The Secret Hamlet

Region: France **Sleeps:** 24

Overview

Featured in The Guardian's Top 10 Best Foodie Retreats in Rural France.

Your wedding or family holiday will be a true fairytale affair at this estate in the Loire Valley. Situated on top of a hill and covered in creeping vines, this Old World home has been renovated with the utmost care and taste. The expertly styled interior epitomizes the easy, chic sophistication of 'art de vivre à la française'.

Guests stay in the six homes surrounding the main manor house, each with private gardens and unique character. We especially love the 'Honey House'. Originally used to manage beehives and extract honey, it's now a three-apartment haven. One house is a duplex with a terrace overlooking the river, the other is a triplex with a terrace on the ground-level riverside, and the third is a studio flat.

Your large party will love having this hamlet (and two swimming pools and 35 acre of fields and woodland) to themselves. Outside, the grounds slope down to the river, where you'll canoe downstream or fish beneath the shade of a 450-year-old oak tree. Nearby attractions include the Unesco-listed treasure: the Romanesque Abbey of Saint-Savin (10 km), home to extraordinary 11th and 12th century murals. Natural beauty is abundant in La Brenne Regional Nature Park (30 km) past Le Blanc. Your holiday (or the days before your wedding) can be a time of rich and calm reflection in this peaceful region of France.









Facilities

Golf Nearby • Ideal for Parties • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Private Pool • Ideal for Kids • Walk to Village • Wine Tasting • Recommended • Fishing • Walking/Hiking Paths • Eco Friendly (Sustainable) • Chateaux & Castles • Great Value • Catering Available • Weddings • Chef/Cook Available • Ideal for Teens • Marquee Hire Permitted • Cots (Cribs) • Maid Service Available • Pets on Request • Outdoor Ceremony • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Flexible Catering Options • Heritage Collection • Walk to Restaurant • Pool Safety Feature • Waterfront • Wi-Fi/Internet • Allow External Caterers • Rural Location • Indoor Reception Available • Washing Machine • Outstanding Landscapes • Coffee Machine • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Hairdryer • Tourist Towns & Villages • TV • DVD • Tumble Dryer • Dishwasher • Microwave • Outdoor Games • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Wine-Tasting Available • Badminton • Supports the local community (locally owned) • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Stair gates • High Chair(s) • Fenced Grounds

Interior & Grounds

The Estate consists of four houses and two studios set around the main manor house, sleeping up to 24 guests in 11 bedrooms. Each home has its own personality and atmosphere, all set along a river and amidst peaceful green gardens and the surrounding fields.

In the grounds, *Le Pailler* is a barn where group meals can take place - this is included in the rental price for guests who are catered for by the owners whilst self-catering guests can pay a supplement to use this dining space.

Two-storey loft with river view (3 bedrooms, max. cap: 6)

- Large living quarters on ground floor
- Large kitchen
- 3 x double bed bedrooms (one can set as twins)
- One bathroom with bath
- Two bathrooms with shower
- Bow windows opening on to river
- Private garden with terrace

Three-storey loft with river view (2 bedrooms, max. cap: 4-5)

- Large living quarters on ground floor
- 2 x double bedrooms and sofa-bed (for one person) on open space mezzanine
- One bathroom
- Low level summer kitchen opening on to terrace overlooking river

The Little House (2 bedrooms, max. cap: 5)

- Open-plan living room with fireplace and dining area
- Double bedroom
- Triple bedroom
- Bathroom with bath
- Bathroom with shower
- First floor semi-opened terrace overlooking swimming pool and river

The Orangery (max. cap: 4)

- Large living room
- Sitting room with fireplace
- 2 x double bedrooms
- Bathroom with bath
- Bathroom with shower
- Private enclosed garden

The Artist's Studio (Studio bedroom, max. cap: 2)

- 45m2 ground floor studio
- Bedroom area (river side of studio)
- Small kitchen area
- Open-plan living area (river side of studio)
- Bathroom with walk-in shower

The Stable Studio (Studio bedroom, max. cap: 2)









- 40m2 ground floor studio
- Suitable for guests with reduced mobility
- Double bedroom area (can be set a twins)
- Walk-in shower room

For wedding packages, the bridal suite with a private sitting room opening onto the swimming pool is also made available in the Manor House.

