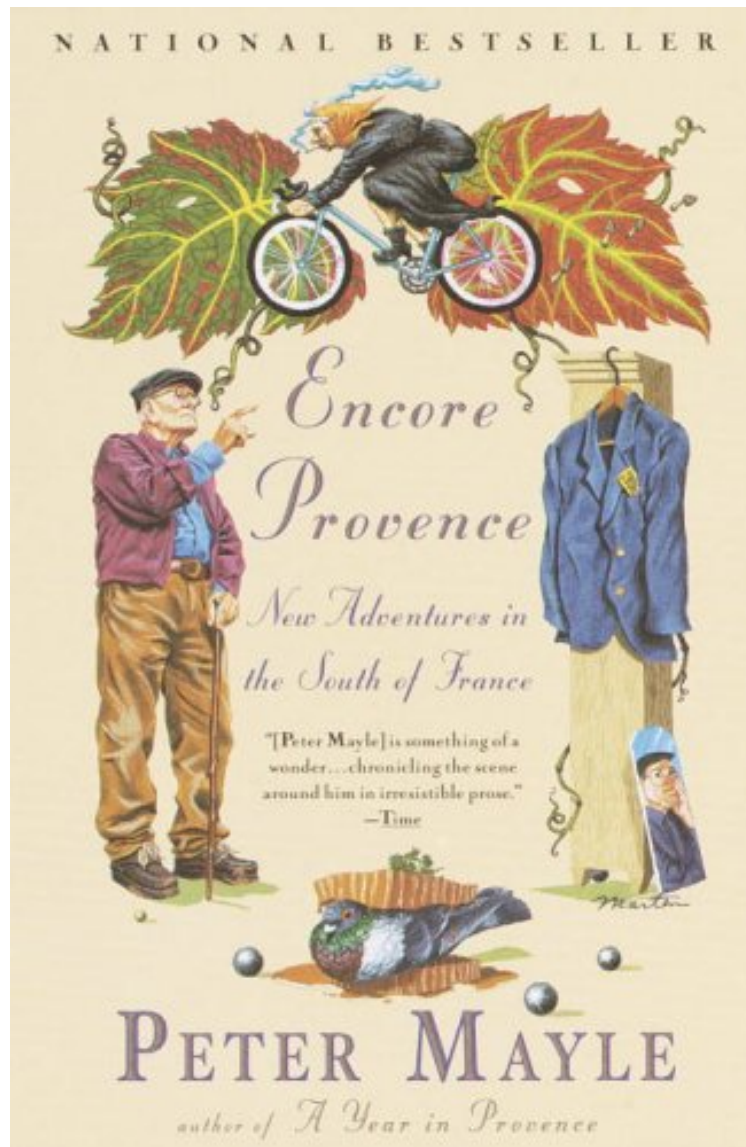


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Encore Provence: New Adventures in the South of France

Peter Mayle

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Peter Mayle : Encore Provence: New Adventures in the South of France before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Encore Provence: New Adventures in the South of France*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An absolute joy to read.By P. WilsonWhen a book starts out with someone power washing their underwear you know you are going to be laughing out loud. This is the third book of Mr. Mayles' time in France. I read all three in quick succession. He is very witty with just the right amount of descriptions to make you feel like you are there.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THIS BOOK IS

DELIGHTFUL HILARIOUS, AND GREAT FUN I LOVED IT. By VALERIE TOWNSEND PETER MAYLES BOOKS ARE HILARIOUS AND GREAT FUN TO READ I JUST FINISHED READING THE THRID ONE, I JUST LAUGHED MY FOOL HEAD OFF AND I CHEERED FOR THEM . I JUST LOVED ALL OF HIS BOOKS I AM READING HIS BOOK A DOGS LIFE NOW AND ENJOYING IT. I HPE HE WILL SOON WRITE ANOTHER GREAT HILARIOUS BOOK LIKE HIS FRIST THREE BOOKS. I AM NOW I BIG FAN OF THIS CDELIGHTFUL MANS STORIES. AND HIS GREAT QUICK WITT. HES GREAT. I LOVE HIS BOOKS. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mayle Magic By S. Jefferson A Year in Provence literally changed my life. I took French in high school, but I was unaware of the French people, food, and lifestyle - until I read Peter Mayle's lively and enjoyable books. He must have the dream life of living in France, drinking French wine, eating fresh seasonal foods bought fresh from the growers, and then getting paid for telling about the experiences. Such a tough life! Encore Provence is a worthy follow up to A Year in Provence and Toujours Provence. Mr. Mayle writes in a humorous, tongue in cheek fashion, and never fails to convey interesting tidbits and experiences. I love his accounts of local characters, the French mentality, the local food and restaurants, and unexpected everyday occurrences such as hornet's nest, fires, sheep herders, truffle poachers, etc. He tries to portray himself as a curmudgeon, but I feel that he has a good heart, and his bark is worse than his bite. I highly enjoyed this book. It is easy, hammock or seaside, reading fare. If you liked his other books, you will definitely love this one as well. Viva la France and viva Peter Mayle.

