Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot

POP 1.32 MILLION

Includes ➢
Périgueux .............. 563
Brantôme ............. 567
Bergerac ............. 569
Issigeac & Around ... 570
Monpazier & Around . 571
Dordogne Valley ...... 572
Sarlat-la-Canéda .... 577
Vézère Valley ......... 580
Limoges .............. 587
Brive-la-Gaillarde ... 595
Cahors ............... 599

Best Places to Eat
➢ Le Vieux Logis (p573)
➢ Les Truffieres (p572)
➢ Le Petit Paris (p576)
➢ Villa Laetitia (p569)
➢ La Tour des Vents (p570)
➢ Le Saint Martial (p576)

Best Places to Stay
➢ Hôtel La Grézalide (p608)
➢ Manoir de Malagorse (p605)
➢ Hostellerie Les Griffons (p568)
➢ Hôtel Le Saint Cirq (p606)

Why Go?
Dordogne, Limousin and the Lot are the heart and soul of la belle France, a land of dense oak forests, winding rivers, emerald-green fields and famously rich country cooking. It’s the stuff of which French dreams are made: turreted châteaux and medieval villages line the riverbanks, wooden-hulled gabarres (traditional flat-bottomed, wooden boats) ply the waterways, and market stalls overflow with foie gras, truffles, walnuts, cheeses and fine wines.

The Dordogne département has a bevy of bastides (fortified towns) and fantastic medieval castles, as well as Europe’s most spectacular cave paintings, and probably the best cuisine. To the northeast, the Limousin région – encompassing the Haute-Vienne, Creuse and Corrèze départements – is the most rural, strewn with farms and hamlets, as well as the porcelain centre, Limoges. To the south, the Lot département is ribboned with rivers to cruise and caverns to explore, plus dramatic hilltop villages, and medieval settlements.

When to Go

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May & Jun Take to the rivers and climb ramparts before the crowds get thick.

Jul & Aug Sup on local produce at Dordogne’s excellent restaurants and summer night markets.

Dec–Feb Browse markets selling Périgord black truffles.
Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot Highlights

1. Admiring the prehistoric artwork of the Vézère Valley (p580)
2. Exploring the cliff-face sanctuaries at Rocamadour (p603)
3. Wandering the russet-stone streets of Sarlat-la-Canéda (p577)
4. Cruising the Dordogne River near La Roque Gageac (p574), Bergerac (p569) or Brantôme (p567)
5. Sampling the region’s local produce at village markets, such as Issigeac’s (p570) or Martel’s (p605)
6. Strolling a 1st-century Roman villa at Périgueux’ Musée Gallo-Romain Vesunna (p565)
7. Picking up porcelain at the renowned china factories of Limoges (p587)
8. Traipsing through vibrant medieval cities, including Figeac (p607) and Cahors (p599)
9. Wandering the ramparts of medieval cities at Castelnau (p573), Beynac (p573) and Najac (p609)