



RENESTANCE

# Renesting in France

Seminar & Tours 10-14 October 2020



## Seminar - Saturday 10 October 2020

**Whether you're already living in France or still dreaming of it, our full-day seminar in central Montpellier will cover all the key information needed to make your '*vie française*' a success!**

A panel of experts will be available to answer all of your questions – in one place and face-to-face.

Discussion topics include:

**Financial, Tax, and Insurance issues** + a special session for Americans

**Immigration/residency issues** + a special session for Britons

**Healthcare in France**

**French Wills**

**Purchasing property**

**Renting (and renting out) property**

**Social life**

**Learning French**



# The Seminar

The sessions will be highly interactive, allowing you to get answers to the questions that matter most to everyone. You will also have the opportunity to reserve one-on-one slots with the subject matter experts to discuss your specific situation.



There will be a welcome breakfast and a delicious lunch, besides a few breaks with refreshments during the day. During these times, you will be able to chat with members of the Renestance team, our partners and fellow attendees. Newcomers always appreciate the chance to speak with more seasoned residents.

All of the presentations will be printed out, so you can refer to them later at home. There will be many other resources available for you to dive deeper after the seminar.

The venue for the seminar is the elegant Villa Mont Riant, a maison de maître in a wooded park, just 300 meters from the SNCF train station in Montpellier.

The cost is €350/person, €250 for the second person in a couple.

# Renestance

**Renestance helps you make your French lifestyle dream come true!**

Our team of bilingual experts help English-speakers realize their dream of living in France by providing peace of mind and fun through information, assistance and community.



We've taken the leap ourselves, so we can give it to you straight and point out the pitfalls to avoid.

Let us help you with the basics so you can begin enjoying your new life in France to the fullest.

For further information email [contact@renestance.com](mailto:contact@renestance.com)

# Information provided by experts



# A relaxed & friendly atmosphere



[www.renestance.com/seminar2020](http://www.renestance.com/seminar2020)



# Community & Leisure

Our 2020 Seminar Event includes a bonus community day on **Sunday 11th October**.

There are so many incredible opportunities to socialise, exercise, get creative and integrate in your new life in France. This fun and highly interactive day gives you the opportunity to meet and chat with representatives from many associations and charities, sports and other leisure organisations.

There will be participatory events, and a relaxed buffet style lunch will also be on offer.

This is a great day to find out about learning French and how you can get involved with a new community in France through volunteering or other activities.

The bonus community day will take place in Montpellier.



# Why Languedoc?

Why should you consider living or investing in the Languedoc? ...because there really is something for everyone!

- Languedoc is #5 best place to retire overseas
- Montpellier real estate market voted top 3 in France
- Over 300 days of sunshine per year
- Lower cost of living than neighboring Provence or the Riviera
- Large sand beaches and developed ports for nautical activities
- Accessible mountains in the Cévennes and Pyrenees
- Dynamic cities like Montpellier, Nîmes, Béziers, Narbonne, and Perpignan
- Charming towns and villages like Sète, Uzès, Pézenas, and Carcassonne
- Biggest wine-producing region in France
- Rich cultural heritage with many Roman, Cathar and Medieval sites
- Excellent travel connections with international airports and TGV stations





## Montpellier

Montpellier has become one of the most sought-after locations in the South France, drawing thousands of new inhabitants each year, on their quest for sun and high quality of life in a very convenient location.

Small enough to not be overwhelming (pop 275K), especially according to US standards, Montpellier still has everything a large urban area can offer and more. Regrouping 409 000 inhabitants in its Metro area, Montpellier provides all of the amenities imaginable (shopping, culture, entertainment, healthcare, etc.) as well as a significant amount of green spaces and quick access to the countryside, the mountains and the sea. Well, that actually sums up all of France - beautiful, diverse landscapes and environments and everything is super accessible.

The city is known for being athletic and bike-friendly with close to 200 km of paths and the public transportation system makes it possible to survive without a car on a daily basis. Its perfect location also means that you are a little over three hours from pretty much anywhere in Europe and even North Africa. Catch a high-speed train to Paris, a plane to London or drive to Barcelona!

From Les Arceaux (named after the arched aqueduct that passes over the neighborhood), passing through the historical center of Ecusson, the headed down the modern, spacious, green, eco-friendly neighborhood of Port Marianne, the real estate offering is very diverse. Purchasing price within Montpellier is on average €2570 and the property market boast a majority of apartments. However, if you're looking for more space, a garden and a pool, you will want to check out the following towns in the metro area: Castelnau-le-lez, Clapiers, Lattes/ Perols, Jacou, Le Crè.



## Where to Stay

Montpellier has a wide variety of housing options available for every type of traveler and budget, whether it be a hotel, rental or a bed and breakfast such as [Les 4 Etoiles](#).

