

Guests' Comments

The following are transcripts from our *Guests' Comments* book. We have only used comments from guests who have given us written permission to do so.

We have photographs of each of the comments, should you wish proof of their authenticity.

24th September - 15th October

The location of La Métairie, so close to the lovely town of Saumur, is exceptional.

We had two weeks wonderful weather (the third week was not so good) but altogether we had a brilliant vacation.

We have already stayed in various gîtes in France but we have never had such excellent presentation of the house, garden and other facilities. I have only missed the internet access.

Best regards, Alenka and Tomo Mächtig, Slovenia

13th - 20th August 2011

Dear Tom & Kelly,

We had a wonderful stay in your house. With our 4 boys we enjoyed, in particular, the huge space!!

After days out exploring the town, the river, the lake on the island, the swimming pool, and the kayak club, it was lovely to return to La Métairie with all that space, both inside and outside the house.

The boys loved the trains and whenever they heard the bell sounding they would rush to the gates and count the carriages.

Thank you very much. Also - it was great value for money!!

Lucy, Kent

6th - 13th August 2011

A wonderful place for families with children - the playroom afforded us plenty of lie-ins which were most welcome!

Lots of lovely details considered, e.g. child plates and seats. The train noise didn't bother us at all.

Weather was mixed, but there was loads to do in the house and games room. Amazing gardens!

Thank you for your lovely house

Rosie, Tim, Jane, Andy, Lily (5), Felix (2), Michael (6), Dexter (2)

23rd July - 6th August

Dear Tom,

Many thanks for the cheque refunding the deposit on La Métairie, which I received yesterday.

We had a lovely holiday in Saumur, and the house provided ideal accommodation for us. We were a disparate group really: myself, my two daughters with their husbands (one with two young children, 4 years old and 10 months) and my nephew and his girlfriend.

The house was spacious enough for us all to feel comfortable and at home, and the playroom upstairs was ideal for the children, who were able to have a safe, quiet place, when necessary. We found the kitchen well equipped and were able to prepare and cook family meals for all with no problems.

The setting and grounds are excellent. Without feeling remote in any way, we felt private and secluded - and therefore relaxed.

The house is an excellent base for a holiday in the area - and all of our party thoroughly enjoyed their stay there!

Thanks, Yours Sincerely, Christine Hopwood

17th - 23rd July 2011

Lovely, spacious house enjoyed by all our party of 6 adults and 3 kids aged from 2 to 58. The children loved the garden and games room.

Weather was very cool and wet - last thing we needed after driving 900 miles from Scotland! On coldest day, we actually lit the log burner - fantastic fire. Just wish we had weather to light the BBQ!

The Simpsons, Scotland and the Walkers, London

11th - 18th June 2011

Thoroughly enjoyed our short visit to the region while celebrating my sister's birthday.

Visited the mushroom caves and vineyards on successive days. Walked and talked a lot and enjoyed good food. Visited Tours, Amboise and many stops along the secondary roads - explore and enjoy as we did.

The house allowed us the freedom we desired. A fantastic time was had by all. Dinner at L'Escargot was excellent.

Peter, Janet, Tom, Christine, Noel and Anne Kelliher, Per & Ivor Woods, Veronic and Carmel.

28th May - 4th June 2011

We found the gîte excellent family accommodation, offering something for every age group. We would certainly consider coming back.

Webbs & Mabbetts, Midlands

18th - 23rd May 2011

A wonderful short break in your beautiful gîte. Spent nearly every evening in the garden in hot sunshine.

The reason for the visit to Saumur was that our horse was competing at the local Horse Trials. We didn't win, but did very well!!

Thank you

Margaret, Stewart & Ann, Lancashire

9th - 16th April 2011

Our first ever trip to France and we have enjoyed every minute of it. The gîte has been a wonder. Our kiddies have enjoyed exploring the grounds - we spied red squirrels and a snake! Very exciting as we don't have these in NZ. The fooseball table has afforded hours of fun - definitely on our "to buy" list now!

We love Saumur. Such a pretty town. Have found everyone very friendly - even when we can only get a few French words out!

The Zoo at Doué is simply the best zoo we have visited. The highlight was the South American aviary.

We enjoyed the tour and wine tasting at Bouvet Ladubay - at €1 per adult it is great value. Not so taken with the mushroom caves down the road - expensive for what it offered. A day trip to the Château Chenonceau was lovely.

All in all a most enjoyable holiday. Off to Normandy now . . . lots to see.

The Kearney Family, Christchurch, New Zealand

14th - 28th August 2010

Well what a fantastic two weeks we have all had absolutely gorgeous weather, food and wine. Pádraig ran us all ragged playing football! It is a lovely walk into town from the house.

We may well return!

Jonathan (Dad)

Two weeks of excellent weather spent playing football & boules in the garden and generally enjoying the house on our second visit.

We have visited Villandry (very beautiful gardens), Tours (not a good day to visit, many shops were closed on Mondays), Mushroom Museum (OK if a little over priced - compared to Villandry which was cheaper).

