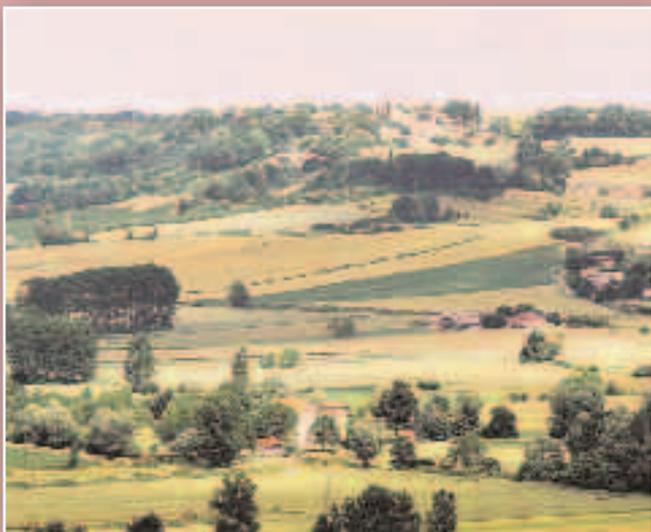
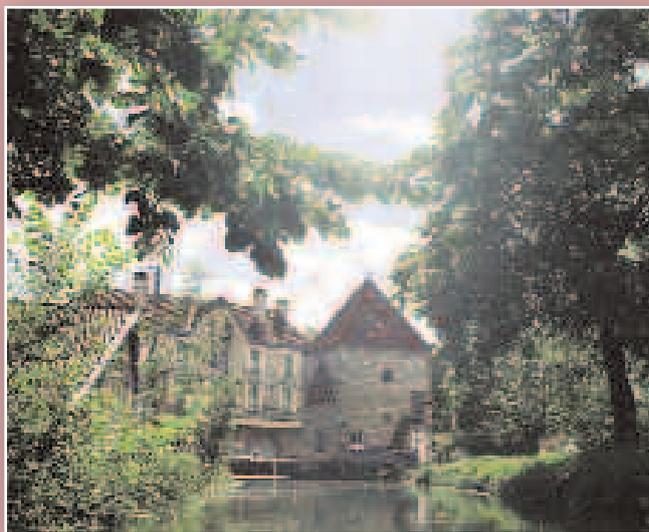
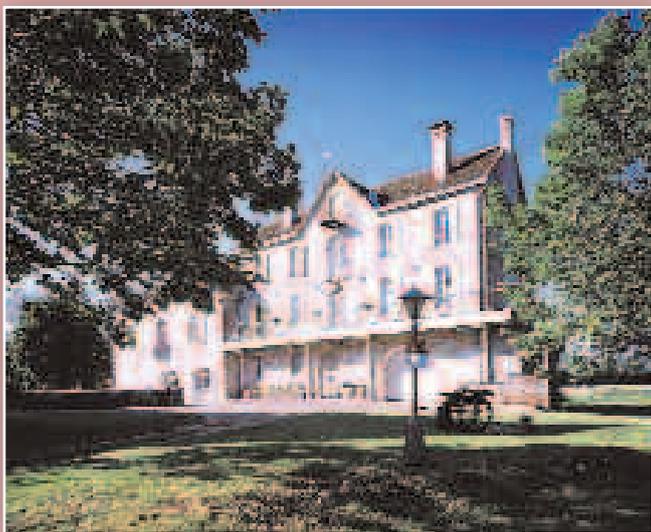


# Let time stand still



## For years the French have been holidaying in Quercy – now we can unearth the secrets of this beautiful region, starting with Le Moulin de Salazar...

**Quercy boasts** an eye-catching landscape rich with vibrant colour – from the rose pink of the Toulouse brick, to the famous local ‘black’ wine via the undulating green hills and the deep blue of its many rivers and waterways.

This area of unspoilt countryside tucked away in the South West corner of France has yet to be discovered by the majority of British holidaymakers. Unless, that is, they’ve been to Le Moulin de Salazar, a recently refurbished watermill nestling in five acres of picturesque grounds.

### Relax and unwind

The emphasis at Salazar is on relaxation, with plenty of nooks ideal for a spot of sunbathing or a quick snooze. What could be better than basking in the shade of a mature Walnut tree or uncorking a bottle of plonk on the shingle ‘beach’ that lines the nearby river? Absolutely nothing, we’d wager.

It’s an unfortunate fact that the frenetic pace of modern life shows no signs of



Paulette and Bernard

### Warm family atmosphere

Paulette and Bernard pride themselves on making each and every guest’s stay as happy and relaxing as they can. As warm and welcoming as the summer weather, their cheery dispositions and the sense that nothing is beyond their call of duty have resulted in some guests returning to Salazar primarily to visit their hosts.

‘It is the most perfect place to unwind and recharge your batteries,’ say former guests Ian and Susan Wharton. ‘Returning to Salazar is like visiting family. You are never disappointed.’ Ian and Susan have visited Salazar four times to date and are just one of many families who make repeat trips to the mill. ‘We can’t think of a better place to return year after year,’ they gush.

Le Moulin de Salazar is different to a lot of holiday properties in France as it uses the ‘rustic’ tag without sacrificing on standards. The rooms, grounds and pool are consistently well maintained and benefit

**‘Returning to Salazar is like visiting family. You are never disappointed’**

slowing and holidays like this play a vital role in providing the annual period of rest and relaxation that we need to keep going. Luckily, at Salazar time seems to stand perfectly still.

