



# CHÂTEAU CAPITOUL

THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED OPENING OF LUXURY CHÂTEAU  
CAPITOUL IN THE FRENCH LANGUEDOC, JUNE 2021



An outstanding vineyard estate & winery with Château hotel, spa and luxury self-catering villas with views over a flamingo filled Mediterranean lagoon to the Pyrenees beyond

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**A** magnificent setting surrounded by 240 acres of vineyards, olive groves and woodland commanding views over the lagoon to the Pyrenees yet a few minutes' drive from the Mediterranean coast, Languedoc's Château Capitoul is the remarkable new opening from hoteliers Karl O'Hanlon and Anita Forte and wine maker Laurent Bonfils. Sister property to Château les Carrasses and Château St Pierre de Serjac, Capitoul is a centuries-old iconic wine estate occupied since Roman times and has been conscientiously renovated to preserve the expansive natural surroundings and rich agricultural and aristocratic heritage of the estate, elevated with confident, contemporary design.

Eight refined hotel bedrooms, a gastronomic restaurant and a Cinq Mondes spa are hidden within the decorative neo-gothic Château, beside a meticulously restored winery with tasting rooms, wine shop and a more informal brasserie restaurant. Further along the hillside the intimate hamlet boasts 44 beautifully crafted self-catering villas, a 30mte infinity swimming pool and bar, tennis court, and magnificent terraced Mediterranean gardens by world renowned landscape designer James Basson.



## A UNIQUE LOCATION

Château Capitoul lies within the natural park of the Massif de la Clape, an ancient landscape where rocky cliffs overlook vine-scattered countryside, between the lively historic city of Narbonne and the bohemian, picturesque fishing village of Gruissan. Far from the south of France's over-trodden tourist trail, the properties spectacular position ensures unique access to the authentic Languedoc landscape in many alluring guises from its secret, sandy beaches to Michelin starred restaurants, UNESCO world heritage sites and thriving markets.

Visitors are welcomed into a spectacular atrium. The natural world appears to flourish within this modern reception space, petrified wooden tables, floral art deco bronzes and gnarled olive trees are complemented by the sinuous lines of a cantilevered spiral staircase. At Capitoul guests are invited to create their own bespoke assemblage of the estate's extensive offering: the facilities and style of a quality hotel, the privacy of a villa rental, the authenticity of a working wine estate and the laid-back ambience and service of a private club.

## THE CHÂTEAU HOTEL

The iconic Château embodies a world of comfort, elegance and world class dining. High ceilings and meticulous restoration relay impeccable style and an almost obsessional attention to detail.

Upstairs eight hotel bedrooms have been given the customary O'Hanlon / Forte treatment. Drawing heavily on the estate's turn on the century heyday the couple have blended art deco and art nouveau chandeliers and mirrors with mid-century and classical empire pieces rescaled to today's requirements and paired with the necessary contemporary indulgences.

Downstairs in the original Château dining room Mediterraneo is an intimate gastronomic restaurant bathed in light where six symmetrical bay windows drink in the view. Chef Valere Diochet's cooking takes full advantage of the huge range of local produce to propose a confident flavour-led cuisine with a distinct pan-Mediterranean accent that manages to be simultaneously rustic and elegant.

Below, accessed via an ancient spiral stone staircase is a serene Cinq Mondes Spa with four treatment rooms, an indoor pool, sauna and steam room spills into serene Mediterranean gardens dotted with cocooning loungers.

## VILLAS WITH POOLS

A gentle walk along a pretty wooded slope with sweeping views of the lagoon leads to a hamlet of 44 self-catering residences embedded into the hillside. Inspired by local architecture the properties blend authentic Languedoc character with contemporary use of space and light. Each is generously proportioned and individually styled using natural, often reclaimed materials: terracotta roof tiles, traditional wooden shutters, oak beams and huge bay windows which frame the extraordinary views. Fully equipped Italian kitchens and en suite bathrooms are enhanced by stylish antique detailing and French furnishings. Aromatic private gardens and private swimming pools ensure plenty of outdoor space.



## GARDENS BY AWARD WINNING JAMES BASSON

With breath-taking vistas of the flamingo-filled Bages lagoon the gardens at Château Capitoul have been created by world renowned landscape designer James Basson, four times Chelsea flower show Gold medal winner, including Best in Show in 2017.

