

# Prieure St Therese

**Region:** Aquitaine **Sleeps:** 21

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## Overview

This beautiful medieval priory is now an Oliver's Travels award-winning holiday home in Charente. It has also appeared as No 1 in The Times 2019 list of '50 Best Holidays in France'!

Located in the tiny village of Pressigny on private grounds, adjacent to the church and within the Deux-Sevres, this French manor house, converted to a priory in the fourteenth century, sleeps twelve adults in six bedrooms and can accommodate an additional four children.

Relax by the heated pool, dine *al fresco* at one of the great outdoor tables and enjoy the beauty of the rose covered walled gardens that surround the property, a lovely area for children to play.

Six delightful bedrooms accommodate up to sixteen guests. The high-ceilings, beams, ancient wooden floors and honey coloured stone walls are a perfect backdrop for the mix of antique family furniture and pictures. The kids will enjoy playtime in the bright, colourful games room with its cool turret and arrow slits (no budding archers allowed to shoot the guests!).

The house is well appointed. The kitchen has a gas range, microwave, washing machine, dishwasher and American fridge freezer as well as kettle, coffee machine, toaster and iron and ironing board. Hairdryers are provided in the bedrooms. There are cots, high chairs, baby bath, changing mat and pushchair available for little ones. Satellite TV, internet connection and bicycles are provided for the enjoyment of guests.

Attached to the priory is the equally stunning and romantic Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>). Groups of up to 21 guests can hire both beautifully renovated homes; together, ideal for a celebration, intimate wedding or special holiday for a larger party of guests. Whilst they are attached, they each have their own entrances and gardens (see Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>) for full details of the tower.)

This unique home is perfectly positioned within the Deux-Sevres in Charente, known to be France's second most sunny region. There is a good choice of restaurants in neighbouring villages, about ten to fifteen minutes by car, where visitors are greeted with a warm welcome. You'll find a supermarket, cafés, and bars just 7km away in Thenezay and the beautiful medieval town of St. Loup is only around 15 minutes by car.

This beautiful area, full of wooded valleys, streams, ponds and shallow, flowing rivers is a joy for walkers and cyclists. From great local food markets, *vide greniers* and country trail walks to riding, lake fishing and canoeing, there is a plethora of activities in the area. Historical Poitiers, an hour away, is a city full of centuries old art and history, visit the magical chateau and



sample some fine sparkling wine in Saumur or head west to the Atlantic coast with its stunning beaches and interesting town of La Rochelle.

And, for those who truly want to relax, full catering is offered by the brilliant owner.

## Facilities

Weddings • Wine Tasting • Recommended • Ideal for Parties • Fishing • Golf Nearby • Wi-Fi/Internet • Walking/Hiking Paths • Horse Riding • Canoeing/Kayaking • Historical Sites • Cycling • Hairdryer • Washing Machine • Pool/Snooker • Rural Location • Indoor Games • Great Value • Cots (Cribs) • Laptop Friendly Workspace • Marquee Hire Permitted • Chef/Cook Available • DVD • Maid Service Available • Private Pool • Games Room • Outdoor Ceremony • Flexible Catering Options • Allow External Caterers • Indoor Reception Available • Nearby Church/Chapel • Aquarium • Theme park • Board games • Babysitting Available • Children's books • Xbox/Playstation/Wii • Pool Safety Feature • Heated Pool • Bikes • Ideal for Kids • Pool inflatables • Stair gates • Baby bath • Changing mat • Pushchair • Ideal for Teens • Pets on Request • <1hr to Airport • Dishwasher • Microwave • Smart TV • Satellite TV • Outdoor Games • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Heating • High Chair(s) • Fenced Grounds • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages

# Interior & Grounds

- 1) Prieure + Tower: 21 guests/8 bedrooms/6 bathrooms
- 2) Prieure only: 15 guests/6 bedrooms/5 bathrooms

