



# *Just Cruisin'*

**Set in the middle of the French countryside, about 1 hour drive from Toulouse, in the heart of the Gaillac wine region you will find the small hamlet of La Colombarie, consisting of just a few houses, a vineyard and of course our bed and breakfast. Ideally situated amongst the vines for some peace and quiet, it's also very convenient for some fabulous ride outs. There are three rooms available (two doubles and one twin) and although open all year the swimming pool can get very cold out of season! The House was originally two old barns but has now been converted into one large building.**

**Guests have equipped welcome to In addition to wander barbeque summer**



**the use of a fully summer kitchen and are use the rest of the house. the 4 acres of ground to around there is a area for those warm evenings. Rooms come**



**with tea making facilities with all linen and towels being supplied. Should you wish to bring a larger party, extra accommodation can be arranged in our neighbours' chambres d'hotes. We also have a suitably equipped workshop with a bike lift should**

**any necessary, your**



**running repairs be plus secure parking for much-loved machines.**



**Leaving from the house we have mapped several routes for your enjoyment, or if you prefer just head off into the wild blue yonder and see where you end up, its up to you! Most of the roads around the area are quiet with plenty of twists and turns. The countryside is peaceful and enjoyable and on many of the routes we can suggest watering holes where you can grab a coffee or a beer and we can also pre book lunches at restaurants en route should you wish. Some of the rides will take all day such as crossing the now famous Millau suspension bridge designed by Lord Norman Foster which towers 343mtrs high above the valley, and others might be only half an hour up the road such as the city of Albi with its magnificent cathedral and the celebrated Toulouse Lautrec museum which houses the most comprehensive collection of his works in the world. In the surrounding area there are many bastide towns and villages, which were built on hilltops in the 13th century to safeguard the inhabitants from the marauding invaders. These communes are well worth the ride to the top just for the views alone. Some of the better-known ones are Cordes, Penne, Bruniquel and Puycelci. Also worth a visit is Najac a pretty Pinocchio village high up in the Aveyron, which has an old chateau, built on a rocky outcrop. Not far away is the town of Saint Antonin Noble Val, where the film Charlotte Grey was made, about the role British female spies played during the war and which has hardly changed since the 40s. On Sunday mornings a large and varied market is held in the streets.**



**Or, for the more adventurous, canoes can be hired from here to enjoy the 8km trip down river to Cazals, from where you will be brought back by minibus to your departure point.**

**For attractions further field, heading in the direction of Toulouse, there is the Cite de l'espace; this is a space museum with an ariane 5 space rocket in the grounds together with all sorts of displays and information on space paraphernalia. English talking phones are available to help you navigate and understand the exhibitions!**

**Continuing further down the motorway you will come to Carcassone a large medieval walled city with rather too many tourist shops, but still very interesting none the less.**

**Eating out is inexpensive and there are numerous restaurants in the vicinity. So come and enjoy the sunshine, camaraderie and good quality wine in this beautiful and outstanding part of the French countryside.**



**If guests would prefer not to ride down from Calais we do offer Japanese cruisers for hire at very reasonable rates, and there are cheap flights available to Toulouse and Rodez airports via Easyjet and Ryanair. Transfers from these airports can be arranged.**

**We look forward to seeing you in the near future!**

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