

L'Hirondelle

Region: Languedoc

Sleeps: 6 **Bedrooms:** 3



Overview

Beautiful village house with 3 bedrooms, garden, terrace and spa pool. Freesat TV. Internet access. Walking distance to centre of Capestang with bars, shops and restaurants. 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms. Sleeps 6. Long term winter lets available.

Description

L'Hirondelle is French for the swallow. These birds visit Capestang and the surrounding area each summer to rear their families and can often be seen performing their aerobatics against the backdrop of an azure sky.

The owners put in a lot of careful thought in respect of the design, renovation and equipping the property.

The house is mostly stone built and terraced. Having good modern insulation it is comparatively cool in the summer and warm in the winter. This is augmented by an air to air heat pump system which provides heating and cooling to the main living area and the three bedrooms. A wood burning stove gives added heat and comfort in the coldest months.

It is built on two floors with the ground floor mainly open plan, consisting of a front porch, then a spacious lounge/diner extending into the kitchen giving a spacious open plan living area, a rear porch, downstairs WC and wash basin, a garage with a laundry area at the rear of this.

To the rear there is a terrace with a barbecue and furniture for outdoor dining and a wood store for the stove and beyond this there is the garden which consists of a central shingle area surrounded by pleasant herbaceous borders, in addition a couple of vines, an olive tree, lemon and a clementine tree with various herbs useful for cooking.

A corner of the garden is set aside for a spa pool with 'stepping stones' leading from the terrace for this. The lounge area is tastefully equipped with a comfortable leather three suite, a TV with UK channels available by satellite and terrestrial French channels, an audio unit and a selection of books are provided both here and in the rear porch. The wall pictures and lighting add ambience.

In the dining area there is a table with 6 dining chairs and a dresser.

The kitchen is fully equipped and includes an electric cooker, dishwasher, fridge freezer, microwave oven, 'Nespresso' and filter type coffee makers, a blender and a granite surface work top. The beams have been left exposed and a velux window gives added daylight.

The first floor is gained via a wooden stair case and here each of the bedrooms are fitted out with a built in wardrobes giving ample storage and drawer space, bedside tables and a small dressing table and mirror, two of the bedrooms being equipped with a pair of single beds whilst the third has a double bed.

There are two bathrooms, the first which is the main bathroom is generously proportioned with a tub,

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shower, wash basin, shower cubicle and a WC. The second is an 'en suite' off the front twin bedded room and has a shower, wash basin and WC.

Solar water heating provides ample hot water.

High vaulted ceilings with exposed beams and wall pictures give a pleasing ambience and velux windows give additional daylight to the stairs and landing area.

There is an integral garage, large enough to accommodate most makes of car. At the rear of the garage there is the laundry area with a washing machine. There is a downstairs toilet with a wash basin with a rear porch area.

To the rear of the house there is an outdoor terraced area with a barbeque and garden furniture to allow for outdoor eating and beyond this a garden in which there is a spa pool.

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Layout

Bedrooms - 3 - 1 double and 2 twin

Kitchen - fully fitted with dishwasher, washing machine.

Lounge / dining - spacious and open plan

Bathrooms - 2 plus separate WC

Garden, terrace, BBQ, spa pool, garage.

More Info

Available for winter lets from mid November to end of March from 1200€ per month including all services such as electricity, water, wifi and land line rental.

Features

- Aircon
- Internet
- Satellite TV
- Easy walk to shops (<15 mins)
- Heating
- Golf nearby
- Watersports nearby
- Family friendly
- Street parking
- Barbecue
- Terrace
- No pets allowed
- i-Rent

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Location

60 min from Perpignan Airport
60 min from Carcassonne Airport
60 min from Montpellier Airport
30 min from Beziers Vias Airport
90 min from Nimes

Capestang is about 15 minutes from the Beziers West exit of the N9 Autoroute.

It is about one hour from Montpellier, Perpignan and Carcassonne Airports, two hours from Toulouse and three hours from Barcelona.

