

# ART, FOOD & WINE RETREAT

28 August – 4 September 2021



Indulge yourself in this fantastic one week long summer treat. Experience the freedom to express yourself through a wide range of painting and drawing sessions, set in the grandeur of the Chateau de Saussignac whilst enjoying the bespoke hospitality on offer at Le 1500 and having time to explore this beautiful region.



WHEN: 28 August – 4 September 2021

PRICE: From €2,300 per person (non-painting partner packages available)

## INCLUDES:

- Seven nights' accommodation & hospitality
- Breakfast & Lunch with local wines
- Wine tastings & Chateau tour
- Welcome & Farewell Three-course dinner
- All art materials and tuition
- Market visit and cooking class

# THE PROGRAMME

With such an abundance of beautiful villages and undulating scenery on our doorstep, it will come as no surprise that the course looks, in particular, at the art of expressive landscape painting (in the broadest sense) but encourages other subjects to be treated and incorporated into the landscape. You'll get to paint and draw in a variety of places; from the medieval grandeur of the main hall of the Chateau de Saussignac to the rolling vineyards of our favourite local wine makers.

Our teaching methods allow you to discover your own talent – and there are bags of it in everyone - and, above all, to enjoy the process of painting and creating. We encourage a relaxed and fun environment without judgement or comparison.

Whilst some theory relevant to expressive painting will be covered at the beginning of the course, most theory and technical guidance will be incorporated into a continuous painting exercise that students will follow, ensuring that participants have as much practical painting and drawing time as possible.

## **28 August. Welcome**

**15h00** Check-in and Relax

**19h30** **Welcome Dinner** accompanied by a selection of local wines (included)

## **29 August. Letting Go**

**08h00** Breakfast

**10h00** **Introduction to the Course & A Quick Guide to Expressive Painting** and how we got here. A look at some examples of expressive painting over the centuries that will inspire the creative juices to flow.

**10h45** **Opening Up** – starting work on a drawing or painting is arguably as difficult, if not more so than knowing when to finish. Our first session will help you free up your hands and minds and quickly feel comfortable with letting go.

**Collaborative Workshop on Expressiveness** - Thinking Big & Letting Go; we're getting straight into the dirty business of painting, working as a team to create our first masterpiece of the week. This is a chance to throw away any inhibitions and get comfortable with paint, paper and the environment you're in.

- 12h30**                      **Lunch** accompanied by a featured local wine presentation
- 14h30**                      **Building the Ideas Bank** – We'll wander into the village and the vineyards with some tools to start sketching and planning. This session serves as an inspiration gathering exercise for your Individual Project – through photos, sketches & notes
- Kicking Off the Individual Project** – over the course of the week you will create a lot of work. However, you will focus on one or two project pieces that you will step in and out of until 'completion' on the final day, applying what you learn and discover - layering paint, stepping back, embracing complete change and understanding the meaning of 'Finished'
- 16h30**                      **Class Ends**
- 19h00**                      **Separate Dinner Options Available**

**30 August.                      Glorious Chateau de Fayolle**

- 10h00**                      **Chateau de Fayolle Field Trip** – Landscape Painting in the open – Embracing the weather to enhance expression. Using mixed media to create a variety of expressive paintings, this session will give students the freedom to express themselves without fear of spillage or studio confines. This is your chance to throw, spread, tear, spill and generally let loose!
- 12h30**                      **Picnic Lunch & Wine Tasting**
- 14h00**                      **Individual Project Work** whereby you'll each have the time to spend working on your chosen landscape or starting a new one.
- Interspersed during the session we'll take a look at some theory and provide technical support on:
- Making the Most of Colour** – Technical & Practical Session  
**Making Good Form** – Bringing Dynamism to your Structure  
**Creating Texture** – Differentiating zones to create interest
- 16h00**                      **Class Ends**
- 18h30**                      **Wine Tasting**, Place de l'Eglise, Saussignac
- 19h30**                      **Separate Dinner Options Available**, including Tapas Night at Le Café 1500

**21h00** **Movie Night with Popcorn & Prosecco** (included when booked in advance)

## **31 August. Studio Day**

**08h00** **Breakfast**

**08h30** **Optional Morning Donkey Walk**

**10h00** We'll set aside the vast majority of the morning to continue painting the pieces you will have started from the previous two days. This will give you the time to quietly progress with your work and benefit from individual tutoring and advice.

**New Tools Please** – painting with a traditional brush or even a palette knife are well known painting techniques. There are, however, no rules when it comes to how you apply paint on to the paper. This exercise will push the boundaries of your ability to express yourself differently by introducing a number of new tools for you to try.

**12h30** **Lunch**

**14h30** **Dramatic Skies** – in landscape painting the sky is often used as the dramatic backdrop to the elements you want to include on the land. This session will give you the opportunity to discover a new individual technique to painting dramatic skies.

**Individual Project Continuation and Studio Practice** - space to continue work on the Individual Project with on-hand tuition and guidance.

