

# Local Pirate Makes Good!

## Deppville's Biggest Lottery Prize Claimed by Sole Winner

*Pomp and Circumstance caught up with lottery winner Manouche Roussel Blake as she was overseeing the finishing touches on her stunning new home – a refurbished old mill on the outskirts of town.*



*Interview by Tootsie Fitzcarraldo • Photographs by Colonel Brittany Hanson*

**P&C:** Congratulations on your win.

**MRB:** Cheers, thanks a lot. I'm ... trying to get used to it.

**P&C:** So why an old mill?

**MRB:** Couldn't find a new one. No, actually, I just stumbled upon it—quite literally—and fell in love with it. That simple.

**P&C:** It's deceptive, it's bigger than it looks at first glance.

**MRB:** Aye, when I first saw it, I thought it were two buildings. Now I find it's actually three—a main house, a guest house, and the mill house itself, which still has the old wheel an' all, the lot.

**P&C:** So the main house has three bedrooms, living room, a sitting room, study, and the guest house has two bedrooms, and there's another bedroom in the mill house.

**MRB:** And a music room in the mill house, as well ... and a separate building that contains an art studio, of sorts.

**P&C:** That's a lot of space ...

**MRB:** Daft innit? Perhaps I'll take in some lodgers.

**P&C:** Are you going to follow the tradition of lords and ladies of the manor, and give your home a name?

**MRB:** Aye, I am. I'm calling it Rártigíllichal.

**P&C:** Rar-ti-gilli—

**MRB:** Rartigillichal. It's a Rom word ... ah, Gypsy word ... for nightingale. Lovely bird with a beautiful song.

*(continued)*

**Manouche Roussel Blake** (*continued*)

**P&C:** Ah. Unusual choice. What's the old Greek myth, of the princess who was treated badly by her lover, was it? The gods turned her into a nightingale, and she spent the rest of her life lamenting her fate in song ...

**MRB:** Lament she did ... but she kept singing.

**P&C:** We would like to take this opportunity to express our sympathies regarding your husband, poet William Blake. Any news yet on his whereabouts?

**MRB:** No.

**P&C:** Well, our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we know he would be thrilled with your good fortune.

**MRB:** That he would. Cheers, mate.

**P&C:** So besides the beautiful new home, what else would you like to do with your money? Any ideas?

**MRB:** Well, I'm considering buying land and just leavin' it be. I feel our town and surrounding areas are getting over-developed—y'know what I'm on about, housing projects and the like. I reckon on buying acres here and there and letting 'em go as nature intended. Savvy?

**P&C:** Very controversial. I rather imagine you may run into opposition from Commander Portsmouth on that.

**MRB:** Well, the Commander and I have a very unique relationship, as it were. She's actually very reasonable ... once you convince her to see reason, that is.

**P&C:** Word on the street is that you're now richer than the Commander, is that true?

**MRB:** That's what I hear. But let's keep that between you and me. I hate to see a grown public official cry.

**P&C** (laughs) Fair enough. You certainly have arrived ... now that you've even had your portrait painted by the famous and very in-demand artist, Jean Montsegur.

**MRB** (embarrassed) A bit ostentatious, in a manner of speakin. He actually approached me. Blimey, what was I supposed to do?

**P&C:** We think you made the right choice.

**MRB:** He made me look right dramatic. However, I do play the mandolin, so at least it ain't an altogether unrealistic depiction, as it were. (laughs)

**P&C:** Do you have any plans for the future, at this point? How does a nouveau riche pirate plan to spend her days?

**MRB:** Same as she did when she were scramblin' in the dirt for her next meal, luv. Live 'em. Just live.



*Manouche Roussel Blake*  
-- portrait by Jean Montsegur

# Rártigíllíchal

*What was once an old, neglected mill house on the river just outside of town is now home to pirate/lottery winner Manouche Roussel Blake. The rushing river and waterfall give it a sense of peace ... and the warm, welcoming style gives visitors a taste of rural France.*



# Rártigíllíchal

# Main House



*Living Room*



*Dining Room*



*Sitting Room*



*Breakfast Room*



*Kitchen*



*Another view of Kitchen*



*Bath*



*Manouche's Bedroom*



*Sunroom*



*Guest Room*



*Manouche's Study*



*Guest Room*



*Office*



*Raven's Room*

# Rártigíllíchal

# Guest House



*Living Room*



*Dining Room*



*Sitting Room*



*Kitchen*



*Another view of Kitchen*



*Bath*



*Bedroom*



*Another view of Bedroom*



*Second Bedroom*

# Rártigíllichal

# Mill House



*Entryway*



*Music Room*



*Kitchen*



*Bedroom*



*Bath*



*Living Room*