

Yale *Educational Travel*



October 21-29, 2017

Languedoc *Toulouse • Carcassonne • Albi*

Jeff Brenzel, Ph.D.

Lecturer in the Humanities Department at Yale

Dear Yale Traveler

I invite you to join me in Languedoc, October 21-29, 2017, to enjoy unspoiled landscapes, traditional French villages, and lofty Cathar fortresses. We will immerse ourselves in the unique way of life and local culture during the beautiful days of autumn and delve into the complex history, tradition, and legends of its many past inhabitants, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Occitans and the Cathars.

This is an itinerary that will cover both town and country, from the UNESCO World Heritage-designated medieval Cité de Carcassonne with its two concentric stone walls and 53 towers to the picturesque hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, built in the 13th century by the Count of Toulouse. Together we'll discover the seldom-visited *département* of Aude, dotted with quaint towns, lush olive groves and ample vineyards. Highlights include:

- Enjoy two specially arranged wine tastings and a private cruise on the breathtaking Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site and historic link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Marvel at the natural wonders of the Corbières region and the Pyrénées Mountains.
- Walk the picturesque cobblestone lanes amidst the Southern Gothic architecture and unique red-bricked buildings of the UNESCO-designated episcopal city of Albi.
- Interact with local residents who will share insights into their daily lives in the region.
- Join me for talks and discussions on the ancient history of the region and the extraordinary story of the medieval Cathars, a heretical sect who foreshadowed the Protestant Reformation.

Home for this journey is the historic HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn with terrace views of the medieval heart of Albi, and in the charming CHÂTEAU DE FLOURE, an authentic 16th-century French country estate. Toulouse and Cathar Country Pre- and Post-Program Options are available to further enhance your French experience.

This one-of-a-kind small group program is at the best time of year, after the summer crowds have left. Make your reservations today while space is still available! Priced at an excellent value, space is sure to go quickly. Hold your spot today by visiting www.yaleedtravel.org/languedoc17 or calling 203-432-1952.

All the best from Yale,



Jeff Brenzel, '75
Lecturer in the Humanities Department at Yale

www.yaleedtravel.org/languedoc17



Highlights

Experience one of the largest wine-producing regions in the world with two private, specially arranged tastings.

Sample traditional regional specialties during the *C'EST BON!* CULINARY TRADITIONS™ excursion in Castelnaudary, birthplace of cassoulet, and during specially arranged included meals.

Walk the quaint, cobbled *rues* (streets) of one France's most beautiful villages, Minerve, a traditional working village with small, independent *boulangeries*, *pâtisseries*, et *boucheries* (bakeries, pastry shops, and butcher shops).





Yale Study Leader

Jeff Brenzel, Ph.D.



Jeff Brenzel '75 returned to Yale in 1997 as the Executive Director of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA), then later, in 2005, was named the Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and served in this position until July of 2013. From 2010-2015, he was appointed Master of Timothy Dwight College. He also holds an appointment as Lecturer in the Humanities Department at Yale and teaches in Directed Studies, Yale's intensive humanities program for freshmen.

While earning his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, he founded and developed InterLearn, Inc., which used new media and technologies to produce career education and liberal arts programs for adult learners.

In addition to Professor Brenzel, experienced local guides will accompany you throughout the program and share their expertise on the history and culture of the undiscovered South of France. On this special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® itinerary, immerse yourself in the rhythms of daily life in Languedoc during included historical and cultural guided excursions and time on your own to experience and partake in typical activities in the seldom-visited *département* of Aude. Enjoy an authentic experience in the historic towns, traditional villages, and a rural *château* of France's lesser-explored and unspoiled Occitania region, discovering intriguing Cathar legends and well-preserved medieval settlements, towns, and villages, where residents live and work year round.

