VILLAGE LIFE®
IN
DORDOGNE
September 8 to 16, 2016
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Join this small group of travelers for a unique opportunity to experience the authentic character of France’s historic villages in the picturesque southwestern département of Dordogne. Immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in this charming region, and explore the history of early humans who painted their stories on its cave walls, the largest concentration of prehistoric art in the world.

Experience the heart of Dordogne, a hidden treasure where all of France’s provincial delights have been distilled into one of Europe’s most beautiful and intact medieval villages, Sarlat-la-Canéda. Our carefully designed itinerary and expert-guided excursions explore five impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites: the dramatic cliffside monastic village of Rocamadour, the important archaeological sites of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, Rouffignac Cave and Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac, and the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Visit the incredible Lascaux II to appreciate one of humankind’s earliest art creations in the form of cave paintings. Exclusively arranged, enriching presentations and the VILLAGE FORUM® provide personal perspectives on daily life in the villages of Dordogne.

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

VILLAGE LIFE® in DORDOGNE is truly a one-of-a-kind French experience, a great value and you unpack only once! It is an exceedingly popular program, so I encourage you to book now while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

À bientôt!

Go Green!

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Association

Cover photo: Visit the storied Dordogne River Valley, where brave knights once defended medieval villages. Explore this medieval region of Dordogne, where street lamps are one of the few concessions to modernity.
Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of Dordogne during this comprehensive, small group travel program featuring the beautiful départements and countryside of southwestern France, the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda within the oak-forested Périgord Noir and the world’s largest collection of magnificent prehistoric art. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other and an excellent value, including all accommodations, specially designed excursions and most meals. Become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in Dordogne by interacting with local people; explore the history, culture, art, language and cuisine; and unpack just once! This popular program is one of the Village Life® series, a comprehensive, intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

Cultural Enrichments are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

♦ Enjoy an authentic experience in delightful Sarlat, a quintessential provincial French village.

♦ Immerse yourself in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions and time on your own to discover and observe the heart of medieval Sarlat and experience daily village life.

♦ Engage with Dordognais (local residents) during the Village Forum® where they will share candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village.

♦ Peruse Sarlat’s traditional, twice-weekly, outdoor market, located just a short walk from your hotel.

♦ Sample the traditional cuisine of France’s Aquitaine region during specially arranged meals and an exclusive wine and local cheese tasting in an épicerie gourmet.

♦ Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, where prehistoric man once made his home, and the mysterious cave friezes of Lascaux II, a replica of Lascaux, estimated to have been painted 17,300 years ago.

♦ See the world’s premier collection of paleolithic engravings and sculpture at The National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.

♦ Enjoy a private cruise in an authentic 19th-century gabare (barge) and admire the historic châteaux and villages along the spectacular, cliff-lined Dordogne River.

♦ Experience a specially arranged, private performance of traditional 19th-century Périgord Noir folk music and dance.

♦ Hear it from the Experts! Experienced, English-speaking Dordognais guides will accompany you throughout the program and share their expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Dordogne. A local expert will lecture on preserving the medieval architecture in Sarlat.

♦ Learn key phrases in la langue française (the French language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.

Sail the bucolic Dordogne River aboard a traditional 19th-century wooden gabare, the typical mode of transportation of the Périgord region for more than 150 years.
**ITINERARY**

**Day**

1. **BORDEAUX® PRE-PROGRAM OPTION**
   - Depart the U.S.
2. **BORDEAUX, FRANCE/SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA**
   - Arrive in Bordeaux, then transfer to Sarlat.
   - Check into PLAZA MADELEINE HOTEL.
3. **SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA**
   - Walking tour of Sarlat.
   - Cultural Enrichment:
     - Afternoon at leisure to peruse the village market of Sarlat.
4. **ROCAMADOUR/SOULLAC**
   - Tour of Rocamadour.
   - Visit to Souillac.
5. **LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC-SIEN/ST-AMAND-DE-COLY**
   - Visit to the Jardins d’Eyrignac.
   - Cultural Enrichments:
     - View cave friezes of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc.
     - Sarlat Village Forum®.
6. **LASCAUX/ST-AMAND-DE-COLY**
   - Visit to St-Amand-de-Coly.
   - Cultural Enrichments:
     - View prehistoric cave art of Lascaux II.
     - Lecture on the preservation of 17th-century architecture in Sarlat.
     - Sample local wines and cheeses.
7. **ROUFFIGNAC/LA MADELEINE**
   - Tour of prehistoric Rouffignac cave.
   - Excursion to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine.
   - Cultural Enrichments:
     - Morning at leisure to enjoy individual pursuits in Sarlat such as their quaint twice-weekly market.
     - Private evening folk music performance and dance.
8. **BEYNAC/DOMME**
   - Tour of Château de Beynac.
   - Walking tour of historic Domme.
   - Cultural Enrichment:
     - Cruise in a typical gabare on the bucolic Dordogne River.
9. **SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA/BORDEAUX/Return to the U.S.**

