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Please read our FAQs on our website first as there are useful information listed there:
<http://chateaudevarennnes.net/moreinfo/faq/>

1. Accommodation

- Do you have a room for older people ?

There is a family suite on the ground floor for older people who can share it with their nurse or children who are taking care of them. There is a little kitchenette with tea and coffee maker.

Do you have Internet access ?

Yes in all the buildings but French regulation does not allow piracy of course

- Is the pool heated ?

The pool is heated in mid-season (March-April and October) but does not need heating from May to September as the weather is sunny and warm then.

- Can I get temporary heating for outdoor events in case the day is sunny but the night is more chilly ?

Yes, we can hire portable heaters

- What are the check-in and check-out times

Check-in times are usually 4 to 6pm and check-out is usually 10am except if you host a farewell brunch in which case the check out time is postponed. If you request to arrive outside these hours, please contact us on sdetruchis@chateaudevarennnes.fr

- What is the minimum stay ?

Usually 3-4 nights but we can be flexible depending on the season and other bookings

- Do we have to book all the rooms when hiring the reception venue ?

We give a discount for bulk booking of all the rooms but you can split bills with your guests (although it will be slightly more costly for them to account for the extra labour). Just let us know how you want to allocate the bedrooms (download and return the spreadsheet: <http://chateaudevarennnes.net/bedrooms/>) and our accountant will take care of the payment process with each guest. We accept cash, transfer and bank cards. Please note that payments with bank cards are applied an extra fee

- What are the accommodation options for extra guests above the chateau capacity ?

You can download the list here :

<http://chateaudevarennnes.net/moreinfo/accommodation/>

However, there may be changes as new b&bs are opening every year. Burgundy being a very touristy region, you should urge your guests to book very early

- What is the most recommended option for accommodating guests above the chateau capacity ?

The most recommended options are in green in the list above. We highly recommend a local chateau b&b which is managed by our cousins and has an outdoor pool and tennis court. Description here : <http://chateaudevarennnes.net/moreinfo/accommodation/>

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2. Outdoors, activities, transport

Please download our welcome book (password is vareennes) :

<http://chateaudevareennes.net/moreinfo/welcome-book/>

- *What is the most easy way to travel to the property ?*

Travel information can be found here :

<http://chateaudevareennes.net/moreinfo/transport/>

- *What about shuttles when we are hosting events ?*

As we are located in the countryside, there are no cabs driving in front of our gate every night but cabs or shuttling service can be arranged for your external guests. This service is to be booked in advance.

3. Weddings and events

- *What kind of functions do you cater for ?*

The property can be rented on an exclusive basis for weddings, holiday breaks and corporate events. There is no time limit for party

- *What is your max capacity ?*

250 guests can be seated in the Orangery (in a single room). The gardens have unlimited capacity for cocktails. We can also hire a tent for larger functions.

- *When is the Orangery available for decorating it ?*

If our in house team is not managing the styling of your event, the Orangery will be available the morning of the event. If you require an earlier time, please contact us.

- *Do you organize legally binding weddings ?*

Yes, it is possible under certain conditions. Please check our answer here :

<http://chateaudevareennes.net/weddings-2/wedding-ceremony/>

- *Do you have a baby sitting service ?*

Yes, it is possible to hire baby sitters.

- *Can you recommend wedding vendors ?*

We can recommend reputable vendors (hair stylists, make up artists, djs, live bands, live musicians etc) who have already done a good job here but we do not impose anyone. Before short listing them, we make sure that they are good professionals and can do a good job for destination weddings (even if they do not speak English which happens often). Contrary to most French venues, we do not request any commissions nor kickbacks from vendors as we believe our clients deserve the best quality price ratio and a neutral advice in their best interest not ours.

- *What kind of celebrants are available for the ceremony ?*

If religious ceremony : you can hire our local Catholic priest or a vicar from Church of England or you can bring your own officiant

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If non religious ceremony : you can hire an officiant for a non religious ceremony

- *Can we bring our own wedding planners ?*

Yes, external planners are more than welcome as it is much less work for our internal team !

