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A house in Provence – the location

Saint Victor la Coste is a country village in Provence that has been classed as one of the "most beautiful villages in France."

The village is set against a hill with a view of a beautiful mix of plains covered to a large extent with vineyards, small woods, and rocky hills. The Rhone river as well as several other villages are visible within several miles. Saint Victor la Coste was first established near the beginning of the 11th century, and is still dominated by the impressive ruins of the *Castellas*, the medieval castle at the top of the hill.

In Saint Victor la Coste (population around 1600), there are: Post Office; two cafés; bakery (bread and pastries); butcher; *épicerie* (general store for any food, and household common items: soap, toothbrush, thread, etc.); *bureau de tabac* (for newspapers, cigarettes, writing paper, etc.); drugstore (pharmacist); a doctor, and a car mechanic.

Laudun (pop 3000) is 5 minutes (3 mi) away: here there are more shops, a small supermarket, a bank with ATM, and a very nice inside and outside public swimming pool open every day.

Bagnols-sur-Cèze (population 20,000 and 8 miles or 15 minutes from Saint Victor) is the closest larger town. Department stores, banks, many shops, movie theater, etc. The pretty town of Uzès is a 20-minute drive from Saint Victor la Coste.

The closest larger towns, Avignon and Nîmes, are 16 and 25 miles away respectively. Both boast impressive monuments, several museums, as well as many concerts, theater, dance, and other cultural activities.

Saint Victor la Coste is located in the middle of the "Cotes du Rhone," one of the largest wine-producing territories in the world, and every village has its wineries. Several villages near Saint Victor la Coste are well-known for their red, rosé, or white wines (Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Lirac, Tavel...)

South is the Camargue Rhone delta region with its salt water marshes, wild bulls and horses and bird sanctuaries, and the Mediterranean. Equally near are the rugged Cévennes hills, and the foothills of the Alps are visible on a clear day from the Saint Victor la Coste hillside.

The region around Saint Victor la Coste is extremely varied, rich with natural beauty, and filled with history. All of the famous sites of Provence are a short drive away. The Pont du Gard, a spectacular Roman aqueduct, is only 20 minutes away, and there other Roman monuments and ruins in Nîmes, Orange, Vaison-la-Romaine, and Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. Medieval monasteries, other monuments, old sections of cities and fortified villages abound, and the walled city of Avignon contains the palace built by the Popes as their home during the 14th century.

Well known regional towns and sites and driving times: Avignon 25 minutes, Uzès 20 minutes, Nîmes 40 minutes, Arles 1 hour, Camargue 1 hour, Aix-en-Provence 1 hour, Marseille 1h20, Nice 2h30, Montpellier 1h30, Orange 20 minutes, Les Baux de Provence 50 minutes.

Saint Victor la Coste enjoys all the advantages of Provence – the sun, the magnificent scenery, the towns and historic sites and monuments, the festivals – while remaining a quiet and authentic southern French village.

Getting here:

The closest entrance/exit to the *autoroute* (high-speed toll highway) that runs toward Paris or West toward Montpellier and beyond to Spain or Toulouse is at Tavel (10 minutes from Saint Victor la Coste).

The closest train station is Avignon, 2½ hours from Paris – or 3 hours directly from the Paris Charles-de-Gaulle airport – on the high-speed *TGV* train (several daily).

There are airports in Avignon and Nîmes, and international airports in Montpellier, Marseille, Nice.

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A house in Provence – the "House Below the Castle"

The house is a beautiful stone construction several centuries old, now entirely rebuilt and renovated. It is situated in a secluded spot in the oldest part of Saint Victor la Coste. The south side of the house and the courtyard open toward the wild hills, with a magnificent view of the ruins of the medieval castle (see photos).

The entire interior, restored and rebuilt 10 years ago, is new and clean. Walls are plastered, floors tiled; electrical installation and plumbing are entirely modern.

The very efficient central heating was installed just two years ago and has a furnace that electronically monitors temperature using both outside and inside thermostats - when the temperature goes down outside, it "knows" to turn up the heat to maintain a constant inside comfort.

The house is pleasantly furnished, fully equipped, and well lit.

Large double doors from the courtyard lead into the kitchen. There is a gas stove with burners and oven, a separate microwave oven, and a large electric refrigerator. Tiled counters line the wall on either side of the double sink. There is an electric coffee-maker, toaster and of course dishes, pots and pans. A large circular table sits in the center, and a pretty cupboard offers space to stock foodstuff.

