

Tour St Therese

Region: Aquitaine **Sleeps:** 6

Overview

In the heart of a rural village, surrounded by wooded valleys and beautiful countryside, is the romantic 14th century tower, Tour St. Thérèse. Perfectly positioned next to a historic church in the sunny region of Charente, this is the perfect place to unwind and relax in a unique and exquisite setting.

It is said that the tower was added to the adjoining medieval house, Prieure St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/prieure-st-therese/>), as accommodation for nuns when the local baron gave the house to the church in the 14th century.

The devoted and talented owner has created a chic yet characterful ambience throughout the tower; it's like a step back in time to a bygone era. You'll love the eclectic French furnishings and English antiques mixed with French country crockery and linen, from embroidered bed sheets to delicate pretty china. The semi-circular kitchen is simple yet perfect for preparing your coffee using the vintage French percolator and warming up your croissants for breakfast on the terrace. Should you wish to have dinner cooked for you, your host is very happy to oblige with a couple of days' notice.

With the large open log fire in the living area and a small yet glorious master bedroom, the tower has an undeniably romantic atmosphere. There is also a second bedroom if you wish to bring family, designed with budding knights and ladies in mind and with a low beamed ceiling. They might even get a visit from an owl who perches on the deep recessed windowsill at night. Both bedrooms are accessed via their own steep and rather narrow spiral staircase, adding to the charm and character of this amazing place.

Outside you can appreciate the serenity. This is a very quiet area with a slow pace of life. The pleasant sounds of the church bells, birdsong and local frogs all add to the atmosphere in this quiet backwater. Massage and yoga, enjoyed in the peaceful surroundings of your garden can be booked by the owner. Alternatively, on the many cloudless evenings, snuggle up by the fire-pit and contemplate the starry skies.

This unique home is perfectly positioned within the Deux-Sevres in Charente, known to be France's second sunniest 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 8 km away in Thenezay and the beautiful medieval town of St. Loup is just fifteen 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.

Groups of up to twenty-two guests can hire both beautifully renovated homes, Prieure St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/prieure-st-therese/>) and Tour St. Thérèse. Together, they are ideal for a celebration, small wedding or special holiday. Although attached, they each have their own separate entrances and gardens. There is the added attraction for guests in Tour St. Thérèse, of the use of the pool in Prieure St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/prieure-st-therese/>)'s garden when both are booked together.

With such a peaceful and beautiful place to relax in, it will be hard to leave the magical surroundings of your dreamy tower and rose scented gardens.

Facilities

Walking/Hiking Paths • Romantic • Chateaux & Castles • Golf Nearby • Fishing • Recommended • Wine Tasting • Horse Riding • Cycling • Tennis Nearby • Historical Sites • Canoeing/Kayaking • Chef/Cook Available • Ideal for Teens • Maid Service Available • Instagrammable • <1hr to Airport • Heritage Collection • Parking Space • Wi-Fi/Internet • Rural Location • Washing Machine • Outstanding Landscapes • Coffee Machine • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Indoor Games • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Heating • Aquarium • Theme park • Babysitting Available

Interior & Grounds

Tower Interior

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)
- Bedroom for Harry Potter lovers with four single beds (accessed via its own spiral staircase), ideal for children

Outside Grounds

- Terrace with barbecue
- Gardens
- Fire pit

Facilities

- Books and games



Location & Local Information

Tour 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 (42km)
Nearest Airport 2	La Rochelle (134km)
Nearest Village	Thénezay (8km)
Nearest Town/City	Parthenay (19km)
Nearest Restaurant	Gourgé/Thénezay (8km)
Nearest Supermarket	Thénezay (8km)
Nearest Train Station	Parthenay (19km)
Nearest Beach	La Rochelle (137km)

Nearest Ferry Port	St-Malo/Ouistreham-Caen (315km/354km)
Nearest Golf	Bill Owens Golf (8km)
Nearest Tennis	(5km)

What we love

- Tour St. Thérèse is incredibly romantic with its roaring fire downstairs and lovely master bedroom
- This is simple living at its best – the owner has ditched the TV and fancy kitchen gadgets in favour of books, games and a vintage French percolator for fresh coffee and croissants on your terrace
- The owner can arrange wonderful evening meals for you should you not wish to venture out
- 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...

- Tour St. Thérèse is not suitable for children under the age of 4
- The tower is attached to Prieure St. Thérèse (<https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/vendee-charente/prieure-st-therese/>). They can be booked independently or together, allowing groups of up to 21 guests to holiday next door to each other.
- You do have to be fairly agile to manage the two separate spiral staircases up to each of the bedrooms.
- The owner, her guests and her cat may on occasion require access to her own home via the tower garden, however this will be kept to a minimum and guests' privacy will be respected at all times.
- Tour St Therese is rural and car hire is strongly recommended.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £400 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.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes (including pool towels if booked with the 'Prieure', the main house).
- **Pets welcome?:** On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** No children under the age of 4. Weddings and celebrations in conjunction with Prieure St. Thérèse are permitted on request. Please note stag/hen parties are not allowed.
- **Changeover day:** Thursday, Saturday or Sunday.
- **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.
- **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 from July to 1st week of September. 3 nights otherwise.
- **Heating costs included?:** No. Heating is available from the end of September to the end of May at a cost of €100 per week, payable in cash on arrival. This covers the cost of the wood for the large fire-place and the electric heating.