There is a Lidl Supermarket at west end of village and InterMarché - open on a Sunday morning at east end of village - Number of Bakers normally open - Market held Sunday mornings as are most shops in main square - newsagent sells English Language newspapers.

There are 2 restaurants with 150 metres, 2 within 250 metres and 2 within 500 metres - bars, 100 and 250 metres

Tennis courts available 150 meters from house, golf 15km away at Golf St Thomas - Beziers, boats for hire on the Canal du Midi at Colombiers

This area is full of antiquity and items of historical interest dating back to 3,000 BC. This village has been in existence for at least 1,000 years and parts of the old village wall and other buildings still exist.

It is a centre of the Languedoc viticulture region where the local wines have become exceptionally good over the last few years.

There facilities for walking, lazing on the beach, swimming and other water sports. It is a very good area for cycling and walking. For the motorcyclists, there are some excellent roads for riding hereabouts but beware of the speed traps.

Wine tasting, eating out and exploring old relics are also good options. Some



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restaurants are closed on Mondays.

The locals are so very friendly and overall it has a calm and peaceful atmosphere and is an ideal place to wind down. It is also makes an excellent base for touring the region.

This recently renovated luxurious house is situated in the southern French village of Capestang (population approx 3,500), which is close to the Pyrennees, the Massif Central and just 25 minutes from the Mediterranean.

The house is situated within 300 metres of the village centre where there are a number of shops, bar cafes, restaurants, a very striking church and other amenities. At the eastern end of the village, there is a supermarket.

This area is blessed with a Mediterranean climate meaning that it is hot and dry in the summer and the winters are relatively mild, with lovely comfortable spring and autumns in between.

The Canal du Midi crosses the northern part of the village and is about 500 metres from the house.

There are a couple of supermarkets in Capestang, Lidl is on the right just beyond the crossroads on the way to Carcassonne.

Market days on Sundays and Wednesday and generally Capestang is paradoxically a lively yet calm place where you can do as much or as little as you like - it's an ideal place to wind down.

The village is situated on the plain between the Massif Central and the Pyrenees in beautiful wine growing region of Languedoc, 25 minutes by car to the nearest Mediterranean beaches.

It has a selection of bars and restaurants. There is a market twice a week. Capestang makes an ideal base for exploring the local area, which is rich in history.

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Originally called "Cape d'Entang" because in former times the village bordered on a lake and was in fact a "cap d'etang" until it was drained in the middle ages to reveal what is now a "dartboard" configuration of fertile fields viewed best from the Oppidum d'Ensurance.

The Village, Capestang

Cape d'Entang:- Originally called "Cape d'Entang" because in former times the village bordered on a lake and was in fact a "cap d'etang" until it was drained in the Middle Ages to reveal what is now a "dartboard" configuration of fertile fields viewed best from the Oppidum d'Ensurance

Restaurants:- We are fortunate in having a number of good restaurants in the village, all within walking distance. Average price for an evening meal for 2 with wine about 50€

Cafés:- A 200 to 300 metre walk through old narrow streets will take you to the village centre, where there are two cafés on either side of the square with a large impressive church. On the way you will pass the restaurant "Le Provence", which is often busy. Of the cafés, The "Café de la Grille" does very good "bar food" at a modest rate - it is very popular.

La Table de Vignoble:- Near the Marie you will find "La Table de Vignoble", where in the fine weather you eat outside in a courtyard, in less clement weather in a large barn. Here, Madame Cros will sell you her own wine, which is very very good. Cafe De La Grille

Market:- Twice a week there is a local market on Wednesday and Sunday mornings in the main "Place" in the centre of the village. Local Wine, meat, cheese, vegetables and lots of other produce can be bought.

