

Love of the Land

+1

24

Villages  
of Périgord

DÉTOURS  
en France

CHARENTE  
16

DORDOGNE  
24

←  
Bordeaux

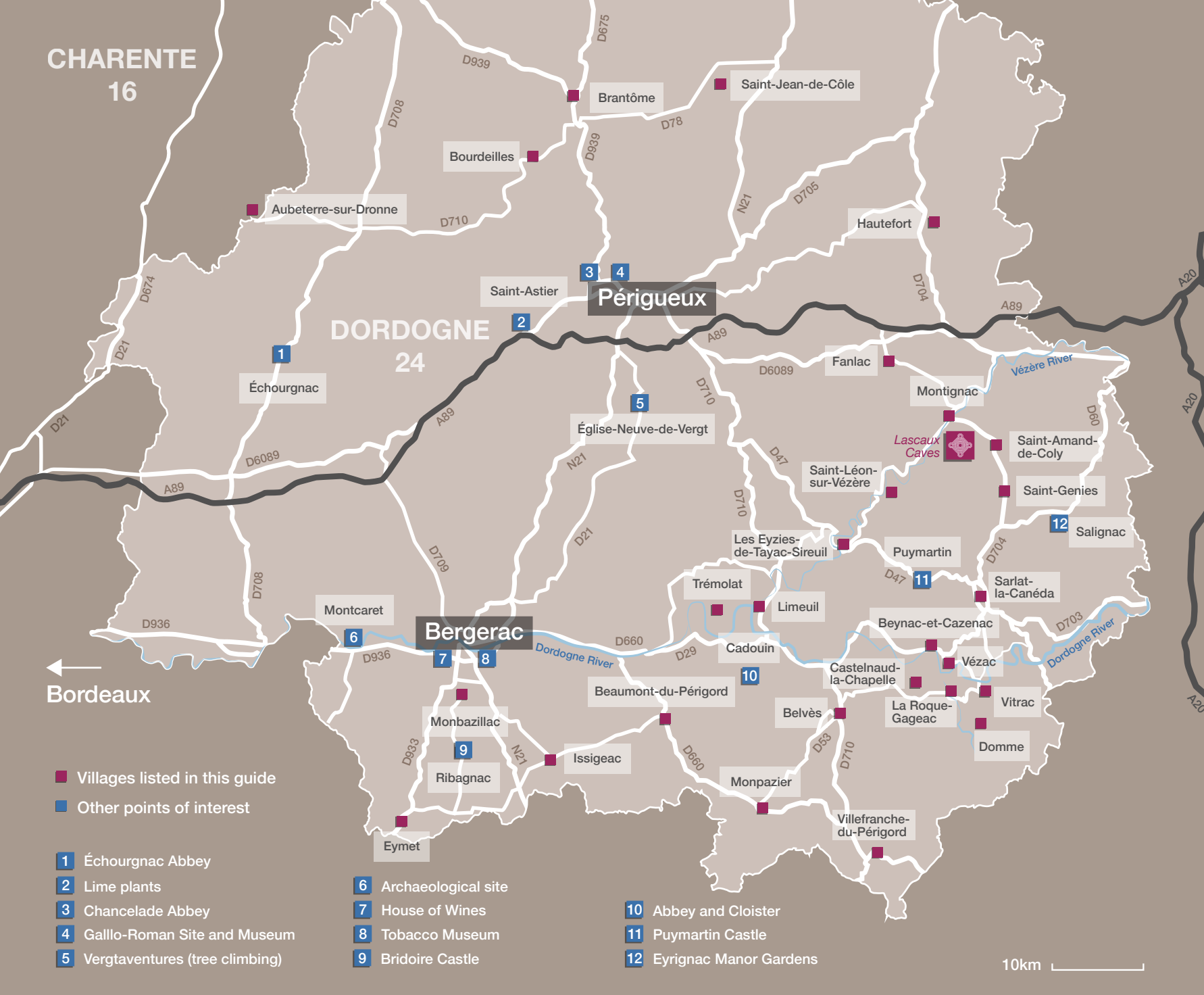
- Villages listed in this guide
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- 6 Archaeological site
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- 9 Bridoire Castle

- 10 Abbey and Cloister
- 11 Puymartin Castle
- 12 Eyrignac Manor Gardens

10km 



## Do you know the Périgord region?

The Périgord is green, white, purple, black... and blue along the gentle Dordogne River. Steeped in the Prehistory of Mankind, it is full of caves, chasms, castles, medieval villages and Bastide towns. Jacquou le Croquant and Cyrano still live here... Brimming with riches of countless flavours, this is a generous land, for lovers of life... A land of Happiness.



**Philippe Boujut,**

President Crédit Agricole Charente-Périgord Bank

**Laurent Martin,**

General Director Crédit Agricole Charente-Périgord Bank

Love of the Land

24<sup>+1</sup> villages  
of Périgord

DÉTOURS  
en France

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-  Duck and goose produce
-  Cep mushrooms
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-  Quality dining
-  Wine tasting

## ◆ FOR CASTLE LOVERS

### Bridoire, by Day and by Night

© Tilia Carrizy-Jasick



**CHÂTEAU DE BRIDOIRE**  
24240 Ribagnac  
From March 26th to November 2nd +33 5 06 42 58 59  
[www.chateaudebridoire.com](http://www.chateaudebridoire.com)  
See Monbazillac page 101

At the heart of the Monbazillac vineyards, Bridoire Castle is the most visited privately-owned heritage building, in the Bergerac region. Over a hundred exact replicas of indoor and outdoor historical games can be discovered here. It is also the setting for memorable candlelit tours on Thursday and Saturday nights from July 16th to August 22nd. Equestrian shows, wine tasting, singing and costumed interpreters make for varied entertainment.

### Josephine Baker's Home

**CHÂTEAU DES MILANDES**  
24250 Castelnaud-la-Chapelle  
From March 26th to November 13th +33 5 53 59 31 21  
[www.milandes.com](http://www.milandes.com)  
See page 47



© Bertrand Rieger

Milandes Castle is forever linked to music-hall star Josephine Baker. The memorabilia of her lifetime achievements are displayed here: the entertainer's wax Grevin Museum statue, furniture, haute couture costumes and famous accessories such as the artist's banana belt. For the past ten years, the castle has been undergoing a huge renovation project.

**Do not miss:** the tour of the gardens and the falconry display.

### Puymartin, Haunted by the White Lady

© Bertrand Rieger



**CHÂTEAU DE PUYMARTIN**  
24200 Sarlat-la-Canéda  
From April to November  
+33 5 53 59 29 97  
[www.chateau-puymartin.com](http://www.chateau-puymartin.com)  
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On the Castle route, between Sarlat and Les Eyzies, the proud crenellated towers of Puymartin castle draw the eye. The building is renowned for its beautiful White Lady deceased in the XVth century, whose ghost still haunts the castle, according to the villagers...

## ◆ GARDEN ENVY?



**EYRIGNAC GARDENS**  
24590 Salignac  
From April 1st to 30th: 10a.m.-7p.m.  
May 1st to Sept. 30th: 9.30 a.m.-7p.m.  
+33 5 53 28 99 71  
[www.eyrignac.com](http://www.eyrignac.com)

© Valérie Libert-Cassini

### Eyrignac, Sculpted Topiary Harmony

Patrick Sermadiras de Pouzols de Lile, owner of this estate, which has belonged to his family for the last 500 years, invites you to visit his impressively extensive gardens. At the heart of the Black Périgord, Eyrignac Manor Gardens come in all shades of green: yews, boxes, hornbeams and cypresses are the main species of the garden.

### Marqueyssac, Verdant Romanticism

Let yourself be enchanted by some four miles of shady walks, framed by 150,000 hand-clipped centenary box trees, featuring pavilions, rock gardens and waterfalls. Candlelit evenings organised in the Marqueyssac Gardens every Thursday in July and August provide a truly Romantic moment...

**MARQUEYSSAC HANGING GARDENS**  
24220 Vézac  
+33 5 53 31 36 36  
[www.marqueyssac.com](http://www.marqueyssac.com)  
See page 27

© Bertrand Rieger



© Philippe Roy

**LIMEUIL PANORAMIC GARDENS**  
Place des Possées, 24510 Limeuil  
+33 5 53 73 26 13  
[www.jardins-panoramiques-limeuil.com](http://www.jardins-panoramiques-limeuil.com)  
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### Limeuil, Twofold Appeal

Backed by the cliffs, at the meeting of the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers, Limeuil Botanical Gardens are an invitation to a total immersion into art and nature. If you are with children, head for the colour, witches or insect gardens. Aesthetical and educational these gardens will delight young and old alike.

## ◆ FAMILY OUTINGS

### VERGTAVENTURES

Les Molles  
24380 Eglise-Neuve-de-Vergt  
School Holidays: daily 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; also  
Wednesdays and weekends 2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
+33 7 51 61 56 20  
www.vergtaventures.fr



© Laurent Lamy

### Ziplining, Safe and Sound

Acrobatic trails in the trees promise fresh air and thrills. At the gateway to the Périgueux region, in Vergtaventures Park, there's a tree to match each expectation and every physical capacity. The courses are adapted individually according to level, for the fainthearted to the fearless...!

### Like a Medieval Knight

If your children are fascinated by the heroic world of knights and princesses, visit Castelnaud fortified castle, entirely devoted to the art of war in the Middle Ages. In addition to free or guided tours, thematic educational workshops give children an insight into a wide range of popular subjects such as: crests, medieval military architecture, weapons and armour, the art of calligraphy, the secrets of building and dining in the Middle Ages.

### MEDIEVAL WARFARE MUSEUM

24250 Castelnaud-la-Chapelle  
Open all year round. Workshops  
from September to mid-June  
+33 5 53 31 30 00  
www.castelnaud.com

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© Tilia Camitzky-Basick

# AUBETERRE-SUR-DRONNE

At the gateway to the Dordogne, Aubeterre is administratively attached to the Charente county but from an architectural, cultural and gastronomic point of view, it has its roots in the Périgord. As such, the village deserves its place in this guide and your visit!



### Caves and Dinosaurs at Le Conquill

A little over 6 miles from the Lascaux caves, Le Conquill is a site with a novel approach to Prehistory. You can visit the shelters below the rock (troglodytic sites) where our ancestors used to sleep, and wander around the dinosaur park. Every day in summertime there is a thematic demonstration: flint-knapping, fire lighting, cave-art, adornment...

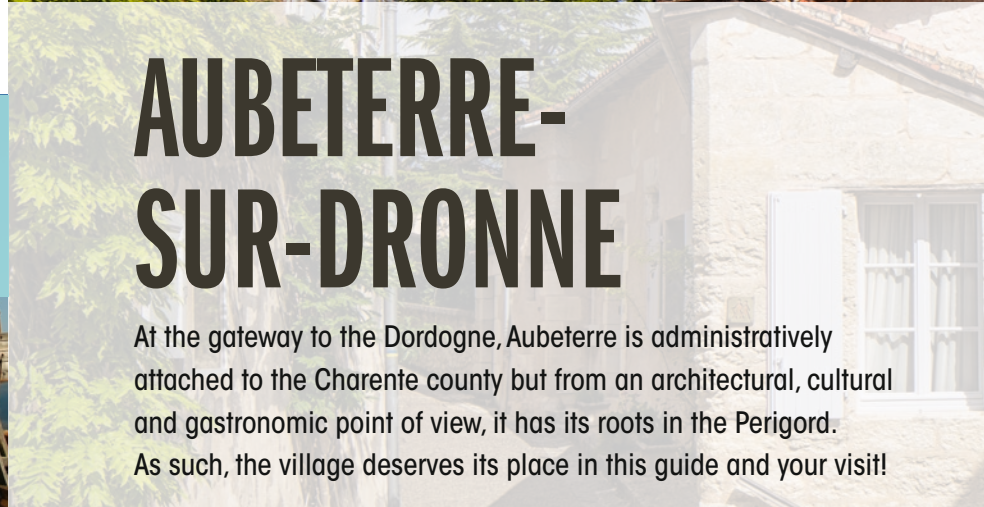
### LE CONQUILL

24290 Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère  
End of March to early  
November +33 5 53 51 29 03  
www.leconquill.fr

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© Le Conquill



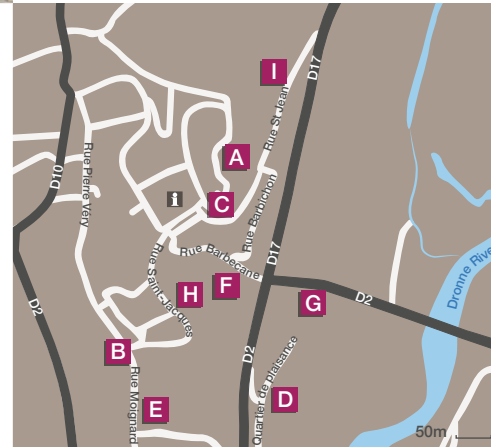
© Jean-Marc Barrière



© Jean-Marc Barrère

## Gentle and Relaxed Southern Style

Huddled up against the cliff wall, Aubeterre's steep streets, roll down towards the banks of the Dronne River. The numerous religious buildings along the way are a reminder that the village was once a halt on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Among them, two major listed monuments popular with visitors year in year out: Saint Jean's Monolithic Church **A**, and Saint Jacques Church **B**. Aubeterre has other attractions too: lots of busy shop's and craft workers' workshops in the village centre, and in the summertime, there are pleasant café terraces for sitting out in the shade on Trarieux Square **C**. Below the village, by the municipal campsite, there's a fine sandy beach for sunbathing and the inviting clear waters of the Dronne for water sports and nearby, canoe trips along the meandering river.



© Jean-Marc Barrère



A marvel of Romanesque architecture, Saint-Jacques Church was a halt on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Approach and admire tortured gargoyles in perfect condition.



© Jean-Marc Barrère

## Unexpected Flavours

Savour hearty cooking with a hint of Alsace—this is where the chef was trained—at the Cochon Prieur **D**, (pig's ear salad, crunchy pig's trotters, knuckle of pork in stout...). At the Périgord Hotel **E**, set in an old farmhouse, the atmosphere is more cosmopolitan—Madame Morel is English—and her husband's cooking is creative and mostly organic.



© Périgord-Hotel

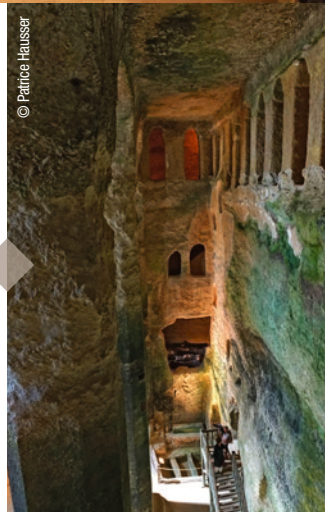




© Hervé Lemaire

## Like the Valley of Kings

Saint Jean's underground church **A**, was hewn out of the cliff in the XIIth century. The original purpose for this huge vault, roughly 88ft long, 52ft wide and 65ft high, was to house relics. A hundred and sixty tombs are visible in a series of caves. The monolithic reliquary, patiently carved out over ten years, is a replica of the Holy Sepulchre discovered in Jerusalem during the First Crusade. This deeply moving site is steeped in the history of Christian devotion in the Middle Ages.



© Patrice Haussier



© Grady Eluere de Briegnot

Michèle Delmas,  
Markès & Merval Museum

## "French Operetta's most famous couple"

"The operetta stars Marcel Merkès and Paulette Merval had a long and impressive career. They met at Bordeaux Music School. He was born there in 1920, she, a singer and violinist, was a daughter of Aubeterre. We created this museum **F**, near the house they owned in the village. We have put together memorabilia retracing the couple's life. Their son Alain's wonderful collection just had to be shared with the public! He himself is a first prize-winner for Operetta from the Bordeaux Music School. Today, he hopes to organise a performing arts festival including theatre, popular music and of course, operetta." ♦

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### The Birthplace of Human Rights

The village's main square is named after Ludovic Trarieux. Why, might one ask? This son of a landed gentry man, later barrister and politician was the founder of the League of Human Rights in 1898. He was also the instigator of the revision trial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, wrongly accused of treason in 1894. ♦



## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ **Monolithic Church**

Rue Saint-Jean  
+33 5 45 98 65 06  
Daily 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.  
and 2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
(7 p.m. June-September)  
Adults: 5€  
8-12 yrs: 2€  
Free entry under 7 yrs

#### ◆ **Merkès & Merval Museum**

22, rue Moignard  
+33 6 43 61 40 77  
www.musee-merkes-  
merval.fr

April-September  
3 p.m.-6.30 p.m.  
and by appointment  
Full rate: 5€  
Reduced rate: 2.50€

#### ◆ **Ludovic Trarieux Human Rights Centre**

**G**  
Rue Barbacane  
+33 5 45 98 04 08  
July-August  
Daily from 3 p.m.  
and by appointment

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ **Au Cochon Prieur**

Quartier de Plaisance  
+33 5 45 78 87 43  
Open from midday and  
evenings from 7 p.m.  
Closed Tuesday evening  
and Wednesdays

#### ◆ **Hôtel du Périgord**

Quartier Plaisance  
Route de Ribérac  
+33 5 45 98 50 46  
Rooms: 70-90€  
Spa: 10-175€

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

#### ◆ **La Galerie des Bois**

**H** Manon Clouzeau  
28, rue Saint-Jacques  
+33 5 45 78 85 41  
Tuesday-Sunday  
2 p.m.-7 p.m. and  
by appointment

#### ◆ **Passiflore**

**I**  
Pottery  
Xavier Maffre  
Rue Saint-Jean  
+33 6 69 39 41 51

April-September  
11 a.m.-6 p.m. and  
by appointment

### KAYAKING

#### ◆ **Canoe-kayak Base**

Route de Ribérac  
+33 5 45 98 50 46

Daily 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
July-August  
By appointment in May,  
June and September.



For further  
information

#### **South Charente Pole Tourist Office**

Place du Champ-de-Foire  
16390 Aubeterre-sur-Dronne  
+33 5 45 98 57 18  
www.sudcharentetourisme.fr/

#### **Town Hall (mairie)**

16, place Ludovic-Trarieux  
16390 Aubeterre  
+33 5 45 98 50 33



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### **BONNES (4,5 km)**

Situated on the banks of the Dronne in the South Charente region, Bonnes has numerous hiking, riding and bicycle trails to offer. Don't miss the early XVI<sup>th</sup> century castle and mill.

### **SAINT-AULAYE (9 km)**

Along the River Dronne, on the fringe of the La Double Forest, this village is the only bastide town in the green Périgord region. Founded in 1288 by Pierre de Bremond, the village boasts a castle, ramparts and Romanesque churches.

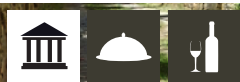
### **CHALAIS (12,5 km)**

Built on a hillcrest overlooking the little town of Chalais, the castle, birthplace of the Talleyrand-Périgord family, has one of the rare operating drawbridges in France.



# BEAUMONT- DU-PÉRIGORD

Standing on a hilltop surrounded by verdant meadows, this bastide town impresses with its powerful fortress church. Founded in 1272 by order of King Edward I, of England, Beaumont promises visitors a journey through time.







© Bertrand Rieger

## A Magnificent Fortified Church

Powerful, massive, impressive... The sanctuary dedicated to Saint-Laurent-et-Saint-Front **E**, has stood over the village since the XIIIth century. Half church, half-castle, a watchtower designed to protect the town from assailants. Today the structure alone subjugates by its mighty ramparts, its arrow slits and its main façade, framed on each side by two high square towers. Above the main portal, a carved frieze lies under the gallery fronted with a balustrade. Father André Chapuzet, the parish abbot, celebrates mass here several times every month.



© Bertrand Rieger

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND



Daniel Delpech,  
pork butcher

© Nathalie Delpech

## "A really friendly village atmosphere!"

"The butcher's shop, on Beaumont's Main Square, has been in the family for over fifty years now, since my father took it over in 1963! We really appreciate the timeless charm of this medieval bastide town, it's so authentic and well preserved and we have the advantage of being located at the crossroads of several different territories—the surroundings of Bergerac, Agen, Sarlat... The atmosphere here is warm and friendly, everyone knows each other, it's like being in a big family! Also, the village has managed to remain lively over the years. For example, on Monday evenings in the Summer, we organise gourmet evenings that draw up to 1,000 people: vendors, producers, poultry farmers, and craft workers. Locals and tourists alike flock to these evenings to taste local farm produce in a vibrant musical atmosphere, thanks to performing bands..." ♦

## A Historical Shop

Since its creation in 1846, Bariat & Fils hardware shop **F**, has remained in the same family for four generations. Set in the heart of Beaumont, the store is considered one of the oldest in France! The reputation of this Périgordian treasure trove has outgrown local fame to spread further afield: its treasures can now be shipped all over France. ♦



© Jean-Daniel Sudries

## ESSENTIALS

### SHOPS

◆ **Daniel Delpuch Butchery and Cured Meat**

11, place Jean-Moulin  
24440 Beaumont-du-Périgord  
+33 5 53 22 30 28  
Open daily: 8 a.m.-12.20 a.m.

and 3.15 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Closed Sunday afternoon and Monday

◆ **Bariat&Fils Hardware Shop**

33, rue Foussal  
24440 Beaumont-du-Périgord  
+33 5 53 22 30 12  
www.quincaillerie-bariat-dordogne.fr  
Open Tuesday-Saturday:

8 a.m.-12.15 a.m.  
and 2 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Sunday:  
10 a.m.-12 a.m.

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

◆ **La Table de Léo**

Le Bourg  
24440 Saint-Avit-Sénieur  
+33 5 40 25 14 11  
www.latabledeleo.fr  
Lunch menus: 20-32€  
Evening menu: 32€

◆ **Étincelles**

Le Bourg  
24440 Sainte-Sabine-Born  
+33 5 53 74 08 79  
www.gentilhommeierefincelles.com  
Bed and Breakfast  
Rooms: 115€  
Menus: 53€-71€

### EVENTS

◆ **Gourmet Markets**

End June-mid-September  
Monday evenings  
Main Square

◆ **Dramatised Torch lit Tours**

July and August  
Every Thursday  
from 9.30 p.m.  
Admission: 5€



For further information

**Beaumont-du-Périgord  
Tourist Information Point**

16, place Jean-Moulin  
24440 Beaumont-du-Périgord  
+33 5 53 22 39 12  
[www.pays-des-bastides.com](http://www.pays-des-bastides.com)

**Town Hall (mairie)**

1, rue Romieu  
24440 Beaumont-du-Périgord  
+33 5 53 22 30 24



# BELVÈS

Rising proudly towards the sky of Black Périgord, this medieval town has a history tied to the Périgord and Aquitaine regions. Designated one of France's most beautiful villages, Belvès is an enchantment for heritage enthusiasts.



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### NOJALS-ET-CLOTTE (4 km)

Make a detour by this commune to see the legendary De Blanc dolmen, erected between 5,000 and 2,000 years before our era, one of the best in the Périgord region.

