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TRAVEL NEWS

Edited by Rhonda Bannister

She's off again!

After the success of her inaugural tour of Provence last year, Noosa-based travel author Ann Rickard is packing her bags to take off again this June.

Along with her husband and faithful travelling companion, Geoffrey, Ann will host a two-week food/wine/party/tour in the South of France from June 7 to June 20. This is a very personal tour with Ann and Geoffrey taking only nine guests and treating them to an intimate slice of life in the South of France.

"We will be based in a magnificent 18th century stone maison for the two weeks," Ann says. "The owner of the property and our host is Amanda Taylor-Ace, a New Zealand woman of unique qualities who has been living in France for 12 years. Thanks to Amanda's inside knowledge we have access to some of the area's best chefs who will come in and cook for us. We'll be taking many meals beneath the vine-covered pergola in the walled-garden of the property by the pool, and an emphasis will be on showing our guests stunning regional food and produce."

The tour also includes beginner's French lessons over breakfast most mornings and visits to medieval villages and Provencal towns.

"We'll be escorted around the markets in nearby Uzès two mornings and we'll take the group to Roussillon, Arles, Les Baux de Provence, Gordes, Avignon and other smaller villages for day trips," Ann says. "We are with our guests all the time; we take almost all meals together and visit many local restaurants that the tourists never find out about."

Ann's first tour was such a highlight, she has written a book about it detailing all the fun and frivolity of a two-week romp in Provence.

A comprehensive itinerary and cost details – which is inclusive of most meals, all wine, tours, transport and accommodation – is available on www.annrickard.com



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