

Chateau Du Malbec

Region: Midi-Pyrenees **Sleeps:** 37

Overview

On a prestigious wine estate close to Cahors, Château Du Malbec brings together art, heritage, wine and gastronomy for a truly remarkable stay in a castle owned by the former president of one of the world's most famous jewellery brands.

With the estate's origins dating back to the 1100s, the owner of this 15th-century château fell in love with its medieval architecture and Renaissance style and vowed to return it to its former glory. Soon after it was classified as a Monument historique, a highly respected French designation.

The owner, who is also the founding president of a famous Parisian Art Foundation, displays contemporary pieces across his château from sculptures by his great friend César Baldaccini to the romantic chapel decorated by Gérard Garouste. We also love the frescoes by three artists of the Figuration Libre art movement, showcased in the 6-columned 17th-century Pigeonnier, one of fifteen impressive bedrooms.

Scattered across further bedrooms you will discover historic beds, fireplaces and other ornate features such as the Art Noveau bathroom with its exquisite tiles and bathtub. Then there's the grand living spaces – the vaulted living room was once a 15th-century grain store, the second lounge features an engraved Renaissance fireplace, the games room has a library with caryatid statues whilst the music room with its piano is where Elton John used to play.

Dine with family and friends by candlelight in the arched dining room, taking advantage of the castle's brilliant cook who will prepare the cuisine of the Quercy and Périgord regions. For an extra touch of indulgence, request for a



Michelin starred chef to create a feast, accompanied of course by fine wine from the estate.

The estate's vast vineyard has been producing Malbec since the 16th century, once the preferred wine of French kings. The vines were revived in the late 20th century under the expert guidance of one of the greatest oenologists in the world, and now Château Du Malbec's wines are considered some of the best in the world. An underground tunnel connects you to the estate's winery and a private tour is included.

Step out on to the castle's terrace with a glass of Malbec to admire the glorious views of the grounds and countryside beyond. Stroll around the landscaped gardens, sit peacefully by a beautiful fountain, head to the heated swimming pool with its underwater speakers and play tennis on the private court. With a pétanque court and wonderful walking trails, this is the perfect setting for both rest and active relaxation.

During your time in the Lot valley explore gorgeous riverside villages by boat, visit further vineyards and wineries and spend time in historic Cahors, home to the town's famous bridge, Pont Valentré, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Cahor's vibrant twice-weekly market is a must whilst gastronomes will also appreciate the château's proximity to several excellent French restaurants, including two Michelin starred establishments within a 10-minute drive.

Walk along part of the Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle's route, cycle or horse-ride through undulating scenery or you could even head north for kayaking and canoeing along the Dordogne. All before returning to the incredible surroundings of your magnificent, artistic and historic French château.

Facilities

Horse Riding • TV • Romantic • Wine Tasting • Recommended • Walking/Hiking Paths • Fishing • Air-Con • Exclusive • Golf Nearby • Tennis Court • Wi-Fi/Internet • Paragliding • Weddings • Chateaux & Castles • Boat Trips • Canoeing/Kayaking • Go-Karting • Cycling • Tennis Nearby • Historical Sites • Table Tennis • Pool/Snooker • Cots (Cribs) •

Quirky (Unique) • Rural Location • Indoor Games • Maid Service Included • DVD • Chef/Cook Included • Private Pool • Chapel on Site • Gym/Fitness Room • Games Room • Outdoor Ceremony • Flexible Catering Options • Heritage Collection • Allow External Caterers • No Corkage • No Curfew • Indoor Reception Available • Kid-friendly museum • Kid-friendly excursions • Water excursions/Boat trips • Amusement park • Transfers Available • Water park • Forest park/High-rope course • Board games • Babysitting Available • Children's videos/DVDs • Pool Safety Feature • Heated Pool • Boules/Petanque • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Pets on Request • Wine Cellar • Home Cinema • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • High Chair(s) • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages

Interior & Grounds

Château Interiors

- Living room with Renaissance fireplace
- Vaulted living room with doors leading to terrace
- Dining room
- Music room
- Games room and library
- Bedroom with double bed (150cm) and bathroom
- 2-bedroom apartment, each bedroom with a 17th century double bed (145cm). Fireplace, bathroom with bath and shower and separate WC
- Children's 2-bedroom apartment. Bedroom with twin beds and bedroom with Provençal 18th century bed (140cm). Fireplace, art nouveau bathroom and separate WC
- 2-bedroom apartment. Bedroom with twin beds (120cm each), fireplace and TV. Bedroom with 18th century enclosed Breton bed and shower in the watchtower. Small lounge, bathroom and separate WC
- Master suite with double bed (160cm), large bathroom with jacuzzi bath and lounge with fireplace
- Tower bedroom with double bed (150cm), fireplace, bathroom and separate WC
- Bedroom with twin beds (80cm each), adjoined nursery on mezzanine with baby bed, bathroom and separate WC
- Tower bedroom with canopy 18th century bed (140cm) and bathroom
- Bedroom with canopy bed (140cm), separate bathroom and WC
- Dormitory (under eaves) with eight single beds, bathroom, shower room and separate WC

