

Finding Rougé

Rougé is in the commune of Esplas de Sérou, which is south of Castelnau Durban on the D117 about half way between Foix, on the N20 in the East and St Girons in the West. It is marked on the Michelin 1:200,000 road maps and also on the maps of the Institute Geographic National, in particular 2047 ET, in the Cartes Touristiques locales series, on a scale of 1:25,000. GPS coordinates 1° 21' 53" est, 42° 59' 12" nord

The easiest route is to take the turning to Larbont and Esplas de Sérou in the centre of Castelnau, the turning is nearly opposite the post office and goes between the tennis court and car parking area, over a bridge (there is a tourist sign for Rougé). Immediately after the bridge there is a memorial with a T junction, turn left, it is marked to Laborie. After a straight section the road divides, keep round to the left, round a hairpin bend and you will be driving up with the cemetery and the other part of the road below you on your right. There is then another sharp turn to the left where it meets up with the other part of the road (and another sign for Rougé).

After this the road climbs up in several bends and you look out across the roofs of Castelnau. At the top there is a metal cross and a sign to Matalis to the right, go straight on, which involves turning left then right and continue to follow the road. Shortly after this you reach Laborie, with a small sign, and consisting of just a few houses with two street lamps. The road winds through it, first left then right. About 1km further on there is a junction, with a signpost, Esplas De Sérou straight on, Larbont to the left and Castelnau from where you've come (and another sign for Rougé). Take the left turn to Larbont and Rougé. The road bends round on the side of the hill and at night the lamps of Rouge and the next hamlet are visible. The road runs up to a cluster of buildings, with the standard municipal dustbins, an electricity pylon and 8 post boxes, the centre of Rouge. Turn left just past the post boxes down a steep road, and our house is at the bottom on the left, just next to the lamp.

As the map will show there are two other routes to Rougé, one via Larbont, turning off the D117 just west of La Bastide de Sérou, the other is via the village of Esplas de Sérou, the turning just to the East of La Bastide de Sérou, for Nescus and Sentenac, this is much longer, but very pretty, and joins onto a maze of minor roads going into the mountains.

