

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

June 1 – 14, 2011

Enjoy the warmth and sunshine of the longest days of the year in the south of France! A one-way journey from the vineyards of the Languedoc region to the beaches of the Mediterranean sea.

We'll start this adventure by flying from San Francisco to Toulouse, France, where we'll check in to our 4-star hotel, and rest up from our flights.

The next day, we'll have time to explore this historic city, and whether you wander the old quarter, filled with mid-18th century buildings, discover the 13th century university (one of the largest in France), or just wander the streets and shops and relax in a sidewalk café, you will quickly acclimate to the lifestyle here.

Later in the afternoon we'll head down to the 14th century town of Castelnaudary and board our waiting canal boats. Yes, it's true- although we are a sailing club, this is the only way to discover this region, so we are going to charter modern 42- to 48-foot canal boats.



Any of us can skipper these simple boats down the famed Canal Du Midi, the shallow, narrow waterway (no sea sickness!) built in the 17th century, now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that stretches loosely east to west across the south of France. With 4 and 5 cabins, dual steering stations, galley and salon, and lots of sundeck space for watching everything go by, these are the ideal boats for our 11-day journey.

We'll cover about 85nm of waterway, and pass through 62 locks along the way, but we won't double back, as this is a one-way cruise downstream all the way! And one piece of sailing gear you won't find on these boats is an anchor. You can stop anywhere you want, pound a stake into the earthen bank, and tie up for lunch or for the night. You can also moor along the quay of most villages, and be steps from the cafés, bakeries and wine and cheese shops that made this region famous. And instead of a dinghy and outboard, you can have a bicycle!

Along the way we'll visit the circular country town of Bram; the imposing stone walled medieval city of Carcassonne; the ancient commercial wine port of Homps; Argens, with its 14th century chateau; the ivy and pink flowers and majestic old bridge of the small village of Le Somail; Capestang, whose castle was the residence of the archbishop of Narbonne; Beziers, once a Roman city; and Port Cassafières, next to the beaches of the Med.



Here's a typical encounter... "From beneath the colorful striped awnings of waterfront bakeries, butcher shops, and cafés, intoxicating aromas of seafood, garlic, and butter prevail. Should I buy black olives in salty oil or green olives swimming in brine? *Café familial* or Jacques Vabre arabica? Fresh goat cheese with local honey, or musky Roquefort with a crisp rosé from the Languedoc region? She asked me to pick a pâté. *Avec champignons?* *Foie gras?* *Pâté de maison?* Choices, choices. Plus there are the farmer's markets in every town, too. So much for a simple run to the grocery store!"



After leaving our boats at Port Cassafières, we'll head back to Toulouse and explore another day there, spending the night in the hotel. Finally, on the 14th, we'll fly back home.

So what's the deal?

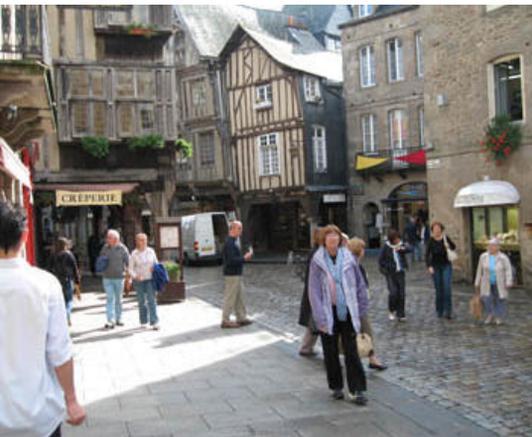
The trip costs just \$2,950 per person, and it includes pretty much everything:

- ✓ Round-trip airfare from San Francisco (SFO)
- ✓ Two nights hotel in Toulouse
- ✓ 11 days and 10 nights aboard the yachts
- ✓ All ground transfers

The only thing you'll need to buy there is food and drink, pitch in a few Euros for fuel, and maybe rent a bicycle to take on the boat with you. We welcome couples, families, and singles, and work very hard to ensure everyone has an



absolutely great time.



A deposit of \$450 per person will hold your spot, with an additional deposit of \$1500 due January 1, and the balance will be due March 15. Visa/MC and checks are fine. But space is limited on this trip, so don't delay- sign up today!

For answers to your questions, or if you are ready to join us, email David directly at: davidkory@gmail.com, or call him at **(925) 787-6893**

* The price listed includes all taxes and fuel surcharges as of August 1, 2010. If the world goes crazy again and the airlines add new fuel surcharges or invent new taxes, we may have to pass these on to you. I don't expect that to happen, but I have to warn you just in case.

Cancellation policy: 6 months before departure, full refund. 90 days to 6 months, loss of deposits. Less than 90 days, no refund.