

Domaine Vidal

Region: Carcassonne Sleeps: 21

Overview

Be enchanted by the ancient woodland, natural swimming pool and 19th century *manoir* at this elegant eco-friendly *domaine* in southern France, close to Le Canal du Midi and Carcassonne.

In the Aude countryside of summer sunflowers, vineyards and rolling hills, Domaine Vidal's owners have created something special across this peaceful estate. They have spent several years sensitively restoring the historic manor house and painstakingly upcycling furnishings and antiques, some of which have been in the house since the 1800s. Having hosted local events, art residencies and *chambre d'hôte* guests, the owners are now opening up their beautiful Maison de Maître to guests exclusively seeking a sustainable getaway.

Step back in time as you walk through the exquisite hallway and soak up the art-deco ambience across the salon, dining room and bedrooms. Up to 21 guests can stay in the main house (seven bedrooms) and characterful gîte next door (four bedrooms including a double on the ground floor), many with en suite bathrooms.

The owners always consider the environmental impact of everything they do – nowhere is this more evident than the outdoor grounds where bio-diversity is key. On warm summer days cool off in the natural swimming pool accompanied by frogs, waterlilies, dragonflies and even the occasional swallow swooping across the water. There's a wood-fired hot tub and sauna alongside wild flowers, century-old trees, a fairy garden and a play area for children. No pesticides are used here – instead you can relax amidst authentic nature and allow children to play to their hearts content away from 21st century distractions.

That's not to say that modern conveniences have been forgotten – far from it! Features inside include Bluetooth speakers, digital radios, an arcade machine, plenty of indoor games as well as a pull-down projector and popcorn machine for family movie nights! The gîte even has a Smart TV, games console, DVD player and traditional board games. Across the home, bathrobes and organic toiletries are provided alongside tea and coffee facilities in some of the bedrooms.

A chef can be arranged to prepare picnics, lunches in the garden or evening



feasts using organic produce sourced as locally as possible (including vegetables from the kitchen garden and eggs from the resident hens). Discuss with us your catering needs – with on-site staff, full-board is even possible. The owners can also organise at-home massages, cookery classes and garden tours.

If you can bear to leave your unspoilt surroundings, there is so much to explore nearby. Bikes are provided, ideal for exploring the Canal du Midi whether cycling to Castelnaudary for a lunch of *cassoulet* or heading in the other direction towards Carcassonne and beyond.

Enjoy wonderful walks and hikes (even as far as the foothills of the Pyrenees), canoe or kayak along the Aude River, visit picture-perfect villages and spend time sampling some of Languedoc's excellent wines at vineyards across the region (AOC Minervois, AOC Corbières and IGP de la Cité de Carcassonne).

Carcassonne is only 20km away with its medieval citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage site, alongside the wine-bars and restaurants of historic Bastide Saint-Louis. Pick up regional delights at the gorgeous markets in Mirepoix and Revel, sit out on a café terrace sipping sparkling white wine in Limoux and even venture to the Languedoc coast for glorious beaches, kite-surfing and oysters overlooking the Mediterranean.

Facilities

Manor • Quirky • Instagrammable • Wellness • Great Value • Sustainable Collection • Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Pets on Request • Hot Tub • <1hr to Airport • BBQ • Washing Machine • Tumble Dryer • Coffee Machine • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Smart TV • Bicycles Provided • Sauna/Steam • Games Room • Indoor Games • Outdoor Games • Table Football • Pool/Snooker • DVD • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Parking Space • Canoeing/Kayaking • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Tennis Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Go-Karting • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites • Romantic • Boat Trips

Interior & Grounds

Main House Interiors (14 guests)

Ground Floor

- Large entry hall
- Salon and library
- Music room
- Dining room
- Kitchen (and separate staff kitchen)
- Games room and disco

