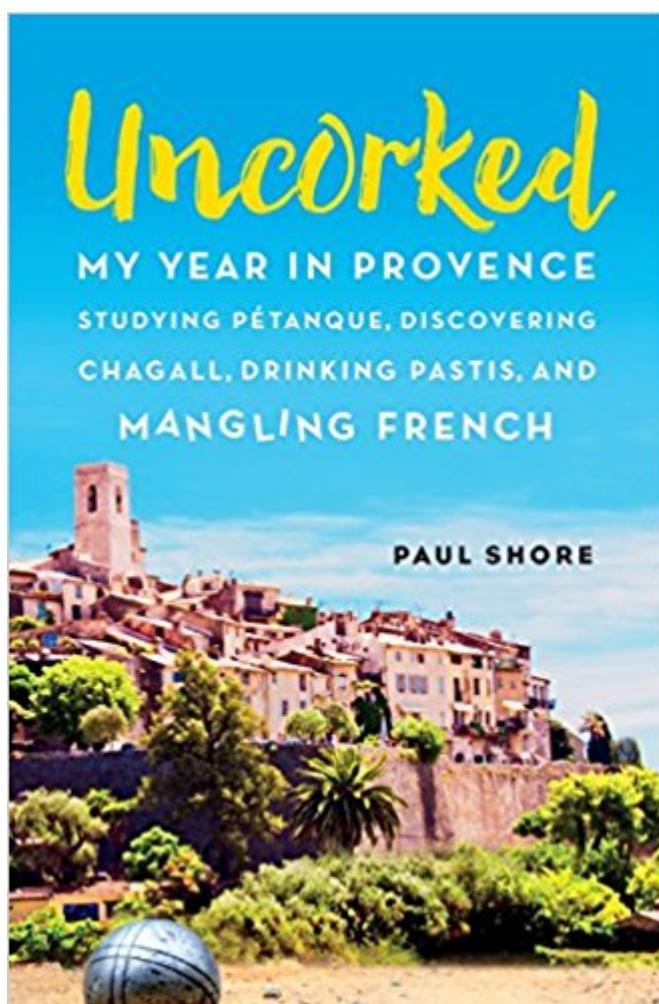


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# Uncorked: My Year In Provence Studying Pétanque, Discovering Chagall, Drinking Pastis, And Mangling French



## Synopsis

Will having smoke repeatedly blown in his face deter a foreigner from breaking in to French culture? Find out, as Paul Shore's evocative story telling, wry wit, and big heart, inspire and entertain you, as he tells the tale of how he gained acceptance inside a charming village in Provence. Uncorked celebrates the "uncorking" of a few tightly held traditions that are near and dear to hearts of the locals of the Cote d'Azur and Provence - being taught to play pétanque (boules) under the clandestine cover of darkness; learning vernissage etiquette; drinking pastis before noon; navigating narrow village roads at top driving speed. Shore also "uncorks" personal awakenings about the value of following roads-less-travelled and making time to smell-the-roses, as we cultivate friendships and traditions. And, through exposure to the life of artist Marc Chagall, Shore reflects on the challenges that all newcomers face to gain acceptance in a foreign land. Shore's humorous and heart-felt accounts of his year living in Provence will touch and amuse, and evoke fond memories of travel to fascinating places --- and they might even trigger reflection on the importance of being afforded new chances in life.

**TREAT YOURSELF TODAY** to some belly laughter and fond reminiscing about your own past travels! Praise for Uncorked: Recently earned acclaim from the prestigious **NEXT GENERATION INDIE BOOK AWARDS, AS A FINALIST IN THE TRAVEL CATEGORY.** "Like a wry cross between Bill Bryson and Dave Bidini, Paul Shore's funny, self-deprecating and wholesome recounting of a year spent in Provence is one part travelogue, one part self-help guide, one part memoir. Uncorked is just like a good French wine: light, delicious, and full of flavour." --Grant Lawrence, CBC broadcaster and author of Adventures in Solitude "A computer geek in the South of France? What could go wrong? With remarkable storytelling skill, Shore brings to life a time and place where community, simplicity and a slower pace were revered --- a younger generation's A Year in Provence." --Sarah Bancroft, writer of the blog A Year in Paris "Shore's light-hearted story takes you to a place where the simple joys in life are what matters. During my Man in Motion World Tour 30 years ago, I wish I could have slowed down as Paul did." --Rick Hansen, founder and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation "Many dream of relocating to France at some time in their lives. Like Peter Mayle (A Year in Provence) before him, Paul Shore made the leap and found a cornucopia of delights in his new home." -- Stephen Hui, hiking writer and former Georgia Straight editor "Paul Shore's nostalgic musings on the ancient, nuanced sport of pétanque demonstrate how to, with a dose of persistence, tap into a treasure trove of cross-cultural respect and understanding in sunny Provence." -- Jack Christie, writer-broadcaster, author of 52 Best Day Trips from Vancouver "Reminded me of my own time in Europe and how much I miss it. Thanks so much for

