

# BEHIND THE SCENES

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## THIS BOOK

This 1st edition of *Châteaux of the Loire Valley Road Trips* was researched and written by Alexis Averbuck, Oliver Berry, Jean-Bernard Carillet and Gregor Clark. This guidebook was produced by the following:

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## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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**Jean-Bernard Carillet** As a Paris-based (and Metz-born) journalist and photographer, I was delighted to re-discover my own turf while researching *France Trips 1*. I couldn't resist the temptation of exploring Burgundy and Beaujolais, if only to sample some of the best wines in the world. I confess a penchant for the Meursault whites (in Burgundy) and the Fleurie reds (in Beaujolais).



**Gregor Clark** My first epic French road trip came on Bastille Day at age 20. Nearly broke and hitchhiking towards my next fruit-picking job, I landed a 400km lift from a lost tourist and proceeded to spend the night winding through the fireworks-lit streets of every little village in Haute-Provence. To this day, I love nothing better than aimlessly wandering France's back roads in search of hidden villages and unexpected treasures. I contribute regularly to Lonely Planet's European and South American guidebooks.

Read more about Gregor at: [lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark](https://lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark)

# OUR WRITERS



**Alexis Averbuck** first came to France when she was four and now visits every chance she gets. Whether browsing markets in the Dordogne, château-hopping in the Loire or careening through hill-top villages in Provence, she immerses herself in all things French. A travel writer for two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat, and is also a painter – see her work at [www.alexisaverbuck.com](http://www.alexisaverbuck.com).

Read more about Alexis at: [lonelyplanet.com/members/alexisaverbuck](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/alexisaverbuck)



**Oliver Berry** My first trip to France was a family holiday to Provence at the age of two, and I've been back many times since while working on Lonely Planet's bestselling *France* guide. I've covered nearly every corner of L'Hexagone on my travels, but I have an especially soft spot for Corsica and the Pyrenees. When not in France, I can usually be found wandering the beaches and clifftops of my home county, Cornwall. I'm also a regular contributor to many other websites, newspapers and magazines, including *Lonely Planet Traveller*. Check out my latest travels at [www.oliverberry.com](http://www.oliverberry.com).

Read more about Oliver at: [lonelyplanet.com/members/oliverberry](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/oliverberry)



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