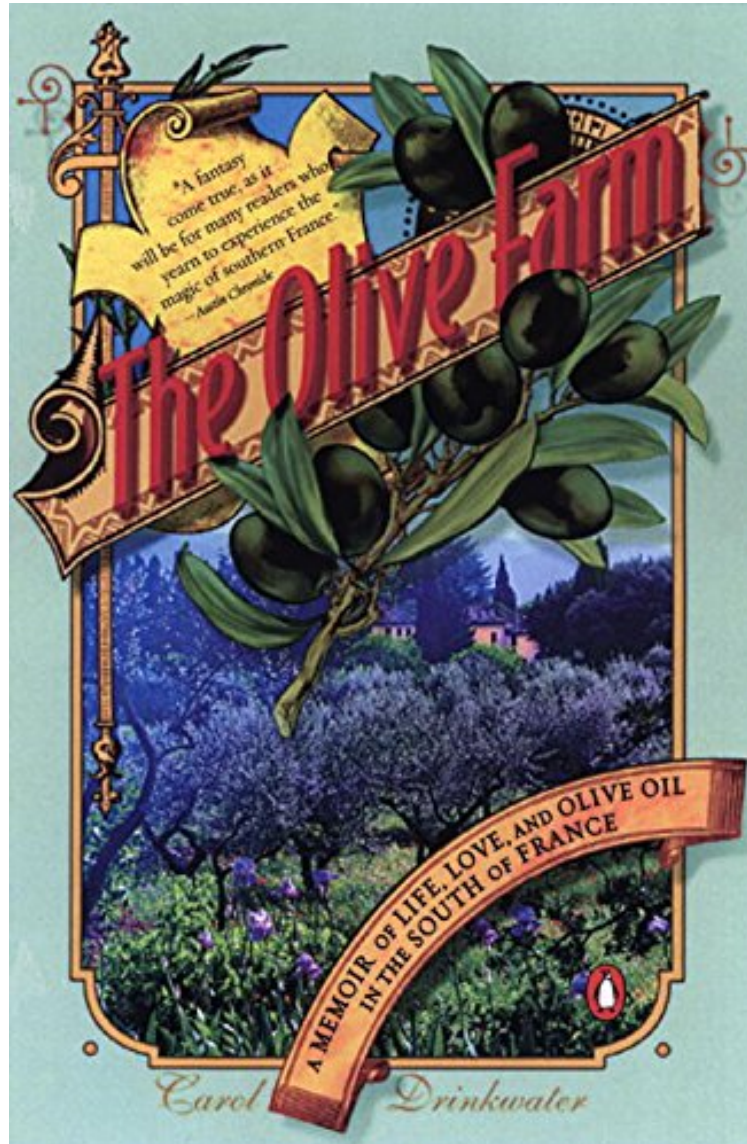


(Ebook pdf) The Olive Farm: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Olive Oil in the South of France

# The Olive Farm: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Olive Oil in the South of France

Carol Drinkwater

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Carol Drinkwater : The Olive Farm: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Olive Oil in the South of France before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Olive Farm: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Olive Oil in the South of France:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story/memoirBy Kindle CustomerI have been watching

the old "All Creatures Great and Small" episodes and decided to Google Carol Drinkwater's name to see what other movies/shows she's acted in (she played the original Helen Herriot in the 1st 3 seasons). I discovered that she is not only a superb actor, but also an accomplished author. When I started reading about her stories/memoirs about the olive farm she and Michel bought in France, I was intrigued, so I ordered the first book. I loved it. I had to order the 2nd book before I finished the 1st one so I could keep reading. Anyone who loves memoirs, travel logs, stories about following your dream, etc., will love these stories. Ms. Drinkwater is an excellent writer. She knows how to tell a story that keeps you entranced. Well done! If you've read *Under the Tuscan Sun* or *Bella Tuscany*, you owe it to yourself to read the Olive stories too. They will quickly become favorites. If you enjoy stories about women taking their personal journeys, you might also read *Driftwood*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good read. By Judy B. What a great read. This book was selected for Book Club. Carol Drinkwater is a fabulous writer. I was captured from the first page. I almost felt like I was in the South of France. She has a whole series of the Olive books and I plan on reading them all. After hearing about her experiences, I don't plan on buying a home in France, however. The regulations and ability to get anything done are killer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Life in the South of France. By Jane M. The author, Carol Drinkwater, is an English actress well known for her part in "All Creatures Great and Small" and this is the story of her real life adventure finding an abandoned olive farm in the south of France. She and her French fiancé have many obstacles to overcome, it isn't all easy and beautiful, but they hack a workable farm out of an overgrown area and refurbish the home too...lots of work. She tells the story as chapter one of a series. Very readable and pleasant if you enjoy stories like "Under the Tuscan Sun" where people make a new life for themselves.