Also on the ground floor are one small vaulted bedroom with a single bed, and a modern fully tiled bathroom with a large tub, two sinks, a large hot water heater, and a separate toilet.

In a vaulted cellar off the kitchen, there is a washing machine and dryer for your laundry.

A stairway in the kitchen leads up to a very large living room on the second floor with a stone fireplace. There is a convertible sofa that can pull out to sleep two "in a pinch," several comfortable chairs, and tables, lamps, etc. This room is well stocked with guidebooks, brochures and maps of the region, a shelf-full of books in English, and a radio-cassette-cd player with 5-cd "changer". There are also voltage converters, small alarm clocks for the bedrooms, etc.

Off the living room, there is a bedroom with twin beds, and a large armoire.

On the third floor there is a bedroom under the eave with twin beds and armoire. Next to this is a small hall area with a desk in front of window with view of medieval castle ruins atop hill, and another single bed.

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided.

On the south side of the house doors lead out from the second floor onto a sunny outside terrace above rounded vaults. This is completely private, facing towards the hills, and away from the village. Stairs lead down to the courtyard, which is partly shaded by trees, where there are an outdoor table and chairs. On the opposite side of the courtyard, stairs also lead up to the hillside above the house.

There is space near the house to park a car off the road.

There is telephone in the house. The bill is visible on the web, so it's easy to settle up for any calls made during your stay. The house also has a dialup Internet account so if you bring a laptop, you can connect to the web. The closest Internet cafés are in Bagnols sur Cèze, 15 minutes away.

Quote from a renter: *"I can't tell you how sad I am to leave today! I have loved staying in your house. It has been such a wonderful chance to show my friends how beautiful Provence is! It feels so much like home that it feels strange not to leave my belongings behind..."*

Rental for 2007, in US dollars, is as follows (includes all utilities) :

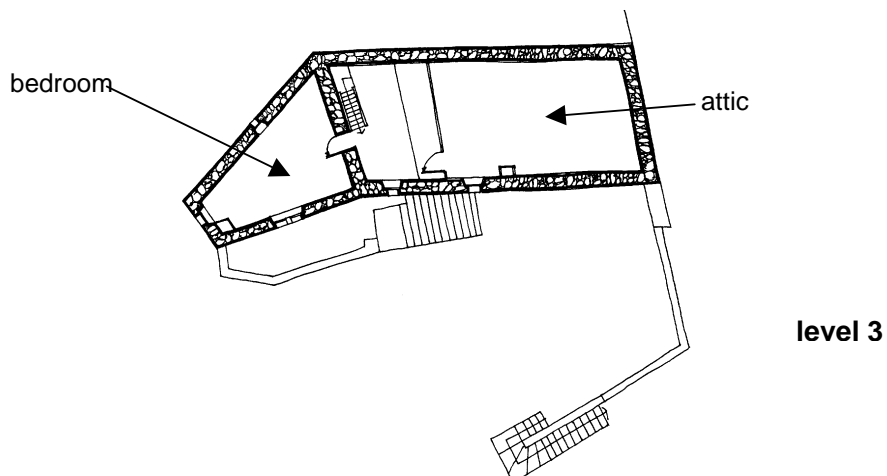
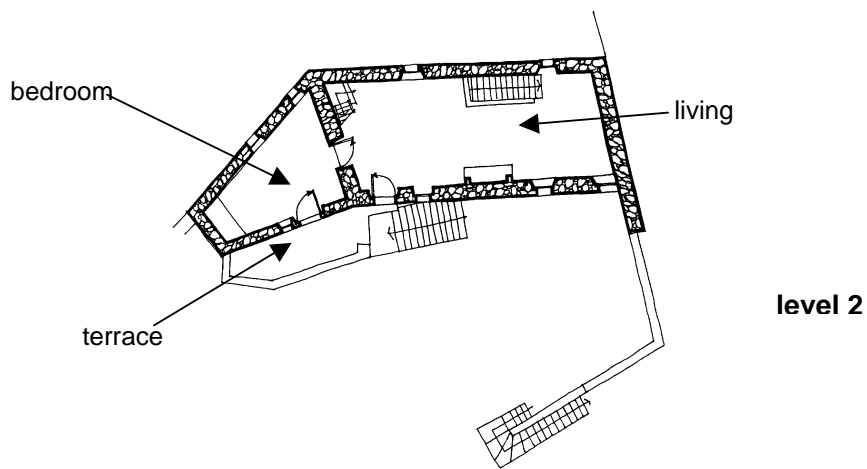
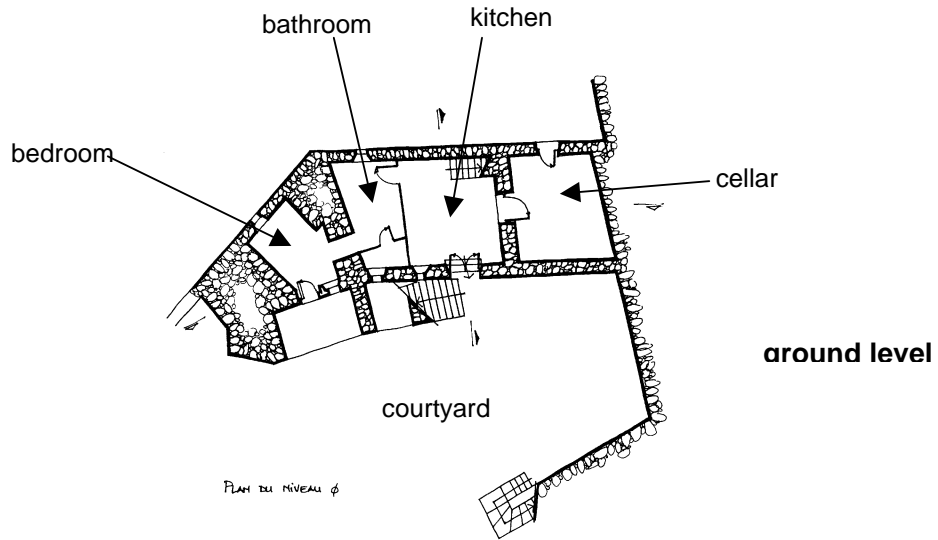
June, July and August :	month = \$3930 ; two-weeks = \$2380 ; one-week = \$1360.
September through May:	month = \$2660 ; two-weeks = \$1440 ; one-week = \$820.