Dad - keen cyclist (Worcester St John's cycling club) - has done 450 miles over the two weeks, good (if very flat!) roads. Trips included:

- Angers (60 mile round trip) - nice town worth a visit.
- Rigny Ussé (37 mile round trip) - beautiful château, a few shops and cafés.

- Chinon (39 mile round trip) - nice town, good shops and nice views along river. Good restaurant in the town is Le Grand Bleu - good for fish. Intermarché is better for food than Le Clerc, local boulangerie on the way into town has excellent bread and delicious cakes. Overall we have had a lovely holiday and highly recommend La Métairie as a place to stay. Anne-Marie (Mum)

I had a brilliant stay at la Métairie, it was wonderful weather to play football, boules and badminton. It was even better that we had sun loungers this time. Again the pool table and table football was great fun (especially when Grandad played!)

If you want to go out for the day I would recommend Château de Villandry. If you would like to go out for an evening meal Le Grand Bleu.

Pádraig (aged 10).

Grandad has enjoyed good food and wine, good weather and great company. Did a few paintings, water colours of Saumur and Angers. Football matches and pool matches were fun. Brian (Grandad)

Lovely house and area enjoyed by all the Wheeler family. Jonathan, Anne-Marie, Pádraig and Grandad.

24th July - 7th August 2010

Dear Tom and Kelly,

Many thanks for allowing our family to stay in your holiday home. We all had a tremendous time.

Our boys enjoyed the annexe and the extensive grounds - they regularly beat the adults at pool! The tennis club had excellent indoor and outdoor facilities - they were very friendly and offered us a 2 week unlimited use of facilities for only 43 euros! The swimming pool on the island was also excellent - great indoor and outdoor facilities - the boys enjoyed the table tennis facilities there.

Our bike riding took us in different directions each day and we averaged over 30 miles per day. The countryside around your property is outstanding and the roads in great condition - putting our country to shame! There is a beaver colony only 3 miles from your place - really interesting to watch them in an excellent habitat.

There was so much to do in the region - fetes in Saumur - visits to caves and so on. - we even had a Chinese take away one evening!

We loved eating together in your dining area and the whole house was in excellent condition. On the first day the rope that leads up the stairwell came away at the bottom but did not really affect us. We mentioned this to Allison (very helpful and friendly) when she came to fit some fuses that had blown. Your next door neighbour was also of assistance and he tried to fix the electronic gates which never worked during our stay - again no inconvenience to us. We left a list with Allison of some minor glass breakages.

We had an outstanding holiday and would strongly recommend your home to any family wishing to visit the area - the location was perfect - the trains no problem at all

Regards and best wishes

Rob (by email)

We have had a wonderful two weeks thank you. The house is extremely comfortable and provided everything we needed for a relaxing holiday. We particularly appreciated the large table which allowed for some very lazy convivial family meals.

The area has much to offer, we particularly recommend the following:

- The "Village Métiers d'Art en Troglis " in Turquant
- The cave Gratien et Meyer
- The Pierre et Lumière visit (absolutely amazing)
- The Champignon museum

Some members of our family are keen cyclists and had some fantastic rides. The youngsters loved the outdoor space and facilities and made the most of the pool table.

We had a small problem with one of the lights and Alison proved to be very helpful.

A great time was had by all, thank you!

Chris & Rob Probin (plus Tom & Jack), Maidstone.

Nita & Brian Wilkinson, Liverpool.

Elizabeth & Paul Kerner, Ashtead, Surrey.

3rd - 17th April 2010

This lovely house had everything to make our Netherlands, Australian and French family reunion perfect. A wonderful garden with room for soccer and strolls, an outside eating area for picnic lunches and room for everyone to find their special place.

The kitchen allowed us to eat as a family, however we still enjoyed restaurant eating with the children.

The location allowed us to visit many Châteaux and museums, shop, fish and travel to other towns.

Thanks Kelly and Tom for giving us this wonderful holiday.

Caryl and Ivor Trapman - "Ivanhoe", Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia

Just to reiterate my mother's words on what a beautiful house La Métairie really is. It was our first vacation travelling with two young children (2½ and 6 months) and we found it to be a home away from home. Lots of room for everyone (the grandparents and brothers). The weather was surprisingly good for April so we made good use of the football field and the area was great to explore.

Thank you Tom and Kelly for all your help in preparing for our trip and we hope to visit again. Lisa, Feiko, Tobias and Ilse van der Kolk / Trapman - Voorburg, Netherlands.

15th - 29th August 2009

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay at La Métairie thank you.

With regards to feedback, we found the location of La Métairie very good.

We cycled to the boulangerie each morning and the town centre shops and restaurants were all very close.

We enjoyed the garden enormously and used the BBQ frequently. We found the house worked well and was comfortably furnished and equipped. The only negative comment would be the standard of cleaning could have been better and that the shrubs in the drive had encroached to such a degree that I gave up using that particular entrance.