First Floor

- Bedroom (51m²) with super king-size double bed, TV, mini-fridge, digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities, fan, safe and en suite bathroom with bath, shower and WC
- Bedroom (36m²) with king-size double bed, digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities, fan, safe and en suite bathroom with shower and WC
- Bedroom (25m²) with king-size double bed (can be split as twin), Bluetooth speaker, tea/coffee facilities, fan, safe and en suite bathroom with shower and WC
- Bedroom (32m²) with double bed, digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities, fan, safe and en suite bathroom with shower and WC
- Bedroom (36m²) with double bed, air-conditioning, fridge, digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities, safe and terrace. En suite bathroom with shower and WC
- Bedroom with double bed, air-conditioning and digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities
- Bedroom with double bed, air-conditioning and digital speaker/radio, tea/coffee facilities
- Shared bathroom (between above two bedrooms) with bath/shower and WC

Gîte Interiors (7 guests)

Ground Floor

- Lounge with Smart TV, DVD player, Bluetooth speaker and PS4
- Kitchen area with simple cooking facilities, fridge, washing machine and dryer
- Bedroom (18m²) with double bed, fan and en suite bathroom with shower and WC

First Floor



- Bedroom (28m²) with double bed, fan and en suite bathroom with bath, shower and WC
- Bedroom with double bed and fan
- Bedroom with single bed and fan
- Bathroom with shower and WC (shared between above two bedrooms)

Outside Grounds

- Natural swimming pool (12.6x7.4m, depth: 0.7-2m) with safety alarm. Open approximately April to end-October
- 4-person wood-fired hot tub
- 4 to 6-person wood-fired sauna
- Barbecue and pizza oven
- Trampoline and swings
- Outdoor games (archery, boules, molki, croquet and badminton)
- Electric mountain bikes (x4)
- Children's bikes (x3)
- Wild/bio-diverse garden and grounds (no pesticides)
- Organic farmland (organic produce grown onsite)
- Chickens and dogs on-site
- Woodland (three hectares)

Other Facilities

- Air-conditioning (three bedrooms only)
- Popcorn and candyfloss machine
- Arcade machines
- Sound system
- Two projectors and projection screens
- Laser machine
- Disco lights and smoke machine
- VR headset
- Multiple Chromecasts

Location & Local Information

Only 20km from Carcassonne in the Aude department of southern France, Domaine Vidal is set within a three-hectare estate of woodland, wild gardens and organic farmland – no pesticides are used in this very natural setting. Fly into Carcassonne Airport or arrive by train to Gare de Bram/Carcassonne via Narbonne.

In a remote setting (with just one neighbouring farmhouse), car hire is essential to be able to fully explore the region although bikes are also provided for wonderful cycling routes nearby. The nearest village with a restaurant, small supermarket, bakery, tennis courts and municipal summer swimming pool is less than 3km away whilst there are further amenities in the small historic town of Bram within a 10-minute drive.

The Canal du Midi passes north of Bram meaning this area is ideal for keen cyclists who can follow the canalside towpath to Castelnaudary (22km) or in the other direction towards Carcassonne, Trèbes (33km) and, further afield, pretty Minervois wine villages (Homps, Argens-Minervois, Paraza, Roubia and so on).

Of course, one of the great draws of this region is Carcassonne (20km), so loved for its medieval citadel, one of the largest fortified castles in Europe and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Take time to experience the other part of the town, historic Bastide Saint-Louis, with its narrow lanes, wine-bars, restaurants and indoor market alongside the bustling café terraces of Place Carnot, home of an atmospheric market on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Both the Canal du Midi and Aude River pass through Carcassonne.

Indeed, the Aude River offers opportunities for beautiful scenery, kayaking/canoeing and summer swimming. Riverside Limoux (26km) is especially picturesque with its charming old town, arcaded main square, covered market and many café terraces for sipping Blanquette de Limoux, the oldest sparkling white wine in France (locals say Dom Perignon stole the idea to create champagne!).

