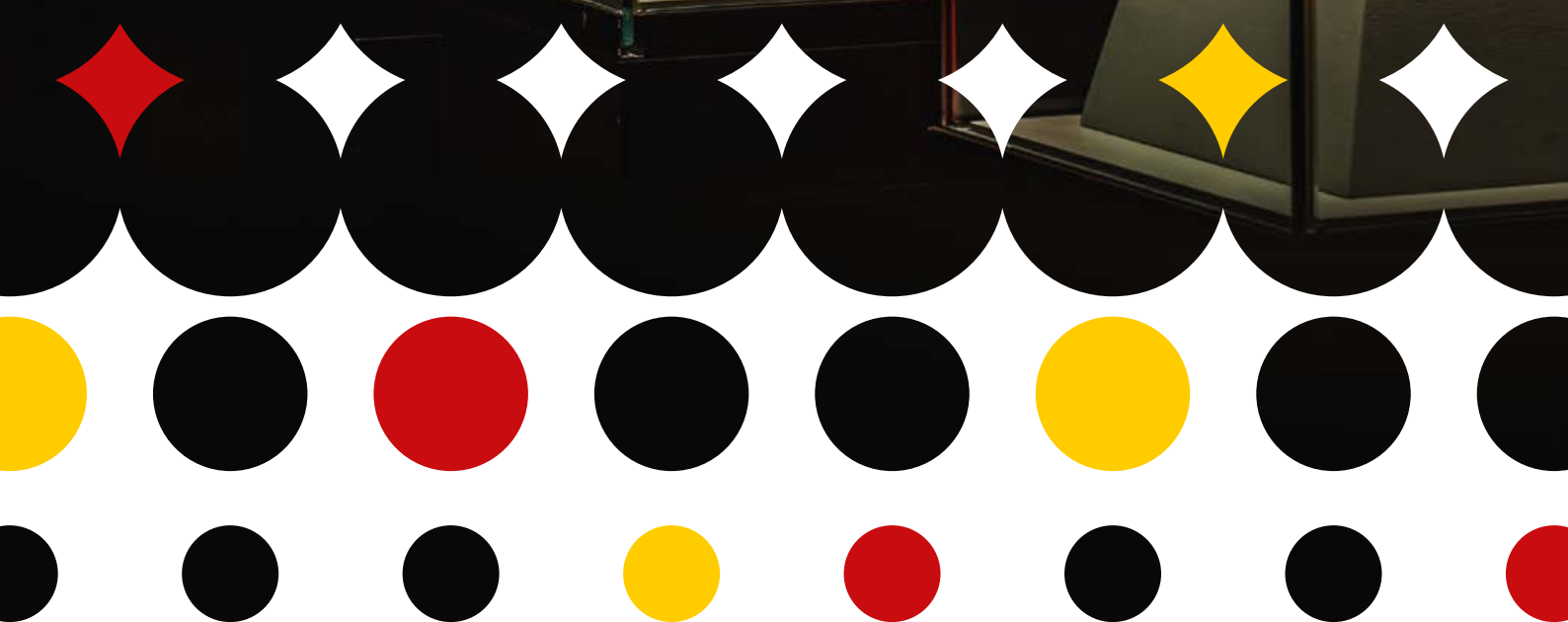
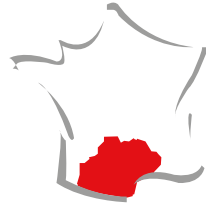


Press Pack  
**New in 2020**







# Occitanie

## Sud de France



### FRANCE'S SECOND-BIGGEST REGION,

13 'departments' in an area bigger than Ireland



### 8 SITES INSCRIBED ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

the Canal du Midi, Gavarnie - Mont Perdu, Way of St James, the Episcopal City of Albi, the Causses and the Cévennes, the Pont du Gard, the Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne, the Fortifications of Vauban (Villefranche-de-Conflent and Mont-Louis)



### 2 NATIONAL PARKS



### 1 MARINE NATURE PARK



### 7 REGIONAL NATURE PARKS



### 44 WINTER SPORTS RESORTS



### 40 TOP OCCITANIE SITES

Agde-Pézenas, Aigues-Mortes - Camargue Gardoise - Saint Gilles, Albi - Vallée du Tarn, Ariège médiévale : Foix - Mirepoix - Montsegur, Ariège préhistorique : Niaux - Tarascon - Mas d'Azil, Armagnac - Abbaye et Cités, Auch, Aux sources du Canal du Midi (Sorèze, Revel, Saint Ferréol), Bastides et Gorges de l'Aveyron (Villefranche de Rouergue, Najac, St Antonin, Caylus, Villeneuve d'Aveyron), Canal du Midi - Béziers, Carcassonne et les Citadelles du vertige, Cévennes, Cirque de Gavarnie - Cauterêts - Pont d'Espagne, Cirque de Navacelles - Lodève, Collioure en Côte Vermeille, Conques, Cordes et cités médiévales, Gorges de l'Hérault - Gorges du Tarn, Gorges de la Jonte - Causses & Vallées Cévenoles, Grand Figeac, vallée du Lot et du Célé, La Grande-Motte, Le Grand Montauban, Lourdes, Luchon, Marciac, Massif du Canigò, Massif du Néouvielle-Vallée d'Aure et du Luron, Mende coeur de Lozère, Millau-Roquefort (regroupement de deux candidatures), Moissac, Narbonne Méditerranée, Nîmes - Pont du Gard - Uzès, Perpignan Méditerranée, Pic du Midi, Rocamadour Vallée de la Dordogne, Rodez, Saint-Bertrand de Comminges, Valcabrère, Sète, Toulouse, Vallée du Lot, Cahors, Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, Puy-l'Evêque



### 28 THERMAL SPA CENTRES



### 220 KILOMETRES OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINE



### MORE THAN 50 MARINAS



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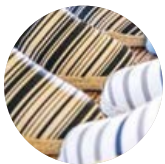
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## 4th France's fourth biggest tourist region



with  
**15.9 BILLION**  
euros visitor spending



and  
**96 500**  
paid tourism jobs



or  
**10%**  
of regional GDP



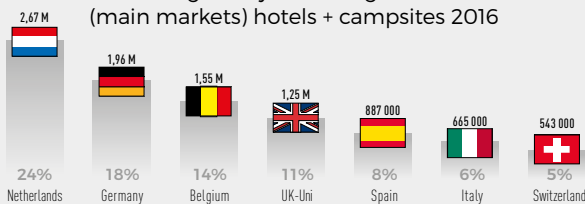
**1st**  
region for  
French tourists



**3rd**  
region for  
overseas tourists

**30 MILLION**  
visitors every year

Overnight stays for foreign visitors (main markets) hotels + campsites 2016



## 1st The highest accommodation capacity in France



with  
**3.3 MILLION**  
beds



nearly  
**26.3 MILLION**  
nights at open-air accommodation sites  
(highest rank in France)



