

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

CAN XIQUET
CANTALLOPS, SPAIN

Can Xiquet, a recent addition to the growing number of luxury lodging establishments in rural Catalonia, offers every comfort a travelers could wish for. Located on a hilly outcrop at the end of a quiet country road, the views are pastoral and expansive—extending, in one distant corner, to the Mediterranean Sea itself.

The hotel's 10 rooms are done in a very modern and tasteful style and include TV, phone, minibar, air-conditioning and private bath. Our room, a second-floor junior suite, had a single spectacular feature which captured our

attention: a gigantic picture window, placed to take full advantage of the dramatic natural setting. The other parts of the hotel are equally appealing and comfortable, with banquet and conference rooms, swimming pool and gym, Jacuzzi and dry sauna.

Can Xiquet also operates an equestrian center, offering guided horse trips. Clients, many from Barcelona and Madrid, come for a few hours of horse riding, and sometimes extended horse trips that can last upwards of two weeks through the bucolic Catalan countryside with its mountains and sea views.



Can Xiquet

There is also a stylish restaurant serving a variety of dishes with a Mediterranean focus. Revolving art exhibitions add an artistic aspect, with unique pieces for sale to diners who fancy them—during our stay, lithographic and sculptural artworks were on display.

Dinner began with a pleasing *foie gras* with a *mousse*-like consistency, and served with strawberry *coulis*.

Having previously sampled the Pesquera 1999 vintage, we were now emboldened to order a bottle of the Pesquera 1998 Reserve (disregarding the fact that it was a slightly unconventional accompani-

ment with fish). While perhaps not *quite* as captivating as its more precocious sibling, the '98 held an abundance of fruit. In this slightly more cellared bottle we noted pleasant flavors of cloves, oak, and pencil.

Turbot was served with three kinds of fresh *aïpes*. The cod, in puff pastry with a sauce of sweet red pepper, onion and tomatoes, was tender and tasty; the pastry was a tad limpish.

For dessert, ice cream—vanilla with nuts with peach

melba and pistachio—brought a nice finish to the meal.

If you're seeking calm, relaxation, healthy equestrian activity, good cuisine, and personal attention at a prime pastoral location, look no further than Can Xiquet.



The restaurant

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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Room with a view

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