



DOMAINE DU GRAND MAYNE

What to do in the area :

There are lots of walking maps and pamphlets to leaf through in the hall table, but below is a quick and easy guide to the best days out we've found!

Shopping

Most small shops close between 12 and 2/3pm Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday. The closest and best large supermarket (stocks some English products – just in case you need a fix of Hellmans or Marmite!) is the Leclerc at Pineulh near to Ste Foy La Grande, just over ten minutes away (and open on Sunday mornings). It's very easy to find, just follow the main road from Villeneuve de Duras all the way to the large roundabout in Pineulh, then take the first exit on the right.

The Carrefour Market in Duras is good too, also open on Sunday mornings, just take the main road to Duras, it's about ten minutes away from the Domaine, as you enter the town.

A number of shops also close on Mondays, although many in Duras are open as the market is on a Monday, so they close instead on a Tuesday.

You will need to take shopping bags with you to the supermarket, as they are not provided at the till (France has really adopted the 'bag for life' system very well!); there is a plentiful supply in the painted wooden baguette box in the kitchen. If you find yourself stranded at the till without any bags, ask for a 'poche' but you will usually have to pay (standard strong carrier bags are €0.10, the more heavy duty woven plastic ones are about €0.70, Isotherm ones about €1).

Markets

Daytime markets in the area generally sell all sorts of food, from local prunes to cheese and vegetables, as well as textiles, tools and plants. The spit-roasted chickens with potatoes make a particularly tasty (albeit rather messy) picnic lunch (ask for extra 'jus' if you have some fresh bread with you), and the local strawberries and Charantais melons are delicious. The night-markets are an experience not to be missed in the height of summer, usually focusing on food that you can buy and eat at tables set out around the town square (with some toy stalls and souvenirs to keep the children entertained), often with live music. Try to arrive before 7:30pm to ensure you get a table, and take a bottle or two of well-chilled Grand Mayne wine with you. The largest and arguably best is at Monségur on a Wednesday, under the market hall. For the jazz lovers among you, Monteton night market on a Tuesday night in

July (dates are yet to be confirmed, check with Sam!) often coincides with the jazz masterclass school at the chateau (which also has a bar and often a roaring open fire in the courtyard).

If you have the time, try Issigeac market on Sunday morning – it's a bit of a trek at three-quarters of an hour away, but it's very quaint with lots of local produce and the shops and bars are open during market time. Try the fabulous pear and peach tart at the boulangerie André Gammeron in the rue Sauveterre (a bit off the beaten track, but a firm local favourite!).

Mornings (all year round unless specified)

Monday	Duras, Miramont de Guyenne
Tuesday	Sauveterre du Guyenne (33), Castillonès, Monflanquin (summer only)
Wednesday	Pellegrue, Villeréal, Bergerac
Thursday	Eymet (including 'marché gourmande' lunches in the Bastide in summer), La Réole (summer only)
Friday	Monségur, Seyches, Sigoulès (24)
Saturday	Marmande, La Réole, Ste Foy La Grande, Villeréal, Lauzun, Bergerac
Sunday	Issigeac (see above), Soumensac (summer only, lunchtime food market, BYO cutlery and eat at the top of the hill with fab views!), Monflanquin (summer only)

Night Markets (Usually July and August only)

Tuesday	Eymet, Monteton (14 th , 21 st , 28 th July, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th August), Sauveterre de Guyenne (once-a-month: 9th June, 7th July, 18th August, 8th September)
Wednesday	Monségur (extended period, usually last week of June to first week of September), Cancon, Meilhan-sur-Garonne (on the canal near Marmande)
Thursday	Duras, La Réole (every other week in July (9th & 23rd) and August (6th & 20th))
Friday	Lévignac de Guyenne, La Sauvetat du Dropt (soirées gourmandes), Sigoulès, Pellegrue (every other week in July (10th & 24th) and August (7th & 21st))
Sunday	Monbazillac

Historic Bastide Towns

The local Bastide towns usually have a market each week, but they are great to visit in their own right, as well as Issigeac try Eymet, the bustling square with ancient fountain is really pretty (and it's surrounded by cafés), as is the town of Monségur, for the best hot chocolate and organic flower-flavoured ice cream in the area (Chocolaterie de Lys, from the market square head out of town on the road towards the Gendarmerie, via the church). Also the very pretty Puyguilhem sits on the top of a hill with wonderful views near to Eymet and Monestier

(another tiny Bastide town). To the East of The Domaine, neighbouring towns Villeréal and Castillonés both have wonderful old towns with market squares and cafés.

