



# TREASURES OF SOUTHWEST FRANCE

FAITH, HISTORY & WINE IN SW FRANCE

SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2018

Dear Duquesne Alumni and Friends,

Exploring the area of Southwest France, stretching from Toulouse to Bordeaux, and south to the Pyrenees Mountains, is like stepping back in time. Far removed from the hustle and bustle of modern industrial life, this region is like a tonic for the soul – from the natural beauty of the wooded river valleys, to the magnificent vineyards of Bordeaux, and the breathtaking majesty of the Pyrenees, here is a place where you can truly relax.

And history abounds. The pilgrimage roads to Compostela—said to be earthbound reflections of the Milky Way—once drew pilgrims from all over Europe. The ancient routes, together constituting a UNESCO World Heritage site, still converge today in Southern France, leading through picturesque, unspoiled countryside. On this trip, you'll tour magnificent Romanesque abbeys, explore prehistoric cave art, near Les Eyzies, and make your own pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Lourdes.

The city of Bordeaux, once nicknamed *La Belle Endormie*, or the Sleeping Beauty, used to be plagued with industrial soot and despair, leaving wine lovers wanting to sample the famous local produce from far away! But like the grapes in the bottles, age has worked in her favor. Over the past decades, the city of Bordeaux has reinvented herself, now mirroring the beauty of the sprawling vineyards that surround her.

But perhaps the highlight of the tour will be our 3-night stay in the delightful Chateau de Monrecour. This neo-renaissance castle, nestled in the heart of the Black Perigord region (familiar to lovers of the Inspector Bruno novels) also has a fabulous restaurant. You can take a virtual tour of the chateau at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nmj59wjDofQ>

So we have beautiful scenery, off the usual tourist track, thousands of years of history, and magnificent food and wine. Sounds like an unbeatable combination. Please do join us on this wonderful adventure. It will be more fun if you do!

*Susan Anne Hattler*



SAINT-ÉMILION



CHATEAU DE MONRECOUR

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

<b>LAND PACKAGE (PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY):</b>	<b>\$3650</b>
<b>SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b>	<b>\$ 790</b>
<b>OPTIONAL GROUP AIRFARE FROM PITTSBURGH:</b>	<b>\$1215</b>

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

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:**

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- GUIDES:** DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout, local guides in Bordeaux and St. Émilion
- EXPENSES:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

*Please Note: Travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to reach registrant.*

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.  
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Keene, NH 03431  
USA



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w - [www.discovereuropeltd.com](http://www.discovereuropeltd.com)  
t - (toll free ) 866-563-7077  
f - (fax) 603-563-7137



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from Pittsburgh aboard American Airlines/via Philadelphia to Paris. *(Please contact Discover Europe for available routings from alternative departure cities.)* **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>** - On arrival in Paris, you will connect with Air France's onward service to Pau, where you will be met for the transfer to our hotel in Lourdes. After checking-in, there will be time to unpack, relax after the overnight flight, and begin exploring the neighborhood. Later this afternoon we will gather for an orientation briefing and a welcome dinner at the hotel, followed by participation in the evening torchlight Marian procession. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LOURDES**

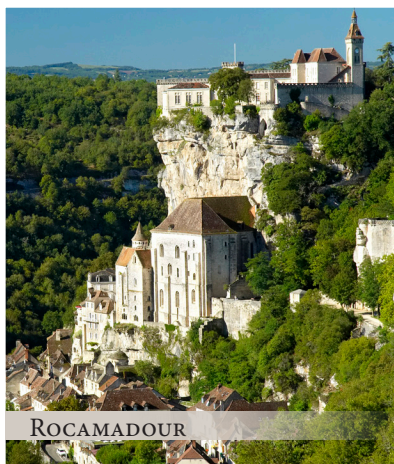
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>** - We will have time to explore Lourdes this morning, before heading north to the city Pau. You can visit the Sanctuaires Notre-Dame de Lourdes, or the Domain, the major Catholic pilgrimage site. Each year, millions visit the Grotto of Massabielle (Grotto of the Apparitions) where, in 1858, the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a local woman. In the grotto, pilgrims can drink or bathe in water flowing from a spring. Pau was the birthplace of Henri of Navarre, later to become Henri IV of France. It was a center for the Protestants during the French wars of religion, until Henri IV decided that "Paris is worth a mass" and converted to Catholicism! We'll have time here for lunch and to explore the city center before we continue north to Bordeaux. After checking into our hotel, we head out to a local restaurant for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**