a wonderful read and bringing back such incredible memories." -- Stella Harvey, founder of the Whistler Writers Festival and author of *The Brink of Freedom*

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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Paul Shore is an author and technology industry veteran, who has worked around the globe. His second book, "Uncorked", is an Best Seller, a Next Generation Indie Book Award Finalist, and a nomineeÂ for a Whistler Writers Festival Independent Book Award. Paul's drive to embrace new challenges has seen him involved in a variety of pursuits. After the software startup he was with in France was acquired by computer chip maker Broadcom in 1999, Paul returned to Vancouver and led the company's voice-over-internet group for years. Marrying a talent for business with a passion for sport and community, Shore pursued a role in the world of sports and spent an inspiring, and at times physically risky, few years working for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He has also regularly dedicated energy to volunteerism, while living in Whistler with his wife and children and exploring the mountains and ocean of the coast.

Paul Shore's account of his year in Provence was a delightful surprise. I followed his curiosity as he studied the closed game of pÃ©tanque and managed not only to learn the game and play with the village pros, but was eventually accepted into their inner circle! I chuckled because our competitive family plays bocce ball on a regular basis, with no mercy for the opponents and much trash talk to throw them off guard. I highly recommend this endearing read.

The title of the book led me to believe I was going to be reading a book about wine. I was pleasantly surprised to find a charming book about Paul's initiation into the game of petanque and his discovery of the artist Marc Chagall, who had lived in the village where Paul chose to spend his year in France. Relocated by his Canadian employers, Paul has a fascinating year getting to grips with the French language and culture, and the aforementioned game. A very enjoyable read which I can definitely recommend.

I've read several memoirs about foreigners in Provence, each one of them interesting, and each one different. Paul Shore's take was original and could have fallen flat, but absolutely didn't. One of the things I most liked about it was the respect he truly felt for the people and the culture of the ancient village he lived in. It shone through and made this a truly memorable memoir. (Sorry, pun not intended.)

At first I wasn't too sure about this book, but I really did enjoy it. The differences between cultures often cause some awkward moments, but this book presents such situations with realism. I've been there, done that type of thing and the intricacies of situations in the book parallel a lot of similar that I've experienced in years past. It's a fun read, it's an interesting read, and lessons for all. Definitely have recommended this to friends.

Easy reading, and I learned what the game is and about the French people. I think the author covered a year in France very well.

Nice story for discovering the region of Provence!!

This book was not what I expected it to be. I expected a tale of wine and art and living, like a French version of Under the Tuscan Sun. What I got was a peek into a part of French living that many of us know nothing about. I could see this story playing out before me like a movie, moving to a tiny French town, gingerly testing out new language skills, and trying to immerse myself in a new pastime, petanque. I loved the photos throughout, it helped me visualize while reading. The chapters are short, which makes it really easy to read, a chapter here, a chapter there. I read it while I was cooking dinner most nights!

I really enjoyed this book. It's rich in story telling about how a Canadian sports enthusiast discovers a mysterious Provence pastime. Pétanque, as you will learn about by reading Uncorked, created a healthy avenue through which Paul immerses himself into a new culture and it's people while working in hi-tech. He makes lasting friendships in the process. Self-deprecating humour will keep you laughing and reading. Paul also shares some of the challenges that came along with being an outsider trying to feel at home in another country, again with a humorous angle to keep it fun for the reader. Magnifique!

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