

An aerial photograph of a wide, blue river flowing through a lush green landscape. The river is surrounded by dense trees and fields. A stone bridge with multiple arches crosses the river in the middle ground. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small village with red-roofed houses. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Williams

SEPTEMBER 5-13, 2025

Accompanied by Preea Leelah,
Assistant Professor of French

FLAVORS OF DORDOGNE

Orbridge

Williams

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends:

Join fellow Williams travelers on a journey to Dordogne, a captivating region in the heart of southwest France where medieval charm meets modern sophistication. Wander cobblestone streets that echo with history and explore vineyards with stories to tell. Williams Assistant Professor of French Preea Leelah will accompany the tour as your study leader.

Our thoughtfully crafted itinerary provides an idyllic setting for authentic cultural and culinary experiences, from exploring medieval towns and ancient castles to dining at Michelin-starred restaurants, partaking in vineyard tours and tastings, and joining hands-on cooking demonstrations.

You'll stay at the elegant Château de Mercuès, a Relais & Châteaux property nestled among lush vineyards and rolling hills, providing a perfect base for a week of discovery and relaxation.

Space on this exclusive departure is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. To reserve, visit williams.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079, or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,



Leila Derstine
Executive Director of Alumni Relations
Williams College
alumni-travel@williams.edu

Please review the Williams College participation agreement information here:
<https://bit.ly/WilliamsAlumTravel-Agreement>

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Williams Study Leader: Preea Leelah



Preea Leelah is an Assistant Professor of French in the Department of Romance Languages at Williams College. She teaches French language at all levels, alongside literature and culture courses on fiction, theater, cinema, eighteenth-century colonialism, criminality, and representations of the French Enlightenment. A specialist in eighteenth-century French studies, her research explores race, gender, and criminality in France and the Francophone world. Her current book project examines the role of women in revolutionary moments across the Francophone world during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2: ARRIVE IN TOULOUSE, FRANCE | MERCUÈS
Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the property. Take time to unpack and settle in before meeting fellow travel companions for a wine tasting and welcome dinner.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (D)

Day 3: HAUTE SERRE | CAHORS Visit Château de Haute-Serre for a guided tour, hear about the property's epic history, then be seated for lunch and a tasting of some of the winery's most popular varietals. Later stop in Cahors for a brief panoramic tour to see Pont Valentré and Saint-Etienne Cathedral.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,L)

Day 4: ROCAMADOUR Explore Rocamadour, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and notable pilgrimage destination. Afterward visit a goat farm for a cheese tasting followed by lunch at Michelin-starred Château de La Treyne. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,L)

Day 5: PECH MERLE | SAINT-CIRQ-LAPOPIE View the mural paintings at the neolithic caves of Pech Merle. Stroll the village of Saint-Cirq-Lapopie before visiting a truffle farm for a tour and tasting. Return to the property with time to refresh before rejoining the group for a three-course dinner.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,L,D)

Day 6: SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA | LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC | EYRIGNAC Enjoy a colorful outdoor market before lunch at Michelin-starred Les Glycines. This afternoon visit the impressive Gardens of Eyrynac.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,L)

Day 7: BEYNAC | LA ROQUE-GAGEAC Join an expert chef for a hands-on cooking class and lunch at Le Chèvrefeuille. Later take a guided tour of Château de Beynac, the most authentic and best-preserved fortress of the Périgord. Before returning to the property stop at the photogenic village of La Roque-Gageac.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,L)

Day 8: LUZECH | PUY L'EVÊQUE Visit Château de Cayx winery for a tour and tasting followed by a panoramic tour of Puy l'Evêque. This evening is a celebratory three-course farewell dinner.

Overnight: Château de Mercuès (B,D)

Day 9: MERCUÈS | TOULOUSE | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



Château de Haute-Serre



Village of Rocamadour

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)



La Roque-Gageac

What's Included

- 7 nights accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners served with wine
- All lessons, private tours and tastings, and unique small-group excursions noted in the 9-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Château de La Treyne

Activity Level: Activities are generally not very strenuous, however, we expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking each day, are sure-footed on cobbled and unpaved surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. Château de Mercuès was constructed in the 13th century. Guests will find stone floors and stairways that may not have railings. The property has an elevator, but it does not access every floor.

Insider, Interpreter, Epicure, Host

Your Orbridge Travel Director will infuse your journey with an epicure's appreciation of food and wine, a local's knowledge and pride of place, and a travel aficionado's ability to gather the beauty of all senses to your discoveries in Dordogne.



