

LE
VILLAGE PRÉFÉRÉ
DES FRANÇAIS
2014



REGION
MIDI
PYRENEES

Chambres d'Hôtes et Gîte

Cordes-Sur-Ciel
Midi-Pyrenees, FRANCE



Introduction to Cordes

Dating from 1222, Cordes sur Ciel is a lovely medieval village, voted one of the prettiest Bastide or fortified hilltop villages in France. Its name means Cordes-in-the-sky; on a summer morning, with the pinnacle of Cordes poking through the low clouds or mist and lit up by the sun, you can see why. It's like an eagle's nest on a hilltop, perched above the Cérou valley. It is situated in the north of the Tarn Department, about 80km from Toulouse, a wonderfully rural and picturesque part of France. Jean-Paul Satre considered Cordes to be his favourite hideaway. It has a rich and varied history, from the founding of the town as a Cathar stronghold of the Count of Toulouse, through medieval weaving with local 'Pastel Blue' colours, to a decline in fortunes in the 19th and 20th centuries before being resurrected as a haven for artists of all spheres; sculptors, painters, enamellers, engravers, jewellers, designers etc. There are numerous small festivals held each year in Cordes, at all of which members of the public are encouraged to participate. In particular, the "Fetes Medievale de Cordes" is held each year around 14th July. Also in July there is an internationally renowned music festival which promotes young and up and coming classical musicians. At the top of the village, the Haut Ville, the views are spectacular and you will find numerous artists' studios and bistros lining the cobbled streets. There is a large covered market-place and many fine old buildings. The church is well worth a visit. In the lower square of the village, the Bas Ville, there are two everyday supermarkets, plus banks with cashpoints, a couple of bakers and a butchers. There is nothing nicer than walking down to the Boulangerie and getting some warm croissants and bread for breakfast each day! Every Saturday morning we also have a market, featuring fresh locally grown or sourced vegetables, meats, fish, cheeses and wines. We like to sit and have a coffee at the Bar or Maison Moulin and watch the world go by!



Please note: We operate a strict **No Smoking** policy in all buildings and in all outside areas of Le Chevalier Noir for the benefit of all our guests. We appreciate your co-operation.



Details of the Gîte

2 bedrooms

- 1 Double and 1 Twin

Lounge-diner:

- Fireplace & heater (winter)
- Sony hi-fi with iPod connection
- Sky TV (UK channels) & DVD

Kitchen:

Gas Hob & Oven with Grill
Washer/Dryer
Microwave/Grill
Fridge/freezer
Wood burner (winter)

Luxury Bathroom:

- Roll-top bath
- Separate Shower
- Basin and toilet
- Wall-heater (winter)

Note: Towels for both Gîte and swimming pool supplied

Courtyard gardens x2:

- Outdoor tables & chairs
- Parasol
- Barbecue set

Stunning swimming pool:

- Loungers & Parasols
- Outdoor table & chairs
- Floats etc.

Other facilities provided:

- Iron and ironing board
- Hair dryer
- Fans (in summer)
- Free Wi-Fi hotspot in courtyard

Car Parking in secure, lockable carport

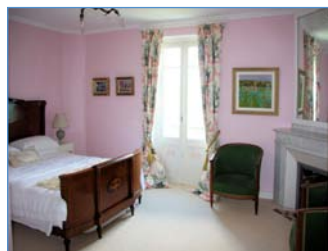
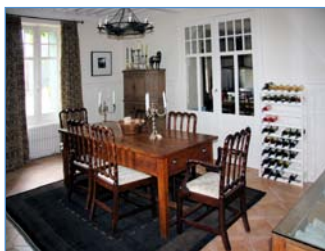
Both Lower Village (shops) and Upper Village (Medieval Town) are within 400m walking distance, about 5-6 minutes.

PRICES - 2017 From **£550-950** per week

The Gîte is rented on a weekly basis, Saturday - Saturday .

Early booking is advised.

Chambres d'Hôtes



Details of the Chambres d'Hôtes

3 Double bedrooms

- 1 with en-suite bathroom
- 2 with en-suite shower, WC and basin

Note: Towels for both B&B and swimming pool supplied

In-Room facilities

- Cooling Fan for use in summer
- Central Heating in winter
- Tea & Coffee making facilities

Communal Guest Lounge

- Sky TV (UK channels)

Dining Room

In inclement weather used for breakfast and any pre-booked meals.

Stunning swimming Pool

- All guests have shared use of the swimming pool whilst resident. The pool area includes loungers, parasols, a table and chairs, various pool equipment and balls.

Outside:

- Octagonal Gazebo
- Table, chairs and parasol for breakfast on terrace
- On-Street car parking is available

Arrival and Departure times

- Guests are asked to arrive after 4pm on day of arrival
- Guests should vacate their rooms by 10.30am on day of departure.

PRICE - 2017

The price at any time of the year is **90 euros** per night per room including continental breakfast.

