

# Le Cheval Aux Vignes

Region: Languedoc Sleeps: 4

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## Overview

After a day out exploring the idyllic Languedoc vineyards, return to your charming village house and drink local wine by the swimming pool, knowing that you're staying in an original *Maison Vigneronne* with the wine caves perfectly preserved from the 1900s.

This wine-makers home was built in the early 20th century out of local stone and until recently the wine was stored in the tanks (*cuves*) which you can see on the ground floor. The owners have respected the home's history and retained much of its traditions whilst adding its own unique character with fascinating *objets* exhibiting their love of antiques. Sip your morning coffee by the breakfast bar with stools from an old French cruise ship, dine by night under the chic lights from a Parisian restaurant and there's a 1950s child's lounge chair and coffee table in the stylish living room.

French windows open up to a Juliet balcony from the living room and bedrooms, bringing light into the first-floor rooms. Admire the grand English wardrobe and Japanese lamps, also from 20th century cruise ships, in the spacious twin bedroom whilst the 19th century mirror in the romantic en suite double is sure to impress. Amenities such as air-conditioning, satellite TV and Blu-ray/DVD player bring in 21st century comforts alongside classic table football and a 70-year old pinball machine for old-fashioned fun!

It's wonderful to have a swimming pool in the courtyard garden, a particular treat for a village *maison*, especially as it can be heated at certain times. There's also a little barbecue and a lovely area to sit in the sun or relax under the mulberry trees in this picturesque setting.

The village has everything you need from a *boulangerie* to bistro as well as a handful of small shops. It's only a short drive or bus ride away to Pézenas with its historic architecture, atmospheric lanes filled with pretty boutiques and art galleries as well as its famous Saturday morning market. Other wonderful places to visit include Béziers, Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert and even Carcassonne, the latter two being UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Local rivers offer swimming and fishing whilst Lac de Salagou is an incredible place for walking, mountain biking and watersports. Seafood lovers can enjoy lunch by the Étang de Thau in Mèze or take a boat across the lagoon discover the oyster beds in Bouzigues. The beaches of Cap d'Agade and Marseillan



Plage are also within half an hour where you will find long stretches of coastline, great beachside restaurants and a wealth of family-friendly activities.

With so much of Languedoc to discover, Le Cheval Aux Vignes is superbly placed to enjoy traditional village life alongside the delights of this enchanting and beautiful region.

## Facilities

Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Heated Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Pets on Request • Walk to Village • Walk to Restaurant • <1hr to Airport • BBQ • Satellite TV • Indoor Games • Outdoor Games • Table Football • DVD • Heating • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Watersports • Sailing • Canoeing/Kayaking • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Tennis Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites



# Interior & Grounds

## Villa Interior (105m2)

### *First Floor (accessed via stone staircase)*

- Living room with sofa and mezzanine level reading area/study
- Open-plan kitchen-diner, well-equipped with dining table, breakfast bar, dishwasher, fridge, freezer, 5-ring gas cooker, microwave, blender, kettle and toaster
- Bedroom with double bed (160x200cm) and bathroom with bath, Italian shower and WC
- Bedroom with twin beds (90x200cm, can be made into a double on request)
- Shower room with WC
- Storage room (for luggage/clothes etc)

### *Ground Floor*

- Shower room with WC
- Laundry room
- Access to garage with table football and pinball machine

## Outside Grounds

- Heated swimming pool (5m x 3m, depth 1.4m) with safety cover. Massage jets in one corner. Open approximately mid-April to mid-October, other times on request
- Al-fresco dining area with table and chairs
- Small BBQ
- Garage and outdoor parking

## Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning/heating
- Satellite TV
- Blu-ray and DVD player
- CD player
- Internet radio
- Table football
- Pinball machine
- Darts board
- Board games
- Hairdryer
- Ironing facilities
- Washing machine

## Location & Local Information

In a village setting in the Hérault department of Languedoc, Le Cheval Aux Vignes is within walking distance to a small supermarket, grocer's and a *boulangerie*. There is also a French bistro, café-bar and a pharmacy in the village, just a short walk away. The village is famous for its sweet onions and on the first weekend of July they celebrate the onion through various festivities across the village.