**16h00** **Class Ends**

**18h30** **Poolside Cocktails and Wine**

**19h30** **Separate Dinner Options Available**

## **1 September. Market Day, French Cooking or Relax Alone**

**08h00** **Breakfast**

**09h00** **Depart for St Emilion** – you'll have time to wander through this world famous medieval wine town and visit the small market, drawing on inspiration for later work. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant

before heading back to Le 1500 to relax for the rest of the day or, for the more adventurous, to lend a hand in the kitchen.

**12h30**

**Lunch, St Emilion**

**15h00**

**Cooking Class** with our regular chef who will take you through the basics of a French classic. If you're staying for dinner that evening you get to sample the fruits of your efforts accompanied by some more great local wines.

**19h30**

**Separate Dinner Options Available**

## **2 September. Style & Figure**

**08h00**

**Breakfast**

**10h00**

**Individual Project Continuation and Studio Practice** - space to continue work on the Individual Project or continue with some new ideas from your plein-air painting with on-hand tuition and guidance.

**12h30**

**Lunch**

**14h00**

**Introducing the Figure – Life Drawing & Painting Class**

Our life model will join us for an afternoon in the Chateau Studio where you will have the opportunity to explore some expressive drawing and painting techniques.

**16h00**

**Class Ends**

**18h30**

**Wine Tasting, Chateau Court Les Muts**

**19h30**

**Farewell Dinner** accompanied by a selection of local wines (included)

## **3 September. Plein Air at the Naked Vigneron**

**08h00**

**Breakfast**

**10h00**

**The Naked Vigneron** – we will head over to the beautiful Naked Vigneron winery where you will have the opportunity draw and paint one of the many stunning scenes around the lake and rolling vineyards.

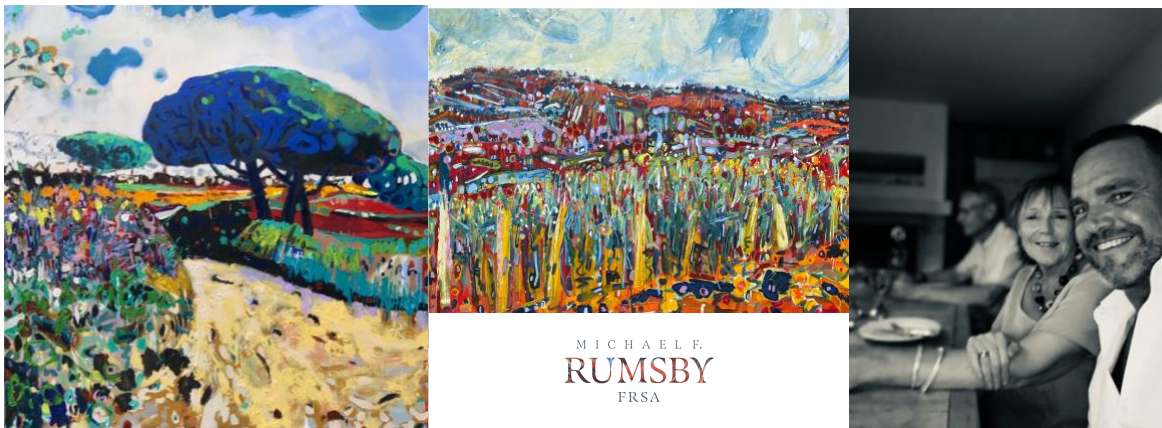
- 13h00**                      **Vernissage** – we'll regroup in the Barn to step back and assess our work, review what we have learnt and to celebrate the productivity and progress achieved.
- Wine Pairing Lunch, The Naked Vigneron** – once packed up we will head back to the winery courtyard where David will give us a short explanation of this vineyard's wonderful organic wines over a glass of bubbles and Amanda will provide us with a healthy and delicious light lunch paired with a selection of their wines.
- 16h00**                      **Course Ends**
- 16h30**                      **Poolside cocktail bar and Lounge Music at Le 1500**
- 19h30**                      **Separate Dinner Options Available** (Poolside BBQ Night available at Le 1500)
- 4 September.      Farewell or Stay Longer**
- 10h00**                      **Check out** (or enquire about extending your stay for the weekend or longer and enjoy preferential rates)

## YOUR TUTOR



**MICHAEL F RUMSBY FRSA.** Since shifting from the corporate world to life as a full-time artist in 2012, Mike has enjoyed international success as an expressive landscape painter. His unusual approach to painting has earned him a solid reputation as a painter of joyous, colourful works and is represented by the UK's largest gallery portfolio, Clarendon Fine Art. Mike is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London.

You can find inspiration in Michael's work by visiting his website at [www.mfart.com](http://www.mfart.com) or Clarendon Fine Art at [www.clarendonfineart.com](http://www.clarendonfineart.com).



Mike's 30 years of experience as a senior director of a global business sets him apart from many traditional art teachers. He brings real expertise in people management and a genuine passion for engendering a truly creative environment for guests.



