

DORDOGNE *Valley*

PRESS KIT



KEY FACTS & FIGURES

2

REGIONS
Occitanie and
Nouvelle-Aquitaine



19

**OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
VILLAGES IN FRANCE**



3

DEPARTMENTS
Dordogne, Lot and Corrèze



1001+
castles to visit

**2 INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORTS**



BRIVE-LA-GAILLARDE
*aeroport-brive-vallee-
dordogne.fr*

BERGERAC
Several flights a week to
the UK:
East Midlands, Bournemouth,
Liverpool, London Stansted,
London City, Edinburgh
bergerac.aeroport.fr

BY TRAIN
From: London, Amsterdam,
Brussels > Paris to Brive or
Bordeaux
Connection from Bordeaux:
Périgueux, Bergerac, Sarlat
Connection from Brive:
Souillac, Rocamadour

The River Dordogne
has been listed on the
**UNESCO World Network
of Biosphere Reserves**
since 2012



**3 Regional
Nature
Parks**

**For an experience at
the heart of protected
nature**



NEW IN 2025

Places to visit

Bergerac: The Cyrano Experience at the Quai Cyrano

This new centre will immerse visitors in the world of theatre, with a nod to the playwright Edmond Rostand and his iconic character. The play 'Cyrano de Bergerac' will be the main attraction of the visit. Accompanied by the actor portraying Cyrano, the public will be able to go backstage and explore the sets. Visitors will be able to witness key moments in the play, as well as exploring other themes such as the varied skills involved in the creation and staging of a play.

<https://www.quai-cyrano.com>

La Chapelle-aux-Saints: A Brand New Neanderthal Centre

This quaint little village in the south of the Corrèze is actually world famous. It was here, in 1908, that the three Bouyssonie brothers unearthed the burial site of the 'Chapelle-aux-Saints Man', a 45,000 year old Neanderthal.

This exceptional discovery remains an essential benchmark for understanding the prehistoric period. A brand new museum, combining both history and science, has just opened at the site. Through immersive encounters that bring to life archaeological investigation, every experience brings you a little closer to understanding the origins of mankind. Revisit history through fascinating reconstructions and discover cutting-edge technologies in an ultra-modern DNA analysis laboratory. A unique visit that transports you back in time to unravel the mysteries of human evolution.

www.neandertal-decouverte.com

Thégra: A retro cool road trip

Drive through the Dordogne Valley in Célestine, a 1954 Peugeot 203. Enjoy a private guided tour with commentary through authentic villages and sumptuous châteaux - a unique road trip that explores the countryside and region's history. With 'Mémé en vadrouille', you travel back in time and add a touch of vintage elegance to your holiday!

<https://www.memeenvadrouille.com/>

Overnight stays

Ussel: Hôtel-Restaurant Le Château du Theil

The restoration of Château du Theil has been a real adventure. Bought in 2019 by three visionary partners, this 12th century château, once in ruins, has been transformed in just five years into a sumptuous luxury hotel-restaurant. Standing tall above Ussel, this historic site now elegantly blends old-world charm with modernity and a resolutely sustainable approach. The 6 hectare park, currently being developed, will soon be home to vegetable gardens, whose produce will delight guests at chef Esteban Salazar's gourmet table. Rooms from €120 per night.

www.chateaudutheil.com

Lacave: Château de la Treyne (5 stars since July 2024)

Discover excellence at Château de la Treyne, the only 5-star hotel in the Lot department. Perched on a cliff overlooking the Dordogne, this Relais & Châteaux gem combines the charm of a historic building with exceptional service. Its Michelin-starred gourmet cuisine, sublimated by chef Stéphane Andrieux, promises an exceptional culinary experience. With its 18 sumptuous rooms, formal gardens and breathtaking views, Château de la Treyne embodies pure luxury and magic.

<https://www.chateaudelatreyne.com/fr/hotel-dordogne-luxe>

Collonges-la-Rouge: Château de Vassinhac - Bed and Breakfast

Experience the very best at Château de Vassinhac, a 15th century historic listed building in the heart of Collonges-la-Rouge, which was voted France's first Most Beautiful Village. Tucked away under mansard-roofed ceilings, the three luxury suites combine authenticity and modernity, offering breathtaking views over the countryside and the village church. Enjoy a private swimming pool, secure parking, air conditioning and a guided tour of the château. Combine the charm of yesteryear with today's modern comforts for a unique experience in the heart of history.

<https://www.chateaudevassinhac.com/>

Overnight stays

Souillac: Maison Borrèze (opening Spring 2025)

This exceptional 4-star hotel located between Sarlat and Rocamadour is designed to provide luxury, well-being and serenity. Its 15 elegant rooms, furnished with the finest materials and top-of-the-range amenities, guarantee maximum comfort and refinement. Enjoy a relaxing swimming pool, a peaceful setting surrounded by nature and an ideal location for exploring the treasures of the Dordogne Valley. Maison Borrèze embodies the perfect blend of authentic charm, modern facilities and absolute relaxation.

<https://maisonborreze.com/fr/>

Martel: Maison Turenne (opening July 2025)

Discover the Hôtel Maison Turenne, a charming 3-star hotel in the heart of Martel. With its nine elegant rooms, this establishment harmoniously combines history, refinement and conviviality. Each room, designed with the finest materials and modern flair, reflects the authenticity and soul of the region, creating a warm and sophisticated atmosphere. Whether you're looking for a romantic getaway or a family break, Maison Turenne guarantees a unique experience that will make you feel at home, in a setting imbued with elegance and serenity.

<https://www.maison-turenne.com/>

To savour

Altilac: Restaurant Cueillette (a 4-star rated hotel)

The name Cueillette (meaning fruit or vegetable picking) seems particularly appropriate for a gastronomy and wine-focused hotel in the Dordogne Valley! Its five rooms are all unique, each named after a different flower. While the original building has been preserved, the interior has been refurbished in a modern, colourful style, with all the facilities of a luxury hotel. Owner Oscar Garcia is an award-winning chef, and his cuisine is the raison d'être of the establishment. Most of the ingredients are grown (and picked!) in the hotel's own gardens and orchards.

<https://restaurant-cueillette.fr/>

Saint-Céré: Restaurant Philia

Philia is an excellent bistronomy restaurant in Saint-Céré, where conviviality, creativity and quality come together. Every dish here celebrates local flavours, enhanced by fresh seasonal produce carefully selected from dedicated producers. In warm, modern surroundings, Philia invites you to experience a unique culinary blend of refinement and authenticity. Perfectly located in the heart of the Dordogne Valley, the restaurant promises a memorable gourmet interlude, ideal for lovers of good food and great atmosphere.

<https://www.restaurant-philia.com/>

Montignac-Lascaux: ro·bo

The restaurant ro·bo is led by Chef Nick Honeyman, who also owns a distinguished establishment in Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère, recently awarded its first Michelin star. Just a short walk from Lascaux 4, Chef Honeyman presents modern cuisine that blends local ingredients with a touch of innovation. The menus are regularly updated to showcase the freshest seasonal produce.

<https://www.restaurantrobo.fr/>

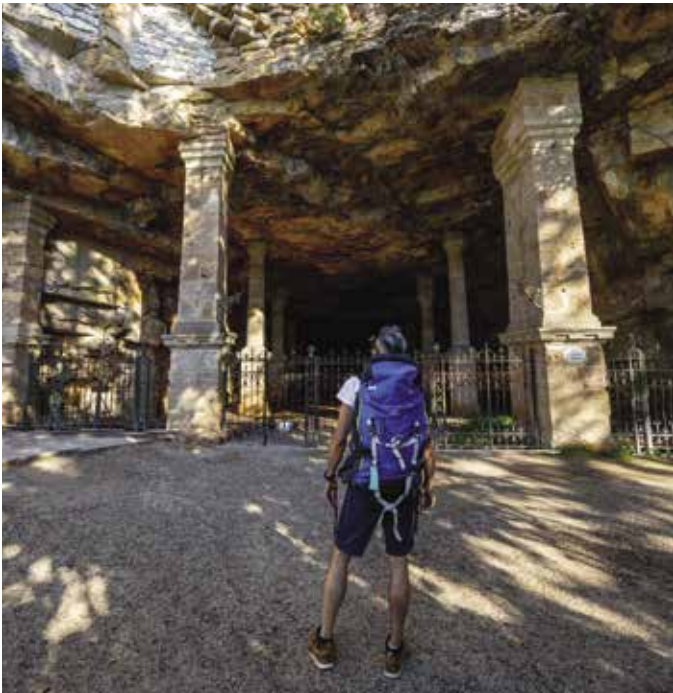


BREATHE IN, FEEL ALIVE... AND SWITCH OFF!

Enjoy walks in the heart of nature, refreshing waterfalls, nights camping under the stars, cycling tours and breathtaking panoramas... and get back in touch with what's essential.

ECO-ESCAPE BREAKS

Treat yourself to a holiday in the Corrèze that combines leisure, adventure and respect for the environment. Our low-carbon holidays are designed to minimise ecological impact while promoting the local economy. Explore the Dordogne Valley by bike, discover the villages around Brive on foot, take a carbon-free journey through the Dordogne gorges or explore the Monédières mountain in a Renault Twizy. Arrive at Brive or Ussel station and take advantage of our packaged itineraries for an unforgettable stay.



ON FOOT

The major routes that make up the Camino de Santiago de Compostela trail pass through the spectacular Dordogne Valley. All offer multi-day hikes that are ideal for pausing and reflecting. Among them, the Vézelay Way, one of the great routes of this legendary pilgrimage walk, that features a variant via Bergerac from Périgueux.

These remarkable routes then converge on Rocamadour, a UNESCO World Heritage site: the Via Arverna, the Voie de Rocamadour and the Voie du Puy-en-Velay. All of these historic trails provide an immersive experience in the heart of exceptional landscapes, while allowing you to follow in the footsteps of past pilgrims.

The 'Chemin d'Amadour' from the Atlantic Ocean to the Causses of Quercy

This ancient 500km pilgrimage route, steeped in the tale of the hermit Saint Amadour, takes you to the heart of the legend, linking Soulac-sur-Mer to Rocamadour, across four départements (Gironde, Lot-et-Garonne, Dordogne and Lot). According to the legend, Saint Amadour followed this path before settling in Rocamadour, a sacred site that has since become a main pilgrimage destination.

CYCLING BREAKS

The Dordogne Valley is bike heaven, with a variety of terrain ideal for cycling and mountain biking. You won't find any mountain passes here, but there are routes catering to all levels of difficulty, with paths, tracks and quiet roads to suit everyone.

Follow the V91 greenway from Pringonrieux to Mauzac, in complete safety, through villages and shady countryside. This 40km family-friendly route follows the Dordogne river from the Tuilières dam to Bergerac. Another section of the V91, between Cazoulès and Sarlat, runs on an old railway line through fields and picturesque villages before reaching the famous medieval town. On the way, take a break at Carlux's old train station, now a gallery dedicated to the world renowned photographer Robert Doisneau, who immortalised the Valley through his lens.

The Flow Vélo®

A bucolic and rejuvenating itinerary

Sarlat is the starting point for this 400km route, made up of over 80% dedicated cycle paths. Ideal for a cycling holiday, the Flow Vélo® combines nature, history and gastronomy.

La Vagabonde®

La Vagabonde® is a 500km cycling adventure from Montluçon (Allier) to Montech (Tarn-et-Garonne). You'll explore a variety of landscapes, from the Lac de Vassivière to the plains of the Tarn, via the départements of the Creuse, Corrèze, Lot, the Plateau des Millevaches, the Dordogne Valley and the Parc des Causses du Quercy.

La Vézère à Vélo: a greenway bike route to explore the Vallée de l'Homme.

A 23 km greenway from Les Eyzies to Saint-Chamassy:

accessible from June 2024, thanks to the installation of a footbridge, this safe and flat route follows the Vézère River, passing through the villages of Le Bugue and Limeuil.

A 37 km bike route from Les Eyzies to Coly: more hilly and using secondary roads, this route is designed for more experienced cyclists.



GOOD TO KNOW

La Bicicleta Ravito in Souillac

Céline and Romuald have created a unique cycling experience in Souillac, combining bike hire, guest house, camping and weekly outings for beginners and experienced cyclists to discover the most beautiful paths in the Dordogne Valley.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/activities/hiking-and-cycling>



SPLASH AROUND

With summer temperatures reaching 30°C, the Dordogne Valley boasts many refreshing ways to beat the heat.

Head to a river beach: supervised natural beaches such as Gluges, or wild pebble beaches along the Dordogne river.

Lakes with facilities: perfect for families, with play areas, picnic areas, snack bars, restaurants and water activities.

Water parks: thrilling waterslides and outdoor pools, ideal for cooling off and having fun!