### MONPAZIER (15 km)

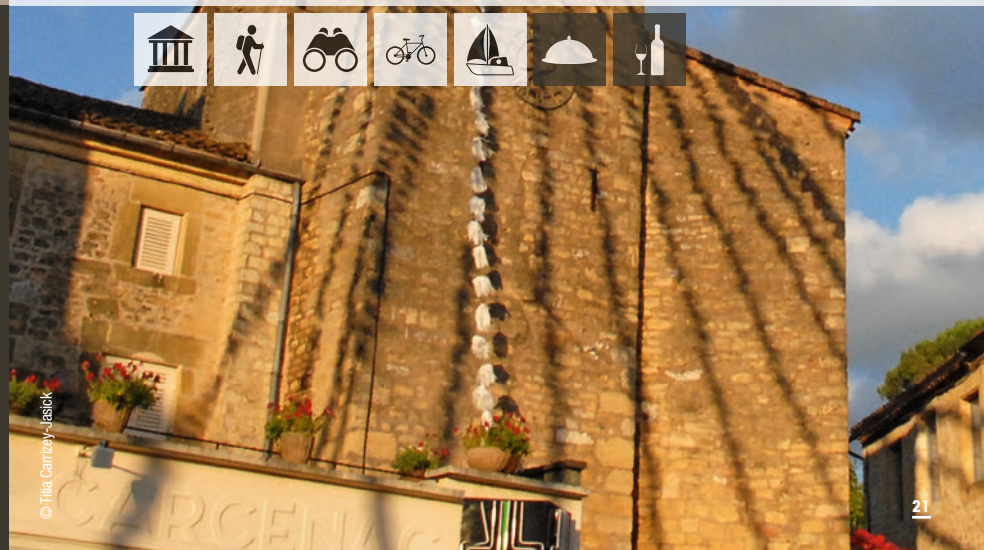
The village founded by the English in 1284 is the pride of Périgord's bastide towns. Cornières square is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful architectural entities in the Southwest region.

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### ISSIGEAC (15 km)

Former residence of the Bishops of Sarlat, this medieval pearl charms with its soothing atmosphere and numerous craft workers. To be discovered in the heart of Purple Périgord.

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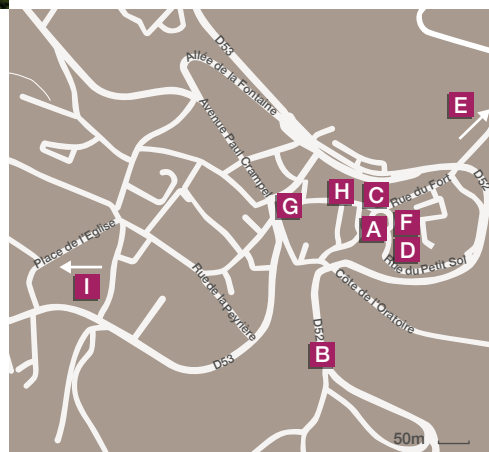




© Philippe Boy

## The Town of Seven Bell-Towers

Its position atop a rocky outcrop high above the Valley of the Nauze River made Belvès a much-coveted site. Despite numerous invasions and violent clashes, the village has miraculously preserved its wonderful architecture. A series of churches and bell-towers, built over the centuries, are set around a XVth and XVIth century Market Hall **A**. Past the Archbishop's Tower, once home to Bertrand de Got, consecrated Pope Clement V in 1305, the tip of the Auditor's tower and its ancient keep come into view. At the foot of the Lookout Tower **B**, the Peyrelevald Menhir was laid and used for pagan rites before Christian times. Today the stone covers the Landrou Fountain. Finally the Consuls House **C**, where the first floor was assigned to city administration, while on the ground floor, the Sergent de Ville, police officer at that time, supervised the dungeon.



The Gothic-Revival house at number 10, rue Rubigat **D**, was built in 1882. As a tribute to Pope Clement V, the owner had the coat of arms of the Holy See and other papal insignia carved outside.



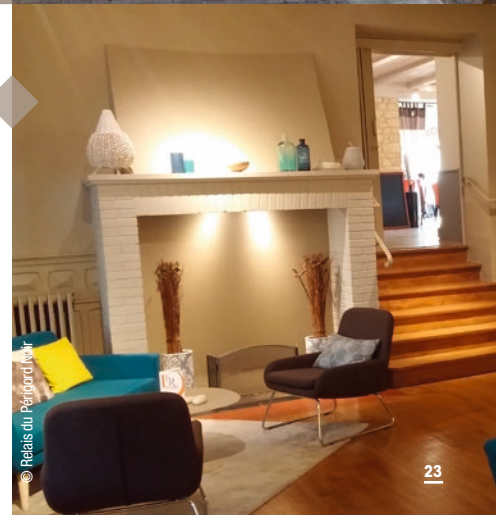
© Jean-Marc Barrière



© Jean-Marc Barrière

## Time for a Break

For a delicious meal or a comfortable overnight stay, there are two addresses of note nearer to the Dordogne Valley at Siorac. Le Relais du Périgord Noir **E**, in Siorac, has a contemporary decor set in a historic building. With both a Brasserie and a Gourmet Menu, the Auberge de la Petite Reine is ideal for families.



© Relais du Périgord Noir



© Titia Carrizey-Jasick

## Treasure at the Heart of the Village

Underground caves right beneath the village center? This is the only such example in the Périgord region. A guided tour of Belvès's troglodytic dwellings **F**, gives an insight of the villagers' living conditions from the XIIIth to the XVIIIth centuries. A tour of the eight chambers takes 45 minutes. The Hôtel de Commarque **G**, is also worth a visit. The owners of this XVIth century castle have recently uncovered and restored a significant series of mural paintings including a scene depicting the history of Belvès in 1470 and the "Nine Worthies" in the attic.

© Jean-Marc Barrère



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### The Mystery of the Statue

A herdsman in search of a missing cow once came upon a stone statue of the Virgin Mary in the bushes, near a stream. The clergy of Belvès brought the statue back in procession, to the priory's church of Notre-Dame. The next day, the statue had disappeared from the altar... It was later found back in the very same bush where it had been originally found. A chapel was then built on the site and given the Occitan name "Capelou". Every year since, for over 800 years, a huge pilgrimage draws thousands of pilgrims to Our Lady of Capelou **I**. ♦



© Titia Carrizey-Jasick



© Titia Carrizey-Jasick

**Georges Rebière**, creator of the "Black Périgord Organistrum and Hurdy-Gurdy Museum"

## "My mother owned a jewellery shop"

"I was born here in 1922, in this very street which has changed names many times over the years, today rue Jacques-Manchette. My mother owned the village jewellery shop and though my profession took me to Bordeaux and Bergerac, I came back to Belvès regularly. I retired here permanently to create this little museum **H**, dedicated to Hurdy-Gurdy replicas that I build. The most ancient model is a reproduction based on medieval engravings. Back in the eighties, tourists would tell me that they had found the village 'by chance', so in 1990, I wrote a history of Belvès called The Pope's Town, a second and third edition of the guide have since been published." ♦



## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Troglodytic Dwellings

Place d'Armes  
+33 5 53 29 10 20  
www.perigordnoir-valleedordogne.com  
January-September  
Bilingual tours on request: 5.50€ and 2.50€ (6-13 yrs)

#### ◆ Castle of Belvès

43-45, rue Jacques-Manchoffe  
+33 6 89 99 08 77  
Mural paintings on view mid-August to end-September  
By appointment only

#### ◆ Organistrum and Hurdy-Gurdy Museum

14, rue Jacques-Manchoffe  
+33 5 53 29 10 93  
Admission free

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Le Relais du Périgord Noir

Place de La Poste  
24170 Siorac-en-Périgord  
+33 5 53 31 60 02  
www.relais-perigord-noir.fr  
Menus: 28-95€  
Rooms: 88-130€

#### ◆ Auberge de la Petite Reine

Route de Belvès  
24170 Siorac-en-Périgord  
+33 5 53 31 60 42  
www.hotel-perigord-noir.com  
Full menu: 45€ approx.  
Rooms: 72€-94€

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Black Périgord 100 km race

April: International Ultra-Marathon Race  
In the Dordogne Valley,

start and finish line in Belvès

#### ◆ Medieval Festival

Featuring entertainment with villagers in costume, the town goes back to the time of Pope

Clement V  
Beginning of August

#### ◆ Air Rally

Every 15 August since 1913! Camp de César airfield



For further information

#### Pays de Belvès Tourist Office

1, rue Fihols  
+33 5 53 29 10 20  
www.perigordnoir-valleedordogne.com

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Place de la Liberté  
+33 5 53 31 44 60  
www.belves-en-perigord.com



# BEYNAC-ET-CAZENAC AND VÉZAC

Overlooking the fishing village as it clings to the cliff, Beynac's fortifications are reflected in the Dordogne River. Ranked amongst France's most beautiful villages, it has preserved its medieval identity.



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### CADOUIN (14 km)

The village was built around a Cistercian abbey with a remarkable flamboyant gothic style cloister. A little further in Buisson, the Maxange caves, discovered in 2000, are well worth a visit.

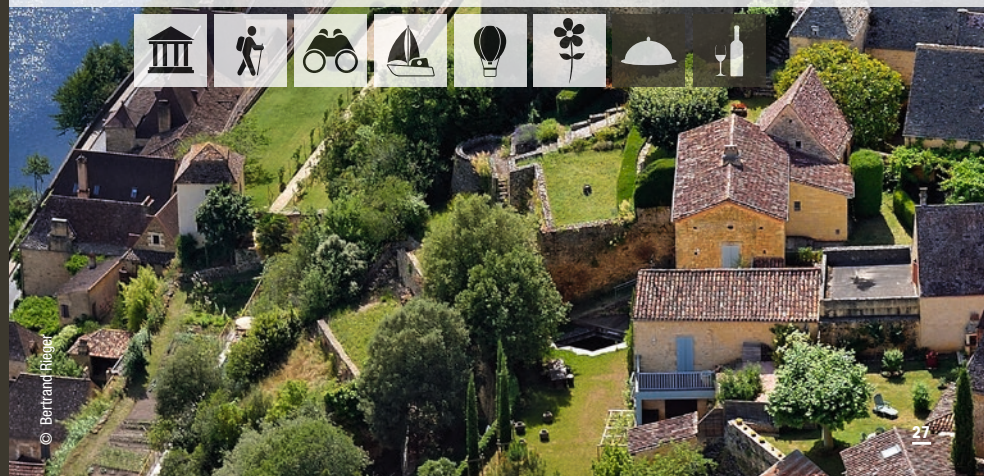
### MONPAZIER (16 km)

One of the most beautiful bastide towns in the Périgord region. With original fortified walls and grid pattern designed streets around the central square, Place des Cornières. The village craft workers work in traditional shops under the old arches.

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### SAINT-CYPRIEN (13 km)

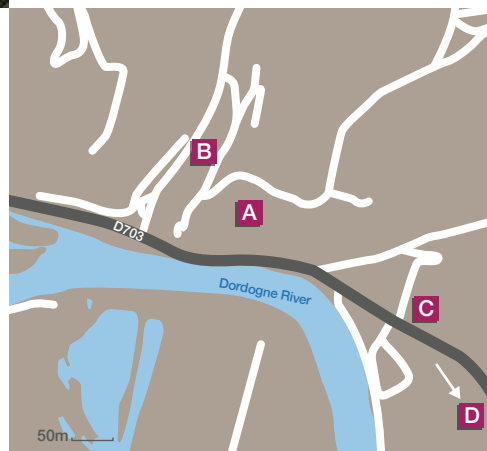
The old hillside village invites the visitor to explore the narrow streets lined with stately homes. The Sunday morning market draws customers attracted by its lively atmosphere, all year round.





## On the Outset of a Thousand Years of History

Counting the original Norman keep, built here in 1115, the Castle of Beynac **A**, has watched over the Dordogne Valley for nearly 1,000 years (*above*). The French fief, a Barony of Périgord, only yielded to Richard the Lionheart and Simon de Montfort. The castle is one of the rare examples to have survived this era to present with its original architecture and authentic atmosphere. From the Great Hall to the impressive kitchens that lie across the barbican through an arched door, the field trip through the centuries is a pleasure. Fireplaces, mural paintings and tapestries give warmth to the medieval fortress.



Pass the castle bridge and set upon the fortress to uncover its mysteries. A French stronghold during the Hundred Years War, Beynac's Castle faced its rival Castelnaud's Castle, an English bastion on the other side of the Dordogne River.



## Gourmet Stopover under the Ramparts

On the castle road, La Petite Tonnelle **B**, proudly presents a refreshing and innovative combination of simple, colourful food. The chef favours Périgordian, regional, registered, farm produce. Fish, shell fish or meat from the Limousin, it's up to you!





© Bertrand Pellegrin

## Marqueyssac Hanging Gardens, in Vézac

If the undulations of the bastion's "Boxwood Folly" alone deserve a long look, the complete tour of the topiary gardens takes visitors on a 6 kilometre stroll, over 54 acres. Marqueyssac's Italianate hilltop gardens **D**, are something of a gentle voice in this valley of castles. The panoramic views of the river Esperance and the village of La Roque-Gageac are breathtaking. Garden paths wind playfully through cliffs and greenery, between mazes of clipped box hedges and secret rooms.



© Tilia Cantzley-Jasick



Cédric Depenweiler,  
Lembert cannery

© Tilia Cantzley-Jasick

## "The alleys climb towards happiness"

"I was born and raised here where I live each day, in the shade of the castle walls. Beynac is my world and I'm very attached to it. I just love the way that the narrow streets climb towards the castle, revealing the Valley of the Dordogne River and the Island of Broudou where I used to fish as a child, from different viewpoints. A must do: take the hiking trail that runs up above by the Calvary and continues on along the cliff and caves, as it goes east. There are magnificent views all along the way. I've seen the village really taking off. Nowadays, it's a lively place all year round. Our cannery **C**, founded right here in 1940 by my Great Grand Aunt, is part of it all with our shop and our inn." ♦

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## A Star Attraction

Beynac's medieval fortress is a regular location for movie shoots; its natural setting makes it an obvious choice for movie directors. Some examples: the last film featuring Brigitte Bardot "The Edifying and Joyous Story of Colinot", "Gallant Ladies" starring Richard Bohringer and Isabella Rossellini, Luc Besson's "Joan of Arc", "The Visitors" etc. but also music videos for Era... ♦



© Collection Christophe

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ **Castle of Beynac**

24220 Beynac-et-Cazenac  
+33 5 53 29 50 40  
Opening Hours  
Daily: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
(Summer)

Make inquiry for off-season visit  
Admission: 8€, 4.50€ (12-16 yrs)  
3.50€ (5-11 yrs)

#### ◆ **Marqueyssac Gardens**

24220 Vézac  
+33 5 53 31 36 36  
www.marqueyssac.com  
Opening Hours: daily  
April-May-June-Sept.:  
10 a.m.-7 p.m.,  
July-August:  
9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Feb.-Mar.-Oct.-start  
Nov.: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
End Nov.-Dec.-Jan.:  
2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Admission: 8.80€  
and 4.40€ (10-17 yrs)  
Candlelit evenings:  
14.50€ and 7€  
(10-17 yrs)

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ **La Petite Tonnelle**

Le Bourg (going up to the castle) 24220 Beynac-et-Cazenac  
+33 5 53 29 95 18  
www.restaurant-petite-tonnelle.fr  
Menus: 17€-33€  
Gourmet Menu:  
39.50€

#### ◆ **L'Auberge Lambert**

Le Capeyrou 24220 Beynac-et-Cazenac  
+33 5 53 29 50 45  
www.lambertfoies-gras.com  
Tradition Menu:  
18.50€  
Sunday to Friday  
Mid-April to 30th Sept.

### EVENTS

#### ◆ **Local Producers' Market**

Mondays 8.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. Mid-June to mid-Sept., at La Balme car-park (over the Dordogne River)

#### ◆ **Fireworks**

One of the best pyrotechnical shows in the castle valley in the castle valley August 15th, on the river



For further information

#### **Black Périgord Tourist Office**

La Balme 24220 Beynac-et-Cazenac  
+33 5 53 29 43 08  
[www.sarlal-tourisme.com/beynac-et-cazenac](http://www.sarlal-tourisme.com/beynac-et-cazenac)

#### **Town Hall (mairie)**

Le Bourg 24220 Beynac-et-Cazenac  
+33 5 53 31 34 00  
[www.beynac-et-cazenac.fr](http://www.beynac-et-cazenac.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### **LA ROQUE-GAGEAC** (5 km)

Upstream along the river, snuggled up against a cliff under an 11th century troglodytic fort, as it watches riverboats go by, the village enjoys a microclimate, which has produced an unusual tropical garden.

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### **SAINT-CYPRIEN** (10 km)

Downstream, protected by the abbey around which it was built, the "old" village is worth a visit for its narrow streets and stately homes. Visitors come all year round to enjoy the lively atmosphere of the Sunday morning market.

### **CASTELNAUD-LA-CHAPELLE** (6 km)

On the opposite bank of the Dordogne River, an alignment of four castles: the fortress of Castelnaud with a Medieval Warfare Museum, Lacoste and its gardens, Fayrac and Les Milandes, once owned by Josephine Baker.

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# BOURDEILLES

Listed Historic Monument and major site of Aquitaine, Bourdeilles Castle majestically overlooks the River Dronne. It will take you on a voyage in time, back to the first barony of the Périgord.





© Bertrand Rieger

## The Bourdeille Family, first Barony of the Périgord

The outline of Bourdeilles Castle (*above*) stands out from the clear blue sky. Its massive silhouette vows a faultless defence system. Encircled by walls and curtain walls, the castle and its keep are the silent guardians of the village history. Two distinct periods appear: the Romanesque medieval castle in contrast to the richly furnished Renaissance wing. First barony of the Périgord, the Bourdeille family kept possession of the castle until 1947, at which date the last descendant's widow donated it to the County (département) of Dordogne. Take in eight hundred years of the fortress's history as told by Jérôme Mathet, guide and keeper of the site.

Unlike the XIIIth and XIVth century feudal fortress, the Renaissance Wing of Bourdeilles Castle was built in times of peace. It is richly furnished with XVth to XIXth century sideboards, beds, tables, trunks and tapestries, displayed from room to room.



© Les Promenades



© Bertrand Rieger

## A Breath of Serenity

At Les Promenades Restaurant (*above*) Jérémy Derouet concocts wonderful South-Western style dishes, exclusively using fresh ingredients. For a romantic interlude, the Hostellerie des Griffons (*opposite*) offers an atmosphere steeped in history. There's everything here for a well-deserved moment of relaxation, by the outdoor pool, in the flower garden, or on the terrace with a view on the river.



© Bertrand Rieger



© DR



© Le tricycle enchanté

## Recycle and Create

At the Enchanted Tricycle Upcycling Centre (*above*), the fight against waste shows passion and talent! Members of the association collect used objects around the countryside and create partnerships with local dump management. They then repair and sell objects at a low price. More than a creative waste reclamation centre, this is also an environment awareness education centre. For the last ten years, the group organises a Re'use Festival in October.



© DR

**Jean-Pierre Faye,**  
volunteer at the Tourist Office

## "I know all the village secrets"

"Bourdeilles Castle is famous, but the whole village built at the foot of the castle, a genuine peace haven, is worth knowing. I know all its little secrets. For example, where does the name Bourdeilles come from? Perhaps from 'Brogos' meaning 'Tower' and 'Helios' that signifies 'the sun', because together they suggest the castle's high tower. The village became known as 'Bourg de Héliés'. Hélié was, incidentally, the first name given to the lords of Bourdeille for generations. The name could also come from Athilda Bourdeille, daughter of a King of England who gave seven children to the King Marcomer (*see below*)."

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Griffin Coat of Arms

In Gallo-Roman times, three of Athilda Bourdeille's and King Marcomer's sons set out to free the province of Aquitaine Gaul from the Romans. They fought against men and... lion-bodied, eagle-headed, griffins. One of the three brothers, named Nicanor, escaped after cutting off the talons of one of the ferocious beasts... eagle's talons that can be found on the House of Bourdeille family crest and the village coat of arms. ♦



## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

◆ **The Castle**  
Closed in January  
and Mondays  
Visioguide Audiovisit  
+33 5 53 05 65 60  
and +33 5 53 03 73 36  
[www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr/](http://www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr/)

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

◆ **Les Promenades**  
Rue de l'Eglise  
+33 5 53 03 43 70  
[www.restaurantlespromenades.com](http://www.restaurantlespromenades.com)  
March to December  
Tuesday to Sunday  
evenings  
Menus: 24-29€

◆ **Hostellerie  
Les Griffons**  
Reopening end of April  
+33 5 53 45 45 35  
[www.griffons.fr](http://www.griffons.fr)  
Rooms: 85€ to 150€

◆ **Les Ménestrels**  
Market Square  
+33 5 53 06 29 17  
Menus 19-25€

◆ **Les Tilleuls**  
Market Square  
+33 5 53 03 76 40  
Open Daily for Lunch.  
Open for Evening Meal:  
June to August  
Menu 15€

### SHOP

◆ **Le Tricycle  
enchanté**  
Upcycling Centre  
November to May:  
Wednesdays  
and Saturdays  
2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
June to October:  
Wednesdays  
and Saturdays  
2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Sundays 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

### EVENTS

◆ **Weekly Market**  
Sunday mornings

◆ **Evening Flavours  
Market**  
Local producers  
Wednesday nights

End of July to end  
of August

◆ **Re'use Festival**  
Every year in October



For further  
information

### Dronne-Belle Tourist Office

Eglise Notre-Dame  
2, rue Puyjoli-de-Meyjounissas  
24310 Brantôme  
+33 5 53 05 80 63  
[www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr](http://www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr)

### Town Hall (mairie)

+33 5 53 03 73 13  
[www.bourdeilles.fr](http://www.bourdeilles.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### AGONAC (15 km)

The local treasure, situated outside the village, is a 130 odd feet long church, which houses XVth century wall paintings. Three castles and a mill bring additional historical appeal to the village.

### TOCANE-SAINT-ÂPRE

(14 km)

In the XIIIth century the village was made up of two parishes: Sainte-Marie-de-Perdus and Saint-Âpre-de-Perdus. In the XIVth century, a count founded a bastide town with the Italian name, Tocane. Discover castles and chapels in perfect condition.

### CHÂTEAU-L'ÉVÊQUE

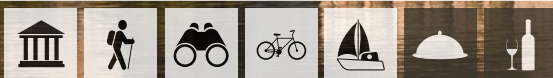
(15 km)

The commune exists in its present form since a decree issued by King Louis-Philippe in 1831, but the village can be traced back to the XIIIth century. In 1600, saint Vincent de Paul was ordained a priest here, in the church of Saint-Juien.



# BRANTÔME

The French writer André Maurois pronounced it “Périgord’s loveliest and most enchanting little town”. Encircled by the waters of the river Dronne, the “Venice of Périgord” as it is locally known, is a site steeped in history. This romantic yet lively “island-town” is renowned for its prestigious Benedictine Abbey, which was according to legend, founded by Charlemagne.



