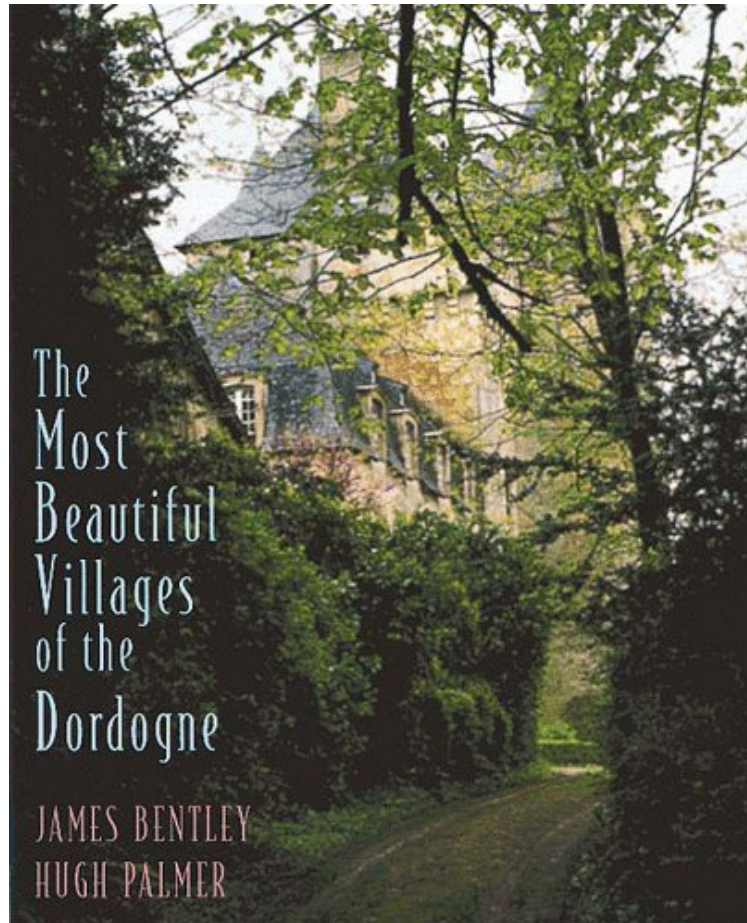


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Most Beautiful Villages of the Dordogne

James Bentley

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The Dordogne offers splendid scenery, exquisite food and wine, the finest examples of prehistoric art and some of the most enchanting villages of France. This guide offers a journey through the region, from northern gems such as

Brantome to "grand" villages such as Hautefort, found further south among the hills and limestone valleys. Gastronomy and prehistory distinguish the villages of the two southern-most areas, from the white wine of Monbazillac to the prehistoric cave paintings of Les Eyzies, while the ancient fortified towns of Montfort and Montpazier recall the struggles of the Middle Ages. The book comes complete with a travellers' gazetteer.

From BooklistWalk through a land of pure enchantment in this tour of a particularly lovely part of France, the southwestern area called the Dordogne, from the river that flows through it. (The region is also known as the Perigord.) Experienced travel writer Bentley and outstanding photographer Palmer (partnered in the previous title in the series, *Most Beautiful Villages of Tuscany*) guide the reader from one charming, beautiful village to another. In large-format display, Palmer captures particularly evocative scenes, and in buoyant text, Bentley describes the physical appearance of each place and discusses local cuisine and the dramatic history in which the region is steeped. Readers will find it difficult to remain armchair-bound once they have savored these luscious pages! Brad Hooper The *Most Beautiful Villages Of The Dordogne* is a visual tour-de-force of the "Perigord" region of France with its evocative, descriptive text and its 258 full-color, breathtakingly beautiful illustrations. The Dordogne offers splendid scenery, exquisite food and wine, the finest examples of prehistoric art and some of the most enchanting villages of France. Readers will discover villages of widely contrasting appeal and interest: in the north are gems such as Brantome with its fine abbey and ancient houses gracing the banks of the river Dronne. Further south, among the undulating hills and warm limestone valleys of the white Dordogne are villages such as Hautefort, crouching beneath the twin pepper-pot towers of its chateau. Gastronomy and the artifacts of prehistory distinguish the villages of the two southernmost areas. Other sties such as Les Eyzies, harbor some of the best prehistoric cave paintings in the world, while the ancient fortified towns of Montfort and Monpazier recall the struggles of the Middle Ages. Complete with a traveler's gazetteer and further information about the region, *The Most Beautiful Villages Of The Dordogne* is a magnificent presentation of the Dordogne's small towns and villages demonstrating the qualities that attract so many visitors every year. *The Most Beautiful Villages Of The Dordogne* is an armchair traveler's dream! James Bentley's talents as an experienced travel writer are manifest. Hugh Palmer's photography is arresting, as he shares his artist's eye through the camera's lens and gives the reader a multiplicity of memorable visions. *The Most Beautiful Villages Of The Dordogne* is the ideal coffee-table book and will inspire many a reader to trod those Dordogne roads themselves. -- Midwest Book