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**Sarlat-la-Canéda**

Author Henry Miller called Sarlat “the Frenchman’s paradise.”

Your charming “village home” is in the pre-French Revolutionary capital of Périgord Noir, a lushly forested corner of the Aquitaine region, ideally located between the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers. It is a bon vivant’s dream, renowned for truffles, wild mushrooms, strawberries, walnuts and duck, and close enough to Bordeaux to procure the finest wines directly from vintners’ cellars.

Sarlat has one of the greatest concentrations of medieval, Renaissance and 17th-century façades in Europe. Step back in time as you meander through narrow cobbledstone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with traditional Renaissance-style stone houses crowned with pepperpot chimneys. The heart of Sarlat is the Place de la Liberté, where every Wednesday and Saturday one of France’s most storied markets is held, a tradition dating from the Middle Ages.

Cultural Enrichment: During the exclusive Village Forum®, Dordognais will discuss contemporary life in Dordogne.

Cultural Enrichment: Attend the private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving medieval architecture in Sarlat.
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Enjoy a private, traditional, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty épicerie.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor a specially arranged dinner in two authentic French bistros in Sarlat.

Rocamadour/Souillac

Rocamadour, a fortified 13th-century village and UNESCO World Heritage site, has one of the most dramatic settings of any village in the world, built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims flocked here from across Europe to perform penance by ascending over 200 steps of the Grand Stairway on their knees to pay homage to the Virgin Mary and seek miracles from St. Amadour by visiting his crypt. Embedded in the cliff above the doorway to the Chapelle de Notre Dame is a sword said to be that of the heroic knight Roland.

Nearby, visit the quaint town of Souillac and its 12th-century Church of Sainte-Marie, a treasury of Romanesque statuary and carvings depicting biblical and legendary scenes.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor a lunch of regional specialties in a village restaurant.

Les Eyzies-de-Tayac

Les Eyzies is France’s capital of prehistoric humanity, where unprecedented fossils of Cro-Magnon man have been discovered. Approximately 35,000 years old, these fossils are some of the earliest known evidence of modern humans in Europe. The National Museum of Prehistory, housed in a 13th-century castle, gives context to the area’s cave paintings, fossils and early tools.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Guided excursion to see L’Abri du Cap-Blanc’s prehistoric cave friezes.

Villages of the Périgord Noir

Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the picturesque Vézère River, the prehistoric troglodyte village and UNESCO World Heritage site of La Madeleine offers unique insight into the Magdalenian culture, which prevailed in southern Europe for over 60 centuries from 15,000 to 9000 B.C. This ancient settlement of approximately 20 dwellings once accommodated 100 residents at a time.

Petit Saint-Amand-de-Coly is one of the most picturesque villages in Dordogne,
its cobblestone lanes dominated by the fortified 13th-century Abbey Church, an unusual fusion of Romanesque and Gothic styles. Traces of the Hundred Years’ War remain in the ramparts and towers of the fortress-like church and the nearby remnants of its abbey.

Château de Beynac
Perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River and commanding a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside is the fortified Château (castle) de Beynac, a masterpiece of medieval military engineering that was once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart. Traverse the castle’s elaborate series of surrounding stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers and passageways to an impressive interior decorated with a magnificent 17th-century staircase and delicate 15th-century frescoes, including one of the Last Supper and a Pietà.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Enjoy a private cruise on the tranquil Dordogne River aboard a traditional 19th-century gabare, followed by a lunch of Périgord specialties in a local restaurant overlooking the river.

Domme
Among the “most beautiful villages” of France, Domme is an authentic medieval bastide, or fortified village, where entrance today is still gained through its original military ramparts, and graffiti etched by the Knights Templar in the 14th century is still distinguishable on the inner village walls. The beauty of the 13th- and 14th-century architecture of Domme is surpassed only by its exceptional views overlooking the Dordogne River.

