



PRESS RELEASE



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT LA BASTIDE DE MARIE, A BOUTIQUE HOTEL IN PICTURESQUE PROVENCE

- Experience Christmas in Menerbes, an area which embraces tradition with markets, carols and Provençal delicacies
- An alternative place to spend the festive season in the heart of Provence

This December La Bastide de Marie will open for its first festive season, opening its doors to guests from 19th December to 4th January 2015. Guests will celebrate Christmas and New Years Eve in the heart of Provence, with a number of traditional celebrations at the boutique hotel as well as in the nearby village of Menerbes and the city of Avignon.

La Bastide de Marie will embrace the festive spirit with tasteful floral arrangements and Christmas decorations that reflect the local area in every room to create the perfect ambience for an authentic Provençal Christmas. Guests of the hotel will be greeted with a lavish dinner on Christmas Eve, with church bells signalling the festivities arrival. In-keeping with Provençal tradition, guests will be presented with thirteen Christmas desserts prepared by La Bastide de Marie's head chef and presented on a table covered in bon bons and traditional Provençal decorations. The feast begins with the four beggars; dried figs, almonds, raisins and nuts, followed by dates, black and white nougat, focaccia with olive oil, quince paste and candied fruit. The festive meal ends with a selection of seasonal fruit including tangerines, oranges, pears, grapes and winter melons. Guests won't need to over indulge as the delicious treats will continue to be served until December 27th.

Although best known for its fields of lavender in the summer months, Provence is equally as beautiful in the winter, with festive markets, fairs and exhibitions. Picturesque Menerbes is home to the Little Truffle Market, selling none other than the infamous black truffle. The market takes place on the Sunday after Christmas in the village's main square and is one of the highlights of the winter season.



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Neighbouring city Avignon has one of Provence's best Christmas markets from 30th November until 5th January. Lavishly illuminated with thousands of Christmas lights, the Place de l'Horloge houses some 50 wooden chalets selling Provençal delicacies, santons, fabrics and more. Animated and illuminated nativity scenes with traditional "santon" nativity figures light up the nearby Chemin des Crèches, and parades, folk dancing and Christmas carols add to the festive atmosphere.

Nestled among 20 hectares of vineyard and gardens, in the beautiful Luberon Natural Park, La Bastide de Marie is a fully restored 18th century farmhouse estate, with just 14 suites. The main areas include the wine-tasting vault, old-fashioned farmhouse kitchen, library and expansive terrace restaurant, overlooking the gardens and adjoining Domaine de Marie vineyard.

Rates from 350EUR per night, half board basis including a traditional Christmas supper

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.labastidedemarie.com

Notes to Editors

Owned and run by the Sibuet family for 31 years, Maisons & Hotels Sibuet are amongst the finest hotels in some of the most beautiful areas of France. The collection is one of Europe's most innovative groups and includes nine hotels in the French Alps, Lyon and the South of France; most recently the 34-room Hotel des Dromonts in Avoriaz, which will be launching in December 2014 and Domaine de La Baume, a renovated 18th century guesthouse in Tourtour, Provence that opened in 2013. The properties are characterised by their unique design, attention to detail and sensational gourmet offerings, as well as Pure Altitude – the group's award-winning spa brand.

www.maisons-hotels-sibuet.com