



Jazz with a French Accent: Marcillac, France (Mais Oui!)

Discover the Midi-Pyrénées, and enjoy the 28th Annual Jazz in Marcillac Festival

with WGBH 89.7's Eric Jackson
of Jazz with Eric in the Evening
July 30-August 8, 2005



Photo by Law Hamilton

Jazz great Wynton Marsalis returns to Jazz in Marcillac for his 15th year

delicacies as Roquefort cheese, foie gras and truffles. Oh, did we mention jazz?

The small, medieval town of Marcillac, nestled in the green countryside of Gers, is known as the "Jazz Capital of France." Every August since 1978, the community comes alive with the rhythms of jazz during the *Jazz in Marcillac* festival. Throughout the two-week celebration, the village plays home to free concerts on the square, art exhibits, films and a traditional French market, as well as a vibrant café and restaurant scene.

Enlivening our group travel experience will be WGBH Radio's Eric Jackson, host of *Jazz with Eric in the Evening*. With his deep musical knowledge, Eric will give us perspective and share his wisdom on the incomparable artists and unforgettable jazz we'll be hearing each night. He'll also share highlights and anecdotes from his 30-year career at WGBH, interviewing and interacting with jazz greats.

The *Jazz in Marcillac* festival has, in the past, welcomed world-class musicians from Dizzy Gillespie to Herbie Hancock to Diana Krall. The complete lineup for this year's festival still is being

Join WGBH LearningTours on a journey to Southwestern France and the region of the Midi-Pyrénées known as Gascogne, home to such French

finalized, but already confirmed are: Wynton Marsalis, returning for his 15th consecutive year; Brazilian cultural minister Gilberto Gil; and Brazilian vocal stylist Eliane Elias.

After indulging in five nights of some of the world's best jazz in Marcillac, we continue to Toulouse, the capital of Southwestern France, for our remaining three days. We venture to the extraordinary towns of Albi and Cordes-sur-Ciel, savoring a gourmet dining experience at Château de Salettes in the Gaillic region.

During summer, the Midi-Pyrénées luxuriates in the gentle climate of Southwestern France. Along with its exquisite cuisine and rich history, the region preserves a tradition of warmth and friendliness, and an unsurpassed *joie de vivre*!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

July 30 Depart US

Depart Boston in the evening aboard Air France for Toulouse, France.

July 31 Welcome to France

We arrive at Blagnac Airport, Toulouse, in the morning, where we meet our tour organizer, Keith Brickhouse. Keith will join us on a deluxe motor coach to our hotel, the lovely Château de Projan—magnificently situated in the rolling hills of the French countryside, with panoramic views of the Armagnac valley and a distant view of the Pyrénées on the horizon. Depending on the size of the group, some travelers may check into the Hôtel Minvielle,

continued

Ségos, a traditional French country hotel with a swimming pool and charming family restaurant, located close by. Lunch is en route or at the hotel.

After settling in and taking some time to rest, we depart for nearby Marciac and a relaxing introduction to the area. We'll enjoy a welcome dinner at one of the town's many enticing restaurants, where we'll have an opportunity to visit with our fellow travelers and Eric Jackson before taking in an informal jazz performance on the square.

Photo courtesy Southwest France Tourism



Explore the famed beauty of the French countryside

August 1 Château de Projan

The morning is free to discover our hotel and its surroundings, including the beautiful seven-acre park in which Château de Projan is located. The owners of the château have gathered an impressive collection of contemporary art, exhibited throughout the mansion. Combined with several pieces of 17th- and 18th-century furniture, the overall effect is striking. Spend leisure time enjoying a game of tennis or a bike ride through the breathtaking French countryside. We're pleased to offer guests the option to participate in a cooking class with Château de Projan's talented Chef Richard Poullain, a registered Relais Gourmand.

We'll have lunch at the château before departing for Marciac, stopping along the way for a wine tasting in Plaimont. Wines from this area recently have gained renewed respect and recognition among international wine experts.

We'll enjoy dinner and our first jazz concert under the Chapiteau, the festival's main venue.

August 2 Château de Briat

It is from this land of walled towns and medieval castles that Armagnac, the oldest spirit in France, has been produced for more than seven centuries. After breakfast, we depart in the late morning for lunch and a tour of the nearby Château de Briat, built in 1540, where we'll sample the sweet, earthy taste of Armagnac, the Gascon *eau de vie*.

After some free time and a special dinner at Château de Projan, we depart for Marciac to enjoy our second jazz concert.

August 3 Auch

This morning, we depart for lunch and a guided tour of Auch, the provincial capital of Gers. We are the guests of Chef Roland Garreau (recipient of the prestigious *Meilleur Ouvrier de France* award) for a gourmet luncheon served in his renowned restaurant, *Le Jardin des Saveurs* at the *Hôtel de France*—the same hotel where many of the Marciac jazz artists will be staying.

After lunch, we return to Marciac. Choose one of the city's fine restaurants for dinner on your own before we settle in for this evening's jazz concert. Afterward, we'll toast the guest artists at a private, backstage champagne reception.

August 4 Foie Gras

After a free morning and lunch at Château de Projan, we head out for a private tour of a foie gras farm. This gourmand favorite dates back thousands of years to Kings Louis XV and Louis XVI, who served it at their banquets.

We depart for Marciac and dinner on our own, followed by our final concert at the jazz festival.

August 5 Toulouse: La Ville Rose

After breakfast, we leave for Toulouse. We check into the Best Western Grand Hôtel Jean Jaurés, once a private mansion and ideally situated downtown, close to restaurants, bistros and sidewalk cafés.