Splendors of Bordeaux
St-Émilion and Médoc
Pre-Program Option
Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France’s verdant Bordeaux region has been producing, fermenting and bottling the grape since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of the rolling French countryside and endless vineyards, visit the charming and legendary village of St-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for the Merlot grape grown here that produces rich, full-bodied red wines. Visit the impressive medieval monuments of St-Émilion, including the Église Monolithe, one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, experience the grand cru classé, Bordeaux’s distinguished wine classification, at a château and enjoy a tasting of their exquisite wines. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe HÔTEL  BURDIGALA, located in the heart of Bordeaux. The Pre-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

St-Émilion, known for its exceptional viticulture, is located on the St. James Way pilgrimage route.
Included Features

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

Local Expert-Guided Excursions
◆ Architectural walking tour of Sarlat-la-Canéda.
◆ Full-day excursion featuring Rocamadour, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the magnificent Romanesque sculptures in Souillac’s Church of Sainte-Marie, including lunch.
◆ Visit to the lush, impeccably maintained 19th-century Jardins d’Eyrignac.
◆ Excursion to the impressive Rouffignac Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Visit to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine and the medieval village and fortified church of Saint-Amand-de-Coly.
◆ Tour of the medieval Château de Beynac.
◆ Excursion to the impressive Rouffignac Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Walking tour of Domme, with spectacular views of the Dordogne River Valley.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Excursions to the UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc and the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux II.
◆ Tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.
◆ Specially arranged VILLAGE FORUM® with local residents who will discuss contemporary daily life in provincial France’s Dordogne département.
◆ A lecture on architectural preservation in Sarlat-la-Canéda by a local historian.
◆ Private, specially arranged gabare cruise along the Dordogne River, with lunch in the village of Beynac-et-Cazenac.
◆ Local wine and cheese tasting at a Sarlat épicerie gourmet.
◆ Specially arranged meals highlighting the distinctive flavors of the Dordogne region.
◆ Private 19th-century Périgord cultural folk performance.
◆ French language introduction.

Enhanced Travel Services
◆ Transfers and baggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
◆ Gratuities to hotel personnel and local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
◆ The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Prehistoric Art

Dordogne has the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites anywhere in the world. The region’s limestone caves and rocky overhangs provided Ice Age man with not only shelter, but also a vast canvas for his extraordinary rock paintings. In the two most well-known caves, Lascaux and Rouffignac, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, extinct aurochs, wild stallions and antelopes, painted between approximately 25,000 and 17,000 years ago, still prance, preen and gallop before your eyes. The original Lascaux cave has been closed to the public since 1963 for preservation purposes; Lascaux II, an exact and stunning replica, has been created to enable the public to view these fascinating cave paintings. In fact, it gives a truer representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in Lascaux itself.

The authentic Rouffignac Cave offers up-close views of the deft drawings of extinct animals covering the five-mile labyrinth of cavern walls, including the famous and impressive frieze of two bison about to engage each other in battle.

Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. A guided tour of the exhibits at the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies helps put this vast network of prehistoric art into context.

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

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

**LAND TARIFF**

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<th>Early Booking Price through April 4, 2016</th>
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<td>Per person, based on double occupancy</td>
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- Singles are available upon request for an additional $700.
- Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

**VILLAGE LIFE® IN DORDOGNE RESERVATION FORM**

Send to: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
Phone: (800) 922-3088 / Fax: (312) 609-1141
Or, for more information, please call the MSU Alumni Association at (888) 697-2863.

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

Please make my/our reservation(s):

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

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option
  - Double at $795 per person.
  - Single at $1095 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/we want you to book my/our air from __________________________ (fill in departure city) to and from Bordeaux, France, at additional cost to be advised.

- Economy Class
- Business Class
- First Class

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

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Association.
Admire the finest "English" gardens in France as you stroll through the enchanting grounds of Eyrignac Manor.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring organization, and its subsidiaries, affiliates, trustees, and/or directors, successors, and assigns (collectively "Gohagan"), do not own or operate any entity which is or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, ground transportation services, suppliers of optional excursions, food service, entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As such, Gohagan does not warrant the performance of any such entity and shall not be liable for any failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

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TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the source of reimbursement.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include airfare to or from the United States, no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OT#: 13 999

BONDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the arbitrator, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/her or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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