Outside Grounds

- 2 x swimming pools
- BBQ
- Garden furnishings
- *Le Pailler*/barn for communal dining (included with catering services)
- Large reception barn (for events)
- 35 acres of private grounds
- River access

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Satellite TV (with English channels)
- Hi-Fi
- Fridge, microwave, oven, coffee machine, kettle in each house
- Cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils
- Washing machine

Extra Sustainability Gems About the Property

The property is part of the local heritage Saint Victor, and dates from the late XVth /early XVIth century, and the renovations have all been made with sustainable materials.

Location & Local Information

Situated at the border of the Berry and Poitou regions and only one hour away from the Loire Valley, The Secret Hamlet sits on the top of a woody hill softly sloping down to the left bank of a beautiful river.

The owners are happy to create personalised itineraries to help you discover Berry and the Poitou Region. History, antique chasing, restaurants, painting, gardening and cooking are all available on request.

Activities on the property include canoeing, kayaking and fishing – permit available.

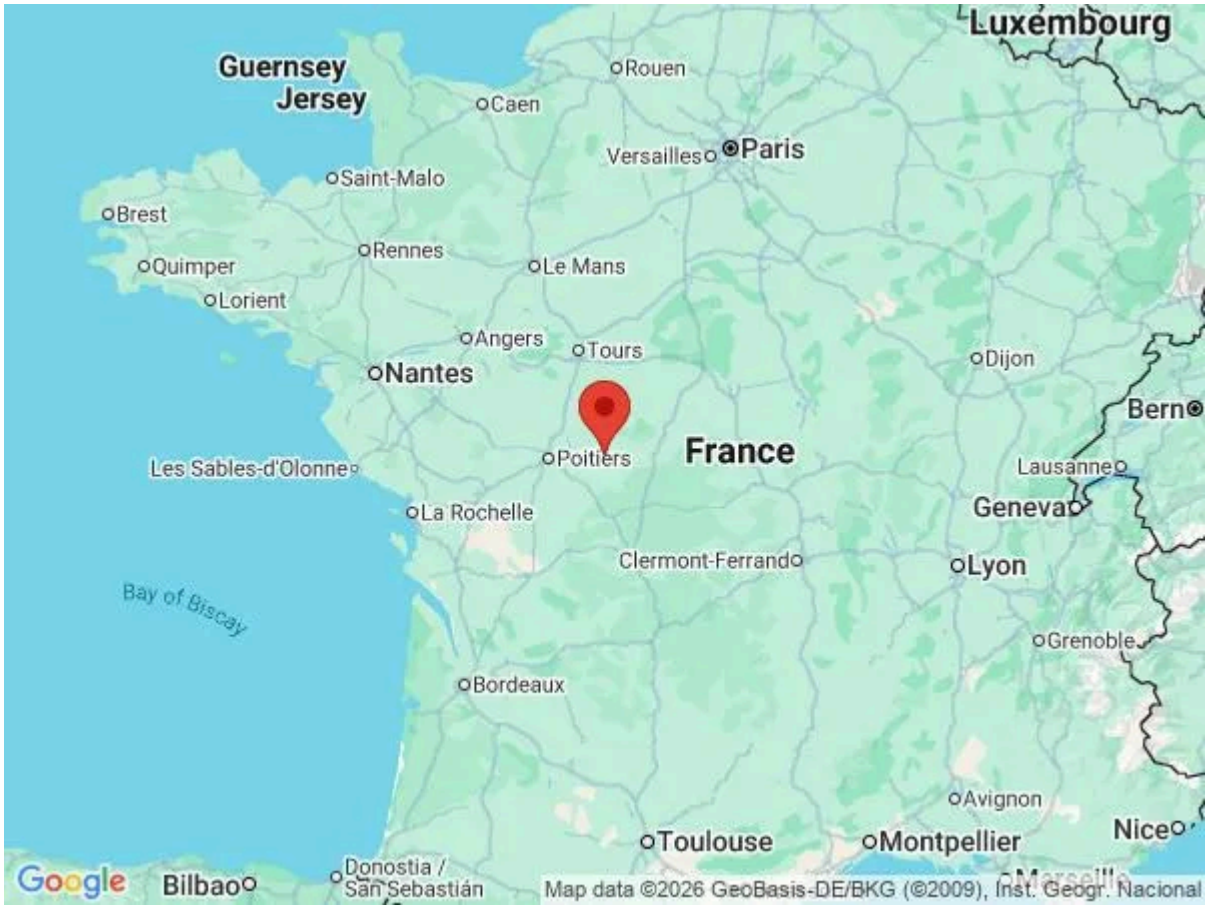
Activities around the estate include rich cultural and historical sites, golf, hunting, horseback riding, tennis, cycling, walking, and fauna and flora in the Parc de la Brenne.

