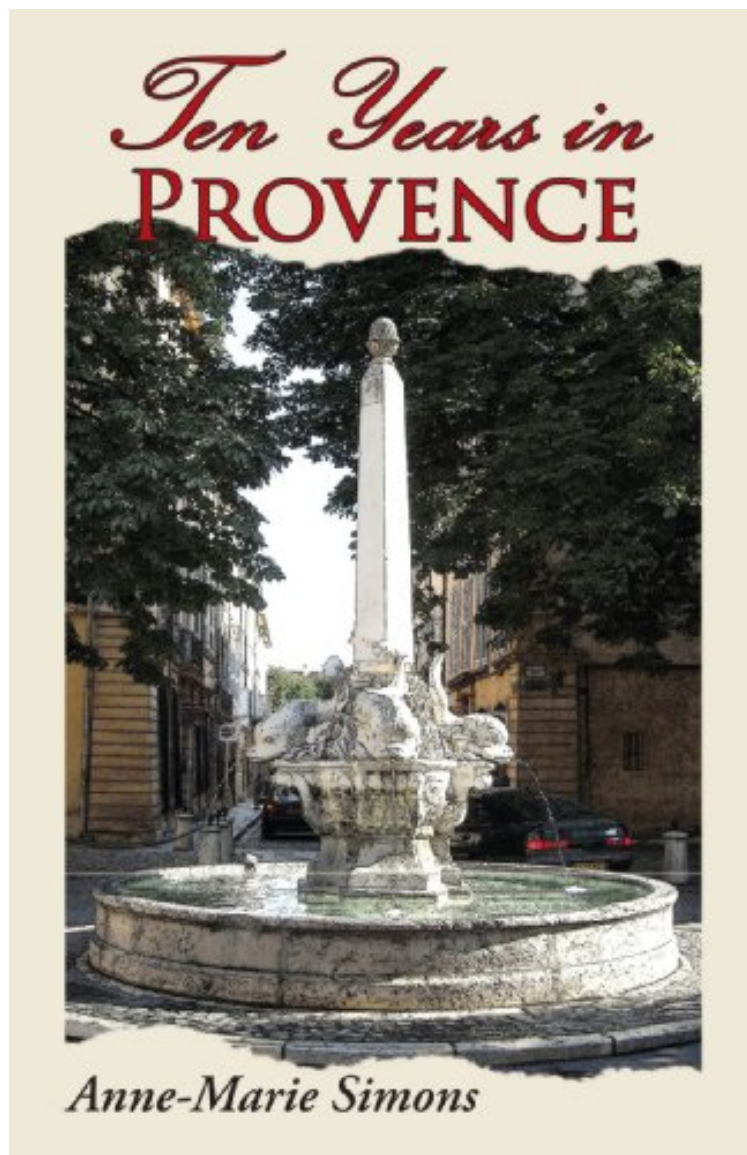


(Free download) Ten Years in Provence

## Ten Years in Provence

*Anne-Marie Simons*

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**Anne-Marie Simons : Ten Years in Provence** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ten Years in Provence:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book about Life, Culture, and Cuisine in Southern FranceBy Monique Y. WellsAnne-Marie Simons has written a great book about life in southern France. She and her husband retired over a decade ago and moved to Aix-en-Provence, where they made a decision to adapt to the local

way of life, rather than insisting, as some do, that the locals adapt to theirs. Subsequently, she decided to write about her experiences there. The result is a fascinating account of the traditions and lore of Provence, as well as her astute observations about life as she experienced it. Many of the Provençal customs that she describes originate from ancient religious beliefs and practices, and she depicts them with verve and wit. As one who lives in Paris--where many French traditions have been squelched or deformed by the forces of commercialism and modernity, and where so many international chain stores resemble their American counterparts--I often wonder whether American travelers to the French capital really feel as if they are visiting a foreign country. In reading Simons' book, I was delighted to learn that many old customs and traditions are still alive in Provence. It seems to be light years away from life as I experience it in the French capital. Thank you, Ms. Simons, for regaling me with stories about your life there.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Musings from an Ex-Patriate By Grady Harp Anne-Marie Simons has written a book about becoming an ex-patriate that should begin a stampede to France! TEN YEARS IN PROVENCE is far more than random notes on unfamiliar places that many travelers produce as memoirs. This is a book so well conceived and written that it makes the reader feel as though every item mentioned in this ten year journey of living in Aix-en-Provence is a shared experience. Not only does Simons find the essence of this particular region of France in the grand history of the civilized world, but she also gently shares the morsels (or should that be 'morels'?) of living among the folk of Provence with candor and warmth as though she were chatting with us over the back fence. Simons informs us of what makes Provence so special and then spends her book taking us through adventures such as the open markets, the choices of mushrooms and how to prepare them, how to discern a good 'truffle, how holidays in France differ from elsewhere, customs many of which have not been described before, her involvement with selection of wines the French way, little jaunts to secret places known primarily to natives alone, and the special pleasures of Provençal picnics. The list goes on and on in this little book of short chapters with hefty information. For the lovers of all things French and for those thinking of relocating for retirement, this little book is brimming with ideas and happy times and tricks of learning just how to adapt to life abroad. Anne-Marie Simons has written a book that far outshines the other more popular books-to-movies about this corner of the world. And she seems to be writing it just for sharing a special place and life with us. Grady Harp, January 10 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Give me ten like that! By Charlie I loved Anne-Marie Simons' Ten Years in Provence! As difficult as this might seem, it makes a real contribution to the books on Provence market, by being brief and very bright. It is full of spot-on observation and commentary that will appeal to the casual tourist and to the serious student of Provence alike. Plus it's fun to read. Simons has her head squarely on her shoulders when it comes to legends and that certain *je ne sais quoi* that governs all things French. My hope is that she will consider doing other regions of France, and then of course an *Encore Ten Years in Provence*.

They agreed on one thing before retiring--they would travel, sniff around at other countries, other lifestyles, and discover along the way which place came closest to "having it all." There they would drop anchor and go with the flow. The going has been good, so much so that these former Washingtonians have decided to make France their permanent home. They chose the city over the countryside and took on the challenges and pleasures of Aix-en-Provence, where they have been doing as the locals do for more than a decade now. The daily markets, the strikes, gypsies, curious villagers, ancient traditions, truffle cheaters, pagan and religious celebrations, secret swimming spots in the middle of Marseilles--it's all there to be suffered and enjoyed. Not to mention an interest in food that borders on the obsessional. Add good weather, a pinch of hedonism, a dose of culture, and it all adds up to that elusive prize: quality of life. Take a ride in the slow lane with TEN YEARS IN PROVENCE, through *la France profonde*, ancient Roman cities, and that wonderful blend of the old and new worlds that is today's Provence.

About the Author Anne-Marie Simons has worked as a translator, teacher, journalist, sportswriter (covering Formula 1 races), and Director of Corporate Communications which included writing an international newsletter. Her Argentine husband Oscar left a career in international development banking to become an expert on Provençal cooking and other local pleasures.