

The DeTomaso Club of Spain cordially invites you to:

Sixth semi-annual Drive around France and go to Le Mans Classic Tour



Once again, the small but enthusiastic DeTomaso Club of Spain cordially invites all like-minded folk to join us for a week exploring scenic portions of France before heading for the mayhem of the Le Mans Classic



What's different this year?

The majority of the attendees have done this tour before. There are two primary differences this time:

The tour begins on Sunday instead of Saturday, for personal reasons on my part

We're visiting a different part of France – the area called the Dordogne – to see what it has to offer. It's a little farther for those coming from the North, but as the tour starts a day later it should allow extra travel time.

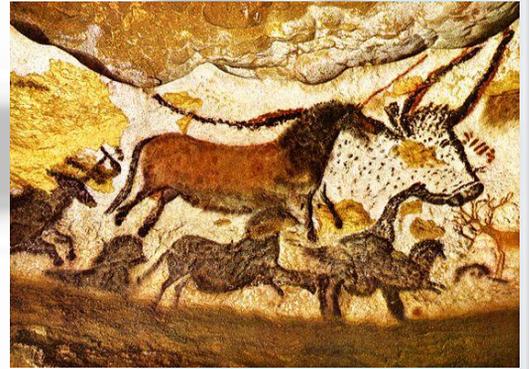
Additionally, as an experiment we only change hotels once to avoid packing the trunks each day as in past years.



Part I – Exploring the Dordogne, France



June 29: Meet at our first hotel, Le Perigord. Stretch our legs after the long trip and probably replenish liquids which may have been lost during the long journey



June 30, morning: The Dordogne is known for having some of the best preserved pre-historic cave paintings existing. Lascaux is perhaps the most famous, being a UNESCO site and the 2000 paintings found within are estimated at being 17,300 years old. The original cave has been closed to the public since 1963 to protect the paintings, but an exact replica called Lascaux II has been constructed 200 meters from the originals and comes highly recommended. Private tour in English reserved for us at 10am, group rate is €7,70

Note that the majority of the authentic caves in the area do not accept reservations – you need to show up at the ticket office and the first X people get in (X is variable and changes from day to day based on the conditions of the cave and can be as few as 50). When the X tickets are sold, you are out of luck, so it is recommended to arrive quite early. Those interested in seeing the Grotte de Font de Gaume would need to get up early and wait in line to see if there is room at 9H30 for the first tour. Ask me for details if interested.

Lunch free, Dinner at hotel with group

June 30 afternoon: For those interested, a rematch of the go-kart grudge match from last year at Garden Karting.

<http://www.garden-karting-perigord.com/>

30 minutes of seat time/person = €40

Other options include visiting other cave paintings in Les Eyzies de Tayac, or the towns of Bergerac, Sarlat, or Perigueux which are all close by and quite scenic.



Part I – Exploring the Dordogne, France

July 1: Trip down the Dordogne river in a flat-bottom sailing boat from the 18th century including views of 5 different chateaux from the boat, lunch included, a visit to the Bastide de Domme (12th century royal bastide, or fortified town, the exotic gardens of La Roque Gageac, a guided visit of the Castel Castelnau, and a ride back in the Petit Train. Pay directly to each site:

Limited to 50 people

10am: Meet in the parking Pradal en Domme

Petit Train ride to Domme (€3/person)

10H30 free visit of Domme

11H30 return by Petit Train

12H Lunch in Le Palmier restaurant (€21/person, drinks included)

14H15 free visit of Exotic Gardens in La Roque Gageac

15H Ride in “Gabares”, replica of 18th century sailing boat (€6,30/person)

16H30 Guided tour of Castelnau (€5,80/person)

<http://www.castelnau.com/fr/>

A description of the trip may be found here:

<http://www.norbert.fr/> and we are doing program “3” listed in the section for groups

Dinner in hotel with group

Castelnau



Gabares Norbert



Me and Sigh the Border Collie in Brantôme, 2011. She liked it too

July 2: Day trip to Brantôme (1h15)

Stop by **Chateau de Bourdeilles** to break up the drive and take some pictures before continuing on to Brantôme.

