

Tips & Traps (cont'd)

A new type of accommodation: "bedycasa"

Spending the night in hotels and B&Bs while travelling is one way to go. There is another called *tourisme alternatif* (alternative tourism), which consists of staying at someone else's home. This system of renting a *chambre chez l'habitant* (a room in a private residence) for a short stay is becoming very popular among the French. There are possibilities for all the regions in France as well as internationally. The best organized system is Bedycasa*, which has been a real success since its creation just a little more than a year ago, in July 2007, by a young French woman, Magali Boisseau. While it began as a very modest start-up, 5,200 people all over the world have used it already to find a room, and the level of satis-

faction is high. Now, the website covers 144 countries and has been translated into three languages.

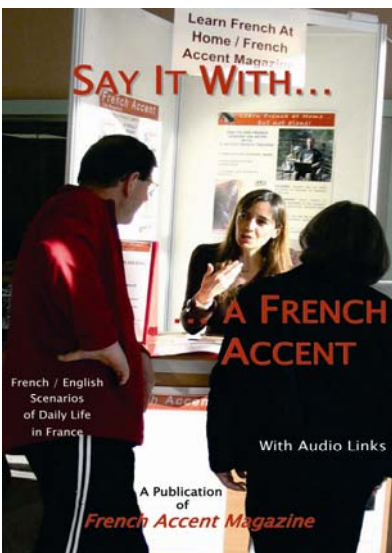
If the idea is principally to stay with a family, there is in fact a total of 45 types of various accommodations, including: homestay guest rooms, B&B, independent room for rent, host families, *chambres d'hôtes* and *gîtes* (in France), *casa rurales* (in Spain and Portugal) guest houses, homestay, farm-inn, pensions, *riads* (in Morocco), *mishukens* and *ryokans* (in Japan), exchange of houses and apartments, etc. And the proposals are classified in 43 different themes: family holidays, unusual places, cycling, hiking, romantic stay, relaxing, humanitarian, safari, health, culinary, linguistic, luxury, environmental, etc.

If this formula is especially attractive for students, it can be used by people of any age who are curious about learning more about the culture of the country through sharing the life of a family for a while, and who wish a more authentic welcome than what a chain of international hotels can offer!

* www.bedycasa.com
(with an English version)



Magali Boisseau, the young founder of bedycasa



NEW!

A 90-page e-book with French-English scenarios on daily life in France, vocabulary and grammar tips, with audio links.

Selected from past issues of

French Accent Magazine

Price: 18 euros.

Special price for subscribers of *French Accent*: 15 euros.

To order: [click HERE!](#)



Great deals on rental cars

auto @ europe.