Weather:- This area has a Mediterranean Climate with hot dry summers and mild winters, boasting of 300 sunny days a year, on average. The weather for the area can be viewed here: [Capestang Weather](#)

Tourist numbers have increased but Area remains unspoiled:- Over the years, the number of visitors to the village increase, thereby confirming its popularity but at the same time its basic character is not marred and it still

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retains its charm - that of a typical southern French working village, where viticulture (the science, production and study of grapes) is the main support. The local council appears to be very forward looking and have made many improvements.

Speaking of viticulture there has been a superb improvement in the local wines, which are now very palatable.

Friendly Locals:- The friendliness and hospitality of the locals in the area will only add to the enjoyment of your visit.

Capestang is also an ideal base to explore the local area and a place where you can be as laid back, or as energetic as you wish, in fact an ideal place to wind down.

Whether you come as a family or with friends or relations, our house will make a perfect base to stay in and explore one of the best, though understated areas of France. Or, in other words very similar to Provence but less expensive. Indeed, this is the ancient land of the Troubadours.

It is not necessary to leave the village in the evenings, unless you wish, since there is a good selection of restaurants, bars and walks to keep you quite occupied. Canal Du Midi

Capestang has excellent transport links being just 15 kms from the Bezier West exit off the A9 motorway and an assortment of Airports within or about an hours motoring. See our Locality page for more details. The TGV travelling as near as Beziers and Narbonne and a motor-rail terminus at Narbonne from Paris See more details on the SNCF website here.

Le Canal du Midi and other local items of interest

Le Canal du Midi provides a waterway, often bordered by trees, from the Mediterannean to the Atlantic. It passes by the northern side of the village, where it widens to form the Port of Capestang, where there are normally a

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godly number of craft moored. Oppidum

Take a walk along it, see the boats and you will discover another good restaurant, "La Battalier". The local church being built in the 13th century is well worth a visit and its vast size in proportion to the village makes it unusual. The Chateau near the centre of the village has original medieval paintings.

A short distance away there is Oppidum d'Ensérune which was a Roman hill top fort, ruins of their habitations still exist and there is a fine museum on site.

Local attractions - within 30 - 45 minutes drive

Fonserannes - Les Neuf Ecluses Fonsérannes - 'Les Neuf Ecluses' (the Nine Locks) of Fonsérannes on the Canal du Midi in Béziers. This is the most impressive construction on the Canal du Midi, lying on the edge of Béziers. It now comprises 7 locks which enable boats to move up or down hill, rising or dropping about 30 metres. The locks attract visitors from far and wide and make this a highlight on any Canal du Midi trip.

Oppidum Enserune Oppidum d'Ensérune - Hilltop ruins of a 2,500 year old settlement, occupied by the Greeks, then Hannibal then the Romans, who used it as a postal station on the famous Via Domitia. There's not much left today except broken pots and a few columns, but the view from the top of this hill is worth it - a spoked-wheel arrangement of fields first laid out in the 13th century.

Valras Plage Valras plage - Valras plage is one of Languedoc's big 'town beaches' like Narbonne, Canet and Palavas. It's certainly bustling, with plenty of postcard shops and ice cream stalls. It caters for families with a kiddie's play ground on a fine sandy first rate beach, with large wave-breakers having been built to stop erosion. This has created a number of 'beachlets' - smaller

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beaches separated by thin rock promontories, allowing shallower areas for small children to paddle in safety.

Roquebrun Roquebrun - What makes Roquebrun so exquisite is its location, climbing up the banks of Languedoc's beautiful river Orb, with mountains rising behind it, and a lovely stone bridge crossing just where the river becomes a gently stepping weir where people swim in summer. Sit on the balcony of 'Le Petit Nice' café - sipping a glass of wine, or rent a canoe and take it for a paddle.

Narbonne Narbonne - Narbonne is the oldest Roman city in France, with its imposing Cathedral and old Roman road. The Canal du Robine runs through the centre and is edged with shady plane trees and a profusion of flowers, shops, bars and restaurants. 'Les Halles' is an award winning covered market here which is over one hundred years old.

