

# Song for Mary Magdalene: France

May 17—31st, 2015

with Christine Page & Leland Landry  
and guide, musician Ani Williams



## May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 Toulouse, France

Fly into Toulouse Blagnac airport and make your way to the hotel. Meet together for an informal welcome on the evening of May 17<sup>th</sup>



## May 18-19-20-21<sup>st</sup> Languedoc, France

We stay four nights in a beautiful chateau located at the confluence of two rivers.

### Our first four days include:



**Montsegur**, last stronghold of the Cathars, the ‘heretical’ group who held to the original Christian ideals of love and equanimity during 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. (the etymology of the word heretic comes from the Greek word meaning ‘free choice’.)

*“Al cap dels sèt cent ans, verdejara lo laurèl.  
The laurel will flourish again in 700 years”*

This quote was said to be a prophecy given by a Cathar Parfait in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Seven centuries after the 1244 massacre at Montsegur, many souls would be reborn to take up the torch and return to this land called Languedoc, to find the fragments of the path of love.



**Chateau Puivert**, the troubadour castle with tapestries and instruments of the medieval era. The most talented troubadours gathered here to hold annual poetry and music festivals. We will experience medieval and troubadour harp music in the halls where the bards played for Eleanor of Aquitaine and many medieval lords and ladies. For author C.S. Lewis, the troubadours “...effected a change which has left no corner of our ethics, our imagination, or our daily life untouched...”



**Rennes-le-Chateau**, mysterious hilltop village made famous by Henry Lincoln and the later books by Dan Brown and Kathleen McGowen. This small village and its lush surrounding valleys was once home to Celts,



Romans, early Christians, Visigoths, Moors, Cathars, Templars, and Troubadours.

**Rennes les Bains** is famous for its Roman baths and healing thermal springs, was at one time dedicated to Isis.



We will visit the **Fontaine des Amour** a beautiful natural series of pools, fed by a natural salt spring, which at its source has twice the salt content of the sea. Salt is purifying and a perfect site for baptism.



**Alet les Bains** on the Aude River is an ancient Roman village of healing waters dedicated to the Goddess Diana, and once home to medieval Jewish Kabbalah scholars. The spectacular abbey ruins are still used for modern Templar initiations.



**Sainte Salvayre.** This chapel is on the mountain above Alet and could be a Roman wayside chapel on the old Celtic/Roman road to Carcassonne.



### **May 22-23-24: Les Saintes Maries de la Mer.**

We spend these days on the Mediterranean Sea for the annual Gypsy Festival celebrating the arrival in France of the Three Maries: Mary Magdalene, Mary Salome and Mary Jacobe, and *Saint Sara*, the Black Madonna. The music and dance of the gypsies, the baptism of the bones of



the Maries and Saint Sara and the procession into the sea is a favorite destination for people from around the world. Saintes Maries offers us an opportunity to take part step in a procession that has been maintained for many centuries.

### **May 25-26<sup>th</sup> Sainte Baume**

We'll stay in a medieval convent next to the great Basilica of Mary Magdalene. Nearby is the high mountain retreat of Sainte Baume, where we will visit the grotto said to be the home of Magdalene during the last years of her life. An ancient spring with clear healing water emerges from the mountain as we make our ascent to the grotto.



**May 27<sup>th</sup> Carcassonne le Cite:** We spend our final night in the South of France at one of the most impressive and most photographed medieval walled cities in Europe.

**May 28-31<sup>st</sup> Paris:** Fly from Toulouse to Paris for 3 magical nights in romantic Paris. On Friday we will travel by train to Chartres to visit the town and its cathedral and to walk its medieval labyrinth. Saturday will be spent seeing as many sites of Paris as possible visiting sacred sites built on sacred geometry such as Sacred Coeur, the Louvre, Champs-Elysees and La Madeleine.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>:** Fly home from Paris on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> enriched by music, friendship, good food and mystery.

**Costs:** still being calculated, based on two people per room. Single rooms are available

**To register:** a deposit of \$500 is being collected to hold a place (space will be limited) which is totally refundable up to 30 days after the costs are announced.

Please go to <http://www.christinepage.com/sign-up/events-sign-up/>