The other major comment would be that we were astounded at how much there was to do and see with very little driving required - the most amazing gardens at Villandry, the incredible zoo at Doué-la-Fontaine and the wonderful cycle tracks along the Loire.

Yours sincerely

Timothy

(K&T: Points noted. Our keyholder will now revisit the house after the cleaner has left, to ensure the standard of cleaning is high at all times.

The encroaching shrubs have been, and in future will continue to be, dealt with).

1st - 15th August 2009

Two great weeks in a wonderfully spacious home. Plenty of places to visit and a friendly town. We have spent lots of time at the swimming pool on the island, canoeing down the river and particularly interesting was the troglodyte village of Rochemenier. Pity the Euro's so strong!

Possible improvements could be a couple of old bikes for getting to town and a hairdryer.

Hope to visit again.

Paul & Nikki Brownlie, Colchester

11th - 18th July 2009

Very much enjoyed our time here. The children loved the large garden.

Many thanks

Mike Gibbs-Harris & Family.

27th June - 3rd July 2009

Had a wonderful sunny holiday staying at La Métairie - weather has been fantastic and we hope it continues for those who stay here next. Very child friendly place - from the plastic cups etc. to the cot / highchair, to the huge garden that our little boy loved (lots of shade!) Tons of space for the 7 of us (6 adults + 1 year old . . . and growing baby bump!) In terms of the region, our recommendations include:-

- The huge Château overlooking Saumur, including the café / restaurant by the car park there.
- Auberge Reine de Sicile (on the island before bridge to Saumur - they have English menus inside if you need them!).
- Wine tasting - in our case Louis de Grenelle in Saumur and Veuve Amiot in St. Hilaire - St Florent, just next to Saumur.
- Bar St. Cloud near Tourist Information.

Back to the house: pool room was great for when sun got too hot, BBQ was perfect and when we had a hot water issue on arrival, Alison was really lovely and helpful. You've got everything you need almost. A couple of extra sun loungers would be great, as would fans - the rooms were stifling at night and we ended up buying a fan for baby's room at supermarket. Still,

great house in a lovely area of France - wouldn't hesitate to recommend to others and we hope to be back again one day soon.

Abby, John, Dave, Janet, Zoe, Mark & birthday boy Fred who turned 1 here!

6th - 20th June 2009

We loved the gîte and it was especially a godsend as it rained for our first 4 days! Very well equipped with all and more than you need. Gardens are magnificent, especially coming from S.E. England when you need to be a millionaire to have a garden this size.

Saumur is a great town - plenty of good restaurants, cafés and shops to "potter" around. Also a good place to visit other places of interest.

Would recommend the following:-

- Wine tasting anywhere, especially on a wet day.
- La Gambetta restaurant for a "posh" but not too expensive special meal.
- The National Equestrian School on a Thursday morning.
- A day trip to Tours and go to the old town
- Lunch at 55 Rue St. Nicolas (forget the restaurant name). You can try fuées (local speciality) for €8.50 - very reasonable.

We loved it all and hope to be back
Fiona & Raymond Ebong

(K&T: Restaurant = Auberge des Ecuyers. We haven't tried it, but the review we found is very complimentary).

30th August - 13th September 2008

Wonderful holiday home. The gardens are fantastic, our 2 Cocker Spaniels can vouch for that! It is exceptional to find a 4 bedroom house where every bedroom is equally well presented - "comfy" mattresses on every bed! Plenty to do in the house and gardens and a great area to explore.

Christine Parker, Co. Durham

16th - 23rd August 2008

We have had a wonderful stay here. The garden was fantastic for kids - and they said the whole place was very "child friendly".

We recommend Auberge St. Pierre for a good meal, and Gratien et Meyer for wine tastings. We have enjoyed cycling and visited the Château at Angers on the train. A wonderful stay!

Mandy, Simon and Nicholas Cox (8); Julie, Leo, Lucy (8) and Alice (4) Robinson

9th - 16th August 2008

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay. The garden was fabulous and the house was too. We recommend the Aquarium in Chinon.

Yasmin, Imani, Noah, Ben, Hadijah from Hertfordshire and Teado and Ylana from Kampala, Uganda.

PS. Happy Holidays who follow on.

7th - 21st June 2008

Our second visit and we have again had a wonderful time. There is still loads we haven't done so are sure we will be back. Once again the house and garden were ideal for our family and we had superb weather. Reading through this book highlights the area and all the places to visit and we have followed some of the recommendations. So sadly we return home after a fantastic holiday.

Thank you Tom and Kelly - your home is still wonderful.

Rog and Gig Stansfield; Adam & Maurice Stansfield; Jay 5; Taylor 2; Baby - 9 weeks and counting

Tiverton, Devon.

20th - 27th October 2007

Lovely big house - nine of us and it didn't feel crowded. Weather has been dry - but quite "fresh" - and we haven't been able to make full use of the extensive grounds - but we have enjoyed a stroll around and a walk in the woods.

