

# Minervois Paradise

**Region:** Languedoc | Bize Minervois

**Sleeps:** 8 **Bedrooms:** 4 **Bathrooms:** 3

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## Overview

Wonderfully converted wine cave nestled amidst the vineyards in this beautiful and tranquil Minervois valley. This holiday home comfortably sleeps 8 guests in 4 bedrooms, all with their own bathroom. There is a good-sized private pool, beautiful covered terrace and a lush garden with olive grove. All ground-floor with walk-in showers. Ideal for family holidays! Suitable for people with reduced mobility. Pets welcome.

## Description

Minervois Paradise, a converted wine cave, lies in a stunningly beautiful location, seven kilometres to the north of Bize Minervois, on the border between the Hérault and the Aude departments, at the heart of Le Loup Blanc vineyard. The property nestles among the vines in a near-forgotten valley, and can offer a secluded haven in which to enjoy your holiday. Whether you are seeking an action-packed sightseeing trip, cycling along the empty lanes, or lazy days by the pool, there will be something for you. On arrival you will find a welcome pack/meal to kickstart your holiday.

The accommodation comprises four bedrooms (two doubles and two with twin beds) with three bathrooms, two ensuite, and is furnished to a high standard with some interesting antiques. The separate kitchen is fully equipped and the large living room area opens out onto attractive gardens shaded by ancient olive trees and views to the hills behind and over the surrounding vines. There is even a prehistoric dolmen rock structure in the hills behind, easily reachable.

Good-sized swimming pool (8m x 5m, depth 5ft, alarmed) dedicated solely to the use of your party.

The owners are often on site to offer advice and help, and frequently offer their guests to join them for supper.

The property contains a well-kept garden with salads and vegetables for your party's use, shady spots under ancient olive trees to relax in from the afternoon heat. The olive grove in the lower garden is available for children to play in. There is BBQ and a ping pong table and there are bikes available to explore the local lanes.

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## Layout

Minervois Paradise occupies the whole ground floor of an old bergerie, approx 200m<sup>2</sup>. It is approached from the terrace shaded by ancient olive trees. The house very comfortably accommodates 8 people in four bedrooms. There is a fireplace and electric heating for the colder seasons. It is set in about 3600m<sup>2</sup> of gardens and groves.

Large living room with French windows opening onto the terraces, making it very easy for summer living. Kitchen has Dishwasher, Cooker, Ironing facilities, Microwave, Washing machine, Electric hob, Electric oven, Fridge-Freezer.

Master bedroom is en suite.

Two double bedrooms, one with French windows onto the terrace.

One twin bedroom is also en suite.

Family bathroom with separate bath and shower.

Separate WC

## More Info

Suitable for the elderly and wheelchair-friendly. Please note there are gravel pebbles in the garden.

The owners are occasionally on-site but they live upstairs, have their own separate entrance, terrace and private pool.

The grounds are huge! You may never find the edge of your territory!

Bikes available for cycling in the area.

## Features

- Internet
- Satellite TV
- Suitable for reduced mobility
- Pets allowed on request
- Private pool
- Heating
- Private parking
- Secure parking
- Barbecue
- Terrace
- Fireplace
- Spacious garden
- i-Rent

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## Location

Nearest Airports:

Carcassonne 1 hour

Béziers Cap-d'Agde 1 hour

Perpignan 1 hour 20 minutes

Montpellier 1 hour 20 minutes

### LOCAL AMENITIES

Bize Minervois is the closest town about 9km away.

Nearest bakery: Bize Minervois (Aude) x two

Nearest bar: Bize Minervois (Aude)

