DOMAINE DE LA RUADE · LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

Marry in the Loire

A practical guide for couples planning a wedding abroad



No curfew · €0 corkage · Your own suppliers · 44 beds included · Free camping

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1193 route du Bois du Pape, 44370 Varades (Loireauxence), France

1. The venue at a glance

Reception hall	210 m²: 180 seated, 250 cocktail
Estate	8 hectares, including 3.5 hectares of landscaped park with century-old oaks and a pond
Accommodation	44 beds included for 3 nights (70 m² Cottage + 7 wooden chalets), plus free camping for your guests
Parking	130 spaces, free
Access	Hall on one level, adapted restrooms, one wheelchair-accessible chalet
Extras	Professional caterer's kitchen, mini-farm (Shetland ponies, horse, goats, hens, ducks), pets accepted within reason

2. Budget

One flat fee for the whole estate from **Friday 2 pm to Monday 10 am**, in euros including VAT. Cleaning, on-call assistance, accommodation and camping are included. No commission on your suppliers, no corkage fee.

Season	Price (incl. VAT)
March, November, and midweek all season	€6,500
April and October	€7,450
May to September	€7,850

Extra day €750 · half-day €450. Payment: 50% deposit at booking, balance 50% one year before (or at signature if you book within a year). Optional cancellation insurance at booking.

> **Tip.** Venues that charge accommodation, corkage or late-hours fees separately can cost more than an all-inclusive package: compare the total, not the headline rate.

3. Getting here

- **By air:** Nantes-Atlantique (NTE), about 68 km, 52 min by car · Angers-Loire (ANE), about 64 km, 48 min.
- **By road:** A11 motorway, exit 20 (Ancenis) or exit 19 (Saint-Germain-des-Prés). Nantes about 45 min, Angers about 40 min.
- **By train:** regional TER to Varades – Saint-Florent-le-Vieil.
- **Nearby:** Puy du Fou theme park, about 77 km (1 h 10).

4. Legal wedding or celebration?

In France, a legal civil marriage takes place at the town hall (*mairie*) and requires a link with the commune (in principle at least one month's residence for one of the spouses or a parent). Many international couples marry legally in their home country, then hold a secular ceremony and the whole celebration at La Ruade, in the park under the oaks, with a fallback in the hall if it rains. Always check the current rules with the relevant town hall before you plan.

5. A weekend at La Ruade

When	What
Friday, 2 pm	Estate opens: hall, terrace, park and all 44 beds. Set-up and decoration with no imposed slot; relaxed dinner with close family.
Saturday morning	Preparations; guests staying on site have a quiet breakfast.
Saturday afternoon	Secular ceremony in the park, then drinks reception on the terrace or in the park; the mini-farm keeps children busy.
Saturday evening	Dinner in the hall, then the party: no curfew, no limiter.
Sunday	Wake up on site, brunch, free time in the 8-hectare grounds.
Monday, 10 am	Departure. Cleaning is included.

This is a sample flow: the estate is yours, so you shape the weekend.

6. Planning checklist

When	To do
12–18 months before	Check dates, visit (in person or via the 360° virtual tour), sign and pay the deposit.
9–12 months	Book caterer, photographer, DJ/band, florist (they can come from your home country). Decide on legal vs symbolic ceremony and contact the mairie if relevant.
6–9 months	Send save-the-dates with travel info (airports, train, car). Plan guest allocation across the 44 beds and camping; reserve nearby hotels for any extra guests.
3–6 months	Finalise menus, music, decoration, transport from airport or station.
1 year before	Pay the 50% balance (unless booked within a year).
Final month	Final headcount, schedule shared with all suppliers, guest welcome information.

7. Frequently asked

- **Do we have to use your suppliers?** No: 100% free choice, no list, no commission.
- **Is there a corkage fee?** No, €0.
- **Is there a curfew?** No curfew, no decibel limiter.
- **More than 44 guests?** Free camping covers many; nearby options include Château l'Escale, Hostellerie de la Gabelle and ibis Styles Ancenis Centre.
- **Can we plan remotely?** Yes: email and video calls, 360° virtual tour (my.matterport.com/show/?m=Ze59kFcPFbw), visit before the big day.

> **Rated 4.7/5** on Google (168 reviews) and Mariages.net (42 reviews), 5.0/5 on 1001 Salles (11 reviews). Wedding Awards 2026.

Prices and availability checked 21 November 2026. Last 2027 weekends available at that date: 1 and 8 May 2027. Please contact us to confirm.