**16.3 MILLION**  
hotel nights  
(4th highest in France)



**1st France's most popular thermal spa destination**

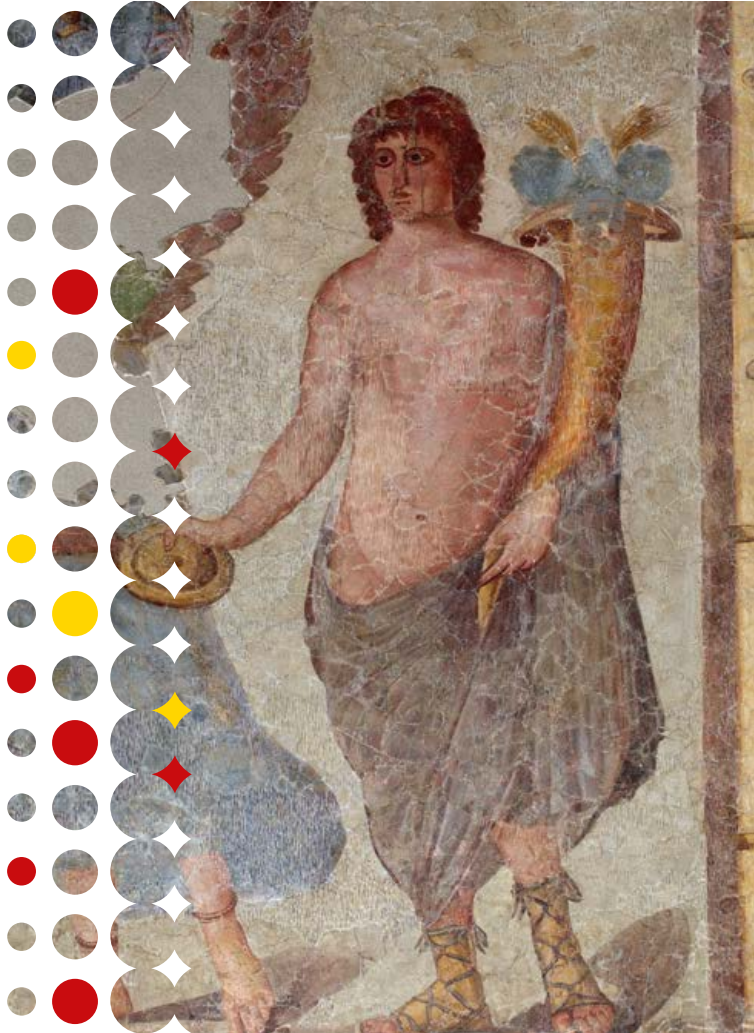


drawing  
**188,000**  
spa users



around  
**1/3**  
of the national spa market

# The event



## AUTUMN 2020: OPENING OF THE NARBO VIA MUSEUM - NARBONNE (AUDE)

With the opening of a museum with an international scope, dedicated to the Roman colony in Gaul, the region has a new showcase for the archaeological heritage of Occitania. The aim is to bring the antique city of Narbo Martius (the Latin name for Narbonne) back to life. After the Musée de la Romanité in Nîmes, this will be a new major centre for Roman culture in the south of France.

The 3200m<sup>2</sup> museum has been designed by the architect Norman Foster. It will feature an exceptional collection of 15,000 pieces, including 1,000 tombstones.

The stone collection will be displayed in a spectacular way in the form of a large "wall" with 1700 blocks and fragments. The collection of Roman murals discovered in Le Clos de la Lombarde (a rich Roman house in the city) is a chance for visitors to see all aspects of the Roman city: the urban layout, its monuments and population, the necropolises, the house and interior decoration, the harbour and its activities.

<https://musees-occitanie.fr/musees/narbo-via/infos-pratiques>



## OTHER EVENTS LINKED TO ANCIENT ROME

CARD...

### EXHIBITION: "THE ROMAN EMPEROR, A MORTAL AMONG THE GODS"

**Musée de la Romanité - Nîmes (Gard) - from 12 June to 20 September 2020**

This major new exhibition at the Musée de la Romanité is organised in partnership with the Louvre Museum, which will be lending over 30 works of an exceptionally high quality. Nîmes has two monuments dedicated to worship of the emperor: "the Maison Carrée" and the "Augusteum" in the Jardin de La Fontaine. The exhibition will help set the monuments in their historical context by exploring the rich and complex theme of the religious expression of political power in Roman society.  
<https://museedelaromanite.fr>



HAUTE-GARONNE...

### A NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN MONTMAURIN

With links to the luxurious Gallo-Roman villa in Montmaurin, a museum was opened in late 2019 in the former village presbytery. Here, the treasures from the villa dating from the 1st century A.D. are displayed. This is one of the biggest Gallo-Roman villas in France and includes a "palace" with 200 rooms decorated with marble and mosaics.  
[www.villa-montmaurin.fr](http://www.villa-montmaurin.fr)

# Museums & major exhibitions

ARIEGE...

### POP CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES - CHÂTEAU DE FOIX from April 2020.

The exhibition shows how the Middle Ages have been taken up in pop culture. After the Château de Morges in Switzerland, the exhibition will be specially adapted for the Château de Foix. Among others features, you will see references to films like "The Lord of the Rings" and "Star Wars"..  
[www.sites-touristiques-ariege.fr](http://www.sites-touristiques-ariege.fr)





AVEYRON...

**SUCCESS STORY AT THE SOULAGES MUSEUM - RODEZ**

With Pierre Soulages just celebrating his hundredth birthday and the museum dedicated to his work proving to be one of the most popular in France outside of Paris, the year 2020 should be exceptional with an upcoming temporary exhibition:

- **"Fernand Léger : la vie à bras le corps" ("life head on")** will include some of the masterworks of the versatile French artist (painter, ceramicist, stained glass artist, sculptor, etc.) with an inimitable style, influenced by Cézanne and a contemporary of Braque, Picasso and Chagall.

<https://musee-soulages.rodezagglo.fr>

**Did you know?**

Pierre Soulages is the highest valued French artist in the world. His works can be seen in Occitania in Rodez and Conques (Aveyron), where he produced the stained-glass windows for the Abbey Church of St Foy, as well as at the Fabre Museum in Montpellier (Hérault).