The walk into Saumur is easily 'doable' about 25 minutes easy walking to La Reine de Sicile - for a very enjoyable meal in a traditional dining room with attentive service, and a good wine list.

Just the weather for a log fire in the evening - and we made full use of the fire place - a welcome change from the central heating radiators of home. We had some good walks through the vines and woods along the Loire - and even joined a French group seeking out mushrooms.

Andy, Penny, Jill, Ray, Brian, Brenda, Ann, Eddie & Margaret.

25th August - 1st September 2007

The gîte and gardens are both lovely - one of the best we have stayed in. Weather has been great. We can also recommend the boulangerie as described by the previous guests - very friendly and speak good English!

We spent lazy mornings in Saumur at one of the many street cafés and can recommend the following visits:- Zoo de Doué, Montreuil-Bellay Château, boat trip from Saumur (just down from the tourist information office), Cadre Noir - morning visit is best to watch the horses.

Amanda, Blayne, Natalie & Kieran, Grandpa Wolstencroft and Nanna Meeson.

28th July - 11th August 2007

We have thoroughly enjoyed our holiday in your lovely house. The main aim of our holiday was to unwind and relax and we have certainly achieved that.

The weather has been very kind to us and we have spent most of the fortnight in the garden - eating, playing and relaxing. Our children and Cocker Spaniel have made good use of the spacious grounds. We stayed local and can recommend the Cadre Noir, boat trip on the Loire, shopping in Saumur, canoeing on the Loire, go-karting at Loudun.

We have had a laugh each morning with the lady in the local boulangerie, who was good enough to put up with our limited French and supplied us with good bread and gooey cakes. (right out of the gates, right just before 2nd level crossing, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on left).

Bonnes Vacances to all who stay here in the future.

David, Sarah, Dan, Heather & Isobel Chambers + Saffy the dog.

16th - 23rd June 2007

Week 2 of our holiday following a week in St. Briac s/mer in Northern Brittany. Love the house which is very comfortable with very good facilities. Also loved the garden, but not as much as our two Cocker Spaniels who have had total freedom all week, pottering in and out of the house and chasing each other round the lawns. They have also chased a large brown hare round the woods once or twice!!

Tom & Christine, Meg & Gem - Darlington, England.

26th May - 2nd June 2007

Have had many gîtes in France but this is one of the best. The garden really is special, the children loved it. Nice to stay in a house where everything works. Appreciated the children's items re cot, high-chair, plastic dishes etc. Picked lots of cherries and raspberries, made some great puddings.

Margaret & Jack, Cwmbran; Karen, Sophie & Luke, Farnham; Siân & Dave, Swindon; Kath & Pat, Cwmbran.

We would love to come to this lovely house again.

Love and kisses from Sophie age seven and Luke who is two and a half.

12th - 19th May 2007

Peter, Di, Mary, Anne & Margaret really enjoyed our stay at this lovely house. Weather was disappointing but your games room helped us to fill in our time. We loved the garden and enjoyed the cherries we picked. The cuckoo sang to us daily but the deer we spotted on the first day scampered and we didn't see it for the rest of the stay. The loungers were useful when the sun came out.

Found some nice places to eat. The favourite restaurant was Auberge Reine de Sicile. Very French and lovely food, also quite close. We had a nice meal at Brussels Restaurant. We visited Fontevraud Abbey, Château and gardens at Villandry and particularly interesting was a visit to Caves de Saumur, where we went underground and saw how they produce the wine - followed by a tasting.

Margaret would like a mirror in the blue room as she has to visit the bathroom to see herself. Another bin would have been useful.

We had a lovely holiday, too much food and drink and would definitely like to visit again sometime.

Peter Cook and friends, Isle of Purbeck

(K&T: the Blue Bedroom now has a mirror and a bin)

29th July - 5th August 2006

We have had a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Thank you very much for letting us stay in such a lovely house.

Note to future tenants - recommend boulangerie, also open Sunday. Turn right out of gates, right again just before 2nd level crossing, then 1st left (about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along road) - on corner.

Twidales & Powells, Scunthorpe, N. Lancs.

29th July - 5th August 2006

Tom

We arrived home from France late afternoon yesterday, having stayed overnight in Boulogne. One of the first things to do this morning was to write to thank you for a wonderful time which we enjoyed at La Métairie.

As you said, our concerns about wardrobe space were unnecessary. Actually, it was the pictures on the website which gave us the wrong impression regarding the size of the rooms. Now we understand that pictures could hardly do justice to the rooms and all that was in them. What a beautiful place you have there! The grounds are delightful. The house with the beautiful plants around it looks charming. We enjoyed the quality of the furniture, fittings and all the facilities in the house. You succeeded in your efforts to provide us with a super holiday.

We did have a special reason for coming to that area - our granddaughter was singing in the Bauge Opera and we were there to give her family support. Apart from that, the journey is too demanding for us pensioner members of the family (Mavis and me). But we shall have very happy memories of a very happy holiday in a lovely place. Thank you very much.

