Chateau Ferme

Region: Aquitaine **Sleeps:** 16 - 26

Oliver's Travels
WHY DO ORDINARY?

Overview

Chateau Ferme is an authentic tobacco farm situated on the borders of Tarn et Garonne and Lot et Garonne, a region sometimes known as the Tuscany of France. This beautiful estate is set in a sweeping landscape, where the laughter of large groups of melon pickers or the soft drone of tractors can be heard from the fields in the distance.

Today, the chateau is a working sunflower farm that has 13 luxurious rooms, some with en suite bathrooms, making it ideal for a stay with family, friends or other groups. In spite of the many luxurious touches, the chateau remains a throwback to centuries past, even if it has been thoroughly redecorated.

Chateau Ferme has a wonderful stone swimming pool, beautiful sunny and shady spots, a large communal kitchen for cooking, long tables for dining in the evenings, a cinema where you can watch a film after sunset and a pool room where you can play a last game of pool before turning in for the night. And if you feel like an outing, there is lots to see in the surrounding area, with plenty of nature, medieval villages on hilltops and local markets.

AS MENTIONED IN

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Good news! For a little extra, this property can be booked as a Vill'otel

Yey! Wait… what is that?
It's the perfect combo of the privacy of your own personal villa, with all the luxury and convenience of a hotel.

What can be arranged?
Breakfast, cleaning, welcome drinks and hamper, plus more! Check the '**Extras**' tab for all the details.

Facilities

Chateaux & Castles • Great Value • **Recommended** • Vill'otel (Like a Hotel!) • Heritage Collection • Private Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Pets on Request • Walk to Village • Walk to Restaurant • BBQ • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Table Tennis • Pool/Snooker • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages

Interior & Grounds

The property has room for 21 guests in the main house and 6 more in the adjoining pigeonière. There are also 2 movable baby beds.

On the ground floor of the main house is the kitchen with utility room, a separate room for the pizza oven, a pool room and the salon. Opening onto the large central hall are three bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. The bedroom that adjoins the tower has its loo and separate bathroom with free-standing bath within the tower. The bedrooms on the ground floor have high ceilings, wooden panelling, wooden floors and are decorated in different styles. A fourth room adjoining the veranda has a more rustic look with partly exposed stone walls, a decorative fireplace, an antique three-quarter bed and a smaller bathroom.

The communal rooms are grouped around the large kitchen on the ground floor. The kitchen has a large stone work surface which extends into the utility room. The utility room is equipped with two dishwashers, a filter coffee machine and an ice-cream maker. This has preserved the original feel of the kitchen by minimising “white goods” (standard kitchen appliances). There is a restored antique red Berkel slicer for slicing hams and sausages, and the long dining table on the veranda immediately outside the kitchen is big enough for the entire group. The kitchen itself has two fridges and there is a large American fridge with ice-cube maker on the veranda (out of sight but within reach), which is particularly handy for bottles and deep-frozen items.

Adjacent to the kitchen is the pool room with panelling and painted frescoes all around, a decorative fireplace and, of course, the pool table. The salon has Venetian parquet flooring and a fine black marble fireplace. The velvet sofas, the gold of the wallpaper, the paintings and the large chandelier breathe the atmosphere of yesteryear. Fortunately, the flat screen TV and DVD player do little to detract from the ambience.

The staircase leads up to the first floor hallway. Here there are five double rooms and one triple room. The triple room and one of the double rooms are connected and share a large bathroom. Another family room is connected and shares one bathroom with the two rooms. The rooms on the first floor feature sturdy stone walls, huge oak rafters and original terracotta floor tiles. The bathrooms have terrazzo floors from the Pyrenees and are fitted with shower cabinets, toilets, baths and wash basins.