[www.tourisme-conques.fr/fr](http://www.tourisme-conques.fr/fr)

<https://museefabre.montpellier3m.fr>

HAUTE-GARONNE...

**AÉROSCOPIA SPREADS ITS WINGS TO WELCOME THE GIANT OF THE SKY, THE A380 - BLAGNAC**

The northern tarmac of the Aéroscopia aviation museum already has around 30 legendary planes on display (Concorde, A400M, etc.). It is now welcoming five new planes, including an A380 that is fully open to visitors, the very first A320 from 1987 (launched by Princess Diana and Prince Charles!), an A340-600, as well as two ATRs (an ATR-42 and an ATR-72), the first aircraft to be exhibited by Toulouse's second biggest aircraft manufacturer.

[www.musee-aeroscopia.fr](http://www.musee-aeroscopia.fr)



**SCOOP!**

A freefall simulator will be set up next to the museum in 2020. It will complement the hands-on aeronautic experience already on offer with Aviasim (flight simulator). [www.aviasim.com](http://www.aviasim.com)





HAUTE-GARONNE...

## L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS MUSEUM WELCOMES SAINT-EXUPÉRY - TOULOUSE

From 14 Decembre 2019, come and experience a "Bréguet 14 flight". Then, from July 2020, visitors can see the office where Didier Daurat, one of the pioneers in the Aéropostale company, once worked. Finally, in autumn 2020, you can enjoy the temporary exhibition: "Saint-Exupéry" (co-produced by the Air and Space Museum in Le Bourget).

[www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com](http://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com)

HAUTE-GARONNE...

## THE MUSÉE DES AUGUSTINS REVISITS THE MIDDLE AGES - TOULOUSE

**From December 2020: Art and archaeology in Toulouse in the 14th century**

The Fine Arts Museum in Toulouse will be reopening in November 2020, after the restoration of its magnificent glass walls dating from the 19th century, and work to upgrade the building and provide access to the collections for people with reduced mobility. This will be an opportunity to see the rich collections of medieval art from the periods of the Black Death and the Hundred Years War in a new, landmark exhibition co-produced by the Cluny Museum (Paris).

[www.augustins.org](http://www.augustins.org)

GERS...

## MUSÉE DES AMÉRIQUES - AUCH

**A national reference for Pre-Columbian art and sacred Latin-American art.**

The Musée des Amériques (Americas Museum) opened in late 2019. Visitors can now see 16 permanent exhibition rooms with exceptional Pre-Columbian collections and Latin American sacred art (this is the biggest collection of Pre-Columbian art in France after the Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac Museum). The prestigious collection of Mexican featherwork is unique in France and can rival the collections in the Museo de America (Madrid - Spain) or at the Museum für Völkerkunde (Vienna - Austria).

[www.ameriques-auch.fr](http://www.ameriques-auch.fr)



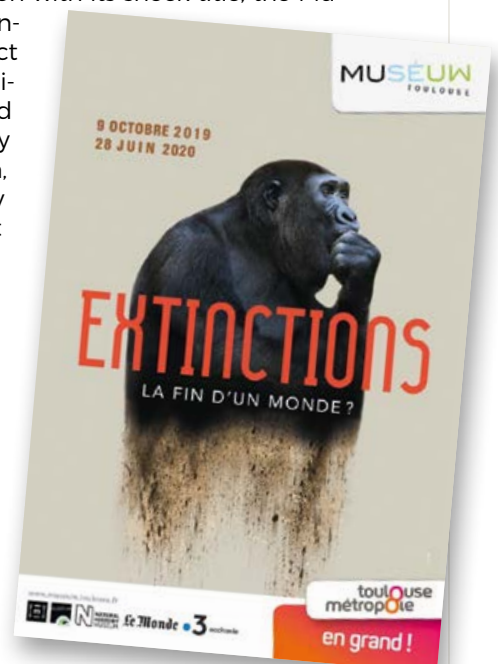
HAUTE-GARONNE...

## "EXTINCTIONS, THE END OF A WORLD" AT THE TOULOUSE MUSEUM

**From 9 October 2019 to 28 June 2020**

With this new exhibition with its shock title, the Museum de Toulouse invites visitors to reflect on the extinction of living things. Designed by the Natural History Museum in London, it is now on display in France for the first time.

[www.museum.toulouse.fr](http://www.museum.toulouse.fr)





GERS...

### **KEN PAINE AT FLARAN ABBEY - VALENCE-SUR-BAÏSE**

**1st February 2020 - January 2022**

Flaran Abbey, the most visited site in the Gers region, is the setting for works by the art patron and collector Michael Simonow. With this retrospective devoted to the artist Ken PAINE, Flaran Abbey has brought together over 100 works from the 1970s to the 2000s, all recently bequeathed by Mr Simonow. Today, this is the most important collection dedicated to the artist in Europe. Ken Paine was born in England in 1925 and found fame in the 1960s. After moving to the United States, his work focused on the portrait and character studies.

[www.tourisme-condom.com](http://www.tourisme-condom.com)

HÉRAULT...

### **"THE LAST IMPRESSIONISTS: THE TIME OF INTIMACY" LODEVE MUSEUM**

**From 26/09/2020 to 21/02/2021**

The exhibition focuses on La Société Nouvelle de Peintres et de Sculpteurs, the most famous association of

artists during the Belle Epoque. The artists belonged to the Symbolist generation. They shared a romantic vision of nature, respecting appearances and striving to evoke reality, while taking an interest in psychology and introspection. For this reason they were described as Intimists. The exhibition features work by around 20 artists, including Jacques-Emile Blanche, Emile Claus, Henri Le Sidaner, Henri Martin and René-Xavier Prinet.

[www.museedelodeve.fr](http://www.museedelodeve.fr)

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

### **EXPANSION OF THE MODERN ART MUSEUM IN CÉRET**

Céret is a charming town nestling at the foot of the Catalan Pyrenees. It attracted some of the great artists of the 20th century. Picasso, Braque, Chagall, Matisse, then Miró, Tàpies and Bioulès, among others, here found the light, serenity and inspiration they needed for their creativity. The Céret Modern Art Museum was opened in 1950. With its permanent collection ranging from Cubism to Nouveau Réalisme, it provides an exhaustive panorama of the art of the last century. The extension to the museum announced for the second quarter of 2020 will help highlight the unique and original place that Céret has in the history of modern and contemporary art.

