

New look!

# Living France

INSIDE  
The latest property news

£3.99  
OCTOBER 2014

FOR THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF...

completefrance.com

## SOUTH OF FRANCE SPECIAL

### EXPLORE

- Drôme
- Aude
- Hérault



€139,500

For a peaceful country bolt-hole

### 8 RURAL RETREATS

Find your perfect property

### ASK THE EXPERTS

Your questions answered

### REVEALED

Myths about moving to France - debunked



REAL LIFE • PROPERTY • PLACES • ADVICE • LIFESTYLE • LANGUAGE • INSIDER INFO

property news

## Property news

Whether you're planning your move to France, or are already living there, we bring you the latest from the world of French property



### The place to be

Midi-Pyrénées is the best place to live in France, according to the latest Better Life Index compiled by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The region performed well across all the criteria analysed, including education, jobs, income, safety, health, environment, civic engagement and accessibility to services, and emerged with a score of 7.82 out of 10 putting it ahead of the other regions in France.

Second place went to Limousin which scored highly in employment and civic

engagement and had a total score of 7.77, while Pays de la Loire came third with a stable score of 7.71. Corsica brings up the rear with a score of 5.66, despite scoring well in the category of environment.

"What's not to love about Midi-Pyrénées?" says Julie Savill of Beaux Villages, an estate agency with properties in south-west France. "France's largest region is a huge and diverse place: skiing, city culture, rural life... the choice is yours. It is peaceful, safe and welcoming, but not remote."

Charles and Jane Smallwood live and work

### News in brief

The Overseas Guides Company has released its figures for the second quarter of 2014, which show an increase in enquiries of 24% year-on-year. Although Spain has jumped to the top of the list, France remains ever-popular with an increase of 17% year-on-year, and an increase of 32% compared to the first quarter of 2014, putting it in second place. [www.overseasguidescompany.com](http://www.overseasguidescompany.com)



More and more foreign investors are choosing to enter the French property market, especially in Paris. Hervé Lévy, regional manager of Home Hunts, believes now is the time to buy due to François Hollande's increasing unpopularity. "Our savvy investors know that President Hollande will not be re-elected and the right-wing are more than likely to come back to power. This is likely to encourage property investors back again and so it is really the time to buy now; while better prices can be negotiated and there are really amazing apartments and mansions on the market." [www.home-hunts.com](http://www.home-hunts.com)

in Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val, running estate agency Agence l'Union, and wouldn't consider living anywhere else. "Our particular pleasure lies in the four areas we cover at the agency, namely Tarn-et-Garonne, Tarn, Lot and Aveyron, especially with the first-class flight facilities at Toulouse airport. All in all, we enjoy a lifestyle enjoying much peace and quiet, virtually no crime and all the pleasures associated with living 40 years ago."

[www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org)  
[www.beauxvillages.com](http://www.beauxvillages.com)  
[www.agencelunion.com](http://www.agencelunion.com)