

PRESS RELEASE



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PUBLICATION DATE FOR THE NEW BLUE GUIDE SOUTHWEST FRANCE ANNOUNCED

The second edition of the [*Blue Guide Southwest France*](#) will appear in the bookshops in June. This is a unique publication which covers a vast area in great detail, encompassing the 13 departments of the two regions, Midi-Pyrénées and Aquitaine. It is easily the most enticing, intelligent and informative guide to the region on the market. The English author, Delia Gray-Durant, has an in-depth knowledge of the area about which she is passionate. This is her third Blue Guide on the southwest, and this handsome volume of around 640 pages is enhanced with 8 area maps, 14 town plans, 20 diagrams and 50 photos all in colour.

The book is sold all over the English-speaking world, but mainly the U.K. and North America. Blue Guide readers expect high-quality, well-written, well-researched information on all topics of history, art-history and architecture and a thorough introduction to museums, sites and monuments. The wealth of culture and landscape of this beautiful part of France is fully covered and the book will appeal to those who know the area as well as those who are new to it. For example, Blue Guide Southwest France discovers the great historic cities of Toulouse and Bordeaux; it explains Pre-history, Romanesque churches, pilgrimage, Cathar heresies, and the English in Aquitaine; it describes Gothic sculpture, Renaissance architecture, the *pastel* industry, Baroque chapels and bastides; it examines the work of local artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec and Dominique Ingres; it guides you through modern art, major museums as well as local ones and local traditions such as the transhumance of sheep and cattle; and it doesn't leave out the flora and fauna found in the superb mountain landscapes of the Pyrenees and the Aubrac. It is a reference book to dip into as well as a guide which helps you to find your way around.

In addition, the latest edition of the Blue Guide Southwest France includes practical information on places to stay, including hotels and bed-and-breakfast. It provides insights into regional dishes and produce (pimentos, prunes, walnuts, Roquefort) as well as all categories of restaurants, from the very top ranking to simple establishments. There is also in-depth information on wine, wineries and tastings for each of the wine-producing areas of the two regions. For visitors or residents of the Southwest of France, this is an invaluable source of information.

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 **About Somerset Books:** Somerset publishes high quality travel guides for the independent traveller under the series names **Blue Guides**, **art/shop/eat** and **Visible Cities**. The first Blue Guide was published in 1918, Somerset is continuing the tradition of erudite and comprehensive guides, now in full colour with great diagrams, maps, floor plans and photographs. Details of the current list can be found at www.blueguides.com.