[www.musee-ceret-expo.com](http://www.musee-ceret-expo.com)

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

### **VERSAILLES COMES TO THE RIGAUD MUSEUM - PERPIGNAN**

**Perpignan - Versailles: Portait in Majesty - June to October 2020**

The Hyacinthe Rigaud Museum, named after the most famous French portrait painter in the classical era, is one of the cultural flagships of Perpignan, where the artist was born in 1659. His work features a practically complete gallery of portraits of the Bour-





bon Dynasty, the rulers of the kingdom of France, between 1680 and 1740, and notably the Portrait of Louis XIV in coronation robes, which will be exceptionally on loan from the Château de Versailles. Around this centrepiece, the exhibition will look at the art of the portrait in the 18th century.

[www.musee-rigaud.fr](http://www.musee-rigaud.fr)

TARN-ET-GARONNE...

## INGRES - BOURDELLE MUSEUM - MONTAUBAN

Reopening mid-December 2019

In the former episcopal palace dating from the 17th century, the Ingres-Bourdelle Museum houses works by two of Montauban's most famous sons, the painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres and the sculptor Antoine Bourdelle. The museum exhibits an important collection of paintings by Ingres, as well as over 4000 of his drawings, one of the museum's great assets. The Bourdelle collection also includes numerous sculptures by the master, a disciple of Rodin. These include the monumental sculpture of Hercules the Archer, a major work by the artist showing Hercules performing one of the twelve labours.

<https://museeingresbourdelle.com>



# New sites to visit

## NATURE SITES

GARD...

### A MEDITERRANEAN BOTANICAL PATH AT SAINT-ANDRÉ ABBEY - VILLENEUVE-LÈS-AVIGNON

With the "Remarkable Garden" label, the two-hectare garden at Saint-André Abbey is a major landmark in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon. It has a wide range of styles with flower beds in Tuscan, Provençal, romantic or stone atmospheres. After the creation of a Mediterranean botanical garden with over 75 varieties of plants, the site has gained in variety and now offers hedonists a whole bouquet of new emotions with a breathtaking view over Avignon, the City of the Popes, on the other side of the River Rhone.

[www.abbayesaintandre.fr](http://www.abbayesaintandre.fr)



## OTHER SITES

HÉRAULT...

### THE VILLA LAURENS, AN ART NOUVEAU PALACE RESCUED FROM OBLIVION - AGDE



Emmanuel Laurens (1873-1959), a wealthy heir, had a splendid villa built between 1897 and 1901. It was designed in a very modern style, incorporating impressions from his travels all over the world. Indoor murals, stained-glass windows, ceramics, furniture... The Villa Laurens has an eclectic atmosphere outside and a style combining Art Nouveau or Moorish influences inside. Major renovation work has restored the music room, next to the villa, to its former glory, as well as the villa itself, especially its painted Art Nouveau decoration.

[www.capdagde.com](http://www.capdagde.com)

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

### LA CAUNE DE L'ARAGO IN VIRTUAL REALITY - TAUTAVEL

La Caune de l'Arago is one of the most famous caves in the world for palaeontologists, due to its impressive archaeological riches, including the remains of homo heidelbergensis (Tautavel Man), which were discovered here. The cave is scheduled to open to the public in June 2020. With the help of virtual reality, everyone will be able to see this prehistoric landmark this year, too. The virtual visit is on offer at the Tautavel Museum, along with the temporary exhibition, planned for late 2020, focusing on "Fantastic Prehistoric Animals".

<https://450000ans.com>



# Anniversaries



HÉRAULT...

### THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESCALE À SÈTE FESTIVAL

from 7 to 13 April 2020

"Escale à Sète" is the biggest gathering of old sailing ships in the Mediterranean and a wonderful celebration of seafaring traditions. This international event is mainly free and is a chance to admire some magnificent ships from all over the world from the 3 km of quays in the "Venice of Occitania".

This year, the Netherlands will be in the spotlight. There will be a Dutch village at the heart of the festival and the participation of two prestigious Dutch sailing ships is already confirmed with the three-master Oosterchelde and a brig, the Morgenster.

<https://escaleasete.com>



TARN...

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNESCO LABEL IN ALBI

The episcopal city of Albi, including Sainte Cécile Cathedral, the biggest brick cathedral in the world, and the Berbie Palace, home to the Toulouse Lautrec Museum, will be celebrating this prestigious anniversary with a rich cultural programme. A footbridge, 185 metres long and 50 metres above the River Tarn, will also be inaugurated, offering a new and breathtaking view over the historic districts.

[www.albi-tourisme.fr](http://www.albi-tourisme.fr)

HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES...

## THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC OPENING OF THE PIC DU MIDI

In the year 2000, the Pic du Midi was opened to the public for the first time, at an altitude of almost 3,000 metres. The site has been an observatory since 1878. Here astronomers watch the sky and all the planets, as far as the most distant galaxies. 20 years later, the Pic du Midi is now an iconic site for visitors to the Pyrenees. Ranked as the number 1 dark-sky preserve in Europe in 2013, the Pic du Midi can be visited night or day. It features the "Pontoon in the Sky" and the planetarium, while not forgetting a view over 300 km of mountains.

[www.picdumidi.com](http://www.picdumidi.com)

GERS...

## THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLEURANCE ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL FROM 8 TO 14 AUGUST 2020

A record in longevity for a scientific culture event that is a big hit with the general public. Over the years, the

festival has become Europe's number one event in scientific popularisation, with over 25,000 people attending in 2019.

[www.festival-astronomie.com](http://www.festival-astronomie.com)

GARD / LOZERE...

## THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CÉVENNES NATIONAL PARK

Home to 2,400 animal species (including beavers, otters and four species of vulture) and to over 2,250 plant species (40% of plant life in France), the Cévennes National Park has been listed as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO since 1985. It has also had the DSP (Dark-Sky Preserve – the biggest in Europe) label since 2018. For its half-century, the Park is opening a platform dedicated to astronomy tourism in La Tour du Viala. It will feature two telescopes (one for scientists and one for the general public).

[www.cevennes-parcnational.fr](http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr)





LOZERE...

### ORIGINAL ACCOMMODATION: EVER CLOSER TO THE STARS AT MA P'TITE CABANE EN LOZÈRE

Christy and Bruno decided to make their childhood dream come true. On their estate, five cabins are hidden in the trees, each named after a different animal. Perched on the top of a rocky spur, there is also a glass pyramid, the perfect place to gaze at the sky in complete privacy. Now there is a newcomer to this unusual piece of paradise: the geodesic dome in the forest with its openwork ceiling, providing a magical view of the trees and the starry sky. The contemplation can last a little longer in the hammacs, before you set off down the path to the spa. [www.ma-cabane-en-lozere.com](http://www.ma-cabane-en-lozere.com)

## Fun with all the family

AUDE...