Pigeonnier Tower (reached via a secured ladder)

- Bedroom (featuring frescoes) with twin beds (80cm each), shower room and toilet

Outside Grounds

- Heated swimming pool (18x7m, depth: 2.5m) with swim jets, underwater speakers and retractable safety cover. Open approximately March to end-October



- Terrace with vineyard and countryside views
- Boules
- Tennis court
- Vast gardens and landscaped grounds
- Fountains and water features
- Historic working vineyard (2.7 hectares) and winery

Facilities

- Juke box
- Elton John pinball machine
- Children's games
- Pétanque

Location & Local Information

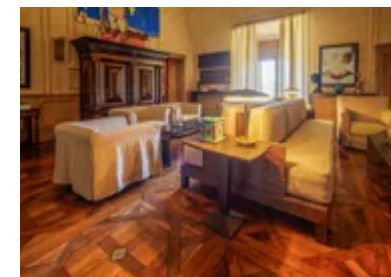
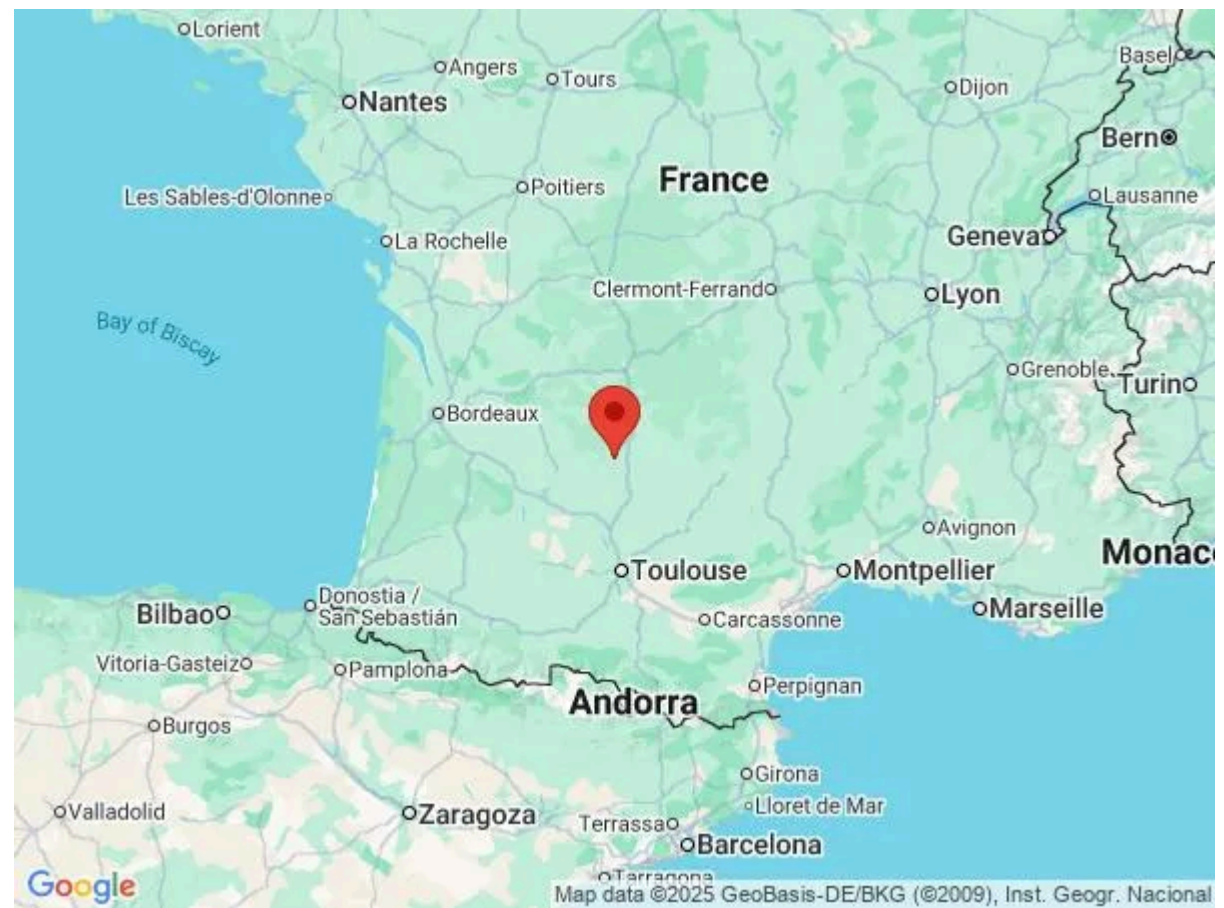
In the Lot department just a short drive from the beautiful town of Cahors, Château Du Malbec enjoys a prestigious setting surrounded by 2.7 hectares of historic vines which produce some of the best Malbecs in the world. A private tour of the estate's winery is included in your stay and guests can also benefit from a discount on wines purchased from the estate's onsite shop.