Things To Do

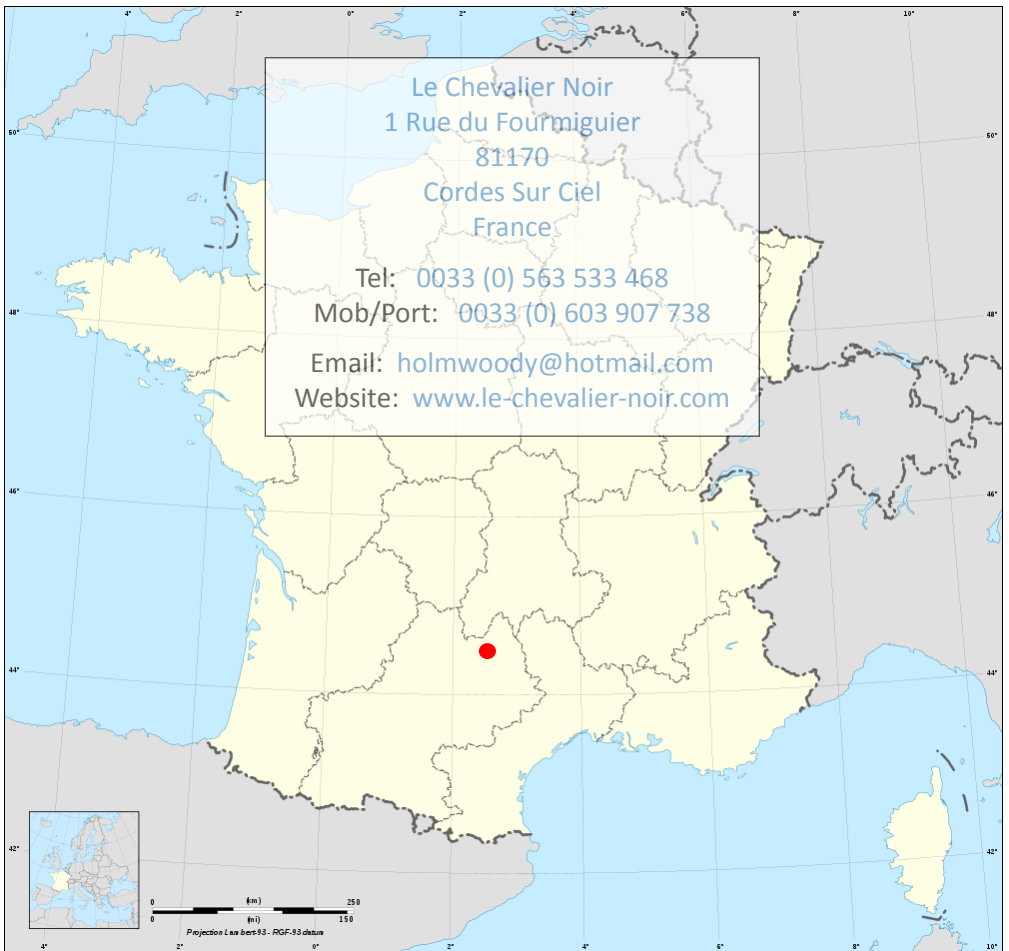
Most people come to Le Chevalier Noir stressed out from living in the non-stop fast lane called modern life. It is so nice to take a day or two to relax and unwind by the pool and recharge the batteries. For the more adventurous and active there is plenty to do and see.

In the local area:

- You simply MUST walk up to the top of the village, the Haute Ville, to see the cobbled streets and wonderful medieval buildings. Lovely views from the top and plenty of places to eat.
- Visit a local vineyard. Better still, visit several and choose a favourite! There are many to choose from.
- Enjoy a nice lunch or evening meal in one of the many restaurants and bars in Cordes and the surrounding towns & villages. The owners can recommend a few! Lunches can be around 12-15 euros for 3-4 courses with wine, so do ask us where they can be found.
- Go canoeing on the river at St Antonin – absolutely superb and only around 15 euros each, for about 4 hours of fun on the river – single, double and triple canoes are available.
- Visit Najac and see the fortress at the top of the hill. Well worth the climb! Alternatively there is a ring of Bastide Villages to compare and be impressed by.
- Play tennis in Cordes, go walking, horse-riding, cycling and mountain biking.
- Enjoy a day in Albi – a lovely cathedral city. The cathedral is old and imposing and is another MUST SEE. There are good ‘radio-commentaries’ in English for visitors. Albi has lots of pleasant restaurants in the old part of the city, at all prices.
- See Gaillac and its lovely old abbey and river walk.
- Visit one of the local markets:
 - Gaillac – every Friday – large
 - Cordes – every Saturday – small but fun
 - St Antonin – every Sunday – sprawling and busy.

Further afield:

- Visit Toulouse – well worth a day out. Shopping, pavement cafes and the river & Canal du Midi to stroll along. Nearby there is the Space Park, the centre of the European Space Agency activities.
- See the Tarn Gorges and the Millau Bridge, 90 mins away by car. Spectacular and internationally acclaimed. There are also some wonderful cave systems in the gorges too.
- Go to Sete on the mediterranean coast and enjoy a stunning 7km beach (our favourite, and under-used, so relatively quiet) – about 2.5 hours away, and pop into Carcassonne en-route.
- If you like hiking and climbing, the Pyrenees are about 2.5 hours away.
- For the really adventurous, Barcelona is about 4.5 hours away!



We look forward to giving you a warm welcome to Le Chevalier Noir. We hope you have a wonderful time here, whether it is enjoying a holiday in the Gîte or taking a short break in our Chambres d'Hôtes. There is much to do and see in the local area and your time can be as relaxing or busy as you wish. Our aim is to ensure that your time with us at Le Chevalier Noir is as happy, comfortable and special as we can make it.

Lyn and Nigel Barthe