There is a bus every couple of hours that takes you to the beautiful and historic town of Pézenas (4.5km) where you will find a wider selection of restaurants, pretty shops, art galleries, antique dealers and stunning architecture. The Saturday morning market dates back to the 14th century and is a must to pick up all sorts of wonderful local produce; it's known to be one of the best in the region. In July and August, Pézenas hosts a summer festival every Friday evening where there is local wine, good food, live music and other festivities across the town.

There are of course many market villages and towns across the region to explore on different days of the week, followed by a delicious lunch under the plane trees in pretty squares or down picturesque lanes. The Wednesday morning market in Clermont-l'Hérault (19km), for example, is especially worthy of a visit. This region is surrounded by olive groves and vineyards and there are some excellent places to go to sample local Languedoc wines.

The Lac de Salagou is an incredibly tranquil day out where you can kayak, paddle-board or wind-surf, swim or paddle in the lake, mountain bike across great trails or hike in stunning surroundings. Discover some of the idyllic villages around the lake, some of which have been abandoned but retain their mystic charm.

This is also a great location for getting to the beach with Cap d'Agade (32km), Marseillan Plage (28km) and Le Grau d'Agde (29km) all about half an hour away. From busy marinas to idyllic beaches backed by pine trees, the coastline here offers something for everyone including waterparks and watersports for the more adventurous.

The Étang de Thau is a great lagoon which is famous for its oysters; take a boat trip out to Bouzigues to see the oyster beds, followed by a sea-food lunch in Marseillan (25km) or Mèze (18km). On the other side of the lagoon, soak up the authenticity in Sète with its long beaches by the sea and boat trips along the canals.

One of France's prettiest villages, and a UNESCO World Heritage site, Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert (37km) is also a short drive away or head east towards the



vibrant city of Montpellier (58km). To the west you'll find Béziers (28km) where you can experience authentic Languedoc at its best, especially during the August *feria*.

Finally, find some time to visit Carcassonne (115km) if you can, an amazing fortified town which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	<b>Béziers Cap d'Agde Airport, (30km)</b>
Nearest Airport 2	<b>Montpellier-Méditerranée Airport (70km)</b>
Nearest Airport 3	<b>Nîmes (120km)</b>
Nearest Village	<b>(0km)</b>
Nearest Restaurant	<b>In the village (500m)</b>
Nearest Shop	<b>Bakery/Small supermarket (200m)</b>
Nearest Town/City	<b>Pézenas/Béziers (4.5km/28km)</b>
Nearest Golf	<b>Golf Saint Thomas (20km)</b>
Nearest Beach	<b>Marseillan Plage/Cap d'Agde (28km/32km)</b>

## What we love

- Originally a *Maison Vigneronne*, this lovely house has many traditional features including the original *cuves* where wine was stored
- It's also full of unique pieces such as bar stools from a French cruise ship, lights from an old Parisian restaurant and a 70-year old pinball machine
- Beautiful Pézenas is only 4km away; a historic town with one of the region's best markets on a Saturday morning
- You can be enjoying oysters in Mèze or relaxing by the beaches in Cap d'Agade within half an hour

## What you should know...

- The living-dining space and bedrooms are on the top floor whilst the entrance, garden and pool are on the lower floor
- There's a mezzanine level off the living room, a quiet spot for reading perhaps
- There is a bus that takes you from the village to Pézenas, leaving every couple of hours and taking just five minutes

# Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €500 charged to clients' credit card before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 5.00 p.m.
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m.
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Heating costs included?: Extra €50 per stay, paid locally.
- 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 rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes.
- Pool towels included?: Yes.
- Pool opening dates?: The pool is open approximately mid-April to mid-October. Please note that pool opening dates are subject to local weather conditions and pool maintenance requirements and that cooler months may not be suitable for swimming.
- Pool heating charge?: Yes. The pool can be heated on request and a supplement of €100 per week applies, payable at the time of booking. It is recommended that pool heating is requested before arrival. Please note that like all heated pools, pool heating and water temperature are reliant on weather and outside temperatures.
- Minimum stay: 7 nights in high season. 4 nights during all other periods.
- Changeover day: Saturday in high season. Flexible during all other periods.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner. If accepted, a pet supplement of €100 per pet per week will apply (payable to Oliver's Travels at the time of balance payment) and pets will not be allowed to go on sofas, beds or in the swimming pool.
- Smoking Allowed?: No.
- Tax: French Visitors Tax payable locally (typically costs €1-€10 per adult per night - please enquire if exact amount is required).
- 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.