Beziers Béziers - The city of Béziers is well worth a visit. There is plenty to see, and the city has an abundance of cafés, bars and restaurants. All roads seem to make their way up to the massive 14th century Cathedrale St. Nazaire, with its fine sculpture, stained glass and frescoes.

Agde Agde - the "black pearl" of the Mediterranean.

Bize Minervois Bize Minervois - Olive oil co-operative and river bathing.

Malpas Colombiers - oldest canal tunnel in the world.

Montouliers Montouliers - Castle and steep narrow streets.

Font Froide Fontfroide - Cistercian Abbey founded in 1145. Rose garden with over 2000 bushes.

Minerve Minerve - ancient and spectacular Cathar village

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on the river Cesse, once capital of the Minervois.

Local attractions - further afield

Millau Millau Viaduct - The Millau Bridge was designed by UK architect Norman Foster, and is the world's highest road bridge. 300m high, it is higher than the Eiffel Tower, and is an amazing 2.5km long. Drive across it on the right day - and you'll pass over low-lying clouds.

La Cite Carcassonne 'La Cité' - Carcassonne is picture-postcard perfect. This fairytale walled city of drawbridges, towers and atmospheric cobbled streets, was in fact the inspiration for Walt Disney's The Sleeping Beauty. It's a must see on any trip through this part of Languedoc. Its medieval core, La Cité, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1997.

Montpellier Montpellier - Montpellier really is special. Broad boulevards lined with shady plane trees, a huge car-free central square laid out in the 1700s surrounded by elegant balustraded buildings, even a vast triumphal arch - you name it, Montpellier's got it. And it's just minutes away from the beach, too.

Collioure Collioure - Collioure is a seaside town a few kilometres north of Spain. In the early 1900's artists like Matisse and Derain made it their meeting place, inspired by Collioure's medieval streets, Royal castle and lighthouse (now converted to a church called Notre- Dame-des-Anges) It feels like an Italian seaside town with its pretty pastel houses, cafés and restaurants. Directions to Collioure

Sete Sete - Busy fishing port with excellent restaurants.

Also in nearby Bouzigues there are lovely fish restaurants but quieter than Sete - one of our favourite spots for lunch.

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Meze Meze - on the Etang de Thau with its oyster and mussel beds.

Mt Canigou Mt Canigou - 2784 metres plus Font Romeu and Les Angles ski resorts.

Andorra is only a 3 hour drive away.

In the winter, spring and early summer you can see its snow mantle from Capestang on a clear day.

Spain Spain and the Costa Brava - the Spanish border is just over an hours drive away! Costa Brava about an hour after that, giving the advantage of being able to buy alcohol and tobacco at much less than the UK prices.

Golf Golf - There are various golf courses in the local area.

Beziers being the nearest at Golf de Bel Air St Thomas.

See Golf Saint Thomas on Google Maps

Tel: 04 67 39 03 09

golsaintthomas.com

There are also courses at Cap d'Agde, Lamalou-Les-Bains, Montpeliers Grande Motte and Carcassonne.

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90 min from Nimes

ROAD Capestang is about 15 minutes from the Beziers West exit of the N9 Autoroute (motorway).

AIR It is about one hour from Montpellier, Perpignan and Carcassonne Airports, two hours from Toulouse and three hours from Barcelona Airports. RyanAir fly from Stansted to Carcassonne and Perpignan, to Beziers, Nimes & Gerona from Luton Airport - EasyJet Gatwick to Toulouse & Barcelona - Babybmi East Midlands to Toulouse.

FERRY / ROAD Alternatively, if you prefer about 12 hours driving time from the channel ports. It is also an easy days drive from Bilbao in Spain.

RAIL There is also a Motor - Rail terminus at nearby Narbonne See more details on the SNCF website here and the journey by EuroStar, TGV and SNCF should take about 11 hours to Beziers from St Pancras, London.

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Photos



Courtyard



Terrace



Jacuzzi spa



Dining



Double bedroom



Twin bedroom



Twin bedroom

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Bath & shower



Barbecue BBQ



Terrace



Villa