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/fun-in-the-sun/swimming-and-beaches/leisure-lakes>

BY CANOE

Explore the majestic Dordogne, the only river in France to be classified as a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Let yourself be carried away by its peaceful waters and unspoilt landscapes, and discover a unique experience in the heart of the 'Black Triangle of Quercy' or in the vast expanses of the 'Millevaches Regional Nature Park'.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/activities/sports/canoeing-kayaking>

A GABARRE BOAT TRIP ON THE DORDOGNE...

Once, the Dordogne was a major trade route, with up to 300 gabares boats sailing up and down it. These boats carried goods on the river right up until the 19th century before the railways superseded them. Remnants of this past, such as the cobbled quayside at Argentat-sur-Dordogne, are still visible today. Nowadays, guided gabarre trips bring to life the epic story of the river's gabarriers. Come aboard at Argentat-sur-Dordogne or Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne for a 45 minute trip, from spring to autumn.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/activities/sports/canoeing-kayaking>

...AND ON THE VÉZÈRE RIVER

Discover the history of the 'gabarriers' and the town of Terrasson on a 40 minute river boat journey.



EXOTIC ESCAPES TO THE WATERFALLS

The powerful and dramatic waterfalls of the Dordogne Valley are a stunning natural spectacle, topping off magnificent walks through the woods.

The village of Gimel, near Tulle, is the ideal starting point for exploring three successive waterfalls, with a combined height of 143 metres. A panoramic path leads visitors through lush green vegetation up toward these spectacular falls.

The 30 metre high Autoire waterfall plunges majestically before turning into a stream that winds through the village below, listed as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages in France'.

The Murel waterfalls, nestled in deep, wooded gorges, are situated in a pristine and beautifully preserved environment classified as an "area of ecological interest".

The Vieyres waterfalls, nicknamed 'Tahiti', emerge at the end of a forest hike in an almost tropical setting, offering a real change of scenery in the heart of nature.

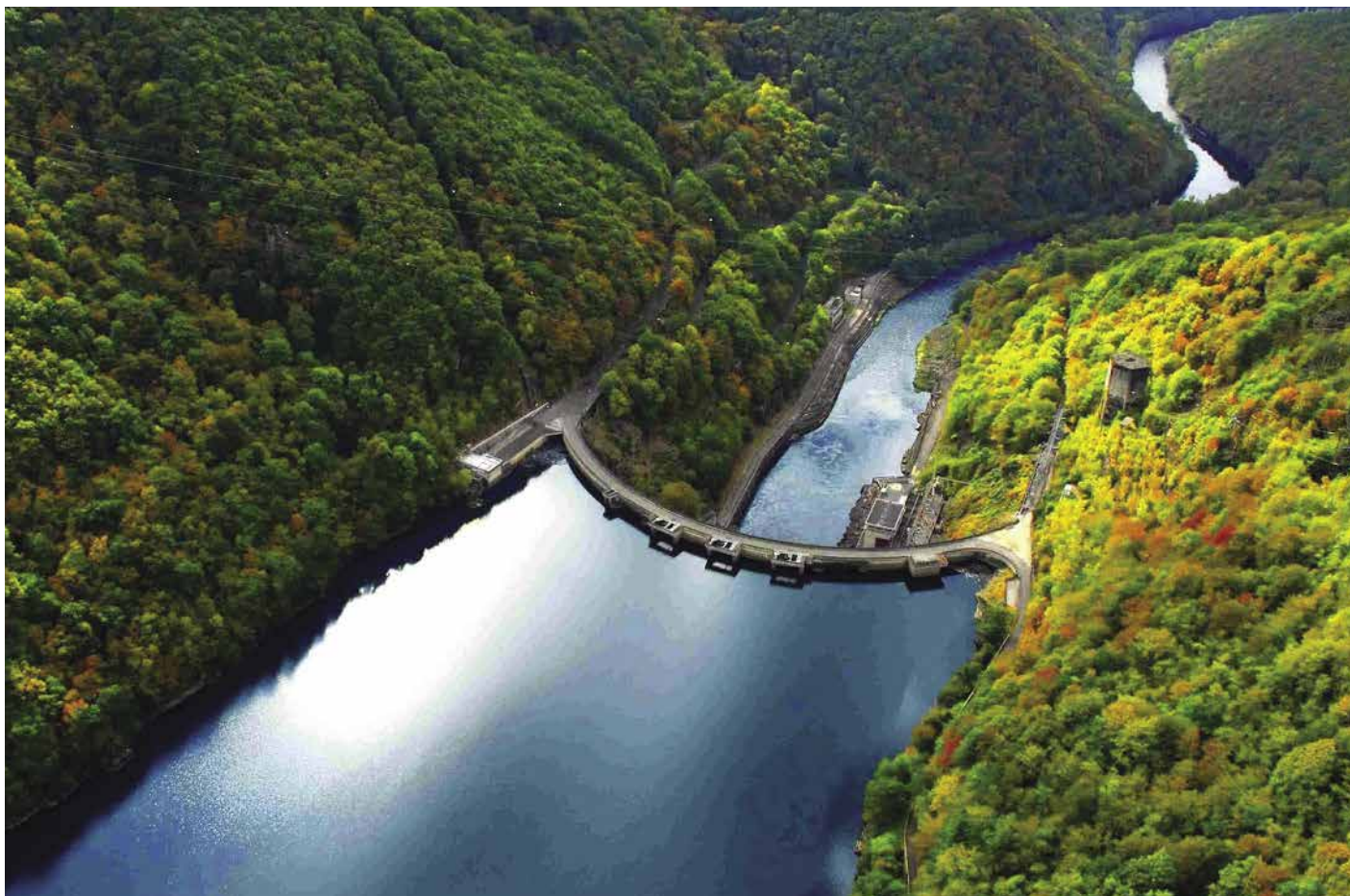
<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/fun-in-the-sun/swimming-and-beaches/waterfalls>



EXCURSIONS TO THE DAMS OF THE DORDOGNE

The Tuilières dam at Saint-Capraise-de-Lalinde

Built in 1909, the Tuilières dam is one of the oldest hydroelectric sites on the Dordogne. It is equipped with unique facilities that allow for fish migration. The EDF centre, next to the dam, houses exhibits on the energy challenges of tomorrow, the history of electricity and how electricity is produced. A visit to the fish lift allows visitors to observe migratory fish and learn about their extraordinary migratory journeys.



De Villages en Barrages

This spectacular walk follows the five hydroelectric dams on the Dordogne river, with an ascent of 8,000 metres. From Confolent Port-Dieu to Argentat-sur-Dordogne, it is suitable for experienced hikers and mountain bikers. The route crosses breathtaking landscapes and beautiful villages with a range of accommodation options for hikers along the way.

The Bort-les-Orgues dam

Discover one of France's largest dams, located in the Upper Dordogne Valley. The Bort-les-Orgues dam, the 4th largest reservoir in the country, welcomes visitors on an exclusive tour: from the factory to the engine room, via the control room and the tunnel, explore the heart of this impressive structure.

THRILLS & SPILLS

VIA FERRATA

A combination of climbing and hiking in complete safety

The Via Ferrata allows you to climb in complete safety using a metal cable attached to the cliff face in combination with a harness. Accessible to all, it provides a unique climbing experience.

There are three leading sites for discovering this thrilling activity in the Dordogne Valley:

- *Argentat, with a breathtaking view over the Dordogne*
- *Marqueyssac, where climbers face 200 metres of vertiginous cliffs*
- *La Roche in Allasac, just out of the Gorges de la Vézère, welcomes adults and children aged 11 and over*

Professional guides are available to accompany participants.

CANYONING IN THE GORGES

For the uninitiated, **canyoning** is all about throwing yourself into, abseiling and swimming down a **fast moving stream**. Preferably the most vertical one possible. Here, the outstanding canyoning in the Chal Gorges will create lasting memories long after the adrenalin rush fades. Enjoying amazing scenery otherwise inaccessible, participants will experience the **raw power of nature** as they slide down **natural waterslides**, jump into rock pools and abseil through waterfalls down the fast moving rivers. **Trained professionals** will guide and instruct debutants with all **canyoning gear**.





GARDENER'S WORLD

THE GARDENS OF MARQUEYSSAC

The gardens of Marqueyssac, perched high above the Dordogne Valley, boast an exceptional panorama. They are the most visited gardens in the Périgord, featuring 150,000 hand-trimmed box trees, stretching for 6km around a 17th century château. Listed as a Historic Monument, they offer views of the castles of Castelnaud and Beynac as well as the village of La Roque-Gageac. The belvedere, rated 3*** in the Michelin Green Guide, is an absolute must-see. On Thursday evenings throughout summer, 2,000 candles light up the pathways to create the most romantic night atmosphere.



THE GARDENS OF EYRIGNAC

Near Sarlat, the formal gardens of the Manoir d'Eyrignac are a masterpiece of topiary art, with 300 sculpted box trees that have been preserved for 22 generations. Elegantly adorned with fountains, ponds and a rose garden, the site also offers pruning courses for amateur gardeners. In July and August, the famous 'Picnics in White' are held on Monday evenings, with live music, cocktails and fireworks at sunset.



SOTHYS GARDENS

The Sothys gardens are part of the sophisticated high-end range of beauty products which share the same name. The plants for the organic cosmetic line of Sothys, the Beauty Garden range, are grown here exclusively, alongside the plants for their organic herbal teas. Recognised by the 'Jardin Remarquable' label for its botanical importance, the Jardins Sothys are also exquisite gardens to venture in and a wonderful spot for lunch with an excellent on-site restaurant.



THE CARSAC-AILLAC WATER GARDENS

The gardens with the 'Remarkable Garden' label are dedicated to water plants, lotuses, exotic and tropical water lilies, and papyrus. This is a real 'aquatic arboretum', where you can see a collection from all over the world, with ponds, streams and waterfalls, a water maze covering over 300 square metres that is unique in Europe and a touch tank aquarium for children.



THE PANORAMIC LIMEUIL GARDENS

The gardens are located on the site of a castle above the village of Limeuil. They overlook the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère rivers, and the rooftops of the medieval village. All along the way, you can enjoy the educational, fun and interactive gardens, the themed educational trails, the observation hives and a 360° view over the surrounding landscapes.



LES JARDINS DE SARDY: NEW!

The Jardins de Sardy, located in Vélines in the Dordogne, are renowned for their romantic charm, combining English and Florentine styles. Listed as a 'Remarkable Garden', the site invites visitors to enjoy a peaceful stroll amongst ponds, fountains and lush vegetation.

<https://www.quai-cyrano.com/offres/les-jardins-de-sardy-velines-velines-fr-4888823/>

PLANBUISSON BAMBOO GARDEN IN LE BUISSON-DE-CADOUIN

Come and explore this lush, unusual garden that will take your breath away with its beauty and unique, exotic atmosphere. You can give yourself up to contemplation in the shade of the giant bamboo reaching 20 metres high, and all far from the madding crowd in a poetic and harmonious green space. On the walnut-shell paths, an abundant world is unveiled at each step...

THE YZORCHE GARDENS IN ARGENTAT-SUR-DORDOGNE

Javotte Boutiller is an artist who brings together diverse elements in a harmonious way. Alongside her partner, Stéphane Dhur, she cultivates aromatic and medicinal plants in a garden designed like a sun, radiating with fragrances and colors. Here, she creates herbal teas, aromatic herbs, floral waters, and massage oils, all crafted with a sensitive, traditional, and eco-friendly approach to plants. The couple also hosts sensory workshops and retreats, offering vegetarian meals and accommodations in a cozy cabin or yurt. It's a perfect opportunity to reconnect with nature, recharge, and immerse yourself in the delicate art of plants.

www.lesjardinsdzyorche.fr

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

In the Dordogne Valley, the past and present are in perfect harmony. This outstanding area, classified as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, is the ideal setting for a journey through time, where every village, castle and landscape tells a story steeped in culture and tradition. Cradle of a remarkable architectural and natural heritage, the valley is bursting with treasures: medieval bastides with timeless charm, châteaux proudly overlooking the river, caves adorned with prehistoric masterpieces, and vibrant festivals celebrating music, gastronomy and the art of living.



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN FRANCE

To the traveller, the Dordogne Valley appears like a never ending stream of quaint hamlets, majestic castles and picture-perfect villages. No fewer than 19 villages in the region have been awarded the 'Most Beautiful Village in France' label. This important award is given to villages selected for their charm and historical interest. The label was developed here, in Collonges-la-Rouge, and the village was the first to be awarded the title in 1982. Today, there are 174 'Most Beautiful Villages in France' all over the country.

In the Corrèze

Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne

The Dordogne Valley is home to many picture-perfect villages, and Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne stands out as one of the most charming, encapsulating all the delights of provincial France in one stunning location.

Collonges-la-Rouge

With its deep red stone walls, cascading flowers, and rich heritage, Collonges-la-Rouge offers a picture-perfect scene at every turn. A must-visit village in the heart of the Dordogne Valley.