For more information please see:

<http://about-france.com/tourism/bastide-towns.htm>

Places to Visit

Chateaux and wine caves

Duras Château, Place du Château, Duras Tel 05 53 83 77 32

Open every day in Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec 2-6pm, Jul, Aug 10am – 7pm. Ticket office closes 1 hour before closing time. Closed throughout Jan and 24-25 Dec. Group tours available all year by appointment. Entry fees: Adults €7, 13-18year-olds €5.50, children 5-12 years €4 Audio guides €2.50

A great place to visit on a clear day, for the bravest visitors the tower gives vertigo-inducing panoramic views across the Dropt river valley. Beware, the tower steps are precarious, so leave the less energetic in your party in the vaulted loft hall where there are often local art or photography exhibitions, and lots of hiding places for the kids.

Maison du Vin, Duras

If you want to sample a huge range of local wines (we won't take it personally!) then pop into the Maison du Vins at the bottom of Duras hill. As well as Grand Mayne wines they have a huge local range.

Monbazillac Chateau and Winery

For those of you venturing further afield in your quest for wine, this stunning fairytale château overlooking Bergerac is difficult to beat. They have a tasting area in the shop, and you can also tour the chateau itself. The gardens are great for picnics, with fabulous views.

Bergerac Wine Caves 1 Rue des Récollets, 24100 Bergerac Tel. 05 53 63 57 55.

Bergerac old town centre has several wine caves with exhibitions, have a wander around the cobbled streets and look out for two statues of Cyrano, the older stone one has his back to the Maison des Vins, with its large picturesque courtyard.

Chateau Bridoire 24240 Ribagnac Tel. 06 06 42 58 59

Open 27 April - 31 May: 2pm to 6pm weekends, public holidays and school holidays
June: daily 10h to 18h

July-August: daily 10h to 19h

September: daily 10h to 18h

Adult: 8 euros

Child (4-12 years): 5 euros

Concession tickets (12-18years, students, handicapped): 6 euros

Castle tour (written, not guided), medieval games, special events, candle-lit night visits Friday and Saturday between 12th July & 24th August. A great place for a day with the kids, where they can dress up as knights and play medieval wooden games, which the grown-ups can enjoy too!

Sport

Canoeing

La Sauvetat du Dropt

Base Nautique du Dropt 47800 La Sauvetat du Dropt (behind the sports hall, near the rugby pitch) Tel. 06 81 57 66 51

1 hour: Adults €8, children €5

Half day: Adults €12, children €8

Full day: Adults €16, children €12

Includes insurance and life jackets

Port Ste Foy Allée Paul Ducou, 33220 Port Ste Foy

Tel. 05 53 24 86 12

Cricket

Regular fixtures in Eymet throughout summer, run by some very friendly English cricket fans.

Call Tim Smith 05 53 24 15 22 or David Horlock 05 53 24 11 40.

Cycling

Please help yourselves to the bikes in the rack outside the house (the lock code is '1986'), there are six in total, three larger, three medium-sized, plus helmets, pumps and repair kits in the store room cupboards by the fridge-freezer. If you encounter any punctures or technical difficulties, please let us know.

There are plenty of good cycling routes around the area, but do be careful on the larger roads where drivers can be a bit unforgiving! The best times to cycle are during lunch time (12:30 – 1:30pm) and in the evening (7-10pm) when there are less cars about.

Below is a link to cycling route maps (unfortunately only available in French) but if you need any guidance ask Sam at the Domaine, a keen local cyclist!

<http://www.tourisme-lotetgaronne.com/fr/rando-cyclotourisme-en-lot-et-garonne-aquitaine-sud-ouest.php>

Fishing

A permit is required, around €12 per day, €30 per week, or €75 for an annual pass. You can get these from most village Tabacs or Mairies – fishing is on the river Dropt, Lac de Lascourroux (Soumensac), Lac de Lauzun, etc. Ask us for more information.

Golf (3 sets of clubs are available for your use in the store room)

Golf du Vigiers (English spoken) Tel. 0553 61 50 33

Chateau des Vigiers (Golf & Country club) 24240 Monestier, not far from the D708 Ste Foy La Grande / Margueron road)

18 holes and an excellent shop. website: www.vigiers.com email: reserve@vigiers.com

This is a very pretty 18-hole course overlooked by the Chateau de Vigiers, with great restaurant serving Grand Mayne wines and spa for those preferring something more relaxing.