Brantôme is a charming island-village, with the Dronne river surrounding it on all sides. It's a nice sized town to stroll around and explore with numerous restaurants and cafes. Possible activities include renting a canoe to see the town from the water, visiting the gardens, or touring the Benedictine Abbey, built by Charlemagne in 769. Lunch free in Brantôme, dinner with group in Hotel.

Amaya, Sigh, Canoe in Brantôme. The last photo taken ever with this camera, as shortly after Sigh decided to go swimming, and took the camera with her..



Part I – Exploring the Dordogne, France

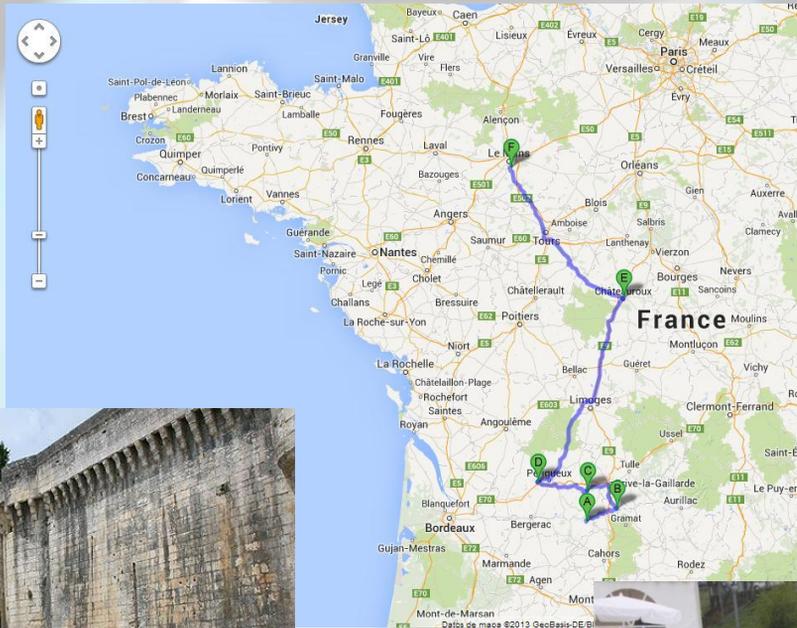
July 3: Drive to Le Mans

Fastest Route – A20 to A10, 5H00 drive (€17 tolls)
Scenic Route – A20 through Chateauroux 5H30 drive (€7,50 tolls). Personally, we'll take the scenic route.

Lunch stop for those interested in **Loches**, a medieval town that was part of the 2012 tour that is a little more than halfway to Le Mans and we have to drive right past it



Loches



Bourdeille



Part II – Le Mans Classic

What is Le Mans Classic? One of the largest concentrations of Classic Cars in the world with two main attractions: the club area and the racing.



- **The club area** is a parking zone reserved for organized groups. More than 6000 classic or special interest cars all grouped by club – 30 DeTomasos together, 60 Maseratis together, the Bizzarini club, the Mustang club, the Alfa clubs each have their area, the Bentley club area, Jaguars, MG's, Austin Healeys etc etc. Perhaps it is the only place in the world where you will see three Enzo Ferraris on the same day, or a Pagani Zonda parked next to you.
- **The racing** is divided into 6 groups by vintage, and the cars are limited to those that have actual Le Mans Race history or to the make and model that competed at Le Mans in the past. Each group (plateau, as they call them) has three races of one hour each during the 24-hour period. Plateau 1 is 1929 to 1939, for example, and will be scheduled to race at 4pm on Saturday, 1am on Sunday, and 6am on Sunday. Plateau 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 on Saturday, and so forth. So you decide what vintage most interests you and what time it will run and plan your weekend accordingly. Note that at this writing the schedule has not been defined. Actually the prices have not even been defined yes!

Before and during the racing, the Paddock Pass allows you to visit the paddocks and see the cars up close. The atmosphere is relaxed, and you can chat with the mechanics and drivers and admire the hardware up close.

The racing begins at 4pm on Saturday and ends at 4pm on Sunday. Most people head for home on Sunday, although some prefer to avoid the traffic and hang out until Monday.



