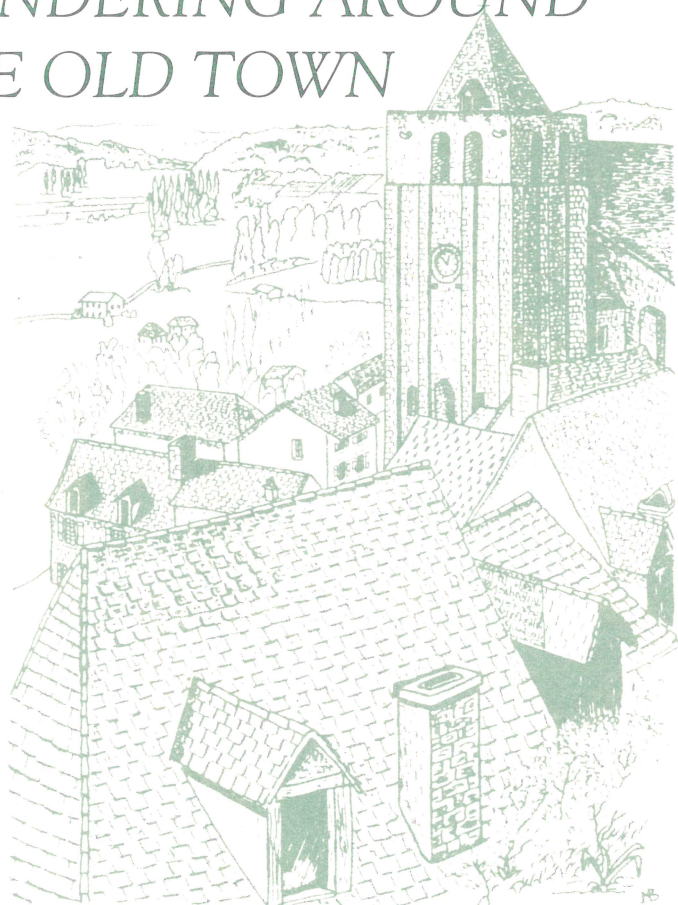
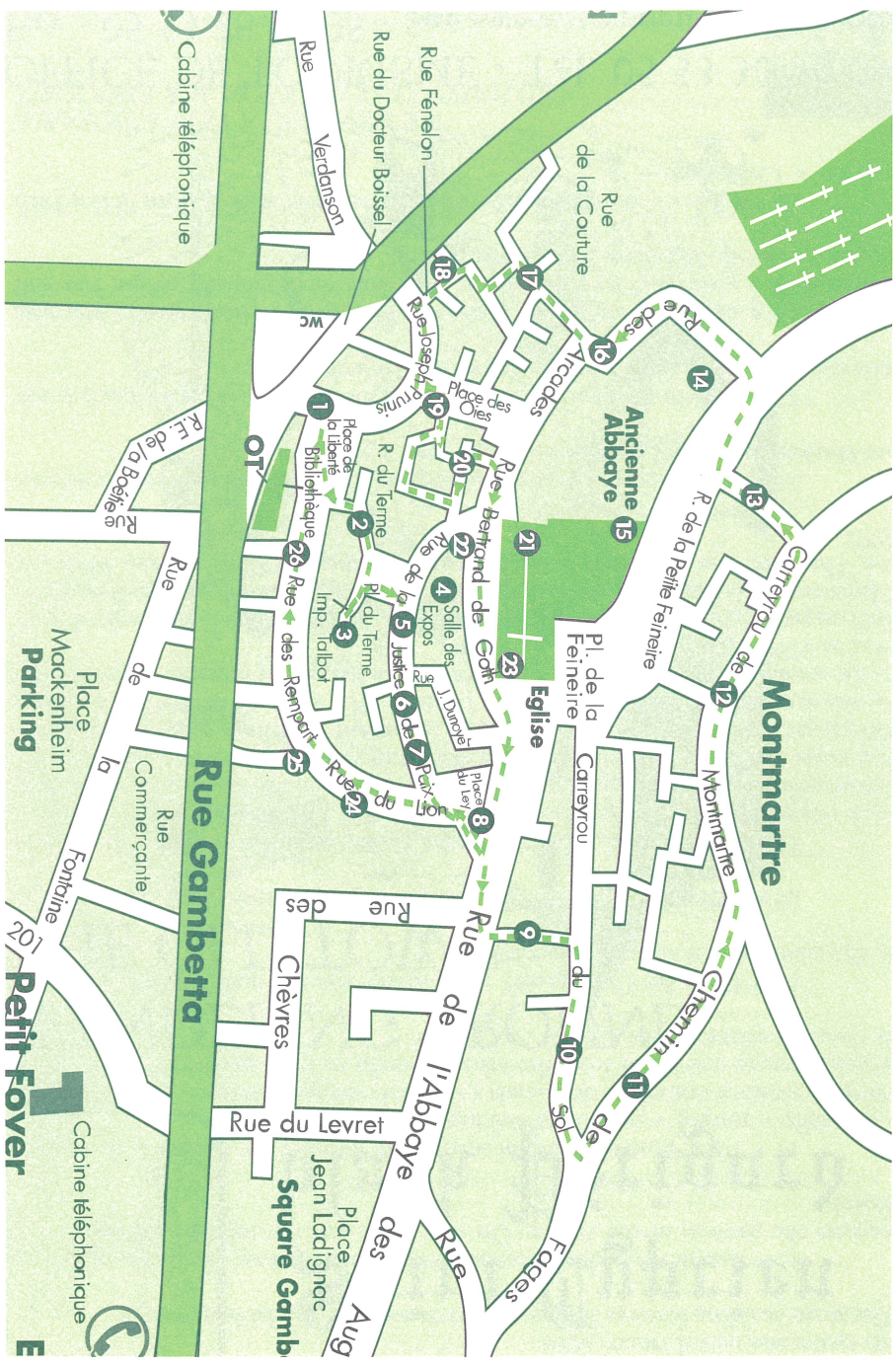