In his most delightful foray into the wonders of Provençal life, Peter Mayle returns to France and puts behind him cholesterol worries, shopping by phone, California wines, and other concerns that plagued him after too much time away. In *Encore Provence*, Mayle gives us a glimpse into the secrets of the truffle trade, a parfumerie lesson on the delicacies of scent, an exploration of the genetic effects of 2,000 years of foie gras, and a small-town murder mystery that reads like the best fiction. Here, too, are Mayle's latest tips on where to find the best honey, cheese, or *chambre d'hôte* the region has to offer. Lyric, insightful, sparkling with detail, *Encore Provence* brings us a land where the smell of thyme in the fields or the glory of a leisurely lunch is no less than inspiring.

.com "Provence, again?" one may think, seeing Peter Mayle's latest effort. "Has the man nothing better to do than promote a region that's already overhyped and overpriced? Can't he turn his eye to a place that needs a touristic boost, like Bulgaria?" However, there are reasons to plunge into the third Provençal book by Englishman Mayle, formerly a Madison Avenue copywriter whose bestselling *A Year in Provence* made the area a must-see for tourists and helped to quadruple real estate prices there. After four years in Long Island, Mayle has returned to France with continuing adoration. Mayle discloses a world missed by tourists, be it the questions dry cleaners ask about wine stains or the mysterious murder of a small-town butcher given to making housewives happy with more than his displayed meat. He also incorporates guide-like tips--listing markets, cheese makers, and the essential how-tos of perfume sniffing and olive-oil tasting. What's more, this book gives a peek into the life of a bestselling writer. The role is not always an enviable one. Mayle no longer fits into life in America--the vocabulary alone is enough to throw him off--yet in Provence, he is regarded as little more than a moneyed foreigner. Speared by the British press, he laments, "One of my crimes is to have encouraged people to visit the region ... far too many people ... and people of the wrong sort," an accusation that he denies. And Mayle comes off as positively defensive in his attack of former New York Times food critic Ruth Reichl, who wrote that she was disappointed in the region. The title alone of chapter 3 hints at the sarcastic stabbings to follow: "New York Times Restaurant Critic Makes Astonishing Discovery: Provence Never Existed." Page after page, he roasts Reichl on the spit, creating a hissing Ruth Rotisserie that's most unbecoming from someone of his stature. What most causes him to sputter is Reichl's admission that she "had been dreaming of a Provence that never existed." "Where had I been living all these years?" writes the man who's helped to perpetrate the illusion of a land that is nothing but lavender fields, sunflowers swaying in the breeze, and fascinating characters every millimeter. "The Provence that Daudet, Giono, Ford Madox Ford, Lawrence Durrell and M.F.K. Fisher knew and wrote about--the Provence that I know--doesn't exist.... It's a sunny figment of our imagination, a romanticized fantasy." Maybe. Having recently visited Provence, I agree with Reichl's critical assessment. Therein lies Mayle's ultimate charm. Crack open a bottle of Chateauneuf du Pape, delve into *Encore Provence*, and voil: it may be better than actually being there. -- Melissa Rossi From Publishers Weekly After a four-year leave, Mayle is back in the region he described in his bestselling *A Year in Provence* and *Toujours Provence* and the British author's fans will be pleased that he decided to return to his adopted homeland, for his writing is as charming and witty as ever. In the first chapter, "Second Impressions," Mayle explains that he and his wife quit the convenient, efficient life in America for the "smell of thyme in the fields" and "the swirl and jostle of Sunday-morning markets" of Provence. Mayle goes on to make hash of former New York Times restaurant critic Ruth Reichl's disparaging assessment of Provence, apparently based on a single August visit, and heaps scorn on those who consider themselves to be "travelers Aintelligent, well-mannered, cultured" rather than tourists (as he proudly labels himself). The author then assists future tourists by naming his favorite markets, vineyards, bakeries, *chambres d'hôtes*, even places to go for the best olive oil or honey. A chapter

called "A Beginner's Guide to Marseille" is equally informative and offers the little-known fact that "La Marseillaise" was actually composed in Strasbourg. Mayle enticingly recounts his peregrinations around the truffle markets and his searches for the perfect corkscrew or melon, but it's his ability to capture the subtle cultural peculiarities that distinguishes his writing. Upon first arriving in France from the U.S., Mayle observes, "I think it was the sight of a man power-washing his underpants [with a hose] that really brought home the difference, cultural and otherwise, between the old world and the new." Line drawings not seen by PW. 130,000 first printing; author tour.-- that really brought home the difference, cultural and otherwise, between the old world and the new." Line drawings not seen by PW. 130,000 first printing; author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal More Provençal bonhomme. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.