Maison Folle Blanche

Region: Aquitaine **Sleeps:** 10

Overview

Just a short stroll from a typical French village, Maison Folle Blanche is a stylishly renovated abode set in three acres of lawned gardens featuring a superb swimming pool, perfectly located in the sunny region of Charente-Maritime near the distilleries of handsome Cognac and the historic sites of Saintes.

This characterful *maison* is owned by a welcoming English family who followed their dreams and moved to France to restore a pretty château which you can admire just across the château's private courtyard. Within the estate is a historic barn which has been remarkably transformed into Maison Folle Blanche and its adjoining apartment.

As you step into this delightful home, be amazed by the double-height ceiling of the vast open-plan lounge, dining and kitchen space where classic charm meets contemporary style. Beneath the wood-beams, two bedrooms each with their own bathroom can be found off one side of the living room whilst on the other side are two cleverly designed cabin-style bedrooms which share a dressing area and bathroom. Guests of all ages will also love the games room with a pool table, table tennis and giant jenga.

The adjoining one-bedroom apartment is just as charming and ideal for accompanying friends/grandparents or perhaps older teens seeking a little independence - this is included only in the 10-person rate.

Outside, the glorious swimming pool awaits, set in the large lawned garden which also features swings and a little playhouse. The shaded terrace is such a wonderful place to dine al-fresco and a barbecue is available for leisurely lunches and warm summer evenings.

It's handy being able to stroll to the traditional local village with its café-bar, butchers and supermarket as well as other useful amenities. Cognac is also nearby, just a 15-minute drive away, such a picturesque and historic town by the banks of the Charente. As well as visiting one of Cognac's iconic distilleries, enjoy a river cruise as far as Jarnac or simply potter around the town with its café terraces, gourmet restaurants and daily covered market.

A trip to the exquisite riverside town of Saintes is also a must, home to the famous Basilique Saint Eutrope de Saintes, a UNESCO World Heritage site. If you can find the time, venture to the Atlantic coast and spend the day in the charming seaside resort of Royan. Alternatively, explore the salt marshes and oyster beds close to the Seudre River, not far from the beautiful beaches and nature reserves of Île d'Oléron.

For friends or family holidaying at the same time, consider also renting Maison d'Éte (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/south-west-france/aquitaine/maison-dete/) within the same estate.









Facilities

Pure France • Walking/Hiking Paths • Walk to Village • Horse Riding • Ideal for Kids • Historical Sites • Cycling • Boat Trips • Private Pool • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Cots (Cribs) • Has Discount • Ideal for Teens • Special Offer • Instagrammable • Pool Safety Feature • Parking Space • Wi-Fi/Internet • Coffee Machine • Barn • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • TV • Pool/Snooker • Table Tennis • Games Room • Indoor Games • DVD • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Board games • Swings • Trampoline • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • High Chair(s)

Interior & Grounds

1) Maison only - 8-person price (4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms)
2) Maison and Apartment - 10-person price

Maison Interiors (split-level with some steps)

- Open-plan lounge, dining and kitchen, fully-equipped including two ovens, large induction hob, fridge-freezer, dishwasher, kettle, toaster and Nespresso coffee machine. Doors lead to garden and swimming pool on one side and the château's private courtyard (no access) on the other
- Games room with table tennis, pool table and giant jenga
- Laundry room and WC

Bedrooms Wing I

- Master bedroom with super king/twin beds and en suite bathroom with shower and sink
- Separate WC
- Bedroom with super king/twin beds and separate bathroom with shower and WC

Bedrooms Wing II - cabin-style bedrooms each accessed via a wooden platform/steps

- Bedroom with super king/twin beds
- Bedroom with super king/twin beds
- Dressing area
- Bathroom with shower (shared between above two bedrooms)

Apartment Interiors

- Open-plan lounge, dining and kitchen area
- Bedroom with twin beds (can be joined as a super king)
- Bathroom

Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (11x4.5m) with motion sensor safety alarm
- Al-fresco dining terrace
- Barbecue
- Swings and playhouse
- Trampoline
- Lawned garden (three acres) and wooded grounds
- Private parking area
- Entrance via private gate

