TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE®

IN FRANCE’S
Languedoc
Toulouse • Carcassonne • Albi

October 13 to 21, 2018

SAVE $600 PER COUPLE!
RESERVE BY MARCH 30, 2018
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Bask in the natural splendor of the South of France from October 13 – 21, 2018, during les beaux jours de l’automne (the beautiful days of autumn). Travel with alumni, friends, and participants from cosponsoring associations on this specially designed, nine-day sojourn amid the unspoiled landscapes, traditional French villages, and lofty Cathar fortresses of the rich historical provinces of Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées—a well-kept secret of allure and intrigue—recently redesignated the Occitania region. Immerse yourself in the authentic way of life and vivid local culture, while you delve into the complex history, traditions, and legends of its many past inhabitants, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Occitans and the Cathars.

During this comprehensive itinerary, experience a unique combination of both town and country, from the UNESCO World Heritage-designated medieval Cité de Carcassonne with its two concentric stone walls and 53 towers to the impossibly picturesque hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, built in the 13th century by the Count of Toulouse, and the rarely ventured département of Aude’s ample vineyards, where medieval monks first produced crisp Blanquette, a sparkling wine that predates Champagne. Enjoy two specially arranged wine tastings and a private cruise on the breathtaking Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site and historic link between the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Marvel at the natural wonders of the Corbières region and the Pyrénées Mountains and walk the storybook cobblestone lanes amidst the Southern Gothic-style architecture and distinctive red-brick buildings of the UNESCO-designated episcopal city of Albi. Interact with local residents who will share insights into their daily lives in the Occitania region during the exclusive Town & Country Life® Forum.

Enjoy accommodations in the comfortable Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn with terrace views of the medieval heart of Albi, and in the charming Château de Floure, an authentic 16th-century French country estate. Golden Age of Toulouse pre-program and Medieval Cathar Mystique post-program opportunities are available to enhance your exploration of France’s best-kept secret.

The Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) is a global network connecting Columbians of all schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links 338,000 alumni through more than 100 Regional Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

This one-of-a-kind program invites you to explore le coeur (the heart) of France’s most fascinating region. Please contact the CAA Travel Study Program office at 866-325-8664 or travelstudy@Columbia.edu for more details and to make your reservations today!

Sincerely,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

VALUE
Our programs are classified in three categories: Value, Superior and Luxury
The scenic skyline of medieval Albi, known as ‘la rouge’ for its signature red-brick architecture, is dominated by the historic monuments of Cathedral Sainte-Cécile and the iconic Pont Vieux spanning the River Tarn.
The historic Canal du Midi winds its way from Toulouse to the Mediterranean port of Sète, flowing through traditional French villages.

Albi
Known as “la rouge” by locals for the town’s signature red-brick architecture, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated old city of Albi became a powerful episcopal center and market town following a crusade against the Cathars in the 13th century. Today, beautiful Renaissance maisons (houses) and iconic crimson brick buildings line the cobblestone streets, built with the wealth of 15th- and 16th-century textile and dye industries. Stroll across the River Tarn along the 10th-century Pont Vieux (Old Bridge) for a spectacular view of the city, and visit the 13th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, a masterpiece of French Southern Gothic-style architecture with elaborate ceiling frescoes—the largest and oldest Italian Renaissance paintings in France. Visit the Collégiale Saint-Salvi, which impecabbly merges 10th-century Roman and 13th-century Gothic architectural styles.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS: Tour the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, housed in the imposing Palais de la Berbie, which exhibits the world’s largest collection of works by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, the famed Art Nouveau artist born here in 1864.

Savor lunch with regional wine in a restaurant. Enjoy time to explore Albi at your own pace. Experience a special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE* Forum with local residents, who will discuss daily life in the South of France.

Gaillac
The quaint town of Gaillac is located in one of France’s oldest wine-growing regions, where narrow rues brim with bâtisse à colombages (half-timbered buildings) and open up to charming village squares. The vineyards of Gaillac produce grapes to make red wines like Syrah, Cabernet and Merlot and white wines such as Mauzac and Sauvignon. Visit the historic, French Southern Gothic-style Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac, founded on the banks of the Tarn in A.D. 972 by Benedictine monks and consecrated by the Bishop of Albi.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: In nearby Noailles, enjoy a private tasting of local wines at a family-owned vineyard.

Cordes-sur-Ciel
The 13th-century hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel appears to float above the sky, or sur ciel, among low-lying clouds that hang in the surrounding Cérou Valley.
It is said to be the first ville bastide (fortified city) ever built, intended to protect its inhabitants from the siege of the Cathars. It is one of the most picturesque villages in all of France, with attractive Gothic-style architecture and sculpted, decorative façades of merchants' houses, evidence of the wealth from the 14th-century leather and cloth trades.

Castres
The small, scenic village of Castres was built around a ninth-century Benedictine monastery on the Agout River, and has been a great center of the wool industry since the 14th century—its farmers and weavers used wool from their own sheep to make yarns, cloth and fabrics. Today, it is France’s most important producer of carded wool.

