A Yale Week in Dordogne

Howard Bloch
Sterling Professor of French

October 18-26, 2018
Dear Yale Traveler

Join a small group of travelers for this unique opportunity to experience the authentic provincial character of Dordogne, a hidden treasure where all the delights of Southern France are distilled into one of Europe’s most beautiful and intact medieval villages, Sarlat-la-Canéda. Immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in the heart of this charming département, and learn more about the history of early humans who painted their stories on its cave walls, the largest concentration of prehistoric art in the world.

Our carefully designed itinerary and expert-guided excursions explore five impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites: the dramatic cliffside monastic village of Rocamadour; the important archaeological sites of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, Rouffignac cave, and Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil, and the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Visit the state-of-the-art, newly opened International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux to appreciate one of humankind’s earliest artistic creations. Exclusively arranged, enriching presentations and the forum with local residents provide personal perspectives on la vie in the villages of Dordogne.

Your “home,” ideally located in the quaint medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda, will be the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, a restored 19th-century townhouse. This delightful hôtel de charme features an old-world ambiance with modern accommodations and amenities and is known for the warm hospitality of its staff. In addition to the included meals in the hotel, dine on regional specialties during traditional three-course dinners in specially selected French bistros.

A Yale Week in Dordogne offers an enchanting educational travel experience at a great value—and you unpack only once! It is an exceedingly popular program, so I encourage you to book now while space is still available.

Join us for an intimate travel experience including exceptional accommodations, specially arranged meals, and all excursions—an excellent value at just the right pace. We encourage you to register at www.yaleedtravel.org/dordogne18. If you have any questions or need additional information please call 203-432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu.

Weili Cheng ’77
Executive Director, Association of Yale Alumni

www.yaleedtravel.org/dordogne18
Howard Bloch is Sterling Professor of French at Yale University. He was the founding Director of the Humanities Program and regularly teaches courses on medieval and modern literature, as well as on the Western tradition. Professor Bloch is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and an Officer in the French Order of Arts and Letters. He is also the author of numerous award-winning books on medieval and modern French literature and art, including *A Needle in the Right Hand of God: The Making and Meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest of 1066* and, most recently, *One Toss of the Dice: The Incredible Story of How a Poem Made Us Modern*.

Ellen Handler Spitz is a writer, lecturer, and scholar who currently holds the Honors College Professorship of Visual Art at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she has taught interdisciplinary seminars in aesthetics, literature, psychology, and the visual arts since 2001. She has authored or edited many works including *Art and Psyche, Inside Picture Books*, and *Magritte’s Labyrinth*, as well as published numerous articles, chapters, and reviews in a wide variety of venues ranging from scholarly peer-review journals to public newspapers, such as *The New York Times Book Review*. She has held fellowships at prominent institutions such as Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, Camargo Foundation (Cassis, France), Center for Children and Childhood Studies (Rutgers University), Erikson Institute, and Clark Art Institute.

Christine Desdemaines-Hugon has worked with the scientific community, lectured on prehistoric art, and shared her knowledge and enthusiasm for the Dordogne region of France with visitors for 25 years. Her first visits to the caves of the Dordogne sparked a passion for the subject of Paleolithic art and she went on to earn a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Anthropology. Christine also wrote a book about the five major cave sites in the Dordogne and the evolution of Paleolithic cultures. She will guide our visits to L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, Lascaux, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil, Rouffignac, and La Madeleine.

**Book Corner**

*The Cave Painters*  
*by Gregory Curtis*  
In this tale of art, paleontology and discovery, Curtis introduces the masterworks of cave art in France and Spain, visiting Altamira, Lascaux, Les Trois-Freres, Cosquer, Chauve and others of the almost 350 known caves containing prehistoric art.

*The Road from the Past, Traveling through History in France*  
*by Ina Caro*  
Time travel through France by way of its finest castles, chateaux, 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.
WELCOME CALL
Tuesday, October 9 (tentative)
Join the group at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Howard Bloch to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

U.S.
Thursday, October 18
Depart the U.S. for Bordeaux, France.