The local village is 1.5 km away and has a bar/restaurant, a grocery store and a post office.

Towns nearby include Le Blanc (11km), Argenton sur Creuse (51km), Châteauroux (68km), Poitiers (53km), Châtellerault (45km).

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Poitiers–Biard Airport (64km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**(8km)**
Nearest Village	**(<1km)**
Nearest Restaurant	**Local village (1.5km)**
Nearest Shop	**Grocery store (1.5km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**Le Blanc (11km)**









Nearest Tennis	**Merigny (5km)**

What we love

- Set across 35 acres beside the river, these six unique properties offer exceptional privacy and space for groups to come together while enjoying their own comfort.
- With plenty of space for everyone, the estate is ideal for multi-generational family holidays, reunions, milestone celebrations and other special occasions.
- This beautiful Loire Valley estate offers an effortlessly romantic setting for weddings and celebrations, with plenty of picture-perfect backdrops.
- Need help planning the perfect outing? The discreet owners live on-site and are happy to help make your stay extra special.

What you should know...

- Guests stay in one of the four houses and two studios set around the estate - please see the Features tab for full details including details of maximum capacity in each home.
- If guests wish to self-cater or arrange their own private catering then there will be an extra fee to hire the barn (*le pailler*) and catering equipment, payable locally.
- The Manor House isn't open to guests (other than the bridal suite for weddings), unless you wish to hire the dining area for a special meal (please note some of the photos are of the manor house for this purpose).
- Lower capacity stays are available, however, certain parts of the home will be closed off at the owner's discretion. Please enquire for further details.
- You'll want a car to fully explore the area although the nearest village is a 20 minute walk.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €2000 paid via bank transfer to the owner at the time of paying the final balance and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** 4.30 p.m.

- **Departure time:** 11.00 a.m.

- **Energy costs included?:** Included in the rental price. During winter there may be an additional charge depending on consumption, payable locally.

- **Linen & towels included?:** All linen and bath towels are included in the rental price. Linen changes possible, subject to charges, payable locally.

- **Pets welcome?:** On request only and with prior agreement with the owner. Please note pets are not permitted when the estate is booked for a wedding.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** A rental contract is to be signed with the owner of the estate. A copy of detailed insurance policies (as indicated above) must also be given to the owner prior to arrival, at the time of paying the final balance. If guests wish to self-cater or arrange their own private catering then a fee of €100 per day will be applicable to hire the open barn (le pailler), payable locally Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are not allowed

- **Changeover day:** Flexible.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Extra €50 per house, €25 per studio and €100 for Le Pailler/open-barn (and reception room if used), payable locally. 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?:** Not allowed.

- **Insurance:** The client must be insured with an insurance company for cancellations and his rental liabilities, bodily injury, personal injury, losses or property damage caused to the rented property or its contents or adjoining property. A copy of the insurance policy has to be given prior to arrival.

- **Minimum stay:** 2 nights.

- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax payable locally (typically costs €1-€10 per person per night- please enquire if exact amount is required).

- **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. Opening hours: from 9am to 7pm