Yale Educational Travel • Association of Yale Alumni
Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010
Reservations: 203.432.1952 edtravel@yale.edu

Upcoming Trips

Changing Faces of Iran

October 20-November 2, 2017
Nayan Chadda, Editor,
Yale Global Online

Mysteries of Myanmar

November 21-December 4, 2017
Professor Mimi Yiengpruksawan

Hamilton's Caribbean

January 24-February 1, 2018
Professor Erica James

Antarctica

January 11-24, 2018
Professor Anthony Leiserowitz

Book Corner

The Food of France

by Waverly Root

An evocative and beautifully written survey of French food. First published in 1958 and revised in the mid-1970s, the book covers the important regions of French cuisine by dividing them into domains of Butter (northern France), Fat (Alsace), and Oil (the south). A great read for anyone interested in the foundation of French cuisine.

The Road from the Past, Traveling through History in France

by Ina Caro

Time travel through France by way of its finest castles, *châteaux*, cathedrals, and monasteries. This unusual travelogue is an invaluable companion for traveling in Paris, southern France, the Dordogne, and the Loire Valley, combining personal observation with large doses of well-presented history.

ITINERARY

OCTOBER 21-29, 2017

WELCOME PHONE CALL

Thursday, October 5, 2017
(tentative)

Join Jeff Brenzel at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions you might have.

TOULOUSE, FRANCE/ALBI

Saturday and Sunday,
October 21 and 22

Depart the U.S. Upon arrival in Toulouse, journey into the picturesque Massif Central to the city of Albi. Check into the stylish HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES, overlooking the River Tarn. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Albi before dinner in the hotel. **(D)**

ALBI

Monday, October 23

Known as 'la rouge' by locals for the town's French Southern Gothic-style red brick architecture, UNESCO World Heritage-designated city of Albi became a powerful episcopal center and market town following a crusade against the Cathars in the 13th century. Stroll across the River Tarn along the 10th-century *Pont Vieux* (Old Bridge) for a spectacular view of the city. Visit the 13th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, a masterpiece of French Southern Gothic-style architecture with an ornate interior décor. Savor lunch in a local restaurant featuring regional wine, followed by a tour of the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, which exhibits the world's largest collection of works by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec. Enjoy a Welcome Reception in the hotel this evening. **(B/L/R)**

ALBI/GAILLAC/NOAILLES/ CORDES-SUR-CIEL

Tuesday, October 24

Visit the quaint old town of Gaillac in one of the oldest wine-growing regions in France and its historic, French Southern Gothic-style Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac, a Roman-Catholic church founded in A.D. 972 on the banks of the Tarn by Benedictine monks and consecrated by the Bishop of Albi.

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In nearby Noailles, enjoy a private tasting of local wines cultivated in the vineyards of a family-owned estate.

This afternoon, experience the 13th-century, fortified hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, said to be the first *ville bastide* (fortified city) ever built, and also believed to be the most picturesque village in all of France. Admire its Gothic-style architecture and the sculpted façades of merchants' houses, which still stand today as evidence of the wealth from the leather and cloth trades that flourished here in the 14th century. **(B)**

*Albi's Cathédrale
Sainte-Cécile features
ceiling frescoes
that encompass the
largest and oldest
Italian Renaissance
paintings in France.*

ALBI/CASTRES/ CASTELNAUDARY/ CANAL DU MIDI/FLOURE

Wednesday, October 25

Travel to the village of Castres, built around a Benedictine monastery founded circa A.D. 810 on the Agout River, halfway between Toulouse and Montpellier. Since the 14th century, Castres has been a great center of the wool industry, and today is France's most important producer of carded wool. Tour the fascinating Goya Museum, designed by one of the architects of Versailles.

Named after painter Francisco Goya, this museum houses the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France.

Visit the quaint market town of Castelnaudary, the main port of the Canal du Midi and the birthplace of one of France's most beloved regional specialties, *le cassoulet*. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and an exclusive *C'EST BON!* CULINARY TRADITIONS™ cooking demonstration featuring *le cassoulet*. After lunch, cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat in the shade of picturesque plane trees lining the grand, 17th-century Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site that winds past serene vineyards and tranquil villages and features unique oval locks and stone bridges.