Part II – Le Mans Classic

- There are two options for lodging at Le Mans Classic – camping at the track, or finding a hotel. Personally we typically camp at the track, as the campsite is literally 50 meters from the racetrack, allowing you to come and go as you please and to avoid all traffic problems.

- The campsite has running water, showers, and toilet facilities. There is no electricity, so we tend to prepare meals with a propane stove and we have to steal ice from fish markets to prepare gin martinis and other cold adult beverages.

- If you are not interested in camping, you should search for a hotel **NOW**. Michele Bergeron has reserved an entire hotel a half hour away from the track, and you should contact her at bergeron.mi@wanadoo.fr to see if there are still rooms available.

- If you would like to join us for camping, you should contact Just Tickets at www.justtickets.co.uk. Prices for 2014 are not yet announced, but for 2012 were £108.00 per camping pass, which allows one vehicle to park in the camping area and gives you room for a medium sized tent. This camping pass is valid for camping from Thursday through Monday morning. General entry tickets were £58 each, and paddock passes were £35 each. You can save the somewhat considerable international express shipping costs by having your tickets sent with mine, if you'll be attending the tour beforehand. If interested, mention to Just Tickets that your tickets should be sent with mine

- The camping plots are numbered, measured, and reserved. When you contact Just Tickets, you should ask to be grouped with the McCall party. They'll know what you are talking about ;-)
Please include me on copy of the e-mail, as they'll be checking with me to see if I know you or not before releasing the campsite. **DEPOSITS FOR CAMPSITES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUST TICKETS BY DECEMBER 31 OR THE EXCESS PLOTS WILL BE RELEASED**



A delta wing is handy for Happy Hour in the campsite



How do I participate?

Three steps:

1) Send me an e-mail. All I need to know is:

- Name of participants
- Type of room preferred (twin, double, triple, single, etc. There are no guarantees as room assignment depends on availability in certain hotels)
- Make and Year of Car
- E-mail address
- Cellphone number (and if I may include it and your e-mail address in the list to be distributed to participants)
- Yes/no for Go-karting on June 30

2) Contact either Just Tickets or Michele Bergeron to reserve your Le Mans accommodations.

3) Send me a deposit of 237€ PER ROOM (not per person) for a double room, or €149 per room for a single to cover the deposit I'm required to put down on the rooms. Please add €20/person if you will be go-karting. This deposit will be subtracted from the balance due on the hotel rooms, which will be paid directly to the hotels by each attendee. Please paypal me to my Gmail account, and please include the option to pay the service charge yourself so that I receive the full amount. If you aren't sure how to do this, include an extra €10.

I need to release any rooms that have not been paid for by Dec 15th, so there are no guarantees of availability after this date. I would also highly recommend looking at ferries if needed and making plans for Le Mans quite early, as options become quite limited or nonexistent as the date draws closer. Note that our smallest hotel has 31 rooms, and 31 people have expressed interest to date. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first served basis

If you've never been to Classic Le Mans, this is a great opportunity to do so. Any questions? Feel free to ask.

CharlesMcCall (at) gmail.com

See you there!



Summary of addresses/prices

Sunday, June 29, Monday, June 30 (2 nights)

Hotel: Le Perigord

Port de Domme

24250 La Roque Gageac

www.hotelleperigord.eu

Demi-pension €66/person/night for double, €91/person/night single

Monday, June 30

10am Lascaux II

24190 Montignac

50 minute (35km) drive from hotel

€7,50/person

Afternoon:

Garden Karting (optional)

Les Martines Est

24330 La Douze 45 minutes (34 km)

€40/person for Group Challenge



Tuesday, July 1

Gabares Norbert

10am-17H30 Domme

Drive to Hotel Château la Fleunie

1 hour drive? (44km)

Tuesday, July 1, Wednesday, July 2 (2 nights)

Hotel: Château La Fleunie

Rue d'Aubas

24570 Condat sur Vezere

Demi-pension: €105/person/night (double room)

€120/person/night (single)

www.lafleunie.com

Wednesday, July 2

Chateau de Bourdeille

Brantôme

Parking Henri IV,

Rue du Moulin du Couvert

Brantôme

