

Welcome to the Tournou le Haut Newsletter



It was a splendid Summer and Fall in 2006, here are some of the highlights!



Welcome to Marianne, Bruno and Max

Jessie and Tosca (the Tournou dogs) and Sally and Josephine (the Tournou cats) welcome Bruno and Marianne De Buck and their son Max as the new estate managers. Bruno will be looking after the grounds, the pool, the gardens and the buildings and already he has made a big impact. Marianne takes care of the inside of the chateau and is available to help guests, upon request, with shopping, laundry and other services. She is one of the most organized people you will ever meet, and runs the house like it was her own. Their 17 year-old son, Max, helps out as well, especially with the animals. He is also a gifted photographer and a champion wind surfer.

Marianne and Bruno are from Belgium and already are loving the South of France lifestyle. We are pleased to have them looking after the estate and our guests keep commenting on how friendly and efficient they are. Welcome, Marianne, Bruno and Max.

During the warm weather, which we have from May to October, the pool is in constant use. After an early morning jog down the valley and back it is great to jump in the pool to cool off. Throwing the kids in the pool in the morning is a great way to get them up and active for the day's adventures. In the afternoon, after a hike to a ruined Cathar fortress or a trip to see the jousting in Carcassonne, the pool is the first port of call for everyone. With underwater lighting, the pool is also in use late into the evenings. It's amazing to lay in the water and look up at a sky full of bright stars and constellations!

There is also a BBQ and small fridge at the edge of the pool for lunch, dinner or snacks. Just right for a relaxing holiday in the south of France. And a glass of champagne by the pool is a real treat!

During the summer in the medieval city of Carcassonne a wonderful display of jousting and horsemanship is put on twice a day. Every show is sold out and the crowd is treated to a great spectacle. The audience joins in with songs and shouting and of course all the teenage girls fall in love with the dashing Knights on horseback. At the end of the show the Knights pose for photographs and the kids even get to try on a helmet.



The kids (and adults, too) enjoying the pool



Knights of the Languedoc



The battle moves from horseback to hand to hand combat

Also during the summer the outdoor



Concerts in the outdoor
amphitheater



Fireworks at Carcassonne on
Bastille Day

amphitheater at Carcassonne plays host to a variety of classical and contemporary musicians and choirs. Several years ago we spent a balmy evening listening to Nigel Kennedy, a violin virtuoso, play Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and this summer the headliners were Al Jarreau, Sting, the opera Carmen, and a wonderful evening of Mozart favorites. Next season will be even better!

And the awesome fireworks display on July 14, Bastille Day, are something you and your family will never forget. A true spectacular evening.



The Pirate Playship

Three years old and the Pirate Playship has survived many adventures and voyages to fabulous lands! Built of solid wood with a real ship's steering wheel, rope ladders, a hatch to the upper deck and a slide, the Pirate Playship is a perfect place to enjoy the warm sunny days. And if it gets too hot sailing the seven seas, the pool is just a few feet away for a quick swim.



Another great meal on the terrace

The outdoor terrace off the dining room in main house is the place to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner during the warm weather months. There is a BBQ at the end of the terrace, and the wine cellar is just below, so refreshments are easy to come by.

There are still a few weeks available for summer 2007 so check the calendar on the main page. Spring and Fall are also wonderful times to visit the south of France and there are plenty of open weeks during this time at Tournou le Haut, your paradise in the South of France.

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