When Carol Drinkwater and her fiancée, Michel, are given the opportunity to purchase ten acres of an abandoned olive farm in the South of France, they find the region's splendor impossible to resist. Using their entire savings as a down payment, the couple embark on an adventure that brings them in contact with the charming countryside of Provence, its querulous personalities, petty bureaucracies, and extraordinary wildlife. From the glamour of Cannes and the Isles of Lérins to the charm of her own small plot of land—which she transforms from overgrown weeds into a thriving farm—Drinkwater triumphantly relates how she realized her dream of a peaceful, meaningful life.

From Publishers Weekly Following in the footsteps of bestselling authors Peter Mayle (*A Year in Provence*) and Frances Mayes (*Under the Tuscan Sun*), Drinkwater has written a memoir of her flight to the good life in southern France. "All my life-long, I dreamed of acquiring a shabby-chic house and renovating it," writes the author, a British actress who starred in the BBC adaptation of James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small*. When she and her husband, Michel, spot a hillside villa with an olive vineyard in a village near Cannes, they defy common sense and become landowners. Never mind that it is moldering and insect-infested, the roof leaks and there doesn't seem to be any running water. Drinkwater's account of paradise regained involves bushwhacking through the intricacies of French property law and battling the elements of nature (wind, rain and fire), to say nothing of the eccentric local population. Alas, the book reads, by turns, like a catalogue of the author's real-estate woes ("We have a leaking roof!") and a ponderous love poem ("We are two embarking on this path together. Newly in love. Thrilled by one another... Investing in love, in one another."). Still, for all its false notes, the book describes life in the South of France with lush, voluptuous appreciation and successfully plays into our fantasies of the Mediterranean "land of liquor and honey." Agent, Ed Victor Ltd. (June 15) Forecast: Many readers will find this idealized portrait of a culture and a way of life most appealing. Drinkwater's book seems poised to attract fans of Mayle, Mayes and others of the expatriates-in-paradise genre. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Despite the inevitable comparisons to Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* and Frances Mayes's *Under the Tuscan Sun*, this is a unique travel memoir of the author's years in the south of France. English screenwriter and actress Drinkwater, best known for her role in the BBC adaptation of James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small*, visited Cannes to attend a television festival several years ago (the exact date is not revealed). It was then that she and her new husband instantly fell in love with an abandoned olive farm in the hills above Nice. Their adventure begins with a deposit of their life savings to secure the ten-acre property. Despite the many obstacles and her eventual realization that this may be her life's supreme folly, Drinkwater remains determined to make her dream a reality. Following her engaging story is like driving the hairpin turns that climb the hills above the French Riviera: the views are breathtaking, the blind corners frightening, and the safe arrival to the top a joyous relief. And the olives? After much work, an astonishing success. Highly recommended. Janet Ross, formerly with Sparks Branch Lib., NV Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist When Drinkwater and her husband, Michel, decide to purchase a ramshackle olive farm in the South of France, they have no idea how much work it will encompass or how radically their lives will be altered. Similar to Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* (1990) in spirit and tone, this memoir introduces readers to the splendors, hardships, and passions of a distinct region and culture. As Carol and Michel attempt to cultivate both the soil and a family, the requisite cast of eccentric locals delightfully assists them. This warmly evocative homage to the vivid texture and tenor of life in southern France will appeal to both seasoned travelers and armchair tourists. Margaret Flanagan Copyright