Tell them you're a guest at La Maison and take a flyer for a 30% discount.

Golf de Barthe, 47380 Tombeboeuf Tel. 0553 88 83 31 English hosts Chester and Yvonne
Next to the D124 - Miramont to Villeneuve-sur-Lot road

9 holes, Par 36, 2815 metres, practice green, putting green, clubhouse / bar & pro shop.

Lessons upon request. This course has been described as having 'a friendly atmosphere with all nationalities playing', and they have recently opened a restaurant where they welcome non-members.

Golf Rustique, Boisseac, La Sauvetat-du-Dropt Tel. 05 53 83 05 31

A friendly and very casual 9-hole French-owned course, great for a family round, the greens are on the rough side!

Horse Riding

Ecuries Dornic_20 Montignac, 33580 Monsegur Tel. 05 56 61 68 14 / 06 37 51 43 97

Good for children or more inexperienced riders, a friendly place!

Swimming

If you can tear yourself away from La Maison's pool...

Les Bains de Casteljaloux Tel: 05 53 20 59 00

<http://www.tourisme-lotetgaronne.com/uk/hiking.php>

A Thermal bath complex in Casteljaloux, offering a year round thermally heated outdoor pool, indoor pool, saunas, steam rooms and Jacuzzis. Entrance gives you 2 hours of chilling out – highly recommended for adults wanting a quiet day out. Some treatments are available – booking required.

Aqua Fun Park, Lac de Clarens, Casteljaloux Tel : 0620 80 83 32

Also at the Lac de Clarens in Casteljaloux is the brand new Aqua Fun Park, a 'Total Wipeout'-style adventure park, with inflatables on the water, life jackets are provided, €7-9 per head for ninety minutes, 11 July to 31 August, 10am to 8pm, with access to the lake at €2.50 for the more sedate among you...

AquaPark Bergerac, Tel : 05 53 58 33 00 Route de Bordeaux, 24100 Saint-Laurent-des-Vignes, Bergerac. Next to the roundabout at Leclerc/McDonalds, take the Ste Foy/Bordeaux exit from the roundabout, then the first right.

More for the kids. Several different pools to suit different ages, with water slides and a Jacuzzi. Hire a private 'box' for €6 for the day, with sun loungers and parasol. But get there early to avoid missing out. Small snack bar selling ice creams, chips and burgers.

Tennis

There are 2 courts in St. Sernin (about a 5 minute drive). The keys for the court are at the bar/Tabac opposite.

Free courts in Levignac, good for a knock about, but not for very serious players!

There is a relatively new court at the bottom of the hill in Duras (near the rugby pitch). Please ask at the tourist office for access, there is a small charge.

Walking

If you fancy something a bit longer than our vineyard strolls (please see attached map for the walking routes around the vines), there are many local walking routes

<http://www.tourisme-lotetgaronne.com/uk/hiking.php>

There is a huge reservoir (the largest in Europe apparently) with a really lovely walk at Lake Escourroux near to Soumensac, you can walk around the smaller lake (about 2km), which takes about 20 minutes, or for a real challenge, the large lake takes about an hour and a half (about 7km). It's also good for off-road biking. Beware if it's been raining a lot, it can be a bit boggy in places!

Gardens and Outdoors

Simply Permaculture Gardens (Part of Simply Canvas)

Bonac, 47120 SAINT-JEAN-DE-DURAS Tel. 06 81 76 85 94

Non-profit-making, suggested donation for unguided visit : adult €5 child €2.50

Guided tour (approx 1.5hrs) adult €7,50, child 6-12 years €2.50

Open 5 April to 7 July and 1st September to 15 October every day 9am to 6pm

Pick-your-own fruit and vegetables available depending on season

Meet Sandra (who is Dutch) and Santi (who is Laotian), a genuinely lovely couple who met in a local monastery, but who gave up the monastic life to devote their time to running a glamping site and enjoying the great and organic outdoors!

Boissonna Rose Gardens 47120 BALEYSSAGUES Tel.05 53 83 81 43 / 05 53 94 34 41

Tel. 06 87 59 84 32

Open 15th April to 31 August, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays from 10am to 7pm

A beautifully-maintained rose garden tucked away among hazelnut orchards, with cream teas available by reservation

Cocussotte Water Mill 47120 SAINT-PIERRE-SUR-DROPT Tel. 05 53 83 83 44 / Mobile +33 6 74 16 46 82

An oasis of calm overlooking the water, with a full-size preserved water wheel, home-made jams and shaded areas to enjoy cream teas. Reservation required.

