



An indulgent week in the
Dordogne

Some of France's most prized produce emanates from the Dordogne... iconic confit duck, white cabecou goat's cheese, melt-in-the-mouth foie gras, precious black truffles...all brought to the table with such care and pride.

This peaceful pocket is a patchwork of green meadows and dark forests, quaint villages and soaring chateaux. At its heart is Monpazier – a classified *Plus Beau Village de France* – our home base for the week. This 13th century *bastide* (fortified village) is considered the best preserved and most beautiful of all the bastides in the South-West.

Monpazier's charm is in its time-worn honeyed stone houses, imposing arched village gates, its medieval oak-beamed corn-market in the central square, and its enticing artisan studios & workshops.

Enjoying the comforts of a classic French country house, Villa Ste Therese, immerse yourself in the heartland of authentic Perigourdine cuisine. Enjoy traditional food, experience the flavours of the season, slow to the rhythm of French village life.



Autumn is a season of bounty: wild cepe mushrooms, pumpkins, quinces. This is the season of plump ducks and geese for foie gras, pates and confits; of chestnuts and walnuts; of fruit-laden confitures and honey from forests and orchards.

It heralds the start of *la chasse* – the hunting season – and game starts to appear on local menus. Each day brings us a new adventure exploring the history, culture and gastronomy of the area.

DAY 1: MONDAY – *D*

A warm welcome awaits you upon your arrival at Villa Ste Therese in the afternoon. If you're arriving via train or plane you will be met at Bergerac airport or train station by your host and driven to Villa Ste Therese. Over Welcome Drinks let's break the ice with other guests, and then enjoy dinner at home with your hosts.



DAY 2: TUESDAY - *B, L, S*

After a traditional breakfast, we start our edible exploration. Our morning begins with a visit to the exquisite Chateau Puymartin with its beautifully preserved interiors, and its own resident ghost, La Dame Blanche! Then it's off to explore ancient *Plus Beau Village* La Roque-Gageac. And we'll dine at a stylish *Michelin* 'Bib Gourmand' restaurant perched above the Dordogne River. After lunch we head into the autumnal forest near St Cyprien to meet a trufficulteur, and watch him put his dogs through their paces to hunt for Perigord's *Black Diamond* - the precious winter truffle. A visit to Domme makes a wonderful detour on our return.



DAY 3: WEDNESDAY – *B, L, S*

After breakfast, we take a drive to Neuvic for a luxurious discovery - caviar! Who'd have thought such a famed symbol of indulgence would be found here in the peaceful Dordogne countryside. Donning the trout-waders is optional, but tasting is a must! We continue the luxurious tone with lunch at a *Michelin* one-star restaurant overlooking the tranquil vineyards of the Monbazillac region. *Bon appetit!* After lunch, it's time to explore beautiful Chateau Monbazillac & taste its world-famous 'golden nectar'.



DAY 4: THURSDAY – *B, L, S*

After breakfast, we shop! So let's head into Monpazier for the fun and bustle of the weekly market. We'll be joined by a talented Chef, who will guide us through the local seasonal produce, with plenty of tastings and tips about what to look for and how to eat it, French style.

We then head off to our Chef's gorgeous chambres d'hotels in an old converted mill, which will be our base for cooking a delicious relaxed three course lunch.

We wind our way back to Monpazier in the afternoon, exploring a couple of beautiful nearby villages and wonderful hidden gems along the way. As they say in France, *il vaut le detour!*



DAY 5: FRIDAY – *B, L, S*

This morning we head north to meet the locals - a bunch of goats! We visit a chevre farm, home to France's much-loved cabecou goats cheese, as well as an array of other cheesy delights. Remember, this is the land of 246 kinds of cheese!

Then it's on to a pretty riverside hamlet for another *Michelin* one-star lunch...a five course indulgent 'tapas' experience ...mmmm! Then we'll walk off lunch exploring the Panoramic Gardens at yet another *Plus Beau Village*, Limeuil.



