

**Know Your European Neighbours.**  
**This month - France.**

Everybody knows that our neighbour across the channel is a world leader in baguettes, camembert, clothes design, perfumery, wines, luxury products, and has the best state Health Service in the world (see below).

Here are a few other things that the French are good at:

Carrefour, the French supermarket group, is the second largest retailer in the world, after Wal-Mart.

L'Oreal is the world's biggest beauty products company.

Michelin is the world's biggest tyre manufacturer.

Danone is one of the top food companies in the world - along with Nestle and Unilever.

Air France - KLM is Europe's biggest and most successful airline.

France is the world's leading exporter of nuclear energy technology and nuclear electricity plants. 78% of her own electricity is nuclear-generated.

Outside of the US and Russia, the French company DCNS is the sole designer and builder of nuclear and strategic defence submarines (France has 64 multiple-warhead, submarine launched, ICBMs).

France is the second-ranking aerospace power in the world with Airbus and Dassault.

Dassault is a principal military and business jet manufacturer and a leader in computer design.

The electronics company Ariane controls 40% of the world's satellite-launching market.

France has Europe's most extensive high-speed rail infrastructure, with the TGV trains, which hold the record for highest average speed on a regular passenger service.

France is the world's top tourist destination with 76 million visitors per annum.

(To show how well organised the health service is, you get same day delivery for blood test and X-ray results).

Ribot des Buquets.

**Next month - Germany.**