Hotel chains like Ibis, Mercure, Kyriad and Best Western have several addresses in and around Montpellier, [BW Eurociel](#) being one of the most appreciated by Renestance clients.

You may want to opt for a more unique location, like the [Domaine du Verchant](#), a Relais & Chateaux, just outside of Montpellier, offering a luxury hotel, spa and restaurant experience.

Short-term holiday rentals are also readily available, if you'd like to live as a local during your stay. Check out Vrbo, Airbnb, le Bon Coin, or [ask Renestance](#) to do a bilingual rental search for you!

For further information email [contact@renestance.com](mailto:contact@renestance.com)

## Getting around

### Ecusson

The best way to travel within the *centre ville* of Montpellier, one of the largest pedestrian city centers in France, is by foot. However, there are a few other options that can make getting around a bit quicker and more fun.

### Vélo taxi

You'll see these three-wheel electric bike taxis zooming around town. Rates starting at 2 EUR. Look for a Vélostation near you at Halles Castellane, Foch, Louis Blanc, Albert 1er and Esplanade.

### Montpellier Tram

Montpellier Metropolitan area has four easily identifiable lines, which cross the entire metro area.

Line 1 (Wind – blue with birds) Mosson/Odyseum

Line 2 (Earth – flower power) Saint-Jean-de-Védas Centre/ Jacou

Line 3 (Water – multicolored fish) Juvignac/Montpellier/Lattes et Pérols

Line 4 (Fire – Le Roi Soleil) Circle line

The Bus includes several lines going through and around the center of town and the entire network allows you to travel throughout the Metropolitan area.

Visit [www.tam.cartographie.pro](http://www.tam.cartographie.pro) to view an interactive map of the public transport system

### Lecab VTC

Private chauffeur: [www.en.lecab.fr](http://www.en.lecab.fr)

### Modulauto

24/7 mini car sharing service. Membership from 9 EUR a month and 2.70 EUR / hour.

Stations at Préfecture, Arc de triomphe, Corum and Comédie.

[www.modulauto.net](http://www.modulauto.net)

## Beyond Montpellier

From the Gare Montpellier Saint-Roch, you can grab a train to just about anywhere:

TER (regional train) to Nîmes, Béziers, Avignon, Toulouse, etc.

TGV (high speed train) to Geneva in 4 hours, Paris in 3.5 hours, Barcelona is 3 hours, Lyon in 2 hours, etc.

For more information, visit [www.sncf-voyage.com](http://www.sncf-voyage.com)

### Renting a car

The easiest place to find a rental car is at Gare Saint-Roch – Avis, Enterprise, Europcar, Hertz, Sixt. However, the airport does tend to have better deals.



[www.renestance.com/seminar2020](http://www.renestance.com/seminar2020)



# SAMPLE ITINERARY

**Mr. & Mrs. Smith flying from San Fransisco**

**Thursday October 8th**

Depart from Atlanta to Montpellier  
(flying with Air France via Paris)

**Friday October 9th**

Arrival in Montpellier....

Settle in and rest at *Les 4 Etoiles* Guest House in les Arceaux not far from the  
historical center of Montpellier

Evening walk through Montpellier and dinner at *Le Cinq*

**Saturday October 10th**

Renestance Seminar in Montpellier  
Wine-tasting with the Renestance Team  
Dinner at *Bistrot de Bacchus*

**Sunday October 11th**

Bonus community event with Renestance  
Dinner at *Comme un dimanche sous le figuier*

**Monday October 12th**

Real Life and Real Estate Tour of Montpellier and Sète  
Dinner at *La fine Mouche* cheese bar

**Tuesday October 13th**

Breakfast and quick tour of the great organic market in les Arceaux  
Real Life and Real Estate Tour of Béziers, Pezenas and Marseillan  
Dinner at *Leclere Cuisine d'arrivage*

**Wednesday October 14th**

Real Life and Real Estate Tour of Sommières and Uzès  
Dinner at *l'Artichaut*

**Thursday October 15th**

Departing flight from Montpellier

## Discover the area as an 'insider'

There is a reason why our wonderful region is called the 'real South of France'.

Here we have all the character, history and beauty for which neighboring Provence is admired, but with lower cost of living and real estate prices, due to its yet-undiscovered Mediterranean coastline status.



## The big question - where to renest or invest?

If you've heard about some nice places to live in the Languedoc, but would like to get a feel for them yourself (without wasting time in tourist traps or getting lost!), join us for one or two of the full-day regional excursions taking place in the days following the seminar.

### Real Estate and Real Life Tours

We'll meet up near a public transportation hub and cover the towns mainly on foot (some public transportation possible). Your personal bilingual guide will provide insider tips to life in those areas (which bakery has the best croissants, how to get around, where do the Anglos hang out, etc.) as well as information on their property markets. You will not be sight-seeing but discovering what real life is like in these areas.

