

THE FRENCH CONNECTION



Hundreds of Alumni have found an existence abroad – literally all over the world, from Baja

California to Taupo, New Zealand and Osaka, Japan.

Most of them work for hotel chains and were simply transferred, others met the love-of-their-life during an internship and decided to stay. A few take a completely different approach and consciously decide to start a new life in another country. Alma found two of them in rural France.

Arjan Capelle (1991) and **Marije Capelle-Gerlsma** (1999) own and manage an elegant, three-star hotel with an excellent restaurant with a daily changing chef menu: the Hotel Edward the First, in a 19th century petit-château building in Monpazier in the Périgord.

The fortified city of Monpazier was founded in 1284, by Edward the First, King of England and Duke of Aquitaine; hence the name. The emphasis here is on service and elegance; the 12 rooms are stylishly furnished; the suites have a Jacuzzi or Turkish bath. Arjan and Marije (a little family now after the arrival of baby Amélie, last November) started their hotelier's life on October 18, 2002 at 19.00 hrs exactly. There are things you simply never forget...

Arjan's and Marije's idea to go and do something completely different was triggered really by thinking about their quite prosperous careers after the school. Arjan was still working for Center Parcs, and expecting his first General Manager position shortly. The foundation for all this was laid at Disneyland Paris, where his hard work took him swiftly through all F&B ranks. It was later, at Center Parcs, that he met Marije, who had started her career there after a Hotelschool internship. She, too, had experience in France where she did her first internship in one of the Paris airport Holiday Inn's.

Aart Zoetbrood (1983) and his wife Henriette (from Maastricht, they first met during a BAVO weekend!) own what was once the property and production facility of a Pineau de Charentes producer.

At 'Domaine de La Laigne', a large 'Master's House' stands guard over what looks like half a village of large, carefully restored buildings. Where once rested rows and rows of oak barrels, now a number of luxurious self-contained

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