

Daria and Brian - Chez Odette

Jane Daria and Brian, hi. How are you?

Daria Hi Jane

Jane Good to see you!

Brian Hi...I remember that day you came in as well, with Roger.

Jane Do you remember?
In this amazing little building there are four, five tables. How many can you serve?

Daria We can fit twenty four but we like to stick to twenty and that makes everybody's comfortable and you can walk around. We have, I would say, 70/30 French being the 30% and we've English, Irish, American, Dutch, Belgian.

Jane Well how many years have you been open now?

Daria Coming up on three years.

Jane So, have you noticed changes in clientele?

Daria I think it has taken a little time for the French community to embrace the kind of food that we serve but ther... our fish and chips and our breakfasts is becoming quite a talking point now. We have people who come quite... from quite far away to eat the breakfasts and the fish and chips.

Jane If there is anything that I always notice about your café is that it's based on the feel of someone's front room really.

Brian It's probably like that because we've never run anything like this in our lives- so we did it all wrong – but it worked!

Jane That was a question! I know that you are Irish born but this isn't your first international stop-off is it?

Brian Well, we spent thirty-six years in America.

Jane Yeah. What took you to America?

Brian Oh well, for me personally, I was twenty-six and there was no work in Ireland, Ireland was a third-world country basically, the roads were terrible, there was no work.

Jane So, what year would we be talking about there then Brian?



Brian 1975/ 76

Jane Okay- yeah, yeah

Brian So, I didn't want to leave Ireland but I didn't have any choice because there was nothing to do, no work; nothing at all.

Jane Whereabouts were you born?

Brian I was born in Dublin.

Jane So you spent how long in the States?

Brian Thirty-six years.

Jane And so you have had children?

Daria Three children out in America, three kids living there still.

Jane What's their take on you living here?

Daria They're so excited for us . Being adventurous people, our kids are exactly the same; so they're not afraid if they come to a cliff, to jump. They're not afraid to do it. And that's what Brian and I have done the time we've been together.

Jane What was their reaction when you told them you were coming to France?

Brian Well we shared it from the beginning with them; in terms of just the idea. We'd come over here on vacation anyway to see Daria's mum who's ninety-four now, so they had been over here; they'd been exposed to here. And then , when we said what we were doing, we shared it right from the beginning and then, when we finally got to the point where we were going to come, we asked them, not for permission, but basically said, how did it sit with them and I have to be honest I thought they would say; 'no, don't go' and they did the opposite; they said; 'no, go, go! Have your adventure and go off, you're fine, we're fine!' And that's the way that they treated it.

Jane How many can you accommodate, then, in the B&B?

Daria Two double rooms.

Jane French customers or English?

Daria Actually a lot of French customers stay in the B&B, yeah. In the summertime of course there's the 'Vieilles Charrues'. We have Tour de France coming through the village this year.



Jane Which brings me to ask, Daria, do you have spare time? I mean do you have time?

Daria Even though we are running a business here, we've become friends with so many of our customers; it's actually a joy to see the customers when they come in and we can sit and visit. And we, we go to their houses and they come to our house; so it's not 100% work.

Jane And due actually due to personal reasons you are having to sell?

Daria Yes

Jane What would you say to any possible interested parties?

Daria Coming in with eyes wide open, we didn't have any pre-conceived ideas about what it was going to be, so, yes, everything that happened along the way was new and a learning experience. Somebody who's French who speaks perfect English fill out all the paperwork for us and arranged for all the stages. So that was relatively easy.

Jane So you actually had to go on training workshops?

Daria I had to do two.

Jane So what brought you to catering, Daria?

Daria Well, we bought the place didn't we? We just decided; well we'll do this, won't we? And like I said, we jump off cliffs, Brian and I and we knew the breakfast was gonna be a good thing and I'll tell you, I stood in front of the fish fryer on the first Friday. I had no idea! How long do you cook a fish for? How do you, how do you make batter? I know the chips when they're like brown they're done but I had no idea! And I just.... and I found an old recipe from an old granny, for batter and it has worked wonders for us!

Jane Right- well, I could do many many interviews with you two!

Daria Yeah, thank you Jane!

Jane The most lovely, lovely people- but I will close there.

Daria Thank you.

Jane Thank you.