Curemonte

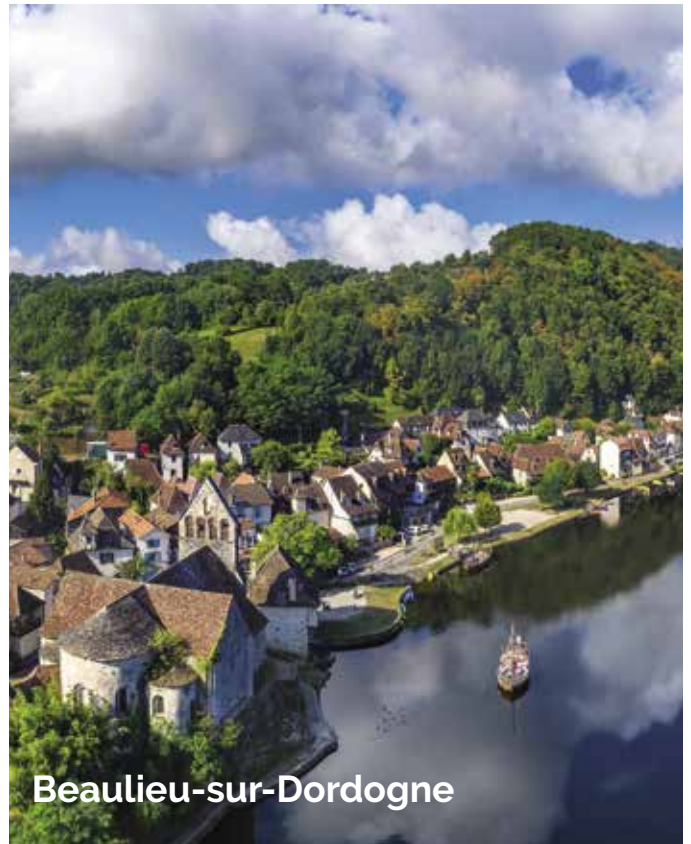
This authentic village is ideal for those seeking a charming afternoon of farmer's markets, rolling countryside, and a deep sense of history.

Saint-Robert

Tucked away off the beaten path, Saint-Robert boasts a picturesque rural setting and an impressive historic heritage. Recognized as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages in France', it's a hidden gem worth exploring.

Turenne

From the magnificent hilltop castle to the charming village square below, Turenne captivates visitors with its picture-perfect beauty. Don't just take our word for it - come see one of the Dordogne Valley's most stunning villages for yourself!



Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne



Collonges-la-Rouge



Turenne

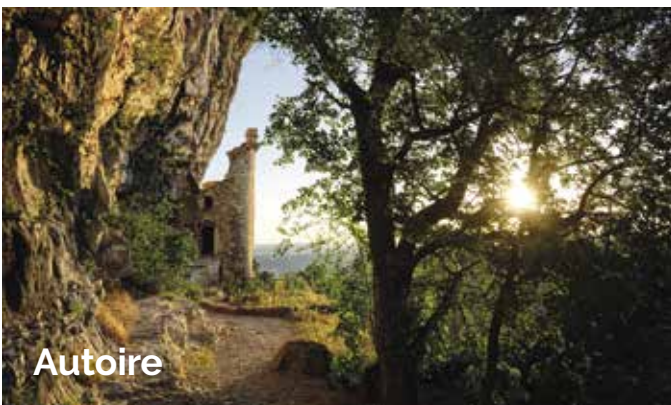
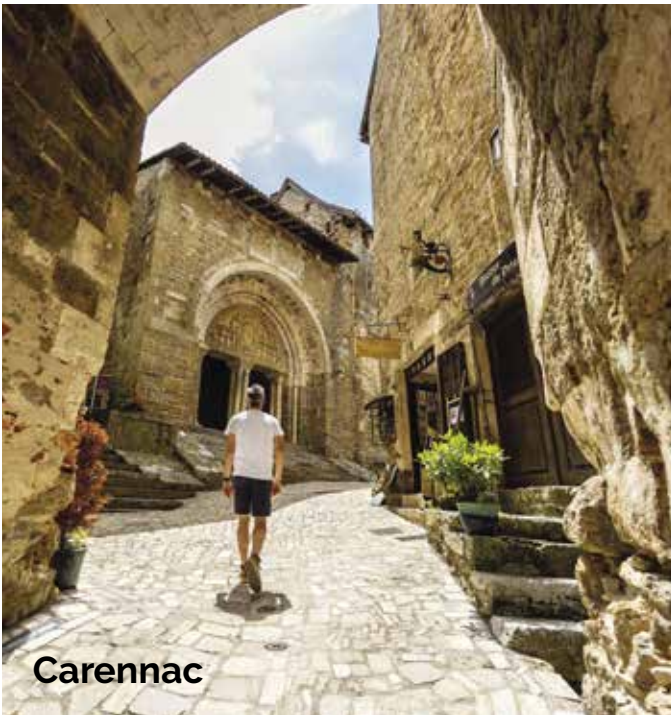
In the Lot

Autoire

The Dordogne Valley is peppered with drop-dead gorgeous villages, but Autoire takes the biscuit with its beautiful location and provincial atmosphere. For romantic, old-fashioned flânerie, there's simply no other place like it...

Carennac

Lush river, verdant countryside, sumptuous architecture and a whole lotta history: Carennac is the epitome of rural France and a village to explore over and over again.



Loubressac

Loubressac is the ideal village to soak up some yesteryear vibes and fall in love with a never-ending view of perfectness.

Martel

A medieval village dating back to the 12th century, Martel's meandering streets and stunning architecture are like illustrations straight out of a fairy tale book. Take a ride on a steam train, go truffle hunting, eat out in some mouth-watering restaurants and look out for reptiles!

Rocamadour

Amongst all the villages to visit in the Dordogne Valley, Rocamadour is said to be a place where miracles happen... With its forget-me-not cliff-side setting, we just don't find it hard to believe!



In the Dordogne

Belvès

Belvès, one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages in France', stands on a rocky hilltop between Sarlat and Monpazier.

Beynac

Step back in medieval time when lords ruled the land with a visit to the stunning village of Beynac-et-Cazenac and the castle of Beynac above it.

Castelnaud-la-Chapelle

One of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France', charming Castelnaud-la-Chapelle is home to an impressive medieval fortress and war museum.

Coly Saint-Amand

The village of Coly Saint-Amand: a spectacular 12th century fortified church and all the charms of the Périgord Noir.

Domme

Extraordinary panoramic views of the Dordogne Valley can be had in this extremely well preserved bastide medieval town. Steeped in history this village has it all, stunning views, great shops, excellent bars and restaurants plus a fascinating history.

La Roque-Gageac

In a centuries-old town where little seems to have changed since the Middle Ages, La Roque-Gageac is a true print-it-off-and-pop-it-in-a-frame kind of village. Stroll around the picturesque houses, admire the stunning views and enjoy the lush microclimate in this little piece of Perigordian heaven.

Limeuil

One of the 'Most Beautiful Villages in France', Limeuil is an idyllic place to take some time out. Situated beside the water, you can start a canoe trip here, hire a mountain bike or simply dive in the pristine river.

Monpazier

An unparalleled bastide town, the best preserved in the region and built at the behest of an English King. This extraordinary fortified medieval town is not only labelled as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France' but is also recognised as a 'Great Site of France'.

Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère

A perfect blend of history and nature, the village of Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère is listed as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages in France'.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/natural-and-cultural-heritage/cultural-heritage/villages-to-visit/plus-beaux-villages-de-france>



Belvès



La Roque-Gageac



Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère



Monpazier



SARLAT: the medieval and gastronomic highlight of the Périgord Noir region

Sarlat-la-Canéda, the emblematic medieval city of the Dordogne, holds a remarkable architectural heritage, a captivating history and a wealth of culinary delights. Located in the heart of the Périgord Noir region, it attracts visitors from all over the world. Here's a closer look at the many treasures it has to offer.

A remarkably preserved medieval hub

Sarlat is often described as an open-air museum because of the quality and density of its historic buildings. The town was founded around a Benedictine abbey in the 9th century. Thanks to its commercial and geopolitical role, it prospered throughout the medieval and Renaissance periods. Its unique architecture is characterised by honey-coloured limestone manor houses, mansions adorned with turrets and thick slate roofs that give the town a timeless charm.

An enchanting night-time atmosphere

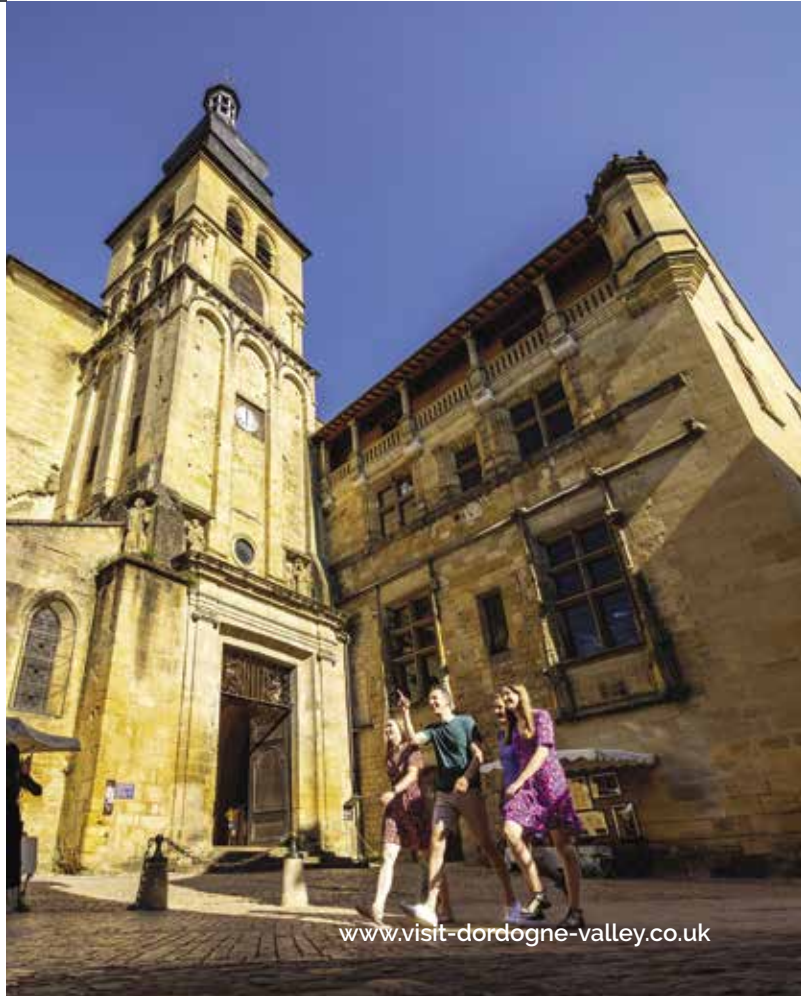
Sarlat is the only town in France to maintain gas lighting, bathing its alleyways in a flickering light, perfect for romantic strolls and truly immersing yourself in a medieval atmosphere.

Must-see sites and monuments: Sarlat is brimming with architectural marvels that bear witness to its glorious past like the Cathédrale Saint-Sacerdos in the heart of the city, which blends Romanesque and Gothic styles and houses some remarkable works of religious art. The Manoir de Gisson is a 13th century noble house that has been transformed into an interactive museum taking you back in time to the daily life of the Périgord nobility. The Maison de La Boétie, birthplace of writer and philosopher Étienne de La Boétie, is a fine example of Renaissance architecture.

Film location: Sarlat is the third most popular film location in France. Notable films include *Chocolat* (2000), starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp, *Ever After - A Cinderella Story* (1998), with Drew Barrymore and *Les Misérables* (2012), with an international cast.

Gourmet events: food is at the heart of Sarlat's identity. The thriving Saturday morning market is held in the historic centre, enlivening the medieval city with fresh local produce: duck magret, truffles, walnuts and confits, to name but a few.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/discover/cultural-heritage/villages-to-visit/sarlat-la-caneda>



ROCAMADOUR: a 1,000 year old sacred city

Rocamadour is a unique site, clinging to the side of a cliff like a defiant challenge to gravity. It is distinguished by its architectural layers, where medieval houses, churches and a castle are superimposed to form a spectacular whole. For centuries, this great pilgrimage site has been one of the four pillars of Christianity.

A unique spiritual journey

Pilgrims, from prisoners to kings and queens, have left their mark on history by climbing the 216 steps of the Grand Staircase. This stairway leads to the sanctuary, the spiritual heart of Rocamadour, where the Basilica of Saint-Sauveur and the Crypt of Saint-Amadour, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, await visitors.

The Black Madonna and her miracles

At the heart of the sanctuary lies the famous statue of the Black Madonna, an ebony sculpture dating from the 12th century. Throughout the ages, numerous miracles have been attributed to this sacred treasure, in particular rescues at sea. It is even said to have protected the crew of Jacques Cartier, the famous explorer, during his expedition to Canada.

A miracle bell

In the Notre-Dame chapel, a miraculous bell hangs on the ceiling. Although it has no hammer, it is reputed to ring spontaneously to announce that a miracle has occurred. This mysterious phenomenon adds a fascinating dimension to the sacred history of Rocamadour.

