Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot
POP 1.33 MILLION

**Includes**
- Périgueux ........... 559
- Bergerac ............ 564
- The Dordogne Valley ............ 568
- Sarlat-la-Canéda .... 572
- The Vézère Valley ... .575
- Limoges ............... 583
- Aubusson ............. 587
- Brive-la-Gaillarde ... 590
- Cahors ............... 594

**Best Places to Eat**
- Le Vieux Logis (p568)
- Les Truffières (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**

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<tr>
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<td>4/100</td>
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<td>4/100</td>
<td>6/150</td>
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**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.
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.