Beaches

Arcachon A trip to the coast at Arcachon (a basin, so no waves and great for children to play on the beach), with its casinos, beach-front cafés and the Dune du Pyla takes about two hours. To avoid the traffic it's best to approach on the side roads through the Landes forest via Le Barp and Pyla and leave on the main roads after 9pm. The Dune de Pyla (or Pilat) is well worth a visit, as the highest sand dune in Europe, with steps to climb for stunning views across the basin and forests, and running back down the soft sand is great fun! There are some lovely little towns on the route from central Arcachon to Pyla, and the quietest beaches can also be found along this road.

Cap Ferret To the far North of the basin of Arcachon is the rockier headland of Cap Ferret, known for its lighthouse and tramway, as well as its upmarket feel.

Biscarosse For those of you preferring some waves, Biscarosse beach is about two hours away too. The beaches are much bigger but swimming can sometimes be restricted due to the ferocity of the waves. Fantastic for surfing though!

Vide-Greniers – Car Boot Sales

For the moochers among you there are regular car boot sales throughout the summer – for latest news, check these websites for each region or look for the brightly-coloured signs at the roadside or on your windscreen on market days:

<http://vide-greniers.org/47-Lot-et-Garonne>

<http://vide-greniers.org/24-Dordogne>

<http://vide-greniers.org/33-Gironde>

Cinemas (look out for ‘VO’ or ‘VOSTF’ after the film title = English version with French subtitles):

Eden, Monségur 7 Rue Porte du Dropt, 33580 Monségur Tel: 0556 71 95 58

Just off the main square, newly refurbished, look out for the leaflets at the tills in Carrefour Duras for the films currently being shown.

Plaza, Marmande 32-34 Boulevard de Mare, 47200 Marmande Tel: 05 53 64 21 32 a newer cinema, opposite the large car park on the main ring road towards Tonneins.

Cyrano, Bergerac 2, rue des Carmes 24100 Bergerac Tel: 05 53 74 53 10 Take the new bridge (pont neuf) across the river then the road straight up into Bergerac, when you get to the fountain, it's straight ahead to the left opposite the car park.

Cine 4, Castillonès, 11 Place Jasmin, 47330 Castillonès Tel: 05 53 36 92 14

The only cinema in the area showing VO (English) films for children, quite old-fashioned, but in a good way, they even serve ice creams during the interval!

Hot Air Ballooning

Balloon trips are available from several providers in the area, ranging from basic flights to catered experiences with picnics and bubbly:

Domaine du Durand (05 53 89 01 25) in St.Jean de Duras, about ten minutes from La Maison.

Michel Pazaïa, Loubès Bernac Tel : 05.53.94.78.57

If you would like more information, please ask.

Festivals

Bastille Day 14th July

A huge bank holiday and celebration in France, expect huge firework displays in even the smallest towns, including a military parade and fireworks in Bordeaux, or an impressive display over the Dordogne river in Bergerac (take a picnic and a few bottles of Grand Mayne and get there early to bag a good spot, but be prepared for the traffic afterwards!). For something smaller try Miramont de Guyenne, or Allemans-sur-Dropt.

Medieval Festival

Throughout the Dropt Valley, August

Eymet 8th, Issigaec 9th, Sauveterre-de-Guyenne 15th, Duras 16th and Monteton 18th August 2015.

Re-enacting combat, jousting, street theatre and dance, arts and crafts, with actors and store-holders fully-costumed in medieval wear, a great day out for all ages. Hog roast available too! (dependant on venue).

Family Activities:

Zoos and Farms

Mini Golf and Petting Zoo

Melly Golf, Pallard, 47180 Castelnaud sur Gupie Tel: 0609 48 02 54

Just down the D708 road from Duras to Marmande, a new 14-hole mini golf based on a farm, with snack bar. Great for the tiny ones!

Zoo de Mescoules, Lieu-dit La Pleyssade, 24240 Mescoules Tel.06 99 74 57 77

(beyond Eymet, on the main road to Bergerac)

Open every day in July in August, 10am – 7pm

Adults €8 children €6

Childrens' play area with bouncy castle, regular guided tours, at quieter times it is sometimes possible to handle some of the animals, including the smaller snakes!