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Fans available if needed
- TV (for DVD player only)
- DVD player
- Board games
- Table tennis
- Pool table
- Washing machine/dryer









Location & Local Information

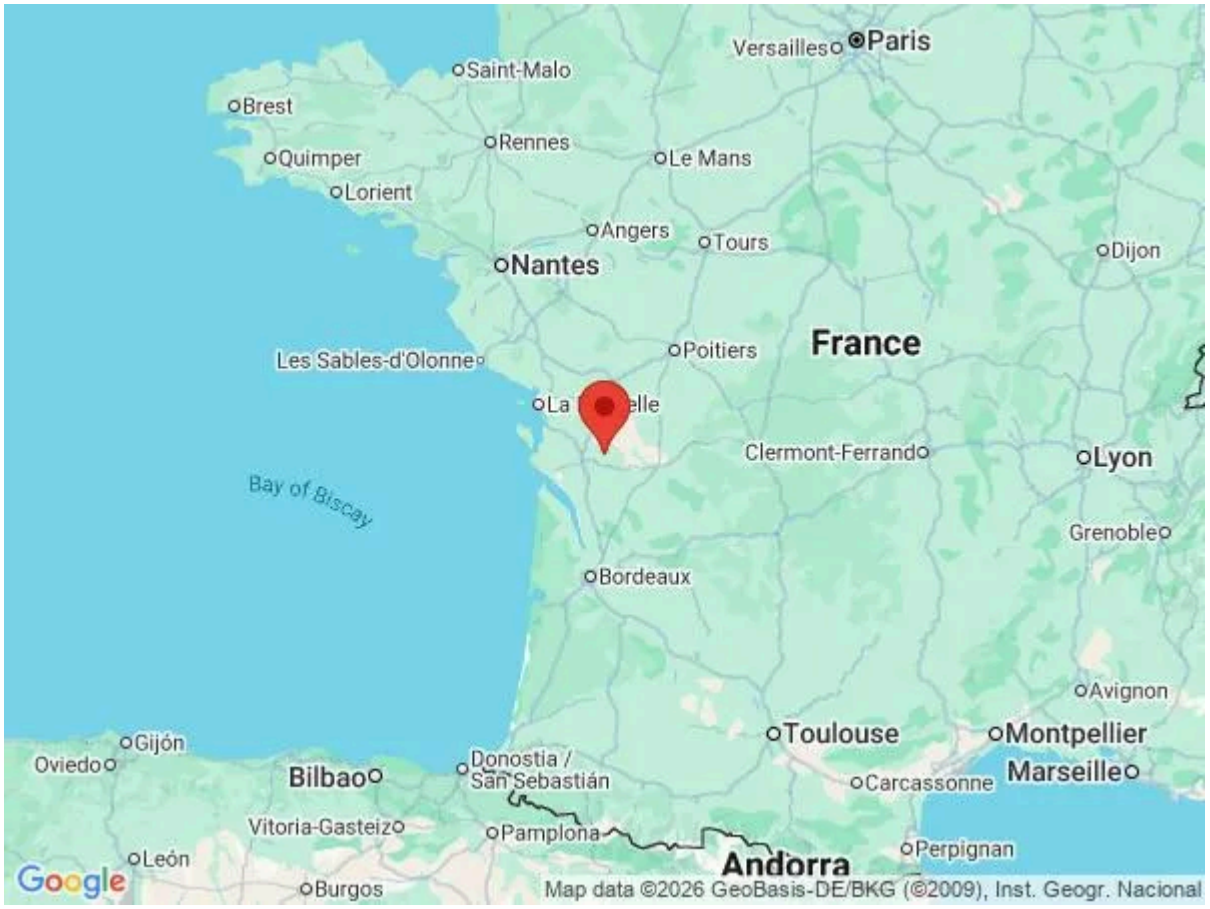
In the sunny Charente-Maritime region of south-western France, 13km north-west of Cognac, Maison Folle Blanche can be found on the edge of a typical French village and close to brandy-producing vineyards. Situated just off the road between Cognac and Saint-Hilaire-de-Villefranche, there is a petrol station close by and you can walk to other useful amenities including the village's café-bar, pharmacy, butchers and a good-sized supermarket.