*Please note that only the 21 person prices include the rental of the adjoining tower, Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>). As the tower can be booked independently or together with the priory it is subject to availability, so please enquire. See Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>) for full details of the tower.*

## Prieure Interior

### Ground Floor

- Kitchen fully equipped with a stunning ancient stone chimney piece, a French range cooker, an American Fridge freezer and a second drinks fridge. There is a washing machine, Kenwood chef, microwave, four slice toaster and kettle as well as the normal utensils required in a working kitchen.
- Dining room that seats 12 with an additional four seats in the adjoining kitchen should there be further children as guests in the party
- Hall
- Drawing room which seats ten to twelve and has a baby grand piano, two sofas, a number of individual armchairs and a wood burning fire
- Study with further sitting area
- Bathroom with bath, shower, WC and bidet

### First Floor (reached by a stone spiral staircase)

- Master bedroom with private, attached shower room, basin and WC (overlooks the valley and the garden). Extra single bed for a child available.
- Bedroom 2 with a four poster bed and attached retro shower room, WC and basin (overlooks the valley and the garden). Extra single bed for a child available.
- Bedroom 3 with double bed (overlooking the valley)
- Bedroom 4 with double bed (particularly cool in the summer heat, ideal for parents with a young child)

### Second Floor (reached by a stone spiral staircase)

- Large games room with two extra beds for children, a fifty five inch smart TV, ideal for cinema nights, toys, games, books, dressing up box and a turret with arrow slits that is a perfect corner for small people to curl up in and enjoy a good story from the hundreds of children's books (in English).
- Bedroom 5 with double bed and en-suite bathroom
- Bedroom 6 with double bed and en-suite bathroom

## Outside Grounds

- Private swimming pool with roman steps and sun loungers, open approximately June to October
- Well-kept gardens with fig, walnut, crab apple, pear and cherry trees
- Loggia with adjacent barbecue and outdoor dining areas

## Facilities



- Wi-Fi
- Heating
- Sat TV (55 inch)
- Books
- Indoor games (eg. chess)
- Garden games
- Bikes
- Barbecue

#### **Tower Interior**

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#### *Ground Floor*

- Living room with fire-place
- Dining area
- Small simple kitchen with fridge, cooker, vintage French percolator, teapot and antique French crockery
- Shower room with WC

#### *First Floor*

- Master double bedroom (accessed via its own spiral staircase)
- Twin bedroom with two further pull-out beds (accessed via its own spiral staircase), ideal for children

#### **Outside Grounds**

- Terrace with barbecue
- Truffle orchard
- Gardens
- Fire-pit

#### **Facilities**

- Wi-Fi
- Heating
- Working fireplace
- Books and games
- Washing machine



## Location & Local Information

Prieure St. Thérèse is in the heart of a rural village, next to a beautiful and historic church, surrounded by some of France's most beautiful and unspoiled countryside. You can go for wonderful walks straight from your holiday home with some lovely trails to follow. This is the Deux-Sevres department of the Poitou Charente region, the second sunniest region in France!

There are restaurants in various local villages about ten to fifteen minutes drive away, from pizzerias to fine dining and a warm welcome is afforded to visitors in this region. The nearest village is Thénézay (8km) where you will find a weekly market on a Sunday, cafes and restaurants, a supermarket, bakery, patisserie and butchers as well as the nearest petrol station. Gourgé and St. Loup are a similar distance away, each with a couple of restaurants and convenience store.

There is a further choice of facilities in the larger town of Parthenay (19km) which has a train station, hypermarkets, independently owned shops as well as a fabulous market on a Wednesday morning. The best local market, however, is probably in Thouars (25km) on a Friday morning with fantastic fresh meat, fish and food as well as gifts.

This beautiful area, full of wooded valleys, streams, ponds and shallow, flowing rivers is a joy for walkers and cyclists. Those who love the great outdoors will appreciate all the activities on offer such as horse-riding and fishing within a few minutes drive, a golf course 20km away, canoeing and windsurfing within fifteen minutes by car and a wonderful lakeside beach that you can get to in 20km.