The tobacco loft is perfectly suited for indoor dining as well as presentations and meetings. It may be reached from the kitchen via the staircase adjacent to the veranda. Here the tobacco leaves were once hung out on strings to dry. The huge rafters, wooden roof and parquet floor create an intimate atmosphere. Beneath the tobacco loft is the original living room with an enormous bread oven. Once it has been kindled with bundles of sticks, this

stone oven is hot enough to bake dozens of pizzas, with toppings to taste. There is a small bathroom with shower, loo and washing machine leading off the courtyard opposite the kitchen.

The pigeonière or dovecote that looks onto the courtyard is one of the finest examples in the area. It has been converted into apartments for 6 people over 3 floors. It is particularly suitable for one or two families with children staying with a larger party at the maison. There are two bedrooms for adults and a junior bedroom for two children. The salon has an extra sofa bed. The apartment has a somewhat more rustic, simpler interior than the main house, with stone walls and large wooden rafters, wooden roofing and terracotta floor tiles. It has a large stone fireplace and double doors opening out onto a private terrace with unobstructed views. The apartment’s furnishings include children’s beds, a playpen and children’s chairs. The kitchen consists of a large central space and the bathroom has a bath with a shower.

The courtyard is flanked by the barns and stables on one side and the maison de maître and pigeonière on the other. One of the two access gates is here, adjacent to the orchard. The orchard itself may be reached through a smaller gate. In the courtyard there is a fountain from which spring water constantly flows. The previous resident attributed his advanced age to the fact that he exclusively drank this water. The fine yellow gravel is suitable for pétanque, particularly near the front door where the ground is most level.

There are two professional stables, but in the summer you will see the thoroughbred Arabians on the sloping meadows in front of the château. This region is famous for producing Arabian endurance racehorses. We allow local trainers to use its meadows and stables, and have even housed the French champion.

The large barn, that has an impressively high roof with whole tree trunks for rafters, may be accessed through a large gate at the rear. The barns around the courtyard have largely been left in their original condition. Part of one barn adjoining the courtyard has been converted into a bathroom with a toilet to save guests the trouble of going back to their own rooms. This is also where the washing machine is located. Another of the barns has a professional horse stable that can be used in the summer.

The largest barn is positively cavernous, and you might imagine that the last of the hay had just been carted off. There is one gas and one portable coal BBQ. The barn nearest the swimming pool (20x5m) has one open side and is equipped with art nouveau cinema seats and a large screen. At sundown, simply select the film (blue ray quality) and when you want to watch it: the gardener (caretaker) will take care of the rest.

The total garden area is more than 2 hectares in total.

Catering & Services

Good news! This property is available as a Vill'otel

With a vill'otel holiday, you can enjoy all these services throughout your stay:

- Daily breakfast
- Daily maid service
- Deluxe welcome hamper with local delicacies
- Welcome drinks for your group
- Fridge-stocking service
- Private chef service

Interested?
If you'd like to book the Vill'otel serviced option, contact us on **villotel@oliverstravels.com** for a tailor-made quote! Typical costs range between £100-£250 per person per week dependent on requirements.

Please note that all services are subject to availability and must be requested at the time of booking.

The chef of the local restaurant can do the catering for you. This chef can prepare delicious local French dishes such as magret de canard or a confit, a simple but tasty filet de boeuf and divine salads. He likes cooking here and is familiar with the kitchen and the tableware. Prices are between 15 and 40 euros per menu. Reservations can be made up to one day before. You can also opt to use the services of a Dutch catering company on location for an entire week. This service includes breakfast, lunch tea or snacks and dinner for €3800 plus costs of the produce bought.

On arrival, your four-poster beds will be made up with fresh white cotton bedding. There will be large loose cotton bath towels and hand towels ready for you to use in the bathroom, along with a large brown bath towel each for the pool. For cooler evenings, there are warm wraps.

A team of cleaners will get to work at 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday after your stay.

At Oliver's Travels we pride ourselves on going that little bit further for our guests. From private chefs to babysitters we can help you arrange those little extras that make it a truly memorable holiday. Simply fill in the concierge request form or contact the Oliver's Concierge Team who will be happy to help.

