



# PASSPORTED

MAGAZINE



## UNDERCOVER FRANCE: WHERE TO STAY IN THE LANGUEDOC

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In February 2016, one of the Languedoc's most beautiful wine estates, Château St Pierre de Serjac, reopened following a two-year, 31-million euro renovation. A collaboration between winemaker Laurent Bonfils and hoteliers Karl and Anita O'Hanlon, Serjac charmed Passported scout Janet Mick when she visited this summer with her daughter—so much so that she added a stay at its sister property, Château Les Carrasses. Read on to find out what makes these two hideaways in France's undiscovered Languedoc region such a fit for families.

### CHÂTEAU LES CARRASSES



## BASICS

- Château Les Carrasses was built in 1886 on the foundations of a pilgrim rest area on the Route de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle Château; it's reborn as a hotel and boutique winery.
- Accommodations range from twenty-eight stylish suites to apartments and villas, many with panoramic views, gardens and private pools and all with authentic architectural details, antique furnishings and design elements sourced from local markets.
- Resort amenities include a brasserie and bar, a large heated pool, sun terrace, clay tennis court, beach volleyball, bikes, sport equipment, and kids' club.

## BESTS

- Like its sister hotel Serjac, Les Carrasses offers special programs for kids plus "kids' dinners" organized during the summer to allow children to meet playmates of a similar age; Sunday nights include live entertainment under the stars.
- With so many activities in the region, boredom is never a problem; plan to kayak, tour gardens, visit Narbonne's indoor market, storm the Cathar stronghold of Minerve and wander the medieval village of St-Guilhem-le-Desert.
- The staff straddles the line of sophisticated and laid-back perfectly, creating an atmosphere that's welcoming to families of young children but still upscale enough for their parents.

## BEDTIME

- The smallest accommodation for a family of four is within the château, namely Le Parc Bellevue, a two-bedroom apartment with a kitchen and living area overlooking the terrace and surrounding countryside below.
- Families who prefer more privacy should book one of the homes or loft-style apartments, which are airy and provide generous accommodations and a private garden set away from the chateau.
- The self-catering apartments include packs provided to stock the cabinets with basic essentials and cleaning supplies; BBQ kits are available as well as gourmet packages and private chefs, or guests can order from the resort's main restaurant.

## BUTS

- Room service is limited as is the brasserie's menu, so guests enjoying a longer stay must explore neighboring villages for variety.
- You'll need to hit the markets to stock your kitchen if staying in one of the houses.
- Housekeeping isn't daily in the homes, so you'll need to pay an extra fee if you'd like more regular tidying.