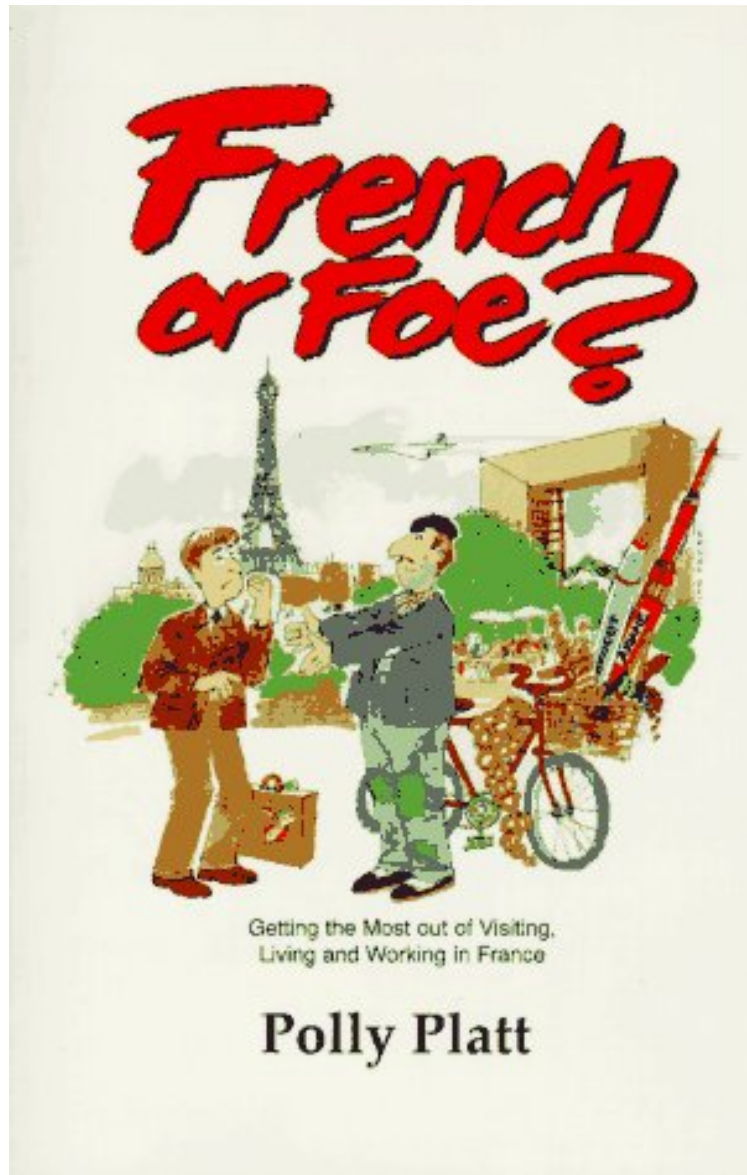


(Mobile book) French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France

French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France

Polly Platt

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#932843 in Books Distribooks Inc 1998-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF
1 .54 x 5.39 x 8.24l, #File Name: 0964668408272 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Polly Platt : French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Amusing And InformativeBy JJThis book was published quite a while back.This book was recommended to me by my French tutor, prior to my vacation in France.I suspected, and this was confirmed by a native Parisian, that much of this pertains to the "Bourgeoisie" of French society. This may be exactly who would be encountered am American corporate executive transferred to Paris.Nevertheless, an entertaining and informative book.(Just to be clear --Bourgeoisie 2. a person whose political, economic, and social opinions are believed to be determined mainly by concern for property values and conventional respectability.)1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An essential for travel to FranceBy CJI just purchased my fifth copy of this book--I give them as parting gifts to friends going to France. It is a pleasant read and the tips it contains are remarkably helpful. I would recommend French or Foe to any traveler--first time or 10th--to France. There's no need to look like an "Ugly American" or even a tourist for that matter while you're there. If you follow Ms Platt's advice and heed local social norms (like pointing with your entire hand, not one finger) you not only can "fit in" but her simple suggestions can prevent you from appearing rude-- and to avoid being rude is never a bad thing, no matter where in the world you find yourself!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing !By AnonymousI can confidently say that this book is filled with outdated and poor advice. And I can say it despite the fact that I'm new to France and do not yet speak any French. Yet some reviewers think the opposite so I guess this is a matter of personal taste. Here's why I didn't like French or Foe :Platt's book is more about her attempts to find her place in the French society rather than giving you an outlook on French people and culture. She repeatedly portrays herself as someone who knows most the older upper elite of the Parisian society, explains how Draconian rules shape the society and then goes on to give bizarre and self-conflicting suggestions such as the importance of "working the eyes" in the supermarket etc so as to get service. She explains France not through the lives of ordinary French people but mostly through diplomats and "high-class socialites".A good section of the book focuses on her description of how to receive respect and that acceptance is unattainable for a foreigner who is quite often mal-eleve, or ill-mannered because he lacks a certain finesse.Throughout the book Madame Platt lists numerous to-do and not-to-do things that I find amusing. For example the toilet issue where she goes to great lengths to explain that it is bad behavior to use the toilet when visiting someone. When our French friends visit us they use the restroom, and laugh when I ask if they would rather urinate on the street than use our toilet.Maybe the suggestions in this book applies to Paris to some degree, it is definitely not true in Cote D'Azur. And I'm writing from La Californie in Cannes, one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in the whole region and despite the fact that you can find a certain snobbery in Cannes, people are very pleasant and helpful overall.Paris may not be a city with warm people yet instead of attempting to be part of something, be yourself, smile (as it is contagious) and enjoy your life. When we go shopping to Carrefour in Antibes, there are usually long lines so we choose automated cashiers where you scan your own shopping. Since we do not speak any French we sometimes get stuck during the process and a lady comes, she is often a bit nervous and starts "bla bla bla," we smile at her and respond in a foreign language and this time she smiles and voila ! Indeed when a French person talks to me in French when I need English then I respond in my native language and quite often I see a happy, curious glance in their eyes.Do not let French or Foe give you a bad image about French people and the system here. Of course you will be frustrated for life is slow, bureaucratic, not-so-efficient and France is far from being the leader of the world in every sense maybe except food yet French people know about this and with their wonderful, kind personalities and never ending curiosity, they will make you feel nice.If I can give you basic suggestions from my own experiences that IMHO will help you more than French or Foe, these are : Maintain a positive attitude and keep a proper body language as they will first judge you depending on your body language before anything else. Do not grill others (because you may experience a customer to vendor relationship) but always establish a kind, person to person relationship. Do not look down on other people because of pay, status, physical or ethnic qualities etc. Treat people with respect, do not let anyone treat you with disrespect.My number one advice is something most of us know maybe with the exception of Madame Platt, I felt it all along but thanks to a French colleague, I remember it all the time."Do not try to be French, you are not."

Book by Platt, Polly

.com Let's face it: the French have gotten a bad rap. Mention that you're considering a trip to France and everyone will warn you about rude waiters, supercilious shopkeepers, and snooty concierges who won't give you the time of day-- and worse, pretend not to understand your high-school French. Not so, says Polly Platt, author of *French or Foe?*; "The French are generous, exhilarating friends," but they are different--wonderfully so. The trick to getting along in France is understanding the culture and learning to accept it on French terms instead of your own. Though the book is designed primarily for people who will be living or working in France for extended periods, the lessons Platt teaches about manners, attitudes, and culture are invaluable for even those visitors just passing through.