

“SOUTHERN FRANCE”

Aug. 15-29, 2009

With DONNAH CAMERON II

Medieval towns with their narrow winding streets, abbeys and castle ruins on craggy mountains, vineyards and fields of sunflowers or poppies, Mediterranean beaches, and the Pyrenees, all bathed in wondrous light, all waiting to be sketched and painted. The area is called "Little France" as it contains nearly every type of geographical feature in the rest of the country. As yet undiscovered, is quiet and not overrun by tourists and this is where the impressionists would be painting if they were alive today.

Le Monastere a restored medieval monastery with a 12th century wine cellar, is a four star hotel that offers trips to artists, Our home base in Limoux, a charming town built on the banks of the Aude River. The area is the Midi region of France, the area that borders Spain and reaches to the Pyrenees on the West and the Mediterranean on the east. We have van supported trips to these and many more areas.

The guest rooms at Le Monastere are spacious and have en suites. The food is sumptuous and breakfasts and 12 dinners are included in the price of the trip. Generally we are served three dinners a week at the hotel and are taken out to local restaurants for the other meals. We purchase one dinner per week and the other 12 dinners with wine, plus all breakfasts are included in the price. There is only room for thirteen people which makes a nice intimate group.

We book from six to nine trips for artists a season. All trips are booked on a first come basis. Trips are two weeks duration and pick up and departure is at the Toulouse International Airport on Saturday mornings. Return flights are booked no earlier than 9:30am from Toulouse. In order to arrive at the Toulouse Airport on Saturday around noon we must leave Canada or the U.S. on Friday evening.

Total cost of trips for 2009, shared accommodation, excluding air fare, insurance, lunches and one dinner per week is \$3,000. CDN including the instructor's fee.

Spouses and friends are welcome, however, everyone that goes on this trip is required to pay the \$400. instructor's fee whether they are taking instruction or not. A \$500. deposit is required to hold your space. The balance of \$2,500.

is due two months before departure as detailed below. Credit card payment is accepted with a 2% surcharge.

In summary, cheques are required as follows:

(1.) A \$500. deposit cheque, not post-dated sent at time of booking made out to Le

Monastere Adventures.

(2.) A second cheque for \$2,100. post-dated two (2) months before departure, made

out to Le Monastere Adventures.

(3.) A third cheque for \$400. post-dated two (2) months before departure, made out

to the instructor.

All three cheques are sent at the same time to Le Monastere Adventures, P. O. Box 4222, Station E, Ottawa On., K1S 5B2. Price for U.S. participants will be give at time of booking.

People often book a year in advance. Groups plan to travel together, and with my help we will all try to use the same travel agent and call in with our method of payment on their 1 800 #. We urge everyone to take out cancellation insurance when purchasing their air fare. Air fare must be arranged many months in advance as these routes get booked early.

Usually we paint in cotton shirts, however you may get a cool morning and I always take a layer jacket...a fleece covered with a windproof outer jacket. I usually wear this on the plane as it gets cold up there! I wear my walking shoes as these are heavy and add a lot of weight. I take one other pair of shoes for evenings. Dress is casual. Take your own sun screen as it is expensive to buy there.

I generally take a watercolour block. Easels, backing and camp stools are supplied for our use together with bottles to carry water both for drinking and painting. There is a studio for us to work in at Le Monastere. A day or two a week we will paint in town. There is a scene at every quarter turn. Artists who have been on this trip give rave reviews and we have had many repeat happy participants.

Donnah Cameron II

905.895.2053

Email: dannahcameron@rogers.com

Website: www.dannahcameron.com