

# Courses in South West France - Woodturning, Painting and Digital Photography

**A Six day holiday with 5 half days in the workshop. Plenty of time to enjoy the superb facilities and spectacular surroundings of Le Moulin de la Materette. Expert tuition, comfortable accommodation, delicious food, convivial company. The perfect blend of creativity and relaxation. Its so much fun that 70% of our guests return 2, 3, 4, or even up to 10 times.**

## **Location - Le Moulin de la Materette:**

The Moulin is situated midway between Foix and St Girons. Approximately 80 minutes drive south of Toulouse, in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

The Moulin nestles by the River Arize in the middle of 10 acres of private grounds. The grounds consist of formal gardens, orchards, wild flower meadows woods and include a woodland walk on an island with sculptured wild flower beds that lead up to a cascade.

There are 600 metres of river frontage along which you can enjoy the sights & sounds of nature. It is within a short drive of some of the best views of the Pyrenees and close to countless superb walks and many other attractions.

## **The Accommodation:**

The Moulin and Grange closeby, have been beautifully converted to include 11 double bedrooms with their own facilities. The Grange also houses the Art studio / Gallery and 2 workshops. Staying at the Moulin is like being part of a large house party, and needless to say cuisine is of a very important feature of the holiday. You can expect a delicious 4 course meal with an excellent wine every evening round a large walnut table. The dinner party atmosphere and ambience of the Moulin have cemented many long term friendships. Couples that have met at the Moulin invariably book together for the following year.

## **The Facilities:**

The facilities of the Moulin are first class. A large heated pool to chill out by. Or for the more active there is a Badminton Court, Table Tennis Table, Croquet Lawn and Boules pitch PLUS 6 bikes to use to explore the immediate area. The tour de France passes close by each year so yellow sweaters should be worn with caution. Less strenuous rides can be taken along the Arize valley to Maz d'Azil.

## **Activities:**

In addition to the above, there is an excellent Golf Course and Trekking centre nearby. Not too far away there are Fly Fishing, White water rafting, Canoeing and many other activities. But in particular, wonderful walks to suit all grades of rambler.

## **Places to visit:**

Montsegur and other Cathar Castles,	Toulouse, Carcassonne,
Markets at Mirepoix & St Girons,	The Bishops Palace and Cathedral at St Lizier.
The Cave paintings and dwellings of the prehistoric settlements near Tarascon and Mas d'Azil	
The Eagles of Lordat.	But the main attraction are the Mountains

## **The Courses:**

### **Woodturning:**

Intermediate / Refresher and Advanced woodturning. The courses can be structured to involved 5 projects that will hone all the skills necessary for you to confidently continue in your own workshop. Typically the projects can include, Spindlework (like a babies rattle or honey dipper), a box, a bowl, a platter, and a hollow form. Alternatively we can tailor the course to suit the individual who may want to specialize in a particular area. Our instructors are Jamie Wallwin, Ken Allan, Mick Hanbury and Reg Slack. All very experienced woodturners and teachers. Who between them have taught in excess of 5,000 woodturners.

### **Combination Courses:**

The Combination courses have proved very popular. This allows one partner to Woodturn whilst the other learns to paint or photograph. After a creative morning they can then get together to enjoy the area or the excellent facilities of the Moulin.

### **Other Courses:**

We anticipate starting **Creative Writing Courses** shortly and are considering for the future, **European Cuisine, Yoga and Birdwatching.**

## **Painting: - Course Tutor - Penny Milner**

Penny has been a practising artist since leaving art school in 1982. She has lived in France for 18 years where she works as a full time artist. A very successful portrait painter who is also comfortable painting landscapes and still life. She has exhibited regularly in the UK & France and her paintings are in private collections in Europe, USA, Canada and Australia. She has won numerous awards for her paintings.

Penny has exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Mall galleries and The Paris Salon. She has work in many private and public collections. She works in Water Colour, Oils, Acrylics and Pastels.

Penny has had wide teaching experience and sees this as a valuable part of her work, she enjoys interacting with the students and finds the atmosphere at the Moulin particularly inspiring.

The course at the Moulin is structured to guide you through a series of exercises adapted to beginners and those with previous experience. We will look at different techniques such as wet on wet, dry brush and scumbling, as well as painting foliage and flowers. Where it is useful I follow this up with demonstrations.

*"My aim as teacher is to help each student to develop their own potential and style. We work together in the studio, the garden and out in the landscape allowing us a wide variety of subject matter.*

*Working in small groups is often inspiring; providing everyone with new ideas. The atmosphere relaxed and supportive but intense."*

Here are some comments from previous students:

*"Penny manages to integrate basic methods alongside creative work. She delivers key messages subtly within the context of the course rather than with a sledgehammer. Consequently, I find that I learn a great deal by doing and being guided by Penny to think about why particular approaches work or don't work."*

*"As a very much hobbyist painter I am not always clear what my requirements are until I pick up a brush. However, Penny consistently manages to provide guidance and support without 'taking over'. This is why the course, in my experience, works so well."*

*"Penny is a sensitive and helpful tutor who allocates her time fairly amongst all her students."*

*"Penny uses her considerable talent as both artist and teacher to support her students and in doing so uses a generous dose of humour which makes for a very good all-round experience."*

## **Digital Photography:- Course Tutor - Julia Reid**

Julia lives with her family in the Peak District, where she works as a freelance photographer. Photography has been her passion for as long as she can remember. She holds a BA (hons) degree in photography, is an Associate member of both the Royal Photographic Society, and the British Professional Photographers Association and is a Licentiate member of the British Institute of Professional Photographers. She has taken on various important commissions over the years including one for Eve magazine sponsored by Nikon Cameras, and a number of for Peak District National Park authority, but fortunately still finds some time to fit in a few courses which she enjoys doing. You can read more about Julia and see some of her work on [www.highpeakphotography.co.uk](http://www.highpeakphotography.co.uk) We are confident that she will be a great hit with our photography students.

### **The Course at the Moulin will cover the following:**

- 1) Basic landscape composition techniques (rule of thirds, zoning, framing, perspective, creating depth in your photos, hyperfocal distance, use of filters).
- 2) Photographing water.
- 3) Selective focusing.
- 4) Basic Photoshop techniques.
- 5) Reading histograms, file sizes, black and white techniques.
- 6) Exposure.
- 7) Moving on from basic camera settings.

We will provide you with a CD before you come on the course, with basic photoshop tips on how to get started and some guidance as to what will be tackled on the course. We will also provide a list of filters, what they do, their order of importance and cost, in case you may want to buy one or two before you come. However, Julia will have some you can try out, provided one of her array of adaptor rings suits your camera.

You will get the opportunity to photograph various subjects. Flowers and other features within the Moulin grounds, Landscape subjects in the spectacular Pyrénées. Old town views in historic Foix, and traditional market scenes.

Each day will be structured, but not rigidly. It will include start with a short presentation to demonstrate what is to be undertaken that day. It will include some private guidance, a lot of photographing and end with a session in the studio to develop your photoshop skills and print out your favourite shots.

### **Contact Us:**

For further information, photographic illustrations and schedule of courses please go to [www.materette.com](http://www.materette.com)

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