

# L'Etiquette du Francaise

French  
Etiquette

# Meeting Etiquette

The handshake is a common form of greeting!

Friends may greet each other by lightly kissing on the cheeks, once on the left cheek and once on the right cheek.

You are expected to say 'bonjour' or 'bonsoir' with the title Monsieur or Madame when entering a shop and



# Gift Giving Etiquette



Flowers should be given in odd numbers but not 13, which is considered unlucky.

Some older French retain old-style prohibitions against receiving certain flowers: White lilies or chrysanthemums as they are used at funerals; red carnations as they symbolize bad will; any white flowers as they are used at weddings.

If you give wine, make sure it is of the highest quality you can afford. The French appreciate their wines.



# Table manners

- Do not begin eating until the hostess says 'bon appetit'.
- If you have not finished eating, cross your knife and fork on your plate with the fork over the knife.
- Finish everything on your plate.
- Do not cut salad with a knife and fork. Fold the lettuce on to fork.
- Peel & slice fruit before eating it.
- Leave your wineglass nearly full if you do not want more



# Business-Wear Clothing Etiquette



Men should wear dark-colored, conservative business suits for the initial meeting.

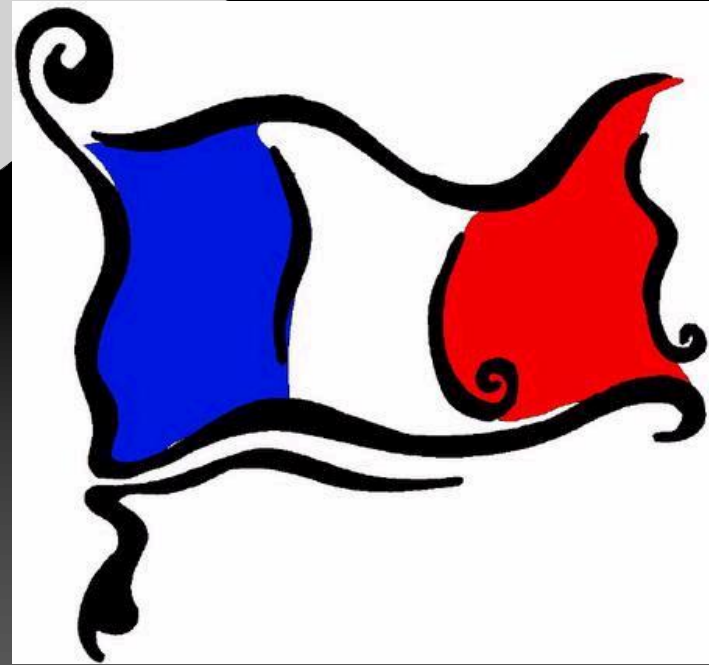
Women should wear either business suits or elegant dresses in soft colors.

The French like the finer things in life, so wear good quality accessories.



# *French Customs & Traditions*

Traditions  
françaises  
et Douane



# Beheading Bottles of Champagne

The tradition originated in the time of Napoleon when the Hussards under the famous general's command began celebrating victories by swinging a sabre and thus neatly slicing the top of a champagne bottle.

According to legend, the Hussards, skilled cavalry, would ride up at full gallop to one of the ladies holding up the bottle and with one swipe, behead the bottle.



# Christmas

Holding a puppet show on Christmas eve is very common and later at midnight, people attend church for the traditional Christmas Mass.

After mass, they have a late Christmas Eve dinner, called *le Réveillon*. Menus consist of dishes containing turkey, capon, goose, chicken, and *boudin blanc*.

Children wait for Père Noël and leave their shoes out in front of the fireplace, hoping presents will fill them by morning.





# Easter (Pâques)

According to tradition, no church bells are rung on the Thursday before Good Friday and remain silent for several days, until on Easter Sunday, they revive. As the bells toll, the custom is for people to hug and kiss each other.



Children don't look for eggs left by an Easter Bunny... rather, the French believe that the Flying Bells leave on the Thursday before Good Friday, taking with them all the grief and misery of mourners of Christ's crucifixion, reaching Rome to see the Pope and then come back on Easter Sunday morning bearing chocolate Easter eggs, which are hidden around houses and gardens for children to find.

# 5-Week Holidays



Almost all employees are entitled to 5 weeks of holiday a year.

August has been the traditional holiday month in France.

For those taking their holidays during the winter months, skiing in the French Alps is the way to go.



# References

wintessential Cross Culture Solutions. France - French Culture, Customs And Etiquette.. 22 Feb. 2008

<<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/contact.html>>.

Sparchcaffe. French Traditions. 2008. 24 Feb. 2008

<[http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/study\\_abroad/count\\_ries/france/typical\\_french\\_traditions.htm](http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/study_abroad/count_ries/france/typical_french_traditions.htm)>.

Pictures retrieved  
from Google.com