



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

April 24 to May 2, 2025

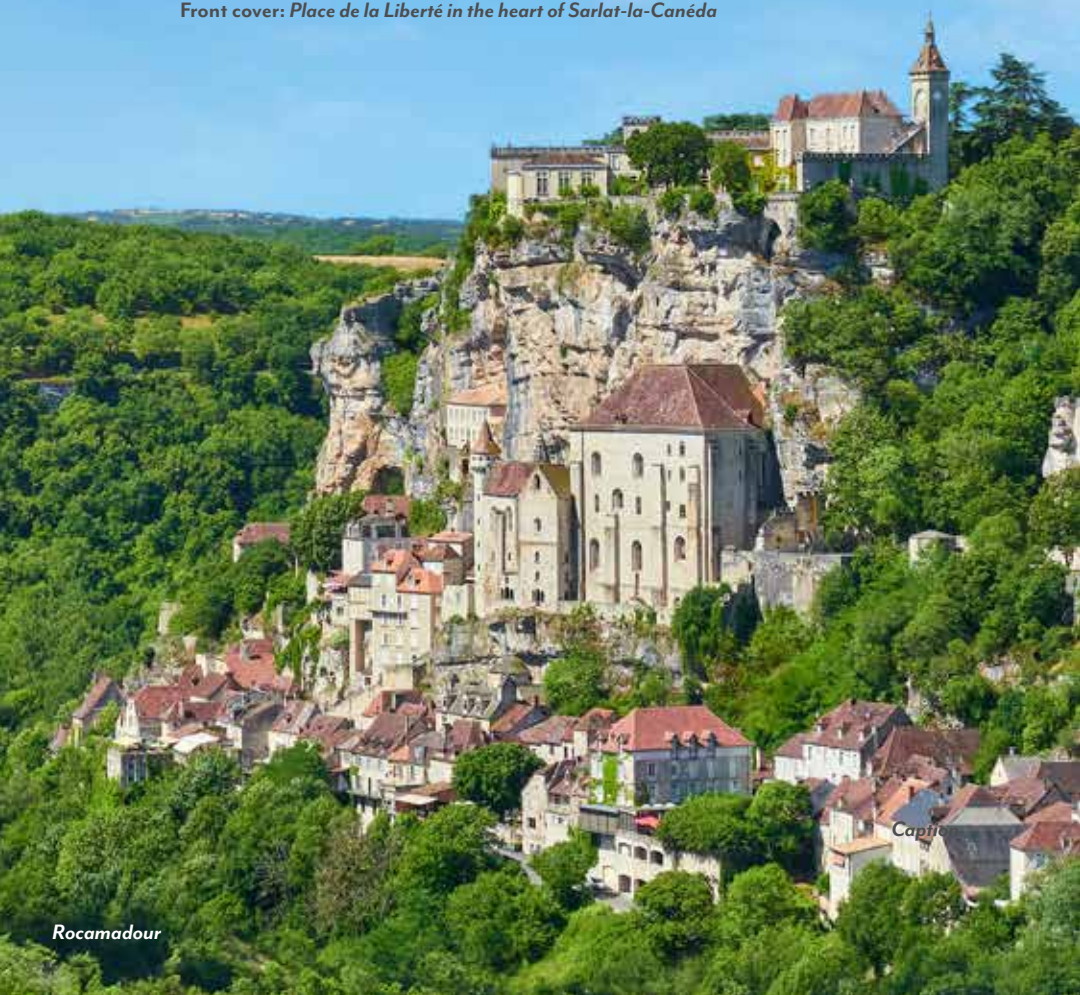
Village Life® France



French Immersion

Experience the sun-kissed essence of life in southwestern France on this spectacular seven-night sojourn in Bordeaux and Sarlat-la-Canéda. Begin with two nights in the UNESCO-designated city of Bordeaux, which was established as a center of wine trade during the ancient Roman empire. Taste world-famous Bordeaux wines and other regional delicacies on a visit to a Saint-Émilion wine château as your journey continues with five nights in the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda. Fall under the spell of its provincial charm and explore four more UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed landmarks — the prehistoric Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil; the cavernous rock shelter at L'Abri du Cap-Blanc; the pilgrimage site of Rocamadour; and the magnificent underground galleries of Rouffignac, known as “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths.” This exemplary voyage through the beginnings of human existence also includes a visit to the International Centre for Cave Art at Lascaux, where simulations replicate what is known as the “Sistine Chapel of Prehistory.”

