

# Chateau Rural

Region: Midi-Pyrenees Sleeps: 20

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## Overview

In the heart of Gascony, surrounded by landscapes of sunflower fields and hills, is the magnificent estate of Château Rural. This charming and historical residence is a true reflection of this traditional region and is a wonderful retreat for families and friends looking for authenticity and peace.

The foundations of the estate date back to the Middle Ages yet it was in the 18th Century when the existing château was created by a famous countess who designed the magnificent park featuring statues and a small chapel where locals could go and worship. In the 19th century the new owner added an innovative irrigation system using windmills, two of which remain to this day, alongside other historical features such as the ancient wine cellar and the château's original towers.

Inside, the style of the modern-day château is one of rustic charm and rural warmth, with twelve charming bedrooms featuring sweet and comfortable furnishings, delightful living and dining rooms, a games room with French billiards and a historic library featuring thousands of books.

The château's managers, who live in a nearby gîte within the estate, are experienced instructors in yoga, pilates and circus arts and can host individual or group classes for guests in their fantastic yoga studio on the estate. Whether aerial yoga, meditation or Hatha and Vinyasa, this is the perfect place to practice yoga or pilates in a serene environment.

Outside you are surrounded by six acres of parkland featuring ancient oaks, wonderful walks and a swimming lake or stay closer to home and relax by the heated swimming pool and glorious pool terrace. For the more active guests, you can kick a football around, play darts, ride the château's bikes or play French billiards in the games room. There are also tennis courts within walking distance, as well as golf, horse-riding and canoeing within a short drive.

Gascony is one of the most unspoilt and rural regions of France with a fantastic reputation for its gastronomy with amazing Farmer's markets dotted around local villages and towns and many fine local producers of Grand Armagnac. Just ten-minutes away is the delightful hilltop village of Lectoure with its lovely restaurants, antique shops and a great market on a Friday morning or head to nearby Fleurance on a Tuesday morning to experience one of the largest markets in the region.



The owners can arrange a number of wonderful private excursions for guests from Armagnac tastings in St Puy to visits to the beautiful market towns of Condom and Auch. There's even a half-day trip to the lovely Ferme du Hitton where families can visit lavender fields and donkeys.

Other villages and hamlets in the area to explore include three of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*' within forty minutes by car; Fourcès, Larresingle and Montréal du Gers.

Further afield the cities of Toulouse and Bordeaux would make exceptional days out before returning to the peace and tranquillity of Château Rural.

## Facilities

Chateaux & Castles • Great Value • Heritage Collection • Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Heated Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Pets on Request • Walk to Village • BBQ • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Bicycles Provided • Games Room • Indoor Games • Table Tennis • Pool/Snooker • DVD • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Caretaker/Owner on Site • High Chair(s) • Toys • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Tennis Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites

# Interior & Grounds

## Interior of Château

### Ground Floor

- Entrance hall and main staircase
- Lounge 1 with sofas, desk and chess table
- Lounge 2 with sofas, TV, desk and dining table for 6 guests
- Dining room
- Kitchen, well-equipped including Nespresso coffee machine
- Lemon Tree Bedroom (set between hallway and lounge 1) with twin beds
- Lillies Bedroom with two double beds
- Pruneau Bedroom with twin beds
- Family bathroom with bath and sink (between Lillies and Pruneau Bedroom)
- Laurels Bedroom with twin beds and en suite bathroom with bath, two sinks and bidet
- Family shower room with walk-in shower, sink and toilet
- Espelette Bedroom with four-poster bed (single occupancy)
- Laundry room
- Chapel (next to Pruneau Bedroom, accessed only from outside)

### First Floor

- Games room with French billiards and board games
- Library (French and some English books)
- Rose Bedroom with two double beds, one single bed and small en suite shower room with shower, sink and toilet
- Lavender Bedroom with single bed and small en suite shower room with corner shower, sink and separate WC
- Capucine Bedroom with twin beds
- Bamboo Bedroom with four-corner double bed
- Bathroom with bath, sink and toilet (accessed via both Capucine and Bamboo Bedrooms)
- Iris Bedroom with two double beds and adjoining tower room with double bed
- Jasmine Bedroom with two double beds
- Family shower room with walk-in shower and sink
- W.C

## Outside Grounds

- Heated swimming pool (10mx5m). Open from early May to late October, secured by a fence and electric rolling shutter
- Wooden pool terrace with sun-loungers (100m2)



- Al-fresco dining area
- BBQ
- Swing
- 6-acre parkland featuring swimming/bathing lake

#### **Facilities**

- Yoga studio (160m2)
- Wi-Fi
- TV
- French billiards
- Board games
- Toys
- Bikes x 5
- Darts
- Books (mainly French, some English)
- Children's books and DVDs

## Location & Local Information

Château Rural is in the heart of Gascony, surrounded by six acres of parkland featuring wonderful walks and a swimming lake. The countryside around includes fields of sunflowers and wheat, creating stunning summer landscapes so typical of this region.

