

8 Holidays for SHARING

Whether you're travelling with all three generations, a group of friends or two or more families, some of the best value trips are now super-sized



BEST FOR SEVERAL FAMILIES

All mod cons in the kitchen of the three-bedroom La Maison des Vignes



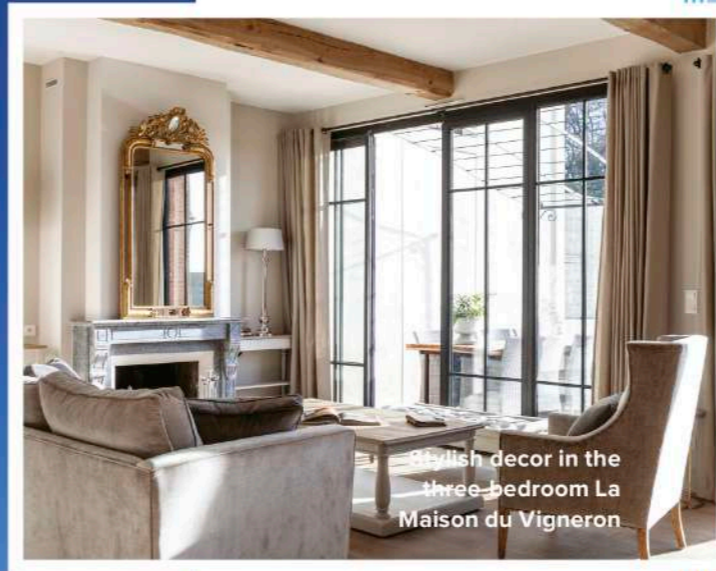
SHARE: A magnificent French chateau

Château St Pierre de Serjac is set among the beautiful rolling vineyards of the Languedoc, one of France's sunniest and most picturesque regions. There are 36 elegant self-catering villas in the grounds (created from the original vineyard buildings), such as the three-bedroom La Maison des Vignes and La Maison du Vigneron,

plus a boutique hotel (main image) in the original Château. The largest villa, Le Four à Pain, sleeps eight in four bedrooms and has a huge garden. Perfect for extended families or friends, all bedrooms are beautifully decorated with en suite bath/shower rooms, so there'll be no arguments about who gets the best one!

Large metal-framed floor-to-ceiling glass doors lead to an outdoor dining area and private heated infinity pool, and offer incredible views across the vineyards. It's an easy hour's drive from Montpellier Airport, which is well served by the low-cost airlines. The benefit of organising a group holiday here is that you get the best of both worlds – self-catering and your own private space when you need it, gourmet food in the Château's restaurant when you don't feel like cooking. Not to mention the intimate Château bar serving artfully created cocktails. Why not indulge in a Kir Royal or two as an aperitif before dinner?

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Make the most of the grounds and facilities with family bike rides through the vines, tennis, boules or lounging by the large pool, which overlooks the vineyards in front of the Château.



Stylish decor in the three-bedroom La Maison du Vigneron

There's a kids' club during the summer holidays, a strong WiFi connection and English television (ours was hidden behind an ingenious two-way mirror that complemented the stylish modern interior).

Over-18s can go wine tasting in the winery too, and you can now sample the first vintages created from the Château's vineyards.

Alternatively, simply relax at Le Spa. Treatments include anti-ageing facials, energising scrubs and deep toning massages, with prices from around £42. Visit the town of Carcassonne to sample their famous cassoulet or pick up fromage and charcuterie in nearby Narbonne. Wander through the cobbled streets of Pézenas and browse the many *brocante* (antiques) shops that have made the town famous.

W&H TIPS Don't miss the seafood restaurants in nearby Bouzigues. Pay a visit to the Château's sister hotel, Château Les Carrasses, a 30-minute drive away, for lunch, then explore the Canal du Midi at Capestang, where you can hire self-drive mini barges. The best sandy beach is at Sérignan.

HOW MUCH A seven-night stay in September in Le Four à Pain, sleeping eight, costs from €4,674 (around £4,000; or around £72pp per night). Rooms in the Château cost from £170 per night, serjac.com; 00 33 4 67 80 76 00. Return flights to Montpellier from £155 with easyjet.com.

holidays to share



BEST FOR A BIG GROUP

Kynance Cove is one of the highlights of the Lizard Peninsula

SHARE: A cluster of cottages on a Cornish estate

The Treloar Estate on Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula is the ideal venue for a VERY large gathering. There are 21 luxury houses and cottages all lovingly restored by estate owners Sir Ferrers and Lady Vyvyan. If you take all of them, there's enough room for over 150 people! But you can pick and choose according to your group size.

Chybilly, which sleeps 11 in seven bedrooms, is perfect for two families. There's an AGA, which makes cooking big family meals easier, as well as an extra freezer and two washing machines.

Gweal Gullas, one of the Upper Barn houses, sleeps eight, or take two of the smaller cottages (Primrose Cottage sleeps two and Polwyn sleeps four), so you're together but not on top of each other.

And if you don't feel like cooking for everyone, there's a restaurant on the Estate – New Yard, which sustainably sources more than 90 per cent of its produce from within a 20-mile radius.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Treloar's acres of dog-friendly woodland are great for family walks, while for some "me time", there's The Walled Garden Spa (a one-hour Jessica Luxury Pedicure costs £40), which also

has a heated pool and gym, plus there's an all-weather tennis court on site. Less than half an hour's drive away is Kynance Cove, voted one of Europe's top 10 beaches, as well as the secret inlets of the Helford River and the seal sanctuary at Gweek (£35 for a family of four, visitsealife.com/gweek).

HOW MUCH Treloar (treloar.com; 01326 221224) gets more reasonable the more people go – for example, booking three houses that sleep 15 in total in late September costs £32pp per night. Seven nights at Chybilly costs the equivalent of £32.40pp per night based on 11 staying. Or if you bring 60 people to ten of the estate properties in late September, a week would cost less than £17pp per night. >>



Gweal Gullas offers secluded grounds and lots of privacy