

# Maison Des Etoiles

Region: Midi-Pyrenees Sleeps: 4

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## Overview

Surrounded by the rural landscapes of beautiful Aveyron and Tarn-et-Garonne, stay in a 300-year old house with a gorgeous swimming pool overlooking the countryside near Najac, one of France's classified '*Plus Beaux Villages*'.

Embrace the slow pace of life as you relax outdoors, potter around delightful markets in historic villages and towns and experience the beauty of the Gorges de l'Aveyron.

Dating back to the early 18th century, Maison Des Étoiles is part of a historic hamlet that has been sensitively restored over several years by its dedicated owners. Original features have been retained whilst adding modern touches to bring the auberge into the 21st century with all work carried out by local artisans.

Appreciate Maison Des Étoiles' rich heritage as you admire original oak, walnut and stone materials alongside antique furnishings curated especially for this house. High quality bedlinen and designer towels have been added for guests' convenience alongside air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV, DVD player and a sound system. The well-equipped kitchen is fit for a chef (which can be arranged!) whilst the 300-year old bread oven has been wonderfully converted into a characterful wine room with a fridge to keep your drinks chilled.

Beneath the wood beams upstairs, discover two pretty bedrooms including the master with a king-size double and a gorgeous little terrace overlooking the fields, the perfect spot for a glass of Gaillac wine. Sleeping 4-6 guests, there is a good quality sofa-bed in the lounge and two family bathrooms.

Sit back by the swimming pool with its stone terrace, summer kitchen and undulating vistas. There are other picturesque spots for relaxing or dining outdoors whilst the most adventurous can make the most of the endless walking, jogging and cycling trails straight from the estate.

Explore the region and come across historic market towns, idyllic villages and the glorious scenery of rural France. Najac is around a 20-minute drive away with its charming lanes and impressive 13th century château, home to an atmospheric Sunday morning market and weekly summer night market. The handsome bastide town of Villefranche-de-Rouergue is another great highlight



of the area, also loved for its wonderful markets. Look out for seasonal delights such as delicious cheeses, chestnuts, prunes, figs, foie gras, mushrooms, truffles and so much more.

Discover the riverside villages and wild landscapes of the Gorges de l'Aveyron, including Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val, a mecca for outdoor adventurers, keen cyclists and hikers. Furthermore, venture south and visit the Tarn's Triangle d'Or with Cordes-sur-Ciel, Gaillac and Albi, all incredible destinations within an hour by car.

## Facilities

Villa/House • Heritage Collection • Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Pets on Request • BBQ • Washing Machine • Tumble Dryer • Coffee Machine • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • TV • Wine Cellar • Indoor Games • DVD • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Parking Space • Canoeing/Kayaking • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites • Romantic

# Interior & Grounds

## Maison Interiors

- Lounge with double sofa-bed
- Dining area
- Kitchen, fully-equipped
- Master suite with king-size double bed, sitting/coffee area and doors leading to small terrace.
- Bedroom with queen-size double bed and sitting area
- 2 x bathrooms with bath, shower, sink and WC

*Both bedrooms feature characterful sloping ceilings and wood beams*

## Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (5x8m, depth: approx. 2.4m) with safety alarm (closed from 8pm although later hours can be arranged). Open approximately May to October
- Poolside terrace with sun loungers
- Summer kitchen
- Various areas for sitting and/or dining
- Barbecue
- Garden (with steps and some terraced levels)
- Boules set
- Parking

## Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning
- Heating
- TV
- DVD player and DVDs
- Outdoor sound system
- Nintendo Wii and games
- Library
- Children's games
- Wine cellar and bar
- Washing machine/dryer



## Location & Local Information

On the border of Aveyron and Tarn-et-Garonne, Maison Des Étoiles is 13km north of Najac, officially classified as one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*'. This location is perfect for guests wishing to experience the slow pace of life of remote France whilst enjoying local markets, delicious gastronomy and the beauty of the Gorges de l'Aveyron.

Maison Des Étoiles enjoys a rural setting, part of a historic hamlet (including the owners and their dog next door). There are walking, hiking and cycling trails straight from the estate.

The nearest village, around 7km away, is home to a couple of restaurants, café-bar, pharmacy and a *boulangerie* alongside an attractive lake with water based activities in the height of the summer. You will find a grocery store in another small village, 9km by car, whilst there are good-sized supermarkets just outside La Fouillade and Villefranche-de-Rouergue.

