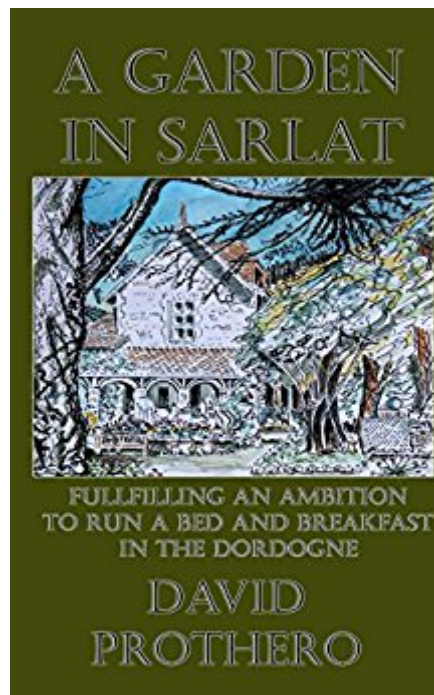




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A Garden In Sarlat: Fulfilling An Ambition To Run A Bed And Breakfast In The Dordogne



Synopsis

When David and Wendy made the decision to sell almost everything they owned and walk away from the businesses they had spent years building up they never doubted for a minute that their new life running a bed and breakfast in the Dordogne valley, South-West France would be harder work than anything they had tried before. They knew that it was a massive gamble. Their friends called them brave. Their families thought that they had either gone completely mad or were dreaming of a delusional easy life in the sun. In the event none of these assumptions were completely accurate. Moving and funny, this is the story of the trials and tribulations involved in buying and converting their new house. The challenges of starting a new business in a foreign land, speaking a language they had struggled to learn thirty years previously and had since forgotten. But ultimately of fulfilling their ambition to work, laugh and play in the beautiful town of Sarlat.

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Customer Reviews

It takes a special person to be an innkeeper. Or at least a very good one. This book is enjoyable in a number of ways. David and Wendy come across as the kind of people you would like to have as friends or hosts and could rely on in a crisis. They have fine qualities that complement each other. David is quite frank about the challenges that led them to make a gamble on their dreams and find a viable way to live as expats in one of the loveliest corners of France. Without prior experience in this

sector of the hospitality business, and only some brief stints of working in another foreign country, they succeed in establishing a fine b&b from scratch with the help of some extraordinary friends, hard work, their wits, some luck and massive determination. The book moves along at a fast pace, has plenty of brief sketches of good and bad guests, eccentric or at least unique locals, and some glimpses of why they fell in love with and still consider Sarlat home. It is not surprising that Tripadvisor has become such a powerful influence on the rise and fall of small hotels and restaurants. No inn would be complete without a welcoming dog and an imperial cat and both have their parts to play here..The book is short, and seems to end a bit abruptly. But then again, better to leave when you wished you could stay longer. There is a whole genre of books by and about people who have moved across borders to start a new life. I have a whole bookcase of them. This one is a keeper.

I'm a sucker for books along the lines of "we bought a house in France". This one follows more or less the same pattern as other books in this genre. I enjoyed again, against my will after so many others, the trials of renovating a property in rural France! This time David and Wendy has a B & B in mind. It all turns out well regardless of all the obstacles. I only have one gripe and if I could subtract half a star for that, I would have done so. There are so many basic spelling mistakes, and David's grammar (read: commas, full stops and quotation marks) is sometimes so haphazard. Sometimes where a capital letter should be there's a lower case letter, and vice versa. Really, self-published authors should pay an English teacher or lecturer to read their book and correct their spelling and grammar.

Enjoyed this book very much...the humor and description of the beautiful, cozy French village.

Enjoyed this book as much as we enjoyed our stay

Great read! Well-written!

Felt sorry for them. Sounds like slave labour

This short and deftly written book recounts the origins of Le Jardin, a bed and breakfast inn located in the idyllic Dordogne region of Southwest France. The book recounts how the author and his wife, Wendy Prothero, made the momentous decision to give up their jobs in England and make a break

for it, but on a modest budget and against great odds. It chronicles the arduous moving followed by the extreme challenges of rehabilitating a ramshackle house into a welcoming, magical place in time for the first guests to arrive to save the Protheros' economic bacon. The tale is told with an open mind and good humor, revealing the unexpected kindness the frequently eccentric residents of Sarlat bestowed on the author and his wife as they struggled to turn their wreck into an inviting resort. I wrote this review because I once stayed at Le Jardin as a paying guest, where I was struck by the Protheros' happiness. Clearly, they had fulfilled their dream after much travail and their happiness rubbed off on all the guests in a heart-warming way. I encourage reading this book if you either plan a trip to that charmed region of France or have your own dreams of making a radical change in your life.

I would have enjoyed this tale at 5 stars if there had been shorter/more paragraph divisions. As it is, I dream of going to Sarlat again and possibly staying at Le Jardin. The book gives such a vivid account of the challenges Dave and Wendy (may I call you by your prenom(s)?) met; I'm sure there were many more. I've read several accounts of relocating to France, the Dordogne in particular. Each has had special appeal. A Garden in Sarlat transported me to the place I've had on my list to revisit.

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