

Chateau Glycines

Region: Midi-Pyrenees Sleeps: 16

Overview

First you see the lawns and the giant cedars of Lebanon, then the Pyrenean peaks on the southern horizon, and then the château, restful on its plateau, simple, elegant, perfect, with 18th-century proportions. Welcome to another world: one of art, beauty, serenity, fine museum pieces and a dash of humour.

The housekeeper is a treasure and can cater for you – though the kitchen, big, charming, classical, but modern, is an absolute pleasure to cook in. Salon, library, dining room and the grandest of bedrooms glow with French and English antiques and the entire house is a work of art – there are beautiful parquet floors and magnificent plaster ceilings, a grand staircase and oriental designer stenciling.

The rooms in the attic are more child-friendly, and if children want to play on wet days, there's a barn full of games and yoga mats for grown ups. As for the gardens: imagine 200 old roses and scattered magnolias, scalloped hedges, arcades of wisteria, secret corners, a pondful of carp and a suntrap salt water pool enclosed by an exquisite mosaic wall in the style of Gaudi.

An exquisite late 18th Century Chateau situated in the first range of foothills of the Pyrenees, built just before the French Revolution by the Comte du Pac. It sits on a hilltop with exceptional panoramic views down the valley and towards the mountains. Situated on the edge of a small village, the main house is backed by a courtyard of eighteenth century barns and enjoys 11 acres of park and gardens ensuring complete privacy.

The location of the house gives easy summer access to splendid walking, riding, canoeing, fishing, golf and many other sporting and recreational activities. Tennis courts are a very short drive. In winter skiing is available at a number of nearby resorts. Hunting and fishing are also available. The Spanish border is a short drive and the excellent road network makes access to Lourdes, Barcelona and Biarritz possible for short excursions.

The gardens and park of the Chateau, restored and developed by the present owners over the past twenty years, are well known and the subject of magazine articles. There is a large pond (which is not fenced-off), a sunken herb garden, an exotic garden, a rose garden, a stone column pergola, a bamboo walk and an English herbaceous border and many rare and ancient trees and shrubs.



The heated saltwater swimming pool (12.5m x 6m) has an exquisite modern mosaic wall with a mosaic seating area. Around the pool there are sun-loungers, tables & chairs, barbecue, umbrellas and indoor shower, toilet and Turkish mosaic steam room.

The interiors of the house, meticulously restored to an extremely high standard, retain many period features with exquisite plasterwork, decorative fireplaces and parquet floors to all the principal rooms. It has regained its original style and elegance whilst retaining the atmosphere of a real home. The house is wonderfully light and airy. All rooms enjoy wonderful views and are decorated with antique mirrors and furniture. There is a large, hand-built kitchen with all modern facilities connected to a formal dining room. The main drawing room has antique French furniture & tapestries. Telephone, television (French and SKY satellite English channels), video/DVD player and Wi-Fi Internet are available. The house, apart from having many decorative fireplaces, has central heating and is therefore suitable for winter lets.

Facilities

Chateaux & Castles • Heritage Collection • Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Heated Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Walk to Village • <1hr to Airport • BBQ • Cable TV • Bicycles Provided • Sauna/Steam • Games Room • Indoor Games • Outdoor Games • DVD • Heating • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Fenced Grounds • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Golf Nearby • Stalking/Hunting • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • RWC-Toulouse

Interior & Grounds

Chateau Interior

Ground Floor

- Entrance Hall with antique tiled floors and a grand staircase, marble columns, Empire marble table, banquettes, papier-peint scene, bookcases, large Buddha head, telephone table etc. Facing doors opening up towards the pool and the valley on the opposite side.
- Double Drawing Room with marble decorative fireplace, parquet flooring, furnished with 4 comfortable sofas, armchairs, antiques, Aubusson carpet and tapestries, stereo system, I-pod dock.
- Library with parquet floor, marble decorative fireplace, fitted bookcases, large flat screen UK/French TV, DVD/Video player, large selection of DVDs and board games, writing desk, 2 comfy sofas and large armchair.
- Formal Dining Room with antique parquet floor, large table and chairs for 14 guests, chandelier, antique buffet table, mirror and other period features.
- Huge, well stocked kitchen featuring hand-painted wooden floors, with eating and sitting area featuring a large breakfast table and chairs for 10 guests, sofa and large armchairs and a large decorative fireplace. There is a dishwasher, fridge, freezer, gas hob with large electric oven, microwave oven, toaster, kettle, espresso machines, 4 sinks etc.
- Utility/Boot Room, with antique tiled floor, a large American fridge and freezer, washing machine, tumble dryer, sink etc.

