

Serre Chevalier, France

Summer Bridge & Walking trip in the Southern French Alps with your hosts Zebedee and Claudia Stocken.

from £792pp* including :

- 4 nights' stay in the charming Chalet les Marmottes
- Full board every day including:
 - four-course dinner with unlimited wine
 - afternoon tea with freshly made cake
 - aperitif every evening
- Refreshments available during bridge play
- Transfers from Turin Airport (*BA Gatwick flight only*)
- 2 guided walks (*inc transport and lunch*) with local mountain guide
- All bridge tuition and course notes

*with 10% loyalty discount



Thursday June 15th - Monday June 19th 2017

Serre Chevalier

Serre Chevalier is the collective name for several traditional villages in the Guisane valley, stretching from the magnificent 12th century walled town of Briançon to the breathtaking Col du Lautaret with its glacial views.

Chantemerle is one of these villages surrounded by the outstanding rugged beauty of the southern French Alps and just 10 miles from the Italian border. This region has spectacular mountain scenery with a mediterranean climate, and is the sunniest in France, with 300 days of sunshine per year on average. France's best kept secret!



Chalet les Marmottes

Chalet les Marmottes, situated in the centre of the old part of Chantemerle village, is an old French farmhouse, lovingly restored by Denis and Karin Lucas to provide accommodation for up to 14 people.

The chalet is typically alpine with exposed beams throughout and the bedrooms all have ensuite facilities. The living room with its log fire is full of character and the separate dining area on the first floor has a large south-facing balcony with fabulous mountain views.

There is also a private garden with decked terrace - perfect for well-earned aperitifs after bridge and walking.



Food

Karin is an excellent chef and makes delicious home-cooked food with no pretensions, cleverly mixing traditional French and British cuisine. She is also a wonderful warm-hearted hostess where nothing is too much trouble and will do the maximum to ensure you have an excellent stay.



MENU at CHALET LES MARMOTTES

*Grilled goats cheese with paprika served on a slice of pear with a fresh salad
Country salad with bacon, croutons and poached egg
Red and yellow peppers baked with feta and fresh herbs*

*Guinea fowl roasted with thyme served with a selection of fresh vegetables
Grilled salmon with fresh ginger and soya, served with local new potatoes
Slow cooked lamb with seasonal vegetables*

Cheeseboard

*Vanilla terrine with blackberry coulis
French apple tart
Mixed fruit crumble*



Please Note

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce. Dinner will be a fixed menu and accompanied by an unlimited quantity of wine. Lunch will be either a picnic or a simple 2-course meal in a restaurant (during the full day walk). Any special diets can be catered for.

Accommodation

In the chalet itself, there are five comfortable bedrooms on two floors, all individually decorated in a chalet-style with wooden floors, lovely mountain views and en-suite bathrooms. There are also two additional and more spacious apartments in the same building, with their own separate entrances.

Please note that there is no lift and the dining room is on the first floor. We can supply additional details of rooms and bathrooms on request. The rooms will be available from 4pm on the day of arrival, and need to be vacated by 10am on the day of departure.



Guided Walks

There will be 2 walks during your stay - one half day and one full day - with an english-speaking mountain guide who will show you the flora and fauna and tell you about the local history. The mountains are absolutely spectacular in June with the wild flowers at their best and the snow-capped peaks contrasting with the azure blue skies.

Col du Lautaret*

You will be taken to the spectacular high mountain pass, the Col du Lautaret at 2100m to eat a gourmet picnic by a secluded lake, before spending the afternoon tracing the footsteps of the chamois and, time permitting, a visit to the the Jardin Botanique Alpin du Lautaret with more than 2100 species of alpine plants from around the world and superb views of the Meije glacier.



River Clarée valley *

Having been dropped off by minibus on the Col du Granon, we will head off by foot to the Refuge de Buffères in this protected and unspoilt valley for a “repas randonneur” provided by the very hospitable Claude and Nadette. The refuge, inaccessible to cars, is surrounded by lush meadows where marmottes can easily be seen basking in the sun. We will then take a lovely stroll back through carpets of flowers, past waterfalls and returning to the picturesque village of Nevache.



The walks are optional and will be tailored to the group, but will be easy and at a gentle pace. Transport and lunch are included. *The trips may vary.



Other Things to Do

With a packed programme of bridge and walking, you will have plenty to keep you busy, but here are a couple of other options:

The Old Town of Briançon

The old fortified town of Briançon is the highest town in Europe at 1326m and is only 10 minutes drive away. Take in its fascinating history, cobbled streets, interesting shops and wonderful views from the ramparts.



Les Grands Bains, Monetier

Relax in one of Europe’s largest thermal baths with outdoor and indoor pools giving you a wonderful view of Monetier’s glacier.

Bridge with Zeb & Claudia



Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.

Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and, as a keen and experienced bridge player herself, she will also be supervising bridge sessions. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment. The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group. The other sessions will be supervised play or some form of duplicate.

All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Water, tea and coffee will be available during play. Non-bridge playing partners are of course welcome.



It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that. No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday.

Travel Details

By Air:

Turin airport in Italy is the nearest airport, with a transfer time of 1 hour 45 minutes. One of the British Airways flights from London Gatwick has good timings (*arrives Turin 17.20, leaves Turin 17.00*) and we will include airport transfers for anyone on this flight. Alternatively Ryanair fly to Turin from London Stansted and we can organise transfers from 45€ per person each way, depending on the number of people travelling. Otherwise there is a good choice of car hire companies for self drive from the airport.

Although Grenoble airport seems quite close, the transfer time is longer (approx 3 hours) due to the road closure at the Barrage du Chambon.

By Train

There are scheduled services using Eurostar from London to Paris, and then SNCF TGV services from Paris to Oulx (Italy) for Serre Chevalier.

At Oulx there is a transfer coach to Briançon taking about 50 minutes, or we can organise a pick-up.

By Car

After crossing the Channel by Eurotunnel or by ferry, Serre Chevalier can be reached in approximately 10-12 hours, via the Frejus tunnel and Montgenevre.



PRICES	All rooms ♣
Full Price (2 sharing)	£880
With 10% loyalty discount (2 sharing)	£792
Single occupancy	£1070
Single occupancy with 10% discount	£963



Loyalty Discount and Single Occupancy

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for guests who have already been on a StockenBridge holiday or weekend, provided that this holiday is booked before the 31st October 2016. If you would like to share a room with a friend, even if they are new to Stockenbridge, the discount will apply to them too. Regretfully, due to the size of this particular hotel, we are extremely limited for guests wanting single occupancy.

How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out the booking form - stating your room preferences - and either scan and email to claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com or post to the address at the bottom of the page, together with the deposit of £150 per person. The full payment will be due by March 31st 2017. See booking form for Terms and Conditions.

Payment

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track.

On-line Transfer:

Account name: 'Stockens Ltd' Account Number: 27452468 Sort Code: 30-11-75

Please quote 'Serre Che 17' or your invoice number if you have one

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd'

Financial Protection

Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

For more details:

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