Rocamadour, where spirituality meets history, remains a place where time seems suspended, inviting every visitor for a memorable experience between heaven and earth.



SECRET TOURS OF THE CASTLE

Since 2023, Rocamadour castle has been unveiling its secrets through special tours organised as part of the 'Together, let's bring the castle back to life' restoration project. Guided by Father Florent Millet, visitors are invited to explore previously inaccessible areas: The castle, its garden and panoramic ramparts and the secret staircase running along the cliff. These exclusive tours, which can be booked online from mid-June to the end of August, give visitors the chance to explore Rocamadour's unique heritage while helping to preserve it.



COCO CHANEL: an inspirational woman in the Dordogne Valley

Coco Chanel, the world fashion icon, left her mark on history with her refined, timeless creations. Less widely known is the impact of her artwork during adolescence spent in Aubazine.

Abandoned by her father at the age of 12, Gabrielle Chanel spent six years at the Aubazine Abbey orphanage, in the Dordogne Valley, raised by Cistercian nuns. These years shaped her minimalist aesthetic, inspired by the black and white habits of the nuns and the sober lines of the monastic architecture. Even the abbey's stained-glass windows, adorned with interlaced motifs resembling the famous Chanel logo, fed her imagination.

Discover Aubazine

Aubazine Abbey: a place steeped in history and a source of inspiration for Chanel.

The Canal des Moines: a 1.5km walk along a canal carved out in the 12th century by Cistercian monks and a masterpiece of engineering.



BRIVE-LA-GAILLARDE

Brive-la-Gaillarde is the **commercial hub** of the Dordogne Valley. It is a **modern, dynamic** and bustling town with a long history dating back to the medieval ages. A great place to go on a shopping spree, the **medieval heart** of the city is full of boutique, cafés, restaurants and well-known French clothing stores. With the centre almost entirely **pedestrianised**, fanning out from the church at its centre, the streets in all directions offer shopping temptations. There are also many **historical visits** to be had including the 16th century **Labenche Museum of Art and History**, the highlight of which is the collection of magnificent tapestries. The **Museum of Resistance and Deportation** also makes for a fascinating visit detailing the story of one of Brive's most famous sons - the former government minister and Resistance fighter - **Edmond Michelet**. The people of Brive are also big **rugby** fans. The Brive rugby team, the CABCL, is an elite club with a whole host of proud supporters.

The town also has a long association with the **gastronomy** of the Dordogne Valley with many excellent restaurants to choose from. Every Saturday morning, under the covered market hall (Halle Georges Brassens), top end local fare can be found at numerous stalls overflowing with delicacies. This **market** is hugely popular and thrives with locals buying everything from live chickens to vegetables and fresh meats. Since the 13th century winter fairs called Foires Grasses (fatty fairs) have sold Foie Gras, duck and geese products several times a year. Right next to the market are excellent bars and restaurants with locals and rugby supporters in the CAB jersey preparing for the game later that afternoon with a late morning aperitif.
www.brive-tourisme.com

THE PANS DE TRAVASSAC SLATE QUARRY SITE

The slate quarries has been operating here since the 17th century, in a breathtaking landscape, nestled between towering cliffs where mineral and plant life coexist in perfect harmony. Here, each slate is handcrafted with exceptional skill, following ancestral techniques such as reburning, cleaving, and cutting.

Jean-François Bugeat, a fourth-generation slate quarryman from Donzenac, took over this historic quarry in 1989. Once employing hundreds of workers in the early 20th century, it remains a testament to a time-honored craft. Travassac slate, with its deep bluish-black hue, is renowned for its durability, waterproof quality, and resistance to impact. It has been used to roof countless homes, churches, and castles across the Limousin and Auvergne regions. Today, demand remains high among private individuals, artisans, and heritage architects. Notably, the restoration of Mont Saint-Michel's abbey roof stands as one of the most prestigious projects undertaken by this Corrèze-based company.
www.lespansdetravassac.com





BERGERAC, CITY OF ART AND HISTORY

The home of Cyrano de Bergerac became part of the 'Towns of Art and History' in 2014. As you wander through its charming streets, you'll discover a series of quaint town squares and picturesque houses, where ornate doors open onto hidden courtyards.

For a unique perspective, explore Bergerac from the water aboard a traditional gabarre boat on the Dordogne River. Alternatively, stay on land and stroll through the town, passing the historic boatmen's houses on Place de la Myrpe. Enjoy a moment of tranquility in the peaceful Recollets Cloister before making your way to the riverfront. End your visit with a tasting of local wines at Quai Cyrano, where you can sip and savour while admiring the river views.
www.pays-bergerac-tourisme.com/fr

CHÂTEAU DE MONBAZILLAC

Overlooking the Dordogne Valley, just 10 minutes from Bergerac, the Château de Monbazillac has introduced a new tour experience, showcasing the prestigious Monbazillac wines and the château's rich history within the Périgord region.

Dating back to the 16th century and listed as a **Historic Monument**, the château offers visitors a seamless blend of past and present. After exploring its interiors, the surrounding park provides the perfect setting for a leisurely stroll. With a **breathtaking view** over the Bergerac Valley and a vast expanse of vineyards, it invites moments of quiet reflection in a serene atmosphere.

Here, time slows down - enjoy a meal under the shade of the restaurant terrace, unwind on a deck chair, or simply take in the spectacular panorama. For photographers, it's an ideal backdrop to capture the beauty of this extraordinary landscape.

www.chateau-monbazillac.com





TERRASSON-LAVILLEDIEU

As part of the prestigious 'Grands Sites de France' network, Terrasson-Lavilledieu invites you on a **journey through time**, where modernity blends seamlessly with a rich historical past, and architecture tells its own poetic story. Along the way, you'll explore different eras, from prehistoric times to the present day. Highlights include the founding of the abbey overlooking the town, as well as glimpses into the early Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

At the heart of the town lies the Jardins de l'Imaginaire, a unique garden in Europe, where water features, lush greenery, and historical heritage come together to create an enchanting atmosphere. The old town enhances the visitor experience with twelve fountains alongside beautifully designed 18th-century gardens, earning it the nickname of "Garden City".

The surrounding countryside is equally rich in local flavours, from truffle farms on the hills to PDO Périgord walnut orchards in the valley, where farmers uphold a tradition of excellence. Food lovers won't want to miss the **Bovetti Chocolate Museum**, a must-visit destination for anyone with a sweet tooth.

www.vezere-perigord.fr/fr

JARDINS DE L'IMAGINAIRE

Located near Sarlat and Lascaux, the 10 hectares of exquisite *Jardins à la Française* will wow even the most casual garden enthusiast. The manicured perfection of the **boxwood** with over 300 sculptured examples of hedged art makes Eyrynac a **topiary garden masterpiece**. Handed down through **22 generations for 500 years**, the trimming and shaping of plants is in the blood of the family owners. Specialised **classes** in the art of topiary gardening are available for those who wish to learn from the experts about these intricate pruning, trimming and hedging techniques. Amongst ornamental water fountains and ponds, these extensive gardens play host in July and August to the famous '**White Picnics**'. With a dress code of white only, this is a one of a kind **garden party**. Music, cocktails, dancing and illuminated water fountains combined with a spectacular sunset over the Dordogne Valley gives way to **fireworks** later in the evening. www.jardins-imaginaire.com





GRAND PÉRIGUEUX History as heritage

Périgueux and its surroundings offer an incredible wealth of historical sites and monuments, all within an hour's reach. Here, history and culture blend seamlessly with the fresh air of a beautifully preserved and ever-changing landscape, inviting you to explore at a leisurely pace.

At the heart of the region, Périgueux has preserved its charming historic center, with a protected area spanning 20 hectares around the magnificent **Saint-Front Cathedral**. Perched on a hilltop, the cathedral commands attention with its grandeur and distinctive architecture. For a truly unique perspective, admire its impressive domes from the nearby rooftops.

For an unforgettable experience, join a small guided tour that takes you above the city, offering a breathtaking panorama.

www.grandperigueux.fr



THE NAPOLEON MUSEUM AT THE CHÂTEAU DE LA POMMERIE

Located in the Grand Périgueux region, in the village of Cendrieux, is a remarkable museum. Set within the residence of Count Baudoin de Witt, a descendant of Napoleon Bonaparte's youngest brother, it offers a unique glimpse into history. A man with a deep admiration for the emperor, Count Baudoin has carefully curated a collection of treasured family heirlooms, bringing them to life for visitors in the museum's galleries.

The museum showcases over 500 objects, paintings, and sculptures, with 150 of these recognized as Historic Monuments. Among the most moving items are those connected to Napoleon's final days on the island of Saint Helena. On display are his personal watch, stopped at the moment of his death, a candle that extinguished at the same time, and a poignant lock of hair from his son, Napoléon François Joseph Charles Bonaparte.

www.musee-napoleon.fr

CAVES AND CHASMS

Renowned for its natural beauty, the Dordogne Valley also hides a wealth of subterranean treasures. Water has sculpted immense caves and galleries, some of which are still unexplored today. Professional guides are on hand to offer introductory caving excursions suitable for everyone: children, beginners and experienced adventurers alike, with abseiling, climbing and narrow passages for the more adventurous.

THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC

The Chasm of Padirac, one of the most visited caves in Europe, was first explored by Édouard-Alfred Martel at the end of the 19th century. Open to visitors since 1899, the adventure begins by taking a lift or an Eiffel-inspired metal staircase, followed by a boat trip 103 metres underground. You'll discover spectacular galleries and immense chambers, with stalagmites and stalactites 60 metres high. The tour lasts around 1.5 hours and is open from Easter to the beginning of November. Audioguides are available in several languages and online booking is recommended.

Bonus: Lantern Tours

Enjoy a unique experience as you explore the Gouffre de Padirac as Édouard-Alfred Martel did over 130 years ago, lit only by candlelit lanterns. These tours, organised from April to October, require prior booking as they are limited.





THE GROTTES DE LACAVE

A visit to the caves in Lacave begins with a ride on an electric train. You'll then explore 12 galleries on foot over 1.6 km, where you'll discover stalagmites, stalactites and natural pools. One of the caves is lit by ultraviolet light, making it glow in the dark. A variety of events, including photographic tours, picnics and concerts, complete the experience.



THE GROTTES DE TOURTOIRAC

Explore the underground river in the cave of Tourtoirac, where the light show reveals spectacular columns and draperies. This is a truly memorable journey back to prehistoric times and through the history of the village and its 1,000 year old abbey.



THE GOUFFRE DE LA FAGE

Up in the Corrèze, the Gouffre de la Fage is an unusual 25 metre deep cave near Brive-la-Gaillarde and the listed villages of Turenne and Collonges-la-Rouge. You'll discover impressive cave formations, a palaeontological site and, depending on the season, a colony of bats.



THE GROTTES DE MAXANGE

Located between Bergerac and Sarlat, the caves of Maxange offer a unique display of eccentric rock formations. Inaugurated in June 2023, a new sound and light show allows visitors to discover some spectacular structures, including the rare limestone excrescences known as 'eccentrics', in a gallery recently opened to the public.



THE GOUFFRE DE PROUMEYSSAC

The chasm of Proumeyssac, open to visitors since 1907, has quite a sombre history, having once been used to dump stagecoach passengers murdered by brigands. Nicknamed the 'Crystal Cathedral', it is renowned for its thousands of suspended stalactites. The tour offers a unique experience with a descent by wooden basket for up to 11 people into the cave and a sound and light show.



LASCAUX IV – THE SISTINE CHAPEL OF PREHISTORY

Discovered by chance in 1940 near Montignac, the cave paintings at Lascaux, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are world renowned for their extraordinary wealth and state of preservation. Nicknamed the 'Sistine Chapel of Prehistory', the site with its 20,000 year old frescoes depicts animals and hunting scenes of exceptional artistic quality.

Closed in 1963 to preserve the original paintings, the cave has now been recreated through a sophisticated expert digital and hand-painted replica process. Lascaux IV, inaugurated in 2016, is the first complete reproduction of the cave created by 50 artists, using digital photography and laser imaging techniques.

Located just a few metres from the original cave, the ultra-modern centre designed by Norwegian architect Kjetil Traedal Thorsen provides an exceptional immersive experience. As well as the replica, it houses the Centre International d'Art Pariétal (Prehistoric Art International Centre) and features 3D digital exhibitions combining history and technology.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/discover/natural-heritage/prehistoric-caves>



1001+ CASTLES

Impressive, majestic and imposing medieval castles fill the Dordogne Valley and each one has an intriguing history with stories of high drama.

CHÂTEAU DE BEYNAC: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LIONHEART

Built atop a cliff, the 12th century castle of Beynac boasts panoramic views over the Dordogne Valley and river below it. At the heart of the "on again off again" 100 Years War between France and England it remains one of the best preserved fortified castles of the region. Richard the Lionheart, King of England, once occupied this château and its thick defensive walls bore witness to attacking armies crossing the Dordogne River below it. From the vantage point of the castle, the river divided the English forces from the opposing French armies which stood against them in the distance, directly opposite in the Château de Castelnaud.

