

Ma France Unit 16 B&B (La chambre d'hôte)

Video A Translation

The 'Little House', [is] a bed & breakfast in Marseilles. Alix Arnaud has been receiving guests here for 8 years.

She always starts her day with...

Alix Arnaud: "Did you sleep well? Did you sleep well? What did you do yesterday? Did you enjoy it? And what are you doing this morning?"

Alix gives advice to her guests, from the time they arrive until they leave.

Alix: "And so before you leave this afternoon, you could go and visit the 'Panier' [area of Marseilles]. I'll give you a map so you'll be able to find your way properly."

Female Guest: "Oh Thank you!"

Alix: "We can have a look later at places you could visit, how to get there quickly...so that it'll be more helpful for you."

Female Guest: "Yes, because I don't have very much time here...just enough to want to come back!"

Alix: "Oh absolutely! My house is always open!"

The guests here all eat breakfast at the same table. A perfect opportunity to get to know each other.

Female Guest: "Are you (just) passing through Marseilles?"

Guest: "Well we've been...we're already been here for..."

Female Guest: "Like me!"

Guest: "We've been here for a little while! For a few days, yes!"

Alix: "The croissants will be ready soon!...Thank you. All hot!" And the yoghurts are homemade like the jams, all homemade!"

Female Guest: "You made these?"

Alix: "Yes it's mostly hand-picked fruit."

Guest: "OK! Will you give us your recipe?"

Alix: "Depends which one!"

An opportunity also for everybody to talk about the region.

- Alix: "So yesterday you did Cassis...er the 'Route des Crêtes' (Mountain Crest route), didn't you?"
- Guest: "Yes."
- Alix: "Did you manage to find Figuerolles?...Oh it's incredibly beautiful isn't it?"
- Guest: "Oh yes!...Very very beautiful!...What else did we see? La Ciotat!"
- Alix: "Ah! La Ciotat!"
- Guests: "And Bandol!"
- Alix: "And Bandol!...Did you see the three little villages: Cassis, La Ciotat and Bandol are completely different!"
- Guest: "But very pretty!"
- Alix: "Cassis is the St. Tropez of Marseille, La Ciotat is very authentic, and Bandol...Oh la la ...with all the shops next to each other!"
- Guest: "It's gorgeous."
- Alix: "What did you like?"
- Guest: "The boats...I really liked Cassis!"
- Alix: "Ah! There are lovely boutiques in Cassis"

Precious encounters that Alix records in her golden book (visitors' book).

A book with drawings, photos and kind notes like 'We had a fantastic time' or 'We really liked the peaceful atmosphere and the jams.'

- Alix: "This is my golden book. When I'm very old I'll take out...these happy memories. You can flick through it, and also when they come back, sometimes they'll have a little photo in their room, you see!"