Front cover: Place de la Liberté in the heart of Sarlat-la-Canéda





The fortified Château de Beynac


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Dear Alumni and Friends:

Join a small group of travelers to experience Bordeaux's world-famous wine country and the provincial region of Dordogne. This carefully curated itinerary includes two nights at the **Hotel Burdigala** in Bordeaux and five nights at the **Plaza Madeleine Hotel & Spa** in Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of Europe's most intact medieval villages.

Explore the stunning 18th-century architecture of Bordeaux and experience the best of Dordogne with visits to prehistoric Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil; the L'Abri du Cap-Blanc rock shelter; the ancient pilgrimage site of Rocamadour; and the magnificent underground galleries of Rouffignac. Behold dazzling simulations of one of humankind's earliest artistic creations at the International Centre for Cave Art at Lascaux and visit Château de Beynac, one of the best-preserved castles in the region.

In addition to the included meals in the hotel, dine on regional specialties during traditional dinners in authentic French bistros. This program offers a quintessential sojourn through the timeless southwest region of France at an excellent value! Reserve your spot now while space and early booking savings are still available.

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association



Leanna Smith, '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



Bordeaux Wine Country

With more than 9,000 châteaux producing a diverse range of wines in 57 appellations, Bordeaux is considered one of the wine capitals of the world. Known as Burdigala in ancient times, the old city has been at the center of the European wine trade since the Roman Empire. Today, the prestigious red and white wines that are produced here reflect the area's unique *terroir* and winemaking traditions that span more than a millennia. Bordeaux wine country is naturally divided into regions by the Gironde Estuary — some of the most well-known being Médoc and Graves on the left bank and Saint-Émilion and Fronsac on the right. Savor the fruity richness and sweet nuances of Saint-Émilion wines produced at the château you will visit on your journey from Bordeaux to Dordogne. This culinary excursion includes lunch at the wine estate and the opportunity to learn more about the centuries-old process that makes Bordeaux wines so famous.



Step Into Prehistoric Times

Prehistoric art replicated from the cave at Lascaux

You will find the greatest concentration of prehistoric art sites anywhere in the world in the enchanting region of Dordogne. Limestone caves and rocky overhangs provided Ice Age humans with not only shelter, but also a vast canvas for extraordinary paintings. In Lascaux and Rouffignac — the two most well-known caves and both UNESCO World Heritage sites — extinct aurochs, wild stallions and antelopes that were painted over 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 incredible replica in the International Centre for Cave Art at Lascaux allows you to experience these iconic cave paintings interactively, providing a realistic, stimulating representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in the original cave.

Rouffignac offers up-close views of over 250 deft prehistoric drawings and paintings that cover a gallery of cavernous walls and ceilings, including the famous friezes of two bison ready to engage each other in battle and 10 mammoths in procession — one of the largest cave paintings ever discovered. Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L'Abri de Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. An expert-guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies helps put this vast network of prehistoric art into context as we contemplate life at the dawn of humankind.



Rouffignac cave art

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your hotel and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk at the hotels.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



2025 | 9-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1 | April 24

Depart your home city on an overnight flight.

Bordeaux

Day 2 | April 25

Arrive in Bordeaux and check in to the **Hotel Burdigala**, located in the heart of the city. Join the group for a Welcome Reception and Dinner this evening. (R,D)

Bordeaux

Day 3 | April 26

After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a walking tour of Bordeaux. Discover the city's neoclassical Golden Triangle district and see such historical landmarks as the Palais Rohan, Bordeaux Cathedral and the Grand Théâtre opera house — each contributing to Bordeaux's UNESCO designation. (B)

Bordeaux for Saint-Émilion/ Sarlat-la-Canéda

Day 4 | April 27

Enjoy a scenic drive to Sarlat-la-Canéda, stopping

along the way for an excursion to the Saint-Émilion wine region. The UNESCO World Heritage-designated jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion is comprised of eight medieval villages, each filled with chateaux and vineyards where grapes have been harvested for centuries. Explore the region's iconic underground monuments and visit a local wine estate for lunch and a tasting.

