



Kaaño Etxea

The track zig-zags up through ancient forests, high above valleys shrouded in mist; the views are spectacular, the approach is an adventure. Pull up at the most elevated house in the hamlet, 780m above sea level, neat and pink-washed outside, earthy and homely within. These young owners, warm and eager to please, are genuine people with strong green credentials; aged beams are treated with natural oils, heating is embedded feng shui style in walls, and the whole place is powered by the wind and the sun. Bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, charmingly rough and ready, the biggest and best with its own wood-burner; stones are exposed – cartoon-like – in white adobe walls; and views sweep over forest and hills. You breakfast and dine at private tables in a darkly atmospheric room where the scent of woodsmoke hangs in the air. The chef, Alberta – is of Italian descent but has mastered the art of the Basque 'bacalao': a proper treat after a day's forest-foraging birdwatching or organic cheese sampling. Or simply stay put: the living is easy and the gardens are lovely for free-ranging young.



Price €65-€74
 Rooms 5 doubles
 Meals Dinner €20.
 Restaurants 10-minute walk.
 Closed Rarely
 Directions From San Sebastián on A-15, exit 117 or 118. NA-411 signed Udabe. At km9 marker left for Arrarats. 5km to Arrarats.

Ethical Collection: Environment.
 See page 368.

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Entry 54 Map 5