Gascony (officially The Gers department) is one of the most unspoilt and rural regions of France with idyllic local villages and towns, beautiful scenery and a fantastic reputation for its gastronomy with local markets selling wonderful local produce including *foie gras* and *confits*.

The nearest village is within walking distance, as are tennis courts whilst the nearest cafes, restaurants and shops are within a ten-minute drive to Fleurance (10km) or Lectoure (13km).

The historic hilltop village of Lectoure (13km) is incredibly attractive and there is a lovely antique market in what used to be the old 18th century hospital. The Friday morning Farmer's market is a must to buy some of the amazing local produce and there are also some excellent restaurants and cafes across the picturesque village.

Fleurance (10km) is another pretty market town and the weekly market on a Tuesday morning is one of the largest in the area. Other villages and hamlets in the area to explore include three of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*', Fourcès (35km), Larresingle (27km) and Montréal du Gers (36km).

The town of Condom (22km), only 25-minutes away, includes a Michelin-starred restaurant as well as boat rental, whilst Auch (32km), with its old quarter raised high above the Gers river, has an incredible cathedral.

Private excursions can be arranged for guests to the towns of Lectoure, Auch and Condom, especially on market day.

The delightful town of Agen (47km) is famous for producing prunes, often soaked in local brandy, and it is also worthy of a visit for its remarkable history and covered daily market. The cities of Toulouse (99km) and Bordeaux (175km) are also within striking distance for an exceptional day out.

There is so much to do in this rural part of Gascony whether cycling, golf, horse-riding, hiking or canoeing on the River Baise in Beaucaire (20km). This is also Grand Armagnac country with plenty of opportunities to visit local producers; tastings and guided tours can easily be arranged.



## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	<b>Toulouse-Blagnac (97km)</b>
Nearest Train Station	<b>Agen (45km)</b>
Nearest Town/City	<b>Fleurance/Lectoure (10km/13km)</b>
Nearest Village	<b>(Walking distance)</b>
Nearest Tennis	<b>(Walking distance)</b>
Nearest Restaurant	<b>Fleurance/Lectoure (10km/13km)</b>
Nearest Supermarket	<b>Fleurance (10km)</b>
Nearest Golf	<b>Golf De Fleurance (15km)</b>

## What we love

- We love the rustic charm and true authenticity of this historic Gascon château
- There is an amazing yoga studio within the estate and both yoga and pilates classes are available
- A local chef with a real passion for food can be arranged to prepare your meals during your stay, whether as a one-off or every day but book her well in advance!
- The six acres of parkland features ancient oaks, wonderful walks and a swimming lake
- Check out the views from the top of the tower - sensational!
- The delightful village of Lectoure, with its excellent markets, is only a ten-minute drive away
- Three of Frances 'Plus Beaux Villages' are within a forty-minute drive; Fourcès, Larresingle and Montréal du Gers

## What you should know...

- Check the Video Tour alongside the "Features" tab for the layout of this authentic château.
- The caretakers live within the estate in a separate gite about 300m from the chateau. They are on hand to welcome you and ensure you have a wonderful stay
- If it's unseasonably cool in the evening there are log-fires in some of the rooms
- The cushions on the French billiards table don't all play true!

# Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €1500 charged to client's credit card as a pre-authorisation one month before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 3.00 p.m (all other times on request only).
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m (all other times on request only).
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes, including pool towels. All linen changed once a week.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- Changeover day: Saturday or Sunday.
- Minimum stay: 7 nights.
- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Yes. 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 garbage disposal required will be charged against the security deposit
- Pool heating charge?: No. Please note that like all heated pools, pool heating and water temperature are reliant on weather and outside temperatures.
- Other Ts and Cs: The brand new swimming pool is due to open in May 2019. It will then be open from early May to late October (cooler months may not be suitable for swimming).
- Other Ts and Cs: Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.