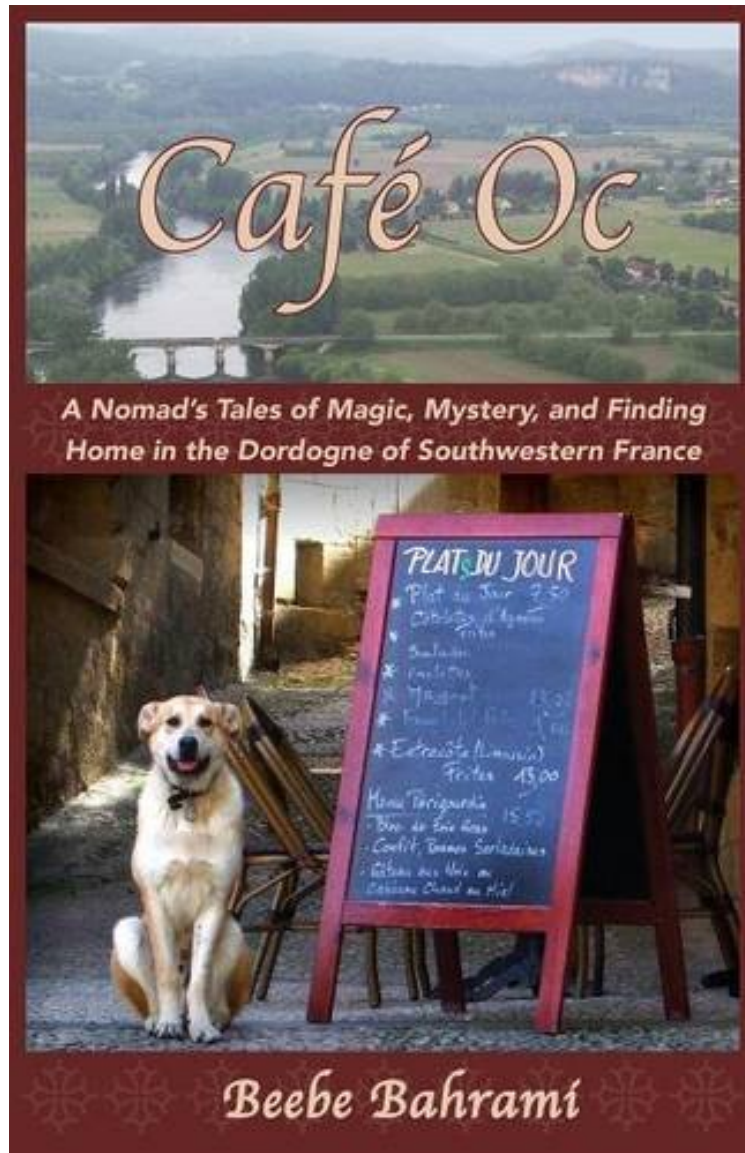


(Library ebook) Cafe Oc: A Nomad's Tales of Magic, Mystery, and Finding Home in the Dordogne of Southwestern France

Cafe Oc: A Nomad's Tales of Magic, Mystery, and Finding Home in the Dordogne of Southwestern France

