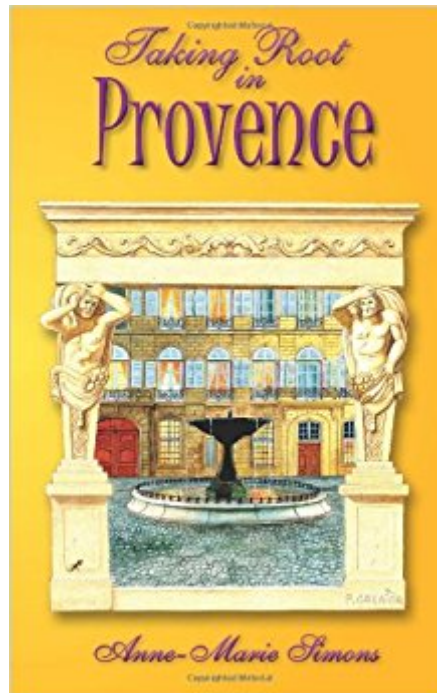




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# Taking Root In Provence



## Synopsis

They agreed on one thing before retiring-they would travel, sniff around at other countries and other lifestyles, and discover along the way which place came closest to "having it all." There they would drop anchor and go with the flow. The going has been good, so much so that these former Washingtonians have decided to make France their permanent home. They chose the city over the countryside and took on the challenges and pleasures of Aix-en-Provence, where they have been doing as the locals do for more than a decade now. The daily markets, strikes, gypsies, curious villagers, ancient traditions, truffle cheaters, pagan and religious celebrations, secret swimming spots in the middle of Marseilles-it's all there to be suffered and enjoyed. Not to mention an interest in food that borders on the obsessive. Add good weather, a pinch of hedonism, a dose of culture, and it all adds up to that elusive prize: quality of life. In this collection of vignettes, take a ride in the slow lane with Taking Root in Provence, through la France profonde, ancient Roman cities, and that wonderful blend of the old and new worlds that is today's Provence.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had earlier purchased and read "Ten Years in Provence" published in 2008. I enjoyed reading that book. Three years later in 2011 "Taking Root in Provence" was published. One would think that that the 2011 publication was a different book based on the title and 's description. Surprisingly, it is the same book as the 2008 publication, but with a new title and an additional six chapters of approximately 30 pages which the author admits at the bottom of the Introduction in small print. The 2011 version is still a good read for someone who had not already purchased the 2008 edition.

believe that needs to make this clear in its product description. Maybe the author should have waited until she had enough original material for a new book rather than creating what may appear to some to be a marketing deception.

Disappointed. I have read Peter Mayle's books and felt at times like some of this was lifted from them. Nothing new is brought to the table, unless you think reading about dog do on sidewalks of Aix is what you want to read about.

Not the most exciting writer on the planet.

I have family scattered throughout France, and Provence is one of those places that you really do want to see: from the light that informs the artwork of VanGogh, to the Santons, the food and the uniquely Provençal culture and attitude, there are no easy descriptions or complete approach. Provence is as much a feeling as a region, and Anne-Marie Simons manages to incorporate that unique feel while presenting information in a clear and concise, and often poetic way. While people may be familiar with *A Year In Provence* by Peter Mayle, this book takes you further into the nuts and bolts of relocation: the frustrations that you may encounter when dealing with government agencies, and that peculiar attitude that is so prevalent: *vie quotidienne n'est pas nécessairement formidable mais chaque expérience faut le déguster* (While daily life may not always be wonderful, every experience should be savored). And savor life they do, from choosing the meal for the day, to the changes in light and season, even to the opportunity to stop and chat in the market or government offices. Nothing is fast, nothing is hurried and everything deserves the proper attention. So, for Americans not used to the slower way of progressing, this book will also serve as a primer to learn to relax, to not expect it yesterday yet remain hopeful for tomorrow. With insertions of recipes, some easily converted using ingredients available in France but you can also take advantage of several websites that will allow you to ship in many ingredients. With her unique style that combines information and wit with some lovely imagery, Anne-Marie Simons has brought Provence to readers, and undoubtedly encouraged many more visitors. A lovely aid when planning your next trip or move, *Taking Root in Provence* is full of useful information and vignettes that will excite wanderlust in even the most sedentary being. I received a paperback copy of the title from the publisher for purpose of honest review with France Book Tours. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

I have to admit to becoming totally absorbed in this gentle read that draws you into discovering a new life in Provence. I have new places I now want to visit and certainly fÃfÆ'Ã Âtes and festivals I want to experience. Who knew there were so many fÃfÆ'Ã Âtes to be celebrated in one smallish area of France? It was great to have an insider guide to so many cultural events and shows just how well Anne-Marie and her husband have integrated into the area. I did feel that my little corner of Poitou-Charentes is most definitely lacking in the fÃfÆ'Ã Âte department. This book is not just an exploration of a beautiful part of France, but a thoughtful look at the people they meet too, whether new friends and neighbours or market traders happy to share a recipe or advice on cooking the produce. France, the French and some of their unique characteristics are explained with a touch of humour from the author's perspective in this book that I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I also loved the recipes from her husband Oscar, which include some real Provencal delicacies, and I will be giving the pissaladiÃfÂre a try, as it is one of my favourites. This book really does have a little bit of everything from food, to people, to discovering an area and its traditions. I'm sure anyone who reads this book will want to pack their cases for Provence. I was sent a copy of this book by the author for review.

Taking Root in Provence is a collection of short vignettes about the author's experiences settling in Provence and getting to know her new neighborhood and culture. Author Anne-Marie Simons retired with her husband, Oscar, and spent some time travelling before settling down in the town Aix-en-Provence, France. Simons writes about the weather, shopping, holidays, art, language, food, wine, and more. As I read through the short three to four page chapters, it occurred to me that they read like a series of blog posts, which indeed, they were originally. Taking Root in Provence contains many pleasant, short essays about all aspects of life in the author's new environs. Aside from the two passages to which I objected above, I enjoyed reading about her new life and experiences. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys armchair travelling. For more reviews, check out [...]

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