Le Chaudron Magique, 47260 Brugnac Tel: 0553 88 80 77

Basic farm visits from €5.80 for children, €7.90 for adults, longer visits available

Younger kids will love giving a bottle of milk to the lambs and goats, who will battle for their attention, for the older ones bread and cheese-making provide a bit of fun.

La Ferme Exotique, Domaine de la Roussie, 1932 Chemin du Port de l'Esquillot, 33140

Cadaujac just off the motorway towards Bordeaux. Plenty to do for a full day, zoo, bouncy castles, horse and cart rides, and a circus. Bring stale bread or buy it at the gate to feed the animals, and watch out for escaped monkeys!

Soft-Play and Activity Centres for Children

Giga Park Bergerac, La Nauve, Creysse Tel :05 53 24 13 15

Just off the roundabout near the Mcdonalds beyond the airport, suitable for children up to 10 years

P'tits Castors, Route de Bordeaux, 24100 Bergerac Tel : 05 53 23 99 12

Take the Bordeaux road from the Leclerc roundabout, first right behind the bowling centre, suitable for children up to 10 years

Youpi Parc 106 Avenue Jean Jaurès, 47200 Marmande Tel: 06 49 38 57

For children up to approx 10 years

Megagrimp 7 Rue Albert Einstein, 47200 Marmande Tel: 06 40 33 18 39

Bouncy castles and climbing with safety ropes, good for children up to approx 12 years

Theme Parks

Walibi, Agen

Theme / fun park for children near Agen, just off the motorway from Marmande towards Toulouse. Opens at 10am. Closing time depends upon the time of year – from 6pm. There are a couple of rides for older thrill-seekers, one (high and very intense!) looping rollercoaster, one smaller rollercoaster aimed at children, pirate ship, river rapids), but mainly for children up to 12. Bring their swimwear on hot days, the fountain playground is always a big hit!

Tel: 05 53 96 58 32 www.walibi.com

Activities for Bigger Kids

Paint Ball

Planet Paint Ball, Lieu Dit Les Tuillières, 24520 Saint Nexans Tel. 06 10 56 09 40 Lieu Dit Les Tuillières, 24520 Saint Nexans

Near Bergerac airport. Starting from €20 including equipment and ammunition, with introductory sessions for children from 5 years. Only by reservation.

Go-Karting

Bergerac Karting, La Cavaille, St Laurent des Vignes, 24100 Bergerac Tel 05 53 74 15 04

Next to the roundabout at Leclerc/McDonalds, take the Ste Foy/Bordeaux exit from the roundabout, then the first left.

Winter open Wednesday to Sunday from 1pm to 7:30pm

July and August, open every day from 1pm to 7:30pm

Owned by an English couple, it's best to book ahead as they sometimes close for corporate events.

Bowling and Mini-Golf

Bowling Bergeracois, 7 Zone des Loisirs, St Laurent des Vignes, 24100 Bergerac Tel 05 53 57 82 58

Next to the roundabout at Leclerc/McDonalds, take the Ste Foy/Bordeaux exit from the roundabout, then the first right.

A bowling alley with bar and snacks plus mini-golf, opens at 3pm, children from 7 years up only.

Laser Tag

Bergerac Laser Play Zone des Loisirs, St Laurent des Vignes, 24100 Bergerac Tel: 05 53 61 62 56

Next to the roundabout at Leclerc/McDonalds, take the Ste Foy/Bordeaux exit from the roundabout, then the first right

A popular place, reservation not required but you may need to wait a little (each session takes about twenty minutes), beware some of the kids take it VERY seriously!

Star Laser Marmande 17 Rue des Érables, 47200 Marmande Tel: 09 50 72 64 66

Open Wednesday afternoon 2:30pm – 10:30pm, Thursday & Friday 5pm to 10:30pm, Saturday 2:30pm to 11:30pm and Sunday 2pm-8pm.

Next to the cemetery on the main road from central Marmande to Tonneins, a little less busy than the Bergerac one

Tourist Offices :

Bergerac 05-53-57-03-11

Miramont du Guyenne 05 53 93 38 94

Sigoulès 05-53-58-48-16

Issigeac 05-53-58-79-62

Castillonnès 05 53 36 87 44

Allemans du Dropt 05 53 20 25 59

Duras 05 53 83 63 06

Marmande 05 53 64 44 44