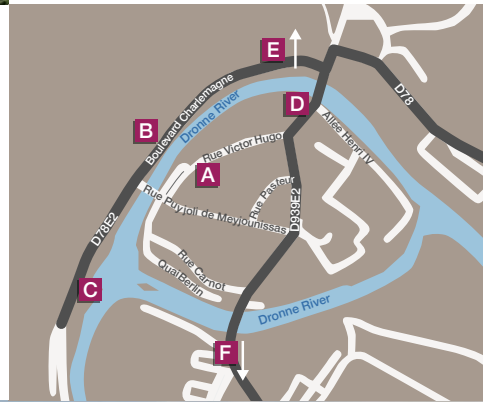




© Bertrand Hieggel

## A Walk through the Venice of Périgord

Like an Island, the heart of Brantôme is surrounded by the waters of the river Dronne with just five bridges to connect it to “solid ground”. There’s no resisting the charm of the gorgeous riverside houses, reflected in the water. Take a seat on the patio of the Bar du Marché **A**, and just take in the scenery: right across from the town center Brantôme’s Abbey **B** (*below*), unfolds its monumental façade. At the foot of the sanctuary, the unusual Coudé Bridge **C**, has a bend in its span over the river Dronne. The bridge was designed in the XVIth century for the monks to cross from the Abbey to their private gardens. Today these peaceful gardens and their centuries old trees, provide an ideal setting for a romantic stroll.



© Bertrand Hieggel

Over the centuries, the abbey saw extensive reconstruction work. From 1850, Paul Abadie, student of Viollet-le-Duc took over. He removed three of the cloister galleries. The west gallery is the only element to have survived the revivalist architect’s fury.



© Jean-Danièle Sudries

## One of the Dordogne’s most Prestigious Abbeys

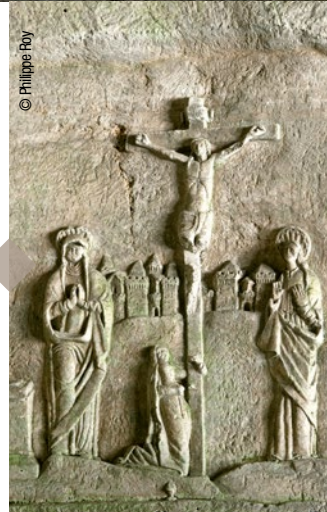
Allegedly founded by Charlemagne to safeguard the relics of the child martyr Saint Sicaire, this Benedictine Abbey lived its finest hours in the XVIth century with its commendatory abbots Pierre de Mareuil followed by Pierre de Bourdeille. Today the buildings house the Town Hall and a museum dedicated to the symbolist painter Fernand Desmoulin (1853-1914).



© Philippe Roy

## Troglodytic Mysteries

The limestone cliffs overhanging the Abbey, house mysterious grottos inhabited since the VIIIth century, when Benedictine monks first established a monastery there. A discovery trail leads the way through this troglodytic universe that includes a pigeon loft, a washhouse, remains of dwellings, and a fountain devoted to Saint Sicaire. The most striking feature is The Grotto of the Last Judgement. Two monumental bas-reliefs are carved in the rock wall: a XVIIth century Crucifixion (*opposite*) and an enigmatic sculpture on the theme of “the triumph of Death”.



© Philippe Roy

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### Early Trades and Crafts

Before the war, Brantôme was home to ironmongers, mattress makers, seamstresses, coopers and stonecutters. A vanished world brought to life in Jean Lapouze’s book *Vieux Métiers d’hier et histoire de Brantôme* (Iota, 2014). This work retraces the history and showcases the skills of some 90 local craftsmen. Forgotten today, these men and women, who earned a meagre living, were once part of the town’s vital features. ♦



© Jean Lapouze/Iota



Eric Simonin, glass blower

**“The atmosphere here gives off amazing vibrations”**

“Originally from the Drôme region, I discovered Brantôme when I came to Dordogne to train as a glass blower. I fell in love immediately! In 2004, I decided to set up my workshop in one of the underground grottos of the cliffs that shelter the town. Down under the rock, the peaceful atmosphere gives off amazing vibrations and tremendous energy to work with. When creating my glass sculptures, I take my inspiration from the vivid countryside all around Brantôme —mushrooms, butterflies, flowers... It’s really worth climbing to the top of the Abbey church’s bell tower for a breathtaking view of the town. The upturned keel framework in the old monk’s dormitory is also outstanding.” ♦



© Philippe Roy

## Perigordian Specialities and River Produce

To savour fine cuisine while enjoying the view on the Dronne, favour the very chic Moulin de l'Abbaye **E**, right at the foot of the sanctuary or the Charbonnel restaurant **D**, with its idyllic terrace suspended over the river (*above*). If you prefer to leave the town center, opt for the snug atmosphere of Les Jardins de Brantôme **E** or the Moulin de Vigonac **F**, in the ultimate bucolic setting. Either way, you can be sure of a memorable gourmet experience, tasting Périgord-style duck fillet or perhaps pan-fried pike-perch with Bergerac wine sauce!



© Bertrand Fleger

At the heart of a Biosphere Reserve, Brantôme is a halt on the Way of Saint James that knows how to welcome the numerous pilgrims passing through. With its little shops and markets, the town is lively all year long. Look out for the Local Producers Market or the Truffle Market *Tuber Melanosporum* (in season).



© Philippe Roy



© Philippe Roy

## Cycling Tour or Romantic River Cruise...

The ideal way to see Brantôme is to take a leisurely cruise on the river Dronne. Board Brantôme Cruise's **C** Dronna, moored at the foot of the Abbey; alternatively embark with the emblematic Jean-Claude, also known as "Noah". Along the way you can admire all the monuments but also discover the numerous wild river islands.

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Brantôme's

**Abbey**  
Bd Charlemagne  
+33 5 47 45 30 12  
www.brantome.fr  
Closed in January  
Admission: 5€

#### ◆ Brantôme Cruises

2, rue Pierre-  
de-Bourdeille  
+33 5 53 04 74 71  
www.brantomecroi-  
sieres.com  
April to end of October  
Adult fare: 7.50€

#### ◆ L'Arche de Noé

Place du marché  
+33 9 79 71 17 16  
April to end of October  
Tickets: 7.50€

#### ◆ Eric Simonin, glass blower

6, bd Charlemagne  
+33 5 53 35 24 13  
www.ericSimonin.fr  
Free admission  
April to October

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Charbonnel

Rue Gambetta  
24310 Brantôme  
+33 5 53 05 70 15  
www.lesfrerescharbon-  
nel.com

#### ◆ Les jardins de Brantôme

33, rue Pierre-  
de-Mareuil  
+33 5 53 05 88 16  
www.lesjardinsdebran-  
tome.com

#### ◆ Le Moulin de l'Abbaye

1, rue Pierre-  
de-Bourdeille  
+33 5 53 05 80 22  
www.moulinabbaye.com

#### ◆ Le Moulin de Vigonac

24310 Brantôme  
+33 5 53 05 87 59  
www.moulindevigonac.  
com

### EVENTS

◆ **Weekly Market**  
Every Friday morning

◆ **Local producer's  
Market**  
Every Tuesday morning  
mid-June to  
mid-September

#### ◆ Truffle Market

Friday mornings  
December to March  
At the Tourist Office

#### ◆ Brantôme Nautical Jousting Tournaments

Every Friday night  
in July and August  
At the foot of the Abbey



For further  
information

#### Périgord Dronne Belle Tourist Office

Église Notre-Dame,  
2, rue Puyjoli-de-Meyjounissas  
+33 5 53 05 80 63

[www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr](http://www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Bd Charlemagne; +33 5 53 29 91 44  
[www.brantome.fr](http://www.brantome.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### BOURDEILLES (9 km)

An old bridge over the river Dronne, picturesque houses with clay tile roofs, the impressive outline of a medieval castle... impossible to resist this postcard-perfect village!

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### SAINT-JEAN-

### DE-CÔLE (19 km)

Listed as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages of France"; charming features of this flower decked village include, its old priory, La Marthonie castle and a delightful stone bridge over the Côte river.

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### HAUTEFORT (50 km)

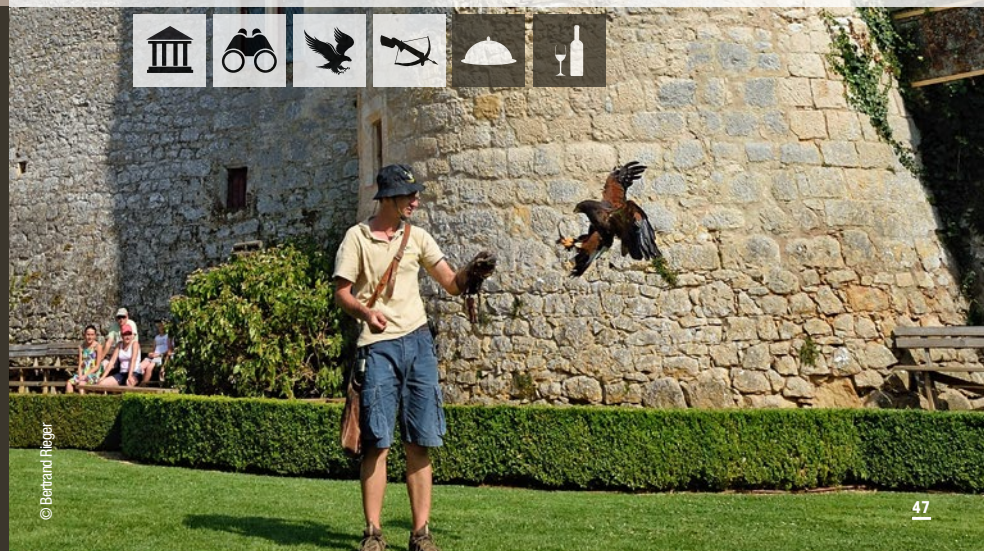
Situated at the gateway of the Black Périgord region, the village is dominated by a monumental XVIIth century fortress, a rare example of this period to be seen in the Dordogne area.

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# CASTELNAUD- LA-CHAPELLE

Listed amongst France's Most Beautiful Villages, Castelnaud overlooks the confluence of the Cèou and the Dordogne Rivers. The commune boasts no less than four castles, two of which are open to the public.





© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick

Erected on the ridge of the rocky outcrop, that would secure its defensive position during the Hundred Years' war, the castle of Castelnaud was abandoned after the French Revolution and later used as a stone quarry, in the XIXth century. Started in 1967, the castle's restoration continued until 2012. In addition to its outstanding panorama on the Dordogne River, the castle captivates with lots of medieval entertainment for young and old alike.



© Bertrand Piegier

## The Art of War in the Middle Ages

The castle of Castenaud—the most visited castle south of the Loire—is just perfect for those who are knights and maidens at heart. The Medieval Warfare Museum houses a superb collection of weapons and armour. A great adventure going back through the centuries, with medieval entertainment for young and old, firing demonstrations with life size replicas of long-range siege weapons, and dramatised visits by night. From the summer of 2016 the castle's attractions will include a giant mural, painted in traditional techniques.



© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick



© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick

## Sweet Temptations with a Local Flavour

Discover pastry as an art form in the shop windows of the Maison Carré Bakery, at the end of the village. All the great French classics are made here, but a place of pride is given to the house speciality with a local flavour: the "Carré aux Noix", walnut squares made with sweet pastry, salted butter caramel, crushed Périgord walnuts, light coffee butter cream and almond paste...



© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick



© Titia Carrizze-Jasick

## Les Milandes and Josephine Baker

Milandes castle was partly built in 1489 and later remodelled as a romantic manor house at the beginning of the XXth century. From the summer of 1947 to 1968, this was the realm of Josephine Baker and the twelve children of her "Rainbow Tribe" adopted with her husband Jo Bouillon. An extensive exhibition covers all aspects of the life of this great lady of music hall and the French Resistance. A falconry display and other shows including tropical bird feeding in the aviaries, entertain the whole family. Spring 2016 marks the end of a long-term project to resize the gardens around their most beautiful viewpoint.



© Jac. Pliot

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### The Legend of the Coulobre

The village houses the headquarters of EPIDOR, a public coordinating structure that manages the aquatic environment of the Dordogne basin from its source, to its confluence with the Garonne River. EPIDOR has adopted the Coulobre as a mascot. Once a cruel creature that dragged the mariners to their deaths at the bottom of the riverbed, the mythical monster has now taken on a more friendly appearance, in order to build respect and heighten awareness in the community and amongst visitors, of the river, its tributaries and its ecosystem. ♦



© Jean-François Guerin



© Titia Carrizze-Jasick

**Germinal Peiro,**  
President of the Department Assembly,  
MP and former Mayor of Castelnaud

***"I know that  
this is home"***

"Castelnaud is the family cradle on my mother's side. This maternal connection is so special that I can hardly express it. I feel great emotion each time I walk through Castelnaud, when the light falls on the stone slabs, each a chunk of history. The village has miraculously kept its soul, despite the thousands of visitors that come here. The will to keep the village alive while respecting heritage buildings has been a local concern, for over eight centuries. With its head in the stars, the castle looks out toward the river and watches over our homes. 'The river Hope, fluvial kingdom, soul of the valley'... The writer Signol described it best. When I'm here, I'm not checking my watch to see if I'm getting that little piece of happiness I deserve. I know that this is home." ♦

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

◆ **Castelnaud Castle**  
+33 5 53 31 30 00  
www.castelnaud.com  
Open daily  
Adults from 8.60€  
(14.50€ nocturnal  
events), 10-17 years  
from 4.30€, admission  
free under 10 years

◆ **Milandes Castle**  
5km downstream from  
the village along  
the left bank of  
the Dordogne  
+33 5 53 59 31 21  
www.milandes.com  
Open daily end-March  
to mid-Nov. Admission  
fee includes castle  
and garden tour,  
falconry display  
and children's  
entertainment  
Adults 10€, 5-16 years  
6.50€, admission free  
under 10 years

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

◆ **Maison Carré  
Bakery**  
Le Tournepieque  
+33 5 53 59 33 90  
www.patisseriecarre.fr

◆ **Marqueyssac  
Gardens by  
Candlelight**  
24220 Vézac  
+33 5 53 31 36 36  
www.marqueyssac.com  
Ice-cream parlour and  
tea-rooms daily Thursday  
nights in summer  
For candle-lit tour,  
admission: candle-lit  
tour 14.50€ and 7€  
(+ice-cream)  
(More information  
page 29)

### EVENTS

◆ **Beach Festival**  
Third week of July,  
featuring Funfair,  
fireworks on the  
Dordogne with blaze  
of glory over the village

◆ **Canoe Marathon**  
Mid-September,  
starts downstream  
at Saint-Julien-de-  
Lampton, finishes at  
Castelnaud  
Competition and  
sporting event open  
to all, beginners and  
champions alike



For further  
information

### Coteaux du Céou and Valley Tourist Office

Rue de la République. 24250 Daglan  
+33 5 53 29 88 84  
www.tourisme-ceou.com

### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg haut  
+33 5 53 29 51 21  
mairie.castelnaud@wanadoo.fr



# DOMME AND VITRAC

Classified amongst France's Most Beautiful Villages since 1982, Domme is one of the rare bastide towns in the Black Périgord region. As it stretches out before you, the entire valley of the Dordogne can be taken in at a glance from the promontory lookout.



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### VÉZAC (5 km)

As well as the "Outstanding Gardens" rated Marqueyssac Gardens, the village boasts a wonderful little Romanesque church, built in the XIVth and XVth centuries and very recently restored.

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### FLORIMONT-GAUMIER

(20 km)

Center of the Dome wine revival since 1990, the village combines beautiful heritage architecture and wine tourism. A lookout tower overlooks the Moncalou winery and the walking trails through the vineyards.

### BEYNAC-ET-CAZENAC (6 km)

Overlooked by one of the most imposing fortresses of the Périgord region, the fishermen's homes and other dwellings lean on the cliff facing the river. A meshwork of medieval lanes interlaces as they climb towards the castle ramparts.

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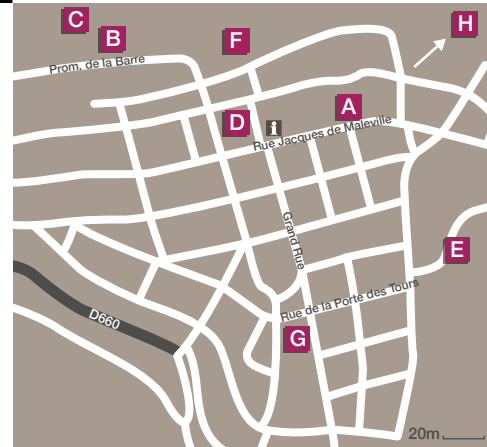




© Tilia Czarny-Isack

## Numerous Settlers

Established as a stronghold in 1281 by Philip the Fair, in order to compete with the English bastide towns, Dome has preserved remains of its settlers down through the centuries. To follow the timeline, start by a visit to the Prehistoric painted caves La Martine **A**, and Mammouth, then continue with the ancestral ruins of the “Chateau du Roy” whose first foundations can be traced back to the Viking invasions. The bastide town is still largely enclosed by its walls and fortified gates (*below*) topped by the Esplanade de la Barre **B**, overlooking the Dordogne valley. Continue the visit with the wonderful Jubilé cave **C**, there’s an exit by a panoramic elevator; do not forget: The Governor’s Residence, the recently restored Market Hall **D**, the Bishop’s Residence and the majestic Porte des Tours **E**...



The Esplanade de la Barre offers a panoramic view on the valley, over 40 km. Here stands the statue of Jacques de Maleville (1741-1824), a juriconsult and politician, native of Domme. He was one of the four jurists who drafted the French Civil Code under Napoleon Bonaparte.



© Bertrand Rieger



© Bertrand Rieger

## Gastronomy and Hospitality

High up on the fortified walls, the Esplanade Hotel-Restaurant **F**, is an institution. The shaded terrace looks out over the horizon. The chef Pascal Bouland, serves distinctive traditional cuisine. In Vitrac, optionally, the Chalet Restaurant, opposite the Falaise de la Banquette, serves unpretentious dishes, popular with families, in an idyllic setting on the banks of the Dordogne.



© Tilia Czarny-Isack





© Bertrand Rieger

## The “Cingle” of Montfort

Whether you arrive by the Carsac-Aillac road or by canoe from the river upstream, this is one Black Périgord’s most emblematic sights... Perched on a rocky outcrop opposite the Turnac peninsula, Montfort castle **H**, dominates the “cingle” (or meander) on one side and the hamlet to which it also gives its name on the other side, in the territory of Vitrac. Fief of a Cathar Lord called Bernard de Cazenac during the Albigensian Crusade of 1214, the castle was destroyed by Simon de Montfort—a homonym of mere coincidence—and later rebuilt.



© Bertrand Rieger

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## 700 year old graffitis

Shortly after its construction, the Porte des Tours **E**, was used as a gaol for 70 Knights Templar imprisoned in 1307, by order of King Philip the Fair. Hundreds of graffiti drawings carved on the cell walls by the soldier-monks bear witness to their religious faith and their military commitment. The graffiti, featuring seven distinct scenes, are now visible to the public. ♦



© Tilia Carrizze-Jasick



© Tilia Carrizze-Jasick

Charles Duret, jewellery sculptor

## “I’m guided by the prevailing serenity”

“As soon as I arrived in the bastide town of Domme in 1999 returning to my ancestral home, I was literally swept off my feet. The architecture, the setting, with its extraordinary view are just unique. Behind the fortified walls, there’s this feeling that nothing can get to us, that we’re protected from all that ails the world. I’m lucky enough to live in the Moneyer’s house **G**, Domme’s very oldest house. Living in a heritage building allows me to affirm my family legacy. Under the arcades, I’m guided by the prevailing serenity while creating my collections of gold and silver-plated jewellery, based on themes that inspire me such as woman and nature.” ♦

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Jubilé Cave

Market Square  
+33 5 53 31 71 00  
Open Daily from  
February Holidays to  
1st November and  
during Christmas  
Holidays.  
Entry Fee:  
8,50€ to 6,50€

#### ◆ Knights Templar Prison

Porte des Tours  
+33 5 53 31 71 00  
By appointment only  
Entry Fee: 7€ to 5€

#### ◆ Charles Duret's shop

Maison de la Monnaie  
du Roy  
Place de la Rode  
+33 5 53 29 17 06  
www.charles-duret.  
com

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ L'Esplanade

2, rue Pontcarral  
+33 5 53 28 31 41  
www.esplanade-  
perigord.com  
Average price "à la  
carte" menu: 45€  
Rooms: 82€-134€  
(low season),  
93€-155€ (high  
season)

#### ◆ Le Chalet

Le Bras  
+33 53 29 32 73  
"Snack-brasserie" menu  
May to September

#### ◆ Bed&Breakfast "La Barde"

Montfort  
24200 Vitrac  
+33 5 53 28 24 34  
www.labardemontfort.  
com  
Bed&Breakfast from 85€  
(100€ high season)

### EVENT

#### ◆ Weekly Market

Every Thursday  
morning, Domme



For further  
information

#### Pays de Domme Tourist Office

Place de la Halle  
+33 5 53 31 71 00  
www.perigordnoir-valleedordogne.com

#### Town Hall (mairie)

5, place de la Halle  
+33 5 53 28 61 00  
www.domme.fr



# EYMET

Founded in 1270, the bastide town of Eymet marks the southern entry to the Périgord region. It is a popular location with the British, whose expatriates are numerous in the town. Heritage buildings and summer festivities make Eymet a popular tourist spot.

## FURTHER AFIELD...

### CARSAC-AILLAC (10 km)

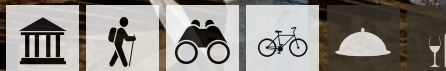
Situated at the confluence of the Enéa stream and the Dordogne river, the old village of Carsac, with its church, stone mills and riverboats down below, fully meets expectations of the traditional image of Black Périgord. Worth seeing: the water gardens at Saint-Rome.

### FLORIMONT- GAUMIER (20 km)

Center of the Dome wine revival since 1990, the village combines beautiful heritage architecture and wine tourism. A lookout tower overlooks the Moncalou winery and the walking trails through the vineyards.

### CÉNAC- ET-SAINT-JULIEN (3 km)

Situated at the foot of Domme's cliff, on the left bank of the Dordogne, discover an XIth century five-windowed apse in the Priory, and an imposing plane tree known as "Thermidor" planted around 1750 in the grounds of Thouron castle.





## In the Shade of the Arcades

Eymet is a perfect example of a XIIIth century medieval bastide town. The vast central square, called Place des Arcades (*above*) is lined with “covers” that have sheltered vendors since the Middle Ages. A stroll around the grid of streets and charming “carreyrous” —very narrow lanes—reveals the village’s old dwellings and numerous heritage features. In addition to churches and Romanesque chapels, you’ll come upon mills, dovecotes and old washhouses. A little further, the medieval Dropt Bridge (*opposite*) was built in the XIIIth century on the route linking Marmande to Bergerac, in use since Roman Antiquity.



The sturdy square keep known as the “Monseigneur’s Tower” is one of the vestiges of the XIIIth century castle, part of which is used today as a museum. Note the numerous mason’s marks left as signatures by stonecutters, on the north gate.