Saint Cyprien black Périgord

WANDERING AROUND
THE OLD TOWN



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1 • Start from « place de la Liberté » ; follow « Rue du Terme » a narrow lane which climbs up to the church (in langue d'Oc « Terme » means small hill).

2 • On your right is 18th century « Chartreuse » (or mansion house specific of Perigord) built for Mr du Plassial, chief officer of the French Royal Navy.

3 • At the bottom of « Impasse Talbot » (Talbot's dead end) a half-timbered house which porch displays a coat of arms. It has been said that General John Talbot, Commander of the British army during the « 100 years war », stayed in this house while inspecting the British forces on the frontier between the kingdom of France and the territory of Alienor d'Aquitaine (Henri II Plantagenets' wife). General Talbot was killed while crossing the river Dordogne at Lamothe – Montravel in 1453. On the following day the battle of Castillon (Gironde) took place. Missing their commander in chief the British army was defeated by the King of France armed forces that put an end to the 100 years war.

4 • From right to left in front of you a superb house which once pertained to the de Fleurieu family. Today it hosts the presbytery housing the priest in charge of the church. This house is linked to the old palace of Justice through a large terrace under which one can see remarkable vaulted cellars. During the month of July and August the palace of Justice gives shelter to an exhibition of contemporary arts including painting and sculptures (entrance to the exhibition is free).

5 • Another half-timbered house.

6 • As indicated by a heart carved above its door, this was once home to a religious institution. Cellars and foundations are dated XIIth century. There is also a private underground passage (Cluzeau).

7 • A carved mask above which a console representing Jesus Christ.

8 • A stoned-lion which could be from roman or English origin.

9 • 10 • 11 • 12 • 13 : Several small paved lanes typical of this part of the town called « Montmartre ». The modest houses scattered along those lanes where built inside the city wall when there was little space available for buildings. A superb view on the donjon (or church tower) and also on the ancient roofs below, and the Dordogne Valley.

14 • Warehouses built at the end of 19th century to house tobacco crops. There, before, laid the gardens pertaining to the Augustin Abbey which you now see on ...

15 • This Abbey was erected on the XIIth century by the monks, attracted by Cyprien the hermit on the VIIth century. Soon after, Bertrand de Got archbishop of Bordeaux, Pope in Avignon, under the name of Clement V, took hold of it. One room in the abbey is still named « Chambre du Pape ». At times, the abbey was ruined and rebuilt on 12th century splendid chapter houses adorned with

rib vaults and ogival lancet archs.

The main building features Italian architectures from the 16th century.

16 • Rue des Arcades where important constructions erected in order to support the gardens of the Abbey. On your right was the religious school of St Joseph.

17 • 18 : Another round of small lanes forming the district « la couture » (literally « sewing » or « dress-making district »).

At the bottom of one of the dead-ends a very old carriage entrance. The little space which separate one house from the other is meant to help against fire, or to serve as sewerage system in the Middle Age period.

19 • Place des Oies (geese) : this square was the market place dedicated to the commerce of all sorts of poultry.

20 • Alleys and lanes will take you now to the entrance of the abbey-church.

21 • The church : 32 stalls in the choir where the monks of the Abbey took place. The pulpit, the wooden altars and the 17th century organ formed a remarkable as well as harmonious unity. Inside the second pillar on your right once you enter the church, has been sealed the heart of the eminence Christophe de Beaumont, Archbishop of Paris. Being an opponent to certain religious practices, he was sent back to his own estates by Louis the XV, king of France. He was born in the small village of Meyrals at « Château de la Roque des Peagers » in 1703. He died in 1781.

Still on your right hand is the altar which, since 1804, contained one thorn of Jesus Christ crown. It was brought to our church by a Flemish nun fleeing revolution terror. This relic was robbed by unsacred hands during the month of the Virgin in 1997.

22 • Northern façade of the presbytery : 2 superb Renaissance windows are blocked up, as well as some original doors.

23 • The church tower : the 12th donjon which is used as a church tower was attached to the church by the end of the 16th century.

24 • 25 • Sloping gently down the Rue du Ley (lion's street) you pass underneath a wayside-cross dated 1813, then Rue des Remparts where you will notice two beautiful houses with gothic gables.

26 • You are coming back where you started your walk in front of this 18th century « Chartreuse ».



*WE WISH YOU A VERY ENJOYABLE
AND HAPPY STAY IN OUR BLACK PERIGORD.*