Maison D'Ete

Region: Aquitaine **Sleeps:** 7

Overview

Just a short stroll from a French village, Maison d'Éte offers a refined take on rural French living. This beautifully renovated barn, set in the grounds of a pretty French château, is where cathedral-style ceilings, contemporary design and timeworn textures come together in harmony. From the moment you step inside, the space feels both expansive and intimate, a place designed to inspire slow mornings, relaxing afternoons and unhurried evenings.

The heart of the home is the stunning open-plan lounge and kitchen-diner, where oversized sofas invite long, lazy conversations beside the wood-burning stove. The newly fitted kitchen is sleek yet welcoming, anchored by a large dining table ready for family feasts and relaxed breakfasts alike. Patio doors open onto the swimming pool and beautiful Orangery.

Upstairs, three attractive double or twin bedrooms (one with an additional single bed) cater effortlessly for up to 7 guests, alongside two modern and stylish shower rooms.

Outside, your private pool is edged by decking with loungers, offering a tranquil retreat for warm summer days. The Orangery, with its barbecue, lounge area and generous dining space, is made for long lunches and leisurely evening meals. Meanwhile, the west-facing terrace is the perfect spot at sunset.

Around 700m away lies a typical French village, complete with a local café-bar, butcher and supermarket, all within walking distance. A short drive brings you to Cognac, just 13km away, for days filled with culture, cuisine and discovery. Meander through its cobbled streets, sample from world-famous distilleries or drift down the river by kayak or cruise boat.

Whether gathered with family or sharing moments with friends, Maison d'Éte captures the essence of French country living with style, ease and just the right touch of indulgence.









Facilities

Canoeing/Kayaking • Horse Riding • Wine Tasting • Private Pool • Walking/Hiking Paths • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Weddings • Walk to Village • Ideal for Kids • Boat Trips • Cycling • Historical Sites • Cots (Cribs) • Ideal for Teens • Has Discount • Pets on Request • Special Offer • Pool Safety Feature • Wi-Fi/Internet • BBQ • Outstanding Landscapes • Coffee Machine • Barn • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Board games • High Chair(s)

Interior & Grounds

Barn Interiors

Ground Floor

- Open-plan lounge with corner sofas, wood-burning stove
- Open-plan kitchen and dining area with large dining table and patio doors opening to terrace, pool and Orangery
- Shower room with WC

First Floor (via open-tread staircase with wire handrail)

- Bedroom 1 with two single beds (can be made up as a double)
- Bedroom 2 with two single beds (can be made up as a double)
- Bedroom 3 with two single beds (can be made up as a double)
- Shower room with WC
- Separate WC

Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (11x5m) with safety alarm. Open approximately May to October
- Palm-lined garden
- Orangery with dining area, sofas and barbecue
- West-facing terrace for dining (great at sunset)
- Bikes (on request)
- Gated château entrance









Location & Local Information

Set amid the golden landscapes of Charente-Maritime, Maison d'Éte enjoys a fantastic position on the edge of a traditional French village, just 13km north-west of Cognac. Surrounded by vineyards famed for their brandy production, this rural location offers an authentic taste of south-western France with easy access to charming towns and countryside pursuits.

Located just off the road connecting Cognac and Saint-Hilaire-de-Villefranche, guests can stroll to the village's café-bar, butcher, pharmacy and a handy supermarket, while a nearby petrol station adds further convenience. The Abbaye de Fontdouce is just a short drive or a 30-minute walk away, offering family-friendly activities including a treetop adventure park.

Also close by is Paléosite, a fascinating museum and interactive park built on an ancient Neanderthal site, just a 10-minute drive from the house.

