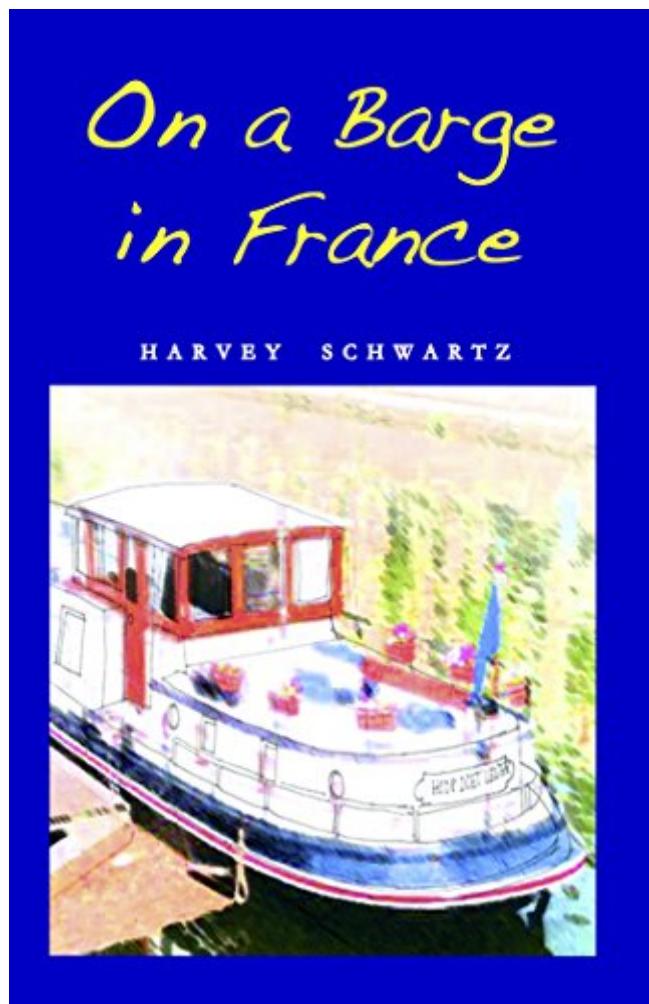


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On A Barge In France



Synopsis

Buy a 90-year-old Dutch canal barge, a 70-foot former commercial boat, and cruise the canals and rivers of France. Brie, Burgundy and baguettes. Snails and foie gras. Engine breakdowns and language adventures. Sounds like a dream. In *On a Barge in France*, Harvey Schwartz tells of the four summers he and his wife spent on *Hoop Doet Leven* ("Hope Gives Life") traveling the French countryside and learning to live a slower, fuller life. Each chapter offers a slice of French life, a potpourri of the classic French lifestyle that perseveres in small towns along the canals and rivers.

Book Information

File Size: 3146 KB

Print Length: 213 pages

Publisher: Marshview Press (January 24, 2016)

Publication Date: January 24, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01AV0OYKK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,243 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4
in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > France #11 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > General #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Adventurers & Explorers

Customer Reviews

First, a warning: This book may be hazardous to your (economic) health, because when you read it you may well start thinking about buying a canal barge and following Harvey Schwartz and his wife, Sandra, to the waterways of France. This warm, self-deprecating, picaresque tour of the Gallic countryside will show you a very different side of France from the familiar tourist centers like Paris, the Riviera and Lyon. This is a part of the country that is in many ways more authentic, and certainly far more varied, than what most English-speaking travelers experience. Informal, humorous and

perceptive, the author can move from laugh-out-loud humor to poignant reflection in a sentence.

Read this book and be transported.

This book, written in a light, humorous hand will enlighten any reader with the juxtaposition of " a normal American" couple living in France, but not as tourists. Traveling along age old canals, in their own barge, they stop and write about their many new experiences. From meeting other boaters, learning the French bakery lingo, visiting farmers, winemakers, cheese makers, trebuchets and the fabulous food it is all very different and entertaining. I rate this book 5 stars, you'll want to purchase many for friends for the holidays and let them experience first hand the many great adventures of Harvey and Sandra.

Hard to put down, but necessary if you want to absorb the life of the author and his lovely wife as they travel the French canals on a beautiful old barge. I laughed so hard that the milk I was drinking came out my nose. The descriptions of the lifestyle of the French and the warmth of their hearts when meeting these two Americans really shows that we should learn a thing or two about hospitality here in the U.S.. I loved this book and hope Mr. Schwartz writes more about their retirement days living on a barge in France.

As a frequent visitor to France and a boating enthusiast, I found Harvey Schwartz's account of life on a barge to be a great combo of dead-on cultural insights and mariner's delight. I would recommend this book to anyone tempted by the notion of taking a big leap out their comfort zone to explore something new and challenging, whether it's on a boat or land. Harvey and Sandra show how retirement can be a fun & adventurous devoid of golf and senior citizen discounts.

A delightful and detailed description of a fantasy realized! Mr. Schwartz does not gloss over the often comic tribulations that confront a couple who step off on such a daring adventure -- twenty months sailing the rivers of France on a somewhat balky old barge -- but the overall message is both enchanting and delicious. The book is a perfectly inspiring hammock or airplane read. It's left me ready to burn my suits, buy a barge, and take off -- or least have the brio to try my own version of Mr. Schwartz's happy venture. Good for him for sailing off and good for us that he's written such a great job describing how he did it!

With a great sense of humor and terrific writing skills, Harvey Schwartz describes what barging is

about. I found the book amusing, insightful and educational. His descriptions of everyday life on the canals is spot on. After 5 years of also being a bargee I still learned things I hadn't known before. His descriptions of what the French can be like is so accurate. Whether you want a better understanding of what living in France is like, or are thinking of trying out barging yourself, this is a must read.

I enjoyed the book. The book kept moving at a good pace and did not drag down in too much detail or repetition. Enjoyed their stories of the people they met and everyday life in French villages. I would enjoy doing a similar tour. Check out their website to see more pictures.

I recommend this book if you are looking for a window on the many oddities of French culture. It will make interesting reading for anyone not familiar with the country. If you are looking for actual barging info then you might find the contents a little light.

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