Norman (by email)

22nd - 29th July 2006

Been a scorching week so the garden and loungers have been well used.

The house is fabulous, we have had lovely days and evenings here chasing the youngest of us (Bobby aged 2½) around the garden.

The town of Saumur itself is gorgeous, well worth a walk in (30 minutes) for an evening out. We are moving on to near Poitiers for our second week. If the house and surroundings are half as nice as here we will be very happy.

Thank you and à bientôt.

Clarks, Bewicks, a Hutchinson + a Davison - from Northumberland.

1st - 8th July 2006

What a fantastic place to spend one's holiday. It was fantastic, the annexe was very much appreciated because of the table football and pool table. It was fantastic. Having trouble finding any other suitable / appropriate adjectives for this fantastic place. We thoroughly enjoyed because it was so utterly fantastic!!

Cyas!. The Fairhurst family + Maia and Michael.

1st - 8th July 2006

Dear Kelly and Tom,

We have just received the deposit refund - many thanks.

We would all like to say how much we enjoyed our holiday at La Métairie - the house, garden, facilities and atmosphere in the house were all excellent. We found the local information especially helpful (the 'Escargot' was a great restaurant, as you said), and when we opened the fridge upon arrival, after a hot and sticky cramped 7 hour car ride, we were delighted to find some wonderful liquid refreshment! Many thanks indeed.

We hope we will be able to return to La Métairie next year.

With best wishes,
Joan and Tom Fairhurst (by email)

24th June - 1st July 2006

House is lovely. Garden is brilliant size. Area is beautiful. Eventually got used to the trains. Cot and highchair in brilliant condition. Going to get a BBQ like yours when we get home. L'Escargot restaurant the best I've ever been to. The Zoo at Doué was amazing.

The only dodgy points were the electrical sockets.
The only improvement would be a swimming pool in the garden.

The Collins family 6 + baby; Maidstone, Kent.

(K&T: all electrical sockets have now been examined and replaced where necessary).

1st - 8th April 2006

What a fabulous house and garden. The children loved the playroom and we all made good use of the garden and BBQ braving the slightly chilly April sunshine.

We had a great day at Zoo de Doué - the setting is very unusual with lots of space for the large animals. Disappointed to find that Saumur Château is closed for restoration although you can look around the outside of it. We enjoyed a trip to Chinon Château which had great views.

We purchased logs for the fire from Baudens Combustibles (details on first page of this book). Reasonable price and you order by m³. They were very helpful and patient considering our limited language skills.

We all enjoyed the tank museum in Saumur and a visit to one of the mushroom caves. We loved the centre of Saumur and hope to return again.

Thank you very much.
Sandra and Stuart, Charlotte age 4, James age 3. Wiltshire, UK.

22nd October - 29th October 2005

A great place to celebrate a Golden Wedding Anniversary - 3 generations have stayed and enjoyed this house all week.

Weather fantastic - when the one rainy day could not dampen our spirits!

The house is very comfortable and clean, with all necessary equipment provided.
Thank you very much.

Regards

Gary and Sue Pearce (Plus Alan, Gwen, Robin, Lesley, Dan and Michelle).

30th July - 6th August 2005

We've had a fabulous week in this wonderful gîte. The children have had a brilliant time in the enormous garden building up dens, playing football, badminton and cricket and setting treasure hunts for the grown-ups! They all loved the dreadfully tacky €2 shop.

We all enjoyed a tour of the Bouvet Ladubay caves at Saint-Hilaire Saint-Florent (we were given vouchers after a v. pleasant family lunch at Le Chianti in rue St. Nicolas in Saumur) and their sparkling rosé is still the best we've tried so far, but we're still sampling! We tried a romantic meal à deux one evening at L'Orangerie in the grounds of the Château. The sunset over the Loire was indeed beautifully romantic but the food was abysmal - perhaps Les Délices next door is better ?

The bread from the nearest boulangerie in La rue de la Croix Verte we found rather salty but the boulangerie on the left just before you come off the Ile d'Offard on the way towards Saumur is delicious (ditto croissants!).

We all enjoyed a tour of Saumur on the horse & cart / carriage and a civilised 50 mins boat trip on the Loire in spite of the non-stop commentary! We also had a successful day at Le Puy du Fou (journey was 60+ minutes). The children will be re-enacting the spectacular Viking battle and the gladiators' chariot race in the amphitheatre (complete with real lions etc.!) for months to come. A week is really not long enough in this area so we will be back, but meanwhile we have a week by the R. Cher lined up!

Avril & Nick Waters + Dominic (8) and Matthew (5), Southsea, Hants

30th July - 6th August 2005

We also really enjoyed staying at this gîte, there was plenty of room for 4 adults and 4 children. The garden was perfect - shady areas, sunny areas, quiet areas and a huge area for the 4 children with lots of energy. The gîte itself is well equipped and beautifully furnished.

We have had a wonderful week.

Martin and Marie Waters

30th July - 6th August 2005

Great for making dens and had a lovely time.

