



Mas de Notre Dame de Vie

THE HOUSE THAT WAS
PABLO PICASSO'S HOME FROM 1961-1973

Mougins, Côte d'Azur, France



Terraces on garden level facing south-west **Right page:** *The poolarea with poolhouse*

Mas de Notre Dame de Vie in Mougins is where Pablo Picasso lived and worked from 1961 till his death in 1973. Today, thanks to a substantial restoration, this unique estate is in exceptional condition, offering an incomparable sense of well-being and the ultimate in home comforts, in a spot that oozes history.



For decades, the Côte d'Azur has been the favourite place of royalty, the international upper-class, world stars, artists and bohemians, to live and spend their vacations. The Mediterranean climate is perfect, the scenery is enchanting, and the villages and towns breathe charm and savoir vivre. Life along the most beautiful coastline of France, and possibly the world, is laid-back and lavish. The influx of old and new money, combined with the desire to relax and enjoy oneself, has resulted in beautiful estates, palaces and modernistic villas along France's southern coast. Life on the Côte is good – better than good.

One of the most spectacular and famous houses on the Côte d'Azur is Mas de Notre Dame de Vie in Mougins. This impressive, traditional Provencal bastide was the last home of no other than Pablo Picasso. The greatest modernist artist the world has ever known, according to many, bought the *Mas de Notre-Dame de Vie*

in 1961, and he would live there until his death, at the age of 91, in 1973. On this secluded estate, he found the tranquillity and inspiration for the numerous works of art Picasso produced here. The house contained hundreds of millions worth of paintings, drawings, etchings and sculptures. Picasso would often work until late in the evening or at night, and sleep during the day. In order to be able to dedicate himself to his work at all times and without distraction, he started by adding a large studio with terrace to the 24 rooms the bastide had at the time. He transformed the old bastide into his dream home, gradually extending the property over the years. The estate is somewhat remote, set on a hillside, just below the old chapel of Notre-Dame de Vie. According to the experts, Picasso consciously sought seclusion, and lived a hermit's life here.

Today, the Mas de Notre Dame de Vie offers no less than 1,709 sqm of floor space, 1,225 sqm of which in the main house. The bastide is surrounded by 8 acres of

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The main entrance of the villa on the ground floor level



Mas de Notre Dame de Vie is surrounded by 8 acres of lovely, landscaped grounds.

lovely, landscaped grounds, with a professional tennis court, a beautiful overflow swimming pool, and a pool house (350 sqm) with a summer kitchen, spacious gym, spa, hammam, massage and changing rooms, showers and laundry. The luscious gardens were completely restored to Picasso's original design, dating back to the early Sixties, with attractive water features, ancient olive trees, an authentic, restored orangery, stone steps, a tree hut, and various terraces. The comfortable guesthouse offers an additional 250 sqm, and there is a 120 sqm caretakers house.

The estate has spectacular views of Mougins, the Esterel Massif, the bay of Cannes, and the Mediterranean Sea. The entire property is exceptionally well-maintained, and comes with all mod-cons including state of the art home automation, security, and air-conditioning. With lots of love and respect for the unique history and atmosphere of the estate, its unique grandeur was supplemented by supreme modern-day conveniences. The estate's resurrection is all down to the last owner, who bought the bastide in a ruinous state. It had stood empty for 30 years, since the death of Picasso's wife, Jacqueline Roque, in 1986. Since Picasso's demise, she had left everything in the house as it was, not changing a thing. Even his reading glasses were where Picasso had left them.

It was the renowned (interior) architect Axel Vervoordt who oversaw the substantial restoration. The house had to be brought back to how it was when Picasso lived there, but at the same time had to be equipped with all modern amenities. The Belgian master was amazingly successful in doing so. He had plenty of source material to go on – Mas de Notre Dame de Vie features heavily in the many books published about the life and works of Pablo Picasso. Approximately 100 people laboured for two years during the restoration process. Despite its vast size, Vervoordt succeeded in creating an extremely comfortable and warm atmosphere. The property has access from two sides, via camera secured gates. The entrance on the ground floor leads on to a spacious hall, a large yet cosy lounge, a breakfast room, a beautiful kitchen/diner, a lovely studio and the gallery.

