

# EUROPE 2023

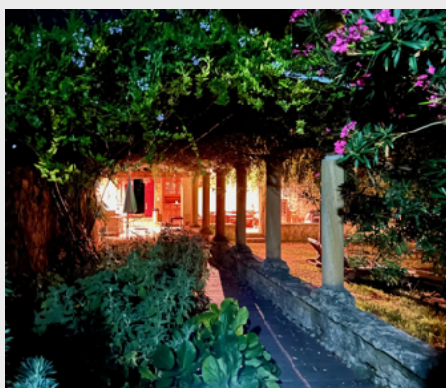


4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs

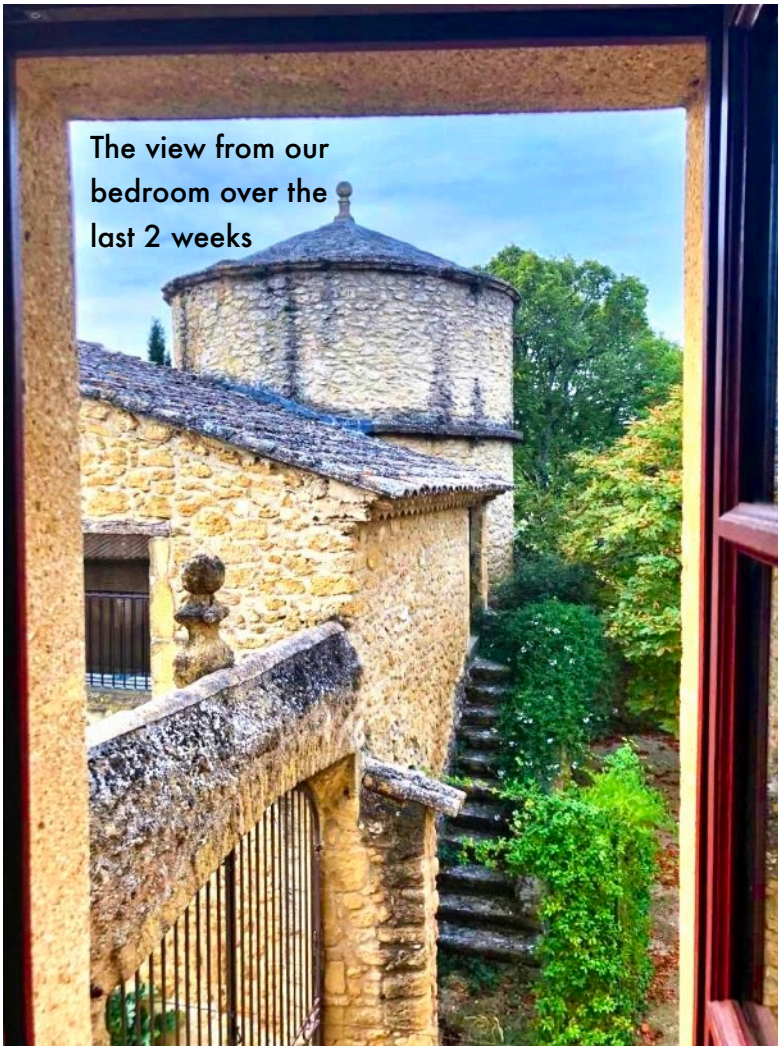
## Grande Bastide Lauris

Tomorrow, we will say goodbye to the charming and magnificent chateau we've been fortunate to call home in Provence. Our experience of living like locals in this splendid residence has allowed us to explore numerous nearby attractions, particularly the enchanting perched villages and ancient towns with their winding alleys and historic sandstone structures. History and breathtaking landscapes envelop us wherever we turn.

While we've explored other regions of Provence on past trips, somehow this specific area of France escaped our attention - till now. Despite the unexpected heatwave, Lauris and its surroundings have pleasantly surprised us with their wealth of offerings for visitors like us. Tomorrow Spain.







The view from our bedroom over the last 2 weeks



## Travel Technology

Over the past 16 years of our international travels (and 40 years before that), we have witnessed significant technological transformations that has enhanced our travel experience. One major evolution pertains to our reliance on powered devices, which have largely transitioned to battery operation or USB charging. A single power cube equipped with multiple USB outlets now suffices to power all our gadgets - and quickly too.!

Reflecting on our European travels more than 40 years ago, we were depended on paper maps, bank-issued cash exchange checks, traditional postal services, photographic slides, and camera film necessitating development. When we wished to make a call back home, we had to schedule it at a local post office. It's truly remarkable how much things have changed!

Among the most valuable additions to our communication toolkit is the Skyroam wifi modem. We load this compact, ice hockey puck-sized device with data and it then seamlessly connects to any local phone service provider in the country we visit. It facilitates internet access for up to six devices, including smartphones, iPads, and laptops, whilst on the move. Moreover, it can serve as a backup power source when you run out of power on the road.