Driving through the Occitanie countryside, Najac (13km) is an idyllic spot for lunch with views of the village's beautiful 13th century château. The village hosts a lovely seasonal market on Sunday mornings as well as a summer night market on a Wednesday evening where tables are laid out on the village square whilst locals and visitors alike enjoy good Aveyron gastronomy alongside local wine and music.

To the north, Villefranche-de-Rouergue (17km) is a small bastide town dating back to the 13th century with an impressive cathedral and wonderful town square that hosts the Thursday morning market, the largest in the region. Spend time exploring the town's cobbled lanes and pretty shops before stopping off in a picturesque café-bar for lunch. In the summer months the atmospheric night market takes place on a Sunday evening – not to be missed!

The owners will give you information about other markets dotted across Aveyron, Tarn-et-Garonne and Tarn from the much-loved Sunday morning market in Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val (26km), also known for its leather goods, to the highly regarded markets in historic Gaillac and Albi, both around an hour away.

The wild landscapes of the Gorges de l'Aveyron are a paradise for outdoor adventurers, starting in Bruniquel (50km), another one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*', and flowing as far as nearby Villefranche-de-Rouergue. The river passes gorgeous villages such as medieval Penne (42km) and Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val (26km) and there are glorious cycling and hiking routes as well as opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, climbing and more.

Tarn's iconic Triangle D'Or is also waiting to be visited to the south from hilltop



Cordes-sur-Ciel (34km) to Gaillac (56km), known for its historic vineyards, and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Albi (57km) with its exquisite architecture and magnificent cathedral.

### Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	<b>Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (115km)</b>
Nearest Airport 2	<b>Brive-Souillac Airport (138km)</b>
Nearest Train Station	<b>Gare de Najac (12km)</b>
Nearest Village	<b>Small Tarn-et-Garonne village (7km)</b>
Nearest Shop	<b>Bakery in local village (7km)</b>
Nearest Restaurant	<b>Local village (7km)</b>
Nearest Supermarket	<b>La Fouillade/Villefranche-de-Rouergue (16-17km)</b>
Nearest Town	<b>Villefranche-de-Rouergue (17km)</b>
Nearest Golf	<b>Golf Du Totche (16km)</b>
Nearest Tennis	<b>Villefranche De Rouergue T.C (16km)</b>

## What we love

- We love the idyllic view of rural landscapes from the swimming pool – you may even be able to spot a hot air balloon
- The 300-year old bread oven has been transformed into a wine cellar and dining area
- Sit back on the master bedroom's balcony with a glass of wine from Gaillac's historic vineyards
- Arrange a chef to prepare gourmet meals making the most of the delicious regional produce
- Embrace the ambience of summer night markets in nearby Najac and Villefranche-de-Rouergue
- Experience the beauty of the Gorges de l'Aveyron, a paradise for outdoor adventurers

## What you should know...

- The house sleeps 4-6 guests over two double bedrooms and one double sofa-bed in the lounge.
- Part of a historic hamlet, please note that the owners are sometimes present in the main house next door.
- If you would like to bring your pet, please request in advance. Only friendly dogs are welcome as there is already a Border Collie on the estate.
- Please note that the private swimming pool is closed from 8 p.m. although later hours can be arranged.

# Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: £1000 charged to client's credit card as a pre-authorisation at least 2 weeks prior to arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 4.00 p.m. Can sometimes be flexible (on request).
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m. Can sometimes be flexible (on request).
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Heating costs included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes, changed once for stays of 14 nights.
- Pool towels included?: Yes, changed once for stays of 14 nights.
- 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.
- Tax: French Visitors Tax is included.
- Pool opening dates?: The pool is open approximately May to 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.
- Changeover day: Friday - can be flexible (on request only).
- Minimum stay: 7 nights.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner. Please note there is already a border collie on site.
- Smoking Allowed?: Strictly not allowed. In the case of smoking, the security deposit will be forfeited and cleaning fee of £500 will be taken.
- 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.
- Other Ts and Cs: The house sleeps 4-6 guests over two double bedrooms and one double sofa-bed in the lounge.
- Other Ts and Cs: A cot, highchair and baby monitor can be requested in advance.
- Other Ts and Cs: Please note that the private swimming pool is closed from 8 p.m. although later hours can be arranged.