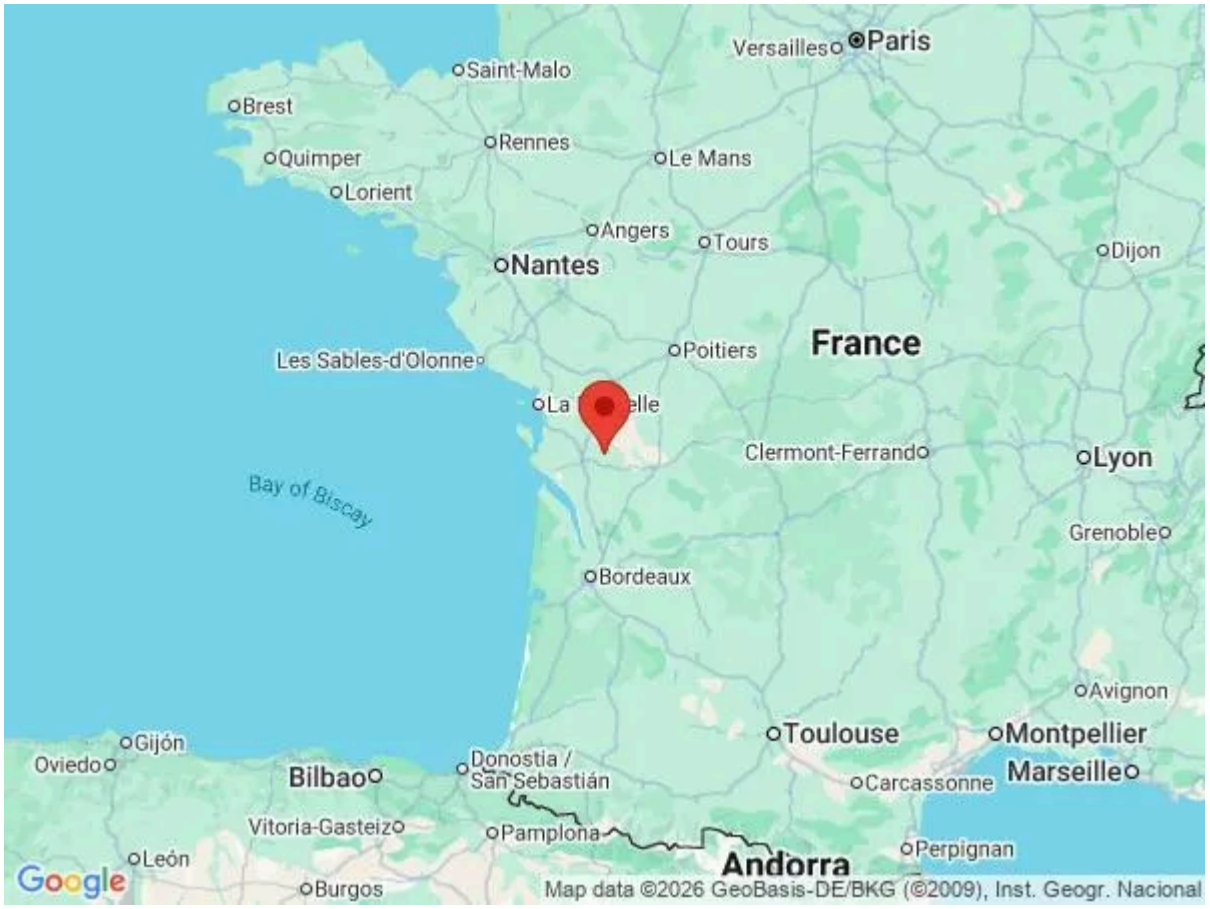
Being within such easy reach of Cognac (13km) is a real treat—this delightful riverside town is not only famed for its brandy but also offers a vibrant culinary scene. Discover its atmospheric old town, complete with a château and historic distilleries, or explore the more modern centre with lively boutiques and pavement cafés. The daily covered market is a treasure trove of regional produce, ideal for gathering ingredients for a riverside picnic. To enjoy the scenery, consider a leisurely river cruise to Jarnac or try paddling your way through the peaceful waters by canoe or kayak.

Downstream on the Charente, the pretty town of Jarnac (26km) is another gem to visit, celebrated for its fine chocolates, wines and brandy. Meanwhile, 20km in the opposite direction is Saintes, a town steeped in Roman and medieval history. Wander through its heritage-rich old quarter, admire the striking white stone houses and visit the impressive Cathedral of Saint-Pierre. Don't miss the Roman amphitheatre with panoramic views or the Basilique Saint Eutrope, a UNESCO World Heritage site that has welcomed pilgrims since the 12th century.

For a change of pace, the Atlantic coast is within reach—Royan is around an hour's drive (59km) and makes for a wonderful seaside outing. Enjoy its sandy beach, watersports, promenade cafés and distinctive covered market designed by renowned architects. A little further north, discover the salt flats and oyster farms around the Seudre River or cross to Île d'Oléron, where you'll find wild beaches, nature trails, and coastal charm in abundance.

If you're up for venturing further, day trips could include the beautiful city of Angoulême (59km), northern Dordogne favourites like Nontron (110km) and Brantôme (111km), the celebrated wine region of Saint-Émilion (130km), or even the grand city of Bordeaux (141km), rich with culture, history and world-class wines.

For friends or family holidaying at the same time, consider also renting Maison Folle Blanche (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/south-west-france/aquitaine/maison-folle-blanche/) within the same estate.









Local Amenities

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

What we love

- Such a beautifully converted barn – we adore the open-plan living space with its cathedral ceilings, over-sized sofas and gorgeous kitchen
- Cool off in the private pool, dine al-fresco in the charming Orangery and enjoy sunset apéritifs on the west-facing terrace
- Walk to the nearby village for groceries and a very local café-bar
- Just 13km from Cognac – explore historic distilleries, riverside strolls and cultural delights

What you should know...

- Maison d'Éte is set within the grounds of a pretty château (next door, where the owners' family and their dog are only sometimes resident and very discreet).
- The estate is also home to Maison Folle Blanche (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/south-west-france/aquitaine/maison-folle-blanche/) (with its own gated entrance) on the other side of the château's courtyard/walled gardens and can be rented together with Maison D'Ete for larger groups.
- The gorgeous upstairs bedrooms are reached via a stylish open-tread staircase with wire handrail - small children will need to be supervised.
- Whilst you can walk to the local village, a car is essential to be able to fully explore this wonderful region.
- An additional single bed can be organised in one of the bedrooms to accomodate for an extra guest. Enquire for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €1000 paid to owner via bank transfer and refunded up to 10 days after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** 4:00 p.m.

- **Departure time:** 11:00 a.m.

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

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes, changed once for stays over 14 nights

- **Pets welcome?:** On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Maison d'Éte is set within the grounds of a pretty château (next door, where the owners' family and their dog are sometimes resident). The estate is also home to Maison Folle Blanche (with its own gated entrance) on the other side of the château's courtyard/walled gardens.

- **Changeover day:** Flexible.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Standard changeover clean included in the price. 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.

- **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:** 4 nights.

- **Heating costs included?:** Wood burner only - included.

- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax is included.

- **Internet access?:** Wi-Fi internet access included.

- **Pool towels included?:** Yes.

- **Stag & Hen Do Allowed? :** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.