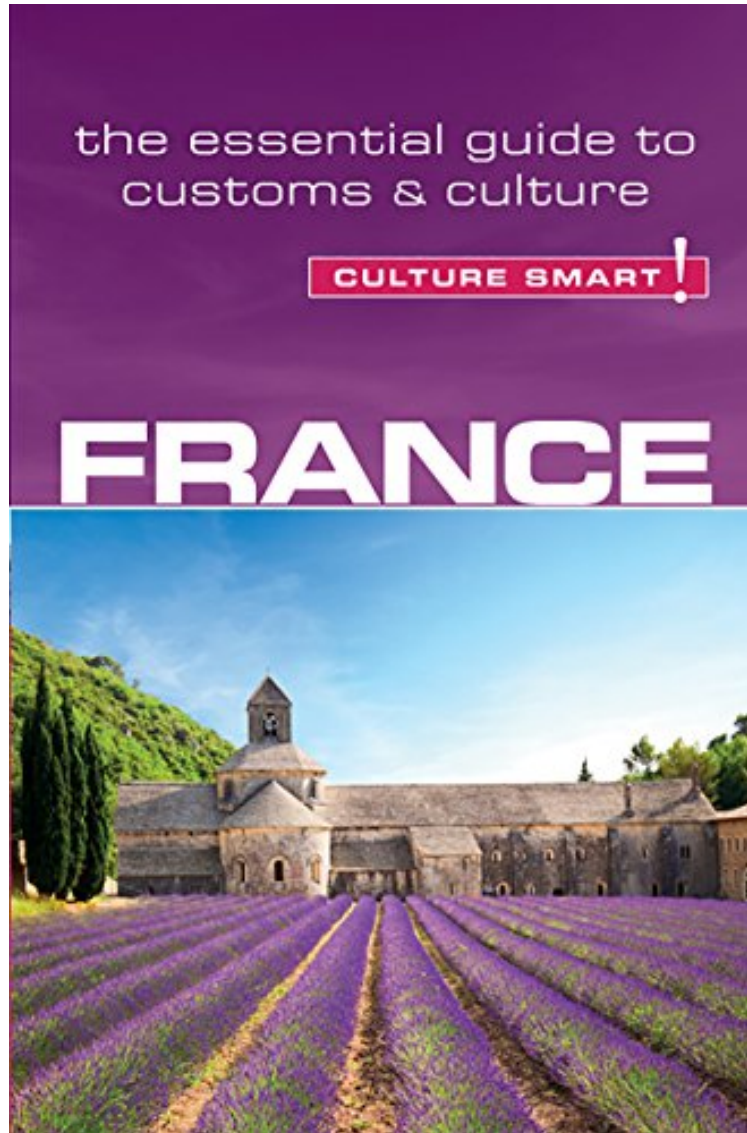


## France - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

*Barry Tomalin*

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**Barry Tomalin : France - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised France - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Definitely Read Before TravellingBy MooreNoLessFrance - Culture Smart is a very good overview book to read before traveling to or throughout France. For us, it is the perfect companion to our earlier purchase: Speak the Culture France - Be Fluent in French Life and Culture. After reading at least half of both books, no one can say they "don't get the French." We "got them" and it made our travel much more enjoyable and meaningful. Clear explanations, interesting insights and very understandable overall context were

provided for both the traveler or casual Francophile. To put it in Americanese; these are bullshit-free travel books. Don't go to Paris, Lyon or any part of France before reading these genuinely enjoyable books. They also make good evening reads in the hotel room. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty two dimensional and shallow

By Liam D. Murphy For every insight or description that rings true, there are 5 or 10 that are little more than antiquated clichés. I've known many French people for years, and most of the cultural descriptions here don't capture who they are at all, in my view. The practical discussions (food choices, car rental, addressing, etc) remain useful. 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Essentially filled with idiotic clichés and gross inaccuracies

By Fabrice I am French, and yet I do not recognise French culture or people in this book. Even though about 10-20% of the book is accurate, the rest is just a compilation of ridiculous inaccuracies (I am 35 and have never seen any shop closed on good friday in France) or fairly xenophobic clichés (i.e. The French see themselves as a big family, Frenchness and French language are an obsession, they keep on innovating in order to feel good as a country, they do not use deodorant, etc!!!). The author seems to build on his personal prejudices/frustrations toward the French, without realising that the traits he attributes to the French people in general are usually some types of general criticisms that could apply to any kind of people, including the English or the Americans. Due to their lack of originality, these criticisms will not teach one much about France, but may comfort one in one's erroneous prejudices. Go for another book about France, sorry...

France has experienced considerable upheaval in recent years. The Eurozone crisis, a new socialist president, rioting by an alienated underclass, a ban on the burqa (full veil) in public places, and an attempt to democratize the elite system of education all point to significant changes in French society. At the same time leading French companies are major investors in European energy resources, services, and luxury products, and between three and four hundred thousand French people live in Britain, making London, as former President Sarkozy stated, France's fifth- or sixth-largest city. The implications of these changes have not yet fully permeated French society, but they reveal a slow process of adaptation to new realities. Meanwhile, in international affairs, France makes a major and distinctive contribution and carefully guards its interests and prestige. The rivalry between Paris and the provinces continues the traditional split between North and South. France as a whole maintains its stately pace as a centre of culture, civilization, and, of course, the good life, which is one of the reasons it remains, with 75 million visitors a year, the most visited country in the world.

This new, updated edition of Culture Smart! France looks at the attitudes and values of the French today. It explains how French life and business work and shows you how to fit in as a foreigner. There is practical advice on how to avoid the pitfalls and do things the French way. It takes you through history, festivals, and traditions, the French at home, on the road, in the restaurant, and at work. Above all, it shows you how the French communicate, and how best to get along with this sometimes frustrating yet charming and brilliant people.

Culture Smart! has come to the rescue of hapless travellers, Sunday Times Travel - ...the perfect introduction to the weird, wonderful and downright odd quirks and customs of various countries, Global Travel - ...full of fascinating, as well as common sense,

About the Author Barry Tomalin, M.A. is an English writer, trainer, and public speaker specializing in cultural awareness and international communication. He is Director of Cultural Training at International House, London, and Visiting Lecturer at the London Academy of Diplomacy, University of East Anglia. A former producer and presenter with the BBC World Service, he has worked in over sixty countries worldwide, including France, Algeria, and Francophone West Africa. As well as Culture Smart! France, he is the author of Culture Smart! Germany.