Gemma (9) and Oliver Waters (aged 11); Capel St Mary, Suffolk

16th - 30th July 2005

We have enjoyed a very relaxing family holiday at La Métairie. The house is spacious, comfortable and well equipped. The garden is impressive with the potential to be magnificent, although that it has to be said that at the time of our visit it was desperate for some T.L.C. At the end of our first week, once the grass had been cut, it looked much better, but most of the shrubs need cutting back and many are choked with weeds - what a pity! I am sure that someone with green fingers would be "itching to have a go" at it!

The property is well placed to access lots of facilities. The Intermarché is very handy and virtually became our second home. Incidentally, future guests may be interested to know that the newsagent directly opposite Intermarché sell English newspapers, phone cards and Lotto tickets! (We did try our luck with the "Euro millions" in the hope that we would be able to extend our holiday indefinitely but to no avail!).

The purpose of our holiday was for rest and relaxation and that is what we got. The weather has been very pleasant, permitting us to eat al fresco virtually every day (we would have welcomed a parasol to shade us when dining as the patio area seems to get sun all day long).

Hope future guests enjoy their holiday as much as we have.

Best wishes to all.

Kevin & Rita, Claire & Rob, Matt & Sharon; Chorley, Lancs.

(K&T - we believe we have now found our "green fingers" - Alison, who gives our garden the T.L.C. it deserves. Also, we have now provided two parasols. Additional note to Kevin - good luck with the Euro millions in the future, but we will never sell La Métairie - we love it too much!)

4th -18th June 2005

Hi both

Just wanted to let you know that we had the most fantastic holiday. Your house is even more beautiful than we imagined from the pictures and was absolutely ideal for us. Adam is a footballer so was able to keep up his striking practice, mind you that wasn't hard with Jay in goal! Roger is a train driver so he was in his element when he saw how close the train track was. He is also a bird fan so was able to set his scope up in the garden.

We had the most glorious weather for the whole of the 2 weeks and thoroughly enjoyed the area in general. You have equipped the house perfectly. We have done many self catering holidays over the years and we can honestly say yours is the best. There was not one thing that we found it lacking in. So thank you very much for 'sharing' your home, I think I'd want to keep it all to myself!

We had one shock whilst there which was a message through to say we had a new grandson born in Ireland 10 weeks early but thankfully all is well. Adam had a few footy clubs on the phone to him, so all in all we will remember our stay for all the right reasons.

Once again thank you so much. All the best for the future
Roger, Gig & Family xx (via email)

28th May - 4th June 2005

Your beautiful home was again host to 3 generations of family celebrating a Ruby wedding anniversary and 70th birthday. Part of the family travelled from South Africa for their first French experience and enjoyed La Métairie and Saumur immensely. We found the garden a great place to play with the children and found the trains more of a fascination than a nuisance.

The home is very well equipped with everything needed and great to discover the wardrobes filled with hangers. We visited the "Cadre Noir" and would recommend this to any horse lovers.

We will certainly recommend La Métairie and look forward to visiting The Loire in the near future.

The Westrips - Horsham, Sussex; The Carnells - Johannesburg, South Africa.

14th - 21st May 2005

Enjoyed our stay in the beautiful house & grounds. The gîte was everything and more!
Games annexe used. Great fun! The women won the pool !!!!

Surrounding town lovely, plenty to do.
All in all a great time had by all.

Sandy & Terry; Phil & Lyn; John & Den.

23rd - 30th October 2004

Another very pleasant stay, just as in April. Can recommend the City of Tours this time,
along with the Château at Brezé.

Thanks again Tom & Kelly!
Steve & Jan Johnson & crew!

23rd - 30th October 2004

A lovely stay by the Loire Valley in Saumur, I came here in April me and my family came again
because we loved it so much.

This year my favourite part of the holiday is hard to choose. I loved Tours, the Château was
pretty cool, and the garden is FAB.

I recommend you to go to Villandry, but don't fall down a mountain like me!!

Many thanks.
Alice Johnson (aged 10)

18th September - 2nd October 2004

This has been a great gîte to stay in, the best for us so far. Very interesting area if you are
interested in growing your own produce. A walk around the gîte area is fascinating with all
the polytunnels etc. Loved it. The garden has been wonderful, we are all RSPB members, so
sitting and watching the green woodpeckers has been a joy (3 at one time on the lawn). The
walk into Saumur was lovely and the town was great with the markets on Saturday a delight.

Done some wonderful walking. Have left details in drawer, to be able to pick fresh almonds and walnuts through the vines were fascinating. Don't walk on Sundays, too many hunters with guns out, no wonder there are no wildlife in the fields. The Loire is wonderful, seen great egrets, osprey, many kingfishers to name a few. Villandry Château and gardens are a must, wonderful place. We have had good weather. No complaints at all apart from the freight trains during the night, no mention of them with information literature, pity really.

Pauline & David Case, Chesterfield; Cathy & Con Pepper, Oxford.

