

Morsels of the Mind Book Group

Date: July 15, 2004

Book Title: *Hotel Pastis*, by Peter Mayle

Hostess: Laura Lewakowski

Food Served: *A variety of cheeses (fromage), grapes (les raisins), a Vegetable Terrine made with Goat Cheese and herbs (Terrine de Legumes au Fromage de Chevre et aux Herbes), Champagne, and the "piece de resistance", a trifle layered with strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and soaked with Pastis!*

Book Synopsis: *Newly divorced and bored with his job as a director of a prestigious British ad agency, Simon Shaw is delighted when beautiful Frenchwoman Nicole Bouvier suggests that he rescue from bankruptcy a half-finished hotel in Provence. Taking a huge risk, Simon resigns from his agency and becomes patron of the new establishment. In another "counter-plot", a lovable band of criminals are conspiring to break into the vault of a bank in a neighboring village. Hotel Pastis simply has it all...French comedy, romance, bumbling crooks, ex-wives, a malignant local journalist and, perhaps most important of all, the French country-side, in all it's glory.*

Review: *The group enjoyed the colorful use of vocabulary, English and French alike. We all loved the "criminals", and were happy that the story ended like it did. Loved Ernest too.*

Highlights of Discussion: *As we listened to French café music and sipped champagne, we decided that we'd love to visit Provence. (Anne S and Nancy M are actually planning a trip!) Many of Peter Mayle's books were on display, including his coffee table Provence books.*

Attendance: Nancy M, Nancy S, Nancy D, Anne S, Sally, Laura

Suggestions/Business: *Next month - Anne Starke's house on August 26.*