### SALT MARSHES AND HEATHLAND ON AN ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN SCOOTER - GRISSAN

Alongside a qualified guide, get on an electric mountain scooter and set off to explore the riches of the Narbonnaise region in the Mediterranean Regional Nature Park in a fun and original style. Starting from the seaside resort of Gruissan, the activity is accessible for ages 12 and over. This is a chance to enjoy all the diversity and beauty of this part of the Aude coastline with its lagoons and salt marshes, its vineyards and pine forests across the garrigue.

<https://trottup.com>



AUDE...

### ADVENTURE COURSE AT THE CABRESPINE CAVE

The acrobatic Cabrespine adventure course is at the back of the large room in the giant Cabrespine cave. Tackle the big iron staircase at a height of 80 metres on the rock wall, before setting off along the big explorers path to the dizzying zip-line and then make your way across an acrobatic bridge 40m above empty space on the platform of pearls. After going through the bat sanctuary, you can look down from a Nepalese bridge on all the main room in the cave. The most daring visitors can try the ultimate experience with the hell's zip-line, setting off 90 m above empty space towards the big petrified waterfall at a height of 120m.

<https://gouffre-de-cabrespine.com/>





## AUDE...

### THE BIRDWATCHING NARBONNAISE APPLICATION, A PRECIOUS HELP FOR OBSERVING OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

The Narbonnaise Regional Nature Park is situated on a migration corridor along the coast. This is an ideal destination for birdwatchers (over 350 bird species can be seen). At the Nature Park we have developed the free digital application "Birdwatching Narbonnaise". You can download it for Android and Apple. It shows you where and when to spot up to 80 bird species in 15 sites in the Nature Park. Make use of the various sections to guide you through the region and find the species you want to see, as well as choosing your accommodation from a network of hosts with an interest in ornithology and preparing your stay in the Narbonne area.

[www.parc-naturel-narbonnaise.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-narbonnaise.fr)

## HAUTE-GARONNE...

### LA CITÉ DES PETITS - A CENTRE FOR YOUNG ASTRONAUTS IN THE CITÉ DE L'ESPACE - TOULOUSE

A chance to go inside an Ariane 5 rocket! The mission is to give children aged 4 to 8 a taste for space travel and to awaken their curiosity about the mysteries of the universe. In a 350m2 area, together with an activity leader, they will get to know the world of rockets and astronauts with their feet on the ground and their heads in the stars. The programme includes educational games and hands-on activities, while creating stories and fantastic adventures.

[www.cite-espace.com](http://www.cite-espace.com)

## LOT...

### A BIVOUAC CLOSE TO THE STARS WITH NATURALISTS

At the heart of the Causses du Quercy Regional Nature Park, experience a magical night and an intimate atmosphere with your family or friends. You will be in the company of skilled nature specialists who can share their technical tips for a comfortable night in the great outdoors. After a bivouac meal with local specialities, you will share a convivial evening around the fire, before looking up at the starry skies and sleeping in a bivouac shelter in the famous "black triangle" in the Lot region. This is one of the best spots in France for observing the stars at night.

[www.oltterra.fr/activites-nature/bivouac-nature](http://www.oltterra.fr/activites-nature/bivouac-nature)





LOZERE...

### AN ADVENTURE WITH THE WOLVES IN THE GÉVAUDAN PARK

An innovation in 2020 for one of the tourist landmarks in Lozère with a chance to live in close contact with the wolf packs living here in semi-captivity. Panoramic walkways have been set up above the enclosures. There are also four gîtes providing a great view of the wolves and night-time visits with special shows. The park is now also home to a pack of rare black wolves [www.loupsdugevaudan.com](http://www.loupsdugevaudan.com)



TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### CERFS VOLANT & CIE IS A TRAVELLING KITE-FLYING SCHOOL BASED IN SAINT-ANTONIN-NOBLE-VAL

At the heart of the Aveyron gorges, this travelling kite-flying school shows you how to make your own kite with your family and to fly incredible colourful creations in one of the "Grand Site" regions in Occitania. [www.cerfs-volants-cie.fr](http://www.cerfs-volants-cie.fr)

## Wine tourism

HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES / GERS...

### "VÉLO TOUT TERROIR" BIKE TOUR OF THE VINEYARDS IN MADIRAN

Alain Brumont, the owner of the Château Montus and Château Bouscassé estates, famous all over the world



for their award-winning wines, is now offering a visit to his vineyards by bike. The ride includes a visit to the fermenting room, the wine storehouse and maturing cellar at the Château Bouscassé. And of course it is rounded off with a wine-tasting served with snacks. [www.brumont.fr](http://www.brumont.fr)

LOT...

### CHÂTEAU CHAMBERT: A NEW AREA TO EXPLORE IN CAHORS MALBEC

The Domaine de Château Chambert is famous for the high quality of its Cahors wines made using biodynamic methods. It is now innovating with the chance to get to know the history of the winery in a new dedicated area in a very contemporary glass building with a magical view over the vineyards. [www.chambert.com](http://www.chambert.com)



# Arts and crafts



GARD / LOZÈRE...

## IN NÎMES (GARD) AND LOZÈRE: JEANS, ALL SEWN UP

Denim (the word comes from "de Nîmes", meaning "from Nîmes") has been brought up to date in the city of its birth with a dynamic team now making jeans in Nîmes. The jeans are on sale in the city-centre workshop.

[www.ateliersdenimes.com](http://www.ateliersdenimes.com)

LOZÈRE...

## CONNECTED JEANS MADE IN LOZÈRE!

In Lozère, the Atelier Tuffery, the oldest jean-making workshop still active in France, has formed a partnership with Alpine. The newest item for the "Alphonse" range is the limited edition "Alpine" with a fob pocket of a new kind for smartphones (because gentlemen don't usually have pocket watches anymore!). Silver thread has been used in the pocket to protect against radio waves.

[www.ateliertuffery.com](http://www.ateliertuffery.com)

LOZÈRE...

## ARTS AND CRAFTS HAVE THEIR OWN FESTIVAL IN LOZÈRE

In mid-July 2020, the arts and crafts festival will be returning to the streets of Le Pont-de-Montvert. For three days, over 70 creators will be exhibiting their work on site. They come from the Cévennes region and elsewhere, and will be providing workshops for children and adults and sharing their skills. An introduction to etching, marquetry work, pottery or glass-blowing: the hardest thing will be to choose from among the 20 workshops.

