

# STOCKENBRIDGE

## BREAKS



## Chateau de Montcaud, Provence, France

21st - 28th April *and* 28th April - 5th May 2024

Two luxury Spring Bridge weeks with the Stockens in a fabulous 19th century Chateau in the countryside of Western Provence

*from* £1980pp\* including:

\* with 10% loyalty discount

7 nights' stay in this stunning luxury hotel with heated pool and tennis court

Half board at the hotel's acclaimed restaurant including:

- buffet breakfast
- refreshments available during bridge play
- reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening
- delicious three-course dinner with 1/2 bottle per person of selected wines

Transfers from Marseille Airport for a selected flight from London

All Bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

*Very special bridge holidays*

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## Chateau de Montcaud

Situated in 12 acres of farmland, the Chateau was built in 1843 by silk merchant Alexandre Collain. Surrounded by the fertile vineyards and pretty hill-top villages of the unspoilt Cèze Valley, Chateau de Montcaud is both an opulent country hideaway and welcoming family home. Like many large estates, it fell into disrepair at one point, but new ownership in 2016 by a charming Swiss family, who live on site, and an extensive renovation have seen Collain's legacy restored to its former glory.

With its sweeping central staircase, beautiful tiled floors and high frescoed ceilings adorned with antique chandeliers, the Chateau is undeniably grand. Yet the 29 rooms and suites are elegant in their simplicity with tall windows looking out over 12 acres of manicured gardens, complete with grotto, lake and ancient trees. There is also a heated swimming pool and a well-maintained tennis court. 20 metres from the Chateau, the former stables (*the Mas - right*) have been converted into the stylish restaurant and light-filled meeting room - both on the ground floor and accessible.



## Restaurant

Talented head chef, Matthieu Hervé, delivers a superb range of dishes from seasonal fare, which will be a highlight of your stay. He focuses on regional *terre et mer* cuisine with fish and shellfish from the south coast and high-quality meat sourced locally. Expect excellent food with friendly and welcoming service.

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## ***DINNER MENU at CHATEAU de MONTCAUD***

*Homemade smoked salmon gravlax, radish pickles, calamansi and avocado  
“Mimosa” asparagus and tartar sauce  
Tunafish tataki, wakame and guacamole  
Foie gras terrine, mango, passion fruit and toasted brioche  
Carpaccio of scallops with apple and celery*

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*Catch of the day, sweet potato, tangy sauce vierge and hiratake  
Guinea fowl stuffed with mushrooms, celery mousseline, hazelnuts and carrots  
Beef fillet, shallot soubise, dauphine potatoes and mushrooms  
Sole grenobloise, potatoes and seasonal vegetables  
Ventoux Pork belly with sweet potato and chanterelle mushrooms  
Saffron risotto and green asparagus*

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*Chocolate fondant, salted-butter caramel and vanilla ice-cream  
‘Paris-Brest’ - a classic French dessert with choux pastry and praline  
Almond financier, exotic fruit and praline whipped ganache  
Tatin pie, crumble and vanilla ice cream  
Roasted pear with de Montcaud honey, vanilla and hazelnut financier  
A selection of local cheeses*



### Please Note

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce.

Dinner will be accompanied by half a bottle of house wine per person.

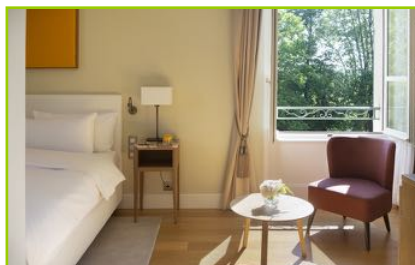
There will be a choice ordered in advance. Breakfast will be a buffet with a delicious selection of freshly made pastries, fruit, yoghurt and eggs cooked to order. Lunch can be ordered from the hotel's Bistro. Any dietary requirements can be catered for - please let us know at the time of booking.

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## Accommodation

The immaculate interiors were a collaboration between Swiss designer Iria Degen and local architect Sophie Petit. Together, they reimagined the classical elegance of the original building to provide understated modern luxury. Box-sprung beds with extra-long mattress are dressed with top-quality linen; enormous windows overlook the gardens. Spacious ensuite bathrooms offer rain showers or rolltop tubs and chic Codage products. Bedrooms come with mini-bar, safe, telephone, television, air-con, hairdryer and in all but classic rooms, a Nespresso coffee machine.

All the bedrooms (*except 2 classic rooms - first floor of the Mas - no lift*) are in the Chateau which has a lift serving all floors. There are steps to access the Chateau via the front or there is wheelchair access at the back of the Chateau.



Contact us for further details on rooms and accessibility.

*Check in from 3pm (may be later on the 28th April); check out is by 10am.*

Classic	◆	Queen bed, shower. Approx 18m2
Privilege	♥	King or twin beds, shower. Approx 25m2
Corner Junior Suite	♠	King or twin beds, shower, most have bath. Sitting area with a chaise longue. South-facing. Approx 45m2
Duplex suite	♠ / NT	Two bedrooms each with an en-suite bathroom. Spacious living area. Balcony. South-facing. Suitable for 2-4 people ( <i>contact us for pricing</i> ). Approx 110m2 on 2 levels ( <i>steps</i> )
Collain Suite	NT	King bed, shower, free-standing bath in bedroom. Spacious living area. Ground floor. Approx 65m2

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## Bridge with Zeb & Claudia

Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.



Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and will be joined by their mother, Dinah, to supervise and partner guests if needed. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate or teams – all played in a fun and friendly environment.



The tuition sessions will use Compass Cards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group. All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Water, tea and coffee will be available during play.

We will be playing bridge in the meeting room on the ground floor of The Mas with plenty of natural light or, weather permitting, outside on the terrace.

It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that.

No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday and non-bridge playing partners are of course welcome.

### Bridge Schedule

#### Every Day

Bridge tuition

10am – 12.30pm

Teams or duplicate

5pm – 7.15pm

After dinner supervised bridge or Chicago



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## Excursions and things to do in the area

There will be two wonderful optional excursions and we will contact you nearer the time with full details. Here are some local attractions:

### Uzès (30 minutes drive)

This beautiful, bustling and historic town has some fabulous boutique shops as well as one of the best markets in Provence. Every Wednesday and Saturday, by the arches of its magnificent central square, Place-aux-Herbes, you'll find smiling locals offering mouthwatering, regional produce. Cheeses, garlic, wine, flowers, lavender, olive oil...



### Pont du Gard (35 minutes drive)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Pont du Gard aqueduct is one of the best-preserved Roman sites in the world. It remains the only example of a three-story antique bridge still standing. Built in the first century to carry water to Nîmes, you can cycle across it, kayak under it, or just gaze in wonder at its beauty.



### Avignon, Nîmes, Arles and Orange

Provence's most famous towns are within easy reach by car with superb historic sites to visit. These include Avignon's Palais des Papes; Nîmes for some of the finest Roman monuments outside Italy; and Arles, where Vincent Van Gogh cut off his left ear. The spectacular Roman amphitheatres of Arles and Orange are well worth the trip alone.



### Wine-tasting

The world-renowned wine regions of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Côtes du Rhône are close by; book a tasting and, if you have driven down, fill your boot!

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## Walking and Cycling

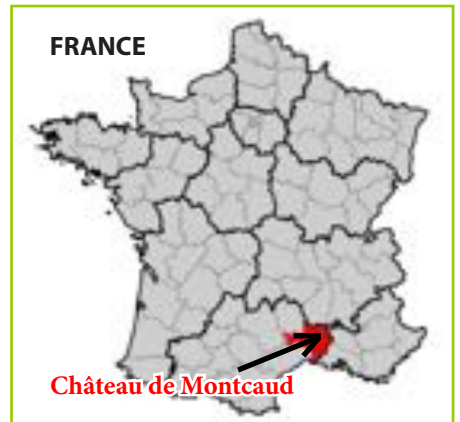
Stroll through the Chateau's leafy grounds to find the hidden grotto or go exploring further afield - there are some wonderful walks on the doorstep. Take one of the hotel's bikes (*or e-bikes*) and cycle along the Cèze River to the Sautadet waterfalls. Stop for a drink in one of the lovely local villages such as La Roque-sur-Cèze (*right*). A bit more pedalling could take you to charming Lussan (*1hr bike ride; 20 mins drive*), one of the 'most beautiful villages' in France. From its ramparts, breathtaking views stretch for miles in every direction.



## Travel Details

### By Air

Marseille is the nearest airport for direct and frequent flights from the UK with a transfer time of approximately 1.5 hours. It is served by many airlines including British Airways and Ryanair. We will include transfers from Marseille airport for a selected flight to fit in with checking in and out (*likely to be a BA flight from London Heathrow*). Otherwise, we can arrange airport transfers on your behalf - please contact us before booking your flight and for further details. Alternatively you can hire a car at the airport giving you more flexibility during your stay.



### By Train

There are TGV trains from London St Pancras to Avignon taking just over 6 hours (*changing at Lille*) - we can organise transfers (*approx 45 mins from hotel*)

**Château de Montcaud, Hameau de Combes, 30200, Sabran, France**

telephone: +33 466332015

website: [chateaudemontcaud.com](http://chateaudemontcaud.com)

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PRICES (*per person, based on 2 sharing)	♦	♥	♠	NT
Full Price*	£2200	£2300	£2550	£2700
With 10% loyalty discount*	£1980	£2070	£2295	£2430
Single occupancy	£2500	£2700	£3000	£3200
Single occupancy with discount	£2250	£2430	£2700	£2880



### Loyalty Discount

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for guests who have already been on a StockenBridge holiday if booked before July 31st 2023. If you would like to share a room with a friend, even if they are new to Stockenbridge Breaks, the discount will apply to them too.

### How to Book...

To book your holiday, please first email Claudia (see below) to check availability. Then fill out and submit the on-line booking form - contact us for the link or see the Montcaud holiday page of our website. Alternatively we can email or send a booking form to you to print out and fill in. Please also pay the deposit of £250 per person by bank transfer. Please see our website or contact us by email for payment details.

The full payment will be due by January 31st 2024.

See our website for our Terms and Conditions or we can email them to you.

Financial Protection Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

For more details:

website: [www.stockenbridgebreaks.com](http://www.stockenbridgebreaks.com)

email: [claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com](mailto:claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com) or [zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk](mailto:zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk)

telephone: +44 7951 060092 (Zeb - UK) or +33 663999289 (Claudia - France)

**Stockens Limited** - Company number 8970204. Incorporated in England & Wales

Business Address: 124 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX