

# L'Olivier d'Autignac

**Region:** Languedoc | Autignac

**Sleeps:** 8 **Bedrooms:** 4



## Overview

L'Olivier d'Autignac is a spacious and light-filled village house with private swimming pool and terrace. It is located in a typical Languedocian village with all key services within easy walking distance. This house has mobile air conditioning units, 4 beautiful bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, all facilities, a sunny terrace perfect for al fresco dining and an unoverlooked courtyard with a private swimming pool. The beaches are only 30 minutes away and the stunning High Languedoc National Park is only 5 minutes away.

## Description

L'Olivier d'Autignac is a wonderful "vigneron" (winegrower) house, set in the quaint village of Autignac, with all key services and amenities within walking distance. The house combines the character of a 100-year-old-house (exposed stone walls, oak beams, and original features such as a stone sink and a well) with the comfort that is associated with modern-day living. There is a fantastic sunny terrace, private courtyard and private swimming pool, which is ideal for those hot summer days in Southern France. You will love the cool, restful colours of this house, all chosen with care to fit the ambience of a Southern French lifestyle.

The house offers four good-sized bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a sunny upper terrace and private pool measuring 3.5 x 5m.

The living area is on the first floor and is bright and spacious, consisting of a living room, dining area, kitchen and separate toilet. The character of the house has been retained with exposed oak beams, stone walls and tiled floors. There is a home entertainment centre with surround sound with a selection of CDs and English speaking DVDs provided, including some children's favourites. The kitchen is fully equipped with a cooker/oven, microwave, dishwasher, washing machine, fridge/freezer and plentiful supply of cooking utensils.

The living area opens onto a south-facing terrace with a dining table and chairs. The terrace overlooks the garden and pool area, is an excellent sun trap, and a great place for al fresco dining. There are steps that lead down to the enclosed courtyard garden with a private swimming pool (20 sq m).

The master bedroom, on the first floor, has a king-size bed, exposed oak beams and stone walls. The bedroom leads onto an en suite which has a roll-top slipper bath and shower, as well as a toilet and sink. The 3 upstairs bedrooms are also spacious and bright (2 with king-size beds and 1 with 2 singles). All have exposed oak beams and polished wooden floors. There is also a spacious shower room and toilet.

The garden is very private with a pool and heated shower. There is a separate toilet in the garden area. There are ample sun loungers, chairs, a children's paddling pool and a large barbecue. The garden contains a variety of Mediterranean style potted plants, such as lavender, rosemary and of course an olive tree.

You'll love the ancient olive tree in the courtyard which lends its name to the house and the pool area is almost completely unoverlooked and is securely fenced so the little ones are safe. The interior is beautifully decorated and has all of the facilities that you'll need in order to make your holiday a memorable one, including mobile air conditioning units and a new kitchen with quartz worktops!

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Autignac is a sleepy, yet authentic working village, surrounded by vineyards and rolling countryside with views onto the Haut Languedoc mountains. The village has all the shops for your basic requirements, including a bakery, butchers, chemist, post office, grocery and café bar. The latter also serves great value lunches where you will mingle with local professionals and artisans alike. Approximately 2 miles away at Magalas are a couple of larger supermarkets (Intermarché and Aldi). The village is a lovely little place to stroll around, and wherever you come to the outskirts, you will be overlooking vineyards.

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## Layout

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

On First Floor:

Spacious open-plan living area, dining area and fully equipped modern kitchen, as well as a separate toilet.

Bedroom 1: Queen-sized double bed. Fitted wardrobes. En suite bathroom with 'slipper bath' (elegant Victorian-style bath) and shower over. WC. Sink

On Second Floor: Spacious mezzanine area.

Bedroom 2: Two x single beds. Fitted wardrobes.

Bedroom 3: King-sized double bed. Fitted wardrobes.

Bedroom 4: Double bed. (NB: Slightly sloping ceiling).

Bathroom 2: Shower, sink, WC.

## More Info

Large garage with parking for one car.

Pool 3.5m x 5m. Separate WC and hot shower by pool.

4 x high-quality mobile air conditioning units.

French TV only.

Cot available at property.

