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The 5 best French vineyard hotels

Check into a chateau with views over the vines and lessons in viticulture

Aoife O’Riordain | Tuesday 19 April 2016 | 1 comment



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Château de Mercuès

Chateau Pierre de Serjac, Languedoc

The Irish owners of the historic Château Pierre de Serjac teamed up with Frenchman Laurent Bonfils to create this sensitively restored wine-producing estate set in the vine-draped landscape of the Hérault, in the Languedoc. Opened in March, its focal point is a romantic 19th-century chateau that was owned for generations by the aristocratic de Crozals family. There are eight guestrooms in the main building, with a further 36 self-catering properties among the estate's outbuildings, ranging from two-bedroomed apartments to four-bedroomed villas - some with their own pools. There is also a restaurant, pool, kids' club, spa and a winery with a tasting room. The chateau's first vintage will be harvested later this year.

Puissalicon (00 33 4 67 93 12 34; serjac.com). Doubles from €220, room only.

Les Sources de Caudalie, Bordeaux

A cluster of traditional buildings set among the manicured vines of the prestigious Château Smith Haut Lafitte winery just outside Bordeaux, Les Sources des Caudalie is a picturesque spot. The 69-room hotel is also home to the original spa of the cult beauty brand Caudalie, whose wine-based products harness the antioxidant properties of grapes. The hotel has just unveiled a new look for L'Ile aux Oiseaux, an over-water suite on stilts, built to resemble the 19th-century dwellings of the oyster farmers of the nearby Bassin d'Arcachon. A new kitchen garden will also to supply the restaurant and an update to the spa will be unveiled this summer.

Chemin de Smith Haut Lafitte, Bordeaux Martillac (00 33 5 57 83 83 83; sources-caudalie.com). Doubles from €300, B&B.

Chateau de Rochecotte, Loire Valley

The Loire Valley is dotted with whimsical chateaux and wine producing estates. Right in the heart of the Unesco World Heritage-listed stretch between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes is the imposing Château de Rochecotte. Built in 1816 and the