



FPN

Period drama

A luxurious 12th-century manor set in 25 hectares of land near the River Dordogne makes a dramatic impression on **Ruth Wood**

French
property
dreams

You can always tell something big is about to happen in a costume drama when the main characters take a 'turn in the grounds'. Whether it's a marriage proposal, a furtive kiss or a bust-up of grand proportions, passions are bound to run high.

The backdrop of this Dordogne *manoir* with its ensemble of buildings offering a total of 11 bedrooms is equally likely to get pulses racing. For the property is set in a staggering 25 hectares of parkland and woodland (including a truffle plantation) near the confluence of the mighty River Dordogne and the

world-famous Vézère valley, a string of prehistoric sites listed by UNESCO.

A turn in the grounds here is a feast for the senses with a myriad of places to escape, entertain and enjoy a fine romance. Landscaped gardens froth with seasonal colour and formal ornamental gardens draw the eye down steps and through pillars and archways towards tantalising vistas beyond. There are cobbled paths, laid out in a stunning criss-crossed design and leading to an orchard, a kitchen and herb garden, and a secluded pavilion where you could sit long into the night gazing at the floodlit fountains

of your ornamental pond. Near the tennis court, stone steps lead down to a heated saltwater swimming pool, complete with changing rooms and shower, set in a walled enclosure with olive trees.

And that's just one of the pools at this stunning property five minutes from the beautiful market town of Le Bugue and close to several *Plus Beaux Villages*. A second heated pool serves the manor itself, a luxurious home dating back to the 12th century. Spacious and tasteful with high ceilings and lovely original features including a cobbled floor in one of its two reception rooms, it has four bedrooms and an

office. Next to it is a fabulous covered terrace above wine cellars and a laundry room.

In addition, there are two stone cottages (each with two bedrooms and two bathrooms) a beautiful one-bedroom *pigeonnier* (dovecote) and a third building with two bedrooms, all set around a courtyard, as well as two barns and garaging for four cars.

With Bergerac airport 45 minutes away and tourism hotspot Sarlat-la-Canéda even closer, the new owners of this property seem destined to live happily ever after. ■

On the market for €2.8m
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