The afternoon is free to roam Toulouse, one of France's most historic and colorful cities. "La Ville Rose" gets its nickname from bricks made from local clay, which vary in color from red to dark pink and give the skyline a spectacular rosy complexion, especially at sunset. Today, Toulouse is a center for aviation, space travel and high-tech business, and has the second-largest student population in France, making for a vibrant and cosmopolitan city.

This evening, we'll take to the River Garonne, enjoying dinner on a floating restaurant.

August 6 Albi, Cordes-sur-Ciel and Château de Salettes

Today, we tour Albi, perched on a rocky outcrop above the Tarn River. The town is the birthplace of the late 19th-century artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, best known for his depiction of Parisian nightlife. We visit the world-class museum that houses an impressive collection of his works and La Cathédrale Sainte Cécile, a masterpiece of Southern Gothic architecture.

After lunch, we continue on to the bastide Cordes-sur-Ciel, widely considered one of the finest medieval fortified



Cordes-sur-Ciel, one of France's finest medieval fortified towns

towns in all of France. Recently, the name of the city was changed from Cordes to Cordes-sur-Ciel because on many a day, Cordes sits above the clouds that blanket the valley below.

This evening, we will be treated to a wine tasting and gourmet dinner at the Château de Salettes. The Château dates from the 13th century and now is privately owned and operated as a luxury hotel. We'll enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the thousand-year-old Salettes Vineyard.

August 7 Toulouse or Carcassonne

Today, choose leisure time in Toulouse to enjoy strolling the bustling city streets, café life and last-minute shopping, or take a day trip to the enchanting city of Carcassonne. This UNESCO-declared world heritage landmark, on a plateau overlooking the River Aude, is a medieval fortress, dating back 1,400 years. Though much of it was restored a century ago, Carcassonne is an exquisite example of military architecture and offers attractive views of the surrounding plains and nearby mountains.

Enjoy a special farewell cocktail reception this evening at our hotel.

August 8 Return to Boston

We check out of the hotel after a light breakfast and transfer to the Toulouse airport for our return flight to Boston.

Tour Costs and Details:

Tour price based on 20 people:

- Air and land package: \$4,150 (Château de Projan)
\$3,950 (Hôtel Minvielle, Ségos)
- Single supplement:* \$450 (Château de Projan)
\$350 (Hôtel Minvielle, Ségos)

*Accommodations at Château de Projan are limited and will be offered to the first travel registrants.

Tour price includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Boston to Toulouse, France on Air France
- Hotel accommodations based on double occupancy
- Nine breakfasts, five lunches, six dinners
- Water, lemonade, soda, coffee or tea at each lunch and dinner
- Ground transportation via a deluxe, private motor-coach with air-conditioning
- All entrance fees
- Tickets to four *Jazz in Marciac* concerts
- One wine tasting and one Armagnac tasting
- Farewell cocktail reception
- One private, backstage champagne reception during *Jazz in Marciac* festival
- Tips to local guides, tour escorts and drivers
- Service charges, taxes and basic gratuities for services included in this itinerary
- A \$500 tax-deductible contribution to WGBH, including membership in the WGBH Leadership Circle and the WGBH Jazz and Travel & Exploration Clubs

Trip price does not include:

- Airport departure taxes
- Passport fees
- Personal services
- Personal items such as wines, liquors and mineral water, except as noted above
- Gratuities for guides, bus drivers or hotel house-keepers
- Optional cooking class
- Personal insurance for health, baggage or tour cancellation
- Any items not listed

**Return your reservation form and deposit to
WGBH LearningTours, Attn: Mary Toropov,
125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134
Questions? Call WGBH LearningTours at 617-300-3505**

About Your Travel Host: Eric Jackson



Widely considered to be the dean of Boston jazz radio, **Eric Jackson** has been heard nightly on WGBH 89.7 for more than 20 years. *Jazz with Eric in the Evening* has been voted radio's "Best Jazz Show" numerous times by readers of *The Boston Globe*. Artists from Wynton Marsalis to Ornette Coleman

and Dizzy Gillespie have appeared or performed live on his show. And countless music writers and record company executives routinely call on him for inspiration and direction on their projects.

Jackson began his broadcast career in 1969 while attending Boston University, as host of three music shows (offering rhythm & blues, jazz and what he calls "mixed music") on the school's closed-circuit AM station. Continuing his work in college radio, he went on to host WBUR's *The Grotto* at Boston University (1970) and WHRB's *Going East* at Harvard University (1971) before moving to the commercial airwaves with a Sunday afternoon jazz program on Boston's WILD (1972). Directly prior to joining WGBH, Jackson hosted a contemporary mixed-music show for WBCN, where he also produced and hosted *Third World Report*, a weekly public affairs program.

Jackson got his first taste of WGBH when he wrote and narrated *Essays in Black Music*, a 35-part chronology of African American musical history which aired on 89.7 in 1975. But it wasn't until 1977's *Artists in the Night*, an overnight showcase for many different styles of jazz, that he

began to develop the personal manner of presentation that has since become his signature. *Jazz with Eric in the Evening* debuted in 1981, and with it Jackson became one of WGBH's most popular personalities—and remains so.

An active promoter of jazz throughout the region and across the country, Jackson makes numerous appearances each year. He lectures on the history of jazz at the Longy School of Music and has taught a course on the history of African American music at Northeastern University. He also was instrumental in developing exhibits for the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.

Listen to *Jazz with Eric in the Evening* Monday–Thursday from 7pm–12midnight on WGBH 89.7, or online at www.wgbh.org/jazz.

Your WGBH Gift of Membership

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