Half Landing

- Chinese Bathroom: large bathroom with bath, separate shower basin & WC, large mirror and decorated with antique Chinese rosewood panel doors.
- Secret 2nd staircase to first floor.

First Floor

All rooms have central heating, antique parquet floors, marble decorative fireplaces, wood panelling, cornices, friezes, chandeliers, bedside lampshades, paintings, carpets, objets d'art and stunning views):

- Blue Room- Large bedroom with king size bed, bedside tables, wall fabric, armchairs, antique Louis XV dressing table, gilded table, armoire, mirrors.. Walk-in dressing room, large en-suite bathroom with bathtub, separate shower, basin, bidet & WC, mirrors, pool and valley views.
- Green Room- Large bedroom with antique, painted double wooden bed, bedside tables, antique dressing table, chairs, stools, sofa, fitted wardrobes and mirror. Stunning valley views and separate bathroom (the Chinese



Bathroom), situated on the nearby landing.

- Gold Room - Large bedroom with King-size, baldaquin brass bed, bedside tables, gilded, mirrors, antique armoire, dressing table, chairs and large en-suite bathroom with huge walk-in mosaic shower, double basin, WC, chair, mirror and swimming pool views.

- Red Room - Large bedroom with Empire-style, wooden frame, baldaquin double bed, bedside table, antique mother of pearl and rose wood dressing table with mirror, chest of drawers, large mirror, armchair and stunning valley views.

- Yellow Room - Large bedroom with antique wooden-frame double bed, bedside tables, dressing table with mirror and chair, armoire, large mirror and mountain and valley views.

The Yellow and Red Room share the Stencils Bathroom, a large family bathroom with cast iron, French antique bathtub, separate shower, basin, bidet and WC, armchair, antique display cabinet and mountain views.

All rooms feature large windows, great proportions and extremely high ceilings.

Second Floor

- Clouds Room- Large bedroom with wooden floor, double bed and 2 twin beds, bedside tables, mirror, chest of drawers and en-suite bathroom with shower, basin, WC (suitable for children/nanny and with swimming pool views).

- Moroccan Room- Huge and bright Moroccan-style bedroom with double height ceiling and exposed ancient beams; features metallic frame double bed, bedside tables, leather armchair and foot stool, built in closet with antique Chinese rosewood panel doors, small table, central heating and en-suite bathroom with shower, basin with slate worktop and WC (stunning views of the valley and the mountains)

*A further single bed can be arranged on request in the top floor rooms for those who do not want to share a bed.

**There's a Poolside Bathroom with shower, basin and WC and a mosaic Steam Room with another shower by the swimming pool.

Swimming Pool area:

- Huge, paved area around the pool with sun loungers, small tables and sun umbrellas, larger iron table with chairs, mosaic sitting area, BBQ and BBQ area.

- Large heated salt-water swimming pool with pool cover to keep the heat in at night.

- Games/Summer Room next to pool to put cushions and games, including ping pong table.

- Steam Room next to the pool with stunning mosaics and shower

- Bathroom with shower, sink and WC

The pool area is surrounded by ancient stone barns covered in old rambling roses and giant wisteria and has a scalloped hedge around it for extra privacy. There's a pool alarm.

Garden and Woodland:

- The Chateau is complemented by a large, stunning, landscaped garden with innumerable ancient trees, roses & rare plants; it includes:
 - Formal garden with old English roses
 - English borders
 - Colonnade with wisteria alba and climbing roses
 - Sunken sundial Herb Garden
 - Vegetable garden
 - Fountain
 - Mediterranean garden
 - Exotic garden
 - Greenhouse with exotic plants and cacti
 - Bamboo walk
 - Large Koi Pond
 - Croquet lawn
 - Landscaped parkland with beautiful trees and shrubs
 - Woodland down the hill with donkeys

Location & Local Information

The property is situated on a hilltop at the foot of the Pyrenees in open countryside mid-way (10 min) between the towns of Saint-Gaudens and Aspet in an area of outstanding natural beauty and on the official Tour De France route.

All amenities are just a 10 mins' drive away, including boulangeries, butchers, newsagents, cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, weekly food markets and a train station. Being located in the deep countryside by the Pyrenees, local restaurants are simple and rustic. For fine dining head to Castet (25/30 mins drive), St Lizier (35/40 mins drive), Bossost in Spain (45 mins drive) or Toulouse (around an hour's drive).

