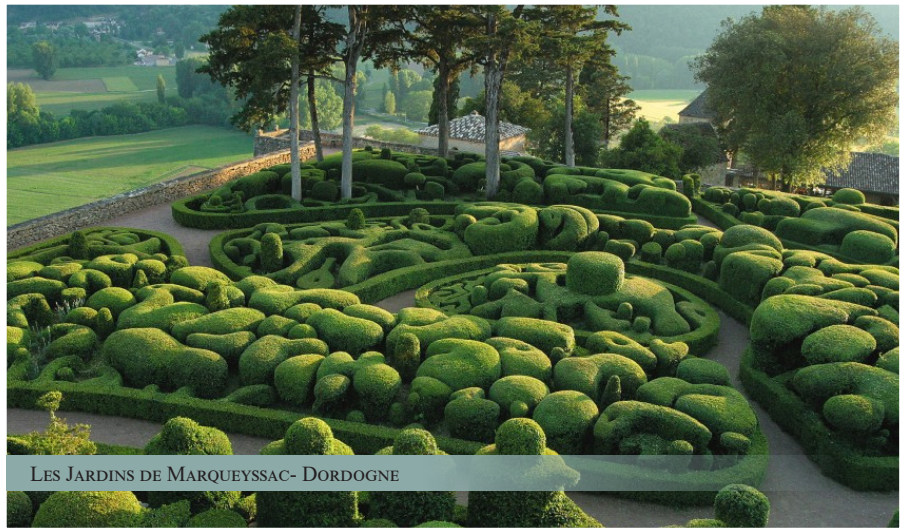




GARDENS OF WINE COUNTRY

BORDEAUX & THE DORDOGNE MAY 4TH - 13TH 2017

Deep in the heart of France lies the Dordogne (rough pronunciation = Dordoyne). The region takes its name from the river that cuts a deep valley through the Massif Central, the mountainous plateau that covers a large part of the southern half of the country. It is a beautiful, undeveloped area full of lush green valleys and high pastures, blissfully removed from the hustle and bustle of the modern world.



Our gateway into and out of this remote paradise is the city of Bordeaux, the center of the wine region of the same name – and we'll definitely have a chance (or two) to sample the marvelous products which have made these vineyards world famous.

However, the bulk of our tour will be spent taking day trips from our base in the lovely little town of Sarlat-la-Canéda. Sarlat is more commonly known for the profusion of prehistoric cave paintings in the area, but it also forms a central point for our tours of the many fabulous châteaux, vineyards and gardens that dot the landscape.

Before spring ends, join fellow garden enthusiasts and wine lovers, and come and experience the magic and beauty of this tranquil backwater of rural France.



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): \$3990

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 960

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS: 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges

COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary

MEALS: Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners

EXPENSES: Porterage of one large suitcase per person

ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

GUIDES: Discover Europe guide throughout, local guides at most gardens

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*





THURSDAY, MAY 4TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH - Morning arrivals at Bordeaux Airport will be greeted for the short ride in to our city-center hotel. There will be free time to unpack, relax and have some lunch before your tour guide leads a short walking tour of the old city. This evening we will gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH - An excursion this morning takes us just outside the city to visit the gardens of the Chateau de Mongenan. This marvelous Regency-period chateau is set in a botanical garden inspired by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, with over a thousand species of roses, and bygone medicinal and colorful plants. A small museum on the site is dedicated to the 18th century, from King Louis XVI to the revolution. We return to Bordeaux for a free afternoon and evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH - Leaving Bordeaux this morning we set off to the southeast, following the river Garonne. Our first stop is in the town of Marmande where we visit the Jardins de Beauchamp. Formerly the Jardins de Garonne, they were renamed in 2009 when they were awarded the prestigious “Jardins Remarquable” classification. We then head into the center of the town to visit the beautiful 13th century Cathedral of Notre Dame with its spectacular cloister garden. We’ll also have time for lunch here before we continue this afternoon to our hotel in Sarlat-la-Caneda. We’ll make one more stop on the way to visit the gardens and plant nursery of LaTour-Marliac – founded in 1875, the site comprises 6 acres of gardens, ponds and natural springs. Dinner is included this evening on our arrival in Sarlat-la-Caneda. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT-LA-CANEDA**

MONDAY, MAY 8TH - This morning we visit Les Jardins de Marqueyssac. The Marqueyssac gardens are on a hill overlooking the Dordogne River, with splendid views. The primary planting is boxwood hedging, with cypress and wild cyclamen. The box is more sculpted than clipped, with the organic shapes harmonizing with the landscape. The clipping is done by hand, with only four gardeners and the planting dates from the nineteenth century. We return to Sarlat for a free afternoon and evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT-LA-CANEDA**

TUESDAY, MAY 9TH - Our garden excursion today takes us north and east of Sarlat. The first visit will be les Jardins de Colette in Varetz. This is a contemporary garden (first opened in 2008) dedicated to the memory of the French writer, Colette, who lived in Varetz from 1911-1923. Each of the 6 gardens represents a different region of France where she lived. This afternoon we stop on our way back to Sarlat at Eyrygnac to visit the Manor Gardens here. These gardens were voted the “most beautiful in the Perigord” region and are unrivalled for their topiary and use of different shades of green. Dinner is included this evening in Sarlat. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT-LA-CANEDA**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH - Today we’ll spend our time exploring the other thing that makes the region around Sarlat famous. We’ll first visit the Lascaux II cave, where we will marvel at the reproductions of the cave-paintings that are the focus for most tourists who pass through here. After a break for lunch we’ll continue to the nearby town of Les Eyzies de Tayac for a visit to the National Museum of Prehistory. We return to Sarlat for the evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT-LA-CANEDA**

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH - Back on the garden trail today into the heart of the Dordogne. Our first visit is to the Chateau de Hautefort. Although there has been a castle here for over 1000 years, the current structure dates from the 16th and 17th centuries. We’ll tour both the inside of the chateau and it’s marvelous formal style gardens. We stop on the way back to Sarlat at another chateau, the Chateau de Losse. This medieval fortress overlooks the Vézère river. It is enclosed by curtain walls and surrounded by a deep ditch. Inside the fine décor and the exceptional period furnishings bear witness to the grand lifestyle of the Marquess of Jean II de Losse in the 16th century. The gardens within the walls and those terraced over the river are in perfect harmony and offer a view over the unspoilt countryside. Back to Sarlat for the evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT-LA-CANEDA**



BORDEAUX VINEYARD



A DORDOGNE VILLAGE

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH - Heading west today we leave Sarlat behind and follow the course of the Dordogne river towards Bordeaux. We stop in Bergerac for morning coffee and to explore the medieval center of this bustling river town. Continuing west we stop to visit the Jardins de Sardy in Velines. This garden merges a fantastic formal pond, very much in an Italian style, with cylindrical cypress trees dotted around. Our final stop for the day will be in St Emilion where we’ll enjoy a wine tasting before retiring to our final hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ST. EMILION**

SATURDAY MAY 13TH - Morning transfers to Bordeaux Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, D - dinner