BORDEAUX, FRANCE/
SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA
Friday, October 19
Upon arrival in Bordeaux, transfer through the scenic Dordogne region to Sarlat-la-Canéda and check in at the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel. Author Henry Miller called Sarlat “the Frenchman’s paradise.” Your charming “village home” is the pre-French Revolutionary capital of Périgord Noir, a lushly forested corner of the Aquitaine region, ideally located between the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers. It is a bon vivant’s dream, renowned for truffles, wild mushrooms, strawberries, walnuts and duck, and is close enough to Bordeaux to procure the finest wines directly from vintners’ cellars. Dinner is in the hotel this evening. (D)

SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA
Saturday, October 20
Sarlat has one of the greatest concentrations of medieval, Renaissance and 17th-century façades in Europe. The artful blend of flamboyant and subdued styles is most evident in the architecture of the townhouse of writer Étienne la Boétie. The heart of Sarlat is the Place de la Liberté, where every Wednesday and Saturday one of France’s most storied markets is held, a tradition dating from Saturday one of France’s most storied market. Attend the private Welcome Reception in the hotel this evening. (B,R)

SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA/
ROCAMADOUR/SOUILLAC
Sunday, October 21
Enjoy an excursion to Rocamadour, a fortified 13th-century village and UNESCO World Heritage site with one of the most dramatic settings of any village in the world, built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims flocked here from across Europe to perform penance by ascending over 200 steps of the Grand Stairway on their knees to pay homage to the Virgin Mary and seek miracles from St. Amadour by visiting his crypt. Visit the quaint village of Souillac and its 12th-century Church of Sainte-Marie, a treasury of Romanesque statuary and carvings. (B,L)

Embedded in the cliff above the doorway to Rocamadour’s Chapelle de Notre Dame is a sword said to be that of the heroic knight Roland.

LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC-SIREUIL/
L’ABRI DU CAP BLANC
Monday, October 22
Visit the Eyrrignac Manor, designated a national monument. This 17th-century estate, located outside of Sarlat, has been the residence of the same family for over 500 years and 22 generations. Walk through what many consider the finest jardins (gardens) in all of France. Originally of 18th-century Italian design, the grounds were converted to an English-style, sculpted, coniferous garden and have been immaculately maintained and enhanced.

Dordogne has the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites anywhere in the world. After lunch in the hotel, visit UNESCO World Heritage-designated Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, France’s capital of prehistoric humanity, where unprecedented fossils of Cro-Magnon man have been discovered. Approximately 35,000 years old, these fossils are some of the earliest known evidence of modern humans in Europe. A guided tour the National Museum of Prehistory, housed in a 16th-century castle, contextualizes the area’s cave paintings, fossils and early tools. See L’Abri du Cap Blanc’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated prehistoric cave friezes.

Meet local residents in the specially arranged forum and discuss life in southwestern provincial France. (B,L)

LASCAUX/ST-AMAND-DE-COLY
Tuesday, October 23
Enjoy a private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving the medieval architecture of Sarlat. Dordogne’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated limestone caves and rocky overhangs provided Ice Age man not only with shelter but also with a vast canvas for his extraordinary rock paintings. Today, extinct aurochs, wild stallions and antelopes painted between approximately 25,000 and 17,000 years ago still prance, preen and gallop before your eyes. The original Lascaux cave has been closed to the public since 1963 for preservation purposes; however, the new Lascaux museum, an exact and stunning replica, gives a truer representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in the original.

