The Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

VILLAGE LIFE®

IN

DORDOGNE

September 20 to 28, 2018

RESERVE BY APRIL 11, 2018
EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS
SAVE $600 PER COUPLE
Dear Alumnae and Friends:

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, Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil; and the prehistoric trogloodyte 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 Village Life® Forum 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.

Village Life® 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 and Early Booking Savings are still available.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Perez
Interim Executive Director

Prehistory Expert

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.
Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of Dordogne during this comprehensive, small group travel program. Explore the beautiful départements and countryside of southwestern France, the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda within the oak-forested Périgord Noir and the world's largest collection of magnificent prehistoric art. This carefully planned itinerary offers an unparalleled immersion in the cultural rhythm and historical heritage of Dordogne—sample Aquitaine regional wine and cheese in an épicerie gourmet, engage with dordognais expert guides and insightful locals, visit medieval monuments and Paleolithic caves that are premier artistic masterpieces of their era and wander fairy-tale, cobblestone villages at leisure. This intimate travel experience is one of the popular Village Life® series and includes exceptional accommodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—an excellent value at just the right pace.
Sarlat-la-Canéda
Author Henry Miller called Sarlat “the Frenchman’s paradise.” Your charming “village home” is in 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 close enough to Bordeaux to procure the finest wines directly from vintners’ cellars.

Sarlat has one of the greatest concentrations of medieval, Renaissance and 17th-century façades in Europe. Step back in time as you meander through narrow cobblestone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with traditional Renaissance-style stone houses crowned with pepperpot chimneys. 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 the Middle Ages.

Cultural Enrichments: During the course of the program, immerse yourself in the joie de vivre of Sarlat. Experience the market at leisure among the backdrop of corbelled towers and rich ochre walls.

Meet dordognais (local residents) in the Village Life® Forum, who will share candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village. Attend the private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving the medieval architecture of Sarlat.

Enjoy a private, traditional, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance. Sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty épicerie. Savor two specially arranged dinners, each in an authentic French bistro in Sarlat.

Rocamadour/Souillac
Built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated village of Rocamadour has one of the most dramatic settings of any village 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 (the Grand Stairway) on their knees to pay homage to the Virgin Mary and to seek miracles from St. Amadour by visiting his crypt. Embedded in the cliff above the doorway to the Chapelle de Notre Dame is a sword said to be that of the heroic knight Roland.

Nearby, visit the quaint town of Souillac and its 12th-century Abbaye Sainte-Marie, a treasury of Romanesque statuary and Biblical carvings.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Savor a lunch of regional specialties in a village restaurant.

**Jardins d’Eyrignac**

Designated a national monument, the Eyrignac Manor has been the continuous family residence of 22 generations over a span of more than 500 years. On this 17th-century estate located just outside of Sarlat, view what many consider the finest jardins (gardens) in all of France. Originally of an 18th-century Italian design, the landscape was converted a century later to an English-style, sculpted, coniferous garden and has been immaculately maintained and enhanced.

**Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil**

Les Eyzies is France’s capital of prehistoric humanity, where unprecedented fossils of early modern man have been discovered. Approximately 35,000 years old, these fossils are some of the earliest known evidence of human life in Europe.

**Cultural Enrichments:** The guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory, housed in a 13th-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.

**Lascaux**

In 1920, a quartet of schoolboys stumbled onto the Lascaux cave, repository of the most stunning works of prehistoric art and today a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Explore the perfect reproduction in the new International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux, where the Paleolithic age is reanimated through interactive, state-of-the-art exhibits.

**Villages of the Périgord Noir**

Petit Saint-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.

Visit Rouffignac, “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths,” and marvel at the giant kettles, smooth, dome-like rock formations forged by swirling currents.

Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the serene Vézère River, the prehistoric troglodyte village and UNESCO World Heritage site of La Madeleine offers unique insight into the semi-nomadic Magdalenian culture, which prevailed in southern Europe from 15,000 to 9000 B.C.
Château de Beynac
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. 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, eclectic interior decorated with a magnificent 17th‑century staircase and delicate 15th‑century frescoes.

Cultural Enrichment: Cruise the tranquil Dordogne River aboard a private, traditional 19th‑century gabare, followed by a lunch of Périgord specialties in a local restaurant overlooking the river.

Domme
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.

Splendors of Bordeaux
Saint-Émilion and Médoc
Pre-Program Option
Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France’s verdant Bordeaux region has been producing, fermenting and bottling bright, light-bodied and acidic grapes since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of rolling countryside and endless vineyards, 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. Just north of Bordeaux 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.

