

WIP

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From top: Yon-Ka Phyto 52 Firming Treatment Cream, £34. Scarf, £250, Jane Carr. Dress, £22, Floozie by FrostFrench at Debenhams. Wildwood letters, £5 each, Emily Readett-Bayley

Jemima French's chilled-out chateau

Jemima French, 41, one half of design duo FrostFrench, has a French chateau in Le Maladier. She spends the rest of the year in London with her children - three girls and a boy.

Why Le Maladier?

'It's absurdly beautiful, with breathtaking views over the most serene and unspoilt valley imaginable. It's also incredibly private; the nearest farm is a couple of kilometres away. My dad bought it in the 60s. He fell in love with it, despite the ground floor being occupied by a herd of cows, and bought it on the spot.'

What was your inspiration for the interior?

'The house has evolved over 40 years of love and living. We buy a lot of furniture at the local fairs and have some made by resident artists and sculptors. Most of the bed linen is antique, French and hand-sewn, which my mum has lovingly restored.'

How much time do you spend there?

'As much as possible. We're here at Easter for our annual egg hunt, summer means lolling around reading novels.

Then we're back in autumn, making blackberry jam and harvesting the walnuts and figs, and again at Christmas for feasting on local festive delicacies, with log fires and stunning morning frosts.'

And who do you take?

'The whole family. My children spend the entire summer there with all their cousins, aunts and grandparents. I fly back and forth so that I can work. It's the perfect solution.'

Any insider shopping tips?

'The local markets are a treasure trove of antiques, vintage fabrics and French produce.'

Is your style different there?

'Yes. I live in a bikini and bare feet when it's hot and just throw a floaty dress on if I pop out.'

Holiday beauty secret?

'I'm rarely out of my bikini, but I don't want to shave every day, so I use the Braun Silk Xpressive Epilator, which leaves my skin smooth for weeks.'

A typical 24 hours there?

'Long country walks, followed by evening drinks and lazy dinners on the terrace.'

What's your favourite room?

'I love all the bedrooms in the house that look over the valley. It is so fantastic to throw open the shutters in the morning and watch the mist begin to clear.'

And how do you feel after a trip there?

'Relaxed and calm - with some excess padding around my waist! >

For more information on FrostFrench, visit www.frostfrench.com

In Jemima's suitcase

- 'A mineral-based sun block, such as Green People Organic Sun Lotion.'
- 'Braun Silk Xpressive Epilator.'
- 'A pair of Miu Miu flats.'
- 'Yon-ka rosemary face mask.'
- 'My fuchsia FrostFrench kimono dress.'



RUSTIC