At the lower garden level, there is a second living room with attractive fireplace, adjoining a spectacular



Picasso and his wife Jacqueline Roque take a stroll in the garden of the house

Left page: Terrace with pond on the ground floor level

garden room with arched doors leading onto the terrace, and a professional kitchen with top-range appliances, a utility, prepping kitchen, two cold storage areas, and a climatized wine cellar for 5,000 bottles.

The master bedroom on the first floor is of royal proportions, offering lovely views of the surrounding area. It has a spacious dressing room and luxurious bathroom. There are four more large bedrooms, each with en-suite dressing rooms and bathrooms. This floor also houses a safe room, a laundry and staff area. All floors can be reached with a lift, or a monumental stone spiral staircase. There are five separate guest apartments in the grounds, three with their own living room. Mas de Notre Dame de Vie has more on offer than we could possibly list here. The best materials, components, and facilities available anywhere were introduced in the restoration of this exceptional property. This residence is second to none on the Côte d'Azur.



Terraces facing south-west and covered terrace on garden level



*Outside terrace in the shadow close
to the kitchen on garden level*



The main kitchen with terrace on garden level



*Spectacular garden room with
the living room on the left*
Right: *The entrance of the living
room on the ground floor*
Right page: *The living room on
the ground floor*



*It was the renowned (interior)
architect Axel Vervoordt who oversaw
the substantial restoration.*



The warm and spacious living room on garden level



*Picasso transformed the old bastide
into his dream home, gradually
extending the property over the years.*

