

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents

SOUTHERN FRANCE: LANGUEDOC & PROVENCE

April 20-May 4, 2015

15 days for \$5,496 total price from Washington, DC
(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$701 airline taxes and departure fees)



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**
Featuring Dr. Peter Schertz, VMFA Curator of Ancient Art

SOUTHERN FRANCE: LANGUEDOC & PROVENCE

15 days for \$5,496 total price from Washington, DC
(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$701 airline taxes and departure fees)

Come with us to “le Midi,” the south of France from the Pyrénées and Languedoc to Provence and the Riviera ... colorful landscapes, celebrated art, ancient Roman sites, medieval villages and small country towns, food and wine to remember. Our small group moves at a leisurely pace as we soak up the pleasures of this treasured region.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Toulouse, France

Day 2: Arrive Toulouse/Sorèze We arrive in Toulouse today and transfer to the Midi-Pyrénées town of Sorèze and our lodgings, a former abbey listed as a historic landmark. Tonight we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel. **D**

Day 3: Sorèze/Albi Today we travel to the historic market town of Albi, hometown of Belle Epoque artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. A city tour includes a visit to Palais de la Berbie, an ancient fortress housing a museum devoted to the works of Toulouse-Lautrec. **B**

Day 4: Sorèze/Carcassonne/Perpignan En route this morning to Carcassonne, we stop in Mirepoix, whose Place du Maréchal-Leclerc is perhaps the quintessential medieval square. We have time to admire this masterpiece of urban design before we continue on to Carcassonne. Sitting atop a hill overlooking vast green plains that stretch as far as the Pyrénées, fortified Carcassonne boasts the longest city walls remaining in Europe, with battlements and ramparts dating to the 1st-century Romans. Late this afternoon we depart for Languedoc and our hotel in Perpignan. **B,D**

Day 5: Perpignan/Figueres, Spain/Collioure Today’s excursion showcases the beauty of art and of nature, as we set off through the majestic Pyrénées. Our first stop is in Figueres, Spain, birthplace of surrealist artist Salvador Dalí and where we visit the acclaimed museum he designed to exhibit his work. From here we travel along the Catalan coast to Collioure, France, the “City of Painters” immortalized by such artists as Dérain, Matisse, and Picasso, among other Fauvists. We explore this charming town with its impressive castle, Chateau de Collioure; medieval streets; and Mediterranean bay. **B,L,D**

Avg. High (°F)	Apr	May
Languedoc (Perpignan)	66	72
Provence (Le Pontet)	66	75
Monte Carlo	63	68

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Medieval Carcassonne ... Salvador Dalí Museum in Figueres, Spain ... Roman monuments ... Cistercian monument of Abbaye de Fontfroide ... Half-day cruise on Canal du Midi ... Pont du Gard excursion ... Private French cooking class and dinner ... Tasting and dinner at a local winery ... Beachside stay on the French Riviera

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Toulouse		
2-3	Sorèze	Hotel Abbaye École De Sorèze	First Class
4-6	Perpignan (Languedoc)	La Villa Dufлот	First Class
7-9	Le Pontet (Provence)	Hotel les Agassins	First Class
10-12	Saint-Maximin- la-Sainte-Baume	Hotel le Couvent Royal	First Class
13-14	Cannes	InterContinental Carlton Cannes	Deluxe
15	Depart Nice for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: The medieval world comes to life at Carcassonne, which we explore on Day 4.



Typical Provençal scene of lavender field and stone building

Day 6: Perpignan This morning we visit Abbaye de Fontfroide, the 11th-century monastic complex that ranks as the best preserved Cistercian monument in France and a key site in Languedoc. We tour the church and its cloisters then return to our hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure. **B**

Day 7: Perpignan/Canal du Midi/Le Pontet We embark on a half-day cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat on the grand 17th-century Canal du Midi, one of the waterways connecting the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. Once a channel of kings and commerce, the canal today is a UNESCO site and a prime draw for boaters and tourists. We disembark mid-day then continue by coach to Provence. **B,L,D**

Day 8: Le Pontet/Avignon Today we encounter the ancient Roman city that was the capital of Christendom in the Middle Ages. We visit Avignon's historic city center, a UNESCO site, with its cathedral, half-finished Saint-Bénézet Bridge, and the Palais des Papes (Papal Palace), one of the world's largest and most important Gothic structures. We tour the palace, where seven successive popes lived during the 14th century. After time for lunch and to explore on our own, we visit Pont du Gard, the 1st-century Roman aqueduct with three tiers of arches spanning the Gardon River. Skillfully engineered and artistically designed, the aqueduct, now a UNESCO site, carried water to residents of Nimes for almost 500 years. **B**

Day 9: Le Pontet/Arles We explore more of Roman France today in Arles, once part of Roman Gaul then a clarion of Christianity. Our tour begins at the Archaeological Museum, where we get an overview of the town's rich history through prehistoric artifacts, Roman statues, and

mosaics from the nearby Arles Amphitheater. Then we continue on a city tour to see some of Arles' ancient Roman monuments, all UNESCO sites, including the two-tiered amphitheater (c. 90 CE) itself. Tonight we join a local chef for a cooking class followed by dinner. **B,D**

Day 10: Le Pontet/Saint-Rémy-de-Provence/Saint-Maximin This morning we leave for Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, the picturesque village where Van Gogh once painted. After a walking tour of the ancient Gallo-Roman city center with its maze of winding streets and fountain-filled squares, we have time to explore. Mid-afternoon we depart for Saint-Maximin in the heart of Provence. **B,D**