Orbridge



Château de Mercuès

Accommodations *(subject to change)*

Nestled amidst the rolling hills and vineyards of the Dordogne region, Château de Mercuès—a Relais & Châteaux property—stands as a majestic testament to the grandeur of the 13th century. The château's history is evident in every weathered stone and ageless vine that graces its surroundings. Each guest room is a sanctuary of tranquility, featuring warm décor and uniquely selected furnishings that complement the original stone walls.

The Château not only invites guests to indulge in the opulence of its accommodations but also in the culinary delights that grace its dining options. Its Michelin-starred Le Duèze Restaurant serves gourmet creations that pay homage to the region's rich gastronomic heritage. Savory flavors and carefully selected wines from the château's own vineyards make each dining experience a journey through the senses.

Rooms differ in size and décor, but each offers views over the valley, vineyards or the garden.

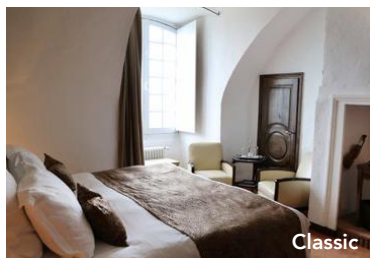
Room Amenities: Flat-screen TV, writing desk, phone, minibar, safe and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Classic Double: 279-301 sq ft

Deluxe Double: 301-441 sq ft

Prestige Double: 344-592 sq ft

Signature Suite: 538-850 sq ft



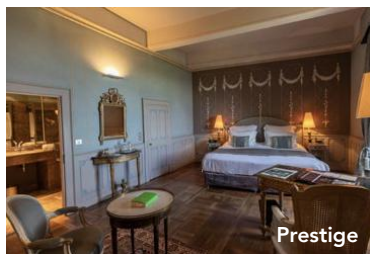
Classic



Deluxe



Signature Suite



Prestige

Optional Post-Tour Bordeaux

Immerse yourself in the rich heritage and cultural charm of Bordeaux, a legendary region that blends world-class wine with decadent cuisine and unparalleled hospitality.



Day 9: DEPART MERCUÉ | SAINT-ÉMILION | BORDEAUX

En route to Bordeaux stop in Saint-Émilion—a picturesque medieval village renowned for its vineyards and vintages—for a gourmet lunch at a prestigious Grand Cru Classé winery featuring exquisite local delicacies paired with the finest varietals. Afterward descend into Saint-Émilion's fascinating network of underground passages, tunnels and chambers that played a crucial role in the region's winemaking history for centuries. Formed over time through the process of erosion, the natural caverns were expanded and modified by human hands as generations of vintners sought to harness their unique properties for wine storage and aging. Later arrive to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Overnight: InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hotel (L)

What's Included

- 2 nights at InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hotel (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Guided panoramic touring of Bordeaux and Médoc
- Guided Saint-Émilion caves tour
- Wine and chocolate tasting
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver and porters
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times

Day 10: BORDEAUX Meet with a local guide for a panoramic walking tour of Bordeaux—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Notable sights include Place de la Bourse, the Gothic cathedral of Saint-André and Bordeaux's ornate city gate. Next venture northwest of Bordeaux to the Médoc region for a guided panoramic tour. This unique area, which is home to four of the world's most prestigious wine villages, features a dynamic landscape of coastal lagoons, sand dunes and pine forests. Delight in a picnic lunch and wine pairing. Before returning to the hotel, visit Château Kirwan for a wine tasting.

Overnight: InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hotel (B,L)



Day 11: BORDEAUX | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



FLAVORS OF DORDOGNE

SEPTEMBER 5-13, 2025

Bordeaux Post-Tour: September 13-15, 2025

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: williams.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

☐ Check ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House) ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:


Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. [Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.](https://orbridge.com/going-green)

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Classic	\$6,799	\$6,295
Deluxe	\$7,999	\$7,495
Prestige	\$8,999	\$8,495
Signature Suite	\$10,499	\$9,995
Single Deluxe	\$10,499	\$9,995
Single Prestige	\$11,499	\$10,995
Single Signature Suite	\$12,999	\$12,495

Bordeaux Post-Tour

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Classic Double	\$2,599	\$2,395
Deluxe Double	\$2,799	\$2,595
Classic Single	\$3,399	\$3,195
Deluxe Single	\$3,699	\$3,495

Deluxe Accommodations Upgrade Includes:
InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hotel (Premium Room). Availability limited; first-come, first-served.

Rates are per person based on double occupancy unless noted where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

*Special group rate; limited offer. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.



Williams Alumni Travel Study
75 Park Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

FLAVORS OF DORDOGNE

SEPTEMBER 5-13, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:
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January 17, 2025**

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