



Dordogne Itinerary 2010

■ Sept. 26 - Oct. 8 • Group size limited to 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with private bath
- Transportation in comfortable mini-bus • Outstanding cuisine
- Château visits • Picnic with local produce • Fabulous outdoor markets
- The fine wines of St. Emilion • Numerous shopping opportunities
- Some of France's loveliest villages – Domme, Beynac, Monpazier
- Cave paintings and artifacts from 500,000 years of human habitation
- The outstanding market at Sarlat – among the finest in France
- Lunch in a Michelin-starred restaurant • Fine wine & cuisine throughout

Tour cost – \$3,795* per person sharing accommodation • For a single room, add \$450

TOUR

SUMMARY

Tour begins & ends in Bordeaux

FLY FROM U.S. – Leave Sept. 24, arrive Sept. 25 (overnight, Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport)

TOUR BEGINS – At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport

TOUR ENDS – Oct. 8, 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 26)

From our meeting point, the lobby of the Hotel Novotel Bordeaux Aéroport, it's a one-hour drive to the **Médoc** wine region of **Bordeaux**, world famous for its reds. We visit a wine information center in **Paulliac**, followed by lunch. At 2 p.m. we arrive at the venerable and highly respected winery of **Château Lynch-Bages** for a tour. 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, and enjoy **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ST. EMILION**

■ Day 2 (Monday, September 27)

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. A treat is in store in the afternoon – a tour of the **Pottery Museum** with an introduction to the land of **Aquitaine** and its fabled duchess, **Eleanor**. You'll find the talk by museum owner **Alain Querre** fascinating. We have **DINNER** in our hotel's highly regarded restaurant. **OVERNIGHT – ST. EMILION**

■ Day 3 (Tuesday, September 28)

Leaving St. Emilion, we head to lovely **Brantôme**. We check into our riverside hotel, then stroll the lively streets before taking a cruise on the placid **Drôme River**. Later we drive to

nearby **Bourdeilles** and visit this charming riverside village. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTÔME**

■ Day 4 (Wednesday, September 29)

In the morning, we visit 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. In the afternoon we tour 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**. Back in Brantôme, we enjoy free time before **DINNER** in our hotel's highly rated restaurant. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTÔME**

■ Day 5 (Thursday, September 30)

One of our best meals takes place today. At mid-day, after a visit to Brantôme's **abbey**, founded by **Charlemagne** in 769, we travel to nearby **Champagnac** for **LUNCH** at the **Moulin du Roc**, a converted walnut oil mill that is today a proud holder of a Michelin star. It is a fabulous meal in a gorgeous setting – a gracious, riverside garden – that you will long remember. Later still, we stroll around the pretty village of **St. Jean-de-Côle**, officially classed as one of the most beautiful villages of France. **OVERNIGHT – BRANTÔME**

■ Day 6 (Friday, October 1)

It's time to leave Brantôme. In late morning we arrive at **Collonges-la-Rouge**, an exceptionally beautiful village built of red stone. After sight-seeing and lunch, we head south into the heart of **Périgord**, to one of the few remaining walnut oil mills in the Dordogne. At day's end we come to pretty **Sarlat-la-Canéda**, a magical town of authentic Renaissance architecture. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 7 (Saturday, October 2)

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. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, October 3)

The wild 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. In the afternoon we descend to the **Dordogne River**, to the pretty village of **Carennac**. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 9 (Monday, October 4)

This morning we learn why this part of France has been called the **World Capital of Prehistory**. Our first visit is to the dramatic village of **Les Eyzies** and its newly remodeled **National Museum of Prehistory**, which chronicles 500,000 years of human habitation in these valleys. In the afternoon, we visit two sites inhabited in prehistoric and medieval times – the remarkable cliff of **Roque St. Christophe**, and the **Château de Reignac**, built into niches in the cliff. Returning to Sarlat, we have **DINNER** in town. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 10 (Tuesday, October 5)

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 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 a cruise. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, October 6)

We get our chance today to see prehistoric cave art – the real thing, at the **Grotte de Font de Gaume** in the morning, and the uncanny replica of the cave at **Lascaux** in the afternoon. Font de Gaume is one of the last in France still open to the public in which multi-colored prehistoric paintings are found. Today we have **LUNCH** in **les Eyzies**. **OVERNIGHT – SARLAT**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, October 7)

Leaving the Dordogne, we head east, back toward Bordeaux. Along the way we stop at the *bastide* (new town) of **Monpazier**, founded in the 1200s. After **LUNCH**, we visit one of the top sights of the Dordogne – the **Château of Monbazillac**, a castle and winery. Finally, at day's end, we arrive at **Bordeaux airport** and check into the comfortable, convenient Novotel. **OVERNIGHT – BORDEAUX AIRPORT**

■ Getaway day (Friday, October 8)

It's time to say *au revoir* to France as you take the hotel shuttle to the nearby Bordeaux airport for your flight home.

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

Palais Cardinal, St. Emilion
Hôtel Chabrol, Brantôme
Hôtel de la Madeleine, Sarlat
Novotel Bordeaux Aeroport

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 of \$3,795 is an estimate only as fluctuations in foreign currency rates may make a surcharge necessary. Call us for details – (800) 676-1247.