

Paradis en Provence ****

Time and again locals from the area refer to our houses as "petit paradis" – it seemed like a good name! We are not agents, we own just two wonderful properties in fabulous locations here in Provence. Most importantly they are homes with their own unique character. Having spent many years renting houses in this stunning area, we thought we could do it a lot better. Have you ever been seduced by a glossy brochure? Then to discover a house devoid of character, threadbare towels, lumpy mattresses and a bare kitchen then you'll know what we are talking about. We love cooking (and eating!) therefore both kitchens are fully equipped.

Detail is everything. Crisp white linen, fluffy towels, fresh flowers and the pre-requisite, chilled rosé, await you. Our guardian couple, fluent in English, French and German, will cater to your individual needs. They will welcome you upon your arrival and immediately familiarise you with the house and its surroundings.

Some of our guests love the tranquillity and privacy of the houses and prefer simply to be left alone – no problem. Whatever your requirements may be, we will endeavour to make your holiday as stress-free and enjoyable as possible. On this note, our guardian couple offer an absolutely trustworthy and reliable babysitting/childcare service.

Both our guardians are professionally trained in the hospitality field. Their services can range from personally picking you up from the airport to a chauffeured wine tour around Chateauneuf du Pape – in fact just about anything. Importantly, they can provide you with any kind of catering you require. Be it a gastronomic dinner for you and your guests or a rustic "grillade" BBQ on the terrace, it's up to you.

Our motivation is that we get a kick out of seeing people having a great time.



Ferme du Val

Ferme du Val is a huge traditional "mas" dating from the 18C. It is a very impressive property standing alone within 25 acres of open countryside. The house is conveniently located between two Provencal villages, approximately 15 minutes by car from the cultural centre of Aix en Provence. Both the house and pool are enclosed within a walled garden creating a secluded and very private environment. The blue shuttered house is flanked by large "platane" trees creating shady areas.

The lawned gardens are on two levels, the lower with a large south facing terrace between the house and the pool. Here, one has the option of alfresco eating by the edge of the pool underneath the shade of a vine-covered arbour. Alternatively there is a second shaded terrace situated behind the house, bordered with flowers and herbs with a huge stone dining table. The pool - $12m \times 5m$, heated, ozone treated, not chlorine, pool house with WC, shower and changing room.

The house has been meticulously restored and is full of many beautiful Provencal antiques and paintings whilst providing elegant, spacious and comfortable accommodation with the benefits of a fully equipped modern kitchen. The many facilities include a Satellite TV/video/dvd, fax/telephone, books, videos and CD music system. Furthermore the house lends itself very well to an out of season holiday with the benefits of full central heating, open fireplaces and heated swimming pool. Ample garaging, BBQ and Boules.





Ferme du Val: Accommodation - sleeps 14

Ground floor: Large fully fitted kitchen/sitting room with dishwasher, microwave, etc plus sofas and open fireplace. Leading to cloakroom and WC. Through to vaulted dining room. Arch through to large galleried hall with door leading off to utility/laundry room with washing machine and tumble dryer.

First Floor: Stairs leading to galleried library/reading area. Master bedroom with ensuite bathroom with bath and shower, stone stairway access to gardens. Two further double bedrooms (one of them a twin) overlooking the gardens. Bathroom and separate WC. Steps leading to shower room. Huge beamed sitting room with open fireplace and panoramic views. Spiral staircase leading to mezzanine accommodation with double bed.

Second Floor: Spacious beamed twin bedroom. Two further double bedrooms. All rooms having magnificent views of countryside. Large bathroom with bath and shower, adjoining WC. Steps leading to additional shower room.

Independent studio (ground floor access, part of main house) - sitting room with kitchenette leading to double bedroom with ensuite bathroom (bath and shower). Ideal for elderly or nanny/au pair.





Les Vallons

The position of this property is truly exceptional. The house is situated on the Southern foothills of the Grand Luberon mountain outside the village of Cucuron in the Luberon National Park and enjoys amazing views and tranquillity. The property has been completely refurbished.

The house was built many years ago on the ruins of an ancient hamlet. It is built entirely of stone in the traditional Provencal style but enjoys the benefits of huge terraced areas as well as a large pool which is ideal for children with approx. 1m depth in the shallow end. There is a shady poolhouse with summer kitchen and shower room. The house stands alone and backs onto acres of private woodland, one can literally step off the terrace, then walk or cycle up into the hills for miles. Stunning views stretching to Mont St. Victoire and beyond for 50 kms. The major advantage of its position is that even in high summer it benefits from light breezes but never suffers fully from the infamous "Mistral" winds.

There are two levels of lawned gardens, the lower level is flanked by the pool at one end and a traditional boulodrome at the other. The upper level extends to the shady wooded area, with a chill-out hammock suspended between the trees.





Les Vallons: Accommodation - sleeps 12

There are 4 double and 2 twin bedrooms (bedroom 6 is in an independent apartment with own kitchen, bathroom and sitting room), 3 bathrooms ensuite (with baths) and 2 further shower rooms.

Vast beamed sitting room with a large open fireplace and huge sofas, spacious dining room leading into the fully equipped kitchen with "range" cuisiniere, dishwasher, and just about everything you will possibly need. There is also a large gas BBQ on the terrace. Virtually all the rooms benefit from large French windows which lead directly onto different levels of terracing. In addition Cloakroom/WC and Utility room with washing machine and tumble dryer.

Should you or the children require entertainment, there is satellite TV with numerous English channels, a large collection of children's videos/dvds, books, games, music system, etc. You can even tune in to Radio 4 in the kitchen should you so desire! Broadband internet access can be provided.

This home has been simply but elegantly furnished and is full of Provencal charm, blending antiques with all modern comforts and requirements.



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Rates / Getting There

Rates can vary enormously depending on season and duration of stay, be it a weekend break or even a year in Provence. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

The closest airport is Marseille which is approximately half an hour from Ferme du Val and 50 minutes from Les Vallons

From the UK:

Scheduled flights with both British Airways and Easyjet from Gatwick direct to Marseille.

Ryanair from Stansted to Nimes.

There are also numerous flights from the UK to Nice which is approximately 2.5 hours away (from either property). There is a fast train service from London Waterloo to Aix en Provence during the summer.

From the US:

Scheduled shuttle flights from Paris to Marseille include Easyjet and Air France.

Car Hire

All the normal agencies operate out of the above airports and train station.

Driving

Many guests drive over from the UK, the journey time from Calais, via Reims, is approximately 9 to 10 hours

CONTACT US

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