(K&T - Information Pack is now updated to advise guests of trains).

11th - 18th September 2004

A wonderful place to celebrate a Ruby wedding with the family - 3 generations here! This is a lovely house in a beautiful area. We are impressed with the facilities you have provided here; it has made our holiday here memorable. We enjoyed the Château of Villandry - the Renaissance garden is wonderful.

The peaches from the tree in the garden are very tasty - we enjoyed some of them. It is a pity about the lawn sprinklers - perhaps some coloured plastic buckets over them would make for children's safety (our grandson is too young to be troubled by them!).

We shall be happy to recommend "La Métairie" to friends.
Vic, Valerie, Matthew, Laura, Sarah, James and Daniel. (Lincoln, San Francisco and Birmingham).

(K&T - the old sprinklers have now been replaced by "pop-up" sprinklers).

21st - 28th August 2004

We have really enjoyed our week at La Métairie. The Abbaye Royale at Fontevraud was great. Tours in English at 12.15, 14.15 and 16.15 and worth a visit. We were not impressed with Futurescope.

Happy holidays to all that follow.
Perry, Julie, Lawrence and Louisa Plumb. Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

I really liked the big garden. There is also a €2 shop. I would really recommend it for dolphin lovers because it has things with dolphins on.

From Louisa Plumb.

31 July - 14 August 2004

Several wet and cloudy days but still plenty of sunshine. Thoroughly enjoyed a blend of sightseeing (not too much) and just chilling in the garden.

Can recommend a visit to the Bouvet-Ladubay cellars and eating at "Les Délices du Château" which is in the grounds of the Saumur Château.

Would definitely recommend La Métairie to friends and family.
Linda, Jim and friends.

24th - 31st July 2004

Fantastic place, beautifully kept. You have got everything! (This is the first time I have not had to use my own sharp knife & potato peeler!).

We have had wonderful weather, some days too hot to enjoy the garden fully. We would reiterate earlier comments about sun-loungers, but not a big deal. Everything else was just perfect.

Our children loved the garden & played for hours in it. They have also become adept at table football & pool, and are asking how soon we can convert our garage!

A word of warning if you want to go to the local swimming pool. Make sure that all male members of your party have skin-tight swimming trunks. We went along in blissful ignorance in British-style swimming shorts. They took our money, then refused to let us in, and wouldn't give us a refund, even though we had not swum at all. We were not warned beforehand, though, to be fair, there was a notice up that we completely missed.

Saumur is a lovely place and we didn't get to see half of what we wanted to. We'll certainly come back, & will recommend La Métairie to family & friends.

Alison & Dhiru, Catherine & Jamie Tanna

(K&T - loungers are now provided; swimming pool comment has been added to our Information Pack).

10th - 24th July 2004

Wonderful house and grounds (almost no need to go out!) and the weather has been superb for the whole fortnight except for 15 mins on Wednesday, after we stepped off the riverboat (would recommend this for the birdlife - runs on Wednesdays from St. Clements) when we had thunder, forked lightening and torrential rain. Then it all stopped and we went back to 30°C!

Enjoyed the garden so much each day, but a shame there are no loungers to sit out in - the lovely iron patio furniture doesn't quite fit the bill.

Children with pocket money to spend will love Prix Unique (keep going from the Blue Elephant, it's on your left before the bridge, next to the bowling alley). Everything is 2 Euros from the sets of boules to clothing and crockery.

Gardeners should have a chat to Dominique - a very knowledgeable chap as far as plants etc. are concerned.

Villandry is an easy drive and the gardens are superb. Take your lunch and eat it under the trees!

Ken & Maggie Baker

(K&T - loungers are now provided)

26th June - 3rd July 2004

Everything about our stay at La Métairie was fantastic. Every room is well equipped and beautifully presented.

As far as supermarkets go LeClerc is great for booze but don't provide bags - so we've left a box in the garage and Intermarché seems better for food.

Having the annexe is great entertainment for the adults and we will certainly recommend our stay to all our friends and family.

Hope everything goes really well for you.

Claire, Chris, Cameron and Elia Godley

26th June - 3rd July 2004

The house, gardens and the area of Saumur are simply the best. Beautiful weather and wine makes a wonderful holiday.

Wishing you all the best
"The Godleys"
(5 bottles later) Hic, Hic.

19th - 26th June 2004

Beautiful house, well equipped. The playroom and garden were a god-send for the children! (Although, they were too scared to venture into the woods themselves!)

We love this part of the Loire, having stayed near Saumur last year and would definitely come again and also recommend the area and the house to others. The weather has not been the best but the last few days have been glorious. The kids have had a ball around the garden, and kept them happy and quiet for many hours!

We've had a great holiday and very peaceful! (Apart from the trains at 3am!)
Sharon & Stephen Duggan. Kerry, Rebecca & Jack Machynlleth, Mid Wales

Lovely house and garden. Thank you it was a brilliant stay!
Kerry Duggan. Age 11.