In the fertile département of Aquitaine, Saint-Émilion’s verdant landscape is devoted entirely to viticulture.
The Pre-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features

In Sarlat-la-Canéda
◆ ◆ Seven nights in the elegant family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
◆ ◆ Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
◆ ◆ Breakfast each morning, one lunch and two dinners in the hotel.
◆ ◆ Two dinners, each in a specially selected traditional French bistro featuring French country table d’hôte menus and regional specialties.
◆ ◆ Regional wine is served with each included dinner.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ ◆ Architectural walking tour of Sarlat-la-Canéda.
◆ ◆ Admire the magnificent Romanesque sculptures in Souillac’s Abbaye Marie.
◆ ◆ Visit to the lush, impeccably maintained 19th-century Jardins d’Eyrignac.
◆ ◆ Visit to the medieval village and fortified church of Saint-Amand-de-Coly.
◆ ◆ Tour of the medieval Château de Beynac.
◆ ◆ Walking tour of Domme, with spectacular views of the Dordogne River Valley.
◆ ◆ Tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.
◆ ◆ A lecture on architectural preservation in Sarlat-la-Canéda by a local historian.
◆ ◆ Private, specially arranged gabare cruise along the Dordogne River, with lunch in the village of Beynac-et-Cazenac.
◆ ◆ Local wine and cheese tasting at a Sarlat épicerie gourmet.
◆ ◆ Specially arranged meals highlighting the distinctive flavors of the Dordogne region.
◆ ◆ Private 19th-century Périgord cultural folk performance.
◆ ◆ French language introduction.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
◆ ◆ Full-day excursion to 13th-century Rocamadour.
◆ ◆ Excursions to see the impressive Rouffignac cave, the cave friezes of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc and the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux led by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.
◆ ◆ Visit to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine.

Always Included
◆ ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ ◆ Experienced local guides for all included excursions.
◆ ◆ Gratuities to hotel personnel and local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ ◆ Complimentary bottled water while on excursions.
◆ ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
◆ ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director 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.
See well-preserved cliff dwellings along the Dordogne River, where prehistoric troglodyte villages once flourished.

Prehistoric Art

Dordogne has the greatest concentration of prehistoric art sites anywhere in the world. The region’s limestone caves and rocky overhangs provided Ice Age man with not only shelter, but also a vast canvas for extraordinary cave paintings. In the two most well-known caves, Lascaux and Rouffignac, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, 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 recently opened International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux, an incredible replica, allows the public to experience these thought-provoking cave paintings interactively, providing a truer, more stimulating representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in the original Lascaux itself.

The Rouffignac cave offers up-close views of the deft drawings of extinct, prehistoric animals that cover the six-mile gallery of cavernous walls and ceilings, including the famous frieze of two bison about to engage each other in battle. Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. A guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies helps put this vast network of prehistoric art into context.

Marvel at the exquisite artistry and ingenuity of the prehistoric paintings in Lascaux.

See well-preserved cliff dwellings along the Dordogne River, where prehistoric troglodyte villages once flourished.
Visit the Château de Beynac, which soars dramatically above the Dordogne River Valley. Once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, it remained a highly prized strategic outpost for centuries.

**LAND TARIFF** excluding taxes*

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Singles are available upon request for an additional $700.*

*Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

Send to: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446

For further information, please call the offices of Thomas P. Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088 or (312) 609-1140.

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- [ ] Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- [ ] Double occupancy (one queen bed).
- [ ] Single accommodations.
- [ ] I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

**Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option**

- [ ] Double at $795 per person.
- [ ] Single at $1095 per person.
- [ ] I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
- [ ] I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

  (fill in departure city)

- [ ] Economy Class
- [ ] Upgraded Economy
- [ ] Business Class
- [ ] First Class

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- [ ] I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Land Tariff

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Singles are available upon request for an additional $700.*

*Fees are in addition to the ordinary price of travel.**

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - [ ] Visa
  - [ ] MasterCard

Card Number ___________________________ Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by June 15, 2018.
Admire the finest "English" gardens in France as you stroll through the enchanting grounds of Eyrignac Manor.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT RESPONSIBILITY Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliated companies, agents, contractors, vendors, suppliers, agents, independent contractors, and all those acting in a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

Gohagan, however, is not required under these circumstances to refund the cost of any purchased cancellation fees, optional cancellation fee and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you cannot cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after final payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

Gohagan reserves the right to substitute hotels, boats or other accommodations, or other transportation mechanisms to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Airfare: Airfare is subject to change and availability, and depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowances vary by the airline and may change without notice.

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 to Gohagan in advance. A traveler with such a condition must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Transfers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, but April 13, 2018. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full discounted rate.