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Château Les Carrasses Quarante, Languedoc-Roussillon, France

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Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

9/10

Telegraph expert rating

" Few chateaux are as savvy as Les Carrasses, a turreted 19th-century castle with luxurious hotel suites and self-catering cottages overlooking vines near the Canal du Midi. Outdoor activities abound and come dusk guests mingle over tapas and Mediterranean cuisine in an intimate, country club setting. "

Telegraph Review



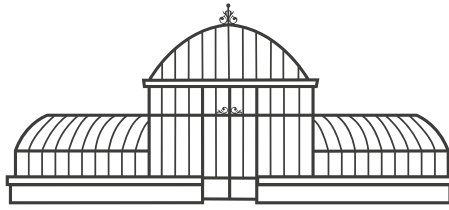
By Nicola Williams, destination expert

9/10

Location

Amid 60 hectares of vineyards on a hill – the distant Pyrenees lace the horizon on clear days. Wine-making village Capestang straddles the Canal du Midi, two and a half miles south, and several wine-producing chateaux offer tasting opportunities within a half-hour motor. Hire self-drive canal boats in Capestang, or canoe wild river rapids in Roquebrun, 18 miles north. Sérignan Plage, 30 minutes south, is the closest sandy beach and Étang de Bages and Étang de Thau – hot kite-surfing spots – are 45 minutes by car.

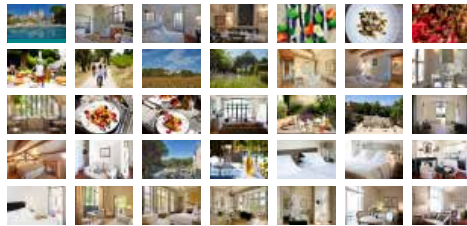
Béziers-Cap d'Agde and Montpellier, 23 miles and 62 miles away, are the closest airports.



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9/10 Style & character

With its thick buttermilk-stone walls and fairytale witch-hat turrets from 1887, this is the real thing. Charismatic Dubliner Karl O'Hanlon purchased the abandoned estate in 2011 and, with local winemaker Vignobles Bonfils, transformed it into the effortlessly stylish, family-friendly resort it is today. Guests return as old friends and as French art de vivre dictates, the vibe is country-chic – leave the ball gown at home.



[See more images at Booking.com](#)

10/10 Service & facilities

From the daily concierge tips chalked on the board outside reception to the tome of a guestbook that doubles as guidebook to the area, the welcome drinks, the Panama sunhats sold in the boutique, this is an address that understands service. Reception lends out DVDs, board games and iPods loaded with catchy playlists. La Serre is a vintage glasshouse said to be the design handiwork of Monsieur Eiffel himself. Inside is a romantic, armchair-clad library.

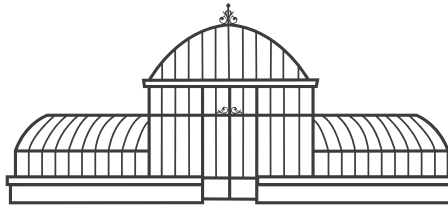
The heated infinity pool overlooks vines and the scent of honeysuckle, jasmine and rose as you roam the beautifully tended grounds is sublime. There's a clay tennis court, volleyball court, boules pitch and complimentary mountain bikes. In-room massages, personal trainer sessions, yoga, cooking classes, guided vineyard walks, wine-tasting/making workshops are appealing extras. If you want to muck in with the grape harvest, visit late August/early September.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Kids' club
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Pool
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Tennis court
- ✔ Wi-Fi

8/10 Rooms

Nine luxurious doubles in the chateau have full hotel service and ample French bourgeois charm: lofty ceilings, fireplaces, the odd standalone bathtub and graceful cream, taupe and beige palettes.

Self-catering terraced cottages in restored outbuildings – the barn, gardener's cottage (killer sunset views!), grape pickers house – have more contemporary, French Country-style



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interiors in neutral hues. Well-equipped kitchens include an honesty wine cellar and washing machine. Extra housekeeping and breakfast are add-ons, allowing guests to mix hotel life with self-catering. Several self-catering properties have a bijoux pool and herb-fragranced garden with sun-loungers and Weber barbecue.

Bathrooms throughout are up-to-the-minute with pebble-flooring showers, white bathrobes and chateau-branded welcome products.

9/10

Food & drink

The brasserie (lunch/dinner menus €25/39 or £22/34), with bucolic summer terrace, serves a Mediterranean-Catalan cuisine. Summer ushers in all-day snacks and tapas evenings beneath the stars. Sinfully buttery croissants steal the show at petit déjeuner, a continental buffet. Self-caterers can order bread, croissants and pains au chocolat each morning and buy ready-to-cook BBQ packs.

9/10

Value for money

Double rooms from €140 (£120) in low season; and from €239 (£205) in high. Two-bedroom apartments from €209/£180 in low season; and from €379/£326 in high. Breakfast (€15/£12.50) excluded. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

One two-bedroom, self-catering property is wheelchair-accessible.

Family-friendly?

Yes, yes, yes. Beyond the usual cots and highchairs, there's a kids' club for four- to 12-year-olds (half-day €25/£21.50), free children's bikes and an early kids' dinner (€15/£12.50). The main pool is gated and private pools are alarmed.

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