Abbaye de Fontdouce is also nearby (a short drive or you could walk in around 30 minutes) with its tree-top adventure centre and other activities whilst Paléosite, a museum and educational park based at a Neanderthal site, is within a 10-minute drive.

It's fantastic being so close to Cognac (13km), a paradise for gourmands as well as brandy-lovers. The small, picturesque town is on the banks of the Charente and is home to a charming old quarter with its château and distilleries alongside a modern part with vibrant shops and café terraces. Pick up all sorts of local delights at the daily covered market, then enjoy a picnic near the riverside. Discover the glorious surroundings on a river cruise all the way to Jarnac or look out for canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

On the banks of the Charente River, Jarnac (26km) is another attractive town to visit, known for its chocolate, brandy and wine production, whilst in the other direction is Saintes (20km) with its fascinating Roman and medieval heritage. The historic architecture in Saintes is beautiful from its old quarter with white stone houses and Cathedral of Saint-Pierre to the incredible amphitheatre with stunning views. Furthermore, Basilique Saint Eutrope de Saintes, a pilgrimage site dating back to the 12th century, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The beach also beckons for a great day out with Royan (59km) just over an hour away. With its sandy beach, range of watersports, promenade, architect-designed covered market and bustling cafes and restaurants, it's a joy to









spend time in this charming French seaside town. Further north along the coast, visit the traditional salt marshes and oyster farms by the Seudre River and head to Île d'Oléron, an amazing island with superb beaches and nature reserves.

Further afield, other brilliant day trips include the handsome city of Angoulême (59km), some of northern Dordogne's picture-perfect towns such as Nontron (110km) and Brantôme (111km), the UNESCO World heritage vineyards of Saint-Émilion (130km) and even grand Bordeaux (141km).

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**La Rochelle Airport (90km)**
Nearest Airport 2	**Bordeaux Airport (134km)**
Nearest Airport 3	**Aéroport de Poitiers-Biard (140km)**
Nearest Train Station	**Cognac (14km)**
Nearest Village	**Typical French village (Within 700m)**
Nearest Bar/Pub	**Café bar - in the village (800m)**
Nearest Supermarket	**(900m)**
Nearest Town	**Cognac (13km)**
Nearest Golf	**Golf du Cognac (20km)**
Nearest Beach	**Royan (59km)**

What we love

- The three acres of lawned gardens are a delight with a swimming pool, pretty dining terrace and play area
- So stylishly restored, admire the double-height ceilings of the vast open-plan living, dining and kitchen space
- Stroll to a typical French village for groceries and to dine out in the café-bar or restaurant
- The gorgeous riverside town of Cognac, famed for its vineyards and distilleries, is only 13km away
- Visit historic Saintes and venture towards the Atlantic coast for a wonderful day out in the charming French seaside town of Royan

What you should know...

- The 8-person rate includes the main house only (4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms) whilst the 10-person rate also includes an adjoining 1-bedroom apartment. Rest assured that this apartment is never rented out separately when guests only rent the main house.
- A further two children can be accommodated on a sofa bed. Available on request, please enquire.
- The cute and quirky cabin-style bedrooms are accessed via a couple of wooden steps - young children should be supervised on the steps.
- Swings, playhouse and trampoline are available for children's use - parents are responsible for supervising their children on all play structures.
- The *maison* is also part of the estate of a pretty château where the owners' family and their dog are sometimes resident (and very discreet), separated by the château's courtyard (no access to guests) and walled gardens.
- Another rental, Maison d'Éte (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/south-west-france/aquitaine/maison-dete/), is next to owner's château (with its own gated entrance), and can be rented together with Maison Folle Blanche for larger groups. Please enquire for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £500 paid via bank transfer to the owner one month before 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?:** Not allowed.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are not allowed.
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- **Changeover day:** Flexible.

- **Smoking Allowed?:** Outside only.

- **Other 2:** A further two children can be accommodated on a sofa bed. Available on request, please enquire.

- **Insurance:** Guests are required to be in possession of a valid insurance policy, which covers them for cancellations, loss of personal belongings, personal liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.

- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights.

- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.

- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax payable to Oliver's Travels at the time of balance payment (typically costs €1-€10 per adult per night - please enquire if exact amount is required).

- **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.