Maison Sebastien

Region: Provence-Alpes **Sleeps:** 13

Overview

Featured as the villa in Secret France, Rick Stein's BBC2 TV Series aired 5 November 2019. Read more here> (https://www.oliverstravels.com/blog/villa-secret-france-rick-stein/)

Also featured in The Times Online, 17 of the best villas in the south of France, published 24 September 2024. Read more here> (https://www.thetimes.com/travel/destinations/europe-travel/france/best-holiday-villas-in-south-of-france-provence-riviera-languedoc-zpt0q9pk7)

Originally a 14th-century lookout tower, this hilltop château in Provence provides 360-degree views of the surrounding oak forest and lush landscapes below, accommodating 13 guests in comfort and style.

Thoughtfully restored with rustic and contemporary décor, the château has an inviting ambiance and plenty of comfortable places to relax; from the open living space with a wood-burning stove, to the cinema room, or the sun loungers by the pool with wonderful views overlooking the valley. It's even a wonderful place in the winter, especially cosying up by the Christmas tree or simply gazing up at the clear starry skies at night.

The ancient terraces will be a popular spot for enjoying meals from the local market, especially the shaded terrace just off the impressive modern kitchen, where you'll dine alongside breathtaking panoramic views of the French countryside. Below lies a medieval courtyard with lavender and fruit trees, which is another excellent space for entertaining.

There are five bedrooms in the main house, plus a delightful studio with a mezzanine bed and a private terrace which sleeps an additional two guests.

St Michel L'Observatoire is a short drive away and there you will find two restaurants, a cafè, a bakery and a butcher, as well as a prominent observatory. It is also a short drive to the famous absinthe of Forcalquier. The beaches of the French Riveria are worth the 2.5-hour drive!









A Stay at Maison Sebastien

"I will never get over this perfect house in the countryside and wish we could have stayed for weeks! It was perfection from the French kitchen, to the blue shutters, medieval floor plan, sunny terrace with gorgeous views, swimming pool, and country lanes for miles surrounding us..." - Read more about the fantastic Maison Sebastien here (http://welltraveledwife.com/2017/10/a-stay-at-maison-sebastien.html)!

Facilities

Romantic • France250 • Pure France • Villa • Ideal for Xmas/NY • Cycling • Historical Sites • Exclusive • Walking/Hiking Paths • Ideal for Kids • Recommended • Wine Tasting • Private Pool • Maid Service Available • Cots (Cribs) • Ideal for Teens • Pool Safety Feature • Heritage Collection • Wi-Fi/Internet • Rural Location • Washing Machine • Outstanding Landscapes • Coffee Machine • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Hairdryer • Tourist Towns & Villages • TV • Dishwasher • Microwave • Caretaker/Owner on Site • On-Site Concierge • High Chair(s)

Interior & Grounds









Bastide (Main House) Interiors

Main Floor

- Open-plan lounge, dining area and kitchen with doors opening out to terrace with al-fresco dining terrace
- Bedroom with super king-size double bed and bathroom with hammam-style shower

First Floor (curved stone stairway)

- Bedroom with king-size double bed and en suite bathroom
- Bedroom with king-size double bed and en suite bathroom. Includes an area outside the bedroom which can be curtained off with a single bed

Second Floor

- Bedroom with double bed
- Bedroom with two single beds
- Bathroom
- TV/cinema area with Apple TV/Orange cable TV

Split-level Studio (set off the medieval courtyard)

- Small kitchenette
- Bathroom
- Mezzanine-style bedroom with double bed
- Private sun terrace

*Each bedroom is supplied with a portable fan

Outdoor Grounds

- Swimming pool (4.8x12m), fully enclosed
- Stone poolside terrace with sun loungers and shade
- Terrace with al-fresco dining table
- Ancient covered terrace overlooking medieval courtyard
- Other pretty terraces and garden
- One of the last remaining Roman mulberry trees in Provence
- Listed stoneware around the house
- Many steps and terraced levels (some low walls)

Location & Local Information

Maison Sebastien is a five minute drive - or lovely twenty minute walk - from the village of St Michel L'Observatoire.

The village is thriving with two restaurants, a cafè, a bakery and a butcher. It is also home to a major French Observatory. St Michel's position at the foot of the Midi-Alpes combined with a lack of light pollution gives it unique night skies at all times of year.

Ten minutes drive from the house is the small medieval town of Mane and beyond - the regional centre - Forcalquier. Mane has a good pizza restaurant, pharmacy, bakery, butcher and Epicerie. Forcalquier is famous for it's absinthe, it's historic church and square and it's citadel high above the town but it also has two excellent supermarkets, a thriving - if crazy - Monday market and some lovely cafes restaurants and shops.

There are many ways to get to the property: fly to Marseille or take a train to ether Aix en Provence TGV or Avignon TGV. There is now a direct train between London St Pancras and Avignon. The drive from London is approximately 14 hours. There are numerous useful local buses that link with both the airport and the train stations.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Avignon Airport (82km)**
Nearest Airport 2	**Marseille Provence Airport (95km)**
Nearest Bar/Pub	**Saint-Michel-l'Observatoire (3km)**
Nearest Restaurant	**Saint-Michel-l'Observatoire (3km)**
Nearest Shop	**Saint-Michel-l'Observatoire (3km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**Auchan Supermarché (7km)**
Nearest Town/City	**Forcalquier (8km)**
Nearest Train Station	**Gare Manosque-Gréoux-les-Bains (20km)**
Nearest Village	**Saint-Michel-l'Observatoire (3km)**









What we love

- Recreate the inspiring dishes from Rick Stein's latest BBC2 series, 'Secret France', which was filmed in this very kitchen!
- You are in the Luberon National Park surrounded by ancient mulberry trees, and unparalleled mountain and valley views
- Go to the charming village, St Michel L'Observatoire, with two restaurants, grocery store and a cafè
- The bustling local market nearby in Forcalquier full of delicious local delicacies
- On the grounds is an old '*magnanerie*' which was used to produce silk in the late 1800s
- The private swimming pool is fully enclosed and has wonderful views
- Enjoy stunning night skies at all times of year
- It's especially lovely in the winter...there's even a Christmas tree
- The housekeeping team can prepare your arrival dinner all ready for you to simply put together (menu available on request).

What you should know...

- The 11 guest price applies to the main house only, whilst the 13 guest price includes the use of the studio which sleeps an additional two guests
- Approximately end-October to mid-April, only the 11-guest prices apply as the villa will only accommodate up to 11 guests (the studio does not have central heating and only a wood burning stove, therefore it is not available in the winter months). Please enquire.
- Guests need to be able to manage steps and terraces across the beautiful grounds, as you can see from the photos.
- The guardien lives in his own cottage on the estate. This is completely separate from the Bastide of which the guests have sole use.
- The track from the village is not tarmacked. Very low-slung vehicles such as a Porsche are not recommended.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £800 charged to client's credit card before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** After 4.00 p.m. (3.00 p.m. in the winter)

- **Departure time:** Before 10.00 a.m. (9.00 a.m in the winter)

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

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.

- **Pets welcome?:** Not allowed.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings, stag/hen parties and other special events are not permitted. Approximately end-October to mid-April, only the 11-guest prices apply as the villa will only accommodate up to 11 guests (the studio does not have central heating and only a wood burning stove, therefore it is not available in the winter months). Please enquire.

- **Changeover day:** Saturday in July and August. Flexible during all other periods.

- **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, personal belongings, public liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.

- **Heating costs included?:** Extra €250 per week, if required (paid locally).

- **Pool opening dates?:** The pool is open approximately May to end-September. 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.