

# WELCOME TO LES MARGUERITES



Dear Guests

We hope you enjoy your stay at our home in the heart of Touraine country.

The village of Les Hautes Bordes is a small farming hamlet. The people here have been very friendly and welcoming to us; we are sure they will be the same to you should you meet them. We hope that you will take the time to read the details in this pack for your own information and safety whilst staying at Les Marguerites.

There are many attractions and an abundance of beautiful countryside for you to enjoy in this part of the Loire valley. This particular area is known as the Indre et Loire, taking its name from the nearby river, a tributary of the Loire.

The area is of course famous for its numerous chateaux. There are leaflets in the house with details for most of them.

We have done our best to make our home as inviting and comfortable as possible for you. We hope you enjoy the facilities that are available and also respect them, as they are all part of our family's home when we are in France. Please let us know of any improvements, which you think could be made by writing in our Visitors Book, so that we can endeavour to make it even better for future guests.

# IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

## INSIDE THE HOUSE

### Water

Our water consumption is metered, so please can you be careful not to leave taps running. The water in the basin in the downstairs bathroom goes into our own septic tank, so please use water sparingly in there so as to avoid the septic tank getting filled up too quickly. (Water from the kitchen, downstairs bath and upstairs bathroom **don't** go into the septic tank).

### Kitchen

#### Electricity:-

You may find that the local electricity supply may not be able to cope if you have several appliances on at the same time. If the electricity does go off, it is quite likely that the trip switch simply needs pushing in. The trip switch is to be found to the left of the microwave/cooker on the wall behind the red and white checked curtain. The trip switch is the big grey button.

#### Oven & gas supply:-

The hob has a single electric ring and three gas rings. The gas comes from LPG bottled gas and the canister can be found alongside the wall behind the kitchen (between the house and the pool). Should the gas bottle you are using run out please use the spanner in the hall cabinet to change bottles and then ring Nick and Bev Bull to let them know so they can arrange for the now empty bottle to be replaced. The process of changing is simple:

1. Turn off gas on hob.
2. Turn off gas on bottle top.
3. Undo modulator and pipe using wrench from tool kit in Wine Room.
4. Reconnect modulator and pipe to new bottle.
5. Turn on gas on new bottle.
6. Ring Nick & Bev Bull on 0254 388 632 (home) or 0624536696 (mobile) if you still have problems.

Washing machine:-

Programme "R" is generally sufficient for most holiday wash requirements. (To start, you need to move the knob to just beyond the "R"). There is a washing line in the back garden near the pool. Washing basket and pegs are behind the curtain underneath the work surface, and an indoor clothes horse is in the cupboard under the stairs.

Dishwasher:-

Use either programme 2 or programme 3.

Ants:-

Please try not to leave food or too many crumbs out overnight or for prolonged periods in the kitchen as it will attract ants.

Hot Water:-

On arrival, check that the immersion switch is up in the "automatic/timed" position. This can be found in the top right-hand corner of kitchen behind the curtain next to the microwave. The immersion heats the water overnight and should supply more than enough hot water for your needs.

## **Bathroom**

The toilets use macerators, so please do not put anything down them including sanitary products and toilet cleaner, otherwise you will cause an immediate blockage in the septic tank, which the toilets empty into. Please flush the toilet as infrequently as you can. (We are waiting for mains drainage to come to Les Hautes Bordes!)

On arrival, check that the electric towel rail in the bathroom is turned on (setting 1) and turned off on departure.

There are some toilet rolls in both bathrooms. Please can you replace any that you have used when you leave, so that there are some ready for the next guests.

## Refuse

Dustbin day is Thursday. There are plastic bags in the cupboard under the old sink for the dustbin in the kitchen (black) and downstairs bathroom (small yellow). The green plastic bags are for recyclable waste; ie paper, card and plastic. There is a wheelie bin in the barn on the far right hand side (as you look out of the house).

Please can you put the wheelie bin at the end of the drive on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning with the black bags in it and the green bags by the side. Please can you replace any bin bags that you have used when you leave.

There is a bottle bank, a paper bank and large flip-top bins in St Hippolyte. When you leave the house, please can you take any remaining refuse to these bins. Please don't leave the wheelie bin outside the house.

## Games & Childrens Toys

There is a selection of children's toys in a crate beside the cupboard under the stairs. Many of these have been selected by our own children for their use on holiday, so they would appreciate your care with them!

There are also 2 boules sets (one adult, one children) and various pool recreational toys in the understairs cupboard. There are also some adult games in the sideboard in the lounge.

## OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

### Stop Cock

Should the need arise, the main stop cock can be found over the single gate past the stable door (on the far left hand-side of the courtyard as you look out of the house), and under a circular concrete manhole cover.

