



When it comes to tranquil, the gites at Chateau de Montoussel in southwest France have it nailed. Surrounded by fields and, well, little else, the three gites converted from a barn in the grounds of a pretty 15th-century chateau are the perfect place to relax.

Immaculately restored by William Lawes and decorated by fashion stylist wife Karen, each gite is quirky and stunning in its own way, cleverly mixing traditional style and original features with contemporary pieces and home comforts. All three have retro red kitchens, incredible views, funky hotel-style wet rooms, WiFi and both French and English TV.

Gite Red y Pink - an open-plan, spacious studio-style gite with a re-upholstered French captain's bed is the perfect choice for couples, while Gite Hopkins and Mutley, sleeping six and four respectively, are ideal for families. All three gites have private wooden terraces overlooking rolling fields and share a pool and shaded garden.

The gites are self-catering but Will and Karen are happy to provide breakfast hampers or get in other groceries on request and the three complimentary mini-bottles of wine (red, white and rosé) and jar of olives are a very welcome touch.

Highs:

- Stunning, quirky, comfortable and well-equipped gites
- The beautiful, tranquil location
- Charming hosts

Inside Track

Inside track: Gites Chateau de Montoussel
Best room: Depends what you want - Gite Red y Pink is cosy and intimate, Gite Hopkins has a fabulous wooden fireplace and a galleried landing and Gite Mutley has an amazing hand-carved African bed in the master bedroom.

Best dish: The gites are self-catered (although breakfast can be provided) but each gite has a folder of local restaurant recommendations everything from basic local food and pizzerias to the nearby Michelin-starred Auberge du Poids Public.

Insider fact: The house has a racy history - it used to be used by one of Louis XIV's lady friends.