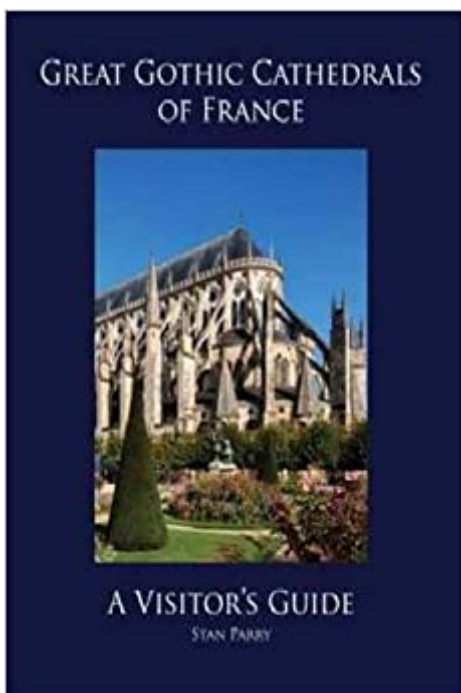


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Great Gothic Cathedrals Of France: A Visitor's Guide



Synopsis

Great Gothic Cathedrals of France guides readers on a tour of twelve French cathedrals that best exemplify one of the greatest glories of Western civilization. From the beautiful facade of Notre-Dame in Paris to the transcendent beauty of the stained glass at Chartres, this book clarifies the significant elements of their architecture by means of its text and images. The cathedrals of Amiens, Paris, Saint Denis, Chartres, Reims, Laon, Noyon, Soissons, Sens, Beauvais, Bourges and Troyes as well as Sainte-Chapelle are all presented to give the reader and visitor to France a clear understanding of these extraordinary buildings. This publication also provides the reader with a chapter on how to "read" a stained glass window.

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: ORO Editions (July 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 193962178X

ISBN-13: 978-1939621788

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #625,395 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Religious Buildings](#) #270 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Regional](#) #873 in [Books > Travel > Europe > France > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Stan Parry is a retired public health and cancer research institute executive living in Palo Alto with his wife Melinda, an art historian. Melinda's knowledge of Christian art and particularly medieval and renaissance iconography has been invaluable. They have traveled across France for over thirty years, where they have observed and photographed its grand architecture and beautiful landscape. Stan was educated at UCLA and San Francisco State University.

Stan Parry's book reads like a book of love, and in a sense, it is. The book does a remarkable job of introducing, describing, and illustrating many of France's greatest gothic cathedrals (particularly those in the north and north-central regions) in a style that is as lively and engaging as it is informative. My wife and I used this book to help craft our original cathedral "hunting" trips in France

during the past decade, and it served us well not only in determining which edifices to visit, but also in providing some wonderful background and insights into each of the locations. I feel greatly enriched by having gone through this book, and it would be wonderful to see if Mr. Parry would consider extending the work to a new volume that might cover some additional locales in France. But for anyone interested in gothic architecture, particularly those just starting out on first trips to actual locations, this volume is a no-brainer, and my congratulations to Stan Parry for putting his "labor of love" into print for others to use. Read the book first, before you travel, and then make your choices after having considered everything you have read. To make it easier, remember that every structure Parry covers in this book is easily and quickly reachable by train from Paris. Make Paris your base of operations, then pick up the train at one of the major train stations in the city (Gare de Lyon, Gare Montparnasse, Gare du Nord, etc.), leave early in the morning, and you'll be able to reach your cathedral destination in 90 minutes or less. Return back to the city in the later afternoon, and you'll be ready to visit a new place the next day.

I spent lots of time while living in France going to the amazing Cathedrals - to the point that my initial Art History Major interest became an interest & pleasure of its own that I've never tired of - if I had written a book this is what I would have hoped to have accomplished.

For those who like Gothic Cathedrals and plan a trip to France this book is an excellent guide. The book is not only a great detailed guide to all the major Cathedrals in France but it also gives a very good history of Gothic Cathedral building. It also nicely compares the different cathedrals and places them sequentially in the Gothic period timeframe. It is obvious the author is enthusiastic about the history of the architecture and I think that any person interested in Gothic architecture will appreciate this.

Beautiful book. Great pictures to illustrate the author's points. It's a useful introduction to French Gothic cathedrals. It makes a good gift.

This is a dream come true, just what I have been waiting for. What a joy to have, hold, and read. So much insight, so good !!

Book as described. Quick ship. Packaged very well. Thank you for excellent transactions from beginning to end. Would not hesitate to purchase from again.

Stan Parry has done a fantastic job of tying together the history and architecture of the great Gothic cathedrals of France. He has meticulously researched the material and has included many amazingly beautiful and detailed photographs. His expertise and great enthusiasm are clearly evident throughout. Truly a pleasure to read and a volume to treasure.

This book was borrowed from the local library and the color photos impressed me greatly. The book I ordered and received from National Book Warehouse was exactly the same as the library volume but the quality of the cover and all photos was unacceptable to poor; it was printed in Hong Kong by a Japanese firm and not by Viking-Penguin. I paid a bargain price, but, given the poor quality, it was a "bad buy."

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