



Dordogne Itinerary 2020

■ Sept. 5-17, 2021 • Group capped at 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with en-suite bath
- Transportation in comfortable vans • Dramatic cliff fortress
- Château visits • Picnic with local produce • Delicious country 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 – \$4,295* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550

TOUR SUMMARY	FLY FROM U.S. – Leave Sept. 3, arrive Sept. 4 (overnight, Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport)
	TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 5, lobby, Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport
Tour begins & ends in Bordeaux	TOUR ENDS – Sept. 17, in the morning (you will fly home from Bordeaux airport today)
	12 NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches & dinners)

■ Day 1 (Sunday, September 6)

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 first visit the venerable winery **Château Lanessan**, including its old stables, and learn about the winemaking process. After a tasting and **LUNCH** 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 7)

This morning, after an orientation to the historic land of **Dordogne** and to our tour, climb aboard **St. Emilion's** little tourist train for a spin through the old streets and surrounding vineyards. Then we walk to a fine **LUNCH** at an excellent bistro. In the afternoon we visit **St. Emilion's Monolithic Church** – Europe's largest church carved out of living rock. Late in the day, enjoy free time or come along for sparkling wine enjoyed in a shaded garden next to a ruined cloister. **OVERNIGHT – ST. EMILION**

■ Day 3 (Tuesday, September 8)

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 charm-

ing **Brantôme**. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTOME**

■ Day 4 (Wednesday, September 9)

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 10)

This morning we visit **Brantôme's abbey**, founded by **Charlemagne** in 769. Then we enjoy a delicious **LUNCH** in a nearby village. In the afternoon we make the drive just 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 11)

It's time to leave **Brantôme**. In late morning we arrive in lively **Périgueux**, the chief town for the region – your chance to visit 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 12)

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 gardens and château grounds. **DINNER** tonight in Sarlat. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, September 13)

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**, where we take an electric train to access galleries filled with prehistoric images. Then we arrive in the deep Dordogne countryside for an authentic country **LUNCH**. Later, in the village of **Les Eyzies**, we visit the **National Museum of Prehistory**. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 9 (Monday, September 14)

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 10 (Tuesday, September 15)

Our first stop today is **Lascaux IV**, a recent (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 ample time to discover this sprawling center, we return to **Les Eyzies** to visit the rock shelter called **Abri Cro-Magnon**, lying at the foot of a limestone cliff. Cro-Magnon gave its name to modern humans. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, September 16)

This morning we pass through beautiful and unspoiled back country, then cross the **Dordogne River** to the **Château des 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. Finally, back in **Sarlat**, say goodbye to one of France's loveliest towns. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, September 17)

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 on market day. After **LUNCH** at the Michelin-starred **La Tour des Vents**, we continue on, arriving late in the day at the **Bordeaux airport** and checking into the comfortable Novotel. **OVERNIGHT – BORDEAUX AIRPORT**

■ Getaway day (Friday, Sept. 18)

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** in 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.