International airports: Toulouse (50 min), Lourdes (40 min), Pau (75 min), Carcassonne & Biarritz (around 90 min).

Many sights are nearby, including:

Aspet (10 min), a charming village with its twice weekly farmers' market, its traditional cafes and restaurants, perfect for a lazy morning coffee watching the world go by;

Saint Bertrand de Comminges (20 min), officially one of the most beautiful villages in France and one of the stops of the Camino de Santiago De Compostela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site;

Aurignac (25 min), a stunning hilltop Medieval town with its charming cafes;

Toulouse (50 min), the Ville Rose, a bustling, pretty university city with a great history, beautiful monuments and wonderful shopping and food;

Bossost, Spain (40 min), a charming mountain village on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees with Michelin quality food and great shopping.

Auch (90 min), the heart of the Gers and a beautiful town to visit;

Biarritz (90 min), a wonderful city on the Atlantic, great for surfing, eating out, sunbathing and shopping. A perfect day trip.

Carcassonne (90 min), a Medieval city with an incredible history and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Activities nearby: cycling (Tour de France route), hiking, mountain climbing, skiing, white water rafting, speleology, horse riding, paragliding, golf etc.

DISTANCES

Toulouse Airport - 50 minutes

Lourdes Airport - 40 minutes



Pau Airport - 1hr 10 minutes
Biarritz Airport - 1hr 45minutes
Carcassonne Airport - 1hr 30 minutes
Nearest supermarket 10 mins
Nearest Farmers' Market 8 mins

There are 3 daily British Airways & Easyjet flights from London Gatwick and Heathrow to Toulouse, as well as further direct flights to Toulouse from many UK and European Airports. Air France offers daily flights (via Paris) to Toulouse and Pau. Ryanair offers flights from London Stansted to Lourdes 2 to 3 times a week, Carcassonne & Biarritz. There's also a high speed TGV train service from Paris and Bordeaux to Toulouse. From Toulouse there is a train service to the local station (St Gaudens), 10 min away.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Lourdes (40 min)
Nearest Train Station	St-Gaudens (6 km)
Nearest Village	Encausse-Les-Thermes (3 km)
Nearest Town/City	St-Gaudens
Nearest Restaurant	Castet (30mins drive)
Nearest Bar/Pub	Cafe Francais (7 km)
Nearest Shop	Encausse-Les-Thermes (3 km)
Nearest Supermarket	St-Gaudens (7 km)
Nearest Beach	Biarritz (Over 100 km)
Nearest Golf	Montrejeau (16-20 km)
Nearest Tennis	Encausse-Les-Thermes & Soueich (10mins drive)

What Oliver loves...

- You really feel you are stepping back to a simpler time, surrounded by idyllic gardens and wildlife as far as you can see, staying in a chateau of authentic 18th century luxury
- You effectively have your own private adventure park, with a seemingly endless list of garden features and tranquil spaces
- Guests are afforded absolute privacy in a tiny settlement at the foot of the Pyrenees, along the River Le Ger, miles from any towns or cities

What you should know...

- A further single bed can be arranged on request in the top floor rooms for those who do not wish to share a bed

Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: £1,000 (or €1,200) paid by cheque or bank transfer prior to arrival
- Arrival time: After 5.00 p.m.
- Departure time: Before 10.00 a.m.
- Energy costs included?: Reasonable energy costs included.
- Heating costs included?: Extra £100 per day, payable locally.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes, including pool towels.
- Pets welcome?: No.
- Smoking Allowed?: Smoking & Fires not allowed.
- Changeover day: Saturday. All other changeover days on request.
- Pool heating charge?: The pool is heated free of charge from late May to 1st October for 12hrs per day. Additional heating can be provided for an extra cost.
- Other Ts and Cs: Customers are required to sign an agreement with the owner. The form will be provided after the booking is confirmed and must be signed and returned prior to arrival.
- Other Ts and Cs: Telephone charges to UK mobile phones not included.
- Other Ts and Cs: Extra guests from those listed on the booking not allowed.
- Other Ts and Cs: Weddings, Stag/Hen parties and other celebrations are not allowed.
- Minimum stay: 7 nights. All other durations on request.
- Other Ts and Cs: The pool is open from May to October, dates may vary depending on the weather.
- Other Ts and Cs: A further single bed can be arranged on request in the top floor rooms for those who do not wish to share a bed.