



La Pradasse

Charming Haven Near Toulouse

We drove under canopies of giant plan trees, as we entered the tiny commune of Ayguesvives, France, just 15 minutes from Toulouse. We found our reserved 'chambre d'hote' tucked in a spacious sanctuary in the middle of a pleasant neighborhood. Plentiful trees, vivid flowers, a petite bridge to the reception and a welcoming open-air pool cast a restful spell from the moment of our arrival.

Innkeeper Frédéric Antoine greeted us in a stunning reception/dining area with soaring spans of unique ironwork, glass and brick accents. Our

room mirrored the same mix of classic and contemporary design. Decorative iron adorned windows, a grille above the large shower, an original lamp and chair – all set the stage for a raised bedroom platform accentuated by a weathered brick column. Breathtaking! And why such intricate ironworks throughout the small inn?

We would learn directly from Monsieur Antoine. He and his family created La Pradasse from an ancient shed adjacent to their charming home. They arranged the rooms in the old shed of a lauragais farm, preserving only the open brick pillars. An accomplished ferroniere, ironwork artist, Frédéric designed and created the remaining structure of iron and glass for a striking, original restoration – a place “dedicated to the art of living and wellbeing.”



Depending on the time of year and length of stay, the rates are around 80 euros per night with housekeeping and savory continental breakfast included, as well as free parking, outdoor private patio, internet access and delightful garden surroundings. As desired, you

also can arrange to enjoy fine local cuisine 'in house' during your stay, at extra cost.

We immediately added a second night to our stay and enjoyed feeling at home at La Pradasse, and we took advantage of dining one evening in the Capitol Centre of Toulouse and exploring nearby villages.

How do you find such a gem seemingly in the middle of the countryside? Take note of a most valuable resource – Gîtes de France. Representing the owners of uniquely individual cottages and homes throughout France, this organization offers central reservations and even local offices in departments around the country. La Pradasse is located in the Haut-Garonne department of the Midi-Pyrenees region of Southwest France.

Quality designations differ from the typical star ratings common in the United States. The Gîtes de France quality label guarantees specific comfort standards from 1 to 4 "ears of corn". Visit their website at <http://www.gites-de-france.com/> for an easy-to-use navigation with complete location and booking information.



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