### Grenier (barn)

Swallows sometimes go into the Grenier which leads to the Wine Room (Chai) and can create quite a lot of mess, so please can you keep both of these doors closed.

## Swimming Pool

Around the pool is a fence which has been fitted to meet new French law which states that they are required to help prevent accidents and fatalities around water. Whilst we appreciate that this may not look particularly scenic, it is clearly a good safety factor for obvious reasons. To get into the pool area, you simply need to unhook one of the catches which are on several sections of the fence. We would ask that you take great care to close the fence when you are not using the pool and obviously, not to leave children beside it unattended. Should leaves or grass get into the pool please can you use the net (in the barn opposite the Chai) to clean it up. The pool is inspected weekly. Sun loungers and chairs are in the grenier. If it is very windy, please can you put parasols down when not in use.

## Wine Room (Chai)

Feel free to look in the Chai, which has a number of barrels in which wine from our vineyard is fermented after harvesting (Vendange) in October. The wine will stay in these barrels after the grapes have been pressed in the press (pressoir) in the barn (grenier) opposite. If you are interested in looking at the vineyard itself, you can find it on the road out of Les Hautes Bordes towards Montressor, where you will see it on the right hand side. Alternatively it's a 10 minute stroll along the lane turning right out of the gate at the rear of the property and will found behind the row of fruit trees. Feel free to weed!

## Supermarkets

There is a very good supermarket just outside of Loches called Leclerc. We find that it stocks most things that we need. You will need a 1 euro coin to get a trolley. There is also a petrol station there. Note that most of the supermarkets, including this one, do not give away free plastic backs as they do in England. You have to buy bags, which are pretty strong and re-usable. We have several in the cupboard under the old sink in the kitchen, which you are very welcome to use, but please can you leave them behind when you leave. There is also an Intermarche supermarket at Chatillon-sur-Indre and a Super-U on the ring road around Loches. Both of these and Leclerc are shut on Sunday. If you need a supermarket on Sunday, the only one nearby which is open is Atac in the centre of Loches. It is open until 12.00 noon.

# CHATEAUX & CASTLES

*Note: There are leaflets on most of these places in the folders in the glass cabinet in the hall  
- please could you leave them behind for other guests to use.*

*Note: All distances are approximate driving times*

## **Amboise**

On the banks of the Cher, Amboise is probably one of the least spectacular of the local chateaux in terms of interiors and gardens, but it is surrounded by the town of Amboise itself, which is very pretty with plenty of nice places to eat and interesting shops to look in. The chateau is famous for its links with Leonardo da Vinci, and copies of some of his early inventions are to be found in the gardens.

Distance from house: approx 45 mins.

## **Blois**

The chateau itself is perhaps not as exciting as some of the others, but the shopping in the town is good and there is a wide selection of lovely places to eat with views out over the Loire. For children, in 2007 there was a very good magic show at the "Maison de la Magic" opposite the chateau (see leaflet in folder in hall). Note: It is rather frustrating getting in and out of the town due to an unnecessary number of traffic lights! Patience required.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

## **Bridore**

This is a local castle dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, still owned by and lived in by descendants of the people who took ownership in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although it has little to see in terms of furnishings etc in the rooms, the building itself is beautiful and the view from the top is wonderful. It's famous for its battlements and "Caponnieres", one of which is the only surviving example in France. Great to visit if you don't want to travel far from the house or are on your way back from Chatillon or the Brenne.

Distance from house: approx 15 mins.

## Chambord

This is the largest and most spectacular Chateau in the Loire which should not be missed from your chateaux route itinerary. You definitely need to set aside a whole day as there is so much to see. It's famous for the Leonardo da Vinci inspired double staircase. The views from the top of the building are amazing. They sometimes have horse dressage displays in the grounds; the one we went to was brilliant for children to watch. Also, the restaurant in the chateau serves good food at reasonable prices.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

## Chaumont

A beautifully located 15<sup>th</sup> century chateau built high up on the banks of the Loire. The village itself is charming and the views over the great river are spectacular. There is a wonderful collection of fascinating antique furniture inside and the gardens are beautiful. If you have very young children or people with walking difficulties, it may not be for you, as there is quite a long, slightly uphill walk to the chateau.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

## Chenonceau

This is a truly beautiful chateau, which actually crosses over the river in a series of arches. Apparently, during the Second World War, one half of the chateau was in the hands of the occupying German forces, whilst the French resistance held the other. The gardens are really spectacular and there is a maze here also.

Distance from house: approx 45 mins.