[www.metiersdartencevennes.org/le-festival](http://www.metiersdartencevennes.org/le-festival)

# Charming hotels & gastronomic restaurants

## CHARMING HOTELS

### THE CHÂTEAU DE LONGPRÉ IN VARILHES, A LUXURY HOTEL IN ARIÈGE

In a 4-hectare park, the Château de Longpré will be welcoming its first guests in March 2020. It took the Cantos family two years to convert this residence into a luxury hotel with eight rooms combining 21st century modernity with a 17th century building. The result is a classical atmosphere: cosy, welcoming and filled with light, with a monumental staircase leading to the rooms. Mathieu Loszac will be the chef in a restaurant with a capacity for 30. Elegant, inspired cuisine with regional and seasonal ingredients, often served with wine from the château. In fact, the surrounding vineyards belonged to the bishopric of Pamiers.

[www.chateaudelongpre.fr](http://www.chateaudelongpre.fr)



## AVEYRON...

**LE COUVENT DE LA SALETTE: ALL THE ELEGANCE OF A HOTEL, ALL THE CHARM OF A HOME (MILLAU)**

With six delightful rooms and vast lounges in a fine 19th century building, Le Couvent welcomes you for a romantic stay. The rooms' atmospheres are inspired by the present owner's father, who had a great interest in mineralogy. The result is an unusual atmosphere formed by the colour and the virtues of the gemstones (mystery, energy, voluptuousness) the rooms are named after: Tourmaline and Opal, Amethyst and Desert Rose!

[www.la-salette.fr](http://www.la-salette.fr)



## HÉRAULT...

**THE BELAROÏA COMPLEX, A NEW GEM OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN MONTPELLIER**

Standing opposite St Roch Station, the Belaroïa complex (the Occitan word for "jewel") combines several living spaces, including the Golden Tulip 4-star hotel, a Business Center, a "bistronomic" restaurant, Chez Delagare, and a cocktail bar and terrace with a breathtaking view over Montpellier. In a beautiful setting with natural and plant decoration, the Belaroïa is an architectural gem that is rich in textures and graphic designs, recalling Montpellier's Mediterranean history. It was designed by the architect Emmanuelle Gautrant, the only Frenchman to have won the European Prize for Architecture.

<https://montpellier-centre.goldentulip.com>



## HÉRAULT...

**THE HÔTEL RICHER DE BELLEVAL, A NEW 5-STAR HOTEL IN MONTPELLIER**

After two years of restoration work, the Hôtel Richer de Belleval, an iconic building on Place de la Canourgue, will be opening next spring. After the restoration of the 17th century decoration, the building will be the home to a Foundation dedicated to contemporary art, as well as Relais & Châteaux hotel. The gastronomic restaurant, "Le Jardin des Sens", with the Pourcel brothers at the helm, will be housed in the vaulted rooms on the ground floor. On the upper floors, the suites with their original decoration of plaster work, panelling, moulding, murals, gilding and sculptures have been preserved and renovated. The rooms are large, filled with light and painted in striking colours, while providing a wonderful view over the city centre.

[www.hotel-richerdebellevall.com](http://www.hotel-richerdebellevall.com)

## HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES...

**THE HÔTEL BELFRY, A NEW 4-STAR HOTEL IN LOURDES**

The "Grand Hôtel de la Grotte", a legendary hotel in Lourdes, was built in 1870. It has now been totally transformed, while preserving all its original prestige. The Hôtel Belfry now has 57 rooms (including very large 45 m<sup>2</sup> suites), providing a breathtaking view over the Sanctuary.

[www.belfry.fr](http://www.belfry.fr)



## TARN...

**CHÂTEAU DE TAUZIÈS, A TUSCAN ATMOSPHERE AT THE HEART OF THE GAILLAC WINE REGION**

The château stands alone on the hills surrounded by vineyards. This is the peaceful setting for the 15 spacious and comfortable suites with a 4-star listing.

[www.chateaudetauzies.com](http://www.chateaudetauzies.com)

*"I develop immersive experiences for mainly overseas guests, particularly from China and the United States. Guests can enjoy a meal with a menu from the 19th century in the château's state rooms in the company of a gastronomy historian. This is followed by a costumed ball with a dance master and musicians, and the evening is rounded off by a tasting of dessert wines".*

Caroline Pouzet - Château owner



#### TARN...

### "FRENCH LIFESTYLE IN THE 19TH CENTURY", AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE AT THE CHÂTEAU DE GARREVAQUES

The Château de Garrevaques is a prestigious Tarn hotel, taking guests on a journey back in time with a "visit" to 19th century France.

[www.frenchwayoflife.fr](http://www.frenchwayoflife.fr)

## HOUSES & GUEST ROOMS

#### AUDE...

### LA DEMEURE (TRÈBES)

On Place de la Mairie, close by the canal, La Demeure is a former family residence that has been renovated but has still retained all its age-old charm. You mount a staircase with traditional floor tiling, leading to the three tastefully decorated rooms. A flower garden at the rear of the house welcomes guests with the added attraction of a swimming pool.

<https://la-demeure-trebes.fr>



#### GERS...

### LA MAISON SAINTE-MARIE (MIRANDE)

At the heart of a magnificent park of century-old trees, the Sainte-Marie guest house is located in a typical 19th century Gascon farmhouse. There are two gîtes and three guest rooms. You will be delighted by its traditional and contemporary style.

[www.maisondhotessaintemarie.com](http://www.maisondhotessaintemarie.com)





HÉRAULT...

### THE DOMAINE DE SELHAC, BETWEEN THE SEA AND GARRIGUE (FRONTIGNAN)

In Frontignan, between the sea and the garrigue, and at the heart of the Muscat wine region, Caroline Sala Izord welcomes guests to her wine estate. Along with the gîtes, there are now five guest rooms with the 3 "épis" rating in a manor house dating from the 19th century.

[www.domainedeselhac.com](http://www.domainedeselhac.com)

HÉRAULT...

### THE DOMAINE LA CLAUSADE, AN OASIS OF PEACE IN THE VINEYARDS (MAUGUIO)

This little gem is in Mauguio, at the gates of Montpellier. Originally, it was a single-storey mazet (dry stone



cabin). The mazet has been transformed over time, and the winemaking history of the estate has been reinvented. A history inscribed in the walls, the arches and the lintels. The stone is revealed, enhancing the glass and the metal alongside it...

<https://domainelaclusade.com>

HÉRAULT...

### LES MAISONS DE PÊCHEURS IN TARBOURIECH (SÈTE)

The five "fishermen's cabins" are in Sète, on the slopes of Mont Saint-Clair and looking out to sea in a marvellous Mediterranean garden. Here you can enjoy a welcome break just a step or two away from the Venice of Languedoc and the effervescence of the port.