The pretty town of Mirepoix (32km) is must-visit for food lovers on a Monday morning when the lovely market takes over the central square, said to be one of the most beautiful markets in the region. Heading north instead, Revel (42km) is another superb and highly regarded market to experience, this one on a Saturday morning - perhaps combine with a trip to the lake at Saint-Ferréol.

Gastronomes may also be keen to venture east to the Atlantic coast for Leucate oysters overlooking the Mediterranean. This part of the Languedoc coastline is also a paradise for windsurfing and kitesurfing enthusiasts –



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Gruissan Plage (103km) and Leucate Plage (118km) are just over an hour away.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Carcassonne (16km)
Nearest Airport 2	Toulouse-Blagnac (85km)
Nearest Village	Small local village (2.5km)
Nearest Town/City	Carcassonne (20km)
Nearest Restaurant	Local village (2.5km)
Nearest Supermarket	Small supermarket (2.6km)
Nearest Beach	Narbonne/Gruissan Plage (102km)
Nearest Golf	Golf de Carcassonne (22km)
Nearest Train Station	Gare de Bram (5.5km)

What we love

- Such an elegant 19th century manor house that has been exquisitely restored respecting its Art Deco heritage, set in enchanting woodland
- It's idyllic to cool off in the natural swimming pool amongst the waterlilies, frogs and dragonflies
- Relax in the wood-fired hot tub and sauna as kids enjoy the outdoor play area, games room and projector screen with popcorn machine!
- Sustainability is key here – many antiques have been upcycled, no pesticides are used and energy is produced efficiently
- A chef can be arranged using only organic produce as locally sourced as possible (including eggs from the resident hens and vegetables from the kitchen garden)
- How wonderful to be just a 20-minute drive from Carcassonne and its world-famous citadel

What you should know...

- There are seven bedrooms in the main house and four bedrooms in the gîte. There is the possibility to add three extra beds to the main house – please ask for details.
- Families are welcome – the games room and play areas are fantastic! Supervision is needed across the vast grounds and the owners ask all guests to take extra care with antique pieces/furnishings.
- The estate is organic – the swimming pool is natural, there are animals on site and no pesticides are used (the owners provide lavender insect repellent). The owners ask you to use organic products and be environmentally mindful.
- The 8-acre estate is also home to a bungalow in the woodland (where on-site staff live) and an Arts Centre/barn which hosts a cultural day on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July/August) and art residencies (from Oct 2025) - both the staff quarters and Art Centre are separate and private from the house/gîte and swimming pool.
- Further accommodation available includes three forest cabins, two caravans and a dorm-style room all at an extra cost – enquire for details.

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: 3.00 p.m.
- Departure time: 11.30 a.m.
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Heating costs included?: Included between early March and late October. Outside of these times, charges may apply - please inquire.
- Pool opening dates?: The pool is open approximately April 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.
- Pool towels included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes.
- 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.
- Changeover day: Flexible.
- Minimum stay: 3 nights. All other durations on request.
- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner. Please note this is an organic farm with animals on site (dogs and chickens).
- 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: Three extra beds can be added to the main house bedrooms, on request (please enquire). There are also three forest cabins in the woods each with double bed, electricity, Wi-Fi & compost toilet. They can be rented separately if needed and subject to availability. The forest cabins will not be rent to other guests during your stay.
- Other Ts and Cs: There is a three bedroom bungalow that houses the staff members, situated in the woodland separate to the main house/gite.
- Tax: French Visitors Tax payable locally in cash (typically costs €1-€5 per adult per night - please enquire if exact amount is required).
- Other Ts and Cs: The 8-acre estate is also home to a bungalow in the woodland (where on-site staff live) and an Arts Centre/barn which hosts a cultural day on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July/August) and art residencies (from Oct 2025) - both the staff quarters and Art Centre are separate and private from the house/gîte and swimming pool.
- Other Ts and Cs: Please note that air-conditioning features in 3 bedrooms only.