Within a 5 to 10-minute drive there are local villages for restaurants and other amenities including a supermarket. You are also close to the banks of the Lot River for fishing, river swimming and boat hire – a paradise for nature lovers with rare birds, otters and other wildlife in glorious surroundings.

The Lot flows through Cahors (11km) where you will find river excursions in the summer months. Cahors is a wonderful historic town with charming medieval lanes, elegant gardens and its famous bridge, Pont Valentré, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Cathédrale Saint-Etienne is another impressive site whilst Cahors's small Resistance Museum will tell you about the role the town played in the liberation of France.

As well as several excellent restaurants in Cahors, the twice-weekly market is a fantastic experience, showcasing the best seasonal produce from the region from *foie gras* and truffles to Quercy melons and a wealth of other delights. Gastronomes also take note that there are two Michelin starred restaurants within a 10-minute drive (as well as the opportunity to hire a Michelin starred chef to cook for you in the château).

Saint-Cirq-Lapopie (40km) is one of France's classified '*Plus Beaux Villages*', an enchanting place which has inspired many artists over the years with its beauty and charm. Potter around little shops and come across art galleries along the flower-filled lanes. If staying in July and August, day boat excursions depart from Cahors to the village, sailing tranquilly along the Lot.



Another place not to be missed is Rocamadour (60km) with its stunning setting on the edge of a cliff with the river below. The honey-coloured houses of Gourdon (40km) are also worthy of a visit, as is the picture-perfect village of Puy-l'Évêque (25km) perched above the banks of the Lot.

Heading north, some of the Dordogne's most famous villages can be reached in around an hour by car including Domme, Monpazier and La Roque-Gageac whilst the historic market town of Sarlat-la-Canéda (57km) is just a little further, famous for its Périgord gastronomy and bustling Saturday morning market.

Slightly closer to home, discover a wealth of outdoor adventures from horse-riding, cycling and golf to paragliding and go-karting, not to mention many magnificent hiking opportunities, especially with the GR65 Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle's trail passing through the Lot valley.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Brive-Souillac Airport (88km)
Nearest Airport 2	Bergerac Dordogne Périgord Airport (96km)
Nearest Airport 3	Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (124km)
Nearest Train Station	Cahors (11km)
Nearest Restaurant	Local village (3km)
Nearest Supermarket	(4km)
Nearest Town	Cahors (11km)
Nearest Golf	Golf des Roucous 9-hole course (33km)
Nearest Tennis	(2km)

What we love

- You will be staying in a classified *Monument historique*
- The estate's prestigious vines are considered to produce the finest Malbec – a complimentary winery tour is included
- There are contemporary art pieces displayed across the château with works by César Baldaccini and Gérard Garouste
- The services of a cook are included to prepare breakfast, picnic lunches and evening meals showcasing the best local Quercy and Périgord produce
- Guests can also hire a Michelin starred chef or head to one of the many highly regarded restaurants nearby
- Beautiful Cahors is a short drive away, home to vibrant markets and the famous Pont Valentré, a UNESCO World Heritage site

What you should know...

- Due to the nature of this private château and wine estate, all bookings will be on request only and confirmed only upon the owner's confirmation.
- Please check the Features tab carefully for the details of each bedroom – some are part of a 2-bedroom 'apartment'/suite and some are children's bedrooms, including an 8-bed dormitory.
- Furthermore, the 17th-century 'Pigeonnier' bedroom is set within the grounds and accessed via a secured ladder – as you can see from the photos, it's best for mobile guests seeking historic adventures!
- A stunning place to stay, expect steep curved stairs, mezzanines and other unique and historic features as well as valuable artwork across the château.
- The services of a cook are included six days a week - the cost of all food and wine is extra, payable locally.
- We also feature the owner's beautiful house Maison Malbec (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/midi-pyrenees/maison-malbec/>), a short drive away.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €5000 charged to clients' credit card prior to the arrival and refunded two weeks after departure subject to full inspection.
- **Arrival time:** 4.00 p.m.
- **Departure time:** 10.00 a.m.
- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pets welcome?:** Yes, on request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** Due to the nature of this private château and wine estate, all bookings will be on request only and confirmed only upon the owner's confirmation. Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges. The preparation and service of breakfast, lunch and dinner are included however all ingredients, food and drink are payable by guests.
- **Changeover day:** Saturday. All other changeover days on request.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Yes and daily maid services included. 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 garbage disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- **Smoking Allowed?:** Outdoors only.
- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights. All other durations on request.
- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.
- **Pool heating charge?:** Included. Please note that like all heated pools, pool heating and water temperature are reliant on weather and outside temperatures.
- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax is included in the rate.
- **Pool towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pool opening dates?:** The pool is open approximately March to November. 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.