Famous French film director Luc Besson shot *Joan of Arc* here and it has been used as the set of a multitude of other TV and film productions since, including Ridley Scott's recent medieval movie, *The Last Duel*.
www.chateau-beynac.com

JOSÉPHINE BAKER

The most famous American woman to live in France, Joséphine Baker was born in Missouri but died a decorated French Resistance fighter in 1975. In between she was a world famous singer, actress and cabaret dancer. After moving from the Broadway stage she became lauded throughout Europe and this pioneering black woman was later to adopt French citizenship and France as her home. She was awarded the military French Cross by De Gaulle after her heroic service to the Resistance in the Second World War. In her retirement years she bought the fabulous Milandes Château, near the castle of Castelnaud. Today this château is open to the public with 14 rooms dedicated to her extraordinary life, filled with memorabilia celebrating her pioneering and fascinating story.
www.milandes.com/en





CHÂTEAU DE VAL

Val Castle in upper Corrèze has a unique setting, encircled by the waters of the River Dordogne. The castle was built on a rocky spur over 30 metres high. It only just escaped the rising water levels from the Bort-les-Orgues dam, which completely transformed the local landscape. A visit to the fortress is an exceptional experience, with the Saint-Blaise Chapel, the large rooms with furniture in Gothic style, the monumental staircase leading to the panoramas from the Rampart Walk and in the framework of the towers... From April to October, Val Castle hosts prestigious painting exhibitions featuring renowned artists.

www.chateau-de-val.com



LES TOURS DE MERLE

Nestled in beautiful **oak forests** and surrounded by deep gorges, the Tours de Merle overlook the river Maronne, a tributary of the Dordogne River. Named after the blackbirds that live in the area (merle in French), this **majestic medieval ruin** stands testimony to the ravages of war. At the height of the 14th century this feudal castle was once at the heart of a thriving kingdom owned by **seven noblemen**. Coming under attack both during the 100 Years War and thereafter in the Wars of Religion it suffered significant damage and was eventually abandoned. Open from April until October, visitors can still climb the medieval steps right to the top of the towers and admire the views. In the summer months there is also a special programme of **medieval themed shows** and demonstrations full of colourful period costumes.

www.toursdemerle.fr

THE CHÂTEAU DE SALIGNAC

The castle of Salignac, towering over the valley for over 1,000 years, stood as a strategic stronghold and important co-seigneurie until the 15th century. However, with the passage of time and lack of maintenance, it began to fall into disrepair from the 16th century onwards. In 2006, a new chapter began for this historic monument, with the purchase of the château by its current owners. They have launched an ambitious restoration project to restore Salignac to the splendour of its 15th century heyday.

www.chateausalignac.com

NEW

Special summer events and experiences:

Les Crépusculaires: By reservation only, a unique nocturnal experience to discover the château at dusk.

Les Opusculaires: A captivating historical pageant where history comes to life, with immersive scenes from the 13th and 15th centuries.

CHÂTEAU DE MONTAL

This 16th century French Renaissance château is filled with **finesse and elegance**. It was designed by a woman named **Jeanne de Balsac**, and is enhanced by sculptures and ornamental patterns paying homage to her son, Robert de Montal, who was killed in battle in Italy. The château was never finished and fell into ruin over time. It was finally bought in the 19th century by **Maurice Fenaille**, an enthusiastic art collector and rich industrialist. He undertook to restore the remains of the château and restore its past splendour. On his death, he donated it to the nation. Here many treasures housed in the **Louvre** were hidden during the Second World War, including Leonardo da Vinci's **Mona Lisa**.

www.chateau-montal.fr





THE CHÂTEAU DE LA PANNONIE

The Château de la Pannonie, located in the heart of the limestone plateau in Couzou, just a stone's throw from the famous medieval town of Rocamadour, is a historic and architectural treasure trove dating back to the 18th century. This lesser-known but equally fascinating castle transports visitors to another time, offering an immersion in the history and architecture of a bygone era. The natural setting of the Causse plateau with its unique landscapes further enhances the beauty of the building.

The Château de la Pannonie is distinguished by its elegant character and peaceful surroundings, making it an essential stop-off point for those wishing to explore the Lot département's historical riches amidst the beauty of its landscapes.



CHÂTEAU DE HAUTEFORT

Experience the beauty of the Château de Hautefort. Visit a remarkable château dating back to the era of Louis XIV, a one-of-a-kind treasure in Dordogne, set above a picturesque village and overlooking a lush green valley. Step into the 17th century and immerse yourself in the elegance of its classical architecture, featuring beautifully furnished rooms, stunning French-style gardens (spanning 3 hectares), a charming chapel, and an open gallery. Take a journey through time as you explore the working bread oven and ascend to the Brittany Tower for breathtaking views and a closer look at its remarkable framework. The château's history will also surprise you - it has been reborn three times, like a true phoenix. Plan for about two hours to fully enjoy the experience, and afterward, relax with a stroll through the English-style garden or have a picnic with your family. Alternatively, you can enjoy a meal at the restaurant in the château's courtyard. Treat yourself to both beauty and history at the Château de Hautefort!

www.chateau-hautefort.com



CHÂTEAU DE FÉNELON

Proudly looking down on the Dordogne Valley, the Château de Fénelon never goes unnoticed. On the road from Sarlat to Souillac, its distinctive outline can be seen from afar. It is a uniquely well-preserved fortress with the 'Historic Monument' and 'House of Illustrious People' labels. The château is a wonder to visit: for its ramparts and stone-slate roofs, as well as the many rooms with period furniture and illustrating centuries of the history of the decorative arts and aristocratic life.

www.chateau-fenelon.fr

THE CHÂTEAU OF CASTELNAU-BRETENOUX

The castle of Castelnaud-Bretenoux in Prudhomat is one of the most impressive medieval fortresses in the Occitanie region. This historic monument, one of the most visited in the Lot département, dominates the Dordogne Valley with its imposing structure and fascinating history. Built in the 13th century, the castle was a powerful symbol of status and prestige. Its distinctive red colour, which gives it a 'warrior' look, is a unique feature that sets it apart from other castles in the region. Although the colour has mellowed over time, the castle still retains a strong identity and unshakeable character.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/natural-and-cultural-heritage/top-10-places-to-visit/the-land-of-1001-castles>



www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk

TRUFFLES: A GOURMET TRADITION



The Dordogne Valley, rich in culinary traditions, has been a traditional area for growing and harvesting truffles for centuries. Among these gastronomic gems, the Tuber Melanosporum, commonly known as the Black Truffle, stands out for its bewitching aroma and its rarity, earning it the nickname of Black Diamond.

A PRECIOUS MUSHROOM ON TREE ROOTS

Truffles belong to the large family of fungi and develop in symbiosis with the roots of trees, particularly oaks and hazelnuts. These varieties of tree, which are widespread in the Dordogne Valley, are ideal for growing truffles in suitable soils. Truffles can be cultivated in truffle fields, but they also grow in the wild.

Buried in the soil, these mushrooms are difficult to find. Truffle growers are experts at finding them, using specially trained dogs. A more unusual method is to observe a small brown fly that lays its eggs near the truffles, a precious clue for connoisseurs.

TRUFFLE MARKETS: AN ABSOLUTE MUST

The truffle season runs from December to February. During this period, enthusiasts flock to specialist markets, where the precious nuggets sometimes fetch staggering prices.

Must-do truffle markets include:

Brive, Saturday mornings

- *Périgueux, Saturday mornings*
- *Sarlat, Wednesday and Saturday mornings*
- *Ste Alèvre, Monday mornings*
- *Terrasson, Thursday mornings*
- *Sorges, Sunday mornings (truffle festival on the last weekend in January)*
- *Bergerac, Sunday mornings*
- *Saint Geniès, Sunday mornings*
- *Cuzance and Martel, on specific dates*

These markets are the scene of a fascinating ritual: producers arrive early with cloth-covered baskets. The truffles are first weighed and inspected to guarantee their quality. Then, at the sound of a bell, the transactions begin, sometimes in a matter of minutes.



A UNIQUE GOURMET PLEASURE

After the market, the festivities often continue with a gourmet meal, featuring truffles in a number of exquisite dishes. The Dordogne Valley is also full of restaurants serving truffle dishes.

From the harvest directly to your table, truffles embody a culinary and cultural tradition that is deeply rooted in this exceptional region.

TRUFFLE HUNTING: THE ART OF PATIENCE

The cavage, or the art of digging up truffles, is an essential stage in the harvesting of this precious mushroom. It requires patience, expertise and sometimes a touch of mystique.

If you hope to harvest truffles, it all starts with the purchase and planting of a truffle tree, often an oak. Its roots are first stimulated to encourage symbiosis with the truffles. However, this adventure requires a key virtue: patience. Once planted, it takes around 10 years for the tree to potentially produce truffles. And even after this long wait, the harvest is never guaranteed.

To find out more, several farms in the Dordogne Valley organise truffle-harvesting demonstrations. These experiences allow you to witness the meticulous work of the dog and better understand the effort and expertise required to unearth these hidden underground treasures.

Digging is not just a technique, it's also a tradition, a skill passed down from generation to generation, and a tribute to nature and its whims.

The Truffière de Vielcroze

An estate dedicated to the cultivation of truffles, a perfect place to discover the secrets of truffle hunting.

www.domaine-vielcroze.com

The Truffle Eco-museum at Sorges-et-Ligueux

Combining education and entertainment, this eco-museum offers truffle hunting demonstrations and an exploration into the rich heritage surrounding truffles.

www.ecomusedelatruffe.com

The Truffle Farm in Cuzance

Discover the art of truffle hunting with passionate guides and enjoy a complete immersion in a truffle growing farm.

www.lafermedelatruffe.fr

EXPERIENCES

The Tiny House at the Truffle Farm

To extend the experience, the Ferme de la Truffe now features a contemporary wooden Tiny House, with all modern comforts. Other on-site accommodation : one bedroom and one family suite. Activities: guided tours, gourmet restaurant run by Delphine and Jérôme. This is an ideal place to immerse yourself in the world of truffles, for both discovery and tasting.

The Sentiers du Diamant Noir Farm in Saint-Laurent-les-Tours

A unique getaway combining nature, poetry and gastronomy. Summer season from 15 June to 15 September: Guided walks with Patrick & Raymond Boris, followed by dinner under the stars in a medieval hut with a breathtaking view of the illuminated castle.

CEPS AND BOLETS

Cep mushrooms, the undisputed stars of the fungi world, belong to the vast boletus family. But be warned: not all boletus mushrooms are ceps. Follow us to find out what makes these mushrooms such sought-after culinary treasures! Ceps grow in and around the Dordogne Valley and can be harvested from June to September. If you're not lucky enough to find them in the forest, local markets are a great way to get hold of them.

Here are a few ideas for recipes: Pan-fried with a little garlic and parsley, in an omelette for a simple but tasty dish, in a risotto, where their woody flavour brings the dish to life, or as an accompaniment to meat, for the perfect autumnal touch.



FOIE GRAS: AN ANCIENT TRADITION IN THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

Foie gras, the emblem of French gastronomy, is the embodiment of an ancestral know-how deeply rooted in the Dordogne Valley. Often a family affair, it is the fruit of traditions handed down from generation to generation.

A little bit of history

The production of foie gras dates back to ancient Egypt, some 4,500 years ago. The Egyptians had observed a fascinating natural phenomenon: Migratory birds, particularly geese and ducks, would naturally gorge themselves before their long journeys, accumulating fat in their livers for an energy reserve.

This natural technique was adopted and adapted over the centuries. In the 18th century, it took off particularly in France, thanks to the introduction of maize in the south-west, an ideal cereal for feeding poultry.

In the Dordogne Valley, geese and ducks destined for foie gras production lead a peaceful life.

Free-range rearing: The birds enjoy vast open spaces where they can evolve naturally.

Short force-feeding period: The force-feeding period, essential for producing foie gras, is kept to a minimum.

This approach guarantees both respect for the animals and the exceptional quality of the end product.

Foie gras from the Dordogne Valley is a must for lovers of good food. It is ideal served with lightly toasted bread and a glass of sweet wine, such as a Monbazillac.

Fest'Oie in Sarlat: a not-to-be-missed festival for food lovers

Every year, on the first weekend in March, the medieval town of Sarlat is turned into a celebration of all things goose during the Fest'Oie Festival. The unique event celebrates local traditions and flavours in a festive and convivial atmosphere. The historic streets of Sarlat come alive to the sound of live music while the tempting aromas of culinary specialities fill the streets.

A Bodég'Oie Evening (Saturday evening): Under heated marquees, guests gather to savour dishes prepared by Sarlat's **top chefs**. Each culinary creation features **100% local produce**, guaranteeing an authentic and refined dining experience.

The Sunday banquet: for up to 900 guests, held in the heart of the town. On the menu: around **15 courses**, featuring the **famous foie gras**, for a memorable gastronomic experience in a warm and festive atmosphere.





