

# Exploring the Lot Valley: Part 1

A whole new meaning to the word 'old'

Saturday, April 26, 2008

When you visit a country that was built and founded two millenia ago, your concept of new and old changes. Old here isn't like thinking about something built before the "turn of the century" because they have about 10-15 centuries worth of century turns. So, if it's still standing, it could have been built by medieval carpenters in the 12th Century with their nails still in the door and functioning. Even new here must look old as construction takes on a medieval look.



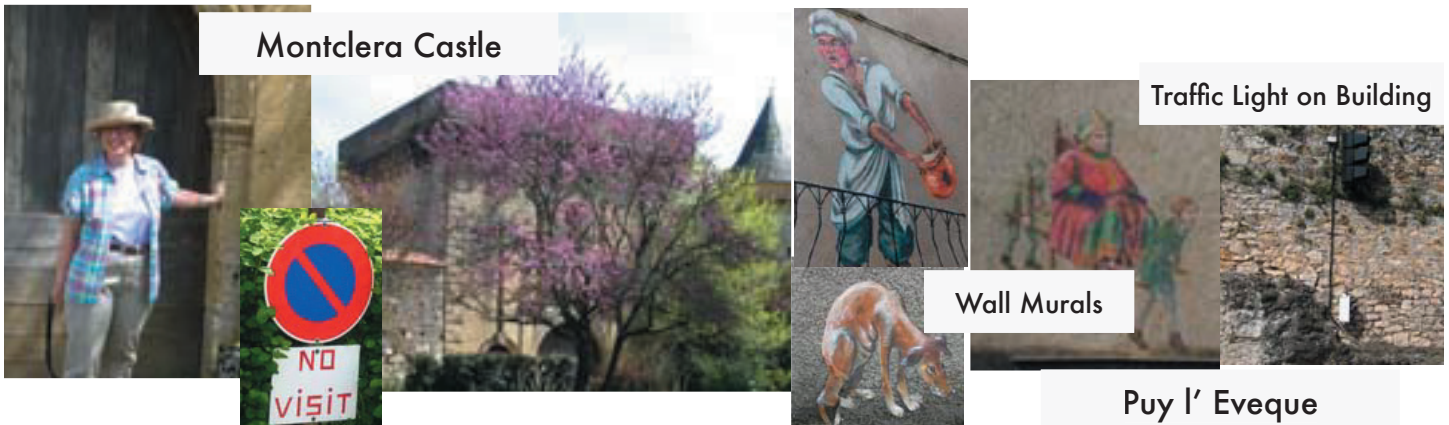
"New" construction



Our town square in Castelfranc

## First Tour of the Lot Region

Amidst perfect weather (70 deg, sunny), we ventured up the back roads to a couple of hamlets with a lot of charm including Les Arques, which has it's own art hero, sculptor Ossip Zadkine, a Polish emigree who left the town several Picasso like treasures. Then it was down another back road to Montclera Chateau where Carol dared to ring the doorbell, despite the "No Visit" sign. This place had a huge moat around it and though it was dry, I really didn't want to explore its depths, so we took our leave swiftly. We moved on to Puy l'Eveque, on the Lot River bluffs with spectacular views, accented with numerous wall murals shown below. Note the red light mounted on the side of a building. No space is wasted.



Montclera Castle

Traffic Light on Building

Wall Murals

Puy l' Eveque