Day 11: Saint-Maximin/Aix-en-Provence Today we visit the Provençal town of Aix-en-Provence ("Aix"), known for its beautiful Cours Mirabeau, the plane-tree lined main boulevard; elegant Roman fountains; and as the birthplace of

Post-Tour Extension

May 4-6, 2015

THE FRENCH RIVIERA: ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights for \$395 total price
Single Supplement: \$295

Savor the good life in this celebrated spot, with splendid scenery, museums, beaches, and rustic villages close at hand.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at InterContinental Carlton Cannes (Deluxe)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

"SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON ..."
ON THE BRIDGE OF AVIGNON
WE ALL DANCE THERE.
— 15TH-CENTURY FRENCH SONG

artist Paul Cézanne. We take a walking tour here, admiring Aix's rich architectural heritage, then have time to explore as we wish. We return to our hotel late afternoon; we have the option to return to Aix this evening for dinner on our own. **B**

Day 12: Saint-Maximin/Roussillon Our destination today: the "most beautiful village" of Roussillon, in the heart of one of the world's richest ochre deposits. With its red-hued cliffs, red-stone buildings, and red-tiled roofs, Roussillon poses a striking image against the blue Provençal sky and pine forests of deep green. Tonight we visit a local winery for a tasting and dinner. **B,D**

Day 13: Saint-Maximin/Saint-Paul-de-Vence/Èze/Cannes Scenic overload continues on today's visit to hilltop Saint-Paul-de-Vence, with its art galleries, museums, vine-covered stone walls, and breathtaking views of the mountains and sea. Our visit here includes the Maeght Foundation, with its prized 20th-century collection of fine arts. This afternoon we travel on to the charming village of Èze, high above the Côte d'Azur, where we have time to wander the cobblestone streets and enjoy panoramic Mediterranean views. Then we continue on to Cannes and our beachside hotel. **B**

Day 14: Cannes/Monte Carlo, Monaco Today we embark on a morning city tour of Monaco's capital including the Prince's Palace (where Princess Grace lived), the famed Monte Carlo Casino, and the roadway where the Grand Prix motor race takes place. Tonight we gather for a farewell dinner. **B,D**

Day 15: Depart for U.S. This morning we transfer to the Nice airport and our connecting flights to the U.S. **B**

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights' accommodations in Deluxe and First Class hotels
- 23 meals: 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Traveling With You

FPO



Dr. Peter Justin Moon Schertz has served as curator of Ancient Art since October 2006 and the Jack and Mary Ann Frable Curator of Ancient Art since 2007. He received a

Certificate of Museum Studies in 1997 and a PhD in classical art and archaeology in 2004 from the University of Southern California, where he wrote the dissertation *Seer or Victim? The Figure of Marsyas in Roman Art, Religion, and Politics* under the supervision of John Pollini. He received his BA in classical languages and literature from the University of Chicago in 1987. His specialty is Roman art, with a focus on the intersection of art and culture, particularly art and religion. His current projects include a study of the original polychromy of the Arch of Titus and an examination of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in its Roman context. He is particularly interested in how new technologies can help us understand and interpret ancient art and is also preparing a major exhibition drawn from museum and state collections in Italy that explores how ancient peoples communicated with their gods (scheduled to open Spring 2017).

Tour Departs: April 20, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$5,296
Charlotte, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,496
Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	\$5,596
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,696
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include air-line taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$701, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$4,195 per person (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at

888-370-6765

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time

For further information contact VMFA Member Travel at

804-340-1519.

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

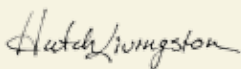
Dear VMFA Members,

Join us on a special 15-day journey to Southern France in 2015. This exclusive tour features Southern France's highlights from the Pyrénées and Languedoc, to Provence and the Riviera. We are pleased to have Dr. Peter Schertz, VMFA Curator of Ancient Art, accompanying this tour.

We begin in the beautiful town of Sorèze, from which we will explore the historic market town of Albi, including a visit to the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum, and marvel at the breathtaking views from Carcassonne, which boasts the longest city walls remaining in Europe. We then set off through the Pyrénées, before traveling along the Catalan coast to Collioure, France. Next, we take a half-day cruise on the Canal du Midi, a UNESCO site, and journey to Provence, where we explore the beautiful Saint-Bénézet Bridge and the Palais des Papes. Then we visit the Pont du Gard and ancient Roman monuments, take a walking tour of an ancient Gallo-Roman city center, and explore the beautiful cities and villages of Aix-en-Provence, Roussillon, and Èze. Our journey concludes with a tour of Monte Carlo, with visits to both the Prince's Palace and the site of the Grand Prix motor race, and a relaxing stay in Cannes.

Space on this program is limited to VMFA members and family and will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,



Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM — SOUTHERN FRANCE: LANGUEDOC & PROVENCE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on **Southern France: Languedoc & Provence** departing **April 20, 2015**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. **Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and mail check (along with completed reservation form) to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458.** Or call **Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**, or fax reservation to **617-454-9199**.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

The French Riviera - On Your Own Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Southern France: Languedoc & Provence, April 20-May 4, 2015**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sight-seeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's re-issue.

Responsibility

The liability of the VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a substantial amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the VMFA assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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Richmond, VA 23220-4007

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JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE
VMFA ADVENTURE THROUGH
SOUTHERN FRANCE