Cultural Enrichment: Tour the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France in the fascinating Goya Museum, located in the original Archbishop’s Palace and designed by one of the architects of Versailles.

Castelnaudary
The charming market town of Castelnaudary—the main port of the famous Canal du Midi—is located on the Roman route from Toulouse to the Mediterranean and is the birthplace of one of France’s most beloved regional specialties, le cassoulet.

C'est Bon! Culinary Traditions™ Cultural Enrichment: By special arrangement, lunch in a local restaurant includes an exclusive cooking demonstration illuminating the history of the region’s famous le cassoulet.

Carcassonne/Canal du Midi
This former frontier between France and Spain has been occupied since the sixth century B.C. and is the largest walled city in Europe. Carcassonne was fortified by the Romans, conquered by Visigoths, captured by Persians, invaded by Franks and overrun by Barbarians, each leaving an indelible influence on the city’s architectural and artistic heritage. The medieval core of Carcassonne, La Cité, is a UNESCO World Heritage site characterized by cobblestone streets and fairy-tale turrets. Visit the Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, and the medieval Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.

Cultural Enrichments: Enjoy time on your own in storybook Carcassonne before the specially arranged cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat in the shade of picturesque plane trees, which canopy the grand, 17th-century Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features unique oval locks and stone bridges.

Floure
In the heart of Cathar Country lies Floure—a pastoral village surrounded by lush vineyards and comprised of ivy-covered stone cottages with time-worn wooden shutters and colorful blooms in window boxes.

Enjoy the picturesque floral-filled courtyard and Gothic-colonnaded cloister of the Abbaye de Fontfroide.
Abbaye de Fontfroide/Corbières Wine Region
Travel into the scenic, rugged Corbières Mountains to the characteristically Southern French Narbonne to tour the city’s historic center, quartier de Cité, and the incredibly well-preserved Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, founded in 1093. Walk through the abbey’s Gothic arched chapter hall and cloisters, and stroll its rose-filled gardens with more than 3000 fragrant bushes.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy a private tour of a renowned family-owned château and wine cellar and enjoy a tasting of four regional wines—an indelible program highlight.

Caunes-Minervois/Minerve
The renowned Minervois wine region—whose appellation produces rich red wines from the Carignan, Grenache and Syrah grapes, and white wines including Viognier, Clairette Blanche and Muscat—was named for the Roman goddess Minerva and is comprised of sweeping scenery, fortified medieval villages and rolling vineyards. In Caunes-Minervois, see the Châteaux de Lastours and visit the Benedictine abbaye, featuring a mélange of architectural periods, from an eighth-century foundation to early southern-Romanesque art to 18th-century stained glass.

Inhabited since prehistoric times and fortified in the Middle Ages, the village of Minerve overlooks the French countryside from atop a lofty gorge. Visit the Église Saint-Étienne, the village’s austere Romanesque church consecrated by the Bishop of Narbonne in A.D. 456, and its museum devoted to the region’s prehistoric archaeology.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy time on your own to explore the enchanting, medieval hillock of Minerve.

Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides
Located on the banks of the River Tarn, the charming, historically registered Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides is housed in a former 18th-century water mill within walking distance of Albi’s red-brick Cathedral and iconic Pont Vieux (Old Bridge), the perfect home base for your exploration of the surrounding medieval towns and vineyards.

Each of the 56 guest rooms features a private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The inviting hotel restaurant serves fine regional cuisine complete with a panoramic view across the old city.

Château de Floure
Once the site of a Romanesque monastery and, during the reign of King Henry IV, the country estate of the Toulouse Parliament’s president, the Château de Floure is tucked into the French countryside near Carcassonne, and offers 25 individually appointed guest rooms overlooking formal French gardens.

Accommodations feature a private bathroom and individual climate control. Guests may enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi in le salon and the full spa with hot tub, Turkish-style bath, sauna, heated pool and fitness area. Breakfast is served in the lounge, and fine local cuisine is served in the hotel restaurant.

Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, the hilltop village of Minerve is the historic capital of the Minervois region.
Included Features

In Albi
◆ Three nights in the comfortable HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn and with views of the medieval old city of Albi.
◆ Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
◆ Breakfast each day and one dinner with wine in the hotel.

