

TRAVEL DOCTOR

Self-catering for two in southern France

Plus: a Yorkshire house for a family celebration; renting a New York apartment; room fee after missed connection



The medieval fortress in Carcassonne, France

JOSE FUSTE RAGA/GETTY IMAGES

Q My wife and I hope to visit Provence or Languedoc in France in early July. We enjoy good-quality self-catering within a hotel setting so that we have the flexibility of preparing occasional meals for ourselves with access to the hotel facilities. Alternatively, we would self-cater, but have been unable to find a cottage for two. What can you suggest?

David Bell, via email

A St Pierre de Serjac (serjac.com) is a swish château, vineyard and estate in the Languedoc and has a mixture of hotel rooms, apartments and villas in its grounds. The Granary is a sweet studio apartment for two with a kitchenette and lovely views across the estate to the vines. It costs £250 a night in July and you would have access to all the hotel facilities, including the spa, restaurant and bar, tennis courts and infinity pool.

Alternatively, you could book one of the suites at the new Château de la Redorte (chateaudelaredorte.com) vineyard estate, near the Canal du Midi and Carcassonne. A week in July in a classic suite with kitchenette would be £843 and you could book wine tasting in the “wine tunnel” beneath the château as well as a tour of local vineyards in a Citroën 2CV.

Holiday cottages for two are thin on the ground in this area, but if you would like to spend a week in a typical Provençal village, La Maison de Moustiers Sainte Marie (maisonmoustiers.com), an old four-storey house that sleeps up to three in Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, might appeal. It costs £926 for a week in July.