## Langeais

A lovely small fortress famous as the location for the secret marriage between Catharine of Brittany (then aged 15) and Henry VIII of France. The town is very picturesque and there are lots of good places to eat.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

## Montpoupon

This is a lovely chateau in a stunning location, built on a rocky hillside. Part of it is still lived in by the current owners, so it has quite a personal feel about it. It is also well-known locally for its hunting museum. As one of the smaller chateaux, it is possible to view it all at a leisurely pace within a couple of hours.

Distance from house: approx 20 mins.

## Usee

This is a great chateau to visit if you have children. It was the inspiration for the "Sleeping Beauty" fairytale and has several rooms inside depicting scenes within the story. It's very picturesque and not too large and overwhelming to walk around for little legs.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

## Valencay

This is probably the nearest major chateau to visit, with lovely hill-top views. The rooms have been beautifully restored and the hand-held personal commentary is very good and included in the entrance price. Outside there are pretty gardens and a good restaurant. This is an ideal chateau to take children along to: There's a fun maze, farm animals, children's play area with outside eating/picnic area.

Distance from house: approx 35 mins.

## Villandry

The chateau for garden lovers is a truly beautiful place to visit. The ten acres of gardens include ornamental, water, herb and kitchen gardens. The displays of topiary, species and colours of plants are a real delight. You can get a magnificent view of the gardens from the top of the tower or the Belvedere. The chateau itself is also excellent.

Distance from house: approx 1 hr.

# OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

*Note: All distances are approximate driving times*

## **Loches**

Loches is a charming medieval town with an 11<sup>th</sup> century fortress and Royal Lodge at its centre. Both of these are worth visiting, especially with children (ours love the dungeons!) as they are not too overwhelming. The views from the Lodge are lovely. There are a variety of good restaurants, a market on Wednesdays and several small shops for souvenirs and postcards.

Distance from house: approx 15 mins.

## **Troglydite caves in Loches**

This is a maze of underground caves at the south of the town centre, not far from the local public pool. Reconstructed scenes inside depict how people used to extract the local Tuffeau or Tufa stone commonly seen in buildings in the area, including parts of this house. Fun for children and great for a day when you want to escape the heat for a bit – don't forget to take a sweatshirt as it does feel quite cold down there!

Distance from house: approx 20 mins.

## **Montresor**

This charming village is officially recognised as “one of the Prettiest Villages in France”. The relatively small chateau is open to the public and one of the current inhabitants will open up for you to wander around at your leisure.

Distance from house: approx 20 mins.

## **Angles-sur-L'Anglin**

A little further afield, this town is actually just out of the Loire and in the region of Poitou Charentes, in the beautiful valley of the river Creuse. It's really worth a visit as, like Montresor, it has a “Prettiest Villages of France” classification and definitely lives up to the award. You can visit the ruins of the fortress, which overlook the town and wander through the picturesque streets. The “Jour d'Angles” workshop is famous for its threadwork on silk, cotton and linen.

Distance from house: approx 45 mins.

## The Brenne

The Brenne National Park is a vast area of outstanding natural beauty containing over 1,000 lakes and abundant birdlife. It's a good place to take a picnic as there are few places to eat, other than in Mezières-en-Brenne.

Distance from house: approx 30 mins.

## Foret de Loches

To the east of Loches you can find 3,585 hectares of mainly oak woodland. If you take the road from Ferrière sur Beaulieu to the centre of the forest, you will find walks of between 2 and 7 miles. The forest dates from the time of Henry II who bequeathed the forest to the people. The walks (Sentier Pedestre) are marked by trees with blue dots. It is a lovely shady place to retreat from the sun.

## Chevigny

A very charming, typical Touraine village set just to the northeast of Loches. If you are in the vicinity it is definitely worth driving through to admire the picturesque old houses and the abundance of flowers. There is a small café there, although we haven't yet sampled it!

Distance from house: approx 30 mins.

# PLACES TO VISIT WITH CHILDREN

*Note: All distances are approximate driving times*

## Zoo Parc de Beauval

A great day out for children who may have had enough of chateaux visiting! I'm not a particular fan of wildlife parks, but this is probably one of the best we've ever visited, with absolutely loads of different species of wildlife, many of them roaming quite freely. You can easily spend a whole day here and there are several nice places to eat, but do ensure that you don't leave it too late to eat as the restaurants close after around 2.00pm leaving only a creperie open.

Distance from house: approx 40 mins.

## Mini Chateaux Val de Loire

Brilliant for children and adults who again, may have got a little "chateaux fatigue"! On the outskirts of Amboise, this site depicts all of the most famous chateaux in miniature in amazing detail. The children (and adults if you wish!) can dress up as knights or medieval princesses so you can wander around feeling truly in keeping with the historical period!

