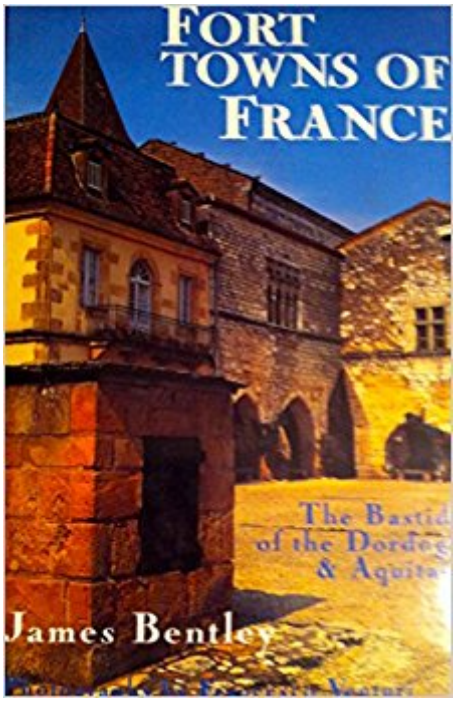
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Fort Towns Of France: The Bastides Of The Dordogne And Aquitaine



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Synopsis

The bastides, or fortified towns, of south-west France were the new towns of the Middle Ages. The very first, Cordes, was founded early in the thirteenth century, and others were built and developed right up to the seventeenth century, affording their people both protection and prosperity. The architecture of the bastides is as stunning as their rural settings. It is characterized by elaborate double rings of fortifications, huge arcaded market squares, chequerboard urban layouts, and exquisite combinations of wood and stone pillars and vaulting. James Bentley gives an authoritative and entertaining history of the hundred most important bastides, their origins, their fate during France’s many wars, daily life within their walls and their unique architectural style. He also provides a gazetteer of all the 200-plus remaining examples, with maps and aerial photographs.

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Customer Reviews

Text: French

The bastides of southwest France were fortified towns beginning in 1222 A.D. continuing for approximately 150 years. The first of these towns was Cordes in 1222 to offer protection to the town’s inhabitants. Possibly as many as 600 bastides were built during these years. "Technically these fortified towns are known as bastides, a word which originally signified any kind of stronghold but came to have this particular application in the thirteenth century.".These towns came into being and still today speak to us of the Middle Ages, however, these are also towns still filled with life’s activity today. Many of these towns survived The Hundred Years War and several other local wars

of religion to remain to remind us of the thirteenth and fourteenth century.This 6x9 book of 224 pages, including index, has an excellent two page map in the opening pages as well as 2 sections of color photographs allowing several aspects of some of the towns. It is an eye catching volume, almost leaping off the shelf to anyone interested in fortifications of France during the Middle Ages of the thirteenth and fourteen century.If one has interest in this period and enjoys an atypical book, then this slim volume may be of interest.Semper Fi.

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