THE PERIGORD WALNUT

The Noix du Périgord, protected by a PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), embodies a heritage and tradition rooted in the history of the Dordogne Valley. As France's leading producer of walnuts, this region prides itself on the quality and diversity of its varieties.

Four main varieties are grown: Marbot, Corne, Granjean and Franquette.

These walnuts, rich in fibre, vitamins, minerals (magnesium, iron, phosphorus, manganese) and omega 3 and 6, are as healthy as they are tasty.

You can enjoy the Noix du Périgord in many ways: walnut oil and kernels in salads, pastries, caramelised walnuts or coated in chocolate, ice creams or as an aperitif with the traditional Vin de Noix.

THE WALNUT TRAIL: A GOURMET ADVENTURE

Walnut lovers can explore the Route de la Noix, a route through mills, farm inns and restaurants showcasing this emblematic produce.

The Museum Les 4 Demoiselles in Saillac tells the story of the walnut, from its introduction by the Romans to the present day.

www.4demoiselles.fr

MILLS AROUND

Near Terrasson and the famous Jardins de l'Imaginaire, the **Moulin de Maneyrol** specialises in the pressing of walnuts to extract the oil.

www.maneyrol.com

In Vézac the **Moulin de Trel** offers guided tours of the walnut oil production process.

www.perigordnoir.com

Don't miss the traditional **Martel Walnut Oil Mill**. Here they use ancestral methods to make walnut oil, which is then served on dining tables in their farmhouse restaurant and elsewhere. For six generations, the Castagné family has been producing authentic and fragrant oil in their mill built in 1870.

www.moulincastagne.com

Moulin de la Vie Contée

The Moulin de la Vie Contée in Ligneyrac is a family farm, open to the public, with a view over the Château de Turenne. From the walnut grove to the tasting, Anne et Cyrille, walnut farmers and millers, will share their varied oil flavours, adapted to each visitor's tastes. The much-loved, golden brown kernels and other treats are to be found in their shop.

www.laviecontee.fr

The Domaine de Vielcroze in Castelnaud-la-Chapelle

The ecological museum is located just below the Château de Castelnaud, in an 18th century farm building. It is carrying on traditional skills in making walnut oil in a 7 hectare organic walnut grove.

www.domaine-vielcroze.com

Bocerno walnut oil factory in Plazac

This walnut oil mill opened in June 2023 to share the "walnut odyssey", a staged experience retracing the history of walnuts in Dordogne. This is a virgin walnut oil plant opened in 2018 by Charlotte Castel. The oils are made from superior quality walnut kernels, and organic methods are currently being adopted. It is a member of the 'Collège Culinaire de France' association.

www.bocerno.com

Moulin de la Veyssière

The Moulin de la Veyssière, founded around 1560 and located in Neuvic-sur-l'Isle in the Dordogne, is the last working watermill in the Vern valley. Since 1857, it has belonged to the Elias family, who continue to produce virgin walnut and hazelnut oils using traditional methods. The mill produces walnut oil certified under the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) 'Noix du Périgord', a guarantee of quality and authenticity. This oil is characterised by its intense aromas of walnut and toasted bread, giving it a fruity, delicious flavour.

<https://www.quai-cyrano.com/offres/moulin-de-la-veyssiere-neuvic-fr-4888784/>



The Lander Walnut Grove in Sarlat

The Moulin de la Veyssière has acquired the Lander Walnut Grove, a family walnut farm in Sarlat. Since June 2023, the walnut grove is open to visitors. Free guided tours lasting 30 minutes are a chance to see the different stages in preparing the walnuts, from the tree to the plate. Each tour is rounded off with a tasting. The aim of the concept is to reaffirm traditional common sense in farming.

www.noyeraiesdulander.fr





THE DENOIX DISTILLERY: AN ARTISANAL DELIGHT FROM BRIVE

Based in Brive-la-Gaillarde, the Denoix distillery is a family institution, producing traditional liqueurs and aperitifs since 1839. Passed down from generation to generation, the company continues to use traditional 19th century distillation techniques.

Emblematic specialities

The distillery's most famous products include Quinquinoix walnut liqueur, an aperitif with an unmistakable flavour and Suprême Denoix, a refined liqueur, ideal at the end of a meal.

The Denoix distillery also stands out for its Moutarde Violette, an unusually coloured mustard made with grape must. A novel product that will delight lovers of original flavours.



COSMETICS MADE FROM WALNUT OIL

Ollioz Workshop & Shop in Liorac-sur-Louyre

Muriel Ollivier-Ozbir makes natural cosmetic products, mainly from walnut oils, wild plants and other treasures from her family estate. Walnuts are used in a range of different ways: kernels, flour, oil... and why not soap and body oil?

www.pays-bergerac-tourisme.com/fr/blog/atelier-ollioz-rencontre-avec-muriel-ollivier-ozbir

La Cosmétique d'Ici in Sarlat

Mylène and Léa are two friends with a shared passion for natural cosmetics. They have launched La Cosmétique d'Ici, a brand that is eco friendly and committed to the environment. The brand is based on the use of carefully selected local plants and the promotion of emblematic products from the region. For example, they include Périgord walnut oil, known for its moisturising and nourishing properties, in an approach that respects the environment and encourages short supply chains. La Cosmétique d'Ici embodies a desire to reduce our ecological footprint while offering quality products suitable for all skin types.

www.lacosmetiquedici.fr

ORIGINAL

Accommodation in a walnut grove in Banne.

"Only in Banne"... will you find 2 cabins nestling in the oak trees, alongside the walnut grove on Séverine and Sébastien Corjon's family estate. They are now adopting organic methods in the walnut grove, but that is not all! They will be delighted to introduce you to their farm (walnuts & honey) and their region.

www.inyaqab.fr



BOVETTI CHOCOLATES: TRADITIONAL CHOCOLATE-MAKING IN TERRASSON

The Bovetti chocolate factory, located in Terrasson, is a leading name in the world of chocolate, focusing on quality and tradition using local ingredients such as spices, walnuts and hazelnuts from the Périgord region.

Quality handmade chocolates

Bovetti chocolates are made using traditional methods, also including an organic range of natural, environmentally-friendly products.

A museum dedicated to chocolate

The chocolate factory is also home to a chocolate museum, where visitors can discover the history and secrets of chocolate making, while exploring the different artisanal techniques.

Guided tours and tastings

Guided tours take visitors on a journey of discovery that ends with a delicious tasting session of Bovetti's gourmet creations.

MAISON LOU COCAL

This **artisanal biscuit maker** is famed for scrumptious products made in Sarlat since 1996. The name *Lou Coccal* means **walnuts** in the local dialect. This and other nuts including chestnuts and hazelnuts, locally grown, are key ingredients in the production of their extensive biscuit range. Using techniques and recipes passed down through the generations, the **handmade biscuits** along with their **chocolates and sweets** are tempting beyond measure. www.biscuiterie-lou-cocal.com

CHOCOLATERIE LAMY: THE ART OF 'BEAN TO BAR' IN THE HEART OF BRIVE

Chocolaterie Lamy, located in the heart of Brive-la-Gaillarde, is a benchmark for bean-to-bar chocolate. Under the management of Éric Lamy, the shop offers a wide range of handmade chocolates, from bars and bonbons to assorted marshmallows and fruit jellies.

The bean-to-bar process is at the core of their philosophy. Every stage in the chocolate-making process is carried out in-house, from the selection of the cocoa beans to their transformation to the final product. This method guarantees total control over the quality and flavour of the chocolate.

The boutique also hosts workshops and events for chocolate enthusiasts, allowing them to discover the secrets of chocolate making and learn more about the 'bean to bar' chocolate.



CAVIAR DE NEUVIC

The Caviar de Neuvic estate, located in Neuvic in the Dordogne, covers 20 hectares bordered by the Isle and Vern rivers. This fish farm is dedicated to breeding sturgeon to produce a renowned caviar.

During the tour, the guide will share anecdotes and explanations about modern breeding methods that respect both the fish and the environment. You'll help to feed the sturgeons and you'll even be able to stroke some of the larger fish.

The tasting session ends with a tasting of farmed caviar, now considered better and healthier than the now extinct wild caviar.

<https://www.quai-cyrano.com/offres/caviar-de-neuvic-neuvic-fr-4888748/>

SAY CHEESE



THE ROCAMADOUR PDO A cheese of tradition and flavour

The Rocamadour PDO is an emblematic goat's milk cheese, produced since the 15th century in the Rocamadour area, in the heart of the Dordogne Valley. This small, circular cheese, weighing 35g, is made from unpasteurised milk from goats reared on the plateaux surrounding the historic city. Every year, around 40 million of these cheeses are produced, and their flavour varies according to how long they have been matured, from mild to more pronounced flavours.

Traditional know-how

The Rocamadour PDO is characterised by its creamy texture and unique flavour. It is often accompanied by honey or served warm on a walnut salad. You can discover the secrets of its production at the Ferme de la Borie d'Imbert, just 3km from Rocamadour, where visitors can watch the goats being milked and even stroke them.

The Rocamadour Cheese Festival

Every year on Whit Sunday, the Fête du Fromage de Rocamadour showcases the emblematic local cheese, while inviting other famous cheeses from all over France. This family festival begins early in the morning with the blessing of the herd, followed by entertainment and a country-style lunch in a convivial atmosphere.

EWE'S AND COW'S MILK CHEESES A Corrèze cheese heritage

The dairy farmers and cheesemakers of the Corrèze region continue to use traditional methods to produce exceptional cheeses that blend quality and authenticity. Among their most popular creations are:

La Feuille du Limousin: a farm cheese made from unpasteurised goat's milk, with a delicate, creamy flavour.

La Fête des Bergères: an unpasteurised ewe's milk cheese, made with an ancient and long-forgotten recipe, and distinguished by its unique texture and character.

Cow's milk cheeses: including Caillade, Pavé Corrèzien, or Tome des Ardoisiers, a whole range of tasty products which are characteristic of the region.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/french-living/food-specialities/cheese>



BERRY PRODUCTION IN THE DORDOGNE VALLEY: A GOURMET TREASURE TROVE

The climate in the Dordogne Valley is perfect for growing berries, which thrive in the ideal soil. Among the most widely grown fruits are raspberries, strawberries and also apples, which are produced in abundance in the region.

Strawberry farming, imported from Chile in the 18th century, developed massively in the 19th century, and today the Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne region is a major production centre. With no less than 300 tonnes of strawberries harvested each year from their 30 hectares of land, the producers have been awarded the prestigious 'Site Remarquable du Goût' label for their high-quality production.

WELCOME TO THE FARM: CÉLINE ROCHE

Local producer Céline Roche invites visitors to discover her farm at Les Comballes in Queyssac-les-Vignes.

THE RASPBERRIES OF CONCÈZE

Raspberry-growing began on a modest scale in 1956 in the village of Concèze, and today the harvest has greatly expanded. With 500 tonnes produced each year by around thirty growers, mainly small family-run farms, raspberries are now one of the region's leading products.

Les Vergers de Leycuras sell these delicious fruits and other fresh produce direct from the farm.



WINES AND VINEYARDS



The Wines of the Corrèze

Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) since 2023

The vineyards of the Corrèze, which once flourished in the Middle Ages, were almost wiped out by phylloxera blight in the 19th century. Thanks to the enthusiasm of several winegrowers, it is gradually coming back to life. After obtaining AOC status in 2017, the wines of Corrèze were awarded PDO status in 2023. Today, 30 winegrowers tend 75 hectares of land, producing unique wines based on selected grape varieties and environmentally-friendly methods of viticulture.

The '1001 Pierres' vineyard: a promising renaissance

After winning a bronze medal at the 1878 Universal Exhibition, Branceilles wine was almost wiped out by phylloxera. In 1987, a group of passionate winemakers brought it back to life under the name '1001 Pierres', marking the wine-growing revival in the Corrèze. This vineyard, the first to be replanted in the region, now covers 75 hectares, half of which is farmed organically. The clay-limestone soil produces a blend of grape varieties: 45% Cabernet Franc, 30% Gamay and 25% Merlot.

Coteaux de la Vézère

Located north of Brive-la-Gaillarde, Les Coteaux de la Vézère is a historic vineyard in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, renowned for its quality wines from a unique terroir.

History and terroir

Winegrowing in this region dates back to the Middle Ages, with production that has lasted for centuries. The terroir is characterised by slatey schist soils, giving the wines a distinctive mineral character.

Grape varieties and wines

The Coteaux de la Vézère vineyards mainly grow the following grape varieties:

Whites: Chenin, Sauvignon Gris, Chardonnay
Reds and Rosés: Merlot, Cabernet Franc



Vin de Paille or 'Miel des Muses'

For over 30 years, winegrowers in southern Corrèze have been rediscovering the art of producing straw wine. Made from red grapes (Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon) and white grapes (Chardonnay, Sauvignon), they are harvested by hand and dried on racks before being pressed in the run-up to Christmas.

