

A vibrant rainbow arches across a dramatic, cloudy sky. Below the rainbow, a dirt road winds through a lush landscape of green trees and bushes. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

LEXIS

Design Retreat

*Hosted by Miv Watts,
Author of the best selling lifestyle book
The Maverick Soul
with colour consultant and owner of
Francesca's Paints, Francesca Wezel*

*19th May - 24th May
15th June - 20th June*

Lexis: meaning the total stock of words in a language

This Spring, Miv Watts (The Maverick Soul) and Francesca Wezel, much celebrated colour consultant and owner of the renowned Francesca's Paints in Battersea London, will be hosting interior design courses in the stunning 17th century manor amid the rolling hills of the Gers, SW France.

Using the property as an ingenious model, our guests take the opportunity to interpret the colours, textures, form and flow of the rooms as inspiration, discussing how to find comfort and confidence in one's own design aesthetic. For the curious there will be trips to uniquely quirky private Chateaux, Markets, Antique Brocante Markets, Armagnac Cellars and perhaps a little dallying in Toulouse.. Delicious lunches and dinners will be prepared daily by our Parisian chef Philippe.

Francesca Wezel: After 7 years as a colourist and manager of Porter's Paints in Australia, Francesca Wezel returned to London and launched Francesca's Paints in 1996, one of the world's first eco-friendly paint companies in the UK. Whilst expanding, Francesca has continued to evolve her production techniques, colouring and packaging.

Francesca is also a qualified Hatha Yoga teacher who relishes in sharing her Yoga practice.

Miv Watts: Author of the bestselling lifestyle book The Maverick Soul, began her career as a window dresser for Burberry. She met and married Peter Watts sound engineer to the Pink Floyd with whom she had two children (Ben Watts, Fashion Photographer, and Naomi Watts, Actress) Having enjoyed a global career as a Stylist in film, TV and Interior Design, she moved to the South of France and continues to create beautiful environments while working on a new book with Interiors photographer Tim Beddow.





You will enjoy the fresh local produce. Take excursions to the pretty town of Eauze and it's weekly market. You will be able to watch and learn while Philippe (our Parisian World travelled Chef) shows us that French cuisine isn't just gizzards and goats cheese. Philippe provides a full theatrical performance as he works and after the wine.... his food.

Listening to the stories of his years learning Aboriginal cuisine in the Great Victorian Desert, dipping into the Hindi markets in Rajasthan, lavishly creating Pacific Rim dishes for his Madame in the castle; you may actually be happy with a freshly laid Arcana boiled blue egg for breakfast.

You may visit the cellars of an Armagnac Chateau and take a tour of an ancient distillery, still using original methods of production. We can visit a beautiful baroque chapel (a well kept secret) in a tiny hillside village of the Tarn et Garonne, A visit to the bustling market of the small medieval town of Nerac and from there a perhaps a boat ride on the canal du midi to Agen.

These are some of the pleasurable activities available in the Gers.

Not to be missed is the lovely town of Lectoure which is home to Les Bleus Pastel de Lectoure, a must, if like me you want to properly dye all those old linen nightshirts you picked up on our visits to the brocante markets. Then while we are dallying in Lectoure we will visit the grand old former hospital that promises a rummage through some interesting antiques and vintage treasures. (Not least the actual dealers themselves!)

As a special treat, Francesca will be offering yoga classes morning and evening for those who wish to take part.



Francesca and Miv have collaborated, over the years on many projects, From the Marquess of Cholmondeley's Palladian home at Houghton Hall in Norfolk UK, The Earl of Leicester's stately home at Holkham Hall, two unique boutique hotels, and several country houses in London and the South of France.

They have designed three popular colour stories together and continue to collaborate.



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The Course

For two days of our workshops Miv and Frankie will talk on colour, texture, form and comfort in Interior design.

Often clients find it difficult to work with confidence over decisions on colour and, frankly, more often than not end up settling for an indiscriminate shade of beige. But we don't live in a beige world and working through the history of our lives, our most vivid memories just don't revolve around those beige-ish days.

Our purpose over this retreat is to help you feel braver about expressing your own unique personality in your homes. Learning to be discerning in one's choices and yet brave and skilled enough at recognising texture and form that resonates with ones' own intuition and translates into a comfort and security that is uniquely one's own. After all, home is where the heart lies. We need it to listen to the beat.

Our events and excursions will be to a selection of interesting Chateaux and homes where Baroque, Medieval, and Renaissance interiors have seduced and inspired their owners over centuries.