Working with highly respected botanist Olivier Filippi to develop a palette of Mediterranean plants specifically adapted to the dry, rocky landscape, capable of prospering without fertilisers or herbicides, and critically without drawing on that most precious of natural resources – water.

The gardens reflect James's naturalistic style, combining new planning and the existing gardens to ensure that over time the newly created spaces integrate perfectly into the surrounding landscape.

James has used a palette of over one hundred Mediterranean species, where holm oak and Aleppo pine are under planted with field maple and judas trees, filled with alternating drifts of sculptural Mediterranean forms including euphorbia, lavender, rosemary and soft grasses, designed to deliver sensual waves of seasonal change emblematic of the landscape of the Massif de la Clape.

## THE CAVEAU – WINING & DINING

Located in the winery, Asado offers guests a more informal dining option. Named for the vast wood fired grills that form its centrepiece, at Asado local fish and seafood and regionally sourced meats are charred over vine wood and charcoal accompanied by generous plates of seasonal salads and vegetable confections from the kitchen garden. A huge space marked by a theatrical, flamboyant design on balmy, summer nights guest can soak up the spectacular views from the expansive terrace.

## THE WINERY

La Clape has been producing wine since Roman times and was the first region in the Languedoc to be granted coveted Grand Cru status. Representing almost 10% of the production of the appellation, Château Capitoul has for centuries been an icon of La Clape. Following its recent transformation, Capitoul is the flagship estate of partners Vignobles Bonfils, one of France's most innovative and respected independent wine companies. Under the knowledgeable guidance of wine maker Florian Chollet guests can sample the extraordinary breadth of Languedoc wines, a region recognised today for its world class winemaking, fully immersing themselves in all aspects of the wine making process.

## ACTION PACKED

Whether relaxing within the grounds or exploring the local area, guests will find an astonishing amount to do in an around Château Capitoul. After warming up on the tennis and boules courts, guests can cool down in the vast infinity pool, soaking up the views with a cocktail from the bar under the shade of an olive tree. And just beyond the Château, the soaring cliffs of La Clape provide a 37,000-acre natural playground for bikers, walkers and climbers, while those looking to explore the endless beautiful beaches and characterful coastal towns can cycle to the seaside in under 10mins before heading to Narbonne for a hit of culture.



## A HOLIDAY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

With easy access from the U.K, Capitoul is situated within 1hr 30 of six airports (Béziers, Perpignan, Carcassonne, Montpellier, Toulouse and Girona just across the border in Spain), high-speed rail links and the option to drive, guests have maximum opportunity to savour their surroundings.

Capitoul blends the heritage of Languedoc's most respected wine appellation with Domaine & Demeure's trademarks of understated luxury and effortless style, in one of the most exquisite locations in the South of France.

- HOTEL ROOMS AT CHÂTEAU CAPITOUL ARE FROM €310 PER NIGHT.
- SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION AT CHÂTEAU CAPITOUL BEGINS AT €550 PER NIGHT IN A 2-BEDROOM PROPERTY WITH A 10% DISCOUNT FOR STAYS OF 7 NIGHTS OR MORE.

For further information visit the website [www.chateaucapitoul.com](http://www.chateaucapitoul.com) & to make a reservation email [resa@chateaucapitoul.com](mailto:resa@chateaucapitoul.com) or call +33 (0)4 30 17 39 22.

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Note to editors:

DOMAINE & DEMEURE was founded in 2008 by Karl O'Hanlon and Anita Forte to pursue a vision of authentic and sustainable real estate and tourism, with a particular emphasis on the restoration of sleeping giant wine estates and other historic buildings. The first project CHÂTEAU LES CARRASSES was an instant success story upon opening in 2011 and has been widely recognized as the benchmark for sustainable development in the region. In 2012 Domaine & Demeure announced a major strategic investment from Vignobles Bonfils one of France's most innovative independent wine companies. CHÂTEAU ST PIERRE DE SERJAC opened in March 2016 retaining the same formula of informal, laid back luxury and has established itself as the go-to destination in the Languedoc. An online furniture and antiques site DOMAINE LIFE which will offer access to the elegant designs featured in the estates will launch in the Spring of 2021.