22nd May - 5th June 2004

We have had a wonderful fortnight in this lovely gîte. The weather has been fabulous and I have had a very enjoyable relaxing holiday.
Maureen Jones

22nd May - 5th June 2004

Our stay at La Métairie was all we hoped it would be. The house is very well equipped and spacious and a most wonderful garden in which we spent many happy hours as the sunny weather allowed us to eat al fresco everyday, one damp day. We felt very lucky.

As much as we enjoy log fires, the weather was so warm, the fire place was not used. The care and thought that has gone into making this gîte so comfortable has been very much appreciated.

Dorothy and Roy Chamberlain, Cardiff.

1st - 8th May 2004

Lovely gîte but with just the two of us we rattled round a bit!

Weather not too good so we couldn't use the garden as much as we hoped to. Saumur is a comfortable 25 min walk. Auberge Saint Pierre is good for lunch (past experience).

Maison de Vin is good for local wines and very helpful. Le Clerc hypermarket has the best 'fine wine' selection we have seen in France - but you need a very flexible friend!!! Fortunately we had already purchased our usual 16 cases so hubby wasn't able to fit any more in.

If you like sweet wine buy Domaine des Petits Quarts at Faye D'Anjou (see leaflet) Domaine Filliatreau for local wine is very good - see leaflet.

We could recommend several more but have the fun we had finding them and then enjoying our holiday long after it finished.

To all that follow have a great holiday.
Jill and Roger Durham, Broadstone, Dorset.

17th - 24th April 2004

There is nothing extra to add about the house, garden etc. Our comments only echo ones that have been said before - we really enjoyed. We were a little concerned about the sprinklers that are all over the grassed area when the children were playing, in case they fell on them.

This is a lovely area and we did not get to see anywhere near enough of it.

Weather not too good only improved when we were leaving - typical!! It took a lot of getting used to, the closing of everything - including eating places between 12 - 2.30pm. Unfortunately a week is not enough time to settle in, we should have had 2 weeks, so we will be back.

The Marshall and Gow Families of South Wales.

Happy holidays to all that follow.

(K&T - the old sprinklers have now been replaced by "pop-up" sprinklers).

10th - 17th April 2004

Lovely house, garden and location, great Easter Egg hunt to last all day, some may still be missing!!

Brussels café has lovely food, wine tasting superb, especially the brut for the kids!
Hope the house and gardens are just as lovely for everyone else.

Penny, Peter, Joseph and Duncan Grace; Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland.

10th - 17th April 2004

La Métairie is superb.

We have had a fantastic Easter week, with excellent weather. The gardens are superb, not only for the children, but the adults too!

Saumur is a lovely town, very friendly and welcoming. Recommend the wine tasting (hic!) and the Abbey at Fontevraud.

Best overall value we found was the hypermarket LeClerc, but each to his own. No problems with the property at all except perhaps the main gate. Driving over the hump with a metal stopper proved a bit of a nightmare - still, a minor point. We love the house, the town and surrounding area we will be back! Hope future guests enjoy their stay as much.

Bonnes Vacances

Steve and Jan Johnson, Alice, Olivia & Sam. Sussex, Angleterre!

(K&T: the "metal stopper" for the main gate has now been lowered).

3rd - 10th April 2004

We have had many holidays in gîtes in France, both French and English owned. La Métairie is certainly the best we have been in. It was a little daunting at first when we realised that most of the equipment and furnishings were brand new.

We have really enjoyed our visit, the gîte is well equipped and comfortable.

The weather during the week has been a little chilly and we found that we needed to light the log fire in the evenings. Logs are available by the sac from: Baudens Combustibles, 22 Avenue David d'Angers (just past the railway station). The price is €6.25 each, and you will need half a sac for a good evening fire. It is better to order them a day in advance.

We wish Tom and Kelly the best of luck for their first season.
David, Paniella, Mar and Jon Buckby, Helston, Cornwall.

3rd - 10th April 2004

I had a very enjoyable stay here at La Métairie and I hope that everyone that follows enjoys it as much as I have. I feel quite honoured to be one of the first people to stay here. The spacious house and grand garden are put to good use. Although we probably did not make full use of the garden because of the time of year. I can see however in the summer you could occupy many hours there. I was also glad to find that the trains were not disturbing as I feared they would. We couldn't quite work out how to turn on the lights in the annexe so we were limited to using this while it was light. I was very surprised to find how high many of the ceilings were and I'm sure once I return home the rooms will become very claustrophobic.

We only really went into Saumur three times and found a few nice restaurants but none that I feel really deserve a recommendation. All I can say is that if you go to the Chinese / Thai restaurant (La Muraille de Chêne) don't order the satay chicken! Well that's what they called it, but I'm not sure what it was. The Intermarché is very good, much bigger than most (Intermarchés, I've usually found to be quite small) but it is closed on Sundays and shuts at 7 Monday through Saturday, so don't leave your shopping too late, but this comes from someone who lives by a 24h Tesco.

Hope this has been of some help.
Mar x