## Dining Pleasure

La Cour d’Eymet will delight you with reinvented regional specialities such as Foie Gras Terrine with Grand Marnier Soufflé. The Italian restaurant Les Arcades (*opposite*) serves a delicious Osso Bucco with unexpected nettle ravioli, while La Maison d’Amour offers “Perigordian style” crepes and buckwheat pancakes, outside on the terrace under the arcades.





© Pierre Bacogne

## Inland Oyster Festival

Since the 15th of August 1998, large numbers of gourmets get together to drink registered white wine with seafood at the Annual Eymet Oyster Festival. The celebration starts in the morning and finishes with a ball, late at night. More than 3,000 meals are served over the weekend: seafood platters, oysters and mussels farmed by oyster aquaculturists from Marennes-Oléron and Arcachon Bay, who come to join the local vintners.

© Pierre Bacogne



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### British Mood

Whether settled in at the Pub or the Café de Paris, our British friends set the tone for a festive mood: live music, rebroadcasts of rugby matches, beer and fish & chips. Both nationalities are united when it comes to having a good time. ♦



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant

**Dominique Erbani,**  
French rugby player

***“Some things never change”***

“I was born in La Rouquette, a tiny commune attached to Eymet and today I live in Agen. When I return to my native village to visit my family and friends, I still love going for walks around the little streets. Because of the British input, the village has come on a lot. I notice that there’s always something happening. I used to go to the Café de Paris when I was young and it’s still there. Some things never change!” ♦

© Pénale - agence XV



## ESSENTIALS

### CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

- ◆ **Le Pub**  
7, place Gambetta  
+33 5 53 23 33 41
- ◆ **Le Café de Paris**  
Place de l'Église  
+33 5 53 23 81 61
- ◆ **Les Arcades**  
Italian Restaurant  
3, rue du Loup  
+33 5 53 22 72 83  
Menus from 18€  
to 25€
- ◆ **La Cour d'Eymet**  
32, boulevard National  
+33 5 53 22 72 83  
Menus from 20€  
to 60€
- ◆ **La Maison d'Amour**  
Place des Arcades  
+33 5 53 22 34 64  
May to September

### EVENTS

- ◆ **Market**  
Every Thursday
- ◆ **Evening Market**  
Tuesdays: craft workers,  
market gardeners  
and producers  
In July and August  
from 7 p.m.,  
Place de la Bastide  
Onsite Catering  
+33 5 53 23 74 95
- ◆ **Oyster and White  
Wine Festival**  
August 15th all day  
Onsite catering  
and sale of fish,  
shellfish, poultry, grills  
and Eymet country  
wines  
Ball in the evening  
Place de la Bastide
- ◆ **Medieval Tour  
in the Dropt Valley**  
1st weekend of August,  
Bastide Night Watch  
Guided tours in French  
and English  
Entertainment,  
medieval market  
all day  
Banquet-show at night,  
Place de la Bastide



For further  
information

**Eymet Country Tourist Office**  
Place de la Bastide  
24500 Eymet  
+33 5 53 23 74 95  
[www.eymet-perigord.fr](http://www.eymet-perigord.fr)

**Eymet Town Hall (mairie)**  
27, avenue de la Bastide  
+33 5 53 22 22 10  
[www.eymet-dordogne.fr](http://www.eymet-dordogne.fr)



# FANLAC

Nestled on a small slope at the heart of Barade Forest, this superbly preserved village remains famous as the setting for a televised adaptation of the Eugene Le Roy novel *Jacquou le Croquant*. While in Fanlac, follow in the footsteps of this mythical Perigordian hero!



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### SAINT-AUBIN-DE-CADELECH (9 km)

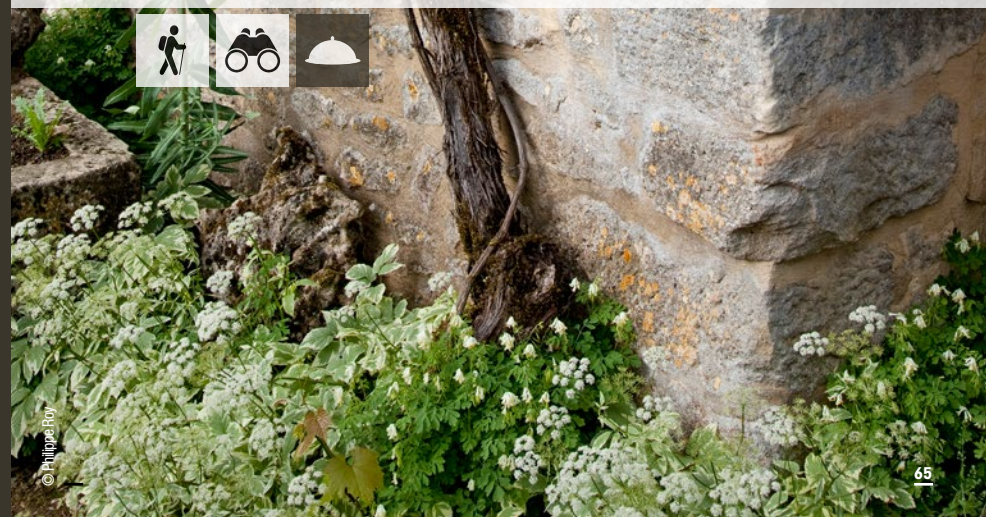
Just before the village, a lovely view awaits the walker. A charming little Romanesque church with a Saintonge-style carved portal stands at Cadalech. Nearby there's a XVIIIth century farm and dovecote.

### THÉNAC (13 km)

Thénac Castle was built on the ruins of a priory mentioned from 1109. The village is the starting point for walking hikes. Don't miss the wonderful Bastide of Puyguilhem, founded in 1265 by Jean de Grailly, for the King of England.

### MONESTIER (16 km)

Founded around 1284 by officers of the King of England, the village has preserved traces which are an indication of the old Bastide's location. Do visit the Romanesque church and the arcaded house known as "the Governor's House".





© ODT1 Vallée de la Vézère

## The Home of Jacquou le Croquant

Fanlac, a small village of 130 souls, was brought into the public eye when the popular French TV miniseries *Jacquou le Croquant* was filmed here, at the end of the 1960's. The series, set in the XIXth century, tells the story of a young Périgordian peasant who leads a revolt against arrogant noblemen. The architecture is typical of the Black Périgord region, with its distinctive blond and yellow limestone houses, roofed with flat stone tiles. You can't miss the XIIth century fortified Romanesque church and its somewhat austere high bell gable (above). As you stroll through the village, you'll notice several elements of rural heritage that have fortunately remained intact: an XVIIIth century carved Cross, an old stone well, and a dovecote. Also worth seeing, the old-world presbytery that featured as "Father Bonnal's house", in *Jacquou le Croquant*.



© Jonathan Mascher

**Kristof Mascher,**  
craftsman-designer-tanner

**"Fanlac has remained authentic"**

"I'm of Swedish and German origin. After travelling extensively all over Europe, I just fell in love with the village of Fanlac, where I have lived for the past thirty years. It's an amazingly unspoilt, well-kept, flower-decked village, set in a powerful natural environment, the wonderful Barade forest in particular. Fanlac has managed to remain rural and authentic, the atmosphere between the residents is very friendly. The village is really peaceful, which is ideal for me because my fish leather design work is meticulous and requires a lot of concentration. But meetings with the visitors who pass through, are always very rewarding." ♦



© DR



© ODT1 Vallée de la Vézère

## Enjoy wholesome farm produce

The restaurant Le Croquant is a local institution, run by the Roger family, over four generations. The owners are also farmers who present generous Périgordian terroir cuisine, made with their own fresh farm produce. Popular dishes are: stuffed hen, duck civet, bread soup, rabbit with wine and rabbit-blood sauce, and salted pork with traditional "mique" poached bread, made to order. Try a glass of regional cider to go with your meal!



© DR



© Philippe Roy

## ESSENTIALS

### VISIT

#### ◆ Créafish Workshop

Le Bourg  
24290 Fanlac  
+33 5 53 51 85 44  
www.fischleder-kreatio-  
nen.com  
June-Sept. Open daily:  
11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Closed Mondays  
Off season (by appoint-  
ment) – Admission free

### RESTAURANT

#### ◆ Le Croquant

Le Bourg  
24290 Fanlac  
+33 5 53 51 89 07  
July-August: daily lunch  
and dinner  
Closed Mondays  
Menus: 17€-32€  
Off season: lunch  
Sundays and holidays

## The Orsinie Walking Trail

The well-signposted loop starts in the center of Fanlac. It takes about an hour and a half to discover the emblematic landscapes of this quiet corner of the Black Périgord region, well loved by French author Eugène Le Roy (1836-1907). The pretty, well-shaded route is not too demanding; it will take you through the little valley of Thonac on its way to the hillside overlooking Montignac. From the hamlet of Orsinie, enjoy the wonderful panoramic view of Fanlac.



For further  
information

### Vézère Lascaux-Dordogne Tourist Office

Bureau de Montignac, place Bertran-  
de-Born, 24290 Montignac  
+33 5 53 51 82 60  
[www.lascaux-dordogne.com](http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com)

### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg – +33 5 53 51 87 81  
[www.fanlac.jimdo.com](http://www.fanlac.jimdo.com)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### MONTIGNAC (7 km)

Medieval Montignac is famous worldwide for the Lascaux caves. Visit the replica of the renowned site for a fascinating plunge into prehistoric times!

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### SAINT-LÉON-SUR-VÉZÈRE

(9 km)

Guarded by its castles, this inland port on the river Vézère, is overlooked by one of the most outstanding Romanesque churches of the Périgord region.

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### SAINT-AMAND-DE-COLY

(17 km)

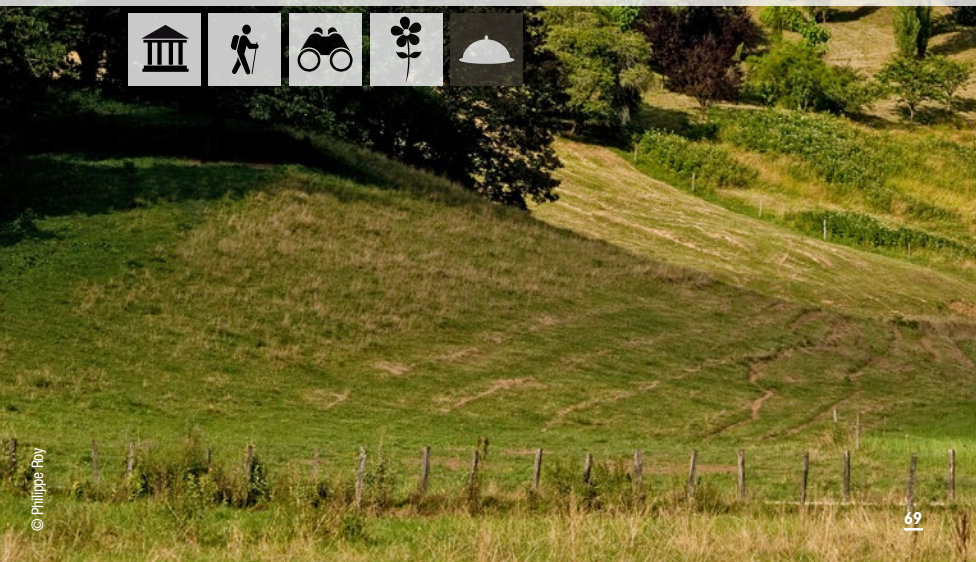
Undoubtedly irresistible, this distinctive village is renowned for its Romanesque fortified abbey, built from the XIIIth century.

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# HAUTEFORT

Bordering the black, white and green Périgord regions, Hautefort is famous for its castle, one of the rare examples of XVIIIth century architecture in the locality. High up on the ramparts you can admire the splendid French-formal gardens and the boundless landscape beyond.



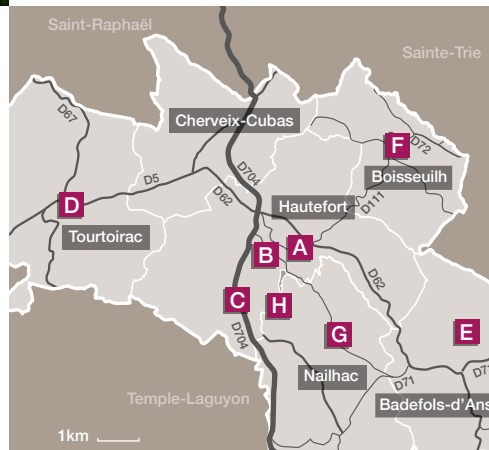




© Philippe Roy

## Seventeenth Century Classicism

Like the great majority of the Dordogne's castles, Hautefort **A**, can claim medieval origins. Totally transformed in the XVIIth century, the castle's defensive systems made way to large French formal gardens (*above*) as the fortress was turned into a stately residence. Visitors can immerse themselves in the resplendent regal atmosphere as they discover the furnished apartments, reception rooms, the chapel, and the Tower of Brittany with its underground passageways (*below*). Every Wednesday night during the summer, entertaining dramatised tours reveal the major and minor, secrets of history. And from April 1st, the castle hosts an exhibition called: "50 Years of Cinema at Hautefort".



© Philippe Roy

Built in 1670, the castle chapel is dedicated to Saint Eloi. The chapel is set in a round tower, accessible by a gallery in the castle's East Wing. Of particular note, the dome's trompe l'oeil patterned ceiling.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Gourmet Time

There's everything here to indulge lovers of gourmet food, fresh produce and conviviality: traditional cuisine at the Hôtel des Voyageurs (Saint-Agnan) **B**, gourmet notes at the Auberge du Parc, the Petits Plaisirs and the Troubadours restaurants, present day atmosphere Chez Cathy or seventy's at LeMêLoKo (*opposite*). Go to À la Ferme du Cochon Gourmand (La Peyre hamlet) **C**, to taste the typically perigordian beans with pork rinds.



© Le MêLoKo



© Tilla Carrizzev-Jestck

**Michel Massénat**, President of the Hautefort Heritage Club

**“Everything must be seen!”**

“I was born nearby, in Cherveix-Cubas, so I’ve always been part of the Hautefort area. Our association looks after heritage conservation because besides the castle that looks out so proudly over the landscape, and the charming sloping village, the whole area of Hautefort is worth seeing. Every year, we organise tours of mansions, manor houses and beautiful stately homes. Our team is based in the center of the village, place Eugène-Le-Roy, where we give out printed information but also tell the story of its wonderful heritage, its changing history over a thousand years and its famous figures.” ♦

## Treasures Along the Way

The village and the surrounding area is brimming with outstanding sights of historic and natural interest. Housed in the old hospice, the instructive exhibition of the Museum of Medicine’s collections **A** (opposite), is highly reputed as are the concretions at the Tourtoirac Cave **D**, a geological “gem” (above) which has only been open to the public since 2010. Hikers will discover a number of enchanting sites such as Rafailac’s Orientation Table **E**, on the heights of Badefols-d’Ans, the tunnel path at Boisseuilh **F**, and the Chassaing mound at Nailhac **G**. For a little break, stop off at Hautefort’s Coucou Pond recreation park **H**.



© Philippe Roy

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Good for Everything

Périgord Walnuts boast a registered “Designation of Origin” label since 2002, but they have always been one of the region’s riches. Proof of their presence since Paleolithic times has been found in the cave dwellings of Cro-Magnon man. The nut has been used over the centuries as currency, soap and even oil for lighting fuel. The AOC walnut can be used shelled, unshelled or in its oil form. The numerous benefits of this healthy food have been acknowledged, including protection against cardiovascular illness. ♦



© iStock

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

◆ **Castle of Hautefort**  
Daily March to October  
9.50€ and 5€ (7-14 yrs)  
+33 5 53 50 51 23  
www.chateau-hautefort.com

◆ **Museum of Medicine**  
Daily, March to November  
6€, 4€ (10-14 yrs)  
+33 5 53 50 40 27  
www.musee-hautefort.fr

◆ **Tourtoirac Caves**  
March to November  
8.20€ and 5.50€ (6-14 yrs)  
Les Combes  
24390 Tourtoirac  
+33 5 53 50 24 77  
www.grotte-de-tourtoirac.fr

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

**Hautefort**  
◆ **Chez Cathy**  
+33 5 53 50 98 19

◆ **LeMèLoKo**  
+33 5 53 51 11 82

◆ **Les Petits Plaisirs**  
+33 5 53 51 91 86

◆ **Le Troubadour**  
+33 5 53 51 61 49

◆ **Le Cochon Gourmand**  
+33 5 53 50 51 38

◆ **Auberge du Parc**  
(hotel-restaurant)  
+33 5 53 50 88 98

◆ **Hôtel des Voyageurs**  
+33 5 53 50 40 31

◆ **Hôtel au Périgord Noir**  
+33 5 53 50 40 30

#### Cherveix-Cubas

◆ **Franca**  
+33 5 53 51 35 69

#### Nailhac

◆ **L'Auberge de Nailhac**  
+33 5 53 51 59 01

### Tourtoirac

◆ **Le Relais d'Ans**  
+33 5 53 42 31 01

◆ **Le Passage**  
+33 6 32 55 90 71

#### Badefols-d'Ans

◆ **Les Tilleuls**  
+33 5 53 51 52 97

◆ **L'Estaminet**  
+33 5 53 51 50 35

### EVENTS

#### The Walnut Route

Farm tours and farm gate selling  
◆ La Ferme Roulland, Badefols-d'Ans  
+33 5 53 51 50 54  
www.fermeroulland.com  
◆ Les Vergers de la Guillou, Nailhac  
+33 6 31 08 94 60



For further information

#### Hautefort Tourist Office

Place Marquis-Jacques-François-de-Hautefort  
+33 5 53 50 40 27  
[www.ot-hautefort.com](http://www.ot-hautefort.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Rue Sylvain-Floriat, +33 5 53 50 40 20  
[www.hautefort.fr](http://www.hautefort.fr)



FURTHER AFIELD...

#### CHERVEIX-CUBAS (6 km)

Towards the northwest: discover interesting rural heritage along hiking trails or by canoe-kayak on the river Auvézère. Navigate in white waters upstream from the village or quieter waters downstream.

#### LA BOISSIÈRE-D'ANS (17 km)

This is the starting point on the Cannon Route, historic line that goes from the foundries in the Pays d'Ans to the inland port of Moustier, passing through Brouchaud, Ajat, Fanlac and Plazac.

#### SAVIGNAC-LÉDRIER (6 km)

Built in 1480, the forge is one of the oldest in the Périgord region. After a series of restructuring measures, it only stopped operating in 1975. Discover its lengthy industrial history with a guided tour.



# ISSIGEAC

A medieval town dating back to Gallo-Roman times, listed for its beauty, Issigeac's charm is unlike that of the neighbouring bastide towns. Winding streets, half-timbered houses and a renowned Sunday market all play their part.





© Philippe Roy

The Bishops of Sarlat took refuge in Issigeac Castle in times of plague epidemics. Today the Bishop's Palace houses the Tourist Office.

Nicknamed the "Mushroom House" this half-timbered fairy-tale house was built with Mandacou stone.



© Jean-Marc Bannère

## Listed Architectural Gems

You may start your tour by the Bishop's Palace, built around 1160, recognisable by its stone and brick turrets (*photo above right*). Opposite, the Maison des Dimes where the villagers' tithes (a tenth of their crops) were collected by the church. Follow the "Tour de Ville" along the path of the old ramparts. From there you can observe the Provost Building. This XVIIIth century chartreuse house became the residence of the "provosts", as Issigeac's clergymen were known, after the abbey was closed. Then visit Saint-Félicien's Church with great wooden polychrome statues and stained-glass windows, dating back to the French Restoration of 1871. As you pass by the Maison des Têtes (*below*), look up at the grotesque figures under the windowsills and the lion holding a small animal between his paws at the angle of the first floor.



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant



© Philippe Roy

## Hearty Dishes

For those who enjoy copious tasty food, there's plenty to choose from: a new menu at the Café de l'Europe; La Petite Treille, for instant satisfaction, at the heart of the market; simple family cooking at La Brucelière; a cosy halt at El Borini (*opposite*) facing the Bishop's Palace; and delicious traditional cuisine at Le Relais de l'Ancienne Gare.



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant

Sylvie Dubicki, basket weaver

## *"I picked this village for the market"*

I used to be an accountant. But once I met my grandfather who was a basketmaker, it changed my life. I followed in his footsteps with a first workshop in Lacapelle Biron, then I moved to Issigeac last year. Why did I pick this village? For its popularity with tourists and in particular, for the Sunday morning market around the church that draws such a great crowd. In my workshop I make traditional objects in natural wicker: carboy (bottle) baskets, lamps, baskets... I also organise weaving workshops all year round. ♦

© Francis Leoy/Hemis.fr

## From Farm to Market, with a Smile

After 20 years existence, Issigeac Market has become a real attraction in the Périgord region. Residents and visitors alike, flock here every Sunday morning to stock up on fresh produce. The event assembles market-gardeners selling organic produce, vintners with their best wines, cheese-makers and cured meat specialists with pepper, cep or even blueberry-seasoned sausage. Numerous craft workers come to display their talent all year round. After the market take a seat at a café to decide on your recipe... unless you prefer to dine at one of the five restaurants in the village.



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## A Scent of Faraway Places

What's that wonderful aroma that sometimes floats around the streets of Issigeac? It comes from the Taste Vin where Jean-Marie Roubaud roasts his coffee. Torrefaction for three quarters of an hour at 200 degrees releases all the flavour of coffee beans from Colombia, Mexico, Ethiopia and Guatemala! ♦



© Valérie Hubert-Cassant

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Guided tour of the village

Tourist Office  
Ménestrrels Association  
+33 5 53 58 77 76

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Le Café de l'Europe

Place de l'Église  
Open daily  
From 8 a.m.  
+33 5 53 58 79 11

#### ◆ La Petite Treille

Place du 8-Mai-45  
Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Closed Mondays  
+33 5 53 24 24 09

#### ◆ Restaurant

**El Borini**  
Tour de Ville  
+33 5 53 58 06 03  
restaurant.elborini@gmail.com

#### ◆ Relais de l'Ancienne Gare

Route d'Eymet  
+33 5 53 58 70 29  
relais-anciennegare.com

#### ◆ La Brucelière

Place de la Capelle  
+33 5 53 73 89 61

#### ◆ La Parenthèse

Gîte Accomodation  
51, rue du Tour-de-ville  
+33 9 82 29 77 66  
+33 6 63 35 72 26  
www.laparenthese-dordogne-gite.com/  
laparenthesedordogne@gmail.com

### REGIONAL PRODUCTS

#### ◆ Au Tasse Vin

Grand-Rue  
+33 5 53 57 33 54

#### ◆ Bio et Terroir

Place de l'Église  
+33 5 53 57 28 11

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

#### ◆ Les Tresses

**de Sylvie**  
Sylvie Dubicki  
Wicker weaving  
18, rue de Cardenal  
+33 6 88 13 78 77  
www.tressesdesylvie.jimdo.com/

#### ◆ Photosculpture Workshop

Sophie Lozac'h  
34, rue de l'Ancienne-Poste  
"Passage de la Baleine"  
+33 6 18 62 55 11  
Workshop open Sunday mornings and by appointment  
sophie-lozac@orange.fr

#### ◆ Claire and Dominique Cour

Artists  
Rue de l'Ancienne-Poste  
+33 5 53 58 75 24

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Sunday Market

All year round  
8.30 a.m.-12.30 a.m.



