

CHATEAU DE LARTIGOLLE

32550 | PESSAN | FRANCE

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Things to do.

We have put this document together as a guide for anyone staying at the Château. It contains helpful information covering our preferred restaurants, place to go for trips out, local market, shopping and other generally useful information.

Local restaurants

Auberge de Rantaures – Cash or euro cheque only, NO CREDIT CARDS

This is a superb family run French, regional restaurant only 10 minutes away from Lartigolle. Chef Lionel cooks on an open fire in the restaurant and all the meat is sourced locally and great quality. During the summer you will eat in front of the Auberge in the shadow of a little church and the big chateau. Open Wednesday to Sunday evenings. Very reasonably priced. You must go.

Reservations: 05 62 65 52 04

Le Puis Saint Jacques – Place de la Mairie, Pujaudran – 40 mins

Wow! We were speechless after our first visit here. After hearing good things we finally made it for lunch this year and all agreed it was without doubt the best meal we have eaten since arriving and up there with the best. Chef Bernaud Bach has two Michelin stars to his name. The food is very delicate and full of inventiveness but bursting with flavour.

Prices are high for the region but worth every penny.

Closed Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday.

Reservations: 05 62 07 41 11

Website: www.lepuissaintjacques.com

L'Artisan Gourmand – Auch lower town – 15 mins

A new restaurant opened in spring 2008 by the owners of the best butchers in Auch. A bar below and a restaurant is upstairs. Good fresh food and. Worth a visit.

Reservations: 05 62 05 30 30

Chateau Camille – St Jean de Comptal – 25 mins

Another new restaurant, opened in 2007 in a converted Chateau. It is breath of fresh air for the area. A contemporary atmosphere and an imaginative menu. A little more expensive than other places, but worth it we think.

Reservations: 05 62 05 34 58

Le Parc á Huîtres – Auch – 20 mins

If you like seafood then this is the place for you. Fabulous oysters! The interior is a bit like being in a beach hut but wonderful, fresh simple food. Lovely for lunch. Closed Monday's.

Reservations: 05 62 05 59 33

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Brasserie Daroles – Auch, Centre Historic by the Cathedral – 20 mins

A typical French brasserie with a separate kids menu. Fantastic if you want to spend some time looking around Auch and finish with lunch or supper. Situated in front of the roundabout by the Cathedral. Free parking in the nearby car park.

Reservations: 05 62 05 00 51

Chateau Barbet – Lombez – 20 mins

The restaurant at the chateau is run by a Dutch chef and his wife. Previously a Michalin star chef (so he tells us) the standard is high. The restaurant has both interior and exterior dining space and also has it's own golf course. A little more expensive but good value.

Reservations: 05 62 62 61 45

Website. www.barbet.nl

Bodega Tio Pepe – Auch lower town – 15 mins

Small tapas bar/restaurant in the lower town. Simple, no fuss food with a nice atmosphere and reasonable prices

Reservations: 05 62 60 07 14

Auch Golf Club – Outskirts of Auch – 20 mins

The Golf club restaurant has a very good local reputation and as it is perched on the side of a hill over looking the course you benefit from wonderful views and scenery from the club terrace – reasonably priced.

Reservations: 05 62 61 10 11

Bar D'Artagnan, Auch – Next to the Cathedral – 20 mins

New owners, new menu. The bar/restaurant is well situated next to the Cathedral. Light snacks rather than hearty meals. Seating inside and out.

Café de France – Next to the Cathedral – 20 mins

More of a bar/café but great food. Good salads, steaks and everything you would expect. Very popular and low key. Seats outside and in. No bookings taken, just turn up.

Le Florida – Castera Verduzan – 30 mins

The Florida has a fabulous reputation for the inventiveness of its menus using the very best of the local produce. Has a fairly formal atmosphere but is highly recommended and booking is essential. Quite pricy.

Reservations: 05 62 68 13 22

Le Chateau – Laverdens – 30 mins

During the summer on alternate Wednesday evenings, Laverdens holds a night market. This is an absolute must. The streets are bursting with people, street entertainers and stalls. Right at the top of Laverdens next to the big Chateau is an enchanting restaurant where you can eat in the prettily lit up garden. You don't have to wait until market night to go!

Reservations: 05 62 64 58 90

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Things to do with the children

Please note the water parks are only open during July-Aug.

Water Park, Solomiac – 30 mins

Our current favourite water park. Set in landscaped grounds, lots of space with shady areas and room for sunbathing, picnic tables, café and mini golf. Two pools, one reserved for toddlers. Two water slides, one huge one with a near vertical drop... fantastic!

