



Dordogne Itinerary 2017

■ Sept. 3 - 15 • Group capped at 8

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with en-suite bath
- Transportation in comfortable van or mini-bus • Dramatic cliff fortress
- Château visits • Picnic with local produce • Fine wine & cuisine
- The fine wines of St. Emilion • Numerous shopping opportunities
- Some of France's loveliest villages – Domme, Beynac, la Roque-Gageac
- Cave paintings and artifacts from 500,000 years of human habitation
- The outstanding market at Sarlat – among the finest in France
- Two lunches in Michelin-starred restaurants • Fabulous outdoor markets
- The *bastide* ("new" town of the 13th century) of Monpazier on market day

Tour cost – \$3,995* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550

TOUR

SUMMARY

Tour begins & ends in Bordeaux

FLY FROM U.S. – Leave Sept. 1, arrive Sept. 2 (overnight, **Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport**)
 TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 3, **Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport**
 TOUR ENDS – Sept. 15, in the morning, at Bordeaux airport (you will fly home today)
 12 NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches & dinners)

■ Day 1 (Sunday, September 3)

From our meeting point, the lobby of the **Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport**, it's a one-hour drive to the **Médoc** wine region of **Bordeaux**, world famous for its reds. We visit the venerable and highly respected winery of **Château Pichon-Longueville Baron** in **Pauillac** for a tour, followed by **LUNCH**. Later in the afternoon we make our way to lovely **St. Emilion**, a hill village occupying a privileged position. After checking into our hotel, we take a get-acquainted stroll around town. **OVERNIGHT – ST. EMILION**

■ Day 2 (Monday, September 4)

Today, after an orientation to the historical land of **Dordogne** and to our tour, we visit the **Monolithic Church** – Europe's largest church carved out of living rock. After **LUNCH** in the village, a treat is in store – a tour of the **Pottery Museum** with an introduction to the land of **Aquitaine** and its fabled duchess, **Eleanor**. You'll be fascinated by the artifacts collected over the year by museum owner **Alain Querre**. **OVERNIGHT – ST. EMILION**

■ Day 3 (Tuesday, September 5)

Leaving St. Emilion, we head to lovely **Brantôme**. We check into our riverside hotel, then stroll the streets before taking a cruise on the **Drôme River**. Later there is free time in charming **Brantôme**. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTOME**

■ Day 4 (Wednesday, September 6)

In the morning, we visit the magnificent **Château of Hautefort**, perched on a lofty ridge and surrounded by beautiful gardens. The castle is so perfectly Renaissance that it served as the setting of the film *Ever After*, with **Drew Barrymore**. After lunch we visit the pretty village of **St. Jean-de-Côle**, officially classed as one of the most beautiful villages of France. Back in **Brantôme**, we enjoy free time before **DINNER** in our hotel's outstanding restaurant. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTOME**

■ Day 5 (Thursday, September 7)

This morning we visit **Brantôme's abbey**, founded by **Charlemagne** in 769. Then we enjoy a Michelin-starred **LUNCH** in **Brantôme**. In the afternoon we make the drive a few minutes downriver to the lovely village of **Bourdeilles**, boasting a château, a panoramic park and a humpback bridge over the **Drôme River**. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTOME**

■ Day 6 (Friday, September 8)

It's time to leave **Brantôme**. In late morning we arrive in lively **Périgueux**, the chief town for the region. There will be time for lunch as well as strolling in the old town, window shopping and visiting the curious, domed cathedral. Then we head south into the heart of **Périgord**, stopping along the way to experience a site inhabited in

prehistoric and medieval times – the remarkable cliff of **Roque St. Christophe**. Near day's end we come to **Sarlat-la-Canéda**, a magical town of authentic Renaissance architecture. Our six-night stay in the exceedingly comfortable hotel **Villa des Consuls** allows us to relax and enjoy Sarlat. Do make time to stroll the cobbled streets after dark, when old Sarlat is illuminated by gaslight.

OVERNIGHT – SARLAT

■ Day 7 (Saturday, September 9)

Sarlat-la-Canéda has what many consider France's most renowned outdoor market. Along with the imposing town church and the ancient town, the market is well worth a half-day's exploration. We shop in the market for a gourmet picnic lunch, then head for the magnificent gardens of **Marqueyssac**, where we picnic before touring the grounds. Later we return to Sarlat and optional sightseeing, or simply relaxing in the utterly charming town center. In the evening we enjoy **DINNER** in Sarlat. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, September 10)

The wild and untamed country to the east of Sarlat is on our agenda as we make a day trip to the area's most revered pilgrimage site – medieval **Rocamadour**. Here we visit the astounding village, clinging to the face of its cliff, as well as several pilgrimage chapels whose fame in the middle ages brought travelers from throughout Europe. In the afternoon we descend to the **Dordogne River**, to the pretty village of **Carennac**, officially enshrined on the list of Most Beautiful Villages of France. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 9 (Monday, September 11)

This morning we learn why this part of France has been called the **World Capital of Prehistory**. Our first visit is to the cave of **Rouffignac**, which contains more than 250 engravings and paintings dating back about 13,000 years. Then we arrive in the dramatic village of **Les Eyzies** for **LUNCH** and to visit the **National Museum of Prehistory**, which chronicles 500,000 years of human habitation in these valleys. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 10 (Tuesday, September 12)

This morning we pass through beautiful and unspoiled back country, then cross the **Dordogne River** to the **Château of Les Milandes**, once owned by American singer-dancer **Josephine Baker**. After a visit, we climb to the perched village of **Domme**, which enjoys a view over miles of **Dordogne River** countryside. Following **LUNCH** and free time here, we descend to the **Dordogne**

River and the remarkable village of **La Roque Gageac**. Here, we board a boat, a replica of the old river craft called the *garbare*, for an excursion. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, September 13)

Our first stop today is **Lascaux IV**, a new (late 2016) interpretive center containing an exact replica of the cave of **Lascaux**, whose 15,000-year-old paintings have made it what has been called "the Sistine Chapel of prehistoric art." After our thorough visit, we return to **Les Eyzies** to visit the rock shelter that started it all – **Cro Magnon**, lying at the foot of a limestone cliff, which gave its name to modern man. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, September 14)

Leaving the Dordogne, we head west, back toward **Bordeaux**. By 10 a.m. we are in the *bastide* (walled town from the 1200s) of **Monpazier**, with time to explore its old streets. After a special **LUNCH** at the Michelin-starred restaurant **La Tour des Vents**, we continue on, arriving late in the day at the **Bordeaux airport** and checking into the comfortable Novotel. **OVER NIGHT – BORDEAUX AIRPORT**

■ Getaway day (Friday, Sept. 15)

It's time to say *au revoir* to France as you fly home from **Bordeaux airport**.

Notes

MEALS – Tour includes breakfast every day, as well as eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** on the itinerary.

OUR HOTELS

Auberge de la Commanderie, St. Emilion
Hôtel Frères Charbonnel, Brantôme
Villa des Consuls, Sarlat
Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport (Bordeaux Airport)

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to change according to availability.

ITINERARY – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change. A final itinerary will be issued closer to trip departure.

* **TOUR PRICE** – Price quoted is based on a "benchmark" U.S. dollar/euro exchange rate that existed pre-tour and could change in the event of significant exchange rate fluctuations. Call us for details – (800) 676-1247. Price quoted is for land arrangements only, not airfare.