

# Domaine Des Volets

**Region:** Languedoc   **Sleeps:** 20

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## Overview

Stay in charming surroundings within a working vineyard, close to the Canal du Midi and only 10km from the historic city of Carcassonne.

Domaine Des Volets sleeps up to 20 guests across its two characterful holiday homes. The set up would suit a group of friends or extended family who can appreciate their own living spaces before coming together beside the private swimming pool and enjoying wonderful al-fresco feasts by the summer kitchen.

The main house dates back to the mid-19th century and offers five bedrooms, three bathrooms and a great deal of space across its three floors for up to 10 guests. We love the beautifully tiled floors of the lounge and kitchen-diner and the simple charm of the bedrooms on the first and second floor – three doubles (one with an en-suite bathroom) and two twins.

Next door is Le Pigeonnier, in the wing of another building, where you can soak up the home's authentic character. Dating back to the 1600s and renovated in recent years, relax in the attractive living room and kitchen downstairs or climb the old stone steps to the first floor with one twin en suite bedroom and one double bedroom. There is one double bedroom with its own shower room plus a huge room with 4 single beds, on the second and top floor, allowing this part of the domaine to sleep up to 10 guests.

Walk through the gate and into the rustic garden with summer lavender, cypress trees and towering pines, then relax on one of the poolside sun loungers before dipping into the inviting swimming pool. There's a second small pool just a little further along and a delightful summer house with a kitchen and ample room for al-fresco dining.

Here you can truly embrace being part of a working vineyard that is well-known across the area. Arrange your own private tasting in the vinothèque at the back of the Le Pigeonnier and tour the vines seeing farmers at work. Furthermore, the Canal du Midi passes close to the estate and you can join the tow path from a little bridge around 1.5km away.

Cycling or walking along the canal is a must during your stay. Just 2.5km away and with its own picturesque marina by the canal is a village with several restaurants, shops and a Sunday morning market. Drive to other gorgeous villages across the Aude, visit historic market towns, partake in yet more wine tasting and even venture to the vast sandy beaches of the Mediterranean, around an hour away.

Of course the main highlight of this region is Carcassonne and its medieval citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of France's most visited destinations. Don't miss Carcassonne's atmospheric Bastide Saint-Louis as well, home to bustling restaurants, vibrant markets and shops alongside the pretty café terraces and fountain at Place Carnot.



## Facilities

Great Value • Gym/Fitness Room • Cots (Cribs) • Rural Location • Watersports • Table Tennis • Air-Con • Golf Nearby • Wi-Fi/Internet • Villa • Chef/Cook Available • Animal farm • Caves/Pre-historic site • Ruins • Climbing • Kid-friendly excursions • Water excursions/Boat trips • Wine-Tasting Available • Water park • Private Pool • Pool Safety Feature • Boules/Petanque • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • <1hr to Airport • Washing Machine • Tumble Dryer • TV • Outdoor Games • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • High Chair(s) • Parking Space • Canoeing/Kayaking • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Cycling • Horse Riding • Go-Karting • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites • Boat Trips

# Interior & Grounds

## Main House Interiors (350m2, 10 guests)

### Ground Floor

- Main entrance
- Living room
- Kitchen and dining room
- Laundry room and WC

### First Floor

- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom with bath, shower, sink and WC
- Bedroom with twin beds
- Shower room with shower, sink and WC

### Second Floor (some sloping ceilings)

- Bedroom with double bed
- Bedroom with double bed
- Bedroom with twin beds
- Shower room with two showers, two sinks and separate WC

## Pigeonnier Wing Interiors (10 guests)

### Ground Floor

- Lounge
- Kitchen, well-equipped including dining table
- WC and sink

### First Floor (via old stone steps, no handrail)

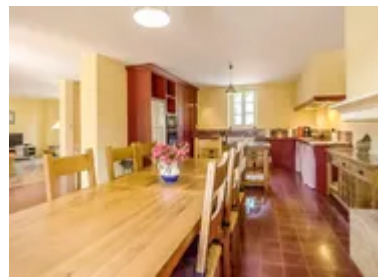
- Bedroom with twin beds and en-suite shower room with shower, sink and WC
- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite shower room with shower, sink and WC

### Second Floor (via narrow steps, no handrail)

- Bedroom with 4 single beds and en-suite bathroom with bath, shower, sink and WC
- Door leading to private hallway with wardrobe and shower room with shower, sink and WC. Wooden narrow staircase leads up to open mezzanine-style small loft bedroom area with a double bed and a small high window. Mezzanine railing overlooks staircase below

## Outside Grounds (part of a working vineyard)

- Swimming pool (14x6m) and smaller pool (6x3m) with gated access
- Poolside terrace with sun loungers
- Summer house with kitchen and tables and chairs for al-fresco dining
- Barbecue
- Garden
- Terrace (in front of main house) with table and chairs
- Terrace (by Pigeonnier) with table and chairs
- Access to on-site wine-tasting room/bar (by arrangement)



#### Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning
- Heating
- Table tennis
- Boules
- Access to shared fitness room
- Washing machine and dryer (in main house)

*The accommodation is part of a working vineyard and winery with the owners and other tenants living on site. Access to the swimming pool is solely for holiday guests.*



# Location & Local Information

Domaine Des Volets is in the Aude department of France only 10km from the historic city of Carcassonne. It's in a prime location for not only visiting Carcassonne's medieval citadel but also for exploring the Canal du Midi alongside the pretty villages and landscapes of this part of southern France. The Languedoc coastline can be reached in just over an hour by car.

The two houses are part of a working vineyard – tastings and tours can be arranged by staying guests and also by members of the public (there are usually two or three public tastings a week in the summer). The estate's vinothèque is right behind Le Pigeonnier. You are close to the Canal du Midi (the tow path is on the other side of the canal and the nearest bridge is 1.5km away).

Within a 10-minute cycle ride you can reach a charming canalside village 2.5km away, home to an attractive marina, several restaurants, two large supermarkets and other useful amenities. Head to the 14th century church and village market on a Sunday morning followed by a pleasant walk or cycle ride along the canal.

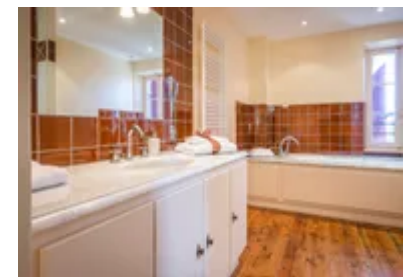
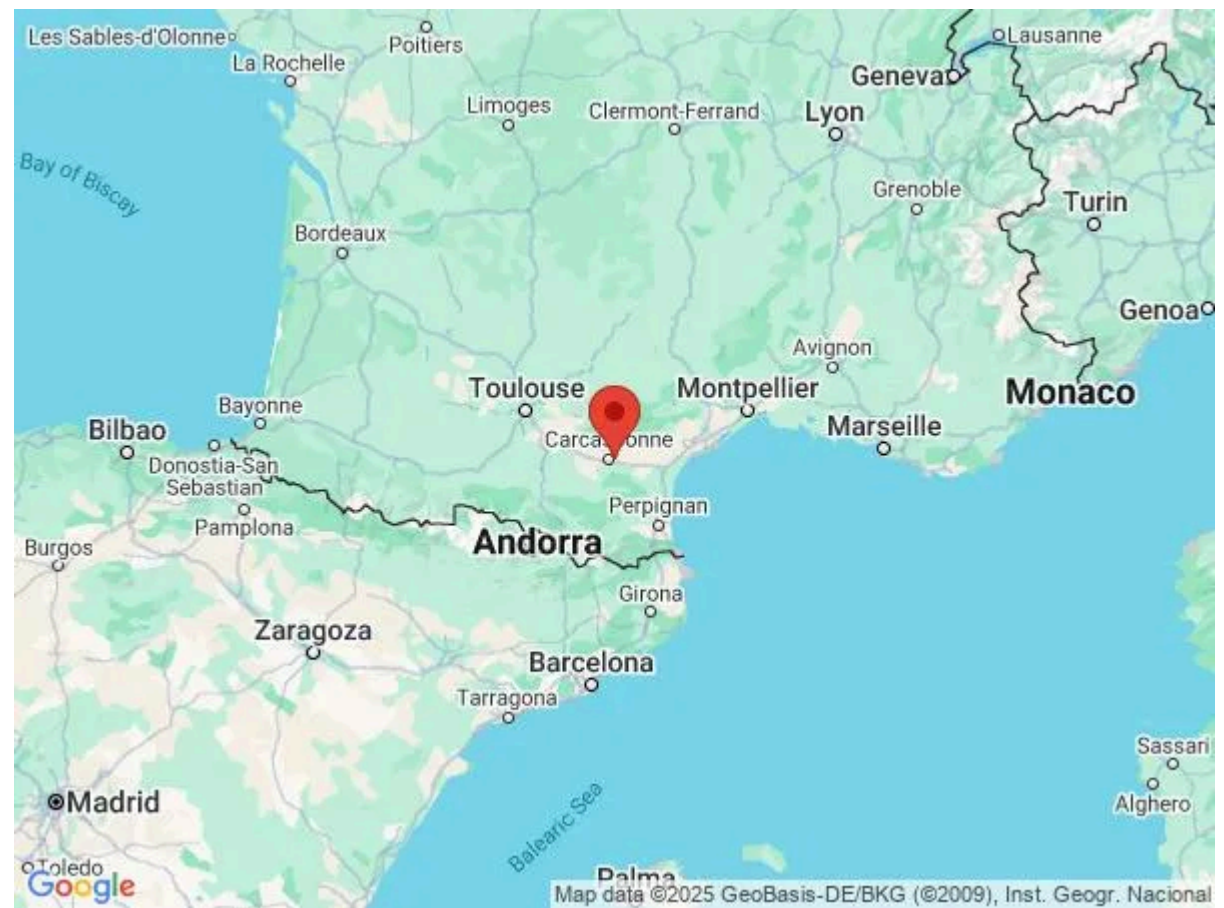
It is amazing being so close to Carcassonne (10km) – the medieval citadel is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of France's most visited destinations. Head there early to truly appreciate the character of the medieval lanes with restaurants, cafes, shops, wine-bars and museums. You can tour the ramparts, enter the main castle and look out for all sorts of festivities and re-enactments in the French school holidays.