Distance from house: approx 40 mins.

## Aquarium du Val de Loire

Situated 3 minutes drive to the west of Amboise, this is the best aquarium in the Loire with a spectacular array of fish, in a very imaginative setting. You can walk under tunnels of water with shark swimming above you and tickle some very friendly coy carp. A good option should you have some bad weather!

Distance from house: approx 40 mins.

*Note: Aquarium and Mini-chateaux are good to visit together as you can purchase a discounted combined ticket.*

## La Reserve de la Haute-Touche

This is a drive-through wildlife reserve with wolves, bison, gazelle and giraffe. There is also a walk around section with a restaurant and places to picnic with plenty of wooded and shady areas.

Distance from house: approx 30 mins.

## **Le Train du Bas-Berry**

There is a small train station at Ecueille which is run by a group of enthusiastic and very friendly volunteers and enthusiasts. They maintain a collection of old autorails and trains and the 27km metre-gauge track through the woods and meadows of the lovely Berry countryside. We took the train to Argy where there is a 16<sup>th</sup> chateau which used to host the National Archive for maps and other old documents. This was a lovely fun day out for us, the children and grandparents!

Distance from house: 20 mins.

## **Festivals, Fetes and Son-et-Lumieres**

The Loire chateaux are famous for hosting wonderful Sons et Lumiere and other spectacles within the grounds of their ancient walls. Most of these are on in July and August and are widely advertised in villages and towns in the area. They usually start quite late, at around 10.00pm, so as to get the most effective light show effects.

Some chateaux and villages host smaller theatrical events and fetes in the daytime aimed at families. There is a very good fete in Loches – The Fetes des Fous (or Fetes of Fools), where people dress up as medieval knights, ladies and fools, and march through the town to the castle, where there are displays of swordfights, dancing and singing. Montrichard Castle has a good open-air play, again with knights and their ladies, the former showing great talents with their swords, axes and jousting! The costumes, beautiful open-air setting and realistic stunts make these events great for children. The stories are all quite basic, ie good v evil, so it doesn't really matter if your grasp of French is minimal!

## **Musee des Blindes (Tank Museum)**

The worlds largest collection of tanks (about 200) dating from WW1, WW2 and upto the present time. Great for small boys (and big ones!) and good for a rainy day. Located in Samur on the banks of the Loire. Samur is a very pretty old town with lots of good places to eat. (Note: In 2007 the chateau was closed for refurbishment and may still not be open).

Distance from house: approx 1.5 hrs

## **Futuroscope**

This is a major relatively new amusement park near to Poitiers. It is very expensive and you need to be prepared to queue for the rides. We thought that the new walking with dinosaurs experience was disappointing and the electronic animations poor, but the rides involving water were fun. The park itself has been amazingly constructed and some of the buildings are very interesting architecturally.

Distance from house: approx 1.5 hrs.

## **Bellebouche (in the Brenne)**

This is a beautiful lake in the Brenne with pedalos and kayaks for hire. Look out for wild boar in the forest!

Distance from house: ½ hr.

## NEARBY RESTAURANTS

### **Renaissance, St Hippolyte**

Very typically French family restaurant. French menu, friendly, good food and service. Children very welcome. Closed on Fridays.

Prices: 22 euro for 4-course meal, 27 euro for 5-course meal.

### **L'Estaminet, Beaulieu-les-Loches**

Tel: 02 47 59 35 47

Very friendly and small restaurant with relaxed atmosphere, located at the foot of the 11<sup>th</sup> century church tower. Children very welcome. Food is excellent and very good value.

### **La Gerbe d'Or, Loches**

Tel: 02 47 91 67 63

Our favourite so far in Loches. Ideal for either a good lunch with the family or in the evening. Very good menu. Seems to be fairly popular, so may be worth booking if you want to go there on a Friday or Saturday evening.

### **Hotel de France, Loches**

Upmarket menu and setting. Ideal for a pleasant evening out in Loche.

### **Creperie, opposite Hotel de France, Loches**

Good mid-range restaurant. Ideal for a lunch stop when out in Loches visiting the castle. We can highly recommend the St Jaques gallettes if you are a fan of scallops.

### **Tour Saint Antoine, Loches**

Good for generous lunch-time salads.

### **George Sands Hotel, Loches**

Upmarket menu, good food, although we didn't find the service particularly good.

The terrace view is lovely, looking out over the river.

**Le Canard Gourmand, Chambourg sur Indre**

Tel: 02 47 92 59 66

A very good 3 course meal for around 11 euro per head including wine. Frequented by lots of local people.