NB: As with most typical vigneron houses in the region, the ground floor is given over to the garage/storage. Living area is on the first floor, and bedrooms are on second floor. Not suitable for people with reduced mobility.

## Features

- Aircon
- Internet
- Easy walk to shops (<15 mins)
- Un-overlooked pool
- Private pool
- Secure fenced pool
- Heating
- Private parking
- Golf nearby
- Watersports nearby
- Secure parking
- Barbecue
- No pets allowed
- i-Rent

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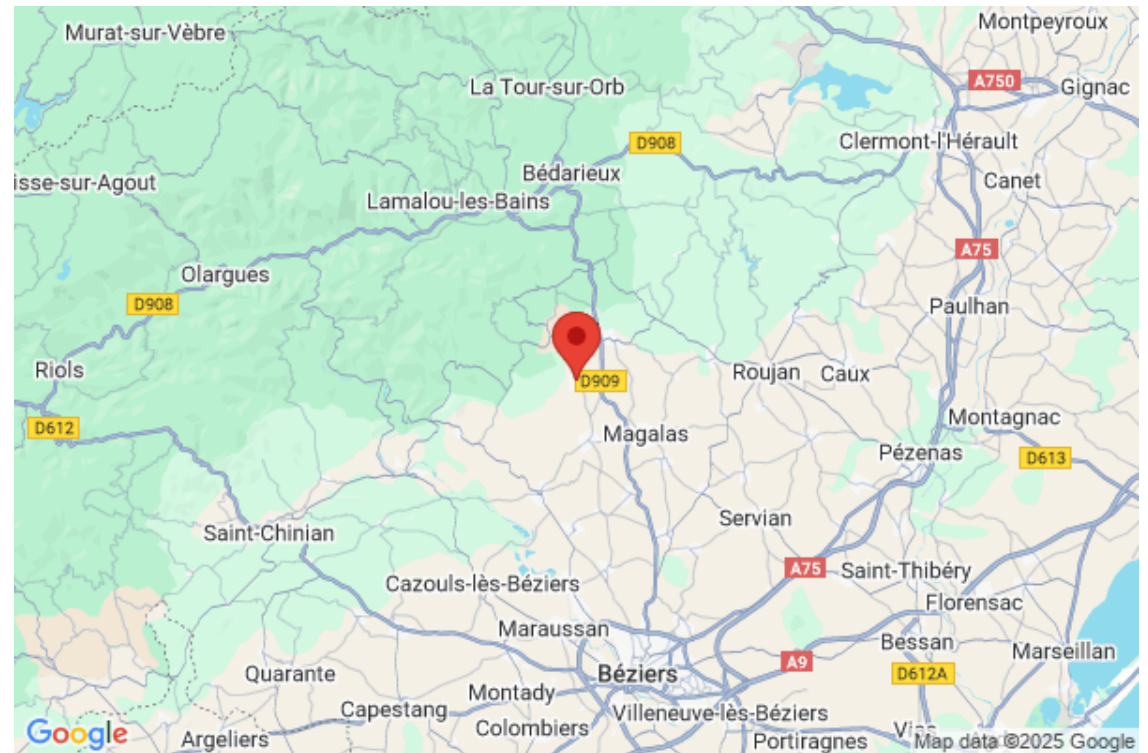
There is also a small twice-weekly market in the village (in the area behind the café-bar). When the market is in town, you will hear announcements advertising the wares that are available at the market on that day via a public intercom. Whilst not massive, it is still worth taking in, if only to see the cheese stall. Be prepared for a long wait, the cheese man is not to be rushed and takes particular delight in wrapping his wares.

The village has several areas for petanque where you can hone your skills or watch the experts.

The main charm of the village is to simply stroll around the maze of streets and to wonder at some of the beautiful properties to be seen there (not least the one that faces our house). Depending on the time of year, you will take in beautiful tree-lined streets, the smell of burning vine wood, and watch local wine producers going about their business. If you stroll around the village in the evening, you will be taking in ink-black skies to a backdrop of virtual silence. If the night-life of Benidorm is your thing, then I suspect Autignac is not for you.