The other part of Carcassonne is Bastide de Saint Louis, the town's old quarter that dates back to the 13th century. Soak up the atmosphere of Place Carnot with its terrace cafes, fountain and market three mornings a week, then explore the many historic lanes and boulevards lined with enticing restaurants and shops. The Canal du Midi also flows through this part of town near the train station (with departures across southern France).

For other days out, consider spending time in Castelnaudary (45km) known for its regional dish, le cassoulet, or venture further to the handsome city of Toulouse (104km), known as the Pink City with its rose-hued architecture. In the other direction lies historic Narbonne (60km) and the Languedoc beaches around Gruissan Plage (73km) and Leucate (87km), both just over an hour away by car. This part of the Mediterranean is known for its vast sandy beaches, wind-based watersports and delicious oysters.

Closer to home, discover picturesque Minervois villages dotted along or near the Canal du Midi and find summer picnic or swimming spots by the Aude River. Come across other Languedoc vineyards and authentic wine villages alongside the gorgeous market towns of Limoux (39km) and Mirepoix (62km), not to mention idyllic countryside villages including Lagrasse (31km) and Minerve (40km).

Meanwhile, history lovers take note that some of France's magnificent Cathar castles can also be visited for a grand day out – Les Quatre Châteaux de Lastours (20km) are less than half an hour away whilst Château de Montségur (86km) is around 90 minutes by car.



## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Carcassonne Airport (15km)
Nearest Airport 2	Béziers Cap d'Agde Airport (90km)
Nearest Airport 3	Perpignan Airport/Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (111km/115km)
Nearest Train Station	Gare de Carcassonne (11km)
Nearest Village	Canalside/riverside village (2.5km)
Nearest Town/City	Carcassonne (10km)
Nearest Restaurant	Local village (2.5km)
Nearest Supermarket	 (3.5km)
Nearest Golf	Golf de Carcassonne (13.5km)
Nearest Beach	Gruissan Plage (73km)

## What we love

- This Carcassonne holiday home is for wine-lovers who adore being part of a working vineyard – tastings can of course be arranged.
- Split across two houses, it would suit a group of friends or extended family.
- Gather for relaxing days by your private swimming pool, then enjoy al-fresco meals prepared in the summer kitchen.
- It's only 10km to historic Carcassonne, one of France's most visited destinations.
- Explore the beauty of the Aude by cycling along Le Canal du Midi discovering pretty wine villages and gorgeous landscapes.

## What you should know...

- There are five bedrooms/three bathrooms in the main house and four bedrooms/four bathrooms in the Pigeonnier next door – please see the “Features tab” for details on the layout.
- If staying in the Pigeonnier, guests need to be able to manage the old and narrow steps up to the bedrooms (no handrail).
- The estate is a working vineyard and you may see occasional members of the public passing the back of the houses during vineyard tours and tastings (two or three times a week in the summer). The wine tasting room/*vinothèque* is behind the Pigeonnier, next to the winery.
- The *domaine* is also home to the owners (who live in a separate villa with a pool), a dog, sheeps, an apartment (next to the main house) with long-term tenants, and a house for one of the employees. You all have access to the shared fitness room but rest assured that the pool area is just for you.

# 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:** 2.00 p.m.
- **Departure time:** 10.00 a.m.
- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pets welcome?:** Not allowed.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are not allowed. Within the grounds (a working vineyard also open to the public for occasional tours/tastings) there is the owners' villa, a dog, an apartment with long-term tenants (next to the main house) and a house for one of the employees. Access to the fitness room is shared.
- **Changeover day:** Saturday (July/August) or flexible at other times.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Extra €300, payable to the owner via Oliver's Travels at the time of balance payment. This is for a standard changeover clean. 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.
- **Smoking Allowed?:** Outside only.
- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights (July/August) or 2 nights on request at other times.
- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.
- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax included in rental price.
- **Pool towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pool opening dates?:** 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.