Nearest market: St Chinian (Hérault) - Every Sunday morning

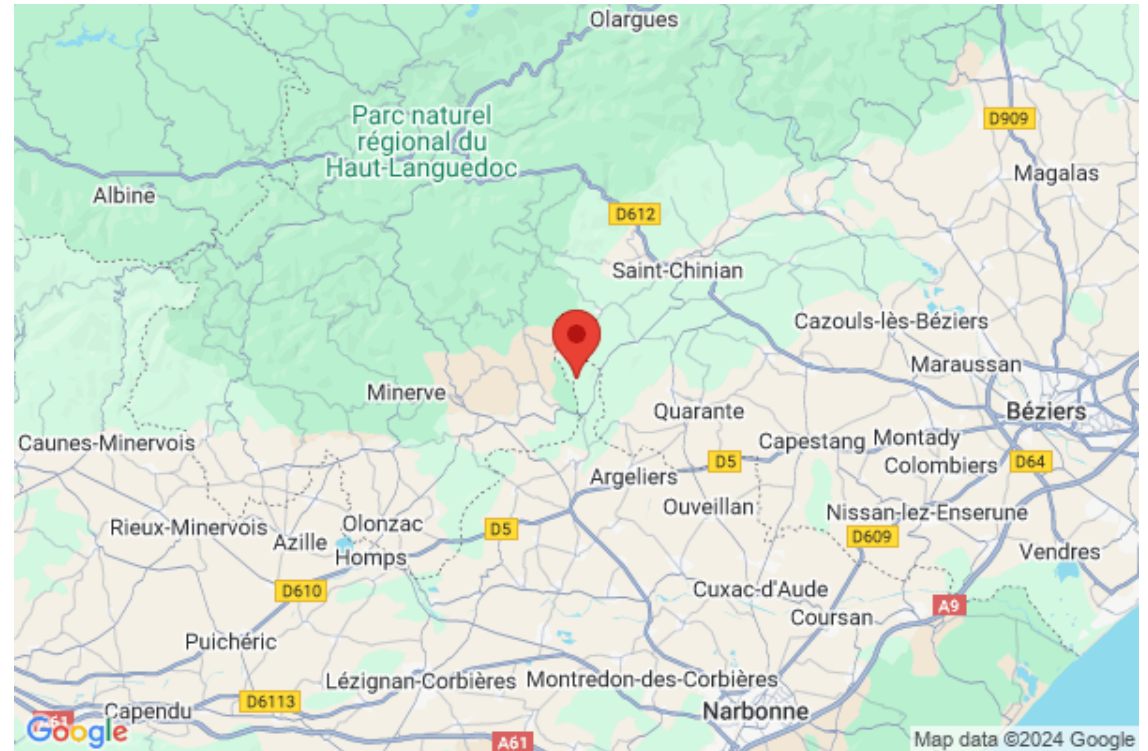
Nearest pharmacy: Bize Minervois (Aude)

Nearest supermarket: St Marcel (Aude)

Nearest corner shop: Bize Minervois (Aude)

Within easy reach of the property there are a number of activities available to those so inclined. Horse riding through the vines is available at two local stables. Canoeing and Kayaking can be a great day out. These are offered both on the rivers Orb and Aude. Tennis courts can be found in Bize and there is an Aqua Park in Narbonne.

In the immediate area there are several places of interest. Bize Minervois is the local village and has a handful of restaurants, a supermarket, two bakers, a post office and a pharmacy; there is also a great swimming pool in the river, useful for families with small children. Minerve lies to the west and had a fortress from the Middle Ages. One of the most dramatic moments in the war against the Cathars took place here in 1210, when the town witnessed the first great burning of the heretics. The Crusaders condemned more than one hundred and forty souls to the flames. The Oppidum d'Enserune rises 120 metres above the Beziers plain and has been occupied since the 6th Century BC. Well worth a visit and also worthy of note is the view of the drained lake of Montardy, which can be seen from the oppidum. Minervois, as a region is famous for its wines and that will become instantly obvious as you tour the area, and olives. The wines are generally fruity robust reds of good quality. The exception being the excellent Muscat produced in St. Jean de



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Minervois only a 10 minute drive and a must for the wine cognoscenti. The wines of Le Loup Blanc in our valley are organic.

## CARCASSONNE

Carcassonne is famous for being the largest medieval fortress in Europe. There are really two towns, the lower town dating from the thirteenth Century and the more famous Cite, the upper walled town, which has been occupied since earliest times. Much of what can be seen today is a nineteenth Century restoration, but it certainly should not be missed on a trip to this area. The view from a distance cannot fail to impress. If your visit includes the 14th July, they have a wonderful firework display here.

## NARBONNE

A major centre since Roman times, Narbonne is a city with much to offer. The cathedral dominates the skyline from a distance; in fact it has the third highest vault of any Gothic cathedral in France. It is well worth a visit, as are the Treasury and the two buildings of the Archbishop's Palace. The Canal de la Robine offers somewhere to stroll and perhaps have lunch at one of the nearby restaurants. The Halles de Narbonne is a daily covered market where fresh produce can be purchased if you are planning to cook in the evening. Finally, the archaeological museum is a must. There are excellent displays of artifacts from Narbonne's history and especially the Roman period, when this city was the capital of Provincia Romana Narbonensis.

## THE AFRICAN RESERVE AT SIGEAN

The African Reserve at Sigean lies about 15 km to the south of Narbonne. It is a huge 300 hectare park with over 150 species of lions, rhinos, giraffes, elephants and many more, all within an African setting. It is open all year and is a great day out for the family.

## LES MONTAGNES DE LA CLAPE AND THE BEACHES

This is an important wine growing area between Narbonne and the beaches. The scenery is simply stunning and well worth investigating. There are several good vineyards here that are open to the public. Château Pech-Celeyran at the northern end and Château Pech Redon in the south are worth a visit. There are also some good beaches; Fleury d'Aude is excellent, especially if you want to get away from the crowds. The village of Gruissan

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with its ochre coloured houses is a perfect spot to have a long lunch. Seafood, as you may expect, is very good here.

## CORBIÈRES

This important region stretches south from Narbonne. Its sun drenched limestone hills have a beauty that is quite incredible. The area is littered with the remains of numerous monastic institutions and châteaux. The 12th century Abbey de Lagrasse has been restored, and an Augustinian order of monks has been established where the old latin Mass is sung.



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## Photos



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