For further information

#### Issigeac Tourist Office

Tuesday to Friday  
10 a.m.-12 a.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
+33 5 53 58 79 62  
www.issigeac.info

#### Town Hall (mairie)

4, place du 8-Mai-1945  
+33 5 53 57 24 54



# LA ROQUE-GAGEAC

Snuggled right up against the sheer limestone cliffs overhanging the river Esperance, this village has preserved the history of the river and of its boatmen of old. Beneath the troglodytic fort, a lavish tropical garden has taken over the medieval lanes.

## FURTHER AFIELD...

### SAINT-CERNIN-DE-LABARDE (6 km)

Go for a ramble around the country paths to discover the village's numerous water fountains and lookout spots. The XIIIth century feudal keep and castle flanked by towers on both sides, are worth a look.

### PLAISANCE (5.5 km)

This commune combines the villages of Falguyrat, Eyrenville and Mandacou. The stones extracted from the latter's quarries, were used to build the local houses. Today the vineyards, such as Eyrenville, have taken on importance.

### BOISSE (4.5 km)

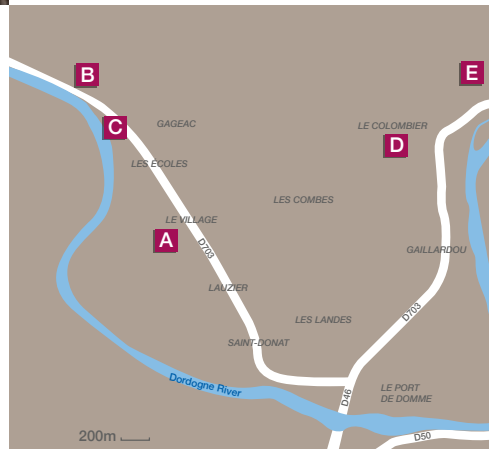
Two handsome twin windmills are unexpected in the heart of the village while Boisse Tower, a vestige of the ruined castle, still stands upright.





## Between the Cliff and the River

The beautiful yellow-ochre flagstone-roofed homes appear to have been carved from the cliff. The narrow streets take on the appearance of an earthly paradise as they make their way up under the south-facing cliff, towards the little Notre-Dame-de-la-Roque Church and the Tarde Manor, to the promontories where we can look out on the astonishing Neoclassical Malartrie castle (built in 1901) and the twin buildings of the Maladrerie. A delightful admission-free tropical garden **A** winds through the village featuring along the way: Oleander, Palm trees, Bougainvillea, Pomegranate, Cacti, Citrus trees and even Banana trees!



The troglodytic fort was carved from the cliff that overlooks the village, in the Middle Ages. Both the English, during the Hundred Years War, and the Protestants during the French Wars of Religion failed to overtake it.



## Feasting at the Belle Etoile Restaurant

A patio with a view on the horizon, a shady terrace: the Belle Etoile Restaurant **B** is an old mariner's inn. Régis Ongaro is the 4th generation in his family to cook behind these same stoves. The Laroquois chef puts an emphasis on traditional dishes, but likes to add a refined personal touch according to season and availability of high quality local produce.





© Bertrand Rieger

## Along the Mariner's Trail

Practically abandoned once the train arrived, inland navigation has played a major part in the history of the Dordogne Valley. A glimpse of the local boatmen's lives on "La Rivière Espérance" (Hope River)—to quote the title of a Christian Signol's novel adapted for television—lives on today, through hour-long cruises aboard boats that are perfect replicas of XVIIIth century flat-bottomed vessels. The more adventurous will paddle their way further upstream in canoes, through the meanders of the river **C** to discover other astonishing sites such as the "Pendoilles" (high curved cliffs that take a sheer drop into the water).



© Jean-Daniel Surtres

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### The Galileo Connection

Standing out against the cliff at the very center of the village, Tarde Manor was the birthplace in 1561 of Jean Tarde. Chancellor and Vicar General of the diocese of Sarlat, he also died here in 1636. Tarde was an enlightened enthusiast of all sciences including astronomy. When the clergyman travelled to Italy to meet with Galileo, the astronomer gifted the Perigordian clergyman with one of the very first telescopic devices, in order to seal their friendship. ♦



© Titia Camrzej-Jasick



© Titia Camrzej-Jasick

**Michel Léger,**  
Owner of the "Gabares Norbert" boat company

**"Pass on the history of the river"**

"La Roque-Gageac is a wonderful alliance of rock and water: we are very lucky to work in such magnificent surroundings. I am extremely attached to the family business, as a means of passing on the history of the river and its boatmen but also the story of the people who have lived here. Le Roque-Gageac was once a riverboat harbour and trading post and traces of this era can be found everywhere. On a riverboat excursion, we can approach and observe the wildlife on the water and on the riverbanks and discover an unspoilt ecosystem at the heart of the Dordogne watershed area, listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since July 2012." ♦



## ESSENTIALS

### LEISURE

#### ◆ Gabares Norbert

Tickets at the car-park by the Dordogne  
+33 5 53 29 40 44  
www.gabarres.fr  
Daily from end of March to the 31st October  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. (advance booking advised in Summer season)

#### ◆ Les Gabarres

**Caminades**  
Tickets at the car-park by the Dordogne  
+33 5 53 29 40 95  
Daily from Easter to end of October (advance booking advised in Summer season)

#### ◆ Canoë Vacances

Lespinasse  
+33 5 53 28 17 07  
www.canoevacances.com  
Canoe and kayak rentals. Three routes from 9 km to 25 km: 14€, 17€ and 22€

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ La Belle Etoile

Le bourg  
+33 5 53 29 51 44  
www.hotel-belle-etoile-dordogne.fr  
Open from April 1st to November 1st  
Rooms: 55-130€  
Menus: 29€-50€

#### ◆ Farmhouse Inn

**Le Colombier** **D**  
24250 Gageac  
+33 5 53 28 33 97

#### ◆ Farmhouse Inn

**La Ferme fleurie** **E**  
24250 Gageac  
+33 5 53 28 33 39

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Local producer's market

Every Friday morning  
May to September  
Next to the Market Hall in the Dordogne car park

#### ◆ Fireworks

The first week in August  
One of the valley's best pyrotechnic shows  
Following a torchlight canoe parade on the river Dordogne

#### ◆ Gourmet and Gourmand Market

Wines and delicacies from every region in France two days over the 3rd weekend in August, around the Market Hall



For further information

#### Black Périgord Tourist Office

Le Bourg, +33 5 53 29 17 01  
[www.sarlat-tourisme.com/la-roque-gageac](http://www.sarlat-tourisme.com/la-roque-gageac)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg, +33 5 53 29 51 52  
[www.laroquegageac.jimdo.com](http://www.laroquegageac.jimdo.com)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### CARSAC-AILLAC (11 km)

At the meeting of the rivers Enéa and Dordogne, the old village of Carsac, with its church, stone mills and boats moored down below it, fully meets expectations of the traditional image of Black Périgord.

### CASTELNAUD-LA-CHAPELLE (6 km)

On the bank across the river, Castelnaud boasts a succession of four castles: a fortress with a Medieval War Museum, Lacoste and its gardens, Fayrac and Les Milandes, once owned by Josephine Baker.

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### CÉNAC-ET-SAINT-JULIEN (6 km)

Situated at the foot of Domme, on the left bank of the Dordogne, Cénac holds many riches such as an 11th century five-windowed apse in the Priory, and an imposing plane tree known as "Thermidor" planted around 1750 in the grounds of Thouron.



# LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC-SIREUIL

World capital of Prehistory and cradle of tourism in the Perigord region since the major archeological discoveries of the XIXth century, the birthplace of Cro-Magnon tells 400,000 years of history. A voyage through time.

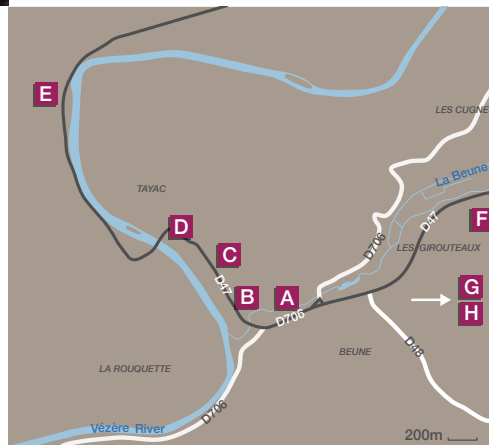




© Tilia Carrissey, Lasck

## Back to the Beginnings

Make a pilgrimage to the source of mankind: starting from the International Prehistory Hub, the PIP (*below*) **A**, where the archaeological orientation facilities will guide you towards all of the village sites. To the left, visit the National Prehistory Museum **B**, which displays a large proportion of the collections excavated in the valley. Continue upstream on the Vézère River, to get a better understanding of the archaeological findings at Abri Pataud **C**, and pay your respects to Cro-Magnon **D**, a little higher up. Finally, take on the caves and admire the marvellous lace-like formations in the Grand Roc cave (*above*) **E**. About a mile from Eyzies, to the right of the PIP, discover over 500 engravings in the Combarelles caves **F**.



© Bertrand Riteger

A former XIXth century coaching halt, today a member of the Châteaux & Hôtels Collection hospitality group, Les Glycines Hotel-Restaurant **D**, offers customers poolside relaxation and gourmet meals with an emphasis on local produce.



© Les Glycines

## Local Excellence

The prestigious hotel-restaurant Les Glycines (“Wisteria”) **D**, has been in existence for over 150 years. This charming establishment serves gourmet cuisine (*opposite*) with ingredients fresh from the hotel’s vegetable garden. Additional features are the spa and outdoor pool. For a traditional menu, Laagerie Basse **E**, at the heart of the Grand-Roc cliff. The terrace overlooks the Vézère River. Don’t forget to taste their particularly mellow walnut cake!



© Les Glycines



© Titia Carrizay-Jasick



© Titia Carrizay-Jasick

Jean-Max-Touron, owner of prehistoric and troglodytic sites

## “Simply a caretaker of History”

“My parents steeped me in history since the cradle. Then I was lucky enough to meet Abbot Breuil. Growing up, I naturally became interested in the origins of man and in cave dwellings. I wouldn’t say that I am the owner of these sites as such, even though they are indeed mine, the Cro-Magnon Shelter **D**, and the Roc de Cazelle **G**, both of which I restored. I see myself more of a temporary caretaker of Heritage and History. The sites such as Les Eyzies and its majestic setting are eternal! Here under the cliffs, we realise the millennia that come between us and our ancestors, and we reconnect with our roots.” ♦

## Commarque, the Layers of Time

Outside Sireuil in the Beune Valley, the site of Commarque **H**, bears in its rocks and in its walls the trace of human intervention over the centuries. Recent restoration projects have done nothing to spoil the site’s fascinating atmosphere. The mysteries of centuries unfold; from the first troglodytic shelters to the narrow streets of a fortified medieval castrum, and then, from stone keep to a knights’ residence. After a walk in the surrounding woodland, the vision of the settlement is just unforgettable. New in 2016, after a year of renovation, the tour of the main building’s living quarters.

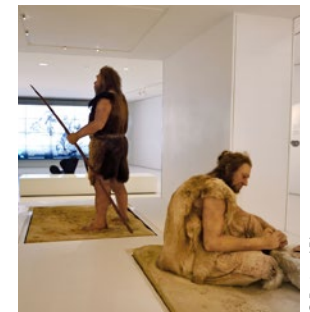


© Bertrand Rieger

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### Our Ancestor Cro-Magnon

In 1868, during the construction of the neighbouring railway on the way into the village of Eyzies, five human skeletons were discovered under the Cro-Magnon rock shelter, on the road towards Tayac. “Cro” means “hollow” in Occitan and “Magnon” is probably the name of the landowner. Despite his age—35,000 years—the Man of Cro-Magnon or more precisely “Homo sapiens sapiens”... is just like us! ♦



© Bertrand Rieger



© Bertrand Rieger

## A Museum that brings Prehistory to Life

Since its creation at the beginning of the XXth century, the National Prehistory Museum has become a place of reference for Prehistorians and visitors alike. An extension, opened in 2004, provides improved, state of the art displays. More than 18,000 items are on show in a well-designed exhibition space of over 16,000 square feet. The layout valorises for instance, an impressive cast of a woolly rhinoceros (*above*) found in Poland, and at the end of a strange carpet of footprints (*opposite*), the cast of an adolescent boy whose skeleton was discovered in Kenya. Additionally, there are impressive animal carvings in rock (*below*).



© Bertrand Rieger

A tube of almost four hundred feet long branching into three lateral galleries, Font-de-Gaume is the only cave in Europe still open to the public, presenting authentic prehistoric polychrome paintings: more than two hundred painted or engraved images of bison, mammoths, humans...



© Bertrand Rieger



© Bertrand Rieger

## Fascinating Guided Tours

Organised by the National Monuments Center, the lecture-tours of the main archaeological highlights of the Vézère Valley, provide visitors with the best opportunity to gain insight into the lives of the inhabitants of these major prehistoric sites. The guides are excellent and the journey memorable. By registration only: +33 5 53 06 86 00.

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ National Prehistory Museum

1, rue du Musée  
+33 5 53 06 45 65  
www.musee-prehistoire-eyzies.fr

Open daily  
July and August  
9.30a.m.-6.30p.m.  
Other dates: closed  
Tuesdays  
Entry Fee: 6€ to 4,50€

#### ◆ Font-de-Gaume Caves

4, avenue des Grottes  
+33 5 53 06 86 00  
www.font-de-gaume.monuments-nationaux.fr  
Open Daily  
Closed Saturdays ;  
From 15/05 to 15/09  
Open 9.30a.m.-5.30p.m.;  
Other dates: closed  
lunchtime.  
Entry Fee: 7,50€ to 4,50€.

◆ L'Abri Pataud  
20, rue du Moyen-Age  
+33 5 53 06 92 46

www.mnhn.fr/fr/visitez/  
lieux/abri-pataud  
Open 1/04-15/10  
5€, 3,50€ (students  
and 18-25 yrs)

#### ◆ Roc de Cazelle caves

Route de Sarlat  
+33 5 53 59 46 11  
www.rocdecazelle.com  
Open all year round  
8€, 4,50€ (5-13 yrs)  
7€ (students)

#### ◆ Commarque Castle

Sireuil  
+33 5 53 59 00 05  
www.commarque.com  
Open April-start  
November  
6-8€-(13-17 yrs)  
4€ (6-12 yrs)

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

◆ Les Glycines  
4, avenue de la Laugerie  
+33 5 53 06 97 07  
www.les-glycines-dordogne.com  
Rooms (regular): 128€  
Junior Suite: 253€

Restaurants: Le Bistro  
and the "1862"  
truffle based dishes.

◆ Laugerie Basse  
Falaise de Grand-Roc  
+33 5 53 06 97 91  
www.laugerie-basse.com  
Menu from 11€

### EVENT

◆ Weekly Market  
Mondays  
April-October  
8 a.m.-3 p.m.



For further  
information

#### Lascaux-Dordogne, Vézère Valley Tourist Office

19, av. de la Préhistoire  
24620 Les Eyzies  
+33 5 53 06 97 05  
www.lascaux-dordogne.com

#### Town Hall (mairie)

4, place de la Mairie  
+33 5 53 06 97 15  
www.leseyzies.fr



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### TURSAC (6 km)

Upstream from the valley, discover the Des Granges goose farm on the way out of the village and a little further, the Prehistoparc Discovery trail. Continue until the Maison Forte at Reignac, a fully furnished castle hewn into the cliff.

### CAMPAGNE (6 km)

Recently redesigned in XIXth century English garden style, Campagne Castle's park is overlooked by a public forest ideal for hiking (walking, mountain biking) rock climbing, caving, etc.

### SAINT-CIRQ (6 km)

Under the cliff on the right bank of the Vézère River, this traditional village features a church with a distinctive wall belfry. Paleolithic cave men painted the walls of the "witches" cave, 17,000 years ago with anthropomorphic figures extremely rare for that era.



# LIMEUIL

The old mariners inland port, a medieval village at the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère rivers, has travelled down through the centuries, remaining intact within the walls of its fortifications.





© Bertrand Rieger

## From the Port to the Fortifications

The entire walled town is included on the French Heritage Monuments list... and it deserves to be! Past the Port Gate **A**, and the handsome XVth century exterior of the Ancre du Salut (*safe anchor*) bar and restaurant, admire the impressive parade of historic buildings: The former Couvent des Récollets, the craft workers shops and finally the Maison du Porche which marks the boundary between the upper and lower village. Certain houses have lost none of their medieval character; further up above the Récluzou Gate (XVth and XVIth) the House known as the House of Justice leads to the Sainte-Catherine church (*above*) and shrine of the Black Virgin, Patron of boatmen since the XVIIth century.



© Tilia Carrizay-Jastick

The Porte de Récluzou is one of the four gates of Limeuil's fortified enclosure rebuilt after the Hundred Years War. It marked the boundary between town and country.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Warm Welcome

In the "upper village" in the shade of a century-old wisteria on the terrace, the restaurant "Au Bon Accueil" **C** (*opposite*), serves house specialties such as snails with ceps or pork fricassée with Limeuil beer sauce. At another terrace, by the waterside, À l'Ancre du Salut" **A**, savour grills and salads and relax as you watch the meeting of the two rivers.



© Bertrand Rieger



© Titia Carriey-Jasick

## A 360° Panorama over the Confluence

On the site of the original fortress above the village, the panoramic gardens **B**, have a 360° view overlooking the medieval village and the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère rivers **D**. A series of entertaining educational themed spaces have been created in the heart of a five-acre English-style garden. Children and the whole family can enjoy interactive woodland trails and various workshops, according to season. At the end of the tour, a visit to the shop where there's a good choice of gardening books and a "plant tavern" which will allow you to take some of it home.



© Bertrand Riegler



© Titia Carriey-Jasick

**Antoine Mallemouche,**  
beer brewer

## "Something different every time"

"My father was the village glass-blower until 2009, so I've walked these streets up and down, ever since I was a child. In summer, the port is like a seaside resort so I used to go to the beach every afternoon. You can imagine the number of times I've climbed and ambled through the narrow streets around the old town walls! Even though I've always lived here, each time I wander around, I discover something new: a wall carving, something engraved above a doorway... The brewery, started in 2001, has become a part of this beautiful setting **E**. Our organic 'Lutine' beer has really taken on and is nowadays synonymous with Limeuil." ♦

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Royal Spy

Daughter of Gilles de la Tour, Lord of Limeuil, and Marguerite de la Cropte, Lady of Lanquais, Isabeau de Limeuil, born in 1531, hadn't reached her seventeenth birthday when she became Catherine de Medicis' Maid of Honour. According to her contemporaries, such as Ronsard and Brantôme, she was very beautiful and rapidly joined the Queen Mother's 'flying squad' of young ladies whose mission was to seduce the kingdom's powerful men and schemers in particular, in order to foil plans of treachery. ♦



© Titia Carriey-Jasick

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ **The Panoramic Gardens**

Place des Fossés  
Limeuil-Haut  
+33 5 53 73 26 13  
www.jardins-panoramiques.com  
Open daily: April to October  
Except May and June holiday weekends  
And the 1st two weeks of September  
Admission: 8€, 5€ (6-18 yrs)

#### ◆ **La Lutine brewery**

Route du Bugue  
+33 5 53 57 47 80  
www.lalutine.com  
Shop open daily  
Except weekends off-season

#### ◆ **Glass blower**

Route de Trémolat **F**  
+33 5 53 63 38 96  
www.nicolas-guiffet-verrier.com

Workshop open daily  
10.30 a.m.-12.30 a.m.  
and 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ **Au Bon Accueil**

Limeuil-Haut  
+33 5 53 63 30 97  
www.au-bon-accueil-limeuil.com  
Open April 1st-Nov. 1st  
Menus: 20-28€  
Bed&Breakfast: 80€

#### ◆ **À l'Ancre de Salut**

Le Port  
+33 5 53 63 39 29  
www.alancredosalut.com  
Bar all year round  
Brasserie food April to All Saints  
July-August: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

### EVENTS

#### ◆ **Gourmet Markets**

With food-tasting  
Sunday evenings  
in Summer

#### ◆ **Pottery Market**

At the port  
Demonstrations:  
3rd weekend in July



For further  
information

#### **Limeuil Tourist Service**

Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 63 38 90  
[www.limeuil-en-perigord.com](http://www.limeuil-en-perigord.com)

#### **Town Hall (mairie)**

Rue du Port  
+33 5 53 23 29 56  
[www.limeuil-en-perigord.com/fr/mairie](http://www.limeuil-en-perigord.com/fr/mairie)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### **PAUNAT (5 km)**

Not to be outshone by the traditional homes and the imposing Abbey dating back to the VIIIth century, the rural heritage (village wash house, fountain) has been restored.

### **AUDRIX (10 km)**

Higher up, at the parting of the Vézère and Dordogne River waters, Proumeyssac Cavern is the largest developed cave of the Périgord region. This magical underground world deserves to be called "the crystal cathedral".

### **LE BUGUE (6 km)**

The river Vézère runs through this very lively commune that includes Le Bournat's medieval theme park, the Black Périgord Aquarium and since April 2016, you can explore an interactive prehistoric labyrinth.





# MONBAZILLAC

The simple mention of its name is enough to titillate any wine-lover's taste buds! Pearl of Purple Périgord, Monbazillac is indeed famous worldwide for its golden hued liqueur wine. To be tasted—amongst others—at the Château de Monbazillac, which stands proudly over Bergerac and the Dordogne valley.





© Philippe Poy

## A Village set in the Heart of the Vineyards

Nestling in a sea of vines, on the left bank of the Dordogne river, the village has plenty to offer: elegant white stone houses, an early XVIIth century Romanesque church, a XVIth century manor house “Le Manoir de Fonvieille”, and of course its numerous wineries. But the star attraction of the village is undoubtedly the majestic Monbazillac castle (*above*), which watches over the vineyards like a sentinel. A heritage listed monument, it has been owned by the local winemaking cooperative since 1960. The castle was built in the XVIth century in a tasteful style somewhere between Gothic and Renaissance. From the terrace of the castle, there’s a breathtaking view over Bergerac and the Dordogne valley.



© Philippe Poy

Inside Monbazillac castle, you can wander around twenty or so period furnished rooms, where local and regional history exhibitions are permanently on display. Do not forget to follow up with a tour of the vaulted cellars.



© Bertrand Piegier



© Bertrand Piegier

## Michelin Magic

This is one of the best addresses in the Dordogne. From its hilltop setting, La Tour des Vents has a magnificent panoramic view of Monbazillac’s vineyards. Star-studded chef Damien Fagette, who trained with Marie Rougier Salvat, adds his original touch to fine cuisine. Just to give you a taste: sweetbreads browned in a sautoir pan served with salsify fritters.