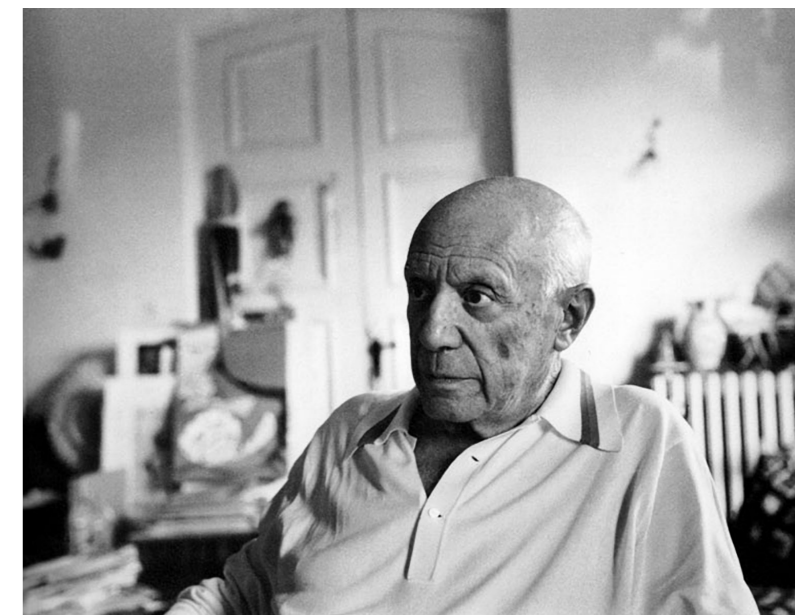
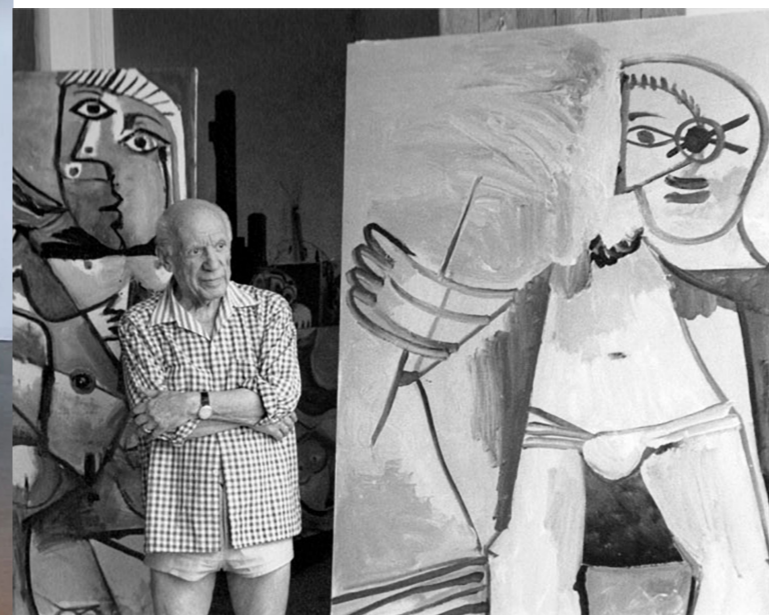
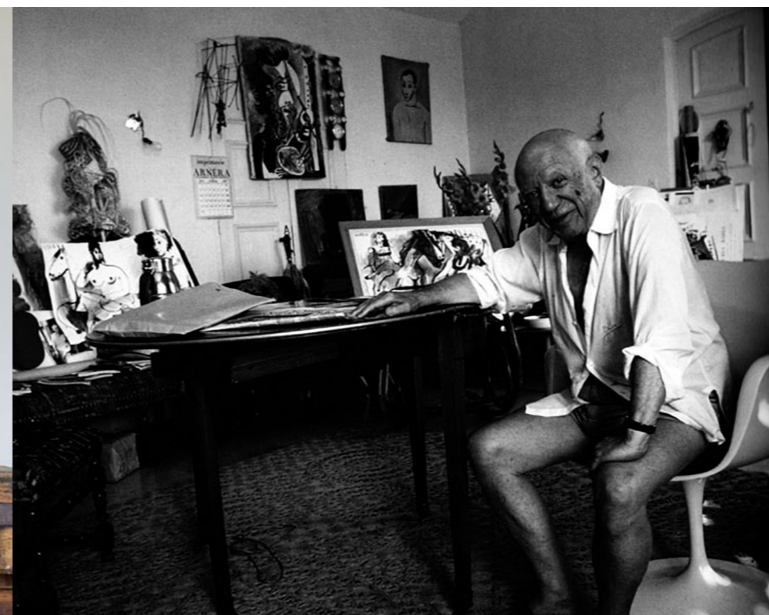


*Part of the gallery on the ground floor
Left: The beautiful stone spiral staircase
Left page: Impression of the gallery on
the ground floor*



The master bedroom and bathroom on the first floor
Right page: *One of the further four bedrooms on the first floor*

The master bedroom on the first floor is of royal proportions and there are four more large bedrooms, each with en-suite dressing rooms and bathrooms.



The atelier on the ground floor
Right page: Picasso during the years
he called this house his home