However, the locality is not lacking in up-to-the-minute amenities by any stretch of the imagination. Salazar offers its guests access to wi-fi in every one of its gites and just five kilometres away lies the medieval village of Lauzerte, offering all an off-duty townie could ask for – a bank, post office, a couple of supermarkets alongside a few cafés and bars to try out.

Although, in all honesty, you’ll probably have come on holiday to get away from these modern distractions and once you’ve discovered the idyll that is Le Moulin de Salazar, contacting the outside world may slip your mind entirely.

### The historic mill

The watermill itself was built in the 1850s and has been lovingly refurbished by its owners, Paulette and Bernard, since they bought it in 2000. Wonderfully, the original mill workings are still intact and can be enjoyed from a spacious seating area in the old mill room overlooking the millstream.

Being a watermill, Salazar has a river running beneath it, which attracts a lot of the local wildlife. Kingfishers, herons and terrapins are regularly spotted on its banks. ‘Seeing the otters up river was definitely a bonus,’ say Roger and Kate Dyer, who enjoyed the wildlife during their visit to Salazar last year and have already reserved the whole place for their vacation in June 2007. A good way of exploring the river is by boat, and Salazar offers a trip along the river in a petit bateau to its guests.

from Paulette and Bernard’s unfaltering attention to detail. Regular visitors Mike and Laura Aira feel their hosts’ high standards are integral to the Salazar experience: ‘Paulette and Bernard take a real pride in offering immaculate, first-class accommodation including a thoughtfully well-equipped kitchen and a good supply of towels – always a bonus!’

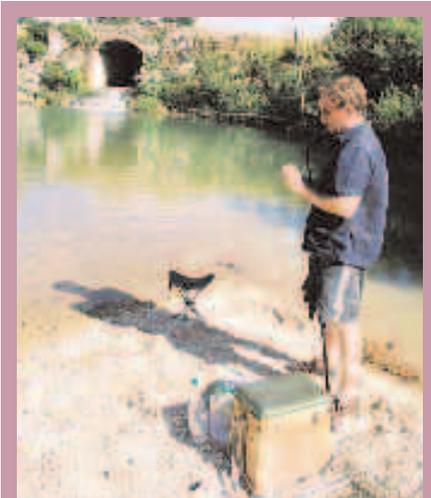
As Salazar’s hosts speak fluent French and English, they are on hand throughout to translate and prevent communication from being a worry to any of their guests. ‘Paulette and Bernard couldn’t have been more helpful, offering local knowledge and experience,’ say Alan and Myra Irving, who have holidayed at Salazar twice and are hoping to return in the summer. The couple went on to say: ‘The setting is perfect and the accommodation of the highest standard.’ Put simply, Salazar is a cut above the rest.



### What's on offer?

The mill itself is divided into four gites, spread over the first and second floors of the traditional stone building.

Each gite can accommodate between one and four people. It's an ideal setting for loved-up couples and families alike. The bright and airy bedrooms provide a great base while guests have the option of exploring the surrounding area or just lounging by the pool.



The grounds of the mill boast a well-stocked fishing pool where you can catch carp, chub and rainbow or brown trout in a typically relaxing Salazar environment.

Alternatively, you could have a go at the traditional French game 'petanque' – a form of boules, where metal balls are thrown towards a smaller wooden ball. Salazar's petanque court benefits from the shade of the well-established walnut and horse chestnut trees that protect it from the hot summer sun.

For the more active guests, there are basic games and exercise facilities available or the option of going further a field for a water sports excursion. Nearby Lauzerte also provides the opportunity for guests to try activities such as horse riding, tennis and golf. Ramblers will love the breathtaking walks through the Quercy countryside, which vary from three to twenty kilometres – depending on how brave and energetic you're feeling.

Most Salazar guests opt to self-cater, but if they prefer there is also the choice of bed and breakfast or room service catering – Paulette and Bernard are happy to oblige. With rich, fertile soil, the Quercy region has become famous for its sumptuous fruits and vegetables, so if you do choose the self-catering option, you'll be spoilt for choice. Local farmers markets provide a great opportunity to pick up local produce to gorge on – perhaps you'll put the delightful barbeque area to good use? We hear the local duck is especially lauded.

Of course, you'll need something to wash all that delicious food down with – might we suggest Coteaux du Quercy, the local wine? Rumour has it that the ever-popular wines of Bordeaux are in fact descended from the little-known Quercy grape. We'll plump for the underdog, especially when it tastes this good.

### Reality is nearby

If you do manage to tire of the relative seclusion of Le Moulin de Salazar and its surrounding area, the bustling metropolis of Toulouse is just an hour away. Toulouse offers everything you'd expect from a modern European city and the gothic cloisters of the musée des Augustins are not to be missed.

The traditional capital of Quercy is Cahors, which has been a centre for wine production in the region since the middle ages. It is also worth a visit to see the spectacular and eerie Valentré bridge, built in the 14th century and linked mythically to the devil. Despite this spooky connection, the bridge is a beautifully crafted chocolate-box piece of French engineering.

What could be finer than a stay in an original French watermill in an area relatively undiscovered by tourists? With your every whim catered for by your hosts and lots to see and do, this is a serious contender to consider when booking your next break – but be quick, with so many visitors coming back for more each year, it won't be long before Le Moulin de Salazar is fully booked!

For more information and bookings, call 0845 868 6352 or email [paulette@salazarholidays.com](mailto:paulette@salazarholidays.com) or visit [www.salazarholidays.com](http://www.salazarholidays.com) ■