive years. George has also enjoyed a long writing career, which started when sending copy for young girls' photo story comics and at the other end of the spectrum racey mens' mags. He and his wife Donella now live and travel in France and Southern England as the author gathers material for new books and concentrates on his quests to discover the True Meaning of Life while meeting unusual people and going down the pub...

I have read some, but not yet all, of George's other France based memoirs and they always make me laugh, so I was delighted to find this one just before setting off on our own French road trip that (as luck would have it) will include some of the Dordogne. I was not disappointed; this book had

me crying with laughter more than once thanks to his original and often hilarious ways of recounting the things he has noticed or his descriptions of the people he has met. He was so honest about his experiences it was refreshing. I'm glad we are not the only ones to have done a spin of a car park, realised that no matter how beautiful this particular Beau Village is, it is sadly too busy for us see more than a drive by glance. Welcome to the real France that some guidebooks gloss over! In this book, George and his wife visit the main tourist attractions from the source of the river in the Auvergne to Blaye on the Atlantic coast, often taking the back roads, sometimes following signs to small detours, occasionally getting lost, but always enjoying their journey. Some establishments they find to eat or stay a night in are warm and welcoming, others not so, but all are described with humour. Some of the places he writes about were familiar to me and I really enjoyed revisiting them with him, others were new and George certainly whet my appetite for a road trip and gave me quite a few places to add to my "must see" list. With a combination of interesting facts and funny stories, from this trip and previous ones, he has the ability to simultaneously inform and entertain his readers throughout the journey. This book would be perfect for anyone who enjoys humorous memoirs about travelling in France and should be a must read for anyone planning a holiday in the Auvergne, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées, Poitou-Charentes or Aquitaine regions.

The Dordogne River Once again George East has triumphed with his latest French Impression series. It's virtually impossible to put down, or stop laughing from start to finish. How he conjures up pictures of the wonderful, and sometimes weird ways of French life and countryside is quite amazing. Having visited many of the towns along the Dordogne river from the source to the sea myself, the stories and people along the way come to life and George never fails, in the kindest way, to portray the quirks and idiosyncrasies of the French. Also lots of great recipes. Another absolute "must have" winner.

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