A short drive takes you into the heart of Cathar Country to check into the charming CHÂTEAU DE FLOURE this evening. **(B/L/D)**

FLOURE/CARCASSONNE

Thursday, October 26

Carcassonne – the largest walled city in Europe – was fortified by the Romans, conquered by the Visigoths in the fifth century, captured by Persians in the seventh century, and later invaded by Franks, and overrun by Barbarians. Each of these civilizations left their indelible influence on the architectural and artistic heritage of this city. The medieval core of Carcassonne that remains today, La Cité, is an extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage site. On a walking tour through La Cité, explore its cobblestone streets and visit the



Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, featuring stained-glass windows from the 13th to 19th centuries, and the medieval Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.

This afternoon, enjoy time at leisure to explore Carcassonne at your own pace. **(B)**

FLOURE/CORBIÈRES WINE REGION/ ABBAYE DE FONTFROIDE

Friday, October 27

Travel into the Corbières Mountains for a private tour of the château and wine cellars of a family-owned estate and enjoy a tasting of four regional wines. Then, visit the incredibly well-preserved Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, founded in 1093. Walk through its Gothic arched chapter hall and cloisters, and stroll the abbey's lush gardens filled with more than 3,000 rose bushes. Enjoy lunch at the Abbaye's restaurant.

This evening, experience a special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® FORUM with local residents, who will discuss daily life in the South of France, followed by dinner in the hotel. **(B/L/D)**

FLOURE/CAUNES-MINERVOIS/ MINERVE

Saturday, October 28

The renowned Minervois wine region is comprised of incredible sweeping scenery, fortified medieval villages, and verdant rolling vineyards.

In *petite* Caunes-Minervois, see the Châteaux de Lastours, and visit the Benedictine *abbaye*, featuring a mélange of architectural periods.

Enjoy time on your own to explore Caunes-Minervois.

Continue to the medieval fortified village of Minerve. Visit the Église St-Étienne, the village's austere Romanesque church, and its museum devoted to prehistoric archaeology of the region.

Return to Floure and attend the Farewell Reception in the hotel this evening. **(B/R)**

FLOURE/TOULOUSE/U.S.

Sunday, October 29

Check out of the hotel and transfer to Alet-les-Bains to continue on the Post-Program Option, or transfer to Toulouse for your return flight home. **(B)**

Included meals noted each day as B/L/R/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.



What is Included:

- Program of lectures and discussions with Jeff Brenzel, Ph.D.
- Accommodation on twin sharing basis as per the itinerary.
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- Services of Travel Director during the tour as per the itinerary.
- Welcome & Farewell Receptions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with scheduled group transfer(s).
- Taxes.
- Complimentary bottled water on excursions.
- Medical evacuation services through UHC Global.

What is Not Included:

- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax, etc.
- Any Insurance other than specified above.
- Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the above inclusions.
- International airfares.
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.

HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES

Located on the banks of the River Tarn, the charming, historically registered HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES is housed in a former 18th-century water mill within walking distance of Albi's glorious red brick Cathedral and iconic *Pont Vieux* (Old Bridge), the perfect home base for your exploration of the surrounding medieval towns and vineyards.



Each of the 56 spacious guest rooms features a private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television, complimentary Wi-Fi, telephone, and hair dryer. Fine regional cuisine is served in the inviting hotel restaurant, La Vermicellerie, complete with a panoramic view across the old city of Albi.

CHÂTEAU DE FLOURE

Once the site of a Romanesque monastery and, during the reign of King Henry IV, the country estate of the Toulouse Parliament's president, today the CHÂTEAU DE FLOURE offers 25 charming, individually appointed guest rooms overlooking formal French gardens. This recently renovated, authentic château is ideally located near the fortified medieval city of Carcassonne. Accommodations feature a private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television, complimentary Wi-Fi, telephone, and hair dryer. Guests may also enjoy the full spa with hot tub, Turkish-style bath, sauna, heated pool, and fitness area.



