

A Cuq-Cuq Mountain & Vineyards

Gearing down but still on the move

Tuesday, May 5, 2008

Day 12 and we had yet to see a vineyard up close, so today we traveled south amidst field after field of grape arbors. The town of Montcuq (Cuckoo Mountain) is about 30 minutes from Castelfranc so it seemed reasonable on a day when we were beginning to pack up for the return trip home. (Pronounce your "q", as in Mont-kook, otherwise you've said "my arse" in French.) The town is built on the side of the mountain and features a prominent tower which started as a 12th century *donjon* or dungeon. This one was visited and captured by Simon du Montfort as well. What I don't understand is keeping prisoners in a tower where they can throw things down at the guards. I am surely missing a piece of important medieval military strategy here. Maybe it's because there's no place to go but up when you're locked in one.

We did a little climbing and viewing of the amazing panorama from the tower base, and had a great time watching the elderly folk of Montcuq playing the French form of bocci ball in the town park while we had a drink. (See drinks, below.) On the way home, we saw more great views and vineyards that seem to be built around the hills and contours that make up this landscape.