## FOODIES LOVE STAYING AT LE 1500

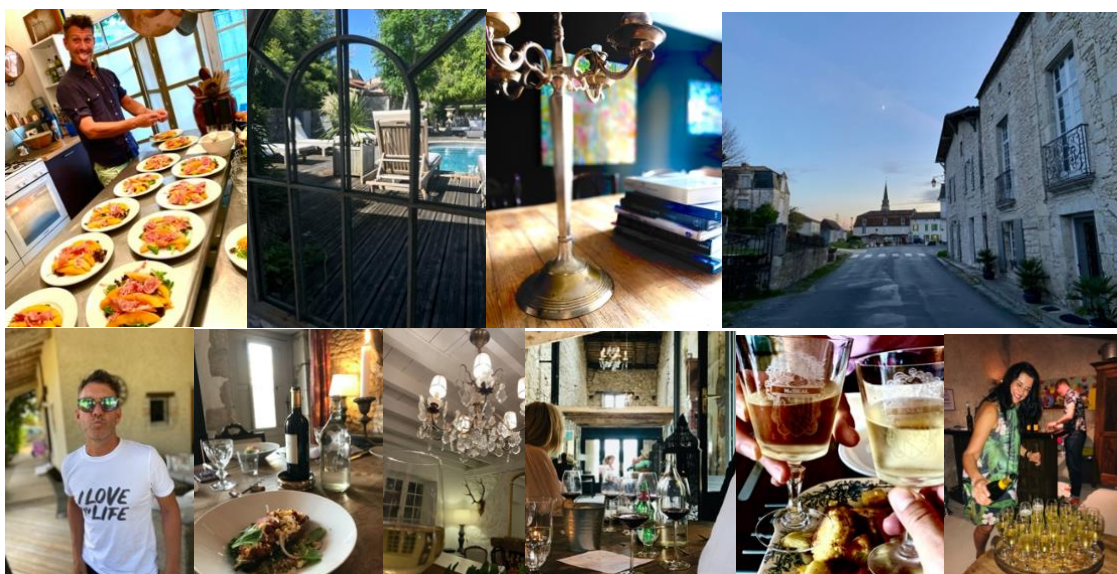
Our reputation for serving beautifully presented, delicious, organic food – all prepared on the premises, on the day – has grown beyond our wildest expectations. Our restaurant is open five days a week to residents and non-residents. As resident guests of Le 1500 you'll get priority booking and we are happy to cater for private dinners in a location of your choice on the property on the evenings that we are closed.



## THE ACCOMMODATION

Le 1500 is a small group of historic buildings dating back to the Twelfth Century, situated in the heart of Saussignac, a hilltop village in the South West of France. The property is a beautiful marriage of contemporary design and medieval history where guests will find a quiet corner to read a book or join the party zone elsewhere.

Our rooms each tell a story and are beautifully appointed, each with ensuite bathroom and plenty of space to relax as well as sleep. The rooms are equipped with a secure safe, bathroom products and pool towels are provided.





## EXPLORE THE REGION

Culturally bursting at the seams with historic cities such as Bordeaux, Bergerac and Sarlat and only 120 minutes from Toulouse, The Nouvelle Aquitaine region boasts some of France's most incredible sights and experiences. Guests can take a day trip to visit an extraordinary number of stunning places. From the vast beaches and dunes of the West Coast (140 minutes) to the UNESCO world heritage site of the prehistory Vézère Valley and the Lascaux Cave paintings. For the more adventurous, get up early and drive across the border into Spain for lunch in San Sebastian (180 minutes). Or stay closer to home and visit one of the area's stunning authentic French markets, visit the world-famous Dordogne Valley with its 1001 Chateaux or just step outside Le 1500 and walk through the thousands of hectares of vineyards on our doorstep.



## FLIGHTS

There's no shortage of flight options to transport you to Le 1500. Our nearest airport, Bergerac is a 20 minute car ride and is regularly served by British Airways (London City and Southampton) and RyanAir (London, Liverpool, Bristol and Bournemouth) in the UK. Flights also operate from Belgium and The Netherlands. Bordeaux Airport is a 90 minute car ride (train transport to Gardonne, five minutes from Saussignac, is also possible) away and is served by a variety of international airlines from around the world, as well as internal flights from across France.

We're happy to organise a chauffeur to pick you up from one of the airports or the train station.

## CAR HIRE

Car hire is available directly from Bergerac and Bordeaux airports. Alternatively, we're happy to get you to a car hire location in Bergerac once you've settled in at Le 1500. Advance booking is advised especially during peak season. Having a car at your disposal will allow you greater opportunities to explore the region independently.

# RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW

CONTACT LEE OR MIKE AT [saussignac@yahoo.com](mailto:saussignac@yahoo.com) OR BY CALLING +33 6 42 13 93 67

LE 1500  
WHERE TIME BEHAVES

[WWW.LE1500.ROCKS](http://WWW.LE1500.ROCKS)