



## SAY WHAT?

Internet is a place where you can see the most superficial and intimate things coexisting side by side. One site stands out when talking about intimacy, because it has the best collection of pictures of homes shown by their very owners.

The Selby is a 'voyeur' window like no other. Here are some links to the favorite homes portrayed in the site. Some belong to over-the-top celebrities, professionals involved in design, art, architecture, or just people with great taste.

1. <http://theselby.com/galleries/collaborations/louis-vuitton-x-the-selby-part-one-2/>
2. <http://theselby.com/galleries/special-projects/the-selby-x-samsung/>
3. <http://theselby.com/galleries/collaborations/american-express-small-business-saturday-tv-commercial/>
4. <http://theselby.com/galleries/margherita-missoni-i-missoni-brand-ambassador-at-home-in-milan/>
5. <http://theselby.com/galleries/pilar-munoz-publicist-and-pepe-islas-entrepreneur-at-home-in-mexico-city/>

After taking a peek at the beautiful homes shown in each one of the stories, you get to read the always funny questions at the bottom of the galleries. This provides a colorful picture of the kind of living that happens in each one of the houses that have opened their doors to photographer Todd Selby, who has done nothing but justice to each one of the places where he has been a guest.



## THE TECH-CORNER



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy--DSsdiKE>

The link above will take you to one of the vodcasts specially prepared for The Big Picture Series. You can also find it in the Student's Area of The Big Picture Site. Be sure to check out how many drinks Tom thinks he wants before deciding on the one that British people just love to have, and take a look at his pinky!!! You won't be disappointed.

## TWO THUMBS UP!

### The Royal Tenenbaums, 2001

*That night, Etheline found all of her children living together under the same roof for the first time in seventeen years.*

**Narrator**

This is the story about a family, one which came back home.

Once upon a time, there was a family living in New York. The couple had three kids who were all great at what they did. They were real stars, and they seemed to have everything figured out.

And then, the split came, and everything turned upside down. Later on, adulthood happened and they all came back home exactly at the same time.

Jam-packed with a cast of stars, including Anjelica Houston, Gene Hackman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Stiller, the Wilson siblings, and of course, living legend Bill Murray, Wes Anderson draws one of his picture perfect settings to tell the story about this family.

With beautiful dialogue, the best collection of tennis dresses ever featured in a film, and a box of Tic Tacs meant to be life-saving medication, the film is a powerful portrait of a dysfunctional family.

The film is elegantly ironic. It is in many 100 best films lists because it is Anderson's best example of what filmmaking is meant to be, especially if an amazing taste in music, subtle humour and his unique use of colour is your thing.



## LEARNING TO LEARN

Be sure to check TV shows on decoration, house improvement, estate agents, and everything related to the home life. They are a great source of vocabulary (be sure to turn on the CC), usually they are fun to watch, and you might even get the perfect idea for your next coffee table!



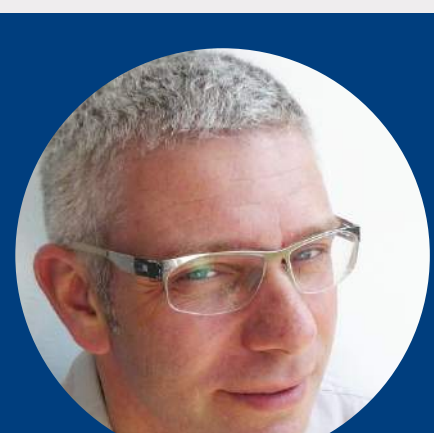
## GETTING AROUND

"When travelling, meet the locals". One of the first pieces of advice I got when I began travelling, but, what does it mean, exactly?

In my experience, there are two possible interpretations for the phrase.

1. **Go and blend with people who live in the place you are visiting.** If you don't know anyone who lives there, you can always try a site like: <https://www.couchsurfing.org/> where you can arrange to meet a local who can take you to all those places that they consider the best, you could even stay at their place for free!
2. **Go and act like a local.** Take the underground, go to a supermarket, to a furniture shop, to a pub which is close to the financial district, to a pet shop, or to a university. In this way, you will get the real vibe of the people who live this city as their own, and you will have a better picture of their habits.

So, when travelling, get out of the tourist way for a day or two. You will see a side of the town that perhaps has nothing to do with what you expected.



## WHISPERS FROM THE AUTHOR

"A warm welcome to **Picture It!** As main author of The Big Picture, I'm going to be writing some short articles about the series, highlighting its main features. I hope you enjoy them and that you will get more out of the book as a result.

The first thing you'll notice about the series is its rather unusual title. The Big Picture is, in reality, a play-on-words but it is also to be taken literally.

However, did you know that "to see the big picture" is an English expression that means "to see the overall perspective on a situation or issue, the whole situation, including all things related to it"? If you look at the final double spread of each unit, you'll see that this consists of a functional language spread and final productive task (alternating speaking and writing).

The idea is to show you that what you actively can do with the language is ultimately more important than what you passively know about it. I hope you enjoy your first days with The Big Picture!"

**Ben Goldstein**