'Everything you can imagine is real'
Pablo Picasso



The spectacular poolarea with infinity pool

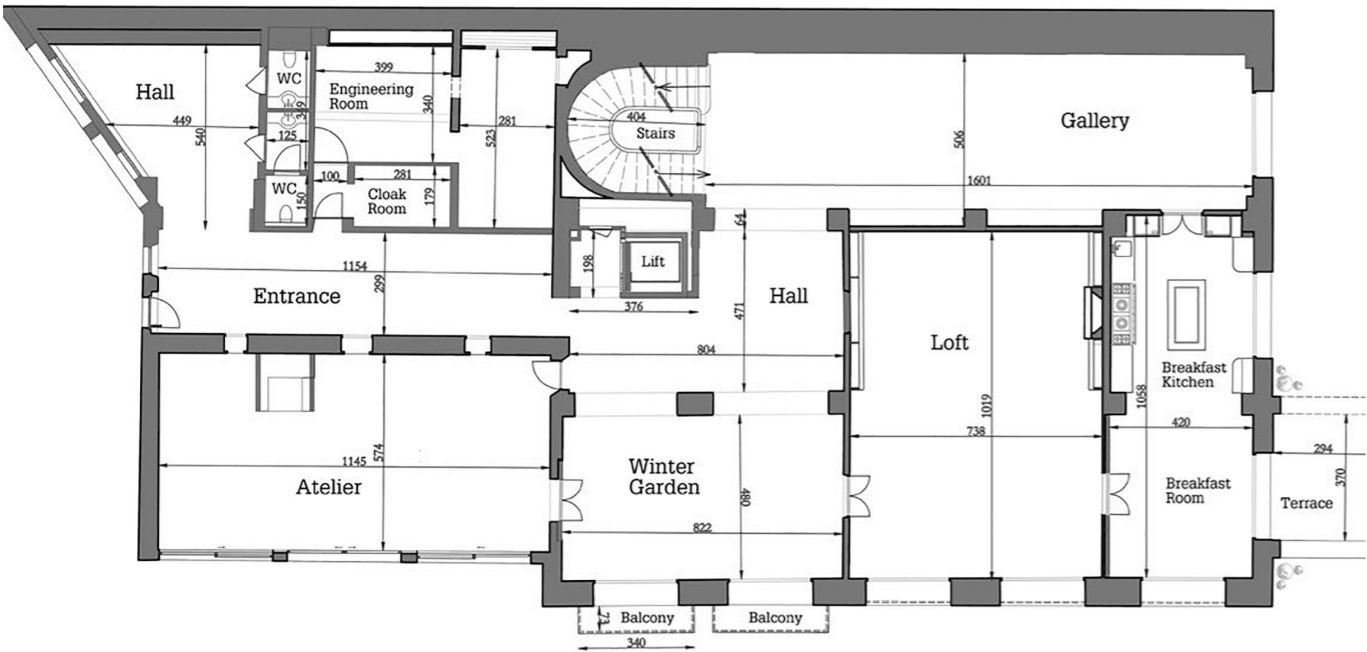


One of the guesthouses close to the main house. The smaller pictures give an impression of the garden and terraces

