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Honeymoon Review: Purple Summer's Château de Candie

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Why go?

With its lofty towers, glittering ballroom, alfresco dining at its best, geometric gardens, and all that gilded finery, Château de Candie is the epitome of French castle charm.

Honeymoon style:



This exquisite château is perfect for couples who cherish privacy, luxury, and a touch of whimsy. Behind its honey-hued stone walls, you'll find a secluded retreat where modern comforts blend seamlessly with historical charm.

Set the scene:



Entering Château de Candie feels like stepping into a grand painting. The interiors are adorned with portraits, antique furnishings, and haute couture fabrics, creating an immersive experience. The atmosphere is both romantic and sophisticated, attracting Europe's beau monde, and adding to the château's allure. Wander through halls with parquet flooring and wood panelling, and enjoy marble bathrooms that add a luxurious touch. Communal spaces, like the candlelit restaurant and cosy bar area, are designed for relaxation and indulgence.

For those seeking alpine adventures, nearby Lac du Bourget offers water sports against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Paddleboarding, sailing, kayaking, and wild swimming are all on offer beneath sunny blue skies. The historic city centre of Chambéry, with its Saturday market, and the iconic Annecy, just 30 minutes away, provide authentic tastes of Savoyard life. To pick up unique arts and crafts souvenirs, head to the canalside town of Chanaz, known for its walnut oil production. After a leisurely lunch? The nearby Lido restaurant on the lake serves local Savoyard wines and a high-end bistro menu in a scenic spot.

Back at the château, enjoy the seasonal flora and fauna, and dog-friendly walks in the sprawling vineyards and woodland. The glistening swimming pool, nestled in verdant gardens, is perfect for unwinding after a day of hiking or sightseeing. For the ultimate in relaxation, take a comfortable seat in the bar with a fine digestif, stroke the château's charming cat, and bask in the glow of a roaring fire.

Rooms:



Each room at Château de Candie blends historic elegance with a touch of modern luxury. Plush king-size beds, air conditioning, and Nespresso machines ensure comfort, while period pieces and parquet flooring add heaps of charm. Meanwhile, marble bathrooms with luxurious amenities and a view onto the rolling hills provide a blissful escape. And then there's the tower suite for the ultimate princess-in-a-turret moment – spread across three floors, it has panoramic views and delivers the ultimate in privacy, perfect for honeymooners.

Food and drink:



Dining at Château de Candie is a feast for the senses. Chef Badara Gueye's seasonal menu celebrates local produce, serving up plates that are visually stunning and exquisitely flavoured. The intimate, candlelit ambience is perfect for honeymooners, with vintage décor adding historical charm. In summer, the outdoor terrace offers breathtaking views of the valley.

Chef Gueye's creations include seared cod fillet with vanilla cauliflower purée and strawberry vinaigrette, and L'Oeuf Parfait with sautéed mushrooms. The Foie Gras Poêlé, flambéed with Armagnac brandy, pairs rich foie gras with brioche and pear chutney. For dessert, the chocolate fondue with fresh fruit is a favourite.

The extensive wine list features a delightful Viognier from the château's own vineyard. Guests can sample this during a wine tasting workshop. For a unique experience, you can enjoy a champagne picnic in the verdant vineyard. Saunter down there to find a lavish picnic all set up with wines, champagne, cold meats, cheeses, quiches and summer salads, with local jams and homemade cakes for dessert.

Just a stone's throw away, the chic Lido restaurant by Lac du Bourget tempts visitors with a high-end bistro menu paired with exquisite Savoyard wines. Its stunning lakeside setting, complete with a private beach, is ideal for lunch or dinner. For the ultimate romantic moment, visit at golden hour when the mist rolls in and the sun sets – it's a serious Instagram moment not to be missed.

The story:



Perched on a hillside overlooking Chambéry, Château de Candie dates back to the 14th century. This ivy-cloaked fortress has been transformed into a luxurious retreat while retaining its historic charm. The current owner, Richard Green, has filled the château with heirlooms, flea-market finds, and modern art, creating a unique blend of old and new. Despite its grandeur, the château retains a 'home from home' feel, offering a genuinely warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Location:

Located in Chambéry, Purple Summer's Château de Candie is just an hour from both Geneva and Lyon airports. It's an ideal stop en route to the Alps or the French Riviera, with nearby attractions like Lac du Bourget and Annecy offering plenty to explore.

To book go to: <https://purplesummer.com/destinations/accommodation-in-the-french-alps/> Nightly rates at Purple Summer's Château de Candie start from 200 € per room on a Bed and Breakfast basis. The property is available on an exclusive hire basis from 15,000 €.