



Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot

POP 1.33 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Le Vieux Logis (p568)
- ➔ Les Truffieres (p568)
- ➔ Le Petit Paris (p571)
- ➔ La Tour des Vents (p565)

Best Places to Sleep

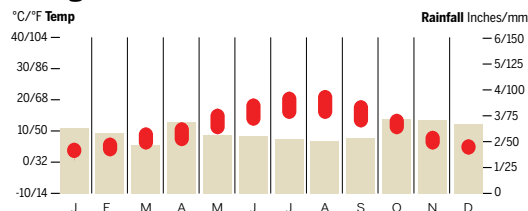
- ➔ Hôtel La Grézalide (p601)
- ➔ Manoir de Malagorse (p599)
- ➔ Château de Maraval (p571)
- ➔ Château les Merles (p564)

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 pâté, 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 Limoges



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

Jul & Aug Sup on the bounty of local produce at excellent restaurants and summertime night markets.

Dec-Feb Browse markets selling Périgord black truffles.



Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot Highlights

- 1 Vézère Valley** (p575)
Admiring the ancient artwork of prehistoric Europeans.
- 2 Village Markets** (p566)
Sampling rich local produce at abundant markets, such as Issigeac's or Martel's.
- 3 Historic Castles** (p569)
Wandering the ramparts of medieval fortresses.
- 4 Sarlat-la-Canéda** (p572)
Exploring historic russet-stone streets.
- 5 Rocamadour** (p598)
Following in the footsteps of centuries of pilgrims at the cliff-face sanctuaries.
- 6 River Cruising** (p573)
Plying local waterways in a *gabarre* near La Roque Gageac, Bergerac or Brantôme.
- 7 Musée Gallo-Romain Vesunna** (p561)
Strolling a 1st-century Roman villa.
- 8 Limoges** (p588)
Shopping for French porcelain at renowned china factories.
- 9 Medieval Cities** (p601)
Traipsing through still-vibrant towns from the Middle Ages, including Figeac and Cahors.