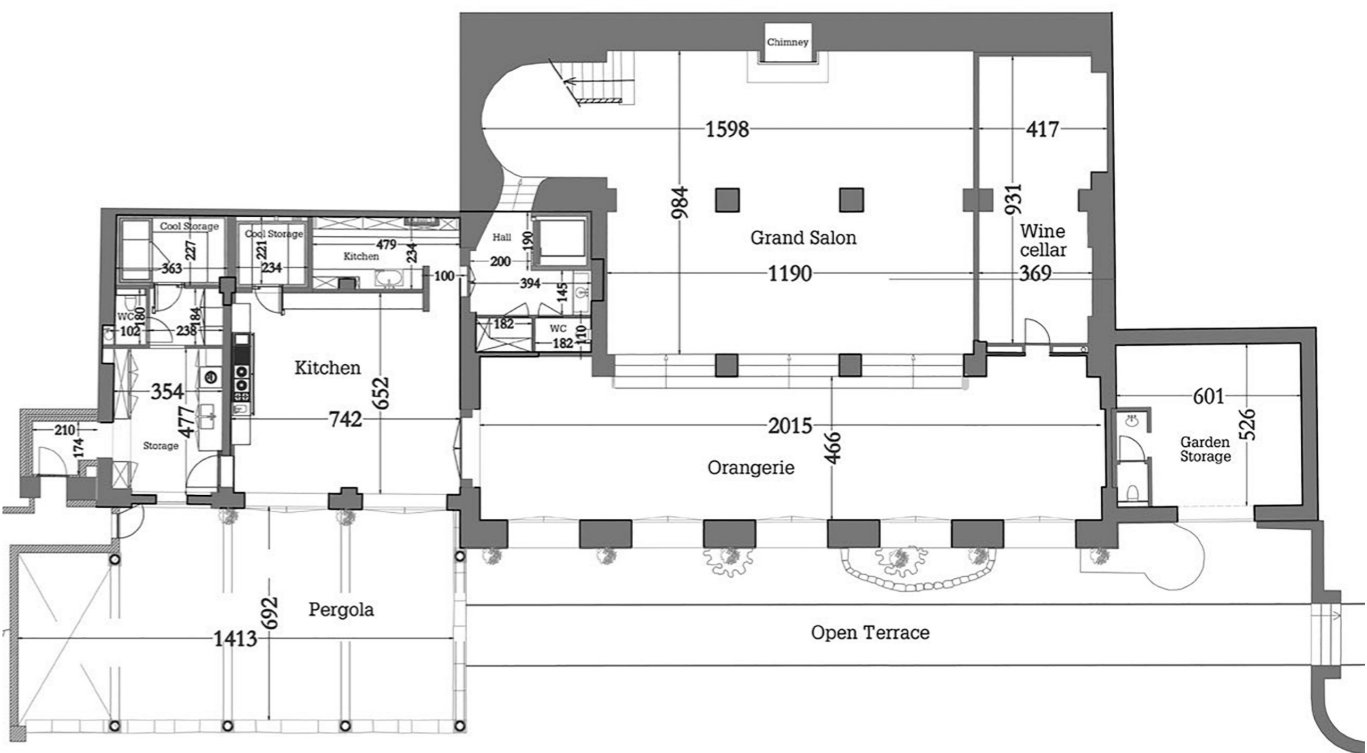


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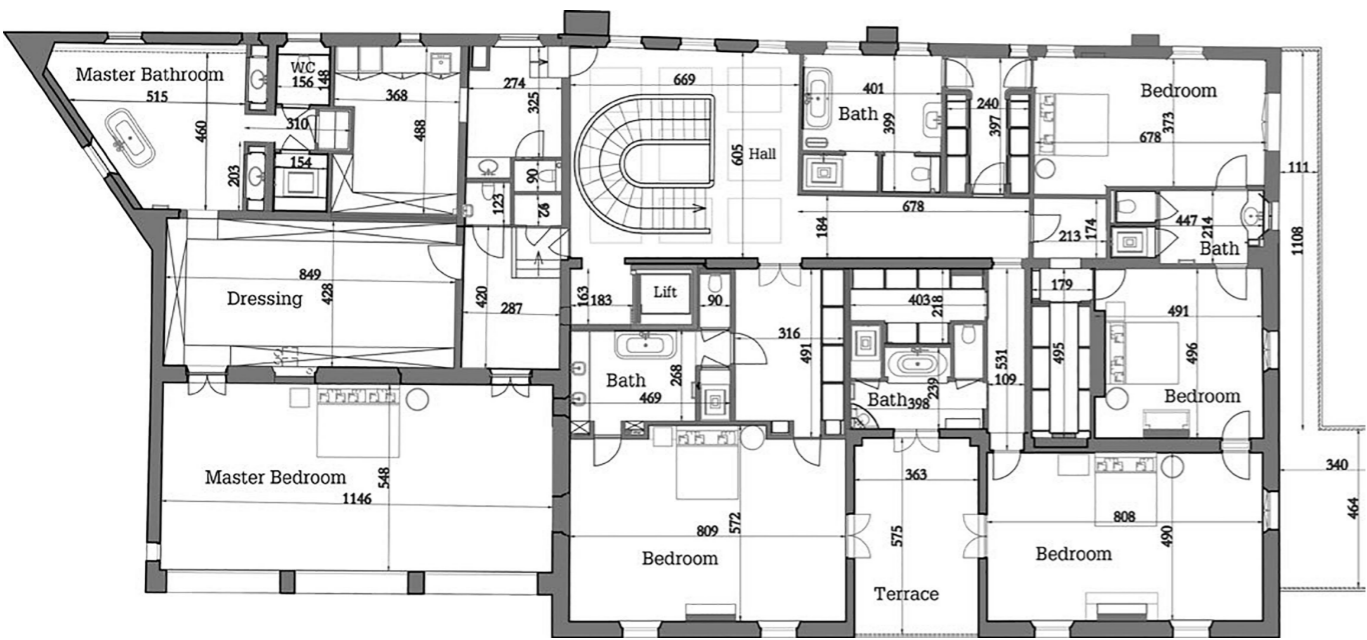
Main house, ground floor