There are numerous stunning historical castles to be visited such as the one in beautiful Saumur (70km) an hour away, a town also famous for its equestrian heritage and sparkling wine. The *chateaux* of Chenonceau, Chambord, Montreuil-Bellay, Ambois, Villandry and Usseé are all within drivable distance.

All the family will love Futuroscope (45km), France's



biggest educational theme park, situated near Poitiers (53km), a beautiful city with 2000 years of art and history, over 100 church towers and a great choice of shops, bars and restaurants.

There's a good choice of local vineyards where you can sample some interesting wines, such as the Route des Vins du Haut-Poitou; 25 vineyards within an hour of Pressigny where you can taste Savignon, Cabernet, Chardonnay and Gamay wines, all of which can be purchased directly from the vineyard. If you are heading to Nantes (140km) for a day-trip there's the wine museum there which is worthy of your time. Guided tours are available all year around, by appointment, in Cognac (142km) by Martelle and Camus producers.

Finally, head to the Atlantic coast to La Rochelle (137km), with its fantastic shops, brilliant beaches, great sea-food restaurants and the remains of the town's fortifications. Families can include a trip to the fantastic Aquarium in La Rochelle featuring the one of the largest shark aquarium displays. Combine with a trip over to Île de Ré with its unspoiled beaches and countryside all around.

## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Poitiers (45km)
Nearest Airport 2	La Rochelle (134km)
Nearest Beach	La Rochelle (137km)
Nearest Ferry Port	St-Malo/Ouistreham-Caen (315km/354km)
Nearest Restaurant	Gourgé/Thénezay (7km)
Nearest Supermarket	Thénezay (7km)
Nearest Tennis	Tennis Club Parthenaisien (23km)
Nearest Town/City	Parthenay (20km)

Nearest Train Station	Parthenay (20km)
Nearest Village	Thénezay (7km)

## What we love

- Prieure St. Thérèse features as No 1 in The Times 2019 '50 Best Holidays in France'!
- This medieval priory in Charente resides in one of the sunniest regions in France
- The owner can arrange wonderful evening meals for you should you not wish to venture out
- The garden which surrounds the house is enclosed in an ancient stone wall that has been planted with stunningly scented English climbing roses
- It's a peaceful and relaxing location in this rural village, next to a historic church, with the distant sounds of cuckoos calling, frogs chirping and maybe even an owl at night
- There are fantastic walks all around the house through the woods and across fields as well as very quiet lanes to surrounding villages and hamlets

## What you should know...

- Please note that only the 21 person prices include the rental of the adjoining tower, Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>), however as the tower can also be booked independently, it is subject to availability for bookings of up to 21 guests. See Tour St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/tour-st-therese/>) for full details of the tower.
- Guests are kindly asked to request pool heating in advance (supplement applies).
- There is a large, stone spiral staircase that goes up three floors. Each floor, including the ground floor, has a door on the landing or hallway which, when closed, does not allow access to the staircase.
- Please be mindful that there are low wooden beams in some rooms.



# Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £750 charged to client's credit card as a pre-authorisation at least 2 weeks prior to 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, excluding heating.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes, including pool towels.
- **Pets welcome?:** Two well behaved dogs allowed downstairs at extra £50 per dog per week.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings and celebrations are permitted on request. Please note stag/hen parties are not allowed.
- **Changeover day:** Saturday in high season, flexible during all other periods.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Yes, standard changeover clean included. 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?:** No smoking in the property.
- **Insurance:** It is recommended that all guests take out insurance to cover against potential cancellation and any accidental damage caused during your stay at the property.
- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights in high season, 3 nights during all other periods.
- **Heating costs included?:** No, there is a supplement of £100 per week.
- **Pool heating charge?:** The swimming pool is open approximately June to October and can be heated upon request at £150 per week (a 7 days notice is required).