Continue to the charming medieval Dordogne village of Sarlat-la-Canéda, where you will check in to the family-owned **Plaza Madeleine Hôtel & Spa**. (B,L)

Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil/ L'Abri du Cap-Blanc

Day 5 | April 28

Travel to Les Eyzes-de-Tayac-Sireuil, where the first known bones of Homo sapiens were discovered. Visit the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies on a guided tour

and see L'Abri du Cap-Blanc's UNESCO-designated prehistoric cave friezes. Marvel at some of the earliest artifacts and remains of human civilization, along with one-of-a-kind life-size cave paintings.

Later this evening, learn more about village life and culture in an interactive forum with a local resident. (B,L)

Sarlat-la-Canéda/ Rocamadour

Day 6 | April 29

Stroll through the streets of Sarlat-la-Canéda and see the 16th-century cathedral of Saint Sacerdos and the sublime Romanesque design of the Chapel of the White Penitents. Note the nearby Lanterne des Morts, a bullet-shaped tower said to have been built in 1147, possibly by the Knights Templar. Enjoy a sampling of wine, cheese and other delectable local food before continuing

Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux



Bronze geese statue, Place du Marché aux Oies, Sarlat-la-Canéda





Gabare boat along Dordogne River

to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Rocamadour.

Carved into a grand sheer limestone cliff, this village has one of the most dramatic settings in the world. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims flocked here from across Europe to perform penance by ascending the 216 steps of Le Grand Escalier on their knees — seeking miracles from a sacred 12th-century statue of the Black Virgin and Child, a walnut carving that is more than 1,000 years old. (B,L)

Sarlat-la-Canéda/ Lascaux/Rouffignac Cave **Day 7 | April 30**

In 1940, a quartet of schoolboys stumbled onto the Lascaux cave, a repository of the most stunning works of prehistoric art and today a UNESCO World Heritage site. Although the original cave is no longer accessible

to visitors for the sake of preservation, you will see a perfect reproduction in the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux.

After lunch at a local restaurant you will visit Rouffignac, “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths,” known for its extraordinary Great Ceiling decorated with beautifully rendered friezes of woolly rhinoceros and mammoth engravings at an enormous scale. Enjoy a French folk music and dance performance after dinner at a local bistro. (B,L,D)

Beynac-et-Cazenac/ Domme **Day 8 | May 1**

Traverse an elaborate series of stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers and passageways at the fortified Château de Beynac. Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a 19th-century *gabare*, followed by lunch in

a local restaurant.

Travel along the meandering road from Dordogne to Domme, an authentic medieval fortified village. Enter through its original ramparts and see graffiti etched by the Knights Templar on the inner village walls. See an unforgettable panoramic view of old pale stone houses topped with bright orange roofs yielding to the cliff’s edge — and a lush, green horizon that stretches on for miles.

Enjoy free time in Domme before heading back to the hotel for a Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Bordeaux/ Return to Home City **Day 9 | May 2**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast for your return flight back to your home city. (B)



Vendor of cured meats at a local market market



Hotel Burdigala

Located near the heart of Bordeaux's historical city center, the deluxe **Hotel Burdigala** is a modern oasis. Each of its 83 rooms are tastefully appointed with luxurious finishes, creating a sophisticated yet intimate environment. The hotel's Madame B restaurant and bar offers the quintessential French venue for an evening nightcap.



Plaza Madeleine Hôtel & Spa

The **Plaza Madeleine Hôtel & Spa** is located just beyond the ancient walls of Sarlat-la-Canéda's medieval quarter, a short walk from the village center. A grand 19th-century townhouse, this historical *hôtel de charme* marries traditional features with French *esprit contemporain*. Each of the 39 stylish, air-conditioned guest rooms has been renovated or upgraded.





2025 DEPARTURE DATE

April 24 to May 2

(Program Begins: April 25)

Standard Rate

Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*

\$4,995

\$3,995

***Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 09/16/24 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes. Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1,500.

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Early Booking Savings* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!



Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux

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