

Château Destinée - April 2020 Update

Focusing on the positives...

While the world unites to combat the Corona Virus, work at Château Destinée continues. What a time to start a business: it's going to be a real challenge entering the hospitality industry this year. We feel very lucky to be totally focused on the long term plan for our beautiful château and not too worried about the short term impact.

The cavalry has arrived



In early March we had the team from Sud Ouest Renovation arrive to live on site for a 10-week work schedule. Little did we know back then how much an advantage that would be. We bought materials in advance to avoid any delays, and then the lockdown arrived. Because we are all living on site and we have the necessary materials we have been able to continue working and are still aiming for our opening date of the 1st June 2020, even if we cannot take any

guests. This first phase of restoration is so important we do not want to delay. As soon as travel starts again, we will be more than ready to receive our guest.

Glass half full

Piscines Serenite were also able to come and dig the hole for the pool and reinforce it. Now we just need the concrete company to be able to return to work, but as this is one of those things we cannot control. We simply continue to move on with the many other things we can do.



Lockdown with a view...



The Penthouse has been totally reconfigured to create a beautiful Penthouse apartment and a luxury Penthouse suite. The internal walls are almost finished, and the next few weeks will see the installation of fixtures and fittings. These two spaces perched on top of the Chateau have a wonderful bird's eye view of the River Dordogne and the surrounding countryside. We cannot wait to see them finished and share the photos with you.



Seeing Destinée begin to sparkle with the sunshine and the attention is such a joy and privilege. You can see progress on Facebook and Instagram as we continue to post before and after photos.

How we ended up here...

So, in this update I thought I would share a little about us. Peter and I married in Sydney, Australia and moved to Europe in 2012. After a very short time we were surprised to realise that despite missing family and friends we actually loved living in Europe and started to think we may never go back home. Access to so many countries and cultures within a five hour flight was so exciting for us, coming from an island where it takes five hours to fly from one side to the other, this was a big change. We started traveling every chance we had. So, we started the process of narrowing down where we wanted to live - do we want beach, mountains, city, or countryside? Then which country and culture, and do we want to work winter or summer seasons. We explored it all, loving every minute! As Pete is a chef, we also ate our way through the different countries and districts. It was a great adventure. In 2017 we discovered Bordeaux and it was love at first sight. The area provided growth, sandy beaches, fresh oysters, great wine and the best fresh food markets we had seen. We had found our slice of heaven but in a region so big where exactly to look? The two beautiful rivers Dordogne and the Garonne became the top and bottom borders for our search. We knew we wanted to be close to Saint Emilion and with that the search was narrowed down.

It sounds clichéd I know, but we think Château Destinée found us and waited for us to be ready. At one point she went under offer and we thought we had missed out. But fate decided it was going to be different and she was back on the market the exact month we had decided we needed to move on and find another site.

We cannot wait to help our guests make their Destinée a reality when they stay with us.

destiny

noun

/ˈdestəni/

plural **destinies**

the way your life will develop in the future