# MARKET DAYS

## Monday

Ligueil

## Tuesday

St Quentin-sur-Indrois

## Wednesday

Loches

Tours

## Thursday

Selles-sur-Cher

Yzeures-sur-Creuse

## Friday

Montrichard

Chatillon-sur-Indre (best one is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month)

## Saturday

Loches

Tours

St Aignan

## Sunday

Amboise

Descartes

Beaulieu-les-Loche

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

For any problems with the house call Bev Bull on 0254 388 632 (home) or 0624536696 (mobile)

Doctor/Hospital/Dentist – see St Hippolyte village folder in hall cabinet for these numbers.

## ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

If you feel the need to catch up on the news at home, you can buy an English newspaper from the Tabac on the roundabout as you go into Chatillon (from the direction of Loches), or from the tourist shop opposite the chateau in Montresor.

## BOULANGERIE

The nearest boulangerie is in St Hippolyte. It is open in the mornings from 9.45 Monday to Saturday, from 9.30 on Sunday and closed on Monday.

## DIRECTIONS

### Directions from Calais

Follow directions to Paris

When approaching Paris, follow signs to Paris-est/Bordeaux.

Follow signs to Bordeaux all the way around the east then the south of Paris.

Head for Orleans.

Take A71 to Vierzon.

Turn onto A85 just before Vierzon towards Tours

Come off at junction signposted to St Aignan.

From St Aignan take the D675 towards Chatillon-sur-Indre.

Go through Nouans-les-Fontaines

After approx. 5km turn right on D9 to Loche-sur-Indre.

Go through Loche-sur-Indre and follow telegraph poles on right.

After 2.4km turn left onto D12 towards St Hippolyte.

Go through woods on either side of road.

After 4km you will see two white posts with red rings on the top on your left. Turn left here.

Drive along here for 2.7km and you will see the village of Les Hautes Bordes on the hill in front of you.

Les Marguerites is at the end of the village on the left hand side. The house has green gates at the entrance to the drive and the house name is outside. Our name Fenton is on the letterbox.

### Directions from the Aeroport Val de Loire (Tour airport)

On exiting the airport road turn left at the roundabout taking the A10 towards Bordeaux and Chateauroux.

Follow A10 and come off at junction 23 onto the N143 to Loches.

Follow the ring-road around Loches town centre, signposted towards Chatillon-sur-Indre.

You will reach a roundabout with a large Leclerc supermarche.

Go straight over this roundabout so that the supermarche is on your right.

Follow the N143 towards Perusson and Chatillon-sur-Indre.

After approx 12km turn left turn on the D12 towards St Hippolyte.

Upon approaching the village, follow the road as it bears right then left into St Hippolyte.

Go past the Renaissance restaurant on your left and turn right at the t-junction.

Drive past the Post Office immediately on your left and carry straight on along the D92 towards St Cyran du Jambot.

Drive through the small hamlet of Gallicherie and turn left immediately after the 70km signpost.

Follow this road signposted towards Les Hautes Bordes.

Drive through the village of Les Bas Bordes and take a sharp turn left, and up a slight incline.

The village of Les Hautes Bordes is a short distance along here.

Les Marguerites is on this side of the village on the right hand side. The house has green gates at the entrance to the drive and the house name is outside. Our name Fenton is on the letterbox.

# INVENTORY

## Kitchen Utensils

Large dinner knives	12
Large dinner forks	12
Dessert knives	12
Dessert forks	12
Dessert spoons	12
Teaspoons	12
Serving spoons	4
Soups spoons	12
Dinner plates	16
Side plates	16
Dessert bowls	16
Roasting dishes (metal)	2
Baking dishes (ceramic)	2
Baking trays	2
Saucepans	4
Wok	1
Frying pan	1
Sieve	1
Salad drainer	1
Covered casserole dish	1
Pyrex dish & lid	1
Measuring jug	1
Glass jug	1
Tin opener	1
Bottle opener	2
Potato peeler	1
Whisk	1
Salad tongs	1 pair
Plastic plates	3
3-piece BBQ set	1

Cheese grater	1
Kitchen scissors	1 pair
BBQ skewers	8
4-piece wooden salad set	1 set
Carving knife and steel	1 set
Large sharp knife	1
Small sharp knife	1
Bread knife	1
Big serving spoon	1
Plastic spatula	1
Metal spatula	1
Cafatiere	1
Food nets	3
Trays	3
Tall glasses	8
Short glasses	6
White wine glasses	5
Red wine glasses	12
Mugs	22
Childrens glasses	4

## Lounge

TV

DVD

Stereo & speakers

Carriage Clock