

Press Release

ALASTAIR SAWDAY'S SPECIAL PLACES TO STAY FRENCH HOTELS CHÂTEAUX AND OTHER PLACES

Things we can do for you:

- Suggest ideas for features and compile them
- Reader offers and giveaways

Coming soon:

- British Bed & Breakfast Edition 10 September
- British Hotels Edition 7 October
- French Holiday Homes Edition 3 October
- Morocco Edition 2 November
- Italy Edition 4 February 2006
- Greece Edition 1 February 2006



This is now Britain's best-loved book on French hotels and is it any wonder? From little roadside auberges where the food is the draw to grand châteaux where you could get lost on the way to breakfast, there are places to entice just about all of us. Many seem incredibly good value too, especially from this side of the Channel; you can stay in a sumptuous room for two, wine and dine royally and still have some change left from £100. Très agréable, n'est-ce pas?

- Picnic in an ancient olive grove underplanted with clouds of soporific lavender
- Be greeted at breakfast by buxom wenches, winged cherubs and handsome lovers (on a mural, unfortunately) at a 19th-century hunting lodge
- Poolside glamour on the riviera – all stripy yellow awnings and curly wrought-iron: oh-so-French
- Learn the perfumer's art at a château and have a scent created just for you
- Expect the unexpected: a treehouse, a photography course and sushi for supper at a super-stylish hotel in Provence

About Alastair Sawday Publishing

Our first guide, French Bed & Breakfast, was published in 1994 and celebrated homes owned and run by 'people' rather than corporations. We still simply look for places that we like – and we are fiercely subjective in our choices.

'Special' for us is not about the number of creature comforts, but about all those different elements that make a place 'work'. Our write-ups are cliché-free and honest so readers have learned to trust us.

Environmental concerns are a priority, too, and we are always looking for ways of improving our 'green' credentials.

Feature ideas

Gastronomic weekends.

Take over the whole place and still be waited on hand and foot.

Ten nights – ten different châteaux.

Literary connections – from Proust to Cocteau and a hint of Hemingway.

Don't just lie there – learn something new: hotels with courses.

For more information or review copies, due late-September, call: Sarah Bolton on 01275 464891 or email: sarah@sawdays.co.uk

- Publication date: 3 November 2005
- 387 entries with colour photos
- Price: £14.99
- 4th edition
- ISBN: 1-901970-63-9
- Pages: 480
- Maps: 17

Visit our web site to see a full range of books and places to stay.

There is also a press 'area' where journalists can request review copies or download pdfs of the latest press releases.

www.specialplacestostay.com

PROVENCE – ALPS – RIVIERA



La Bastide Saint Joseph

Chemin St Joseph, 84400 Rustrel, Vaucluse

The delicious, cream-coloured *bastide*, on the route from Italy to Provence, was a natural staging post for the 18th-century traveller and ultimately became a *relais de poste*. After a further spell as a convent, it was abandoned; by the 1950s, trees were coming through the roof. When Meta arrived, five years ago, it had been rescued by an architect... ripe for revival. Gentle smiling Meta, Canadian by birth and well-travelled, speaks perfect French and knows *everything* about her corner of the Lubéron. She has also created a sophisticated yet wonderfully relaxing place to stay. Beautiful big bedrooms have polished, honey-coloured boards and rush mats to soften the tread; bathrooms are as luxurious, if not more so: one has a bath for four! Candles line the elegant sitting room hearth, to be replaced, in winter, by logs. Meta, ever thoughtful, puts exquisite books and flowers in your room and serves you breakfast where you fancy: in the garden, the chapel room or in bed. Stroll through the garden, planted with cypress and 400 lavender bushes, to the pool, perfect with towels and honesty bar. *Cash or cheque only, a no-smoking property.*



rooms 4 large doubles.
price €100-€160.
meals Restaurants nearby.
closed Rarely.
directions Avignon to Apt on N100 then D22 for Rustrel; 10 minutes to r'bout for Gignac. House 1 minute up on left, follow stone wall to blue gates.

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