The wine is matured for at least two years before bottling. *The Miel des Muses* is ideal as an aperitif, or to accompany foie gras, cheeses and desserts.

Domaine de Chirac – Domaine du Bas-Queyssac.

Meymac-près-Bordeaux: A fortuitous turn of events

Although located 300 kilometres from Bordeaux, the village of Meymac on the Plateau de Millevaches enjoyed an unexpected success in the 19th century thanks to a misleading appellation. Jean Gaye-Bordas, a native of Meymac, began selling wines under the name 'Meymac-près-Bordeaux' in Belgium and northern France, and quickly made a fortune. He later acquired vineyards and châteaux in the Libourne region, followed by other wine merchants from the Meymac area. Between 1900 and 1950, hundreds of Meymac residents used the address 'Meymac-près-Bordeaux' for their transactions.

Chez Françoise, in Meymac, this is the place to go for a taste of local produce accompanied by prestigious Bordeaux wines.

In the Lot: Coteaux de Glanes and Roc-Amadour - a restored winegrowing heritage

The Coteaux de Glanes vineyard, one of the smallest in France at just 40 hectares, is being resurrected by a cooperative of passionate winegrowers. Their wines are characterised by their excellent rosés, whites and reds, made from an award-winning blend of Merlot and Gamay grapes.

Nearby, the **Roc-Amadour** wine estate is renowned for its fruity reds and rosés, following in the footsteps of an ancient wine-growing tradition dating back to Gallo-Roman times. These vineyards, although modest in size, stand out for their quality and character.

In the Dordogne: The Wines of Domme: Small vineyard, big ambition

The Domme vineyard, with its humble 18 hectares, is one of the smallest in France. Nestling on the slopes of the Céou, near the bastide town of Domme, it benefits from ideal soils for the five grape varieties authorised by the 'Vin de Domme' protected geographical indication (PGI).

Committed to sustainable viticulture, the winegrowers have converted 50% of their plots to organic production. The vines are traditionally treated using only copper and sulphur, guaranteeing environmentally-friendly practices.

The Bergerac and Duras vineyards

An award-winning vineyard in the heart of the Périgord

Come and enjoy a memorable experience on the Bergerac and Duras Wine Route. Winner of prestigious awards such as *Wine Area of the Year* in 2018 and the *Iter Vitis Award*, this vineyard stands out for its initiatives and emblematic sites such as Quai Cyrano and the Château de Monbazillac.

Covering 13,000 hectares and seven different terroirs, it produces a rich palette of flavours with some 17 appellations, including Bergerac, Monbazillac and Pécharmant. These wines come in five colours: dry white, sweet, syrupy, rosé and red, bearing witness to a unique heritage.

Bergerac wines at Quai Cyrano

Discover the new Culture, Wine and Tourism Centre in Bergerac. Located on the Quai Cyrano, this venue includes a shop, a wine bar and wine-tasting workshops. It's the perfect place to immerse yourself in the world of Bergerac wines and explore its cultural heritage. Quai Cyrano is situated at 1 Rue des Récollets, 24100 Bergerac.

<https://www.visit-dordogne-valley.co.uk/french-living/food-specialities/wine-tasting-and-vineyards>



MICHELIN

A sky full of stars

The Dordogne Valley is a culinary heaven, with cuisine ranging from simple traditional family recipes to the refinement of Michelin-starred restaurants. Renowned the world over for its culinary wealth, the region combines the finest local produce, traditional recipes and the creativity of its chefs. Here, every dish is a celebration of traditional cuisine, enhanced by a touch of innovation.

In the Dordogne

Le Petit Léon, Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère

A restaurant focusing on local produce and modern gastronomic cuisine inspired by the travels and international heritage of Nick & Sina Honeyman, originally from New Zealand and Germany.

Le Vieux Logis, Trémolat

Set in charming surroundings, this Michelin-starred restaurant serves refined gastronomic cuisine featuring the flavours of the Périgord region.

La Tour des Vents, Monbazillac

This restaurant boasts panoramic views and inventive cuisine, with particular attention paid to local and seasonal produce.

L'Essentiel, Périgueux

Modern and creative cuisine by chef Éric Vidal with the best of local Périgord produce.

Les Fresques - Château des Vigiers, Monestier

In an elegant setting, this restaurant serves refined gastronomic cuisine, with a menu that changes with the seasons.

Le 1862 - Les Glycines, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac

An upmarket culinary experience, with inventive cuisine and quality produce.

In the Lot

Les Trois Soleils de Montal, Saint-Jean-Lespinasse

Chef Frédéric Bizat prepares modern, inventive dishes such as foie gras marinated in Kyoto miso and sweetbreads with potatoes and truffle juice.

Le Pont de l'Ouisse, Lacave

In an idyllic riverside setting, chef Stéphane Chambon serves authentic, refined dishes such as truffled pig's trotters with potato cream, or rocamadour casserole with mascarpone and walnuts.

Château de la Treyne, Lacave

Perched high above the Dordogne, chef Stéphane Andrieux creates chic, modern cuisine, with dishes such as saddle of lamb stuffed with lemon and tomato, or poached egg with truffles and green asparagus.

In the Corrèze

La Table d'Olivier, Brive

Chef Pierre Neveu prepares refined, creative cuisine, using local produce with a contemporary twist.

Cueillette, Altiliac

Michelin-starred chef Oscar Garcia creates his dishes in the manor house of La Raufie. While the site has its own orchard and vegetable garden, all the ingredients are carefully selected in direct collaboration with local producers.



DINNER IN TOWN

The Moon restaurant, Brive

Chef Nicolas Laval prepares a refined and creative cuisine that skilfully blends local produce with seafaring inspirations. Located in a Brive town house, the atmosphere is both modern and warm, with a subtle decor in shades of light wood, blue and white, echoing the chef's favourite nautical theme.

En Cuisine, Brive

Nicolas Eche's restaurant has a Scandinavian feel and offers refined cuisine full of finesse and flavour. Among his creations, the ray wing, with its delicate flesh, is accompanied by homemade gnocchi flavoured with lemon and flat parsley, all enhanced by a perfect sweet and sour sauce. A real treat, where each dish is a model of mastery and deliciousness.

Alfred s'invita à Barnabé, Boulazac (Périgueux)

On the banks of the Isle river, accessible from the greenway, this brasserie has opened in a historic location dear to the hearts of the Périgord people. With its Art Deco style, this former guinguette offers bistro-style dining. Always lively, it's a place where people come at all hours to eat or have a drink.

L'Imparfait, Bergerac

Housed in a medieval building in the heart of the old town of Bergerac, L'Imparfait boasts a warm atmosphere, a dining room with a monumental fireplace and a pleasant terrace in the summer months. For over 15 years, the chef has been serving seasonal cuisine inspired by the Périgord region, with elegant, well-executed dishes.

NO FUSS

In the Corrèze

Le Cantou in Collonges-la-Rouge is a warm, authentic restaurant set in one of France's most beautiful villages. Tucked away in the picturesque setting of Collonges-la-Rouge, the restaurant serves a traditional, high-quality culinary experience, highlighting local produce and flavours.

In the Lot

The restaurant **Le Voyage d'Ernestine in Alvignac** is a real gourmet family affair. Local produce, such as lamb from the Bouscarel farm, vegetables from the village of Tauriac and trout from the Blagour fish farm, are carefully prepared. The brother is a butcher with a perfect eye for good cuts. The sister and husband add a touch of creativity with influences from their travels, adding exotic touches to their dishes (labne, black lemon, lamb jus emulsified with tahini, etc.). A delicious restaurant where you can enjoy yourself in a warm, modern atmosphere.

L'Aromate, Souillac

Discover a restaurant in Souillac where the natural spirit is mirrored in the careful, soothing decor. Here, every dish is lovingly prepared, using fresh, local and seasonal produce. The varied menu has something for everyone, with vegetarian and vegan alternatives on offer. This restaurant is the ideal address for those looking for authentic cuisine and a warm setting, where every detail has been thought of for your comfort and pleasure.

La Table de Nicolas, Biars-sur-Cère

La Table de Nicolas in Biars is a bistro restaurant where passion and creativity meet. Using fresh seasonal produce, the ever-changing menu offers generous, tasty dishes. The careful presentation and good value for money make it an address not to be missed for real heartfelt cuisine.

In the Dordogne

Ferme-Auberge le Colombier, La Roque-Gageac

Alexandre Peyrat welcomes you to his family-run inn to share his traditional Périgord cuisine based on farm produce. His specialities include country soup, pan-fried foie gras, cep omelette, duck breast with cep sauce and Sarlat potatoes, as well as home-made pastries.

Le Bistrot du Presbytère, Queyssac

Set on a cobbled square, with a 17th century church and a bread oven, the presbytery has been transformed into a bistro serving local specialities. The chic yet rural atmosphere features regional products while the stones and old fireplace give the place a special charm. Valérie prepares a special menu of the day, as well as set menus and a la carte menus featuring classic dishes such as omelettes with cep mushrooms and truffles, veal sweetbreads with morel mushrooms, pork cheek, etc.

TABLES WITH A VIEW

The Moulin de l'Imaginaire in Terrasson

Situated close to the old town, at the entrance of the Vézère valley, you'll have the pleasure to discover the Moulin de l'Imaginaire restaurant with its terrace and uninterrupted view of the 12th century "Pont Vieux" bridge.

Le Manoir de Hautegeante in Coly

A 13th century building by the river with a lovely outside space to enjoy scrumptious food under the pergola or on the lawn. Extensive local wine list.

La Belle Etoile in La Roque-Gageac

Gourmet traditional restaurant overlooking the Dordogne in La Roque-Gageac, the perfect place to lounge on the shady terrace and watch the gabare barges drift by.

La Mandragore in Terrasson

Magnificent views over the Vézère River in Terrasson combine with traditional cooking. Aromatic herbs and tomatoes grown in a medieval garden and garnishes including edible flowers add a local twist.

Restaurant des Jardins Sothys in Auriac

A beautifully refurbished barn overlooking the lake at the Gardens of Sothys. Passionate chef Jean-Michel Salcedo brings to life local cuisine with exotic touches gathered from his travels.

Le Bistro d'en Face in Bergerac

Gastropub-style food and a terrace with a breathtaking view over the old town, the River Dordogne and the local boats.

Le Bistrot de Malfourat in Monbazillac

A former ballroom has been reborn as a bistro with a gourmet inspiration and an appetising and affordable menu.

Restaurant at Les Balcons de l'Espérance Hotel in Limeuil

This is a place not to be missed if you are in search of simple, authentic and seasonal cuisine with a view over the Limeuil river bend.

Le Maraîcher Restaurant in Collonges-la-Rouge

A market-garden restaurant serving its own produce in a "zero-mile" approach. On sunny days, we love having lunch or dinner on the terrace with a view over the vegetable garden.

Table d'hôtes meals at Hôtel de L'Abbaye in Saint Cyprien

The magnificent residence had been unoccupied for ten years and was in need of new owners. It has recently had the chance to find a new role and come to life again! Discover the Sunday brunch, summer and winter.



Ô Moulin Restaurant in Carsac-Aillac

The charm and magnificent setting provided by the converted mill at the heart of Périgord Noir, is a chance to bring diners a relaxing atmosphere with inventive and refined dishes for generous and tasty cuisine.

Guinguette de Barnabé in Boulazac Isle Manoire

The Art Deco building, dating back to 1935, is a listed gem of 20th century heritage. It has been thoughtfully renovated to preserve its original character while offering added comfort. The key architectural features, both inside and out, have been carefully maintained, including the terrace, which has been beautifully restored - perfect for live music events (or performances in the conservatory during the winter months). The lunch menu is simple yet satisfying, while the evening offers a more 'gastropub' vibe.

La Chartreuse du Bignac, Saint-Nexans

Recognised as a 'Table Remarquable', La Chartreuse du Bignac presents refined cuisine using local and seasonal produce. Meals can be enjoyed in the dining room with its panoramic views or on the outdoor terrace.

Hostellerie Bellevue, Maison Amaré in Rocamadour

Le Bellevue embodies the perfect blend of local authenticity and modern gastronomy. This establishment provides a culinary experience where every detail is designed to delight the senses. Mélissa Amaré, the young chef inspired by the riches of the Lot region, creates refined gourmet dishes using seasonal produce.

SLEEPING WITH A VIEW: EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

What would you say to waking up to enchanting views or spending a night in unusual accommodation nestling in the heart of the Dordogne Valley? Between perched cabins, troglodyte houses and gîtes with uninterrupted views over the river, experience a unique getaway, where charm and authenticity mingle with escape.

