

'MALANCHE': HOUSE, AMENITIES AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

"To have survived two weeks with six teenage girls and to feel relaxed and refreshed with sanity intact at the end of it is indeed testament to the peace, tranquillity and magic of this place." Visitors book.

THE LOCATION:

Malanche is situated in a totally secluded position in its own five acres of grounds surrounded by a vast area of beautiful countryside, mainly vineyards and wooded hills. You can swim/sunbathe naked if the mood takes you without being seen, and from the front door you can walk for miles in any direction in perfect peace. Malanche has been nicknamed 'the heavenly retreat' by friends - ideal for total escape, even in August, but not for bustling resort lovers or shopaholics.

The house is 1.5 miles from Chateaufort, a hamlet with an Auberge and five miles from the nearest villages (Barjols, with all shops/supermarket, and Correns, smaller). The last part of the road to the house is unmade up, but easily navigable. Chateaufort itself is 11 miles North of the main Avignon/Nice motorway (exit Brignoles, about 25 minutes beyond Aix en Provence). Marseilles airport is about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours drive and Nice airport about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours drive. The nearest coastal resorts (e.g. Hyeres, Cassis) are about 1 hour's drive.

THE HOUSE AND ANNEXE:

'Malanche' is a long, single storey farmhouse in a traditional pinkish colour with a Provencale style roof. Various climbing plants grow up the walls and over the large, west facing

terrace where one can have lunch/dinner and watch the setting sun.

In the main house there are four double bedrooms, three bathrooms, lounge, large kitchen and large terrace. In the adjoining annexe are a lounge (which has a single bed in a seating arrangement), double bedroom, small kitchen/diner and bathroom. Furnishings are simple yet attractive, with quarry tiles and rugs throughout. There is also a laundry room, double garage and an outdoor courtyard with table- tennis table. The large heated pool with adjacent gardens is at the south end of the house, catching the sun all day.

ACCOMMODATION/AMENITIES IN DETAIL:

The Main House:

Large, traditional kitchen with fitted pine cupboards, large table & chairs, A large additional larder fridge, small drinks fridge, small freezer. gas/electric oven, microwave, dishwasher, food processor, coffee maker, juice squeezer etc. There is an ample supply of cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils. Various French cookery books, high chair.

Medium sized lounge with Provencale style fireplace, cane two sofas, cane chairs,

An eclectic selection of books and some board games. The lounge leads to the: **Large Terrace** shaded with wisteria, trumpet vine and honeysuckle with a large table and 12 all weather chairs.

Two double and two twin bedrooms, all with ample cupboard space, and **three bathrooms**. Two bedrooms are situated on each side of the lounge, making it ideal for two families to share. On one side of the lounge are a large double bedroom, a smaller twin bedroom and a large shared bathroom with bath/shower above. On the other side of the lounge are a double bedroom with en-suite shower room, and a small twin bedroom next to a shower room. A travel cot is also available at the house.

The laundry room is at the back of the house off the courtyard with washing machine, tumble drier, iron and ironing board.

The courtyard is off the kitchen with an all weather table-tennis table and lines to hang washing. The double garage is at the front of the house with room for two cars and this also stores garden furniture - eight sun-beds, small table and chairs) barbecue, gardening tools etc.

The Annexe:

Although joined to the main house the annexe is self-contained.

It is at the south end of the house and has its own South facing terrace with table and chairs, and an outlook across the garden to the pool and wooded hills beyond. We converted the annexe largely for our own winter use to save opening up the house, but it offers peace and quiet - for grandparents like us for example. The annexe contains:

A small double bedroom with double bed and fitted wardrobes.

Bathroom with bath and shower above.

A medium sized lounge with fireplace, sofa, one single bed in a seating arrangement, and chairs.

A well equipped kitchen with fitted oven, gas and electric rings a small fridge and a table and chairs.

NB: We will let the annexe with the house if required (for an additional charge) but only for 'careful adult' use.

THE EXTERIOR:

The five acres of grounds consist mainly of meadow grass with trees in front of the house and woodland behind, with shrub/flower beds in front of the house and gardens around the pool.

The 33ft x 16ft heated pool has a paved surround, and is enclosed by raised flower/shrub beds and trees. It is heated which means it is normally 80 degrees plus from May to September. To comply with French law we have a roller blind style cover which (when fastened) prevents children or animals from falling in accidentally.

There are countless delightful walks to be had from the front door. The local estate owner (who owns the land all around us) is quite happy for people to walk at will as long as they are careful.

Flora and Fauna are abundant, including large green lizards, eagles, wild

boar (rarely seen) and deer.

EATING OUT:

There is a simple Auberge in Chateauvert and many inexpensive restaurants and pizzerias in nearby villages (recommendations left in house).

There is an excellent Alain Ducasse restaurant south of Brignoles - about half an hour away and other highly rated restaurants at Aix, Tourtour, and on the coast.

OUTINGS:

There are many unspoilt 'perched' villages nearby, which are fun for an early evening drink and top up shopping.

Several nearby towns and villages have **great markets** - market day information is at the house.

Almost any Cote D'Azur resort can be reached within 1-2 hours. Cassis and Hyeres are nearest, but due to the proximity of the Nice motorway, others can be visited fairly easily.

The Gorges of the Verdon are quite spectacular, as is the adjacent Lac de la Croix (canoeing, windsurfing, pedalos). Both about 1.5 hours drive away.

Aix en Provence is a lovely city with a summer music/opera festival - about 45 minute's drive away.

There are numerous other attractions - e.g. art galleries, museums, theme parks, ancient monuments etc. A selection of leaflets is left at the house.

SPORTS:

Tennis: there is a court in the nearby hamlet - almost always empty.

Golf: there are two courses near Brignoles - one called Barbaroux is highly rated (see www.barbaroux.com for fees etc.)

Horse riding is available at Camps de La Source.

Canoes can be hired in nearby Correns

RATES/WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

2009 rates range from £900 - £1,700 sterling per week for the main house, and a further £350 - £500 for the annexe.

Rates include gas, electricity, constant hot water, weekly swimming pool and garden maintenance and cleaning before, after and halfway through the fortnight's stay.

The only extras are laundry and telephone call costs. We can supply bedlinen, towels, table napkins etc. but you must pay laundry charges (£8 per person per week.) You can also use our telephone (itemised bills will be charged back to you later if they exceed 20 Euros.)

CONTACT DETAILS:

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