

Chateau De La Vie

Region: Atlantic Coast **Sleeps: 20**

Overview

In the sunny Charente Maritime region, just a short stroll from a charming market town, Château de la Vie offers elegance and sophistication in this beautiful part of western France.

This grand house was built in the late 19th century in the style of a classic château with an added Eau-de-Vie distillery by a gentleman who had made his money through the 'water of life'. It was later used as a summer residence and then even a girls' school and has been part of local life for a long time. In more recent times, the current talented owners have brought the house back to its former glory and have created an exquisite place to stay.

Step through the beautiful entrance into the intricately tiled hallway and a grand piano greets you. Through the double doors, you'll find the sumptuous living room with its deep blue sofas contrasting the bright décor, as light floods through the château windows. The snooker table in the games room will appeal to young and old whilst the perfectly equipped kitchen looks out to the swimming pool terrace.

The dual aspect staircase leads you to four stunning ensuite bedrooms on the first floor, each individually styled with an air of romance and only the finest quality linen and furnishings. On the top floor there are three more lovely bedrooms, two family bathrooms including a luxurious free-standing bath and a dorm-style bedroom with four single beds, ideal for younger guests. An additional lounge with smart TV and a playstation adds to the various 21st-century amenities in this otherwise classically beautiful home.

Outside everyone can gather together to splash or swim in the pool, sip cocktails by the bar or lounge in the relaxing surroundings of the vast terrace. There's a barbecue for cooking up an al-fresco feast and a brilliant pool house with a gym, shower and plenty of space for a party by the pool.

Only a short walk from a small charming town, you can stroll to one of the *boulangeries* in the morning to pick up pastries for all the family and or visit the market on a Sunday and Thursday morning. Stroll by the river in nearby Saint-Jean-d'Angély or head further afield to Cognac, a delightful old town with excellent restaurants and of course the famous Cognac houses with fabulous tastings.



The west coast is around an hour away – the perfect place to enjoy a special meal of moules frites and chilled white wine overlooking the sea. La Rochelle is a wonderful day trip, as is the stunning island of Île de Ré.

A little closer to home, take the château's bikes out to explore the many trails across the region, enjoy hikes along well-signposted footpaths or ride horses at nearby stables. Golf-lovers have a great choice of courses to enjoy whilst keen fishers can relax by the banks of the Charente or Boutonne rivers that flow through this enchanting region.

Facilities

Chateaux & Castles • Heritage Collection • Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Walk to Village • Walk to Restaurant • BBQ • Ideal for Parties • Stag/Hen Allowed • Bicycles Provided • Gym/Fitness Room • Games Room • Indoor Games • Outdoor Games • Table Tennis • Pool/Snooker • Home Cinema • Working Fireplace • Heating • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Toys • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites

Interior & Grounds

Main Château Interior

Ground Floor (via staircase outside)

- Entrance with baby grand piano
- Lounge with sofas and open fire
- Dining room
- Games room with pool table and board games
- Well-equipped kitchen

First Floor

- 4 x super king-size bedrooms with ensuite bath/shower rooms

Second Floor

- Landing lounge with smart TV and play station
- 3 x bedrooms
- Dorm style bedroom with four single beds
- Two family bathrooms with stand alone bath and walk-in shower

Studio Interior

- Double bedroom
- Shower room

Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (12mx5m) with safety pool cover and pool alarm, and small separate square pool attached. Open approximately April to end-October
- Pool house with gym and shower
- Firepit with seating
- BBQ and summer kitchen/bar area
- AI-fresco lounge
- AI-fresco dining area
- Jungle gym for children
- Parking for several cars

Facilities

- Heating
- Cinema room
- Smart TV
- Play station



- Children's toys and equipment
- Pool table
- Board games
- Boules
- Table tennis
- Bikes
- Gym

Location & Local Information

In the Charente Maritime, only 45-minutes from Cognac and an hour from the coast, Château de la Vie enjoys an enviable location just south of a charming small town with restaurants, shops and the town's twice-weekly market within walking distance.

There is a choice of bakeries in the local town so you can wander down to get freshly baked morning pastries and bread as well as a pretty square with cafes perfect for a morning coffee or early evening aperitif. Just outside the village there is a UNESCO World Heritage listed church which is on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The vibrant market takes place on a Thursday and Sunday morning and there are also essential amenities such as a pharmacy, a convenience store, post office and a play area for younger guests. On Thursday evenings look out for the fish and chip van that passes through the town!

There are various horse-riding stables across the region, including stables within a ten-minute drive and within half an hour you can reach Golf Louis Royer Guillet near Saintes with some amazing views, as well as a choice of others within an hour or so. Fishing (with a permit which you can usually pick up from a tabac or tourist office) and there are plenty of opportunities along the river in Saint-Jean-d'Angély or along the Charente river. Finally, there are many signposted footpaths and trails across the area for keen walkers and cyclists and the chateau has bikes for guests to use.

The nearby town of Saint-Jean-d'Angély (20km) is a lovely place to take stroll by the river and has a great park for kids. There are also châteaux in the region to explore, such as the fairy-tale castle Chateau de la Roche Courbon with its prehistoric caves, 45 minutes away.

A little further away, Saintes (40km) is worthy of a visit along the Charentes river as is Cognac (45km) with its delightful old town and wonderful places to dine, especially by the river. Visit the big Cognac houses both in the city and in Jarnac (50km) where you can enjoy fabulous brandy tastings and more excellent cuisine.

Angoulême (66km) is also a great day out, located above the Charente river with wonderful valley views. It's a city full of art and history and also popular due to its National Comic Strip and Image Centre, a fantastic museum.

If you fancy a trip to the coast, you'll find beaches in about an hour in such as Fouras (65km) or a little further there's Plage des Minimes (84km), near La Rochelle, which can be combined with a trip to the charming island of Île de Ré. The west coast is renowned for the abundance oysters and seafood and



you will have a wonderful meal looking out to the sea with a lovely crisp glass of wine and Moules Frites! Maritime lovers shouldn't miss the town of Rochefort (55km) with its fascinating naval history.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	La Rochelle (82km)
Nearest Airport 2	Poitiers–Biard Airport, (88km)
Nearest Train Station	Saint Jean-d'Angély (17km)
Nearest Village	(500m)
Nearest Restaurant	(Within 500m)
Nearest Shop	Bakery & Convenience Store (500m)
Nearest Supermarket	Intermarché Super et Drive (3km)
Nearest Town/City	Saint-Jean-d'Angély/Cognac (20km/45km)
Nearest Golf	Golf Louis Royer Guillet (37km)

What Oliver loves...

- It's only a short stroll from a charming small town with its lovely *boulangeries* and twice-weekly market
- The distilleries in Cognac are within a short drive and within an hour you can be enjoying oysters and crisp white wine overlooking the Atlantic coast
- This grand house is sophisticated and elegant – a beautiful place for a holiday in style
- The vast outdoor terrace offers ample space for relaxation, dining al-fresco and swimming in the glorious pool
- Children are thought of with toys, games, books, a jungle gym, kid's bikes and a playstation!

What you should know...

- The studio on the lower floor of the château is ideal for guests who may find the main château's grand staircases a little too much or wish for their own space

Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €1000 paid to the owner by bank transfer one month before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 4.00 p.m.
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m.
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes, including pool towels. Mid-stay linen change is included for stays of two weeks.
- 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.
- Other Ts and Cs: The swimming pool is open April to the end of October.
- Changeover day: Saturday.
- Minimum stay: 3 nights (7 nights in July and August).
- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- 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.
- Heating costs included?: Yes.