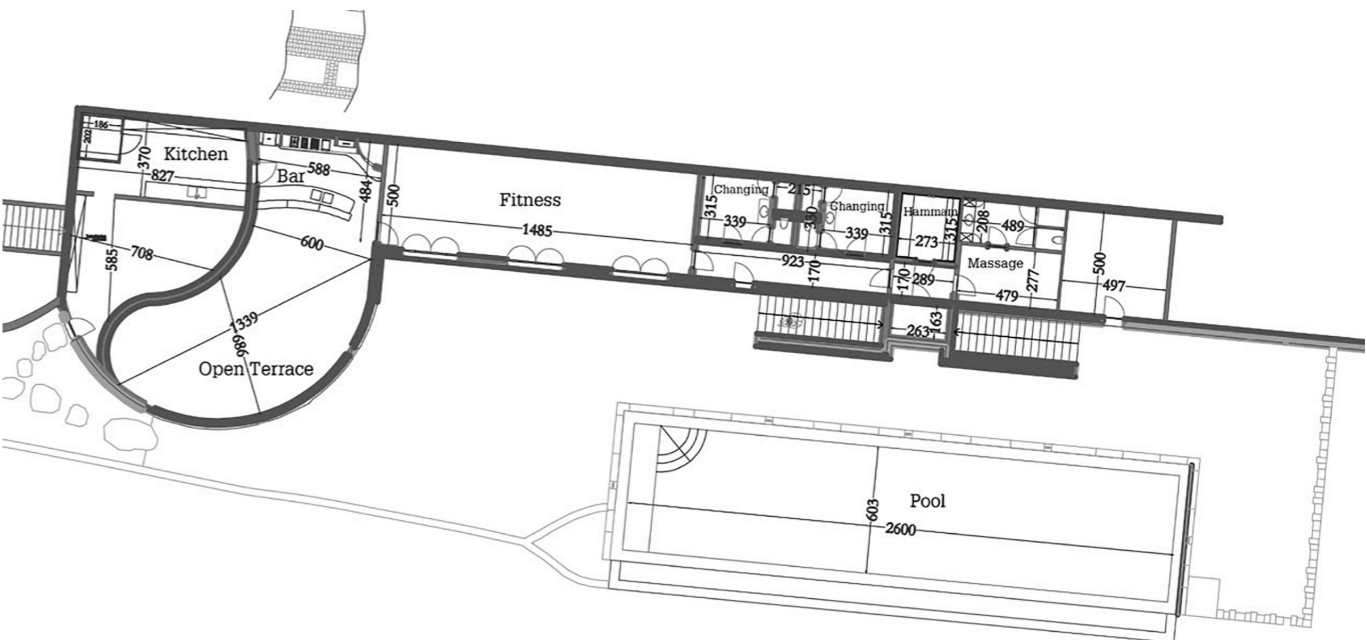
Main house, garden level



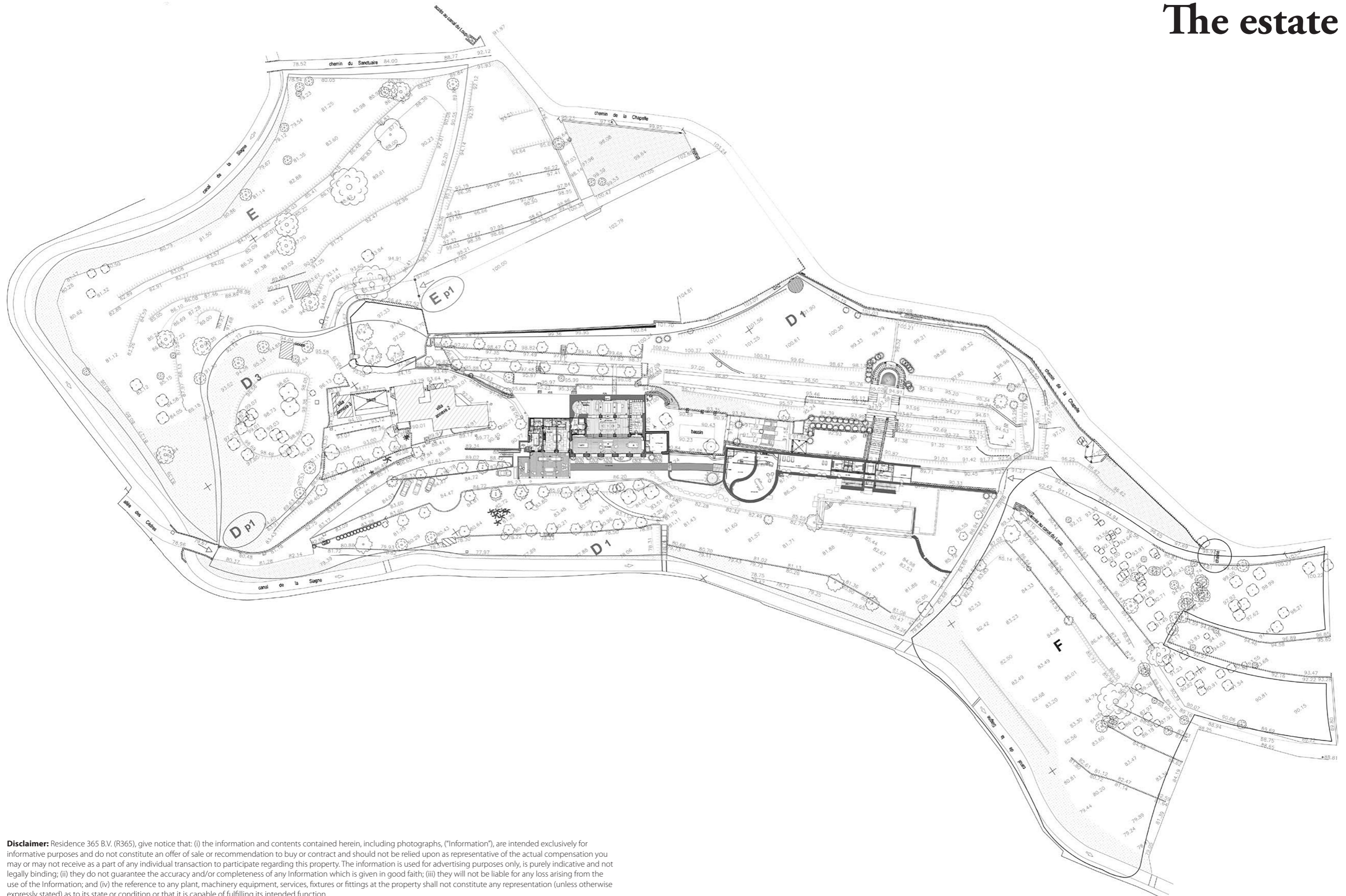
Main house, first floor



Pool house: summer kitchen, fitness, bar and wellness



The estate



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