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La Sabranenque - France

Sun, heat, bread, wine, cicadas, rocks. CICADAS AND ROCKS?

I will never forget my two weeks in the southern part of France enjoying the warm sun, the sound of the cicadas and the thrill of helping to reconstruct a medieval wall. There were 20 volunteers from France, Europe and North America and we ranged in age from 18 to 70.

Up at 7:00 a.m. daily for a quick breakfast of fruit, baguette and wonderful coffee or hot chocolate, we loaded into our transports for our day at the “office”. We laughed and sang as we hiked up the hill to the overlook perched above a magnificent vineyard. From 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., we helped form a retaining wall to allow vehicles to access a part of the castle. It was a brief ride home where we were treated to a fabulous lunch made with the freshest local produce.

After a quick shower, each day we were free to wander the village, hike in the hills, or take excursions to neighboring villages. Dinner was at 7:00 p.m. and again the meal was fantastic, complete with local wine and cheeses.

We were housed in restored buildings in the village of St. Victor la Coste that slept two to four people. At times, it was easy to believe we were in an earlier century. We could explore the cobblestone lanes in the village and turn a corner to find no sign of modern technology.

La Sabranenque programs normally run between April and October. English is spoken on the work-site and no previous volunteer experience is necessary. For information, please contact

www.sabranenque.com.

Travel in Safety.

Jane Stanfield