### Nearby Towns:

Pezenas – (20 mins to the East) Pezenas was the home of Moliere and an artists haven, it is a beautiful old town with cobbled streets and great boutiques/craft shops and restaurants. If possible, you should take in the weekly market which takes place every Saturday. The food stalls, in particular, are excellent and you will find it hard to resist the stalls selling olive nuts, cold meats, cheeses and wild honey etc. After the market, you should stop off for lunch in one of the many restaurants nestling in the beautiful ancient streets that run parallel to the main street.



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Beziers – (15 mins to the South) This is a historical city which is good for shopping, sightseeing and has many bars, restaurants and pavement cafes. There is a flower market on Fridays.

Roquebrun – (20 mins to the West) This town is approximately 20 minutes away, and well worth seeing for its stunning setting on a hillside, overlooking the winding River Orb. If you approach the town from the south, there are some stunning vantage points for the obligatory photo shoot. At the top of the village, there is a Mediterranean garden.

Magalas – (5 mins to the South) This is one of the nearest villages to Autignac, and whilst it has a pretty square, its main attraction is its lively café-bar (Excalibur). It is never dull here, and despite appearances, is a great eatery. This is a good venue for sporting events on the widescreen if you like a bit of atmosphere with your sport. The main charm is the mix of life that you will undoubtedly see, from toddlers to grannies, but all in a convivial and warm atmosphere. For those that wish to imbibe, there is a taxi service from Magalas as well.

Walking:

Autignac is situated 10 minutes from Haut Languedoc National Park. The whole area is a walking paradise, particularly the Gorge d'Henc or the Gorges de Colombieres.

Cycling:

The roads around Autignac are relatively traffic-free, encouraging you to explore the countryside.

Watersports:

30 minutes to the north-east is Lake Salagou, where you can kayak, jet ski, sail or paddleboat. Also, 15 minutes to the west and just south of Roquebrun, is a canoeing centre with white water facilities.

The Mediterranean sea is under 30 minutes from Autignac. Here you will find Aqualand which is open in the summer months.

Wine tours:

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Autignac is one of the seven communes that make up the Faugeres wine appellation. There are a number of wine-producing chateaus in Autignac where you can purchase wine directly.

Beaches:

Valras plage provides the continuous length of soft sand, safe for children to play and includes many playground areas. The beachfront has many restaurants providing fresh seafood as well as regional dishes and some children's specials. Cap D'Agde is home to Aqualand.

Serignan is also a beautiful sandy beach and a little quieter than Valras, with only a few places to eat. There are also pony rides/trekking available nearby.

Autignac is located about 20 km north of Beziers, nestled in the foothills of the Black Mountains (Montagne Noir) and is surrounded by the famous vineyards of the Hérault. The glorious sandy beaches of the Languedoc Mediterranean are 30 minutes drive away, and just 5 km to the north you enter the Parc Naturel of the Haut Languedoc. The wonderful Gorge d'Heric is a beautiful 25-minute drive to the north-west and is highly recommended.

Autignac makes an excellent base for exploring the region. There are chateaux in abundance throughout the region – some of which have restaurants or wine cellars. The nearest golf courses are at Lamalou-les-Bains and Beziers. There are great courses at Carcassonne and Cap d'Agde too. Less than 10 km to the north there is a superb go-Karting track. Water sports are available at Roquebrun, and Cessenon-sur-L'Orb. Excellent opportunities abound for wine-tasting locally, and there is an array of wonderful restaurants to choose from.

The village itself is a 'circulade'. This refers to the circular street structure at the heart of the village. The village is typically French, consisting of a charming network of narrow streets, with many wonderful old buildings, both small and large. The front of L'Olivier looks directly across to a wonderful French mansion. To the rear of our property are the grounds of the magnificent restored Chateau Autignac (a wine-tasting here is a 'must' during your trip).



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## Photos

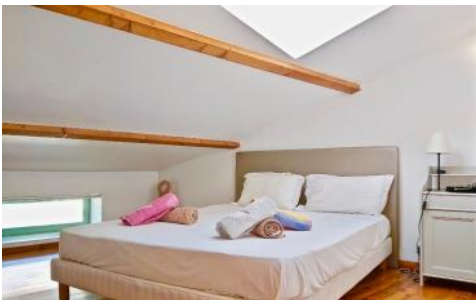




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