© Michel Dartense/Studio de l'Image



© Bertrand Rieger

## Savour the World's most Renowned Liqueur Wine

Do not visit Bergerac without going for a tasting session in one of the local wineries where Monbazillac sweet wine is produced! This beverage is an aromatic full-bodied wine with honeyed, fruity yet spicy flavours. It's made from a blend of three grape varieties (Semillon, Muscadelle and Sauvignon), grown by some 100 winegrowers in vineyards that stretch over 8,000 acres. The grapes are handpicked and only overripe grapes showing "noble rot" are harvested. Monbazillac can be enjoyed as an aperitif; it's a perfect match for foie gras, blue-veined cheese or alternatively, a delicately flavoured dessert.



© Bertrand Rieger

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Weary Monks

According to tradition, back in the Xth century, the monks of the Priory of Saint-Martin-de-Bergerac neglected their grapevines long enough to allow *botrytis cinerea* to develop. This is the fungus that produces the "noble rot" which has made Monbazillac's wine famous. A story is told about a visitor to the Vatican in times gone by, who was introduced as a middle-class gentleman from Bergerac; to which the pope allegedly responded "Ah Bergerac, near Monbazillac, I believe!" ♦



© Jean-Marc Barrière



© Lolo Mazzalini

**Yohan Durand,**  
long and middle distance running champion

## "Working the vine takes endurance"

"Nowadays I live in Bergerac but I spent my childhood and adolescence in the peaceful village of Monbazillac where my parents are winegrowers. They produce white Monbazillac and red Bergerac wines at the Château Les Maules. I grew up in a winegrowing environment and I believe it shaped my personality. You need enthusiasm, hard work, perseverance... just like for running! I know every hillside, each path among the vines, every plot in the vineyards, because this is where I started to run. I return to Monbazillac as often as I can, to relax and restore my energy after training sessions or races. I even allow myself the odd glass of wine to keep my palate alive! I haven't ruled out the idea of coming back here one day to work in the wine business." ♦

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

◆ **Monbazillac Castle**  
+33 5 53 61 52 52  
[www.chateau-monbazillac.com](http://www.chateau-monbazillac.com)  
Call for inquiries  
Admission 7.50€

### WINE TASTING

◆ **Domaine de La Lande**  
Fabrice Camus  
Marsoil  
+33 6 08 56 92 36  
[www.domaine-de-la-lande.com](http://www.domaine-de-la-lande.com)  
Daily 9 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Wine-tasting in the cellar  
Complete tour of the winery by appointment

◆ **Château Tirecul La Gravière**  
Bruno Bilancini  
Lieu-dit Tire-Cul  
+33 5 47 77 07 60  
[www.tirecul-la-graviere.fr](http://www.tirecul-la-graviere.fr)  
Open all year round  
Mon-Fri.: 9 a.m.-12 a.m.  
and 2 p.m.-6 p.m.; Sat.-Sun.: by appointment

◆ **Château Haute Fonrousse**  
Stéphane Géraud  
La Haute-Fonrousse  
+33 6 14 22 15 04

◆ **Château Péroudier**  
Charles Loisy  
Lieu-dit Le Péroudier  
+33 5 53 58 30 04  
Wine-tasting from June to mid-September  
Daily 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Off-season: by appointment

### RESTAURANTS

◆ **La Tour des Vents**  
Moulin de Malfourat  
+33 5 53 58 30 10  
[www.tourdesvents.com](http://www.tourdesvents.com)  
Lunch menu starts at 29€ - Menus: 34€-75€

### EVENT

◆ **Evening Market**  
Sunday nights  
July and August



For further information

#### Monbazillac Wine and Tourist Center

Le Bourg, 24240 Monbazillac  
+33 5 53 22 39 12  
[www.pays-des-bastides.com](http://www.pays-des-bastides.com)

#### Bergerac-South Dordogne Tourist Office

97, rue Neuve-d'Argenson, 24100 Bergerac  
+33 5 53 57 03 11  
[www.bergerac-tourisme.com](http://www.bergerac-tourisme.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg, 24240 Monbazillac  
+33 5 53 58 30 32  
[www.mairiemonbazillac.unblog.fr](http://www.mairiemonbazillac.unblog.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### ISSIGEAC (13 km)

At the heart of Purple Périgord, discover the former residence of the bishops of Sarlat. A medieval treasure with a leisurely atmosphere and the added charm of the numerous craftspeople at work in the village.

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### BEAUMONT-DU-PÉRIGORD (28 km)

Built on a hill, this unspoiled bastide village is dominated by the impressive structure of its medieval fortified church.

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### MONPAZIER (40 km)

This town founded by the English in 1284 is the most remarkably well-preserved bastide towns in the Périgord region. The main square, Place de Cornières, is one of the South West's most admirable architectural units.

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# MONPAZIER AND BIRON

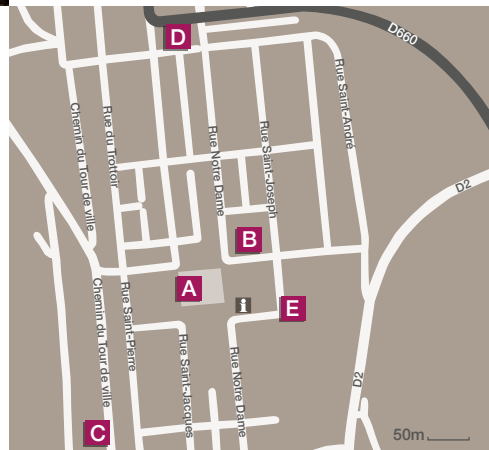
Listed as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages of France", Monpazier is considered the prime example of the ancient bastide town. Remarkably preserved, it's a must for all lovers of medieval architecture. Close by, the monumental Chateau de Biron was formerly the seat of one of the four Baronies of Périgord.





## Roam Through one of France's Most Beautiful Bastide Towns

This is undoubtedly the most perfect of Périgord's bastide towns. Founded in 1284 for the Duke of Aquitaine and Edward I, King of England, Montpezier is laid out in a rectangular grid pattern. As you wander from "Carrou": main streets, to "Andrones": little lanes, both typical of the bastide village, you'll admire the overall harmony of this medieval design. A line of outstanding stone houses with gothic arcades, encompass the main square **A**, heart and soul of the town. Standing on sturdy chestnut wood pillars, the Market Hall which dates back to the XIIIth century, houses three medieval grain measures.



North East of the Montpezier's Main Square, Saint Dominique's Church Monument, was built from the XIth to the XVth. The sanctuary is worth seeing for its Romanesque style portal and its transept with ornate columns.



## Gourmet Cuisine and Bistrot Dishes

Enjoy gourmet specialities at the cosy Restaurant Eleonore, set in the exceptional surroundings of the Hotel Edward I<sup>er</sup> **C**, an elegant and romantic XIXth century manor house (opposite). In the heart of the village, a change of atmosphere in the contemporary decor of Bistrot 2 **D**, where foie-gras, "cabécou" goat's cheese or marinated trout, are served.





© Jean-Daniel Sudres



© Philippe Maistre/Opale/Leemage

**Pierre Bellemare,**  
French broadcasting legend

## “Amidst woodlands and meadows”

“Before, our summer residence was a sailing boat on the Mediterranean Sea. But when I realised that the boat steers the man and not the other way around, I decided to look for an ‘inlet’ on dry land where I could find that same peace and quiet! Some Belgian friends of mine suggested I come here and I just loved it. Vergt-de-Biron is now my main residence. I enjoy the gentle scenery, with its woods, meadows and little streams. Perhaps subconsciously, it reminded me of my native Norman-Switzerland, though the climate here is much better! As much as possible, I get involved in the local scene, by spelling test contests or readings during the Book Fair for example.” ♦

## The Magical Chateau of Biron

Formerly seat of the four baronies of Périgord, Biron’s chateau stands on a promontory south of Monpazier. Built in the XIIIth century, the castle has been the property of the Gontaut-Biron family for 800 years. Over the centuries, the building extended considerably. A visit to the castle reveals: a gothic chapel with sculpted tombs, the Marshals’ castle with its inverted keel timber structure, along with Renaissance rooms and vaulted kitchens. In medieval times, the great hall known as the “Salle des États de Guyenne”, was used as a meeting room for the baronies of Périgord. Incidentally, Biron castle was used as a film location for *D’Artagnan’s Daughter*.

© Bertrand Rieger



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### All about Bastide Towns

To understand the history of Monpazier and the hundreds of bastides in the southwest of France, a visit to the Bastideum **E** is a must! This interpretive center housed in a former convent, “couvent des Récollets”, uses educational, recreational and interactive resources to unlock the mysteries behind the emblematic architecture and planning of these “new towns” built in the Middle Ages, at a time of rivalry between the Kings of France and England. ♦



© Bertrand Rieger

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Bastideum

Monpazier Interpretive Center  
8, rue Jean-Galmot  
24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 57 12 12  
www.bastideum.fr  
Open April to October  
Admission: 4.80€  
Youth rate: 2.80€  
Free entry: children under 8

#### ◆ Chateau of Biron

24540 Biron  
+33 5 53 63 13 39  
www.semitour.com/  
site-touristique/  
chateau-de-biron  
Closed in January  
Admission: 8.20€  
Children  
5-12 yrs: 5.30€

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Le Bistrot 2

Place Fairail-Nord  
24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 22 60 64  
www.bistrot2.fr  
Dish of the day: 11.75€  
Menus: 19€-27.75€

#### ◆ Restaurant

**Eleonore**  
5, rue Saint-Pierre  
24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 22 44 00  
www.hoteledward  
1er.com  
Menus: 30-51€

#### ◆ Hôtel Edward 1<sup>er</sup>

5, rue Saint-Pierre  
24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 22 44 00  
www.hoteledward  
1er.com  
Rooms: 80-210€

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Weekly Market

Every Thursday  
morning

#### ◆ Book Fair

End of July



For further  
information

#### Monpazier Tourist Information Point

Place des Cornières, 24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 22 68 59  
[www.pays-des-bastides.com](http://www.pays-des-bastides.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

24, rue Notre-Dame, 24540 Monpazier  
+33 5 53 22 60 38  
[www.monpazier.fr](http://www.monpazier.fr)



# MONTIGNAC

Gateway to the Valley of Mankind, home to the Lascaux caves, Montignac has been inhabited by man for over 70,000 years. Stop here for a fascinating discovery of the overlapping layers of time.



FURTHER AFIELD...

## BEAUMONT-DU-PÉRIGORD

(15 km)

This quaint bastide village shouldn't be missed, particularly for its impressive XIIIth and XIVth century fortified church, a Gothic masterpiece.

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## BELVÈS (15 km)

Perched on the summit of a rocky spur, this fortified village is designed around a splendid XVth century Market Hall. Don't miss the "cluzeaux", fascinating vestiges of ancient cave dwellings.

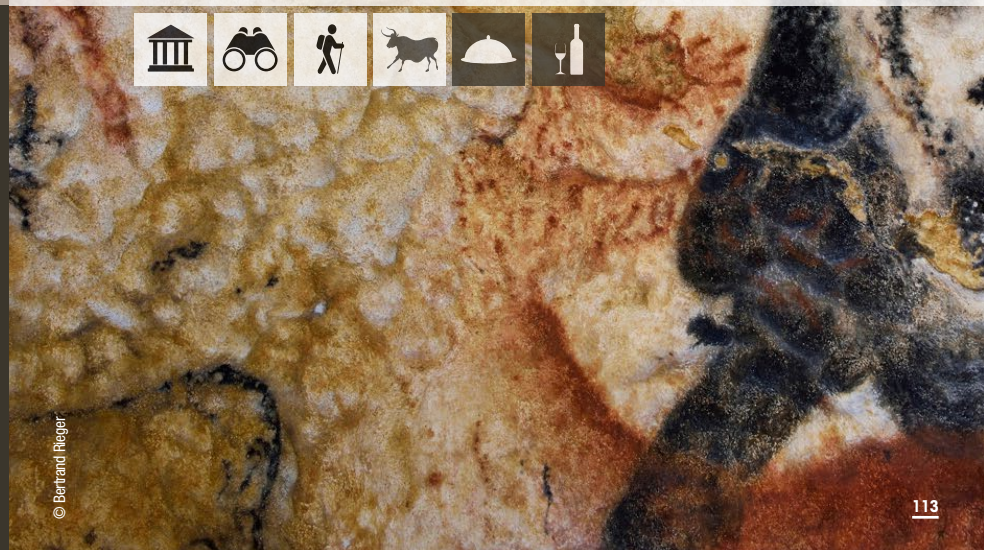
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## VILLEFRANCHE-DU-PÉRIGORD

(20 km)

The oldest of Périgord's French bastide towns, this remarkably well-preserved medieval village is also renowned as the region's chestnut capital.

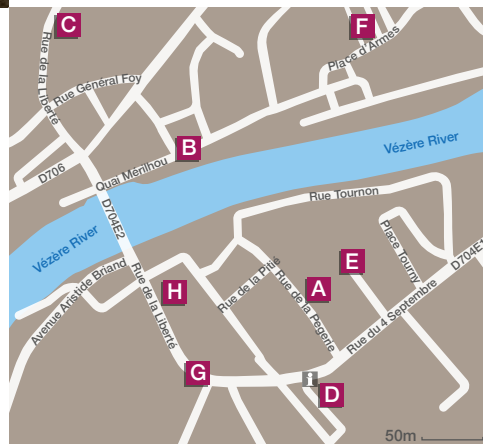
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## At the Crossroads of Time

Long before the discovery of the Lascaux caves, Montignac played a major part in the history of the Périgord region. The wealth of its architecture on both sides of the River Vézère attests to this fact. With its XIIIth century timbered houses, the medieval rue Pegerie **A**, should not be missed. The balconied houses across the river **B**, are listed buildings. Explore Saint-Jean's Hospital **D** (below), its arcades and chapel (XIVth), the Poor Claire's Convent **E**, and the XVIIth century townhouses **F**. Then head for the XIVth century church to admire the belfry **G**, and the Duchêne house **H**, in XIXth century neoclassical style. Take the time for a stroll along the quays to listen to the river go by...



An important fortress in the Middle Ages, Montignac Castle **C**, was largely destroyed in 1825. The fortified tower, one of the rare vestiges of the building, will transport you to the Hundred Years War when the town, stronghold of the Counts of Périgord, was a French enclave amidst the English fiefs.



Beside the more recent church **G**, notice the Gothic portal of the medieval Du Plô church. It's the only remaining vestige of this XIIIth century building.





© Bertrand Pellegrin



© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick

Thierry Felix, prehistorian

***"The emotion is always palpable"***

"If you want to speak about the universal, tell me about your village! Nestled amongst hills, Montignac is reflected in the Vézère River while secretly storing the treasures of its past in its soil. It's a lively little town. Every street leads to the hills where men have roamed since the beginning of time. One of these hills revealed the oldest known burial place, that of Neanderthal of Regourdou, whilst retaining the world's most prized cave-art site at the legendary Lascaux! What a hill... The emotion is always palpable there as you will see for yourself if you happen to take the Discovery Trail, that connects the Hill of Lascaux to the village." ♦

## Lascaux I, II, III or IV?

Nicknamed "the Sistine Chapel of Prehistory", Lascaux I, the original cave discovered in 1940 with wall paintings an estimated 17,000 years old, was closed to the public in 1963. The decision was taken to put an end to biodegradation caused by overcrowding. The facsimile, an exact copy of the wall painting named Lascaux II, was opened in 1983. Since 2012, a duplicate on removable panels, called Lascaux III travels the world over, with great success. Finally the International Centre of Parietal Art, due to open at the end of 2016, will be called Lascaux IV.



© Philippe Roy

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### The Four Finders

In the summer of 1940, Marcel Ravidat set out to find a legendary underground tunnel said to lead to Montignac Castle. After his dog Robot disappeared down a foxhole, the young man came back with three friends to follow: Jacques Marsal, Georges Agniel and Simon Coencas. They discovered the first paintings by the light of a lantern... Their find soon reached the ears of Prehistorians, including the Abbot Breuil. ♦



© Tilia Carrizley-Jasick



© Philippe Bay

## Bear Cult at Regourdou

Uncovered in 1957, by Roger Constant near the Lascaux caves, Regourdou Man, one of the last “prehistoric peasants”, is probably the oldest inhabitant of Montignac. Scientists, who continue their research in the summer in the presence of visitors, estimate this Neanderthal to be no less than 70,000 years old. The numerous remains of brown bears found at the site have yet to be explained. Today we can visit the archaeological site, the Museum (*above*) and a Bear Zoo, a reminder that Neanderthal was probably a bear worshipper.



© Bertrand Régep

Born of the meeting in 1983, of a handful of music lovers, the Black Périgord Festival has become one of the region's biggest classical music events. Every year in August, performances are given in different beauty spots around the Vézère Valley. 2016 will be the festival's 34th edition.



© Frédéric Thierry

## City of Festivals

For the past 35 years, from the end of July to the beginning of August, the town broadens its horizon by hosting several countries for the Cultures Aux Cœurs dance and world music festival. Then at the end of November, visitors return to Montignac for debates and showings during Documen'Terre, an environmental documentary film festival.



© I.P.R.

## Dining Tradition

Duck breast, Sarladaise style potatoes, gizzard salad... There's a strong local flavour in Montignac's restaurants. Hearty portions Chez Fanny, served outdoors at the Berge de la Vézère and the Pilotis (*opposite*) restaurants. A little out of town, Le Montignac serves 100% local produce, and Le “4” has replaced Lou Cantou since the arrival of renowned chef Jean-Bernard Lavaud.



© Lisa Hobbs

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Lascaux Caves II

On the hill  
+33 5 53 51 95 03  
www.les-grands-sites-du-perigord.com

Feb-March:  
10-12.30 a.m.-2-5 p.m.  
April-May and Sept-Oct.:  
9.30 a.m.-6 p.m.

July-August:  
9.30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
10.50€ and 6.50€  
(5-12 yrs)

#### ◆ Le Regourdou

On Lascaux hill  
+33 5 53 51 81 23  
www.regourdou.fr  
Feb-June:

11 a.m.-6 p.m.

July-August:

10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sept.-Oct.-Nov.:

11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tickets include guided tour. Museum and Bear Park: 6.20€ and 3.50€  
(6-12 yrs)

Parietal workshop: 3€  
Snack bar on site

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Chez Fanny

Place de l'Église  
+33 5 53 51 23 78

#### ◆ Le Montignac

Route des Eyzies  
+33 5 53 50 94 86  
www.montignaccommerce.com

#### ◆ Les Berges

##### de la Vézère

Place Tourny  
+33 5 53 50 56 31  
www.restaurantmontignac.fr

#### ◆ Le "4"

Route des Eyzies  
+33 5 53 54 86 92

#### ◆ Les Pilotis

6 rue Lafitte (right bank)  
+33 5 53 50 88 15  
www.restaurantlespilotis.com

### SHOPS

#### ◆ Poetic'Art

##### glassmaker

Glass sculpture, stained glass. Rue des Jardins  
+33 5 53 50 28 84

#### ◆ Montignac-Lascaux Gallery

Art exhibitions  
15, quai Mérilhau  
+33 9 84 39 55 99  
www.lagaleriesmontignac.com

### TASTING

◆ Foie-gras Teyssier  
+33 5 53 51 83 00

◆ Maison Pellegris  
Les Communaux  
24290 Les Forges  
+33 5 53 51 79 00



For further information

#### Lascaux-Dordogne, Vézère Valley Tourist Office

Place Bertran-de-Born  
+33 5 53 51 82 60

www.lascaux-dordogne.com

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Place Yvon-Delbos  
+33 5 53 51 72 00

www.ville-montignac.com



FURTHER AFIELD...

#### AUBAS (5 km)

Sauveboeuf Castle (Louis XIII style) has an unusual Prehistory Museum. The panoramic view from an lookout point called "The End of the World" sweeps the whole valley.

#### THONAC (6 km)

Within the walls of its medieval fortress, Losse Castle comprises a Renaissance Lodge and terraced gardens. Visit the Prehistory Interpretive Centre and Le Thot Animal Park.

#### PEYZAC-LE-MOUSTIER

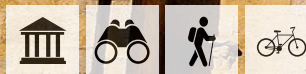
(12 km)

Downstream on the Vézère River, this is the biggest troglodytic fortification in Europe. A rocky outcrop overlooks the village that gave its name to the Moustier Neanderthal site discovered here.



# SAINT-AMAND-DE-COLY

Tightly huddled around an imposing fortified church, considered one of the most beautiful in the Périgord region. The houses of Saint-Amand show a harmonious blend of greys and ochre typical of the region's local slate and stone.





© Bertrand Rieger

## A Fortress-like Abbey

The construction of the abbey (*above*) was started in the XIIth century at the time of Abbot Guillaume, whose tomb lies in the north chapel. The church was fortified during the Hundred Year's War (1337-1453) to protect the village and its religious community from warlike attacks. The visible section of the church's defence system is an indication of the site's strategic importance, which extended over a surface of more than 64,583 square feet. The village's carefully restored streets lead to the abbey keep and bell-tower. Proudly standing just short of a hundred foot high, the structure towers over the village and the surrounding countryside.

Saint-Amand-de-Coly Abbey was extremely prosperous all through the XIIIth century, with up to nineteen priories attached. Today only the Abbey church subsists, but since 1980 archaeological digs and surveys conducted on the site, have revealed notably, the cloister wall.



© Bertrand Rieger



© Philippe Roy



© Bertrand Rieger

## Bed and Sustenance in the Village

The Abbey hotel-restaurant is the ideal place to stop off and take in the distinctive atmosphere around the church. Travellers can savour local regional produce and get some rest in the peaceful traditionally decorated rooms. This year the restaurant is moving to a spot just opposite the abbey.



© Inita Cartray - Jaskak



© Bertrand Rieger

## Along the Way

Different well-signposted routes, and games for children enable families to discover the secrets of the village and the surrounding area. Among them, the “Historic Route” an hour long hike that will lead you to monuments such as the Abbey, the old hospital and its washroom and the walnut barn... More of a nature trail, the “chemin des Rapiettes” route takes you on an hour and a half long hike, on the trail of lizards and salamanders and local flora growing along the stone walls.



