

A château holiday needn't cost a king's ransom. Sawdays lists some sumptuous castles-turned-hotels across France that won't break the bank

Princely stays at paupers' prices



Chateau les Oliviers de Salettes, near Valence, Rhone-Valley-Alpes
A three-storey house with a turret at each end lords it over five hectares of landscaped parkland, with dining terraces, boules pitch and infinity pool. Bedrooms are furnished in classic French style, but dinner is the highlight here - beautiful food accompanied by heavenly views. The menu-de-midi is great value.
● Doubles from €99 room-only, +33 4 75 00 19 30



Chateau de Thway near Lyon
This chateau is surrounded by acres of parkland with pool, and inside is equally splendid. A sleek modern decor illuminates fine stone work and medieval beams, there's a games room, a grand piano and, beneath the great carved fireplace, a breakfast table. In summer, you can tuck into croissants, hams and jams by the moat beneath the willow.
● Doubles from €95 a night B&B, +33 9 53 36 87 42



Chateau de Potelières, near Avignon, Languedoc
In the grounds there are benches under vast trees, a pool, olive groves and orchards which supply the fruits for homemade jams. Inside, the dining room opens up to a balustraded front terrace where breakfast is taken, and there's a library and a music room, a billiard room and a scarlet salon with a fire that can be lit on cooler nights.
● Doubles from €110 room-only, +33 4 66 24 80 92



▶ **Le Chateau de Mazan, near Avignon, Provence-Alpes**
The Marquis de Sade's father and uncle were born in this chateau in a little town at the foot of Mont Ventoux - and though the Marquis preferred Paris he often stayed here. It's now a family hotel with frondy palms in the garden and a beautiful terrace for dinner; the chef has worked in Michelin-starred restaurants and is keen to win his own.
● Doubles from €125 a night room-only, +33 4 90 69 62 61

For *anyone* who wants to discover the best of France



Channel hop this spring from £95 per person

Why endure a long drive through northern France when you can sail in comfort and style with us?

Set sail from Portsmouth, Poole or Plymouth and enjoy up to 4 days away this May or June from £190 for a car and two passengers - that's just £95 per person.

- ✓ Arrive closer to the France you love
- ✓ Pack your car and explore at your own pace
- ✓ Enjoy award-winning onboard service
- ✓ Save miles of driving and gallons of fuel



Drop everything and go

It's only two weeks away, but it might just be worth dropping everything for this festival on Inis Oírr, the smallest Aran island, west Ireland, which has art, music and DJs. 27-29 May, [dropeverything.net](#)



Alpine adventure

On a new Swiss Alpine break, guests learn glacier-climbing and via ferrata, spend a night at a mountaintop guesthouse and hike up a 3,900m peak. £1,320 for five nights, [kronenhof.com](#)



▲ Chateau de la Côte, near Périgueux, Dordogne

The interior of this spectacular 15th-century pile oozes grandeur, with original stone walls, wood panelling, a suit of armour in the hall and huge fireplaces. Bedrooms are old-fashioned but impressive, with antiques and four-posters. There's also a pool, children's play area and a secret arbour within the 20 acres of grounds.
● *Doubles from* €108 room-only, +33 5 53 03 70 11



Chateau Tommy les Roses, near Albi, Midi-Pyrénées

Set in seven hectares of garden and vineyard, the chateau's traditional exterior gives no hint of what awaits. Inside, art is everywhere: an ever-changing backdrop of modern paintings. The big bedrooms meld comfort with contemporary style.
● *Doubles from* €99 B&B, +33 5 63 57 90 90



Le Chateau, near Lens, Pas-de-Calais

This tranquil *manoir* lies in a private park in the village of Fresnoy-en-Gohelle. Light pours in through art deco windows and interiors have been enhanced by the owner's modern taste. Sofas face a log-burner in the monumental hall, bedrooms are immaculate (satin sheets, electric shutters, smart antiques), and wonderful breakfasts are served at a table set with porcelain.
● *Doubles from* €120 B&B, +33 6 22 19 87 25



▲ Chateau d'Étoges, near Dperny, Champagne-Ardenne

The grounds of this moated 17th-century chateau have fountains, lawns and ponds. Opulent bedrooms glow with antiques and fresh flowers, and the restaurant is in the orangery.
● *Doubles from* €99 room-only, +33 3 26 59 30 08

▼ Chateau de Pyze, in Nevers, Bourgundy
This chateau dates back to the middle ages, with vast rooms added in the 19th century. The cavernous bedrooms are en-suite and furnished with unusual antiques.
● *Doubles from* €115 B&B, +33 3 86 58 42 64

All places can be viewed and booked at [sawdays.co.uk](#). Sawday's new Special Places to Stay: French Châteaux & Hotels is available now, at £15.99



Chateau de Cop-Choux, near Nantes, Western Loire

This elegant house was built just before the French Revolution, with towers added in the early 20th century. It has 18 hectares of park, a pool, rolling lawns and ancient trees. Chestnut trees line the approach, a river runs through the grounds, there are lakes and woods for ramblers, farm animals - and even dromedaries in summer.
● *Doubles from* €95 room-only, +33 2 40 97 28 52



Lake Como, St Moritz & the Bernina Express



Flight days half-board from £849pp

Selected departures from June to October 2016

Four nights

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board at hand-picked four-star hotels
- Visit to St Moritz in the heart of the Swiss Alps
- Travel on the Bernina Express, one of the world's most spectacular alpine railway journeys
- Visit to Lake Maggiore with its Mediterranean ambience and azure-blue waters

theguardianholidays

Discover the Sunshine State Win a family holiday to Florida

From beautiful beaches to fun-filled theme parks, Florida locals reveal the very best things to see and do in the Sunshine State. Get the inside track and find out how you could win a family holiday to this endlessly fascinating region.

[theguardian.com/visit-florida](#)



Book at [holidays.theguardian.com/riv-co](#)
or call 0330 333 6750