Beebe Bahrami

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Beebe Bahrami : Cafe Oc: A Nomad's Tales of Magic, Mystery, and Finding Home in the Dordogne of Southwestern France before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cafe Oc: A Nomad's Tales of Magic, Mystery, and Finding Home in the Dordogne of Southwestern France:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lovely book for food lovers and (armchair and physical) travelers
By EY
What a wonderful, lovely book this is. The only warning I'd make is it would be a good idea to shop for French food and wine ahead of time, because if you weren't craving chocolatier with cafe creme and truffle's with champagne before you start reading, you sure will be after. The book is set in the Dordogne region of France, and the author breaks up the book into sections corresponding to the seasons that she lives there. She's an American travel-writer/anthropologist who begins her journey with nothing more than a google search that's the equivalent to throwing a dart at a map. She immediately falls in love with the place and its people and the book documents her experiences there over the next few years. Part travel writing, part memoir, part philosophical meditation on what it means to be home in both the physical and spiritual sense, she manages to make a page-turner out of it. I read it over the course of a weekend and when it was over I felt like I'd come back from vacation. She writes beautifully about the landscape and characters she meets, there're little bits of magic sprinkled throughout including a couple of encounters with ghosts. But you can tell the author has a background in anthropology, there's a solid grounding in the history and language of the area, especially in the cro-magnon and neanderthal archeology that is so important to this area. But it's the writing about food that takes front and center stage. Oh my, on almost every page there is a glorious description of something she tasted or drank or smelled. It's simply amazing. The information about truffles is especially interesting.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's fantastic to see her interests (shamanism
By Byron L
My first acquaintance with Beebe Bahrami's writing came when she was editor of Expedition, a magazine for the University of Pennsylvania. It's fantastic to see her interests (shamanism, ancient cultures, vibrant human traditions (and vibrant humans) blossom into a book-sized soul excursion into place I used to know nothing about, and now want to explore on my own someday, retracing some of the author's steps as well as finding my own assortment of intriguing paths and fascinating people. And unforgettable food.
This book opened up, almost palpably for me, a living and breathing place on sacred Earth. What a great tour guide the author is! I'm glad that she progressed from editing Expedition to going on expeditions of her own design. I love her blend of curiosity, receptivity, and storytelling skill.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonder-filled book!
By EB
What a wonder-full book! I will never get to the Dordogne area of Southwestern France, but even if I did, I'd never experience it in as intense and multilayered a fashion as our guide and the author, Beebe Bahrami. Bahrami experience the details of the place with a devotion I, personally, am not capable of but wish I could be. She is welcomed at the tables of the people of Dordogne, sharing their seasonal communal feasts and describing every detail with the loving attention of the most fabulous of foodies. She shares the stories of the Neandertals and Cro-magnons as the trained anthropologist that she is. She experiences the spirituality of the place as only one open enough and gifted enough to tune into it may do. The author is a far far better traveler than I am, but reading her book is a way to experience this region deeply. As she writes of four carved faces on the Saint Sacerdos Cathedral (that, no doubt, I'd have only given a passing glance). When I looked at them, they looked back. Their faces are like those of people from the region today. Three of the carved faces are men. One is clean shaven, one has a magnificent moustachethick and fulland ones has an equally exquisite beard and mustache. Together they look like a masculine rendering of the Celtic trinity of Maid, Mother, and Crone. The fourth face is a young but majestically-mature-in-carriage woman with a flowing head wrap, a lady who doubtlessly inspired the half-dozen twelvth-century troubadours for whom streets throughout Sarlat were named. She especially held my gaze and seemed to be trying to tell me something. These four stare at each visitor as they pass, both welcoming and challenging them to go deeper, not to be a mere visitor. How deep do you want to go? They appear to ask. Deep, I replied swiftly (143). Reading this book made me feel like I was going deeper than I could have ever done on my own and enjoying Dordogne more from my living room than I might have even if I had a chance to travel there. And reading this book made a lasting impression on me if only because of this question she asks after an encounter with an old wine maker, What would it be like if I treated the life around me like that, with that level of awakesness and reverence? (151). I am definitely going to read this authors other works.

Writer, anthropologist, and self-professing nomad Beebe Bahrami knows that walking and exploring are paramount to her sense of connection to the earth. One of her explorations took her to a small fishing village in northwestern Spain and a much-anticipated chance to walk once again but on new tributaries the pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago. But it was a side trip to Sarlat in southwestern France, a place called "the Frenchman's paradise" by author Henry Miller, that unexpectedly gave Bahrami much to explore and enjoy as the region worked its way into the author's heart. A travel narrative and memoir, Caf Oc will delight readers with its tantalizing descriptions of French foods and wines, walks through the countryside, visits to the prehistoric painted and engraved caves, and the warm and welcoming people in the Dordogne region of France. It will also take them along a path of serendipity and magic, and a meditation into how we are pulled by the desire for home. Accompanied by photographs taken by the author, Caf Oc is also a pictorial record of places, people, and events. Over time and several lengthy visits, Bahrami found a surprising desire to settle down, to leave her "tent poles anchored in place to that precious earth."

About the Author
Beebe Bahrami is a professional writer known for award-winning travel, memoir, archaeology,

outdoors and adventure, food and wine, spiritual, and cross-cultural writing. She is author of *Cafe Neandertal--Excavating Our Past in One of Europe's Most Ancient Places*, *Cafe Oc--A Nomad's Tales of Magic, Mystery, and Finding Home in the Dordogne of Southwestern France*, *The Spiritual Traveler Spain*, and *Historic Walking Guides Madrid*. She also writes for numerous magazines, anthologies, blogs, websites, and apps.