Water Park, Castera Verduzan – 30 mins

This park has a large sandy beach area a huge man-made lake with platforms and waterslides. There is lots of space and plenty of things to do – pedaloos, volleyball, table-tennis and a skatepark next door. It has a good café too.

Water Park, Gondrin, near Condom – 40 mins

This is a fabulous place for children of all ages. They have a play area with sand pits, climbing frames etc plus paddling pools for the little ones. For older children there is a huge lido with inflatable objects to jump off and bounce on – great fun.

Water Park, Samatan – 20 mins

Small park with man made beach, remarkably like the real thing. Big water slide, small café, boats to hire on the lake. Only 20 minutes away.

Vert en L'Air – 15 mins

Suitable for children 6 and older. This is the Forest in the Air, where they have tree top adventure circuits of varying difficulty (with safety harnesses) – Great fun for young and old. Open afternoons only out of the summer season.
Reservations: 05 62 05 26 78 or 06 85 59 86 70

Quad Biking – 20 mins

An ABSOLUTE MUST!! We have a fantastic Quad Biking range nearby where Lartigolle visitors receive a special price. You are given a tour with an instructor through vineyards, forests, farms and hills, utterly spectacular. Under 8's can go with a parent or instructor.
Reservations: 05 62 05 19 44 or 06 03 85 16 59

Horse Riding – 20 mins

You can ride at Le Fenieré very close to the Vert en L'Air, it is open all year but will need to book and is weather dependent.
Reservations: 05 62 05 39 03

Walibi Theme Park – 1hr 15 mins

A great little theme park just outside Agen. Not too big, but some good rides and reasonably priced. A good day out. Open weekends from April up to the summer season when it opens everyday. Closes mid September.

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Zoo in Plaisance, near Toulouse – 45 mins

It is part drive through safari and part on foot. It is the prettiest zoo we have ever been to and highly recommend a visit. Daily sea lion shows etc.

Animaparc, Le Burgaud – 1 hr 15 mins

This is a lovely, old fashioned animal park, perfect for smaller children. Gentle fairground rides, picnic areas and lots of animals to look at and some to pet. Strange opening hours so check first.

Info: 05 62 79 37 01

www.animaparc.fr

Space Museum, Cite de l'espace, Toulouse – 60 mins

This is great for a rainy day. They've got 250 sqm of exhibition space including, rockets, capsules and a 6 storey screen planetarium.

Info: 0820 377223

Lazerquest – Toulouse 1hr 10m

You run around shooting people in a dark room. Simple but good fun. Best for kids above about 8/9. You can't book in advance, need to turn up and book your time slot once you are there. Normally won't have to wait long

Info: 05 61 48 31 13

Karting – Toulouse 1hr 20m

Great indoor circuit with bridges and tunnels. Open afternoons from 2 right through until about midnight. Booking required.

Info: 05 62 16 32 00

Canoeing – 30 mins

There is the very gentle River Save or another slightly more challenging and exciting option the River Gesse. Exquisite countryside and lovely places to stop and picnic.

Reservations: 05 61 94 07 61

Rafting / Mountain biking / Skiing/ Husky rides in the Pyrenees – 1hr 20 mins

The Pyrenees offer a host of mountain sports in summer and winter. Breathtakingly beautiful, well worth a visit any time of the year. Skiing from Dec thru to April, good range of pistes and much cheaper than the Alps.

The Museum of Naive Art – Beraut, south of Condom - 40m

An interesting little museum, that has a strong reputation for showing the best of naive art from all across the world. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and all January.

Info: 05 62 68 49 87

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Picnics in the mountains – 1hr 30 mins

There are many beautiful places to visit in the Pyrenees. Our favourite spot is the Valley de Rioumajou. You head for the ski resort of St. Lary Soulon and keep going through the town follow a mountain pass through the most stunning scenery of forests, glades, glacial lakes and at the end of the road is a wonderful picnic area with a river running through it. One of the locals best-kept secrets. Makes for a great day out and some lovely places to stop.

Bike hire

Strangely, there is a distinct lack of places to hire bicycles in Auch. InterSport have a few but they go quickly. We will keep you posted if you find anywhere else.

Wine and Armagnac tasting, Chateau Monluc, Eauze - 1hr

Chateau de Monluc – Offer a free tour and tasting of all their products with opportunity to buy at the end. Best to book, especially in the summer.

www.monluc.fr

Reservations: 05 62 28 94 00

We have found a number of other smaller wine and armagnac producers we would happily recommend for a visit.

