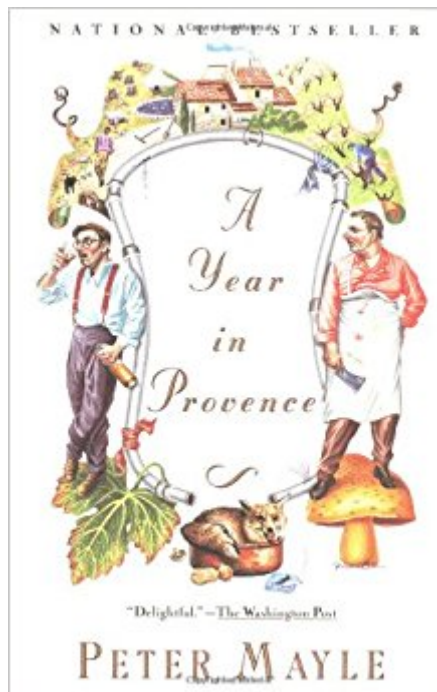


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# A Year In Provence



## Synopsis

National Bestseller— In this witty and warm-hearted account, Peter Mayle tells what it is like to realize a long-cherished dream and actually move into a 200-year-old stone farmhouse in the remote country of the Lubéron with his wife and two large dogs. He endures January's frosty mistral as it comes howling down the Rhône Valley, discovers the secrets of goat racing through the middle of town, and delights in the glorious regional cuisine. *A Year in Provence* transports us into all the earthy pleasures of Provençal life and lets us live vicariously at a tempo governed by seasons, not by days.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 544 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Who hasn't dreamed, on a mundane Monday or frowzy Friday, of chucking it all in and packing off to the south of France? Provençal cookbooks and guidebooks entice with provocatively fresh salads and azure skies, but is it really all CÃ'tes-du-RhÃ'ne and fleur-de-lis? Author Peter Mayle answers that question with wit, warmth, and wicked candor in *A Year in Provence*, the chronicle of his own foray into Provençal domesticity. Beginning, appropriately enough, on New Year's Day with a divine luncheon in a quaint restaurant, Mayle sets the scene and pits his British sensibilities against it. "We had talked about it during the long gray winters and the damp green summers," he writes, "looked with an addict's longing at photographs of village markets and vineyards, dreamed of being woken up by the sun slanting through the bedroom window." He describes in loving detail the charming, 200-year-old farmhouse at the base of the Lubéron Mountains, its thick stone walls and

well-tended vines, its wine cave and wells, its shade trees and swimming pool--its lack of central heating. Indeed, not 10 pages into the book, reality comes crashing into conflict with the idyll when the Mistral, that frigid wind that ravages the Rhône valley in winter, cracks the pipes, rips tiles from the roof, and tears a window from its hinges. And that's just January. In prose that skips along lightly, Mayle records the highlights of each month, from the aberration of snow in February and the algae-filled swimming pool of March through the tourist invasions and unpredictable renovations of the summer months to a quiet Christmas alone. Throughout the book, he paints colorful portraits of his neighbors, the Provençal grocers and butchers and farmers who amuse, confuse, and befuddle him at every turn. *A Year in Provence* is part memoir, part homeowner's manual, part travelogue, and all charming fun. --L.A. Smith

An account of the author's first frustrating but enlightening year in Provence opens with a memorable New Year's lunch and closes with an impromptu Christmas dinner. "In nimble prose, Mayle . . . captures the humorous aspects of visits to markets, vineyards and goat races, and hunting for mushrooms," said PW. Author tour. Illustrated. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

We are traveling in Provence this summer, and a friend recommended that I find and read this book to get a feel for the area. Although it is an older book and times surely have changed somewhat in the almost twenty-five years since it was written, I found it to be highly entertaining as I read about his experiences living in the area. His style is conversational, as if he were sitting in your living room for a chat. His descriptions of the local people, and semi-quoting their conversations is, at times, hilarious. Mayle also does a credible job depicting the countryside, food, travel, and slower lifestyle of the natives of the area. I found this book so entertaining that I also read two others: *Toujours Provence*, and *Encore Provence: New Adventures in the South of France*. If you're looking for an insight into the area of Provence France from someone other than a factual travel guide, I highly recommend Peter Mayle's books.

I loved the different characters the author met and discussed. The descriptions of the towns, food and weather were all splendid. I would have appreciated an explanation of the French terms used throughout the book, but Google translate helped when I was stuck.

Charming enough story, sympathetic to all involved it seems. Not sure how big a revelation it is that

an old house without central heating will be cold in the winter.

charming dairy of a year in Provence. Many laughs and still has meaning in 2017, many years after it was written

With a balance of self deprecating humor and appreciation for irony, Mayle takes readers through his first year of living in Provence. From buying a house to making it their home, he and his wife endure uninvited guests, renovation nightmares, and neighborhood antics that keep readers chuckling. While the audience is treated to an authentic taste of French life through his accounts, they can also identify with the binding similarities inherent to all cultures.

Have gotten thru the first several chapters and it is very interesting and enjoyable. It is written not so much in Chapters so far but in Month's that he has visited. A lot about the little towns he visited and juicy nuggets of local folklore and humor thrown in. If you are not careful you will learn some things along the way about truffle hunting, etc.... I'm sure I will enjoy the rest of this book as much as the beginning. If going to South of France this is a MUST READ!!

I laughed so hard I cried all the way through this entire book! The author so vividly describes the characters and life in his adopted home, the Provence region of France, that you can almost smell the aromas and taste the flavors emanating from the country kitchens, hear the sounds and feel the Mistral as it blows through the blustery winter, and see the mishaps unfold before your eyes as Mr. Mayle and his wife experience the comedy of home renovations. So warm, funny, and real, this book was a total delight! And as a side note, one evening as I climbed into bed expecting to read another chapter I found that I had to wrestle the book away from my husband who hadn't read a book in years! He had become so intrigued by my own enjoyment and recounting of characters and events from the book that he decided to read it for himself and actually finished it before I did! A really, really good read!

What francophile hasn't read this best-seller? Mayle so perfectly describes his new life in Provence: the people, places, and local culture. I came away with a great appreciation for his writing and felt like I had met the many characters personally. As a student and professor who has spent several extended periods in France, it is as though I had spent months in the Lubéron (which I had not). Even if you are not familiar with French, this is an amusing, well crafted novel based on the author's

own experiences.

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