

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

La Petite Auberge Tourtour

A member of the Relais du Silence hotel association, **La Petite Auberge** lives up to its namesake reputation of silence by providing its international clientele with an unusually tranquil and restful lodging experience. Only 10 minutes' walk from the charming (and tourist-filled!) village of Tourtour, the hotel boasts a secluded location on a pine-flanked road in a neighborhood of elegant vacation homes, each property tucked away discretely in the richness of the Provencal landscape.

Inside La Petite Auberge there's an Italianate feel created through the decorative use of blue and yellow colors and floral patterns. Our second floor room, one of only 15 on the property, featured a balcony overlooking the swimming pool, and it turned out to be a wonderful spot to watch the sun set over distant hills. After dark, the absence of artificial light made this one of the best places for stargazing that we've been to in all of Europe.

Stepping out the door of the hotel, visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors took delightful walks along very lightly traveled roads leading further into the beautiful countryside, which in spring were redolent with the heady fragrances of local Provencal plants and herbs.

Breakfasts and dinners are served in the hotel's restaurant, where large picture windows take advantage of the panoramic view, and candles on the tables contribute a warm touch. Here the culinary accent is on simplicity and freshness. On the evening we dined, a light salad with fresh mushroom slices, sliced cantaloupe melon with Parma ham appetizer, monkfish in light butter sauce, and chocolate *fondant* were on the menu. All breads are baked in-house, and there's a

modest—and reasonably priced—wine list of mainly local offerings to choose from. The staff is very friendly, and parents will be happy to learn that the environment is child-friendly.



*A restful experience at the lovely
Petite Auberge in Tourtour*

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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