



## *Les Rochers Notes*

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### 1. QUERIES:

Please ask Joan or Brian if you have any queries or problems. We are usually available from 10am to noon and after 3pm. There is a bell and a push-button at the garage door of the main house to attract our attention - try both. Our portable/mobile number is 06 81 02 37 99.

### 2. WATER:

Water comes from our own spring. It is tested from time to time and we drink it. If you are unhappy about non-chlorinated water, bottled water is readily available in 5l bidons. Water is precious in this dry region; please use sparingly and avoid splashing it out of the pool.

### 3. WCs:

Please don't flush anything except toilet tissue as drainage is to a septic tank.

### 4. GROUNDS:

You are free to explore the grounds but please avoid the private garden area below the pool and the surrounds of the other house. Please don't allow your children to climb on the dry-stone walls as they can easily collapse.

### 5. CHILDREN:

Please supervise children while they are using the pool. Out of consideration for the occupiers of nearby properties, please ensure that your children play quietly and safely. Please be aware that Oleander plants are poisonous. They are mainly in pots and have long, shiny and pointed leaves with white or pink flowers.

### 6. POOL:

The pool has an alarm to protect young children. Instructions are posted nearby.

Plastic glasses have been provided for use at the poolside. Please don't take glass near the pool; broken glass is not only dangerous but can prove costly to find and remove from the bottom of the pool.

Sun-creams can leave unpleasant deposits on the pool sides. To avoid this, please use only waterproof sun cream. Please don't splash precious water out the pool; we may not be able to replace it and if the level drops too low the pool will have to be closed. Moreover, energy for heating the water is costly both to our purse and the environment. Wasting water also wastes energy.

### 7. POOL HOURS:

The pool and play area are closed to guests at certain times to allow for some private use by the owners and to facilitate cleaning and maintenance.



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Opening times are:

May – July                    0900 – 1230 & 1500 – 1830

Aug – Oct                    0900 – 1230 & 1430 – 1800

### **8. TOWELS & SHEETS:**

If you need swimming towels, we can provide some but please don't use the bath towels for the pool. Please also note that tanning cream can leave permanent stains on white towels and sheets and we would ask that you take care to avoid this.

### **9. GRILLS (BBQs) & WOOD-STOVE:**

Fires are forbidden by the forest authorities due to the risk of forest fire. A gas BBQ is provided on the terrace. If you wish to use this there will be a cleaning charge of 20€. However, this charge will be waived if the unit is left thoroughly cleaned inside and out with the cooking grid wire-brushed to remove deposits and washed with soap and water or in the dishwasher. Please store in the porch in wet weather.

### **10. COOKER:**

The oven needs a match to light it. Hold control knob in for 30sec after lighting through the hole at in front of the bottom panel.

### **11. WiFi:**

Select whichever of the unsecured networks works best. Please be aware that downloading of copyrighted material is illegal in France. As a precaution, ID details of all hardware using the network will be logged.

### **12. REFUSE DISPOSAL:**

Sorting of refuse is essential. Please dispose of your sorted emballage (packaging, tins, bottles, papers etc) in the recycling bins in the village. Non recyclables should be bagged and disposed of in the grey bins just below the main D25 road. Please ensure no refuse is left on departure.

### **13. DOORS & SHUTTERS:**

Gusts are common so please guard against wind damage to doors and shutters, which should be pinned back when open.



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### **14. SMOKING:**

Most of our guests are non-smokers and we therefore have a non-smoking policy inside; indeed, it is now illegal to smoke in a rented property. We have no objection to your smoking outside provided fire and litter precautions are observed.

### **15. ENVIRONMENT:**

Please protect the environment. Insects are common, both outside and in. Few sting or bite and none is dangerous. All play their part in the ecological balance. Please use insecticides sparingly as the guests to follow you may be sensitive to these poisons.

### **16. DEPARTURE:**

Although the property will be cleaned after you leave, we request that you leave it in a tidy and "broom-swept" condition, ensuring that bathrooms and kitchen are clean, dishes washed and all refuse disposed of. The oven and hob must be left as you find them. Please vacate the premises by 10 am unless a later time is agreed. The keys may be left in the door.

### **17. ELECTRICITY:**

A thunderstorm is very likely to trip out your supply. If this happens while we are out, check firstly the main switch in the electricity box furthest from the gate. You will find a key on top of one of the three boxes. Les Rochers' switch is a large black switch which should be in the "up" position. If this is on, the problem is further back and you will have to await the restoration of the service by the electricity company. If you run into difficulties, call us on our portable (mobile): 0681023799.

### **18. GATE:**

If the power is down, the gate won't open and you will have to operate it manually. Look for the Allen-key hanging to the right of the junction box on the RH gate post. Use it to unlock first the LH gate and then, if you need to get a vehicle through, the RH one. The key needs to be inserted in the key hole revealed by removing the small black plastic cover on top of the gate motor. Once the power is back on, please close and re-lock the gate.

### **19. HUNTING:**

From mid-August to March you may come across hunters or their dogs in the forest on Wednesdays and weekends. The dogs are quite tame and even the hunters are friendly enough!



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### **20. FOREST FIRE:**

In the unlikely event of a forest fire, we suggest you take the following steps:

1. Alert any other residents on the property by sounding your car horn/hooter – 6 or 7 long blasts.
2. Get down to the Maison Forestière. The road to the left from the gate can be taken if it seems a safer bet. If you go this way, turn downhill to the right after 500m or so.
3. Remember, if the electricity is cut, you may need to open the gate manually. Please acquaint yourself with the instructions above; now would be best!

**And finally...** Please do enjoy your stay at Les Rochers.

**You may be interested:**

**PRONUNCIATION IN THE OC:** Most local place names are from the Occitan language and endings are pronounced differently from French in that endings with ..ès or ..as are not silent. So pronounce the terminal “s” in Soubès; Pézenas; Loiras; Mas etc. (but in not Ganges, Arles or Nimes). Millau is pronounced “mee oh”. Always emphasise the last syllable if you want to be understood.

**ROAD SAFETY:** Please be aware of the rule of the road (*priorité à droite*) requiring you to give way to roads intersecting from your right if they are not controlled by a stop or give way sign and your road does not have priority (indicated by a yellow diamond). There are many such intersections in both town and country where you might wrongly assume you have right of way, so please be cautious.

You should also note that speed limits on all single carriageway roads with no central barrier have been reduced to 80 Km/hr.

Brian & Joan Lewis  
July 2020