- *Is the pool open during events ?*

The pool will be open until the end of the cocktail hour (provided that you have baby sitters or parents to supervise small children). We have to close it after sunset to prevent any accident related to alcohol

- *Can you suggest local specialties to offer to our guest ?*

Among the most popular options : macarons, blackcurrant liquors, jam jars, mustard jars

4. Catering

- *What are the options for meals outside of the wedding reception ?*

Couples are usually hosting a welcome BBQ the night before the wedding and a farewell brunch the day after. Sample menus can be downloaded here but can be subject to discussion with our chefs : <http://chateaudevarennes.net/moreinfo/menus/>

- *Are you flexible with dietary requirements ?*

Yes we can cater for all kinds of dietary requirements (gluten-free, fat-free, dairy-free, allergies etc)

- *Are you able to provide American or British specialties like wedding cakes, cupcakes, cake pops etc*

Yes, we have a specialist pastry chef and cake designer who was trained in France and in the UK

- *Can we have a French wedding cake ?*

Yes, fyi a French wedding cake is called croquembouche or "pièce montée"

- *Can you cater for non-Western meals ?*

Yes, we have already worked with Lebanese, Asian and Indian caterers

- *What are the options for children meals ?*

Menus at discounted rate are adapted for children depending on their age. Children are usually have their meals with baby sitters in the main building then they can play outdoors or sleep in the tv lounge.

- *What are the times for the meals ?*

For the wedding reception, we recommend the following timeline (it allows enough time for the preparations and the light will be good for photography after 4pm)

- Ceremony : 4pm
- Cocktail hour : from 5 to 7.30pm
- Dinner : from 7.30 to 10.30pm

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For the other meals

- Breakfast : 8.30-10am
- Lunch : 12.30-2pm
- Dinner : 8-10pm

Please contact us if you request another timeline

- Can you suggest more original menus ?

Yes, we can provide things like a burger food truck, a pizza van, an ice-cream van or a popcorn bar. Always happy to discuss new and creative ideas

- Can you recommend local restaurants ?

Of course, we can help you book a meal at another restaurant in the vineyards or in the city. Suggestions can be checked here (password is vareennes) :

<http://chateauvareennes.net/moreinfo/welcome-book/>

Please bear in mind that the capacity of some restaurants is limited and that they will require a deposit to secure your reservation.

- Is self catering possible ?

It is possible outside of the wedding reception but not recommended if you do not have a professional chef among your party. Managing food shopping and preparations for big numbers is a full time job and require time (do you really want to spend your holidays working or ask your guests to work) as well as some good skills !

- Where to go for food shopping ?

Please download the welcome book (password is vareennes) :

<http://chateauvareennes.net/moreinfo/welcome-book>

5. Wines and other beverages

- Do you have a wine list ?

Yes mostly with Burgundy wines but we can also provide wines from other regions upon request. Burgundy production is very small compared to other regions therefore the wine list is often updated.

- Can we bring our own bottles ?

Yes but there is a cork fee for chilling, serving and disposing the alcohol bottles (and also the recycling tax)

- Is it possible to have a cash bar ?

Yes, this can be discussed.

- Do you recommend vineyards ?

If you are short of time, we recommend you go to the Cooperative Nuiton-Beaunoy in Beaune which will offer a wide selection of bottles at producer's price : www.nuiton-beaunoy.com

Other options here : <http://chateauvareennes.net/moreinfo/burgundy/wines/>

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- *Can you give an estimate of the amount of bottles to purchase*

Yes, see advice here : <http://chateaudevareennes.net/moreinfo/burgundy/wines/>

- *How far in advance can we get our bottles delivered to the Chateau ?*

Wine bottles usually get delivered 3 days before your arrival (so they can rest before the event). In case your cellar wants to ship bottles in advance, please contact Aymeric to plan the logistics : adetruchis@chateaudevareennes.fr

- *Is it possible to get beer kegs ?*

Yes but we have to hire the machine. Please give your numbers and number of meals then we will get a quote

- *Do you provide soft drinks ?*

Yes, we usually provide soft drinks as it will waste your holiday time to go to the supermarket and transport hundreds of bottles for your stay (quotes are depending on the volume/number of guests/beverage list)

- *What happens if it gets very hot on the wedding day ?*

Burgundy is benefiting from a warm and dry climate therefore we have warm Your bottles are chilled in our cold storage rooms and we also have a professional ice cube maker for chilling soft drinks.

6. Housekeeping and equipments

- *Do you have hair dryers ?*

Yes in each bathroom

- *Do you provide toiletries ?*

We will provide sample bottles of shampoo and shower gel for your first night

- *Can you add beds in some rooms ?*

Yes extra-beds and baby cots can be added in the most spacious rooms.

