

FRANCE

Bordeaux & Dordogne Villages



September 19-
October 1, 2017





Dear Compass Traveler,

When I think of fairytales, I imagine magnificent castles situated high upon the cliffs with turrets, moats, and gargoyles. I see colorful banners proclaiming the arms of the majestic families who reign o're the land. Nowhere is the imagery of those stories more prevalent than in the Dordogne region of France. Luigi and I invite you to join us for an enchanting trip to the famed regions of Bordeaux and Dordogne where fairytales come to life. The wine here is the best in the world, the food unparalleled! You will not want to miss this trip.

Kolly and Luigi

ITINERARY

Tuesday, September 19

Our trip begins as we board our private motorcoach in New London, New Hampshire, and travel to Boston's Logan Airport for our overnight flight to Bordeaux.

Wednesday, September 20

Our professional guide meets us upon arrival in Bordeaux; we travel by private motorcoach to the world-class wine village of Saint-Emilion. Take time to relax before enjoying a welcome dinner tonight.

Overnight: Saint-Emilion–Hotel Au Logis Des Remparts (D)

Thursday, September 21

Today we explore Saint-Emilion, where vintners have been plying their craft since the time of the Roman Empire. We enjoy a wine tasting at La Maison du Vin, which showcases about 250 chateaux of the region. Saint-Emilion boasts another specialty—the macaron. We also visit a bakery that is renowned for these sweet almond wafers and whose secret recipe, created by nuns in the year 1620, has been passed down generationally through the centuries. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to descend to the catacombs, climb the Bell Tower, or meander the streets of this medieval village.

Overnight: Saint-Emilion–Hotel Au Logis Des Remparts (B)

Friday, September 22

This morning, on our way to Sarlat, we stop and visit the Cistercian cloisters of Cadouin, founded in 1115. We continue on to the medieval village of Sarlat, one of France's 100 Most Beautiful Villages. It is picture postcard



perfection personified, and our hotel for the next six nights, Plaza Madeleine, sits in the heart of it all. Join us for a late afternoon walking/orientation tour of Sarlat.

Overnight: Sarlat–Plaza Madeleine (B)

Saturday, September 23

Since the Middle Ages, locals have flocked to the outdoor market in Sarlat; a myriad of vendor stalls spill onto nearly every single street in town. After spending the morning wandering the market, we visit magnificent Marqueyssac Gardens. Listed as a National Historical Monument, these gardens are edged with 150,000 hand-pruned boxwoods.





Later, relax on a river cruise in historic flat-bottom boats on the Dordogne River.

Overnight: Sarlat–Plaza Madeleine (B, L)

Sunday, September 24

Today we discover the National Museum of Prehistory. Enjoy a special lunch in a farmhouse in the Dordogne, the picturesque region of France that lies between the Loire Valley and the Pyrenees.

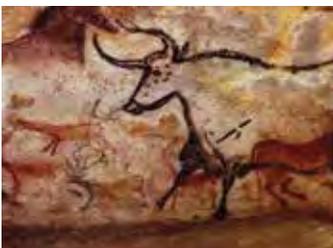
Overnight: Sarlat–Plaza Madeleine (B, L)

Monday, September 25

We visit two magnificent castles in the region: Château de Beynac, once “occupied” by Richard the Lion Heart in the 12th century, is one of the most beautiful examples of medieval castles in France. Presided over by the Lords of Beynac until 1962, the castle tells tales of war, crusades, and sweeping history. Château des Milandes, built in 1489, is an exceptional example of Renaissance architecture. Lord François de Caumont desired a romantic castle for his wife and so demanded beautiful stained glass in its mullioned windows, rooms opening onto the valley, turrets, a winding staircase, and gargoyles.

Overnight: Sarlat–Plaza Madeleine (B)

Tuesday, September 26



In September 1940, four teenagers discovered Lascaux Caves containing 20,000 year old Upper Paleolithic art. To preserve the prehistoric art, the caves were closed to visitors in

1963. Today we visit the International Center For Cave Paintings—an artificial cave built 26 feet under the earth that reproduces the famous Lascaux Caves.

Overnight: Sarlat – Plaza Madeleine (B, L)

Wednesday, September 27

There is no better way to experience France than through its cuisine. Today, we enjoy a demonstration of regional Dordogne cooking in a beautiful country setting. Prepare to indulge!

Overnight: Sarlat–Plaza Madeleine (B, L)

Thursday, September 28

We travel back to Bordeaux today with a stop for a special lunch in Monbazillac, an area with a long history of sweet wine production. Enjoy a late afternoon walking/orientation tour of Bordeaux.

Overnight: Bordeaux–Hotel De Seze (B, L)

Friday, September 29

Today, enjoy a unique cultural experience at La Cité du Vin, a place where wine comes to life through an immersive, sensory approach. La Cité offers a different perspective of wine—across the world, across the ages, across all cultures and all civilizations.

Overnight: Bordeaux–Hotel De Seze (B, L)



Saturday, September 30

Spend our last full day in France as you wish—revisit your favorite art galleries and museums, wander the cobbled streets, or just take in the sights from an outdoor cafe. Tonight we gather for a farewell dinner.

Overnight: Bordeaux–Hotel De Seze (B, D)

Sunday, October 1

We bid *au revoir* to Bordeaux and the Dordogne and return to Boston where our private motorcoach waits to transfer us back to New London.





INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Escorted by Holly Walker and Luigi Minoletti
- Private motorcoach from New London, NH, to Logan Airport and return
- Accommodations for 11 nights in deluxe hotels
- Meals: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners (noted in itinerary as B, L, D)
- Sightseeing as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of a professional, English-speaking tour guide throughout
- Transportation in France by private, deluxe motorcoach
- Portage of one suitcase per person at hotels

www.compasstravel.net

PO Box 1675 • 116 Newport Road • New London, NH 03257

**Tour Limited to
20 Participants**

PRICE

\$5,500.00 per person
Based on double occupancy
(Single supplement upon request)

Airfare not included



For more information, please
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