[www.locations-sete.fr/les-maisons-de-pecheurs](http://www.locations-sete.fr/les-maisons-de-pecheurs)

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

### O PARAZARD: THE SEASIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS! (TERRATS)

This former wine storehouse has been completely renovated in a regional spirit combining authenticity, comfort and modernity. It has four tastefully decorated guest rooms. Outside, a fine terrace and saltwater swimming pool provide rest and relaxation in a large tree-lined garden with a breathtaking view over the Pyrenees.

<https://oparazard.fr>

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

### ALL THE MAGIC OF THE CÔTE VERMEILLE WITH MÉMÉ JEANNETTE'S CABINS (COSPRONS)

For five generations now the Cardoner family has been lovingly producing Collioure and Banyuls wines with responsible farming methods. The family is now adding a string to its bow by opening four guest rooms with a contemporary design and a view over the vineyards and the Anse de Paulilles, with one even equipped with a private Jacuzzi.

[www.memejeannette.com](http://www.memejeannette.com)

PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

## LUXURY AND DELIGHTS AT THE MAS DES COLOMBES (OMS)

This authentic Catalan Mas (Provençal farmhouse) at the heart of nature has five suites combining luxury, comfort and character in a welcoming spirit. A swimming pool, spa, gym and other bespoke services will guarantee an unforgettable stay in a peaceful, discreet atmosphere.

[www.mas-des-colombes.com](http://www.mas-des-colombes.com)



PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES...

## LE CLOS DES ASPRES, GUEST ROOMS IN A WINERY WITH A 4 "ÉPIS" RATING (ORTAFFA)

The five guest rooms at the Clos des Aspres are designed to provide comfort and privacy for each guest. They look out on the garden and the swimming pool in this superb winery facing the Massif des Albères.

<http://leclosdesaspres.com>



TARN...

## LE CHÂTEAU DE LA BOUSQUETARIÉ IN LEMPAULT

The Château is in a large, tree-lined park with two-century-old oak trees and a beautiful view over the Montagne Noire range. All around are former farm buildings that have been painstakingly renovated. The Château has three spacious and luxurious guest rooms, successfully combining traditional and contemporary styles.

[www.chateaudelabousquetarie.fr](http://www.chateaudelabousquetarie.fr)



TARN...

## THE VILLA PINWOOD, A NEW CHALLENGE FOR THOMAS CABROL

Thomas Cabrol is the founder of the N°5 Wine Bar in Toulouse, voted the "World's Best Wine Bar" for three years running. In summer 2020 he will be opening the Villa Pinwood. Nestling in a pine forest between Castres and Mazamet, the charming guest house will also have a wine and gastronomy restaurant, with recipes in the tradition that has been such a success in Toulouse, with pride of place given to Tarn specialities.

<https://villapinewood.com>





TARN...

### LE PARC, A GAY-FRIENDLY GUEST HOUSE IN LABRUGUIÈRE

Christophe and Patrick welcome guests to their manor house at the edge of the Haut Languedoc Regional Nature Park, in a vast, wooded park of 1.2 hectares with a swimming pool. You can choose between five highly spacious and luxuriously refined guest rooms. [www.guestroomleparc.fr](http://www.guestroomleparc.fr)

TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### LE DOMAINE DES MATINS RUBIS - SAINT-PAUL D'ESPIS

This is a new "arty" guest house, between Quercy and the Moissac hills, with two magnificent suites in a preserved natural setting. The originality of the guest house lies in the contemporary or classic decoration and furniture, combined with works of art picked up all over the world or from top designers. The Domaine offers outings on electric bikes and in vintage cars, pottery courses, Pilates lessons and most of all a relaxing stay with a swimming pool and a beautiful view over the green hills and vineyards of Chasselas de Moissac surrounding the house. Works by selected designers

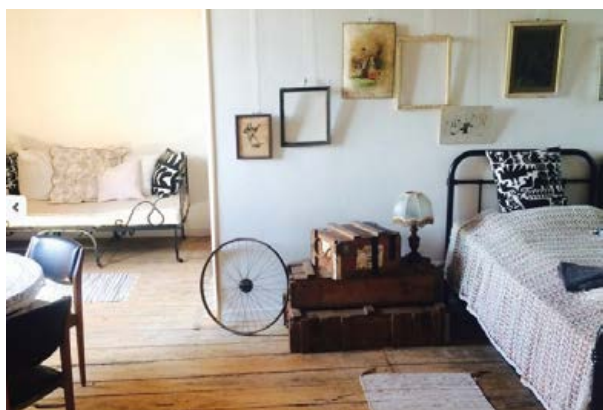
and artists are exhibited in the house and in the Domaine's decoration shop! [www.lesmatinsrubis.com](http://www.lesmatinsrubis.com)

TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### THE HAPPY HAMLET IN FAUROUX: WELLNESS OUTSIDE TIME

Take a yoga course and get away from it all in a 100% nature and wellness setting at the Happy Hamlet! Between Lauzerte and Moissac, this hamlet is a real haven of peace, surrounded by preserved nature. Here you can really feel alone in the world. The perfect place to recharge your batteries or spend time with loved ones. The rooms are decorated warmly and simply, with furniture that seems to come straight out of a chic secondhand goods market. The barn has been converted into a shared living space for meals and yoga lessons. It has a wonderful view over the Quercy hills, as does the round Norwegian wood sauna and the pétanque pitch! Suska, the Finnish owner, provides meals with a Nordic flavour. There is also a shop with local specialities, including honey, Quercy lavender and wines to taste or take home...

<https://thehappyhamlet.com>



TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### A CONVERTED HUNTING LODGE AT THE CHÂTEAU D'ESCUDES IN VIGUERON

The Château Escudès is a former hunting lodge that once belonged to the Duke of Toulouse. The building in a 41-hectare park has been magnificently renovated. The rooms and suites are all spacious and filled with light and air.

<https://escudes.com>



TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### LA MAISON LYDIA IN MOISSAC

La Maison Lydia is a new guest house right at the heart of Moissac, alongside the Canal des Deux Mers, and close by the majestic Saint-Pierre Abbey and cloister. Elegant and restful, it has four guest rooms, each with a different atmosphere, and warm, soft colours.

<https://lamaisonlydia.fr>

tion linked to the films and made-to-measure furniture, here you can enjoy all the comfort of a wellness stay: Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, a white-stone terrace...  
[www.masdesaillac.com](http://www.masdesaillac.com)

## GASTRONOMIC RESTAURANTS

GARD...

