



# This is France — Why Aquitaine?

# Pourquoi l'Aquitaine?



Is it because Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the most celebrated and popular figures from the region of southwest France which bears her name, was successively married both to the King of France (Louis VII) and the King of England (Henry II), that the British feel so much at home in her region? Probably not. French history is full of mixed marriages and alliances – or misalliances, not to mention long-lasting wars... – between our two peoples. But one of the reasons might very well be that Aquitaine is one of the most beautiful regions of France and one of the richest in terms of

historical remains from the times of Eleanor, the Middle Ages. The mythic city of Sarlat in the Dordogne (the French department which boasts the largest population of English expatriates) is but one example among other true jewels of medieval architecture.

Others would say that they are attracted by the style of old houses that they can afford to buy and restore, by a countryside which is rather similar to some parts of England with its green valleys and rivers, by the kindness and calm of the locals, by the quality and variety of food and wines, by the vast landscapes

Est-ce parce qu'Aliénor d'Aquitaine, l'une des personnalités historiques les plus célèbres et les plus populaires de cette région du sud-ouest de la France portant son nom, a été successivement mariée à un roi de France (Louis VII) et à un roi d'Angleterre (Henry II), que les Anglais s'y sentent autant chez eux ? Probablement pas. L'Histoire de France est remplie de mariages mixtes et d'alliances – ou mésalliances, sans parler de guerres interminables – entre les deux peuples. Mais une raison pourrait très bien être que l'Aquitaine est l'une des plus belles régions de France et des plus riches en traces historiques de

l'époque d'Aliénor, le Moyen-Age. La cité mythique de Sarlat en Dordogne (le département français qui compte la plus importante population d'Anglais) n'en est qu'un exemple parmi d'autres véritables joyaux de l'architecture médiévale.

## Diverses motivations

D'autres personnes diront qu'elles sont attirées par le style des vieilles maisons qu'elles peuvent se permettre d'acheter et de restaurer, par un paysage qui est assez proche de celui de certaines régions d'Angleterre avec ses vertes vallées et rivières, par la gentillesse et le calme de la population, par la qualité



## An interesting investigation in Dordogne

The Research Department for the Economic Impact of Bergerac Airport Traffic has recently published the results of a very interesting survey. Here are the main results:

**95% of the passengers** of the Bergerac airport are **British**. 1 passenger out of 5 lives in the region, and 23% of the passengers own a house.

**62% of the British** who have settled in the departments surrounding the airport live in **Dordogne**. The others are spread between Lot-et-Garonne (21%), Lot (8%), Charente (4%), Gironde (4%), Tarn-et-Garonne (1%).

The age spread of the permanent residents:

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