© Philippe Roy



© Tita Camzey-Jashek

Alain Lagorsse, coppersmith

## “We take our time here”

“Copper and brasswork are time consuming... but we certainly don’t have the same notion of time here, as in the city! I came to Saint-Amand 36 years ago now. The village was lost at the bottom of the glen and the Abbey was overgrown with briars. Little by little, I could see a change come over the place; the village was improved and tourists started to come. The meaning of life makes sense here, there’s a nice quiet family atmosphere that’s ideal for my craft. And as a journeyman craftsman, living in the shadow of the Abbey reinforces my respect for the great builders of medieval times.” ♦

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

### A Local Hermit

Where does the name Saint-Amand come from? The village’s religious history tells of Amand, a young nobleman in the middle of the VIth century, who chose to devote himself to a monastic life and to evangelising the local population. He retired to a cave, where it is said, he later died. According to a document written in 1048, a monastery was built on his tomb. After his death, a monastic community settled in this place named after Saint-Amand. ♦



© Bertrand Rieger

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Guided Tour of the Abbey

Free tours organised by The Friends of Saint-Amand-de-Coly Association All Summer +33 5 53 51 04 56

#### ◆ The Interpretive Trails

Free access Information leaflet available at the Maison des Gardes and the Tourist Information Point In Summer +33 5 53 51 47 85 [www.sentier-interpretation-st-amand-de-coly.com](http://www.sentier-interpretation-st-amand-de-coly.com)

### RESTAURANTS- ACCOMMODATION

#### ◆ Hôtel-restaurant de l'Abbaye

Le Bourg Menus: 26-33€ Rooms: 59-98€ +33 5 53 51 68 50

[www.hoteldelabbaye-lascaux.com](http://www.hoteldelabbaye-lascaux.com)

#### ◆ Lascaux Holiday Village

\*\*\*\*Campsite +33 5 53 50 81 57 [www.campinglascauxvacances.com](http://www.campinglascauxvacances.com)

#### ◆ Other accommodation

Village website: "hébergements"

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Local Producer's Market

July and August Tuesday evenings 6 p.m. Place du Séchoir

#### ◆ Autumn Savours Market

Last weekend October Walnuts, Apples and Truffles

#### ◆ Black Périgord Festival

Concerts in the Abbey (Summer): classical

music and Périgord Noir's Ancient Music Academy [www.festivalmusique-perigordnoir.com](http://www.festivalmusique-perigordnoir.com)



For further information

#### Tourist Information Point

Maison des associations +33 9 64 01 46 39 July and August only

#### Vallée Vézère Tourist Office

Place Bertran-de-Born, 24290 Montignac +33 5 53 51 82 60 [www.lascaux-dordogne.com](http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg +33 5 53 51 47 85 [www.saint-amand-de-coly.org/accueil.php](http://www.saint-amand-de-coly.org/accueil.php)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### AUBAS (12 km)

On the way back towards Montignac, Sauveboeuf Castle is worth a visit for its fascinating prehistory museum. Don't miss the panoramic lookout point at Escaleyrou.

### SERGEAC (16 km)

There are ten cave dwellings in the prehistoric site of Castel-Merle. The site was inhabited 85,000 years ago and boasts one of the most ancient examples of cave art in Europe.

### SALIGNAC-EYVIGUES (16 km)

The French formal gardens of Eyrignac are open all year round. They have been designed and cared for by the same family of owners since the XVIIIth century.



# SAINT-GENIÈS

One can only be impressed by the traditional craftsmanship along the streets of this village and the surrounding hamlets. At Saint-Geniès, the mellow hues of Perigordian ochre highlight the beauty of the houses and the tastefully preserved monuments.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Time Old Tradition

The local stone roofing technique has not changed over the centuries. Ideally chestnut-wood, the frame is designed to carry a weight of 1,000 to 1,765 lbs. per square meter and complies with strict geometrical requirements. The structure, with a 45° slant, rests on a wall no less than 50 cm thick (just under 2 feet). Each stone must be meticulously and skilfully placed to ensure that the finished roof is solid, watertight and pleasing to the eye.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Superbly Preserved Monuments

A little off the route that links Sarlat to Montignac, Saint-Geniès has three listed buildings that are worth a trip. Firstly, our Lady of Assumption and the castle (*below*) both constructed in the XIIIth century and modified following the French Wars of Religion. Despite some differences in their architectural style, the overall impression is harmonious. Next, not far from the church, Cheylard Gothic chapel with an interesting West Front and inside, some very beautiful fresco paintings. Further afield, the hamlets of Genestal and La Brousse are just as beautifully preserved as Saint-Geniès. Less than a mile and a half west of the village, Pelvézy Castle, which suffered extensive destruction, has now fully been restored and hosts a holiday center.



© DR

## Melt with Pleasure

Roland Manouvrier, renowned artisan ice-cream maker, mixes over a hundred ice cream and sorbet flavours to delight your taste buds. Fruit, flowers, herbs from all over the world reveal their savours in novel creations, enjoy: Marco Polo, Indochina, Basil Instinct or quite simply Périgord Strawberry.



© Bertrand Rieger

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## Hiking Pleasure

In Saint-Geniès as all over Fénelon country, the unspoiled surroundings form a perfect backdrop for a number of thematic walking tours. Very well signposted, some of these walks feature periodic events such as the “Mill Tour” at the beginning of April or the “Round the Villages”, in mid-October. The “Between stones and slates” and the Millar’s trail, with hiking guides available at the Salignac Tourist Office, can be enjoyed all year round.



© www.karndedesvillages.com

## ESSENTIALS

### FOIE-GRAS

#### ◆ La Ferme Minard

Le Méjat  
+33 5 53 28 97 55  
[www.foiegras-minard.com](http://www.foiegras-minard.com)

#### ◆ La Ferme de Fages

Fages  
+33 5 53 31 01 55  
[www.saveursde-saintgenies.com](http://www.saveursde-saintgenies.com)

#### ◆ Sylvain Grangier

Saint-Dramont  
+33 5 53 29 18 38  
[www.douceurs-paysannes.com](http://www.douceurs-paysannes.com)

### FARMS-HOSTELS

#### ◆ La Ferme du Chaffour

Le Chaffour  
+33 5 53 28 98 47  
[www.ferme-auberge-chaffour.com](http://www.ferme-auberge-chaffour.com)  
Menus: 14-29.50€  
Reservation only  
Rooms: 61€

#### ◆ La ferme des Genestes

Les Genestes  
+33 5 53 28 97 71  
[www.lesgenestes.com](http://www.lesgenestes.com)  
Menus: 13-27€  
Rooms: from 48€

### CAMPING

#### ◆ \*\*\*\*Campsite

24590 Saint-Geniès  
+33 5 53 28 98 22  
+33 5 53 29 19 75  
[www.labouquerie.com](http://www.labouquerie.com)

### SHOPPING

#### ◆ Périgord Sorbets and Ice-cream

ZAE Les Quatre-Routes  
+33 5 53 28 29 44  
[www.parfumsdeglace.fr](http://www.parfumsdeglace.fr)

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Market

Weekly, Sunday  
morning all year round

#### ◆ Truffle Market

December-end  
February – Sundays  
Evening Market: July  
and August  
Wednesdays: 7p.m. -  
11p.m.

#### ◆ Round the Villages

Mid-October  
Hiking weekend with  
discovery of local  
heritage and delicacies  
Registration Salignac  
Tourist Office



For further  
information

#### Pays de Fénélon Tourist Office

Place du 19-Mars-1962,  
24590 Salignac-Eyvigues  
+33 5 53 28 81 93

[www.perigordnoir-valleedordogne.com](http://www.perigordnoir-valleedordogne.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 28 98 70  
[www.saintgenies.com](http://www.saintgenies.com)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### TAMNIÈS (10 km)

This picturesque village overlooks the Beune Valley. A little Introduction to Prehistory Museum collects local finds. In the valley, there's a beach and pond for water sports.

### THONAC (13 km)

This stopover town on the Montignac-Les Eyziez route is the site of the impressive Losse Castle. Discover also the Prehistory Interpretive Center and Le Thot animal park.

### SAINT-CRÉPIN-ET-CARLUCET (7 km)

The two villages merged in 1825, feature four heritage buildings: the verdant Cipières Castle, two churches and the Maison des Granges barn house.





# SAINT-JEAN-DE-CÔLE

Castle, church, priory... One of the most beautiful villages in France, this little town watered by the Côle River offers a collection of admirable buildings around its large central square. Renowned over 35 years for its magnificent flower show, Saint-Jean-de-Côle is undoubtedly a jewel to be discovered in the crown of the Green Périgord region.





© Bertrand Rieger

## The Jewel of Green Périgord

Particularly well preserved, the heart of the village is an invitation to a journey through time with XIVth century timbered houses featuring loggias, especially in the picturesque Fond-du-Bourg street. The imposing Marthonie castle (*above*) stands proudly on the Place Saint-Jean, a large square in the center of the village. Reconstructed from the XVth century, this medieval-style fortress has a distinctive XVIIIth century, elegant arcaded wing. Close by, the XIth century Augustinian priory (*below*) was the place of the village's foundation. Rebuilt after the Hundred Years War, this peace haven has preserved a section of its cloister.



© Philippe Boy



© Bertrand Rieger

The Church of Saint John the Baptist dates from the XIth century. Outside the Romanesque-byzantine style granite sanctuary, 78 corbels carved with figures and foliage symbolize the cardinal sins. This church is near La Marthonie castle.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Catering for all Tastes

A village institution, the Saint Jean Inn is open all year round. In a warm rural setting, savour Benoît Cheval's colourful, delicious and tastefully presented, perigordian dishes (calf sweetbread, salmon with sorrel...). In High Season, enjoy the view from the restaurant terrace at La Perla or À Table, both right in the center of Saint-Jean.



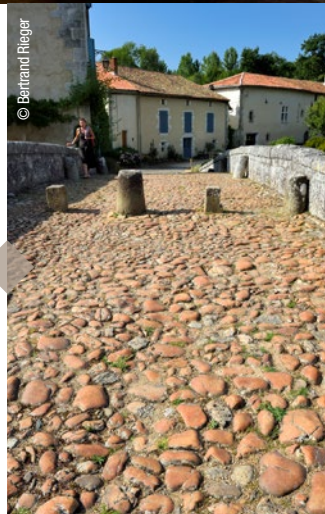
© DR



© Bertrand Flegger

## Over the Bridge!

The stately Old Saint-Jean Bridge spanning the River Côle, is the village emblem. This superbly restored Romanesque bridge was probably built in the XVth century. On the upstream side, the humpback structure is equipped with bull nosed cutwaters to protect the piers and regulate the flow. The cobblestoned bridge is strictly pedestrian today but because of its location on the road between Nontron and Thiviers, in the past it was a very busy route until it was replaced in the XIXth century by the national road that goes through the village.



© Bertrand Flegger



The Monzkas, creators of the Cheval d'Or business resort

## "An ideal peaceful work environment"

"I'm a German who fell in love with the Perigord region when I was looking for a place to settle. In 1998, I discovered an abandoned XVIIth century hamlet in the middle of nowhere, at a place called Montgeoffrey. It was love at first sight! We bought and gradually restored the buildings in the purest traditional style thanks to the talent and know-how of local craftsmen. We then moved in here and brought the place back to life. There are twelve buildings in the hamlet, that we renamed: Cheval d'Or. We work here in the communication field, in advertising, in Bordeaux fine wine trading, and we also host seminars. Executives come to this idyllic peaceful spot surrounded by fields and forests, to find a quiet place conducive to concentration..." ♦

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## The Flower Show

For the last 35 years, the Florales has been the region's major highlight for all gardening enthusiasts. Over two days, the second weekend in May, a wide variety of flowering plants are given pride of place. A hundred or so professionals (nursery gardeners, horticulturists, craft workers...) display thousands of plant species, some familiar and others more exotic. Every year, the show draws thousands of visitors to the village, entirely flower-decked for the event! ♦



© Piere Igor/CC-BY-SA

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Guided Tours

Mid June  
to mid-September  
Daily 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
(except Saturdays)  
Charge: 4€  
Tourist Office  
+33 5 53 62 14 15

#### ◆ Ona Volungeviciute Ceramic workshop

5, quartier Saint-  
Jacques  
+33 5 53 52 66 94

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### Saint-Jean-de-Côle

#### ◆ Le Saint-Jean

Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 52 23 20  
www.le-stjean.com  
Menus: 18-34€

#### ◆ La Perla café

Place de l'Église  
+33 5 53 52 38 11  
Menus: 16-21€

#### ◆ À Table

Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 62 18 90  
Menus: 16-21€

#### Nearby

#### ◆ Les Arômes

11, rue Eugène-le-Roy  
24460 Négrondes  
+33 5 53 52 53 58  
www.lesaromes24.wix.  
com/les-aromes  
Rooms 46-75€  
Lunch menu: 13,50€

#### ◆ Ô Bois Dormant

Lieu-dit Bosvert  
24800 Lempzours  
+33 5 53 07 64 33  
www.o-bois-dormant.  
voyage  
Rate per night:  
Tent or yurt: from 70€  
Tree-house from 100€

### SEMINARS, WINE CELLAR

#### ◆ Cheval d'Or

Mr&Mrs Monzka  
Lieu-dit Montgeoffroy  
+33 5 53 62 85 05

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Saint-Jean

Thursdays  
Classical music  
Late afternoon  
Thursdays: July  
and August  
Organised by the Saint-  
Jean-de-Côle Church

Restoration Association.  
Full rate: 15€  
Free under 16 yrs

#### ◆ The Floralties

2nd weekend of May  
Throughout the village  
Full rate: 4€  
www.floralies-  
saintjean.fr



For further  
information

#### Gourmet Périgord Tourist Office

19, rue du Château, 24800 Saint-Jean-de-Côle  
+33 5 53 62 14 15  
www.perigordgourmand.com

#### Town Hall (mairie)

5, rue de la Mairie, 24800 Saint-Jean-de-Côle  
+33 5 53 62 30 21  
www.ville-saint-jean-de-cole.fr



# SAINT-LÉON- SUR-VÉZÈRE

This listed village, in the heart of the Valley of Mankind, has placidly resisted the passing of time. Enjoy some shade as you stroll around the narrow streets, lined with distinctive pale stone buildings.



FURTHER AFIELD...

### BRANTÔME (9 km)

Encircled by the waters of the Dordogne River in a frame of luxuriant greenery, the "Venice of Périgord" is worth a visit, if only to see its prestigious 1200-year-old Benedictine Abbey.

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### BOURDEILLES (30 km)

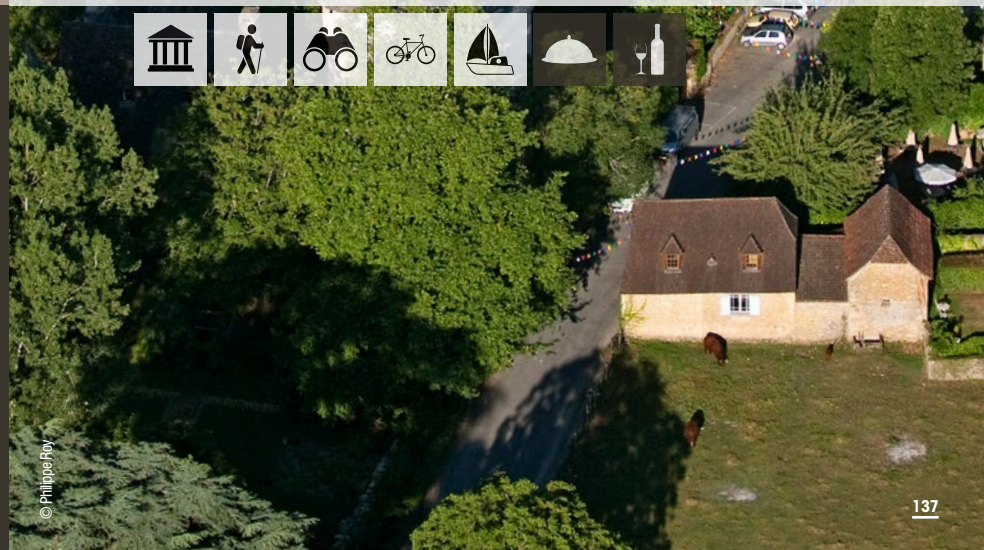
An old bridge across the Rive Dronne, quaint stone-roofed houses, and the powerful outline of a medieval castle... it's impossible to resist this post-card-perfect village!

PAGE 33

### HAUTEFORT (20 km)

At the gates to the Black Périgord region, east of Périgueux, the village is overlooked by a magnificent monumental chateau, one of the rare XVIIth century castles to be seen in the Dordogne region.

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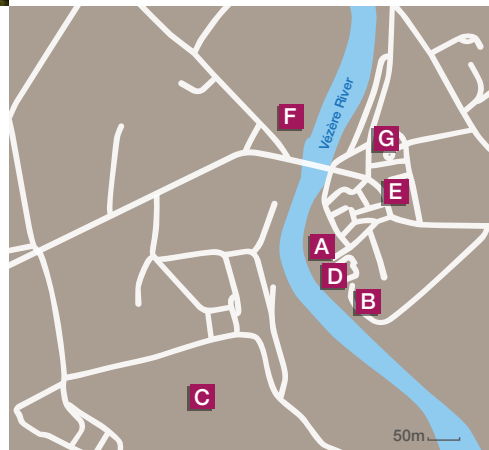




© Jean-Daniel Sadrès

## On the Banks of the River Vézère

Nestled in a meander of the River Vézère, Saint-Léon has retained the authenticity of its medieval origins. Various routes can be taken to discover the village. Along the narrow streets visitors can admire the XIth and XIIth century Romanesque church **A**; its restoration in 1965 uncovered several layers of painted murals (*below*); Sainte-Croix expiatory chapel; De La Salle Manor machicolations (XIVth), and Clérans Castle gothic architecture (*above*) **B**. Nearby, Conquil Leisure Park and Troglodytic Site **C**, will delight young and old.



© Philippe Roy

Built on the site of a Gallo-Roman villa, Saint-Leonce Church **A** was originally a Benedictine priory, attached to Sarlat Abbey. The sanctuary, which is entirely stone-tile roofed, was partially rebuilt after suffering damage during the flooding of the Vézère River in 1961.



© Philippe Roy

## Riverside Delicacies

Once you are comfortably seated by the riverside, let yourself be tempted by appetising suggestions at the Déjeuner sur l'Herbe Restaurant **D** (*opposite*): hot toasted bread, tasting plates, generous helpings of 100% natural colourful salads, walnut cake. In the village center, the Restaurant de la Poste **E** serves traditional dishes with typical regional ingredients: cep mushrooms, foie-gras, duck breast.



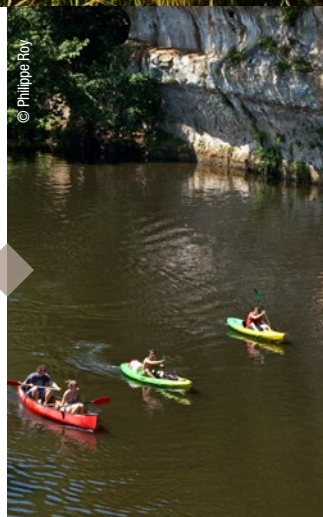
© Titia Carney-Assek



© Philippe Roy

## Sport in a Natural Setting

Saint-Léon is an ideal starting point for outdoor sporting activities **F**. Starting with canoeing and kayak trips: the Vézère River is still wild and offers sites and scenery along its course, that can only be accessed by the river. Alternatively there are difficult and less difficult, mountain bike trails, over the 350 odd miles of the Lascaux-Valley Vézère mountain bike circuit. Walking trails will take you to the Côte de Jor where there's a superb view of the valley. Paragliders dive off the cliff here and play with the updraught!



© Philippe Roy



© Tilla Cantzev-Jesick

Olivier Legay, wood sculptor **G**

## "Land of the beginnings"

"I like to be guided by the movement of the veins in wood and to draw my inspiration from the universe of woodland spirits. Here, in this land of the beginnings of mankind, where the collective memory goes back thousands of years I feel that the forests of the rural Perigord region guard the legends of a place of harmony... Saint-Léon echoes this with great authenticity. I'm in my element here in this valley of Mankind, with so much beauty and poetry. For the past 30 years, my artistic progression is tightly linked to this timeless village and the tranquil river that passes through it." ♦

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Buddhist Meditation Centre

Founded in 1975, Dhagpo Kagyu Ling is a Center for Buddhist Studies and Meditation. It is the European headquarters of the Karma Kagyu, one of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism. An open community, the center welcomes all those who wish to discover Buddhist philosophy and meditation. Workshops and meetings with Tibetan Masters are organised all year round. ♦



© Philippe Roy

## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

◆ **Galerie Olivier Legay**  
Le Bourg  
+33 6 86 40 23 57  
www.olivier-legay-sculptures.com  
Workshops and artwork on commission.

◆ **Dhagpo Kagyu Ling**  
Domaine de Landrevie  
+33 5 53 50 70 75  
www.dhagpo-kagyu-ling.org

◆ **Aventure Plein Air**  
Canoe and kayak rentals  
7 routes: 2 miles to over 18 miles and 2 to 3 day trips  
+33 5 53 50 67 71  
www.canoevezere.com

◆ **Le Conquill**  
Tél.: 05 53 51 29 03  
www.leconquill.fr  
Open end of March to beginning November

### DINING

◆ **Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe**  
Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 50 69 17  
and  
+33 6 46 34 29 32  
Menu "à la carte": 10€-30€

◆ **Restaurant de la Poste**  
Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 50 73 08  
Average price: 28€

◆ **L'Épicerie fine**  
Le Bourg  
+33 5 53 51 97 85  
7.30 a.m.-12.30 a.m.  
3.30 p.m.-7 p.m. and  
8 a.m.-12.30 a.m.  
on Sunday

### CAMPING

◆ **Le Paradis**  
5 star Campsite  
Open 26/03 to 26/10  
La Rebeyrolle  
+33 5 53 50 72 64  
www.le-paradis.fr

### EVENTS

◆ **Evening Market**  
Artisans Market  
Delicacy tasting  
Thursday nights  
in July and August

◆ **Rando Silex**  
One of the county's biggest  
Mountain-bike trails:  
20, 40 or 60 km  
First weekend in Oct.  
www.velosilex.com



For further information

Lascaux-Dordogne and Vézère Valley Tourist Office

+33 5 53 51 82 60  
www.lascaux-dordogne.com

Town Hall (mairie)

+33 5 53 50 73 16  
www.saint-leon-sur-vezere.fr



# SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA

Undoubtedly irresistible, this truly charming town is one of France's most popular tourist sites. Holder of a "Town of Art and History" tourism label, the unofficial capital of the Black Périgord region appeals to visitors with its yellow stone Renaissance houses and appetising markets, all year round. It is said that Sarlat, 10,000 inhabitants, boasts the highest density of historic monuments in the world. No less!



FURTHER AFIELD...

## PEYZAC-LE-MOUSTIER

(3 km)

Facing La Roque-Saint-Christophe, this rocky spur overhanging the village is the largest fortified troglodytic village in Europe. It is here that lays the eponymous archaeological site.

## THONAC (4 km)

Visit an authentic medieval fortress with a Renaissance lodge and splendid gardens at Losse Castle and also, Thot Animal Park and Interpretive Center for Prehistoric Times.

## SERGEAC (6 km)

In the valley of the same name, the Castel-Merle Prehistoric site possesses ten cave dwellings. Inhabited 85,000 years ago by Neanderthal man, they contain one of the most ancient examples of cave art in Europe.

