



REVIEWS

A passionate novel, a story of building a house in France, an e-dictionary and two films in our pick of the best of French culture

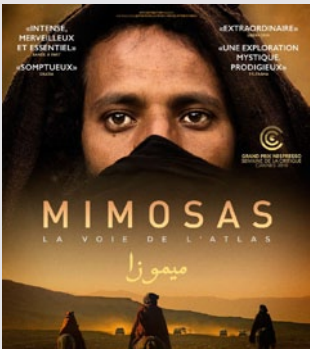
FILMS



The Odyssey

(released 18 August)

Celebrating the life of famous French explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, this film, spanning over 30 years, studies Cousteau's stormy relationship with his family. With stunning underwater shots showcasing the globe's natural beauty and advocating for its protection, the film is held up by the three lead actors' stellar performances – Cousteau is portrayed by brilliant Lambert Wilson, his wife Simone is played by Audrey Tautou and their son Philippe, who clashes with his father, is played by Pierre Niney.



Mimosas

(released 25 August)

An odyssey of another kind, this film by French director Olivier Laxe is the winner of the Critics Week's Grand Prize at Cannes this year. It tells the story of a journey through the Atlas mountains of Morocco. A sheikh is attempting to fulfil his dying wish to be buried with his loved ones but death finds him before he arrives. The two rogues escorting him promise to take the corpse to its destination as the entire caravan refuses to carry the body.

BOOKS

Paris, Mon Amour

Isabella Costello, £8.99,
Literary Sofa
ISBN 9780995724204

"The first time I caused terrible harm to those I love it was by accident. The second is the reason I'm here."

British-American expat Alexandra lives a glamorous life in Paris where she works as an art book publisher with her husband, Philippe, a contemporary art dealer.

Her life takes on a bitter turn when she finds out that Philippe is having an affair. While still in shock, she meets Jean-Luc, the 23-year-old son of Philippe's best friend. The two give in to mutual attraction and fall into a dangerous relationship that threatens to hurt everyone Alexandra cares about.



WIN!
We have three copies of Paris Mon Amour to give away.
Visit completefrance.com/competitions to enter.
The closing date is 19 September

A lifelong Francophile, Isabel Costello weaves an intriguing tale of love, lust and loss to the beautiful backdrop of Paris in this first novel.

The book, although a passionate story about love and its inescapable

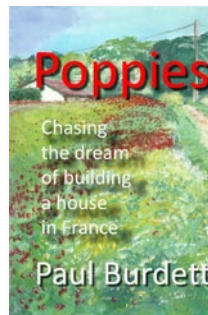
effects, also offers an insight into what it is like to live in a foreign city as an expat; despite living in Paris for several years and mastering the French language, Alexandra still feels like an outsider.

Well written and with true characters, this novel is a passionate tale and a real page-turner.

Poppies

Paul Burdett,
£24.99,
ISBN 9780995790018

"We were standing on the little lane which crosses the edge of the land, looking down a small, steep slope across a field of poppies."

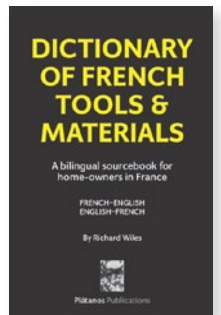


It so happens that this same field of poppies became the plot of land on which Paul and Carole built their home in south-west France, near Gourdon. Paul writes about their eventful journey, spanning 10 years up until spring this year, and relates the ups and downs of building their home in this delightful book.

Illustrated with personal photos and illustrations and punctuated by delicious French recipes the couple have tried over the years, this book is a great example of how expats chased the dream of building a home in France. For those wanting a first-hand and insightful experience on building a home in France, Paul's book offers a very personal yet relatable story and should help many who want to live that same dream.

Dictionary of French Tools and Materials

Richard Wiles
£9.99
ISBN 9781527266780



Ever stood in a *bricolage* store desperately trying to remember the word for a cross-headed screw (*vis empreinte cruciforme*, in case you're wondering)? Or stammered when trying to ask a neighbour if they had a *'niveau à bulle'* (spirit level) you could borrow? Keen DIY-ers and renovators in France need worry no more, as this super-handy dictionary has now been released in a special Kindle version, which can also be read on smartphones and tablet devices.

The hyperlinked 'Contents' guides readers to the relevant section of the dictionary listings; you'll find over 10,000 French terms translated into English, divided into Building, Carpentry and Joinery, Decorating, Electricity, Ironmongery and Hardware, Metalwork, and Plumbing and Heating. It's more than a dictionary, however, as Richard Wiles demystifies the choice of essential tools, materials and equipment in France, the anomalies between the countries (including disparities of sizes, quantities and terms), and highlights items that don't even exist in the UK. There's also a useful reference on numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages, a list of major trades and handy phrases.

Wiles writes from experience, having bought a 13-acre farm in Limousin in the 1990s, renovated its rundown barn and kept llamas – the subject of his amusing travel books, *Bon Courage!* and *Bonne Chance!* He is now renovating a ramshackle hilltop property in Lot, where he is writing *La Source!*, the third book in his travel series.

THIS MONTH

Sophie's been listening to...

Møme

A French DJ from Nice in Alpes-Maritimes whose music is full of energy. The track 'Alive' has kept me going all summer!