DAY 6: SATURDAY – *B, L, D*

We first visit the bustling morning market at Villereal, and explore this lovely village, where the gateaux at Monsieur Blanchard's renowned patisserie are not to be missed! Then it's on to a wonderful *al fresco* picnic lunch at the base of stunning Chateau de Biron, before taking in the beautiful sweeping vistas from inside its terraces and towers.

We return to Villa Ste Therese to relax and enjoy one last apéro on the terrace ahead of our final evening together. Tonight we stroll over to a cosy restaurant in Monpazier to share a wonderful three course farewell dinner.



DAY 7: SUNDAY – *B*

After breakfast, it's time to say farewell. Transfers are organised to Bergerac airport or train station if you need it, and then you are on your way, with many wonderful memories of a week well-spent in this little corner of French gourmet heaven!



PRICE & TERMS

Land content only - \$3,800.00AUD:

Note: Land only arrangements begin on Day 1 when you arrive at Villa Ste Therese on Day 1, up until your departure from the Villa on Day 7.

Single supplement - \$900.00AUD:

The tour price is based on two people sharing a twin or double room. If you are travelling as a single guest, we will do our best to twin-share you with someone of the same gender. If you prefer to occupy a room alone, please specify on your booking form. In that case, or if we are unable to match you up with another traveller, we are obliged to charge a 'single supplement'.

Deposits: The **First deposit** of **\$1,000.00AUD** is non-refundable, payable within seven (7) days of booking application. A Tour Booking Form will be provided. On receipt of your completed and signed booking form and deposit (and once minimum group numbers have been reached), you will receive confirmation of your place on Tour. A **Second Instalment Payment** of **\$1,400.00AUD** is then requested by 22 April, 2019.

Balance: Final balance of **\$1,400.00AUD** is due in full (plus any Single Supplement if specified) by 22 July, 2019 (eight weeks prior to arrival date). Any bookings made after this date must be paid in full upon booking. Detailed pre-departure information will then be provided so you can prepare for your time with us.

Tour Price Inclusions

- Transfers from/to Bergerac Airport or Train Station on Day 1 and Day 7
- Six nights accommodation in a twin/double room at Villa Ste Therese, Monpazier (unless Single specified)
- Six breakfasts, five lunches, two dinners, four suppers, as itemised in itinerary. We have a leisurely lunch or dinner planned each day, leaving the other mealtime free for you to choose your own dining options at your discretion. Light suppers are also served at home each evening after our daily adventures.
- Wines will be selected by your Hosts to complement the menu at all included lunches and dinners
- Aperitifs at the Villa - a selection of local wines, beers, soft drinks & mineral water
- All sightseeing activities & excursions including any entrance fees as itemised in the itinerary
- Complimentary tour gift
- Fully escorted by Tour Hosts

Tour Price Exclusions

- Airfares, airport taxes and charges
- Train fares, taxes & charges to reach Bergerac or the Villa
- Any tours, transfers, activities, meals, drinks, entrance fees etc not specified in the itinerary
- Travel Insurance and Visas
- Vaccinations and other health requirements as required
- Tipping, gratuities & portage
- Excess baggage
- Any items & purchases of a personal nature

Villa Ste Therese is a sprawling *maison de campagne* or gentleman's country house, built in the early 19th century. Authentically renovated in the local Perigourdine style, the Villa offers spacious and tastefully decorated bedrooms, each with its own ensuite bathroom, tranquil gardens, with large pool terrace, and stunning views of ancient Monpazier and the surrounding valleys.

Your Host Rosemary Vine is a certifiable, incurable Francophile – and proud of it! She has a background in hospitality and public relations, and took her French obsession to its natural conclusion when she bought Villa Ste Therese in Monpazier, with a dream to create the perfect welcoming home-base for guests to explore this magical part of the world.

www.dordogne-country-house.com

