

Issue 2 of the Tournou le Haut Newsletter



2007: It's summer now, but winter and spring were glorious



A spring sunset at Tournou

Winter gave us a great snowfall for about 2 weeks, which the dogs really loved! And the fireplace in the great room was a cozy place to spend the afternoon, with some hot mulled wine of course. Aside from the brief snowfall in December, the weather at Tournou has been mild, with enough rain during the spring to bring on the bloom and stimulate the growth of the grape vines surrounding the estate.

Coming into the summer season we have had increasingly warm weather and the pool and outdoor dining terrace have been in constant use. Marianne and Bruno have been getting the house and property ready for the summer holiday season, which is completely booked from June to August. It should be a great summer at Tournou.



Ready to climb the ropes!

About a half-hour drive from Tournou lies the Medieval Roman Spa village of Alet-les-Bains. Nestled in the Aude River valley in the Pyrennes Mountains this town is great for Roman ruins, outdoor eating and a very upscale restaurant inside an large chateau on the banks of the river near the hot springs. But for family fun, it also has an extensive Acro-parc, which is the French way of saying, an adventure park set in the tree-tops. It's a great morning or afternoon for the whole family. The kids love pretending they are Tarzan and Jane (or apes!) and the parents have fun trying



6-years old and loving it!

to keep up with the kids, who scramble along ropes strung between trees and even zip across the River Aude on a long line. Everything is safety first, of course, with helmets, secure harnesses and double clips to each rope. There are three courses, from beginner to challenging. Fun for everyone.



Come on, Dad, let's go!

Southern France is bicycle country! The country roads surrounding Tournou le Haut are perfect for family bicycle trips and we supply the cycles - we have four adult cross-country bikes and two children sized for guests to use anytime they wish. Take a family ride to the end of the valley, or if someone in your party is sporty, get up early and ride into Limoux to pick up the fresh bread and croissants - an hour and mostly flat. Every year the Tour de France comes through the area and we were privileged to see Lance Armstrong on his final tour win a few years ago. You can find the route for this year's race on the internet and it's an interesting outing for the family.