Visit St-Amand-de-Coly, one of the most beautiful villages in France and picturesquely folded within Dordogne’s wooded countryside, is dominated by the fortified 13th-century...
Abbey Church, an unusual fusion of Romanesque and Gothic styles. Traces of the Hundred Years’ War remain in the ramparts and towers of the fortress-like church and the remnants of its abbey. (B,D)

**ROUFFIGNAC/LA MADELEINE**

*Wednesday, October 24*

The morning is at leisure to revisit Sarlat’s market. Afterwards, tour the authentic Rouffignac cave, an UNESCO World Heritage site that is known as “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths.” Marvel at the “giant kettles,” smooth, dome-like rock formations forged by swirling currents where you can view up-close the deft drawings of extinct animals covering the five-mile labyrinth of cavern walls. See the famous and impressive frieze of two bison about to engage each other in battle. Then, visit the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the serene Vézère River, UNESCO World Heritage-designated La Madeleine offers unique insight into the semi-nomadic Magdalenian culture, which prevailed in southern Europe from 15,000 to 9,000 B.C. (B,L,D)

**BEYNAC/DOMME**

*Thursday, October 25*

Perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River and commanding a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside, this masterpiece of medieval military engineering was once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart. Traverse its elaborate series of surrounding stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers and passageways to an impressive interior decorated with a magnificent 17th-century staircase and delicate 15th-century frescoes, including one of the Last Supper and a Pietà. Enjoy a private cruise on the tranquil Dordogne River aboard a traditional gabare, followed by lunch at a restaurant overlooking the river. Among the “most beautiful villages” of France, Domme is an authentic medieval bastide, or fortified village. Enter through its original military ramparts and see graffiti etched by the 14th-century Knights Templar on the inner village walls. The beauty of the 13th- and 14th-century architecture of Domme is surpassed only by its exceptional views overlooking the Dordogne River. Return to the hotel for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

(SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA/ BORDEAUX/U.S.

*Friday, October 26*

Transfer to Bordeaux for your return flight to the U.S. (B)  

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/R/D  

= Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.

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**What is Included:**

- Program of lectures and discussions with Yale Professor Howard Bloch.
- Christine Desdemaines-Hugon will guide our visits to L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, Lascaux museum, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil, Rouffignac, and La Madeleine.
- Accommodation on double occupancy basis as per the itinerary.
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Services of Travel Director during the tour as per the itinerary.
- Regional wine is served with each included dinner.
- Private Welcome Reception in hotel.
- Gratuities to hotel personnel, local guides, and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with scheduled group transfer(s).
- Taxes on included services.
- Complimentary bottled water on excursions.
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance.

**What is Not Included:**

- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, Internet, 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 air plane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.
The base cost of this program is: $4,795 per person (based on double occupancy)
*Taxes are included.*

Single Supplement: $700 (limited availability)

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

**SPLENDORS OF BORDEAUX**

**Saint-Émilion and Médoc**

**Pre-Program Option**

October 16-19

$795 per person, double occupancy

$1,095 per person, single occupancy

Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France’s verdant Bordeaux region has been producing, fermenting, and bottling bright grapes since the eighth century. The charming and legendary village of Saint-Émilion is a UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for growing the Merlot grape. Visit the impressive medieval monuments of Saint-Émilion, including the Église Monolithe, one of the largest underground churches in Europe. In the Médoc region, visit a château to enjoy a tasting of their distinguished *grand cru classé* wines. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe Hôtel Burdigala, located in the heart of Bordeaux. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
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.

**Payment Options**
- pay by check made out to “Thomas P. Gohagan & Company”
- Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to:
  - visa
  - mastercard
  - discover card

**Accommodations**
- I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
- I will share accommodations with:

**Travel Options**
- Optional Bordeaux (per person)
  - double $795
  - single $1,095
- 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.

**Contact Information**

1) name as on passport

date of birth    yale connection

passport origin    relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport

date of birth    yale connection

passport origin    relationship to other guest

**Terms and Conditions**

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”), is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip without refund. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee through 91 days prior to departure. Cancellation from 90 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to YET.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, of which $500 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs

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The fortified Château de Beynac, perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River commands a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside.

Excursions to the UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc and the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux are led by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.