La Domostella, Noilhac

A night under the stars in a glass dome, waking up in the middle of nature with first light and the dawn song of the birds.
www.lamaisondesetoiles.fr

Hêtre sous le charme, Saint-Martial-Entraygues

Cut yourself off from the world in the most romantic of ways, suspended in the trees in wooden huts with stunning views. Breakfasts or dinners can be delivered to the bottom of your tree house in a basket. With water and solar powered electricity.
www.hetresouslecharme.com

Les Vieilles Tours, Rocamadour

Discover this magnificent 17th-century manor house, a former hunting lodge, set amidst vineyards overlooking the Ouyse and Alzou valleys. The hotel offers 14 personalised rooms in three buildings, with direct access to the large grounds offering peace and quiet and panoramic views over the Alzou valley. The swimming pool is heated from May to September. Buffet breakfasts are served, featuring local produce. Take advantage of the panoramic terrace to enjoy cocktails or homemade aperitifs.

VIP REFUGE : An unusual escape in the heart of the Lot

Just 6km from Martel, with a breathtaking view over the valley of truffle oaks, VIP REFUGE offers you a unique experience combining luxury and nature. Whether you're here for a night, a weekend or a holiday, VIP REFUGE is the perfect place to recharge your batteries. Discover a region with an exceptional heritage, with unique tourist sites such as Rocamadour, Padirac, Collonges-la-Rouge and many others. Much more than a simple hobbit house or tree house, VIP REFUGE offers an incomparable stay for total rejuvenation with your family, your partner or your friends.
<https://viprefuge.com/>

Châteaux dans les arbres, Beaumontois in Périgord

Inspired by the châteaux of Monbazillac, Les Milandes, Hautefort and Puybeton, these exclusively decorated tree houses blend into the landscape on the edge of the forest. The Biron and Jumilhac châteaux on the water offer a different way of admiring the landscape.
<https://www.chateaux-dans-les-arbres.com/fr/>



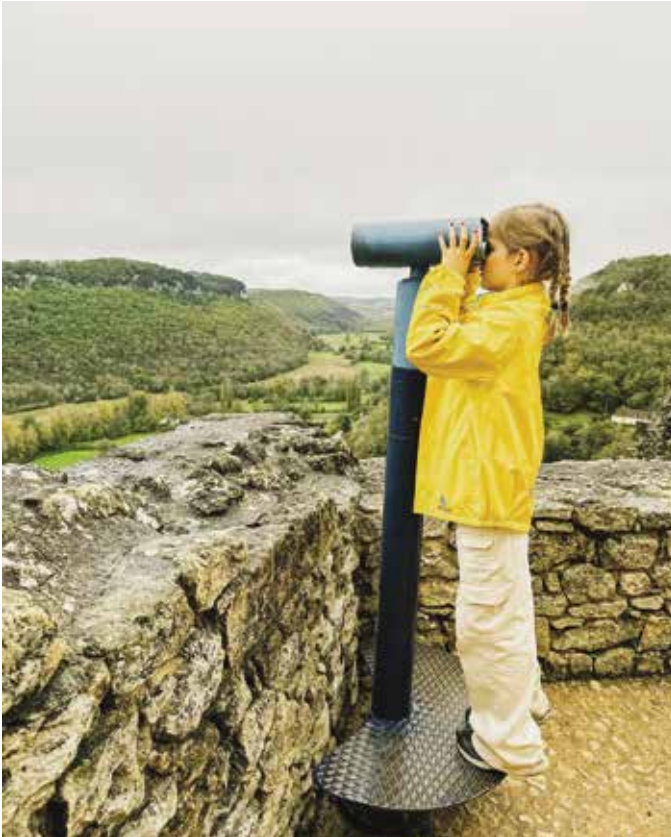
GEOCACHING, HIGH-TECH TREASURE HUNTING

Bringing the family together with mobile phones, Geocaching has taken off the world over. 100% free, it's an outdoor high-tech combination of clue hunting and orienteering with a bit of help from GPS! It has become very popular in the Dordogne Valley and there are around twenty 'caches' in English available for download from the free App 'Terra Aventura'. Anyone with a smartphone can play. Adventure seekers just need to follow the GPS trail to unveil the clues that lead ultimately to the geocache treasure - which contains a log book and trinkets such as collectable badges. While visiting an ancient medieval town it's a fun way to get children involved in exploring it too. There are a number of great caches to play in English, scattered throughout the Dordogne Valley and many at key historic sites such as Sarlat, Brive, Terrasson, Domme, Beynac, Rocamadour, Pompadour Hautefort and Tourtoirac. While caching, it's impossible not to learn something about the destination! The puzzles in Martel for instance even impart some fascinating history on the English occupation of this part of France while seeking out the treasure. www.terra-aventura.fr/?langcode=en

SPECIAL KIDS

With kid friendly activities galore, the Dordogne Valley is a one stop shop for anything from canoeing to discovering wildlife, introductory cave dives or rock climbing. Here are some other great ideas to keep them active and busy:





DORDOGNE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Have fun, explore, and try something new — everything is possible in our region. With over 150 activities specially designed for families, there's something for everyone. Indulge in a calligraphy workshop at a château, enjoy some time with the animals at an educational farm, race around a go-kart track, or even try your hand at gold panning. The possibilities are endless!

www.dordogne-perigord-tourisme.fr

Plus: family visits to the Château de Bridoire in Ribagnac; a real historic theme park for all ages.

www.chateaubridoire.com

BREAKFAST WITH THE MONKEYS IN ROCAMADOUR: A FUN AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE!

Come and enjoy a privileged moment in the heart of the monkey park, accompanied by an experienced guide. Enjoy a private tour and take part in the feeding of the Barbary macaques. You'll discover their fascinating behaviour and learn how to observe them up close, while enjoying breakfast in their company. An experience not to be missed!

CALVIAC ANIMAL RESERVE

The Calviac animal reserve is near Sarlat. It is home to some 200 animals from four geographic zones - Europe, Madagascar, South America and Oceania. It is a member of a network of reserves committed to protecting endangered species and rescuing mistreated animals. Visitors can see the animals in large enclosures on the tree-filled site.

www.reserve-calviac.org

TO THE CASTLES!

The Dordogne Valley stages impressive medieval spectacles for all the little princes and great warriors who love adventure!

Tours de Merle

Included with the entry fee during the summer months is a medieval show aimed at children with demonstrations, games, sword play and horse stunts. In French, but still enjoyable and funny even with no understanding of the language.

www.toursdemerle.fr

Parc Durandal

The French version of the Excalibur myth, the show is loosely based around the miraculous sword 'Durandal'. A light hearted and amusing medieval tale, with lots of sword play, jokes and spectacular horse stunts.

www.parcdurandal.com

Château de Commarque

As if from nowhere, this medieval fortress reveals itself through a wide range of activities to complement the visit to the site: vibrant games of yesteryear, exciting themed workshops, a thrilling investigation, stimulating archery, captivating medieval shows... Adventure is everywhere! Even on the walls of the building which you can abseil down.

www.commarque.com

COLETTE'S GARDENS

One of the most famous international novelists of French literature, **Colette** was nominated for the 1948 **Nobel Prize for Literature** and was the first woman in France to receive a state funeral. She spent several years living in the Dordogne Valley in the Corrèze area in the villages of **Varetz** and later in **Curemonte** during the Second World War. The Jardins de Colette near Brive pays homage to this literary genius with a five hectare garden themed in her honour. Dedicated to her love of nature that infused both her writing and her life (she was an avid gardener), it is open for visits from April to October.

www.lesjardinsdecolette.com

MAIN EVENTS



From exciting festivals to gourmet celebrations, the Dordogne Valley is alive with events that showcase its cultural treasures and natural heritage throughout the year. Concerts under the stars, bustling traditional markets and unforgettable encounters make every season a wonderful experience. Immerse yourself in a whole array of events where art, history and festivities intertwine.

18 and 19 January

Truffle Festival in Sarlat

A major gastronomic event celebrating the prestigious black diamond of Périgord, offering an authentic immersion in Périgord gastronomy, with markets, culinary demonstrations and tastings.

1-2 March

Fest'oisie

Held in the medieval heart of Sarlat, diners sit in heated marquees and sample the feast, prepared by the leading restaurateurs of the town, all from **100% local produce**. The dish named after Sarlat itself - Sarladaise potatoes (delicious sautéed potatoes cooked in duck fat) is served accompanied by goose sausages and of course - foie gras.

19 April-4 May

Châteaux en Fête in the Dordogne

This not-to-be-missed event offers a unique opportunity for families and friends to enjoy exclusive, festive, fun, cultural, educational, sporting and gastronomic experiences... Sumptuous châteaux, castles and manor houses host special events with lavish festivities in and around their historic sites!

11 May

The Strawberry Festival in Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne

On the second Sunday in May, the town of Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne transforms into a huge berry festival. The Fête de la Fraise is a day of celebrations and events, where strawberries are enjoyed every which way: with creams, tarts, jams and much more. A not-to-be-missed festival for all strawberry lovers!

29-30 May

Journées du Terroir in Sarlat

One of the **biggest events of the year** happens in May when the city of **Sarlat** hosts two days of delectable **gourmet excess**. Meeting local producers, foodies can indulge in any number of delights including pork, Neuvic caviar, wild mushrooms and fine local wines.

8 June

Cheese Festival - Rocamadour

An annual traditional festival where the flavours of the region come together. The event celebrates the richness of local cheeses and the finesse of its regional wines, all brought together under the banner of the rocamadour PDO goat's cheese. In May 2025, from 10am to 6pm at the Rocamadour Stadium, expect to be dazzled by the delicate aromas of the regional products and gourmet know-how.

July

Les nuits de l'imaginaire

In summer, fireworks are a feature of village fetes all over the Dordogne Valley. The celebration of **Bastille Day** on the 14th July in Terrasson has made this town famous for its **fireworks display**. Drawing thousands of people to it each year, it's more than a night of pyrotechnics. It's also a **3D sound and light show**, where sophisticated high tech lighting is accompanied by beautiful fireworks exploding over the magnificent backdrop of the old bridge and ancient city. A video projection on the Saint Sour church can be viewed each evening. www.ville-terrasson.com

7 July-25 August

The white picnic at the Gardens of Eyrignac

Every Monday evening, the Gardens of Eyrignac host the renowned White Picnic, where guests are invited to dress in white for a truly elegant summer experience. An event for the whole family to enjoy.

12-19 July

Souillac en Jazz

A not-to-be-missed event that's been bringing jazz music to the Lot every year since 1976, during the second week of July. Since then, the festival has continued to evolve and broaden its horizons. Today, some of the leading figures in international jazz are setting Souillac's summer evenings alight, offering unforgettable musical experiences.

17-20 July

Brive Festival - Brive

It takes place each year in July and welcomes thousands of fans. Now one of the region's main urban festivals, it hosts four days of music just a step or two away from the town centre. With a wide range of artists in a summer atmosphere and 100% Brive-la-Gaillarde.

25-27 July

Ecaussystème - Gignac

Also in July, the fields around the tiny village of Gignac turn into a **giant party** with up to 30,000 festival goers joining in the fun of this **eco-conscious** festival. The Offspring, Jimmy Cliff, Franz Ferdinand and Iggy Pop have all performed at the **Ecaussystème Festival**. This summer: The Sex Pistols..

27 July-10 August

Festival of Saint Céré

The Festival returns with original programming combining music, performance and exceptional heritage. Our favourite is Handel's Rinaldo on 1, 3 and 5 August! This spectacular baroque opera, complete with puppets and fantasy creatures, will be recreated in the open air at the Château de Castelnaud-Bretenoux.

23-24 August

Farm Festival in Brive

In the purest tradition of the fairs of yesteryear, Brive-la-Gaillarde welcomes the farming world to the town centre to showcase the very best in livestock breeding and local produce. With 15,000 m² of exhibition space, it's a chance to meet over 100 breeders and producers and see more than 700 animals on display.

15-26 August

Rocamadour Sacred Music Festival

In 2025, the Rocamadour Festival will reach its 20th edition: an emblematic milestone. Two decades of musical passion, unforgettable artistic encounters and shared magical moments. To celebrate this exceptional anniversary, what better way than to invite the artists who have shaped the festival's history back into the spotlight, along with timeless musical masterpieces.

27-28 September

Rocamadour Balloon Festival

Now over 30 years old, this is one of Europe's biggest annual ballooning events, attracting 30,000 spectators each year. Over 30 balloons gracefully hover above the medieval city of Rocamadour. Named after the French engineers who achieved the first ever successful hot air balloon flight in Paris in 1783, the Montgolfiades Festival sees the early morning flights take off around 8am and again late afternoon at around 5pm.



27-28 September

Sarlat Food Festival

National gastronomy event which puts the terroir in the spotlight by organising a popular event around Sarladais pastoral lamb and Sarladais potatoes.

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End of October

Medieval Festival in Dordogne

3 days of festivities to immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of the bastides of the Dordogne, towns that showcase the medieval and offer a real journey back in time.

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4-8 November

Sarlat Film Festival

An annual event that attracts internationally recognised directors and actors. The festival is renowned for its selection of French and international films, film premieres, and the chance for film professionals and audiences to meet.

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5-31 December

Christmas Market in Sarlat

Enjoy the Christmas market, ice skating rink and a joyful atmosphere that will make this time of year truly magical.

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