In the Château de Floure
◆ Four nights in this charming and authentic château in the countryside near historic Carcassonne.
◆ Breakfast each day and two dinners with wine.
◆ Private Farewell Reception.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Two tastings of local wines—at a family-owned estate in the village of Noailles near Cordes-sur-Ciel and at a winery amid the beautifully rugged Corbières Mountains.
◆ Three lunches featuring regional cuisine and wine, including a C‘est Boy! CULINARY TRADITIONS™ demonstration of traditional cassoulet.
◆ Tour of the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec in the 13th-century Palais de la Berbie, exhibiting the world’s largest collection of the artist’s work.
◆ Full-day excursion to the historic town of Gaillac to visit the imposing Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac and the well-preserved, picturesque village of Cordes-sur-Ciel.
◆ Tour of the comprehensive Goya Museum in Castres, housing the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France.
◆ Visit to the extensively restored Romanesque former Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, including its church, cloister, chapter hall and rose garden.
◆ Walking tour to the well-preserved medieval town of Caunes-Minervois and to Minerve, one of the most beautiful villages of France, with visits to the Abbaye de Caunes-Minervois and the Église Saint-Étienne.
◆ Special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® FORUM with local residents who will discuss life in southern France.
◆ Time at leisure to experience the rhythms of daily life in Carcassonne and Minerve.
◆ French language introduction.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
◆ Walking tour of provincial Albi, once a stronghold of the Cathars, including a visit to the impressive, 14th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile and Collégiale Saint-Salvi.
◆ Guided tour of Carcassonne, including visits to the Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celus, and the impressive archaeological museum in the restored Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.
◆ Cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat on the Canal du Midi.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and baggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ Complimentary bottled water on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and château.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, the hilltop village of Minerve is the historic capital of the Minervois region.
A medieval university town, and in the 13th century, Europe’s second largest city, Toulouse lies along the sun-kissed banks of the Garonne River in the idyllic South of France. Explore the extraordinary Les Jacobins, the first Dominican monastery in the world, established in 1230. Enjoy a walking tour through Toulouse’s centuries-old cobblestone streets and discover the city’s most impressive 11th- to 14th-century Romanesque and Gothic churches and its opulent 16th-century mansions. Visit the Musée des Augustins, housed in the former monastery, and admire fine medieval stone sculpture. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located Grand Hotel de L’Opera in Toulouse.

Deep in the heart of Pays Cathare stand the awe-inspiring castles and fortified towns—rich with beguiling mystery and religious intrigue—built on the foothills of the Pyrénées by this Christian denomination that flourished during the 12th and 13th centuries. Envision Languedoc’s enchanted history during guided excursions—visit well-preserved Château de Quéribus, site of the Cathars’ last stand; the 10th-century bastide town of Mirepoix; the enigmatic hilltop village of Rennes-le-Château, with its centuries-old legends of the Holy Grail and the Knights Templar; and mystifying Alet-les-Bains, built on a natural hot spring. Explore the unusual rock-hewn troglodyte Church of Sainte-Marie in Vals and the medieval Château de Foix. Enjoy a specially arranged tasting of the region’s famous Blanquette de Limoux—the world’s first sparkling wine—at a historic, family-owned estate. Spend three nights in the charming Château Des Ducs De Joyeuse, an authentic 16th-century castle turned hotel in the village of Couiza.

Protected behind impregnable walls, the strategic Château de Foix has surveyed over the town since the 10th century.
The small villages and verdant, rolling vineyards that dot the landscape of the historic Languedoc region have produced some of the most celebrated wines in France and the world for over 2600 years.

**LAND TARIFF excluding taxes**

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<th>Per person, based on double occupancy</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through March 30, 2018</th>
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Singles are available upon request for an additional $900.*

*Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

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**IN FRANCE’S LANGUEDOC RESERVATION FORM**

Send to:
Columbia Alumni
Travel Study Program
P.O. Box 930
Riverside, CT 06878
or fax: (203) 724-0844

For more information:
Phone: (866) 325-8664 (toll free)
email: travelstudy@columbia.edu
www.Alumni.Columbia.edu/Travel

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) School/Degree/Year

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) School/Degree/Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State ZIP Code

Telephone: (Home) (Mobile) (Business)

Email Address Columbia UNI

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 150-10/13/18-021

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Option.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to 2018 Town & Country Life in France’s Languedoc.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double 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):
- Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program Option
  - Double at $740 per person.
  - Single at $1040 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).

- Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Option
  - Double at $1625 per person.
  - Single at $1925 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, at additional cost to be advised, from

  (fill in departure city)

- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

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

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

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By forwarding the deposit for this travel program, I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and accept the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement in this brochure.

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**LAND TARIFF**

* Early Booking Tariff through March 30, 2018
* Tariff after March 30, 2018

* Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) or reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation/cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: 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 only source of reimbursement. Additional information on insurance options will be sent upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fees 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 tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, fuel surcharges, or other increases, and will pass these increases to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: Cancellation or change of name on any trip is not permitted after the close of business on the date indicated in the itinerary. Any changes after this date will be handled at the sole discretion of Gohagan. Cancellations or changes of name on any tour purchased through us will be handled at the sole discretion of Gohagan.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility to spend an additional $50 (nominal compensation for this travel program contingent upon a minimum number of Columbia University Alumni Travel Study Program group. We reserve the right to substitute motorcoaches with rail transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or other events of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and shall not be liable for any loss of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the travel program, trip cancellation insurance, baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) or reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation/cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.