### "L'IMPÉ", THE NEW RESTAURANT FOR FOOD-LOVERS AT THE MAISON ALBAR IMPERATOR (NÎMES)

L'Impé is a recently opened top-of-the-range "bistro-nomic" restaurant, part of a flagship Nîmes hotel, the legendary Maison Albar Emperor. The decoration and the view over the garden create an instant "holiday home" atmosphere. Here you can take it easy from breakfast to dinnertime in the shade of a sublime Ginkgo Biloba tree. The menu is by the famous 3-star chef Pierre Gagnaire and features all the best of southern French cooking.

[www.maison-albar-hotels-l-imperator.com](http://www.maison-albar-hotels-l-imperator.com)

## ORIGINAL ACCOMMODATION

AUDE...

### LA CABANE DE JOUCLA (ALZONNE)

At the gates of Carcassonne, "Joucla's cabin" awaits you, perched eight metres above the ground in a wonderful park on the outskirts of a forest. This spacious and prestigious luxury cabin with a private Sauna and Spa is listed as 5-star furnished accommodation.

[www.domaine-joucla.fr](http://www.domaine-joucla.fr)



TARN-ET-GARONNE...

### THE HOBBIT HOUSE AT THE MAS DE SAILLAC IN LAVAURETTE

This Hobbit house is right out of the imaginary world of the Lord of the Rings. This is a semi-underground troglodyte house, guaranteeing a unique stay in an unspoilt natural setting. Along with original decora-





HAUTE-GARONNE...

### IN TOULOUSE ROOF-TOPS ARE ALL THE RAGE

After "Ma Biche sur le Toit" and "Mama Shelter", here is a new restaurant opened in autumn 2019 and providing all the charm of a meal on the rooftops.

"La Vue", the restaurant at the 4-star Pier Hotel at Pont Saint-Michel, has a terrace with one of the best views over the historic quayside of the River Garonne. It serves regional specialities at lunch-time and tapas in the evening.

[www.piertoulousehotel.com](http://www.piertoulousehotel.com)

HAUTE-GARONNE...

### WITH "DES ROSES ET DES ORTIES", THE MICHELIN-STARRED CHEF YANNICK DELPECH IS TAKING A NEW DIRECTION (COLOMIERS)

After 23 years at the helm of the "L'Amphytrion" restaurant on the outskirts of Toulouse, and following on from the successful launch of his "table d'hôtes" restaurant "Cuisines sans dépendances" in his Tarn house in 2019 (cf Press Pack News 2019), Yannick DELPECH is now inaugurating "Des Roses et des Orties":

At Des Roses et des Orties, the cuisine of Yannick Delpech is open on the world and the land. It is cosmopolitan, generous and convivial, and mainly locavore with environmentally responsible ingredients. Most of all it gives practical form to a real project to the delight of all lovers of good food!

[www.desrosesetdesorties.com](http://www.desrosesetdesorties.com)



*"I wanted to create a living space reflecting my personality and focused on gastronomy; a restaurant, trattoria, bakery, wine cellar and cocktail bar all at once."*





HERAULT

### THE MARCEL, IN THE HALLES DE SÈTE INDOOR MARKET

The idea is to showcase the cuisine of the Michelin-starred chef Fabien Fage, with Cédric Spedini in charge in the kitchen. 100% market-fresh cooking in a bistro style: steak tartare with oysters, octopus, ceviche... Plus an oyster bar for takeaways or to enjoy on the premises with oysters and mussels à la brasucade by Tarbouriech.

<https://the-marcel.fr>

HÉRAULT...

### WELCOME TO MAHÉ'S PLACE

The chef Richard Juste forms a duo with his partner Sabrina Delcros and is a big believer in respecting flavours. The scene is set, with no fuss, focusing on the essential, the respect for farmers, for the fruit of their labour and the seasons, a sincere, tasty cuisine and respect for the client. After running the L'idée Saveurs restaurant for eight years with consistent high levels and skill, the couple have set themselves a new challenge in a more spacious, more comfortable setting with an attractive garden.

[www.mahe-restaurant.fr](http://www.mahe-restaurant.fr)

HÉRAULT...

### LA TABLE DE LA LYRE, A NEW "BISTRONOMIC" RESTAURANT IN MONTPELLIER

Pierre-Olivier Prouhèze is back, alongside his wife, Capucine, with a creative, aesthetically pleasing and generous bistronomic cuisine made from local and



seasonal produce. The atmosphere is convivial and the decoration chic with a countryside flavour. [www.tabledelalyre.fr](http://www.tabledelalyre.fr)

HÉRAULT...

### DOMAINE DU GRAND PUY: A MEDITERRANEAN BISTRO IN A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY SPIRIT

The restaurant is run by "Les Compagnons de Maguelone" and employs people with disabilities. It has opened for business in the Mas Nouguier, a wonderful 18th century building. The estate's restaurant serves bistronomic and Mediterranean cuisine, both tasty and authentic, with a preference for local suppliers and the produce of the Compagnons de Maguelone. After the meal, you can enjoy a wine and farm visit in the 17-hectare agricultural park or enjoy the exhibitions and cultural events enriching the varied offer on the estate.

[www.domainedugrandpuy.fr](http://www.domainedugrandpuy.fr)



HAUTES-PYRENEES...

### A LOVE STORY SET IN AUSTRALIA AND THE PYRENEES AT THE SANDIKALA (GALAN)

Luke McLeod, an Australian who has worked alongside some of the greats at the Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong, in Thailand and Bali, chose to settle in the Pyrenees with his wife (a native of the Hautes-Pyrénées) to raise their children in an unspoilt environment and to open their restaurant in a beautiful manor house. In the kitchen, the chefs Luke and Sadayuki (an old friend from Japan) serve dishes based on the best seasonal ingredients, all from local sources and enhanced by flavours from overseas, especially from Asia. In 2020, cooking lessons will also be on offer.

[www.luke-macleod.com](http://www.luke-macleod.com)



# See occitania differently



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Wingly is the new flight-sharing platform with flights all over France and especially from Toulouse.

The concept: flight costs are shared between the (qualified) pilot and the passengers. Leaving from the Toulouse-Lasbordes aerodrome, flights start from 45 euros per person for a short trip within 50 km of Toulouse. On request, the pilot can fly over the Pyrenees, the Millau viaduct, the Cathar castles or the coast... with over 70 listed flights, the choice is huge.

[www.wingly.io](http://www.wingly.io)





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[tourisme-occitanie.com](http://tourisme-occitanie.com)

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