- *Do you have other baby equipment ?*

We have baby chairs, a microwave, baby toys and a few other baby equipment at your disposal

- *What is available for children to play ?*

There is a tv room with a big tv set and dvd player, an outdoor playground, bikes and also various board games

- *Do you have a BBQ ?*

Yes, we have an extra large BBQ on the pool terrace

- *Can we invite external guests to enjoy the pool or attend our meals*

Yes, external guests can use the pool house to get a shower and get changed They can also attend your meals provided that they or you pay for the bill.

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- *What happens if a guest want to drink outside of the meal hours ?*

For soft drinks : there is a fridge for guest use in the pantry room and another one in the pool house. You can fill them with your own bottles or we can manage the provision of soft drinks.

For hot drinks : there is a traditional coffee maker and a kettle in the pantry room. The use of the traditional coffee maker is complimentary but the use of Nespresso pods is charged to you at the end of the stay.

- *What kind of equipment is provided for large events ?*

A description of the white package is available upon request

7. Lay out of the reception

-If standard lay-out

- Ceremony : in the Chapel or in the gardens by the statue
- Cocktail hour : on the Orangery terrace
- Dinner : in the banquet hall of the Orangery
- Dancing party : in the lounge area/dance floor area of the Orangery

A divider can be hired for splitting the banquet hall for more intimacy

- If fully outdoor event

- Cocktail hour : on the Chateau terrace
- Dinner : on the Orangery terrace
- Dancing party : we can hire a wooden floor to be set up on the Orangery terrace. However local regulation only allows outdoor dancing until midnight

- For welcome BBQ and farewell brunch

We recommend to use the pool area !

- *Can we see pictures or videos of your previous events ?*

Please check our facebook page for recent pictures and films as well as press features

8. Wedding planning

- *I have booked the venue, what is the next step now ?*

- First plan a viewing trip if you have booked the venue without seeing it
- This viewing trip can be combined with a wedding planning session

This wedding planning session is usually comprising the following appointments

- Food sampling at the caterer's restaurant (the Michelin star chef cannot travel to the chateau to cook for 2 or 4 people !)
- Hair and make up trial
- Discussion around the logistics (lay out and timeline of the events)
- Styling the event
- Meeting with the florist, dj, photographer and other vendors if time allows

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If it is not possible, skype sessions can be arranged.

Bear in mind that good photographers and videographers have to be booked early so you should short list (and possibly book) your preferred ones before the wedding planning session if it does not happen shortly after booking the venue

- What are the possible dates for wedding planning sessions ?

As we are fully booked on week-ends and sometimes mid-weeks from mid-April to mid-October, wp sessions usually happen in low season. Please contact us for booking your dates.

- Can we do things diy ?

Yes, if you are crafty and have time to manage a diy project, you are welcome.

9. Finances

- What is the process for booking the venue ?

* For a direct booking : 33% deposit is required upon booking . Another payment of 33% will be required mid-way or 6 month before arrival and the balance is due two months before arrival. For split billing, we request 50% deposit upon room booking and the balance 1 month before arrival (more flexible terms can be agreed if necessary).

Regarding catering : a 33% deposit is required upon booking the caterer, another 33% payment is required mid-way or 6 month before arrival and the balance is the day of the wedding. Final numbers have to be provided 1 month before arrival and the final balance is adjusted accordingly.

We accept cash, transfers and bank cards (the latter are subject to a bank charge)

* For a booking through an agent : their own payment terms apply for the rental fees but the wedding/catering related costs are always settled directly with the Chateau as per the above T&Cs.

- Do we have to tip the chateau staff ?

Tips are not compulsory but are always welcome to show your appreciation of the staff's efforts to make you happy. Most groups will leave €20-30 per staff member and €100-150 for the resident chef but a few of them are much more generous thus leaving a long lasting impression

- Do we have to tip vendors ?

If you are happy of the vendors' work, it is common to show your appreciation by leaving a tip. Indicative amounts are given here :

<http://preciousoccasions.blogspot.fr/2013/08/tipping-your-event-vendors.html>

- Do you have advice on how to optimize our wedding budget ?

Indeed, we have many advice based on our experience of what guests noticed and did not notice ! This can be discussed during your wedding planning session.