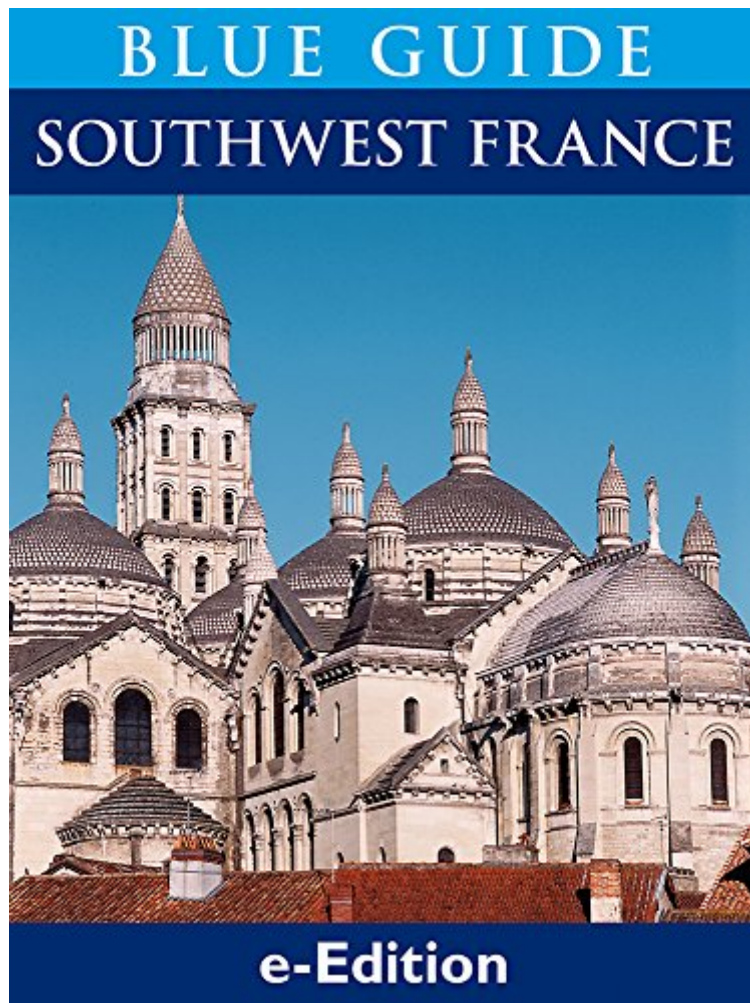


The book was found

Blue Guide Southwest France, With Bordeaux, The Dordogne, Périgord, The Lot, Aveyron, The Tarn, The Gers, The Landes And Armagnac, Biarritz And The Pays Basque, Lourdes, The Pyrenees And Toulouse





Synopsis

Digital edition of the classic 2006 edition of Blue Guide to Southwest France, the most in-depth guide for the cultural traveller. Explores the history, art, architecture and archaeology of this popular part of the country, as well as its cuisine and the famous wines of Bordeaux.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Overall a great guidebook for those seeking travel information, slightly off the beaten track, with a car. For lovers of architecture, historical minutea, and information that far exceeds the needs of a 4 day swing through Bordeaux, and the Dordogne area cave art sites. The DK Eyewitness Guide has a lot more photos and is lighter weight, both in heft and content. This Blue Guide does have a serious weakness with the detailed maps included, the lack of any map index, and very poor correlation of text to map. By the time you wade through and highlight the text and do the map-correlation you will probably have a better grasp of SW France geographical, historical, and political subdivisions than the average American College graduate does of his home state. The names used by the text reflect local usage. The guidebook generalization of "Aquitaine" as a region

in flux over several hundred years of war, with other historical names like Landes, Lot et
Garonne, and Gascony..and newer political sub divisions (thoroughly political artifices like Midi and
Haute Pyrennes) make for a thoroughly confusing introduction to SW France. In contrast, the city
maps provided are very well integrated with the text, and useful enough for a "by the book" street
guide to the historic center of many towns large to small. This is one of the primary strengths of this
Blue Guide. It is however an extremely detailed English language guide to SW France that you will
not find an easy substitute for; The Rough Guide appeals to one audience, Michelin and DK Guide
to another constituency. The Blue Guide is a poor choice for a short visit without a private vehicle. It
is a poor choice for developing an itinerary in SW France for even 2 weeks. Beyond these
limitations however, the BG is really helpful for a longish (a month) exploration of the area. It does
need supplemental books and research. It definitely needs an easier to use, better integrated
text-to- map index. The Michelin Green Guide with the associated Michelin Regional map would
be an ideal choice. Still..I think that the serious traveler would still desire the BG in hand. As well as
5 or 6 other non guide books, well read on the home bookshelf. Both the Dordogne Cave art sites
and the historical bastide towns have their own literature. I write this review solely to suggest that the
1-2 star reviews of this fine book, may be accurate, but only for those writers intended uses and
needs. If you have the earned luxury of a month or two travel in this area...the BG and other
books, will be a tiny percentage of your outlay. It is a 4-star guide, a 5 star review if they had
provided more useful map-text coordination. Perhaps in this era of car GPS this maybe a moot
point...however any area with a prehistory that stretches from the Magdalene era 300 centuries
ago..I still want someone to draw me a useful map. :)

One of the better tourist guides to Southwestern France, this book concentrates on significant
events and notable sights to see in this region. Unlike traditional guides which concentrate on
restaurants and selected hotels, this one concentrates on the history, art and architecture of the
towns and villages. Well written, and dateless since it speaks of dated events. Excellent guide for
self-driving tours of the area.

You can't beat a Blue Guide when it comes to accurate, useful, and detailed information, and
Southwest France is no exception. 576 densely printed pages, this book thoroughly covers the
Midi-Pyrenees and Aquitaine, including Dordogne, Lot, Landes, Tarn, Gers, Gironde, and the
Pyrenees. Elegant towns, superb museums (many little known), chateaux, churches, valleys,
vineyards, city maps - this is a total cultural and historical guide to the region, which encompasses a

vast amount of territory. And it fits in your pocket, always a plus. If you just want an overview of the most popular sites, this would not be your best choice. If you are an off-the-beaten-track kind of traveller who likes to delve and find hidden gems, by all means, take BGSF along for the fun. You may want to supplement it with another guide containing photos, as Blue Guides typically include line drawings in black and white.

More or less the only guide on the region that I could find, and it offers a lot of information. But boy, is this book badly written. I had expected a bit more from a well known travel guide publisher like the Blue Guide.

Excellent, very detailed guide. Not too much about hotels and restaurants, but that's not really what the Blue Guides are about. If you are interested in art or history, they offer large amounts of useful and important information that's very hard to find anywhere else.

Extremely dry, and it seems to list every possible oddly named and obscure architectural feature of the many local churches in excruciating detail. Enough about pendentives already! While I usually like Blue Guides, this one doesn't do that great a job of giving the flavor of a place; instead you get descriptions and facts. It is much too long (losing the architectural detail would probably reduce it by half). On the other hand, the restaurant and hotel listings are good and there's a list of market days for each town at the end of each section which is very useful.

This travel guide is relatively useless for anyone that wants to know any specifics about traveling in this area of France. If you like history of the region, buy it. If you want useful practical information - don't.

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