Local Markets

Mondays – SAMATAN/ MAUVEZIN

Samatan is a real French rural market complete with huge indoor livestock section – quite an eye opener. Lovely places to stop for coffee – about 20 mins away.

Also on Monday there is a smaller market in the quaint town square at Mauvezin – great local pots and pans, fresh produce, cheeses, foie gras and cafes – about 35 mins away.

Thursday – AUCH

This is our local market which we visit every week. Lots of stalls with clothes, tablecloths, sandals etc as well as all the delicious local produce, flowers, cheese and a great coffee stall.

Friday – SEISSAN

This starts off in the local square and carries on down the winding street to the bottom where you find locals selling everything from food, flowers, clothes and sometimes rabbits, guinea pigs, chicks etc.

Saturday – AUCH

The Saturday morning market in Auch from about 8.30 to 12.30. It is located in the plaza outside the Cathedral and also under the covered section that is to be found down the winding street to the left of the Cathedral.

Sunday – GIMONT

Location for the famous regional foie gras and duck market, also has lots of other local produce held in a very pretty town square.

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Shopping

Auch has two very good, large supermarkets, LeClerc and Carrefour. They are open from 9am-7pm each day except Sunday.

To get to LeClerc following the route to Agen out of Auch and head for the industrial zone Clarac. There are lots of good large stores on this estate, you will also find a Decathlon, M Bricolage and Intersport there. Carrefour is situated on the other side of town on the route to Tarbes.

The centre of Auch is split into two levels. The lower town this side of the river and the upper town or 'Centre historic' up around the Cathedral. The market on a Thursday is located in the lower town along side the river. There are lots of other small local shops in this area. There are more shops in the streets around the Cathedral. In particular, rue de Sol has lovely boutiques, shoe shops, deli's and wine/armagnac caves. Really worth a wander.

A little further away there is a fabulous Brocante in Castera Verduzan about 20 minutes drive on the route to Condom, this is open on Sundays too and everyone who goes loves it. A little further is the town of Condom. Very good for a wide variety of shops and restaurants and makes for a good day out.

Toulouse is always worth a visit and the shopping really is fantastic. There is the most wonderful food market and lots of great restaurants. Two large cinemas often show English versions of films. It has a great antique market on the Friday and Saturday of the first weekend of every month.

Some other local towns that are worth a visit are:

- **Condom** – 40 mins

The pretty and well maintained town that has great shops and restaurants and an armagnac museum.

- **Mirande** – 30 mins

Ancient Bastide town with a wonderful Gothic arcaded square and cathedral where you will find some good bars and restaurants.

- **Vic Fezensac** – 25 mins

A smaller town that holds any festivals in the summer. Home to a wonderful 30's bull fighting ring that is still in use.

- **Castéra-Verduzan** – 20 mins

A pretty little town, home to our favourite antique shop (see above) but also to a casino and hydrotherapy centre and man made beach by a lake (only open July and August).

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Local Festivals

During the Spring and Summer there are lots of festivals throughout the region. These are a few that we would recommend:

- **Fourses Flower Festival** in Fources - 40 mins - last weekend in April
The entire town is taken over by flowers sellers
www.arrebiscoula.com
- **Bandas Festival in Condom** – 50 mins – First weekend in May
The biggest gathering of brass bands in France!
www.festival-de-bandas.com
- **Pentecote celebrations at Vic Fezensac** – 20 mins – Last weekend in May
Bullfights and street music, all night long
www.clubtaurinvicois.com
- **Festival of Vocal Art (Eclats de Voix) in Auch** – 10 mins - Mid June
Dedicated to vocal art in all its diversity.
www.eclatsdecviox.com
- **Truck Driving Championship in Nogaro** – 25 mins – June
Big trucks driving at 160kph and more!
www.circuit-nogaro.com
- **Country Music Festival in Mirande** – 25 mins - Early July
The only one of its kind in Europe!
www.country-musique.com
- **Festivals Temp Latino in Vic Fezensac** – 20 mins – End of July
Lots of free and paying concerts and street events
www.tempo-latino.com
- **Jazz in Marciac** – 40 mins – Early August
A fortnight dedicated to the biggest international artists
www.jazzinmarciac.com
- **Comic Strip Festival in Eauze** – 50 mins – Early August
Meeting of international cartoonists with signings, exhibitions etc
www.zappeurs.com
- **Festivals of Astronomy in Fleurance** – 30 mins – Mid August
For inquisitive adults and children, discover the world through astronomy.
www.femedesetoiles.com
- **Festival Circa (Circus Festival) in Auch** - 10 mins - End of October
Circus schools from all over the world take over Auch
www.circa.fr.st