

## Éditorial

**W**ith this special Valentine's Day issue of *French Accent*, we hope to tantalize you with information, scenarios, vocabulary and special features in the realm of love and sexuality - a topic not often dealt with in publications geared to Anglophone expatriates in France. Perhaps some of the myths and stereotypes of France as a country of sexual freedom, spectacularly beautiful and sensual women, and the great French lover played a small part, deep within their sub consciousness, in many people's decision to resettle in France, or that such matters inform more than we really realize the interest that many Francophiles have in the country and in its cultural mores. While it is true that the everyday reality of life in France falls far short of fulfilling those suggestive dreams and images of flirtatious women and dashing lovers, it is quite true that France has often provided a haven for writers, artists and filmmakers whose work would more than likely be banned in other, more restrictive and less tolerant countries. It is no accident at all that Henry Miller's novels, considered outrageously obscene and banned for many years in his native America, were written and first published in France, and it is highly doubtful that Josephine Baker's performances that made her a living legend in her time would have been permitted anywhere else. If the brief barring of a breast at a Super Bowl Game caused a huge uproar in the United States, such images are frequently shown on French television and are considered quite normal, and the sexual dalliances of France's politicians hardly raise an eyebrow on the public collective opinion, such intimate details of the sex lives of American political figures nearly always lead to a disastrous downfall.

We, therefore, thought it would be helpful to our readers to have some frank discussion of such issues, together with some useful vocabulary and audio scenarios on this titillating subject. However, you needn't worry that *French Accent* has descended into the gutter and that the issue is full of provocative sleaze and suggestive poses by scantily clad French women. We have made every effort to be very circumspect and reserved in our presentation of the material, while at the same time being frank and up-front about the general theme.

Enjoy the issue, and we wish all our readers a **very Happy Valentine's Day!**



## French Accent Magazine

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**Editorial team:** Céline and Vincent Anthonioz, Annick and Roger Stevenson.

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### Contacts

**Questions to the editor:** [editor@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:editor@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Subscriptions:** [admin@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:admin@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Advertisement:** [ad@frenchaccentmagazine.com](mailto:ad@frenchaccentmagazine.com)

**Tél.:** +33 (0)870.46 .77.81.

**Web site:** [www.frenchaccentmagazine.com](http://www.frenchaccentmagazine.com)

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