*Transportation and lunch is included in the tour fee.*

## Register online for the seminar & tours

**Saturday 10 October 2020**  
**Renesting in France**  
**Seminar**

Montpellier  
350€ per person (250€ the 2nd  
person in a couple)

[Register](#)

**Monday 12 October 2020**  
**Real Life & Real Estate**  
**Tour**

Montpellier & Sète  
350€ per person (250€ the 2nd  
person in a couple)

[Register](#)

**Tuesday 13 October 2020**  
**Real Life & Real Estate**  
**Tour**

Béziers, Pezenas & Marseillan  
350€ per person (250€ the 2nd  
person in a couple)

[Register](#)

**Wednesday 14 October 2020**  
**Real Life & Real Estate**  
**Tour**

Uzès & Sommières  
350€ per person (250€ the 2nd  
person in a couple)

[Register](#)





# More about the area



Sète

## Sète

The Mont Saint Clair perches above the city of Sète and its 12 km of beaches that stretch along its coast. Sète is not only a famous port and seaside resort on the Mediterranean, but also a town with its own very strong cultural identity, traditions, cuisine and dialect. Its location on the Etang de Thau lagoon and the Mediterranean Sea, explains why it's known as the Venice of the Languedoc Roussillon.

With a Population of 44 000 inhabitants and just a 30-minute train ride from Montpellier, Sète draws people of all ages interested in a lively town, sea views and a rich cultural and festive scene. The town hosts various art and music festivals as well as the popular canal jousting events that draws thousands of spectators each year.

Sète is home to numerous historical monuments, the fantastic les halles food market where you can taste local specialties like oysters, tielles (sea food pot pies) and regional wine as well as museums like Espace Brassens, dedicated to Sète's most famous artist/musician Georges Brassens.

Sète's property market offers mainly apartments, with average purchase price of €2240 per square meter, below the average for the Hérault department.

## Sommières

With traces of history dating back to the 1st century, Sommières has an undeniably authentic and old soul. The beautiful Roman Tibère bridge, one of the very few inhabitable bridges left in Europe, allows you to cross the Vidourle river and head into a historical center filled with cobblestone pedestrian streets, quaint shops, countless restaurants, many of very notable quality, and the venue of one of the most famous markets in the area. Sommières' Saturday food and antiques market draws visitors, both local and international, looking for a typical French market with a wide variety of stalls and products to choose from each week.

Those seeking country living, in a mild climate, will be drawn by the surrounding nature, mountain biking, hiking and Voie Verte pedestrian trails, the vineyards, local produce and olive production. However, Sommières also offers the practical and pleasant aspects of a well-developed city with shopping, medical centers and cultural activities, not to mention its renowned micro-brewery, chocolate maker and jazz club!

At an average buying price of €1920 per square meter, Sommières and its neighboring villages are a great investment option. Whether you're looking to purchase a vacation home with a garden and swimming pool or plan on settling in this very dynamic semi-rural zone, you can call this part of the Gard, also called the "Vaunage", your new home for a lot less than in other areas.

Neighboring towns to consider: Villevieille, Aujargues, Junas, Boisseron

For further information email [contact@renestance.com](mailto:contact@renestance.com)



Sommières

## Uzès

The most Provençal village in the Languedoc Roussillon, Uzès is known for its history, architecture, weekly market and beautiful countryside. An extremely charming village (pop. 8600) that is very popular with expats and tourists looking for that authentic, old stone, small town atmosphere. Amazing markets and terrace life. Lots of history and cultural activities/ classes to take. Due to its size and distance from a city, you would still need to travel to Nîmes for most administrative issues. The environment around Uzès is also lovely and rural.

With an average purchase price of €2300 per m2, the Uzès area is definitely more expensive than the rest of the Gard department, however the offering is diverse with as many apartments as single family homes. Other towns and villages to explore around Uzès include Saint Maximin, Blauzac, Vers Pont du Gard and Remoulins.



Uzès





Marseillan

# Travel Information

The Languedoc area has several options for air travel from around the world with airports in Montpellier, Nîmes, Béziers Cap d'Agde and Perpignan.

Many international flights to Montpellier airport connect through Paris or another European capital. You can also fly to Marseille (1h45 from Montpellier) or Toulouse (2h35). Several UK airports fly to Nîmes and Béziers Cap D'Agde.