Breakfast is served every morning in the Calmettes lounge, and fine local cuisine is served in the hotel restaurant, Le Poète Disparu.

Program Cost

The base cost this program is:
\$4,495 per person
(based on double occupancy)

Taxes are included.

Single Supplement:
\$900 (limited availability)

*Note: Itinerary subject to change.
Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.*

GOLDEN AGE OF TOULOUSE

Pre-Program Option

October 19–22

\$650 per person, Double occupancy
\$895 per person, Single occupancy

A medieval university town, and in the 13th century, Europe's second largest city, Toulouse lies along the sun-kissed banks of the Garonne River in the idyllic South of France. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located GRAND HOTEL DE L'OPERA in Toulouse. Inquire for details.

MEDIEVAL CATHAR MYSTIQUE

Post-Program Option

October 29–November 1

\$1,550 per person, Double occupancy
\$1,795 per person, Single occupancy

Deep in the heart of *Pays Cathare* stand awe-inspiring castles and towns—rich with mystery and religious intrigue—built on the foothills of the Pyrénées Mountains. Accommodations for three nights are in the CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE JOYEUSE in the village of Couiza. Inquire for details.

Terms and Conditions

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: Passengers are allowed two checked bags per person on international flights. Airlines have various policies concerning the number of bags and the weight allowed without excess baggage charges.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Written cancellation through 91 days prior to departure—full refund minus a \$500 per person administrative fee (covers main and post-tours). Written cancellation 90 days or less prior to departure could result in forfeiture of the full program price, contingent upon the degree of recoverable costs from independent providers of services. Program reservations are not transferable except at the sole discretion and with the explicit approval of the Association of Yale Alumni and Thomas P. Gohagan & Company. Cancellation on day of departure or after tour departs—no refund. Cancellation of tour by the Association of Yale Alumni or our tour operator—full refund.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel and Gohagan strongly recommend that participants purchase trip



Reserve Your Trip To Languedoc Today

Book online : www.yaleedtravel.org/languedoc17

Languedoc: Toulouse • Carcassonne • Albi October 21-29, 2017

www.yaledtravel.org/languedoc17

To register, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person to Yale Educational Travel. Final payment is due July 21, 2017.

1) name as on passport

date of birth yale connection

passport origin relationship to other guest

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date of birth yale connection

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preference

I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)

I will share accommodations with:

Travel Options

I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

signature(s) date

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to "Thomas P. Gohagan & Company" to Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

cancellation insurance. Yale does not recommend a particular insurance company. It is wise to cover the cost of trip investment in case one needs to cancel due to illness or emergency. The cancellation penalties listed in the program brochure will apply. Please review your medical insurance coverage to determine what is and is not covered while traveling abroad before contacting an insurance company.

Be aware that there is a very short window of time (anywhere from 7 days to perhaps 21 days from the time one pays the trip deposit) when insurance bought within that window will qualify for pre-existing condition coverage. If this is important to you, please do not wait to purchase travel insurance. Your Yale licensed tour operator may be able to send you an insurance application but you may not receive their insurance application in time to meet the pre-existing condition coverage.

ITINERARY: The itinerary is subject to change.

RESPONSIBILITY: Yale University, the Association of Yale Alumni and Gohagan employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns, do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Yale University, the Association of Yale Alumni, and Gohagan are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience,

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If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others.

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RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

Upon payment of a deposit, our participant(s) indicates acceptance of the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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Yale Educational Travel

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Experience firsthand the rhythms of daily life in Languedoc.

Languedoc: *Toulouse* ♦ *Carcassonne* ♦ *Albi*

Jeff Brenzel, Ph.D.

Lecturer in the Humanities Department at Yale

October 21-29, 2017



Enjoy a **private cruise** along one of the most scenic lengths of the historic, UNESCO World Heritage-designated Canal du Midi.

Explore the **iconic** works of art by Francisco Goya and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec in the Goya Museum in Castres and in the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec in Albi.