

Everything Stops on May Day

We get acquainted with Castelfranc, our home town

Thursday, May 1, 2008

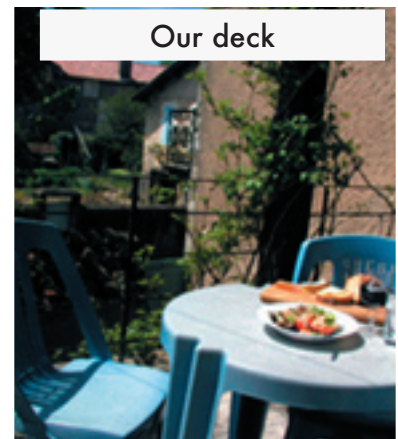
May Day, May 1, is a French national holiday as in many European locations. It's the equivalent of our Labor Day. Since all commercial businesses are closed, we made sure we had enough provisions, did some laundry, and stayed around our host town of Castelfranc and explored the local scene. The day was punctuated by a town festival in the square, a sort of pot luck affair with nearly everyone involved. Today we also visited our house caretakers, Thijs and Corrine who own "gites", - rural tourist accommodations. Being Dutch, they speak English, so we got a lot of our questions answered that had accumulated over the first week. Their specialty is hosting artist's workshops which certainly got Carol thinking about coming back!



Our Town Festival



I'll Wash, You Dry



Our deck



Corrine & Thijs' Gite

It's Wise to Plan

One of the things you get used to is the strict rhythm of the French work-eat-work-rest daily routine. If you get up a bit late and hit the town shops about noon, you're going to be out of luck. Everything is closed from 12:00-2:00. That's when we're supposed to be eating, and don't worry about the two hour lunch. No one else is producing anything, so you're not falling behind the competition.

Later in the day you are going to be hungry for an early dinner, perhaps. Again, get used to waiting until 7:30 PM and usually, it's one seating and done. All this means is that the French have learned the fine art of enjoying life, and aren't slaves to being able to work round the clock or eat whenever they want.



Bob on our balcony