Location & Local Information

The local area is ideal for walking, exploring fine medieval villages, antique markets, horse-riding tours, playing golf and more. There are wonderful villages in the neighbourhood. Castelsagrat (2 km) is the closest village to get bread, a newspaper and a cup of coffee.

A nice place to have lunch is under the medieval open marketplace in Saint Maurin where the owners are friendly and the lunch menu of the day is simple but good. St Maurin is 4 km in the other direction and you will pass Montjoi village on the way which is walking distance from the house. Roquecor and Lauzerte are larger villages that have the same charm but are busier with nice restaurants, cafes, boutiques and shops.

The most exquisite place for lunch and dinner and a wonderful experience is the three star restaurant of Michel Trama. It's an absolute must but expensive. His restaurant "Aubergade" is internationally renowned and a 10 minute drive at Puymirol. It has been redecorated by famous interior designer Garcia. Don't be surprised to find celebrities dining here. Lunch and the house wine are great and reasonably priced.

There are daily markets and schedules are announced in the local newspaper. Local farmers sell their produce here. Don't miss the spring-only strawberry variety "Gariguettes" filling the stands or the bundles of green asparagus. Look out for announcements for antique markets (Brocantes or vide-greniers) on the roadside at roundabouts or intersections.

Moissac (15 km) has a beautiful church and an impressive monastery visited by pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella. Next to the monastery is the Bistro de l'abbaye on the church square where lunch outside is wonderful in the shade of the magnolia trees.

Toulouse is a one hour drive over a comfortable highway. It's a beautiful city and perfect for shopaholics. Its easy to reach with the train from Agen. Cahors is a ¾ hour drive and an option for visiting wine estates. A hot tourist attraction is St Emilion: the authentic wine town next to Bordeaux with wine history at every corner. Bordeaux is a stunning city at 1½ hours.

There is a water-amusement park at Agen (20 km). For small children you should check out the clear clean water of the Séoune at the waterfall at "Rikiki plage". This is a few kilometres on the D60 to the east. It has a small sandy beach between the trees, a meadow and a waterside tree with a rope tied to it. Mostly you will be the only ones there but sometimes another family will put their picnic baskets on the meadow too.

There are several horse-back riding facilities in the neighbourhood and there is a small child-friendly one on the way to Roquecor. There is a little restaurant

too where the lady of the house makes a perfect steak on the hearth for lunch or dinner.

Local Amenities

Nearest Village	**Montjoi (1.5km)**
Nearest Shop	**Minimarket in Castelsagrat (2km)**
Nearest Bar/Pub	**(walking distance)**
Nearest Restaurant	**(walking distance)**

What Oliver loves…

- Quirky cinema room within the barn with a large selection of films
- Wood Fire pizza oven - great for pizza nights! All dough and toppings can be pre-prepared for you
- Enjoy wonderful views from the swimming pool
- The local village is a short walk away from the property

What you should know…

- No English satellite TV
- The formal dining room is in a separate building, however you will be taking your meals on the veranda outside the kitchen (weather permitting!)
- Despite the rural location, Wi-Fi is available. However, the signal may be weak from time to time

Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €1000 paid in cash to the owner upon arrival and refunded upon departure, subject to full inspection.

- Arrival time: 5.00 p.m.

- Departure time: 10.00 a.m.

- Energy costs included?: Yes.

- Linen & towels included?: Yes.

- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.

- End of stay cleaning included?: Extra €450, paid locally in cash. However, guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.

- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.

- Insurance: Guests are required to be in possession of a valid insurance policy, which covers them for cancellations, personal belongings, public liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.

- Minimum stay: 7 nights (mid-June to mid-September), 5 nights (early June/late September) or 3 nights at other times

- Changeover day: Saturday (mid-June to mid-September), Saturday or Sunday (early June/late September) or flexible at other times.

- Other Ts and Cs: Weddings and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.