Fly to **Aéroport Montpellier Méditerranée** from:

Ajaccio, Algiers, Amsterdam, Basel, Mulhouse, Freiburg, Bordeaux, Brest, Casablanca, Charleroi, Copenhagen, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Fes, Frankfurt, Leeds, London, Marrakech, Nador, Nantes, Oran, Paris, Rome, Rotterdam, Strasbourg, Tangier

For more information and flight schedules, visit [www.montpellier.aeroport.fr/en](http://www.montpellier.aeroport.fr/en)



## Béziers, Pézenas or Marseillan

We've taken three popular towns to study and present to you: Béziers, Pézenas and Marseillan. Three towns offering a different dynamic, depending on what you are looking for. With all three located in the heart of the Languedoc, they lie within easy reach of the coast, only about 90 minutes from Spain, and a couple of hours from the Pyrenean ski resorts. This being a famous wine-growing region, you can explore winemakers across the region and taste their wares; or hike in the stunning hills of the Haut Languedoc. Something to tickle everyone's fancy!

**Béziers** - a thriving town of nearly 76,000 inhabitants (2014), this town is the main hub for administration in the Hérault department, after Montpellier, just 45 minutes away. It benefits from an active theatre, arts and events community, and offers a good range of commercial enterprises - from boutiques and stores to artisans and multi-nationals. It has an important place in history, with the Cathédrale de Saint Nazaire the setting for a hugely historically important Cathar battle. Well-placed on the World heritage-listed Canal du Midi (with the famous Neuf Ecluses - nine locks in a row) and just a stone's throw from the Mediterranean Sea, if water is your thing, then Béziers can float your boat!

**Pézenas** - a small town of 8,200 (2014) inhabitants, the home of the famous French poet and playwright, Molière, Pézenas consists of an ancient heart, radiating out rings of architecture reflecting the passage of time, from streets of old stone vine-workers houses, to the newer housing on the outskirts of the town. The narrow cobbled streets, limestone arches and cloisters of its centre reflect a rich and beautiful history. Pézenas today has a bustling market day on Saturday, bringing locals from the towns and villages around to browse the stalls of local produce and wares. Ideally located for travel to Béziers, Montpellier and the north of France, on the new A75, it is popular with discerning middle-class commuters and choosy retirees.

**Marseillan** - Just a touch smaller than Pézenas in terms of its population, at 7,800 (2014), Marseillan is a small coastal town that has been spared the march of modernity. Here you can stroll along its ancient port (Marseillan is purportedly one of the oldest villages in France) where the Greeks landed and brought their wine-growing skills with them many centuries ago, and which is now home to some wonderful seafood restaurants. Just around the corner are sailing schools and the new part of the port, home for boats large and small. The town exudes friendliness and conviviality, with street café culture much in evidence, and the local council busy organising year-round events and concerts.

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# Extending your stay

With its ideal location, Montpellier is a perfect home base for travel in and around France. There are the natural wonders like the Cirque de Mourèze, the Cirque de Navacelles, the Clamouse cave, the Cévennes mountains, the Pyrénées and the Mediterranean. You can also visit the most beautiful towns in France like Lussan and Minerve, UNESCO World Heritage sites like: the Pont du Gard, the Canal du Midi, and fortified cities of Carcassonne and Vauban.

## Here are just 3 of our favorite day trips from Montpellier:



### **Sauve**

Quaint village of less than 2000 inhabitants but from 60 different countries... don't miss the sea of rocks, the pitchfork museum and the impressive dining options. Just a little over an hour's drive. *Photo IbanezManuel [CC BY-SA 4.0] Wikimedia*



### **Pic Saint Loup**

The vineyards of Pic Saint Loup and l'Hortus are two of the most well-known and appreciated in the Languedoc Roussillon only 45 minutes from Montpellier. Whether it's for wine tasting or a fantastic hike up to the peak, this area, which is about 45 minutes from Montpellier will not leave you indifferent.



### **Camargues**

One of the several natural wonders in the region, home of the famous white Camarguais horses, black bulls and pink flamingos. Check out the medieval walled city of Aigues Morte and les salins du midi (salt farms) only 40 minutes away, the port town Grau du Roi or Sainte-Maries-de la mer.

## And for a weekend getaway...

### **Collioure**

A colorful coastal town on the Spanish border that has inspired many an artist. Just two hours from Montpellier. Be sure to taste local anchovies and don't forget to stop in Banyuls while you're there.

### **Castelnou**

With the Canigou mountains as its backdrop, the hill top town of Castelnou is recognized as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Just under two hours from Montpellier, the charm of this Catalan town and its surroundings is tremendous.

### **Cévennes National Park**

A weekend of adventure and nature in the Cévennes mountains. Truly the Great Outdoors and one of the most unique and well-preserved regions in France, the Cévennes is the perfect destination for a weekend of hiking and cuisine du terroir. Start in Valleraugues, on the Hérault river, then head up to the Mont Aigoual, the tallest peak in the Gard, and then back down to the adorable village of Dourbies. Schist and granite mountains and plateaus will satisfy even the most experienced climber. Local delicacies include chestnut cream, sweet Cévenne onions, pélardon goat cheese, wine, artisanal beer.



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*Live out your French dream*



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