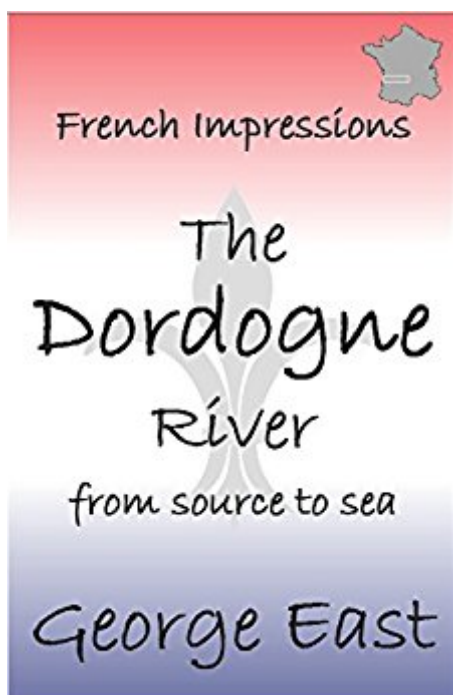


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THE DORDOGNE RIVER: From Source To Sea (French Impressions Book 3)



Synopsis

Over the past 25 years, George East and his wife Donella have travelled coming up for a quarter of a million miles across France by car, bus, train, tram, bicycle, boat and even hot-air balloon. En route they have tarried in every region and department of this richly diverse country. More importantly, they have, by their rough calculation, eaten and drank at around 4,379 restaurants, bars, bistros and country inns. As the author admits, it has been a demanding pilgrimage, but he was more than prepared to take on the challenge and put on four stone in pursuit of culinary perfection. Across the years, the Easts have written more than a million words in books, articles and blogs about their Gallic adventures, and collected an astonishing 3,000 traditional rural recipes. At the same time, George has registered his sometimes controversial and quirky but always entertaining impressions of the French regions and their denizens. His latest unique mix of information, anecdote, opinion and recipes is French Impressions: The Dordogne River. The book takes armchair travellers on an affectionate voyage along the banks of one of France's most iconic rivers, starting half way up a dead volcano in the Auvergne region and ending three hundred miles later in the Gironde estuary. On their journey through five regions and six departments, the author examines the diverse cultures and communities, their sometimes turbulent history, and how the past informs the present in this deeply fascinating part of a great country. If you want to know where there be underground dragons, saints with a golden touch and how the good burghers of Sarlat make cat litter from walnut shells, French Impressions: The Dordogne River is the book for you. A veritable genius and all round know-all when it comes to France, the French and how to enjoy the delights of their country. Beautifully written guide the this lovely and popular part of France.

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Customer Reviews

I have read some, but not yet all, of George East's other France based memoirs and they always make me laugh, so I was delighted to find this one just before setting off on our own French road trip that (as luck would have it) will include some of the Dordogne. I was not disappointed; this book had me crying with laughter more than once thanks to his original and often hilarious ways of recounting the things he has noticed or his descriptions of the people he has met. He was so honest about his experiences it was refreshing. I'm glad we are not the only ones to have done a spin of a car park, realised that no matter how beautiful this particular Beau Village is, it is sadly too busy for us see more than a drive by glance. Welcome to the real France that some guidebooks gloss over! In this book, George and his wife visit the main tourist attractions from the source of the river in the Auvergne to Blaye on the Atlantic coast, often taking the back roads, sometimes following signs to small detours, occasionally getting lost, but always enjoying their journey. Some establishments they find to eat or stay a night in are warm and welcoming, others not so, but all are described with humour. Some of the places he writes about were familiar to me and I really enjoyed revisiting them with him, others were new and George certainly whet my appetite for a road trip and gave me quite a few places to add to my 'must see' list. With a combination of interesting facts and funny stories, from this trip and previous ones, he has the ability to simultaneously inform and entertain his readers throughout the journey. This book would be perfect for anyone who enjoys humorous memoirs about travelling in France and should be a must read for anyone planning a holiday in the Auvergne, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées, Poitou-Charentes or Aquitaine regions.

The Dordogne River Once again George East has triumphed with his latest French Impression series. It's virtually impossible to put down, or stop laughing from start to finish. How he conjures up pictures of the wonderful, and sometimes weird ways of French life and countryside is quite amazing. Having visited many of the towns along the Dordogne river from the source to the sea

myself , the stories and people along the way come to life and George never fails, in the kindest way, to portray the quirks and idiosyncrasies of the French. Also lots of great recipes. Another absolute "must have " winner.

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