

Escape to Southern France's most enchanting riverside hideaway

Le Moulin sur Célé is the epitome of Gallic charm, hidden away beside its own stretch of river, this exquisitely converted 16th century watermill makes a magical villa rental



When husband-and-wife hotelier team Marc Gysling and Deirdre McGlone first spotted Le Moulin sur Célé, it was love at first sight. After 30 years running an award-winning hotel in Ireland, they decided to fulfil a lifelong dream of buying a property in France. Tucked away in the Lot region, Le Moulin lies at the heart of France's most unspoiled swathe of countryside. The setting couldn't be more idyllic – on the banks of the gently-flowing River Célé, framed by soaring limestone cliffs. Lovingly renovated in 2022 using master craftsmen and the finest materials, the former watermill exudes luxurious country chic with stylish yet welcoming interiors. Sleeping up to 10 guests, it's the ultimate retreat for families or friends searching for a slice of authentic France. There are exciting plans for the future, too, with the opening of a luxury cottage (sleeping two) and converted barn both within walking distance scheduled to open in 2025.

A place to unwind

Encircled by 15 acres of glorious grounds and gardens, you'd be forgiven for never leaving the property during your stay. As well as beautiful fruit filled gardens, a walled heated swimming pool, grass tennis court and croquet lawn, the river is a highlight. Loungers and hammocks are scattered beneath poplar trees on the private riverbank and clear waters invite dips. There are sun-dappled terraces for escaping with a good book or gathering to dine 'en plein air', with lanterns provided for evening meals by candlelight. Down by the river, there's even a firepit by the water's edge for after-dinner lounging.

Sweet dreams

Each named after a different wine, Le Moulin's five luxurious bedrooms are spread across two beautiful buildings – the Miller's House and the Tower. No detail has been spared, with light-filled rooms, exposed beams, cloud-soft beds, power showers and all-important air-conditioning. Thoughtful touches include artisanal soaps, Egyptian cotton bedlinen, portable Bluetooth speakers and African Kikoy dressing gowns for swanning down to the pool. There's even a cocktail bar & bijou library for hiding away with a book and a glass of chilled Chardonnay.

Foodie heaven

It's clear from the moment you step through the door that good food is all part of the experience here. A welcome hamper sets the tone, with three complimentary bottles of excellent local wine (red, white and rosé), artisanal cheeses, fresh baguettes, fruit and other treats. Aspiring chefs will be spoiled, with local markets brimming with fresh produce and an organic vegetable farm shop within cycling distance. Don't feel like cooking? This region of France is known for its stellar restaurants so there are superb options for eating out close by, many with tables al fresco during the warmer months. This summer also sees an exciting culinary collaboration between Le Moulin and Michelin-starred chef Claude-Emmanuel Robin and his wife, Evgenia, who run an award-winning restaurant in nearby Cajarc. Guests will be able to enjoy a range of unique dining experiences, from mouth-watering private tasting menus served in Le Moulin to hands-on cookery classes.

Exploring the local area

The Lot is dotted with postcard-pretty medieval settlements – star of the show is the cliffside village of Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, well worth the scenic 30-minute drive to marvel at its steep, winding lanes, hypnotic views and ancient half-timbered houses equalled in charm by Figeac with its lively market. For more culture, head to nearby Pech Merle, one of the few prehistoric cave painting sites in France which remain open to the public, with extraordinary 20,000-year old murals of mammoths, bison and horses. Closer to home, guests can hire bicycles and explore the pretty river road, with pitstops for picnics, pottering and paddles.

For more information see www.lemoulinsurcele.com. For press enquires, contact Nell Hegarty at Mercator PR on nell@mercatorpr.com / 0773928506.

Getting there

Le Moulin sur Célé is a 2 hour drive Toulouse airport (BA, Easyjet, Aer Lingus, Ryanair)
A stay at Le Moulin is from 670 Euro per night in low season (minimum 3 night stay)
A 7-night stay at Le Moulin Sur Cele in May, June & Sept 2024 is from 6750 Euro.