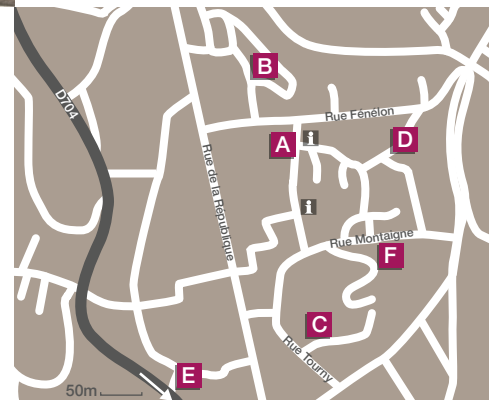




© Bertrand Rieger

## Roam through the “Town of a Hundred Monuments”

Built in a hollow site, Sarlat is dominated by the imposing outline of Saint Sacerdos gothic cathedral, situated on the Place du Peyrou. Right beside, the Place de la Liberté **A**, where numerous markets are held all year round, is the heart and soul of the town. There’s a view from the esplanade, on the Town Hall’s elegant arcades and Saint-Marie’s Church, tastefully converted into an indoor market. Around the famous Goose Market Square **B**, the Hotel de Vassal and Gisson Manor **B**, form an admirable ensemble linked by a sturdy tower. Wander around the maze of quaint narrow streets from the Fountain Court **C**, to the monumental Saint Claire’s Abbey, Rue des Consuls, and two of Sarlat’s most exquisite townhouses, Hotel Plamon and Hotel de Vienne.



The Chef of the Presidial Restaurant, Patrick Lavergne concocts Perigordian cuisine of the highest quality, which in addition, is excellent value for money. For first rate dining in a prestigious setting that displays artwork by Costa.



© Bertrand Rieger



© Bertrand Rieger

## Pleasure for the Eye and for the Taste Buds

For best dining, take a seat at the highly recommended Presidial **D**. The restaurant run by Manuel Da Silva Costa, is set in an imposing XVth century listed building, once the seat of the royal court of justice! On the menu: part-cooked duck foie-gras terrine, roasted duck confit and for dessert, citrus fruit crème brûlée. For another tasty stopover serving classic homemade dishes, try l’Esprit Sarlat **E**, an attractive modern Brasserie, opened in 2014.





## The Three Lalanne Geese

At the center of the Goose Market Square **B**, this is probably the most photographed monument in Sarlat. The three bronze geese were sculpted in 1991 by the artist couple, Claude and Francois-Xavier Lalanne (1927-2008). The group is a reminder that this was, right until the 1970's, Sarlat's long-standing traditional marketplace for the sale of poultry.



Saint-Sacerdos cathedral is largely gothic style. It has seen many changes, an architectural timeline attested by its bell tower: the Romanesque base is the oldest part of the building (XIth century), the last floor is XVIIth and the bulb-shaped belfry dates from the XVIIIth century.



© Bertrand Heeger



© Bertrand Heeger

## The Birthplace of La Boétie

Etienne de La Boétie (1530-1563), Renaissance humanist, poet and philosopher and close friend of Montaigne, was born in Sarlat's most beautiful townhouse. The "Hotel de la Boétie" located on Peyrou Square [D](#), was built in 1525. One of Sarlat's most illustrious figures, this son of a royal officer is famous for his Discourse on Voluntary Servitude or the Anti-Dictator, considered one of the founding texts of modern democracy.



**Francis Lasfargue,**  
Town  
Environment  
and Heritage  
Councillor

## *"Sarlat was transformed from the 1960's onwards"*

"Thanks to Henry de Ségogne, State Counsellor and friend of Minister of Culture, André Malraux, Sarlat was a pilot city, part of the famous Malraux Law, regarding Heritage conservation areas in the 1960's. Sarlat was the very first town to benefit from restoration because of this legislation. Prior to that, the town was 'a sleeping beauty': plaster covered the traditional timber-framed houses and some areas were very run down, practically medieval. The result of the renovation project, carried out with great respect to the original features, was spectacular. Sarlat regained its initial beauty. Incidentally, there are said to be more listed buildings per square meter here, than in any other town in Europe! It's a truly magnificent setting which has attracted film directors over the years, fifty or so movies were shot here: The Miserable's, D'Artagnan's Daughter, Jacquou le Croquant, or Ridley Scott's The Duellists, just to mention a few!" ♦

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## Way up above...

Disused since the French Revolution, Saint Mary's XIIIth century church **A**, was converted into a covered market in 2001 by the renowned architect Jean Nouvel, who spent his childhood in Sarlat. Ten years later the architect, Pritzker Prizewinner in 2008, created a glass lift in the bell tower. At the top of the church enjoy a 360° panorama over Sarlat, its blond sandstone houses and its stone tiled roofs. An unforgettable experience!



## An unusual Lantern of the Dead

An intriguing Romanesque tower capped by a conical dome, stands behind the cathedral apse. Since the XVIIth century, the tower has been known as the "Lantern of the Dead" **F**. Was this a funeral chapel? A lantern to guide pilgrims? Or perhaps a monument built in honour of Saint Bernard, who travelled through Sarlat in 1147? Today, the mystery remains unsolved as to the origin of this monument, most probably built in the XIth century. ♦



## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ Guided Tours of Sarlat at the Tourist Office

Walking tours of 1h30 with Tour Guide  
Tickets: 6€  
Reduced rate: 3.50€

#### ◆ Panoramic Lift

+33 5 53 31 45 42  
Tickets: 4-5€ according to season, 6-12 yrs 1€, Under 6 yrs free entry

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ Clos La Boétie

95, avenue de Selves  
+33 5 53 29 44 18  
Rooms: 252€-386€

#### ◆ In Sarlat

16, rue Fénélon  
+33 5 53 29 44 90  
Rooms: from 92€ per night

#### ◆ Le Renoir

2, rue Abbé-Surgier  
+33 5 53 59 35 98  
Rooms: 82€-172€

#### ◆ Albizia

Prentegarde Nord  
+33 5 53 59 10 60  
Rooms: 45€-70€

#### ◆ Le Présidial

6, rue Landry  
+33 5 53 28 92 47  
Menus: 29-39€

#### ◆ L'Esprit Sarlat

15, rue Gabriel-Tarde  
+33 5 53 28 92 50  
Menus: 19,50€-38,50€

#### ◆ Les Jardins

d'Harmonie  
Place André-Malraux  
+33 5 53 31 06 69  
Menus: 27-49€

#### ◆ La Rapière

16, rue Tourny  
+33 5 53 59 03 13  
Menus: 20-27€

### EVENTS

#### ◆ Sarlat Fest'Oie

Every year at the  
Beginning of March

Town Goose Festival  
Place de la Liberté

#### ◆ Truffle Festival

Every year  
Weekend Mid-January

#### ◆ Terroir Days

Two days dedicated  
to traditional delicacies  
of the Black Périgord  
Region  
First weekend  
of May

◆ Theatre Games  
Festival

+33 5 53 31 10 83  
18 July-3 August 2016

#### ◆ Cinema Festival

Every year  
in November

#### ◆ La Ringueta

Festival celebrating  
traditional games  
of the past  
Pentecost Sunday



For further  
information

#### Sarlat Tourist Office

3, rue Tourny, 24200 Sarlat  
+33 5 53 31 45 45  
[www.sarlat-tourisme.com](http://www.sarlat-tourisme.com)

#### Town Hall (mairie)

Place de la Liberté, 24200 Sarlat  
+33 5 53 31 53 31  
[www.sarlat.fr](http://www.sarlat.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### LA ROQUE-GAGEAC (9 km)

One of the Most Beautiful Villages of France, La Roque-Gageac stretches along the Dordogne River at the foot of an imposing cliff. The perfect place for a trip on the river!

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### BEYNAC-ET-CAZENAC

(11 km)

This village on the banks of the Dordogne River is famous for its spectacular medieval castle overlooking its stone roofed, golden tinted houses.

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### CASTELNAUD-LA-CHAPELLE

(13 km)

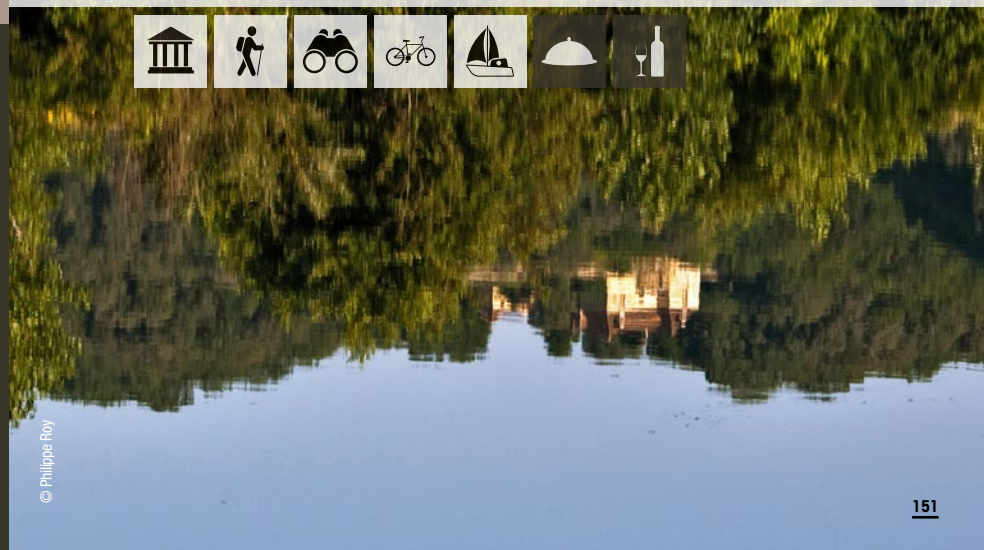
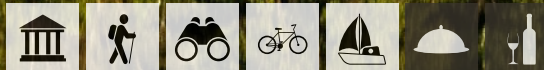
Overlooking the confluence of the Dordogne and the Céou rivers, a striking village whose sloping streets lead to one of the Périgord region's most impressive medieval fortresses.

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# TRÉMOLAT

With its magnificent panoramic view, this village summarises the many charms of the Périgord region. The writer André Maurois saw in this meander—a loop formed by the Dordogne River—one of the wonders of the world.





© Philippe Roy

## Hotel Elegance

The Vieux Logis is an exceptional establishment run by Bernard Giraudel, member of the Relais & Châteaux group. The refined luxury of this four-star hotel, set in a charming family manor house, can be enjoyed in the rooms but also in the cosy bars and lounges or the superb old smoking and pool rooms. Not to mention the garden, which offers Michelin starred dining on the terrace.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Perfect Curve and Rural Heritage

656 feet wide, over 6 miles long: at Trémolat, the Dordogne River traces a perfect curve in the limestone rock. Take the roads that go to the top of the meander, to admire from above and see the bend in the river stand out from the pretty mosaic of the fields. Back at the village, take a leisurely stroll to discover washhouses, stone crosses, wells and dovecotes. Trémolat's two churches add to these quaint rural heritage features; Saint-Hilaire, restored by the villagers in the 1950's, has beautiful stained glass windows, while Saint Nicholas's church (see below right) reveals some unexpected elements.



© Philippe Roy

## Nautical Adventures

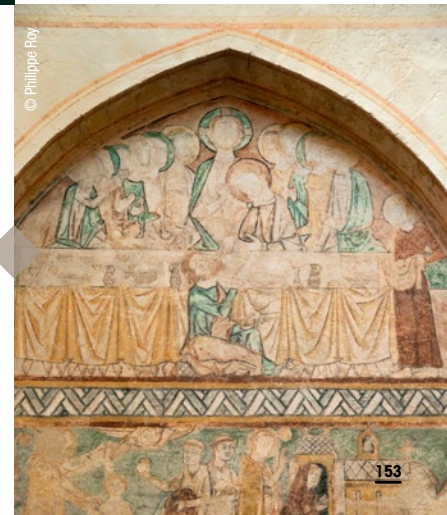
The immense stretch of water on the Dordogne is a perfect playground for all water sports, including kayak and canoeing. Trémolat Water Skiing School organises wakeboarding, water skiing and baby ski from 3 years old. Alternatively, for a more placid option, try the new water bike at the club or take a river trip.



© Bertrand Rieger

## Monastic Legacy

From the first church in Trémolat, dating back to the IXth century, only two arch sections subsist. Built between 1125 and 1160, Saint Nicholas Abbey, the fortified church that we see today, possesses a marvellous mural painting of the Last Supper in the choir (opposite). The monastic buildings are in excellent condition and make an interesting visit. And though the cloister is no more, there are delightful gardens to walk around.



© Philippe Roy

## ESSENTIALS

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

◆ **Le Vieux Logis**  
+ 33 5 53 22 80 06  
www.vieux-logis.com/en  
Relais & Châteaux  
Rooms: 165€-430€  
Menus: 49€-110€

◆ **Le Bistro de la Place**  
Family atmosphere  
Average price: 21-30€  
+33 5 53 22 80 69

### ◆ Les Tartines

Le Bourg  
Daily  
11.30 a.m.-8 p.m.  
+33 5 53 27 08 67

◆ **Belvedere Farm Inn**  
Cecchetto Family  
Rocamadour  
+33 5 53 22 49 01

### HOBBIES

◆ **Botanical Walks**  
Bosredon  
+33 6 31 41 60 32

### ◆ Trémolat

**Nautical Base**  
President:  
+33 6 16 13 48 29  
Water Skiing School:  
+33 6 83 03 04 07  
<http://tourisme.tremolat.fr/activities.php>

### EVENTS

◆ **Traditional Market**  
Tuesday morning  
On the Church Square  
8 a.m.-1 p.m.



For further  
information

### Trémolat Tourist Office

+33 5 53 22 89 33  
Rue Bertrand-de-Born  
24510 Trémolat  
<http://tourisme.tremolat.fr>

### Town Hall (mairie)

+33 5 53 22 80 17  
24510 Trémolat



FURTHER AFIELD...

### LIMEUIL (6,5 km)

Distinctive medieval village, Limeuil gained a "One of the Most Beautiful Villages in France" label in 1990. At the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers, from the noiseless village heights, admire a breathtakingly beautiful landscape.

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### ALLES-SUR-DORDOGNE (12 km)

Near this village a bridge spans two cliffs, at the meeting of the rivers. A beautiful natural phenomenon, to observe during a late summer storm. Don't forget the rural heritage features, stone cross and fountains dotted along the landscape.

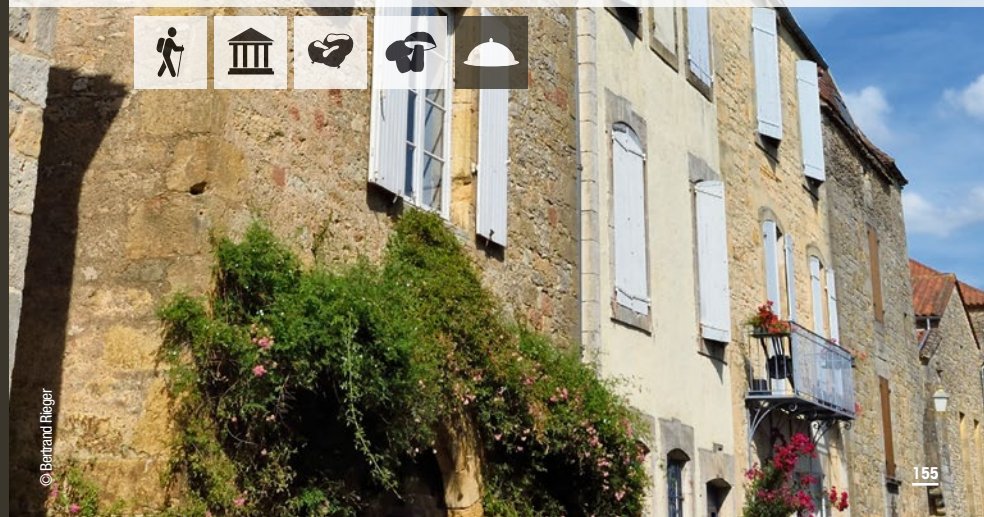
### MAUZAC-ET-GRAND-CASTANG (13 km)

This village is situated on the right bank of the Dordogne River that forms meanders at Trémolat and Limeuil. Along the route, notice the little dry stone huts with stone slated roofs, formerly used by wine growers.



# VILLEFRANCHE- DU-PÉRIGORD

"New town" since the XIIIth century, this attractive bastide village has lost none of its medieval charm. What's more, Villefranche delights all epicureans for its prizewinning chestnut production.

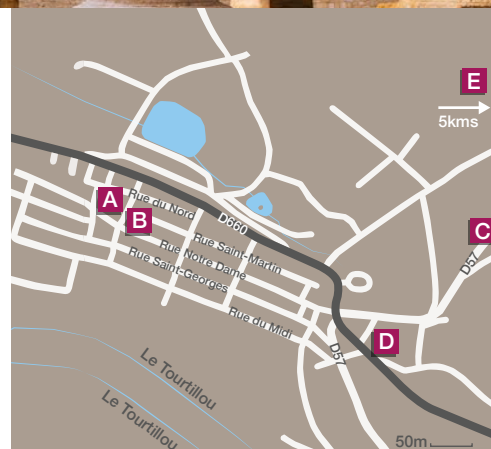




© Jean-Marc Barrière

## Explore Périgord's oldest French Bastide Town

Founded in 1261 for Alphonse de Poitiers, brother of Saint Louis, Villefranche has retained its checkerboard street-plan characteristic of the urban fabric of the “New Towns” designed in the southwest in the Middle Ages. The heart of the village, the market square **A**, is charming with its traditional houses and handsome XIIIth and XIVth century archways. Proudly sitting in the square the Market Hall, rebuilt in the XIXth century, stands on powerful stone pillars. Look out for the old grain measures, reminders that by its location bordering the Périgord, Quercy and Agenais regions, Villefranche was once a major agricultural and commercial hub. Paul Abadie, architect of the Sacré-Cœur Basilica in Paris, designed its neo-roman church, Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption **B**, in 1864.



© Jean-Marc Barrière



© Jean-Marc Barrière



© iStock

## The Best of the Land from Farm to Table

For a taste of the essence of the Perigordian “terroir”, take a seat at the Petite Auberge **C**, just outside the village. Its shady patio is a peaceful haven! Another favorite: La Bastide **D**, a hotel-restaurant set in a time-honored stone house. On the menu: expected pleasures such as ceps and chestnuts and a feast of seasonal specialities to tickle your taste buds!



© Albert

The Vigouroux, chestnut growers

***“There’s nothing like a stroll through the chestnut groves!”***

“Because it’s been so well preserved, discovering Villefranche is a truly authentic experience. The village has conserved a beautiful Consuls House and a series of narrow corridors between buildings called ‘andrones’ originally designed to prevent fires from spreading. Magnificent chestnut forests, just perfect for relaxing walks, surround the area. Chestnut trees prospered here because of the iron-rich, acidic and well-drained soil. Locally known as the “bread tree”, chestnuts have fed generations in this region since the Gallo-Roman era. With this wealth of knowledge handed down to us from times gone by, we grow several acres of chestnut trees and produce organic products from A to Z with our harvest...” ♦

© Jac. Phot

## Enjoy the “Dolce Vita” in Périgord

Take the time: in Springtime, sip a drink in one of the patio-bars, under the archways in the village square; in the Summer, listen out for the melodious tones of the cep growers on Market Day; in Autumn savor the aroma of roasted chestnuts... And for a taste of poetry, just listen to Serge Vigouroux express his love for his native Périgord. He will give you a tour of his property the Domaine de Rapatel **E**, where you can visit the splendid chestnut groves and the old stone-mill where the harvest is transformed, while his wife Camille, will be busy creating some sweet or savory delicacy—chestnut based of course.



© Beatrix-Hans

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

## A first in Périgord

Villefranche is the first village in Dordogne to have received the “Outstanding Place of Taste” label awarded by the French Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Environment and Agriculture. Gourmet Tours, organized from springtime onwards, give you the opportunity to see for yourself! Starting out from the village, an eleven-kilometer hike to taste chestnuts and foie-gras with local producers. ♦





## ESSENTIALS

### VISITS

#### ◆ **Domaine de Rapatel**

As you leave the village, take the D660 towards Frayssinet-le-Gelat +33 5 53 30 44 05 [www.chataigneduperigord.fr](http://www.chataigneduperigord.fr)

Daily except Monday, open 2-6 p.m.  
Entry: 2.50€

#### ◆ **Maison de la Châtaigne**

Rue Notre-Dame  
+33 5 53 29 98 37  
Free entry  
Oct.-May: Mon.-Fri.  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.,  
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
June and Sept.:  
Mon.-Fri.  
9 a.m.-5.45 p.m.,  
Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July-Aug.: Mon.-Fri.  
9 a.m.-6.45 p.m.,  
Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### HOTELS-RESTAURANTS

#### ◆ **La Petite Auberge**

Les Peyroulières  
+33 5 53 29 91 01  
[www.la-petite-auberge.com](http://www.la-petite-auberge.com)  
Rooms: 50€-55€  
Lunch menu: 14,50€  
Evening menus: 38€

#### ◆ **La Bastide**

Route de Cahors  
+33 5 53 30 22 67  
[www.hotellabastide.fr](http://www.hotellabastide.fr)  
Rooms: 75€-95€  
Lunch menu: 18.50€  
Evening menus:  
24€-60€

### EVENTS

#### ◆ **Weekly Market**

Saturday mornings  
around Market Hall

#### ◆ **Local Producers Market**

Tuesdays July-Aug.  
from 6.30 p.m. Market  
Hall and town centre

#### ◆ **Cep Market**

During growth period  
only (June at the earliest,

until first frost)  
Daily from 3 p.m.  
Market Hall

#### ◆ **Cep and Chestnut Fair**

One of the last week-  
ends in October



For further  
information

#### **Pays des Châtaigniers Tourist Office**

Rue Notre-Dame  
24550 Villefranche-du-Périgord  
+33 5 53 29 98 37

[www.lepaysduchataignier.com](http://www.lepaysduchataignier.com)

#### **Town Hall (mairie)**

Le Bourg, tel.: 05 53 29 91 44  
[www.villefrancheduperigord.fr](http://www.villefrancheduperigord.fr)



## FURTHER AFIELD...

### **MONPAZIER (20 km)**

Discover another bastide town founded by the English in 1284. Place de Cornières is one of the South West's most admirable architectural units.

PAGE 107

### **BELVÈS (20 km)**

Perched on the summit of a rocky spur, this fortified village is designed around a splendid XVth century Market Hall. Cavities and other remnants of underground dwellings will fascinate young and old alike.

PAGE 21

### **BEAUMONT-DU-PÉRIGORD**

(35 km)

Marvel at this imposing XIIIth and XIVth century fortified church, a Gothic masterpiece in the centre of yet another English bastide town.

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© DR

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© DR

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© Jean-Marc Barrère

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© Bertrand Rieger

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© Mathilde Parquet

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[ca-charente-perigord.fr](http://ca-charente-perigord.fr)

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CHARENTE-PÉRIGORD  
BANQUE ET ASSURANCES



What's on the menu in Périgord? This guide offers a richly varied menu indeed. A program of 24 + 1 villages carefully selected amongst the Dordogne Region's most beautiful treasures. A guide to be enjoyed without moderation.

**WALKS, WINE TASTING,  
GASTRONOMY TASTING,  
VILLAGE MAPS, LOCAL  
CHARACTERS AND ANECDOTES.**