LOURDES

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning sightseeing of the city with a local guide introduces us to La Belle Endormie - the Sleeping Beauty, as Bordeaux is known. The afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>** - After breakfast today we will drive the short distance to explore the wine center of Saint-Émilion with a local guide. We will visit the Maison du Vin and the iconic tower of the Château du Roy before we head underground to explore the galleries, church, catacombs and other mysteries beneath the city streets. This medieval village offers more than just spectacular bottles of wine, beautifully narrow side streets to explore, and ancient churches hewn into the rocks; there is much to explore beneath the surface as well. After we enjoy a wine-tasting and lunch, there will be some free time before we drive to Sarlat-la-Canéda. Heading east, we follow the course of the Dordogne River, through the Perigueux region, past beautiful towns and villages, and vineyards tumbling down the river banks. After checking into our chateau hotel, there will be time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**



ROCAMADOUR

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** - An excursion today takes us south to Rocamadour. Set in the valley of the river Alzou, the town is nestled at the foot of the cliffs and has been a place of pilgrimage since the middle ages. We'll take a walking tour of the town and then have free time before we head back to Sarlat. Dinner is included at a local restaurant along the way back to the chateau. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>** - This morning a short drive, through the beautiful Dordogne countryside, brings us to the nearby Lascaux Caves. While we can only visit a replica of the original caves, the prehistoric cave paintings are still spectacular. We'll stop for lunch in the village of Montignac and then visit the National Museum of Prehistory in the nearby town of Les Eyzies before we return to the chateau for dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** - Leaving Sarlat, our first stop today will be the lovely medieval town of Cahors. We'll tour the old town and visit the magnificent cathedral founded in 1119 CE before we have lunch. This afternoon we stop at the Abbey of St Pierre de Moissac en route to Toulouse. The foundation of Moissac is a matter of some debate, but it definitely

existed as early as the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE. A number of the medieval buildings remain and it is justly famous for the incredible Romanesque sculptures around the entrance portal. A short drive from here brings us to our hotel in the center of Toulouse. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: TOULOUSE**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning, we'll have a walking tour of Toulouse center, including visits to the Basilica of St. Sernin, the largest Romanesque building in France, and the Musée des Augustins, with its wonderful collection of medieval sculpture. The afternoon is free and this evening we'll have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant close to our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: TOULOUSE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfers to Toulouse Airport for return flights to the USA. **(B)**



BASILICA OF SAINT-SERNIN

### Tour Hotels:

- Lourdes:** Grand Hotel Gallia & Londres  
(www.hotelsvinales.com)
- Bordeaux:** Hotel de Seze  
(www.hotel-de-seze.com)
- Sarlat Area:** Chateau de Monrecour  
(www.monrecour.com)
- Toulouse:** The Hotel Grand Balcon  
(www.grandbalconhotel.com)

Please note that all hotel bookings are subject to final confirmation.

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner



CHATEAU DE MONRECOUR

## REGISTRATION FORM

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please type or print.
2. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
3. Complete both sides of this form.
4. Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person. Keep the top section.

### DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

1. Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your "Known As" or preferred name.
2. Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
3. Address. If you have a different address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
4. Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.
5. Health Information. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult with your physician if have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

1. Group flights are available as part of your tour package. If you would like to fly on different dates, Discover Europe will be happy to book your tickets for you. You would then pay the land only trip cost plus the cost of your airline ticket plus a service fee of \$40 per ticket.
2. If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential that Discover Europe has your complete flight information. Please make sure you give us the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked.

### ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please check the appropriate boxes.

1. If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
2. A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. A triple room may have either 3 single beds or 1 double and 1 single. Please let us know your preference.



### PASSENGER DETAIL: TREASURES OF SW FRANCE (0926/DQA)

Passport Name:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

Known As: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Passport 1#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport 2#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell/home  
circle one

Secondary Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell/home  
circle one

Special Dietary Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments or Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Trip Details

Itinerary Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**  
DISCOVER EUROPE  
95 ADAMS STREET, KEENE, NH 03431

