

Travel

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The 25 best chateau stays in France

25 of France's most beautiful châteaux

Soak in a Nordic hot tub with vineyard views, live like a king in Versailles or take over a 14th-century hunting lodge in Brittany with these elegant château stays

[Nina Caplan](#) | Thursday May 23 2024, 12.01am, The Times

One great advantage of the French château is its versatility. An English castle really needs to have a portcullis and draughty passages to be worthy of the name, but in France a château can be anything from an extremely nice house with grounds to a grandiose structure with moats and centuries of history. And, of course, many of them also have vineyards, which is hardly cause for complaint. This means that when they get converted into hotels or villas, as so many of them have, there is something for everyone.

21. The Farmhouse, Château Bauduc, Gironde



Dine (and drink the estate's wine) under the vines

The château is occupied by an English family, the Quinneys: Gavin and Angela have been making wine here since 1999. Guests stay in the lovely 18th-century farmhouse, with its four bedrooms, heated pool, open kitchen, living area with wooden beams and working fireplace. The 14th-century town of Créon is an easy walk away and has a weekly food market; Bordeaux is 40 minutes' drive.

Alfresco eating under the vines is made even more enjoyable by access to the estate's delicious and affordable wines, which are on the list at restaurants including those of Rick Stein and Gordon Ramsay.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for eight from £1,575 (bauduc.com). Fly to Bordeaux