An initial deposit of at least 30% of the total rental is required to reserve the house; a second payment of at least the same amount is due two months before rental period. The remainder is due on arrival in the house.

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The "House Below the Castle" House Plans



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A house in Provence – the "House with Blue Shutters"

This house is also a several-century old stone construction. It is set between other old homes near the village church.

The entire interior has been restored and rebuilt in recent years, and is new and clean. The walls are pleasantly plastered and the floors tiled except for one bedroom that has a nice hardwood floor. The electrical installation and plumbing are entirely modern, and, like my other house, there is very efficient central heating that electronically maintains a constant inside temperature.

The house is pleasantly furnished, fully equipped, and well lit.

The ground floor is made up of two successive vaults, which is quite common in southern France. This is the cellar, where there is a washer and dryer. Otherwise, it's just storage space.

The main entrance to the house is on the side, from a very picturesque stone-paved path. Here, several steps lead up to a pretty double doorway.

This door opens into the dining room with, at the opposite end, the kitchen. There is a gas stove with burners and oven, and a large electric refrigerator. Next to the sink, there is a tiled counter, and there's a large armoire that holds all the dishes and pots and pans. There is of course an electric coffee-maker, and full kitchen utensils.

Off this room is the living room with its windows opening onto a pretty village square with four chestnut trees. In this room, there is a sofa that can pull out and sleep two "in a pinch," several chairs, and a nice round table. Also, a shelf full of English books, tourist information, and a radio-cassette-cd-player.

Stairs lead up from the dining room to the next level, where a hall offers access to the two bedrooms and the bathroom.

Each bedroom has two single beds, and an armoire for clothes. There are also night-tables and chairs. Both are well lit and very pleasant (see the photos on the website).

The bathroom has a tub, sink, and shelf space. There is a separate toilet on the hall.

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided.

A car can be parked right in front of the house.

There is telephone in the house. The bill is visible on the web, so it's easy to settle up for any calls made during your stay.

There is a very effective central heating system.

Rental for 2007, in US dollars, is as follows (includes all utilities) :

June, July and August : month = \$2140 ; two-weeks = \$1320 ; one-week = \$790.

September through May: month = \$1640 ; two-weeks = \$970 ; one-week = \$560.

An initial deposit of at least 30% of the total rental is required to reserve the house; a second payment of at least the same amount is due two months before rental period. The remainder is due on arrival in the house.