We suggest you bring a significant personal object eg. a painting, photograph, dream, memory or book that has fired your imagination.

ITINERARY

Arrival Day:

4:00pm - 6:00pm - Tea and cake and settling in.

6:00pm to 7:00pm - Introductory welcome session with Miv and Francesca

7:30pm - Dinner and informal discussion around the course and upcoming days.

Day 2 - 5:

Morning: Yoga stretches with Frankie

Breakfast: Self catering - fresh fruit and daily fresh pastries and baguettes.

Morning Session: Studio time with Miv and Frankie - discussions and consulting time, lessons in curating and decorating

Lunch: Local and home grown from our veggie patch prepared by chef Philippe

Afternoon: Scheduled visits in the area. Chateau visits, antiquing or private one on one time with Miv. Or time for those who want to read or relax by the pool

8:00pm - Nightly dinner with Chef Philippe

Evening: 90min yoga with Frankie

Dinner: Cooking market delights with Philippe. Local wines and Amagnacs, sharing stories and lots of giggles before going off to dream.

Miv is also happy to provide many suggestions of local places to visit, whether a trip to Toulouse, or a grand Armagnac estate.

Departure Day:

12:00pm - Guests depart Lexis



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The Property

Located in the Gers, Armagnac country, South West of France.

MAISON de GUARDIEN: a four bedroom, three bathroom, farmhouse. All the rooms are full of character, decorated by Miv.

The PIGEONNIER: a two bedroom, one bathroom house, equally as well appointed.

the MANOIR: the main property and has 2 guest bedrooms, and is where host, Miv resides.

All the furniture is antique or bespoke. Nothing in the house follows a straight line as the origin of this house dates back to three hundred years.

There is one permanent guest on the property; Whitty the cat who regards herself as being the proprietor of all three dwellings and has the right to every bed. You, naturally have the right to shut her out!



The communal space of the house is equipped with a television, internet, wood-burning stove, central heating, books and internet,

Guests have access to a full kitchen to prepare meals and store any food or drinks. Guests are also free to relax by the pool at any time.



The Details

DATES:

Check in 19th May, Check out 24th May *or*
Check in 15th June, Check out 20nd June

ADDRESS; Lexis 401 Chemin de Baillargue,
Cazaubon, 32150

Telephone : +44 7951 951 937

COURSE COST:

€1300 per person

ROOM RATES:

MAISON de GUARDIEN

Kerala Room - King bed with ensuite loo - bath
with shower overhead in bedroom
€1320 (max. two occupants)

Indian Bean Tree Room - Queen bed with shared
bathroom
€990 (max. two occupants)

Bali Room - King bed with shared bathroom
€1080 (max. two occupants)

Haveli Room - King Bed - Ensuite with shower
€1320 (max. two occupants)
(Extra single bed available at additional cost)

PIGEONNIER

Turtle Dove Room - Double bed with shared
bathroom
€900 (max. two occupants)

Barbary Dove Room - Two single beds with
shared bathroom
€900 (max. two occupants)

MANOIR

Ruby's Room - Single bed - Ensuite with shower
€1080 (max. one occupant)

Jaipur Room - King bed - Ensuite with shower
€1320 (max. two occupants)

*Please contact us with your desired room
selection to book. Course costs are per person and
accommodation rates are per room, with maximum
occupancy as listed.*

INCLUSIONS

5 nights accommodation, design workshop
hosted by Miv Watts and Francesca, light
breakfast, chef prepared lunches and dinner, and
all other details as listed in the itinerary. Please
note afternoon offsite excursions are scheduled
as available, and will be decided upon nightly at
dinner.

Please let us know when booking if have
any dietary requirements, and we will do our
best to accommodate. Please note we cannot
guarantee any meals will be free of allergens.
eg. gluten, peanuts etc.

EXCLUSIONS

The provided breakfast is only a light meal
of fruits, and pastries etc. Guests are welcome to
use the kitchen space to store and prepare any
food.

Transportation is not provided. We
highly recommend hiring a car for the
duration of your stay, especially if you plan on
attending off site excursions.

The Details

CLOSEST AIRPORT

Bordeaux Airport

Toulouse Airport

Both are approximately 2 hours away, by car.

CAR HIRE

We highly recommend hiring a car for the duration of your stay, It greatly simplifies your ability to visit many of the local sites as there is limited local transport, and none provided on site.

Both Hertz and Budget, along with many other reputable companies are available at the airport.

CHECK IN/OUT

Check in is from 3pm and check out is by 12:00pm. If you need to arrive or depart outside of these times, please contact us and we will be happy to assist where possible.



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