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12 of the Finest Dordogne Châteaux

Posted By *Guy Hibbert* On September 21, 2016 @ 5:58 am In Architecture, History, Parks & Gardens, Travel Features | [No Comments](#)

The fascinating history of the [Dordogne](#) ^[1] from medieval to modern times is brought to life by the grandeur and mystique of some of its splendid châteaux. When you visit these medieval fortresses, Renaissance palaces and grand family estates you will encounter a rich tapestry, revealing accounts of love and war, ambition and tragedy, fairy-tale romance and escapism. Here is our selection – but many more fine examples await travellers looking for inspiring architecture and remarkable stories from days of yore.

[Related article: [Dordogne Travels: The Lure of Périgord](#) ^[2]]

[Château de Beynac](#) ^[3]

This imposing fortified castle sitting on a dramatic cliff top location overlooking the River Dordogne has seen almost a thousand years of history played out against its stone walls and courtyards. It is one of the best-preserved in the region.



courtesy of Château de Bridoire

[Château de Bridoire](#) ^[4]

A beautiful 15th-century château near Bergerac, once neglected but now happily in private

hands and undergoing a small renaissance. Many restored and furnished rooms to view as well as medieval-style games. Popular with families.



Chateau de Biron. Photo: Pays des bastides

Château de Biron ^[5]

Near Monpazier, in the south of the Dordogne, this dramatic château from the 12th century is perched on a hillside overlooking the Périgord and Agenais countryside. Visitors will appreciate its many beautiful architectural features.



Chateau de Bourdeilles. Photo: Semitour Perigord

Château de Bourdeilles [6]

The site of one of the four *baronnies* of the Périgord, this is an impressive château with a spectacular tower overlooking the River Dronne in the north of the Dordogne near Brantôme [7]. The château and surrounding village are worth a visit.



Chateau de Castelnaud. Photo: M. Boutry

Château de Castelnaud ^[8]

In the heart of the Périgord Noir this is a medieval fortress with a military history. In keeping with its past life, today it houses a museum of medieval warfare. Enactments of Cathar history take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in summer.



Chateau d'Hautefort. Photo: OT Château d'Hautefort

Château de Hautefort ^[9]

Closer in appearance to a Loire ^[10] château, the golden age of this majestic building in the north of the Dordogne was during the time of the Marquis de Hautefort in the 16th and 17th centuries. The beautiful formal gardens are a must-see.



courtesy of Château de Jumilhac

Château de Jumilhac ^[11]

The Château de Jumilhac is to be found in the north of the Dordogne, on the route of Richard the Lionheart. With its picturesque turreted Renaissance roofline this imposing château strikes visitors as the quintessential romantic castle.



courtesy of Château de Lanquais

Château de Lanquais ^[12]

In the Périgord Pourpre, this château dates from the Middle Ages but also boasts some fine work by Italian craftsmen who later helped transform some parts of it into a Renaissance palace. It has been owned by the same family since 1732.



Chateau de Milandes. Photo: Jonathan Barbot

Château de Milandes ^[13]

A beautiful 15th-century castle in the heart of the Dordogne valley, made most famous by

former owner the American chanteuse Josephine Baker, who lived here with her 12 adopted children. Famed for its birds of prey displays during the summer.



courtesy of Château de Monbazillac

Château de Monbazillac ^[14]

Here, just south of Bergerac ^[15] on a proud hilltop, you can combine a pleasant *dégustation* of the famous dessert wines with a visit to the small yet impressive chateau with Renaissance interiors and views over the vineyards.



Chateau de Puyguilhem. Photo: OT Périgord Dronne Belle – Frédéric Tessier

Château de Puyguilhem ^[16]

A Renaissance jewel in the north of the region, Puyguilhem is an elegant building with classic proportions and Loire-esque turreted rooflines. Hard to believe it was once abandoned until the French state intervened in the 20th century.

Château de Sauveboeuf ^[17]

Only opened to the public in 2013, this is a Louis XIII château overlooking the River Vézère not far from the Lascaux caves. The owner will often be on hand to share his special interest in prehistoric artefacts.

From France Today magazine



courtesy of Château Da Sauveboeuf

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[2] Dordogne Travels: The Lure of Périgord: <http://www.francetoday.com/travel/travel-features/dordogne-travels-the-lure-of-perigord/>

[3] Château de Beynac: <http://www.beynac-en-perigord.com>

[4] Château de Bridoire: <http://www.chateaudebridoire.com>

- [5] Château de Biron: <http://www.bergerac-tourisme.com>
- [6] **Château de Bourdeilles**: <http://www.tourisme-perigueux.fr>
- [7] Brantôme: https://www.francetoday.com/accommodation/hotels/hotels_in_perigord_le_moulin_du_roc_near_brantome/
- [8] **Château de Castelnaud**: <http://www.castelnaud.com>
- [9] **Château de Hautefort**: <http://www.chateau-hautefort.com>
- [10] Loire: https://www.francetoday.com/activity/tally_ho_touring_the_loire_valley_s_chateaux_on_horseback/
- [11] **Château de Jumilhac**: <http://www.jumilhac.net>
- [12] **Château de Lanquais**: <http://www.chateaudelanquais.fr>
- [13] **Château de Milandes**: <http://www.milandes.com>
- [14] **Château de Monbazillac**: <http://www.chateau-monbazillac.com>
- [15] Bergerac : <https://www.francetoday.com/accommodation/hotels/la-chartreuse-du-bignac-stay-near-bergerac/>
- [16] **Château de Puyguilhem**: <http://www.chateau-puyguilhem.fr>
- [17] **Château de Sauveboeuf**: <http://www.chateau-de-sauveboeuf.jimdo.com>
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