The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M

TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE®

IN FRANCE’S
Languedoc
Toulouse • Carcassonne • Albi
Sept. 15-23, 2018

SAVINGS EARLY BOOKING
SAVE $600 PER COUPLE!
RESERVE BY MARCH 30, 2018

The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M
Howdy, Ags!

Bask in the South of France’s natural splendor during les beaux jours de l’automne (the beautiful days of autumn) on this exclusively designed, nine-day sojourn amid the unspoiled landscapes, traditional French villages and lofty Cathar fortresses of the rich historical provinces of Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées—a well-kept secret of allure and intrigue—recently redesignated the Occitania region. Immerse yourself in the authentic way of life and vivid local culture and delve into the complex history, traditions and legends of its many past inhabitants, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Occitans and the Cathars.

During this comprehensive itinerary, one of the widely acclaimed Town & Country Life® series, experience a unique combination of both town and country, from the UNESCO World Heritage-designated medieval Cité de Carcassonne with its two concentric stone walls and 53 towers to the impossibly picturesque hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, built in the 13th century by the Count of Toulouse, and the rarely ventured département of Aude’s ample vineyards, where medieval monks first produced crisp Blanquette, a sparkling wine that predates Champagne. Enjoy two specially arranged wine tastings and a private cruise on the breathtaking Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site and historic link between the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Marvel at the natural wonders of the Corbières region and the Pyrénées Mountains and walk the storybook cobblestone lanes amidst the Southern Gothic-style architecture and distinctive red-brick buildings of the UNESCO-designated episcopal city of Albi. Interact with local residents who will share insights into their daily lives in the Occitania region during the exclusive Town & Country Life® Forum.

Enjoy accommodations in the comfortable Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn with terrace views of the medieval heart of Albi, and in the charming Château de Floure, an authentic 16th-century French country estate. Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program and Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Options are available to enhance your exploration of France’s best-kept secret.

This one-of-a-kind small group travel program invites you to explore le coeur (the heart) of France’s most fascinating yet undiscovered region at the best time of year, and it is an excellent value. Make your reservations today!

Gig ’em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel – Outreach and Engagement
Traveling Aggies
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or (800) 633-7514
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No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.

Cover: The fortified walls and cobblestone byways of medieval Carcassonne have remained intact since approximately 100 B.C.

Tucked below Cathar castles, quaint and cobbled lanes wind through medieval French villages.
**Itinerary**

**Day 1**
 Depart the U.S.
Pre-Program Toulouse Option* or

**Day 2**
 Toulouse, France/Albi
- Check into the HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES.

**Day 3**
 Albi
- Walking tour of medieval Albi with visits to the Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile and Collégiale Saint-Salvi.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Tour of Palais de la Berbie’s acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec.
- Lunch in a local restaurant.

**Day 4**
 Albi/Gaillac/Noailles/Cordes-sur-Ciel
- Full-day excursion to Gaillac and Cordes-sur-Ciel with a visit to the Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Wine tasting and tour at a family-owned estate in the village of Noailles.
- **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE** Forum in Albi.

**Day 5**
 Albi/Castres/Castelnaudary/
 Château de Floure
- Afternoon check-in to the CHÂTEAU DE FLOURE.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Visit to the Goya Museum in Castres.
- **C’est Bon!** CULINARY TRADITIONS™ cooking demonstration and traditional cassoulet lunch in Castelnaudary.

**Day 6**
 Château de Floure/
 Carcassonne©/Canal du Midi
- Walking tour of Carcassonne with visits to the Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus and the Château Comtal.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Time at leisure to explore Carcassonne.
- Canal du Midi cruise in a flat-bottomed boat.

**Day 7**
 Château de Floure/Corbières Wine Region/
 Abbaye de Fontfroide
- Guided tour of Narbonne.
- Visit to the 12th-century Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Corbières wine tasting and cellar tour.

**Day 8**
 Château de Floure/
 Caunes-Minervois/Minerve
- Walking tour of the medieval hilltop villages of Caunes-Minervois and Minerve, with guided visits to the Abbaye de Caunes-Minervois and the Église Saint-Étienne.

**Cultural Enrichment:**
- Time at leisure in Minervois.

**Day 9**
 Floure/Toulouse
 Post-Program Cathar Country Option* or
- Return to the U.S.

*Available at additional cost.

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**Languedoc**

Experience captivating, seldom-visited Languedoc—the western half of Mediterranean France that extends from the Alps to the Pyrénées—where la vie unfolds amid medieval villages, lively outdoor markets and hectares of lush vineyards that produce some of France’s best wine. This carefully planned itinerary balances time on your own to partake in local life with guided historical and cultural excursions, immersing you in the daily rhythms and generations-old customs in these quaint towns and villages.

Parler (talk) with local residents as they go about their day during our **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE** Forum. Experience delectable regional specialties during two private wine tastings and specially arranged meals, including the **C’est Bon!** CULINARY TRADITIONS™ excursion in Castelnaudary, birthplace of cassoulet. Admire iconic works by Goya and Toulouse-Lautrec in Occitania’s most comprehensive museums and explore the rich architectural histories along the cobbled rues of beautiful, provincial villages. Enjoy charming accommodations in an authentic French château and in a historic former water mill overlooking the River Tarn. This exclusive program at an excellent value is part of the popular **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE** series, providing intimate, incomparable travel experiences, custom built with your joie de vivre in mind.

The scenic skyline of medieval Albi, known as ‘la rouge’ for its signature red-brick architecture, is dominated by the historic monuments of Cathedral Sainte-Cécile and the iconic Pont Vieux spanning the River Tarn.
Albi
Known as “la rouge” by locals for the town’s signature red-brick architecture, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated old city of Albi became a powerful episcopal center and market town following a crusade against the Cathars in the 13th century. Today, beautiful Renaissance maisons (houses) and iconic crimson brick buildings line the cobblestone streets, built with the wealth of 15th- and 16th-century textile and dye industries. Stroll across the River Tarn along the 10th-century Pont Vieux (Old Bridge) for a spectacular view of the city, and visit the 13th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, a masterpiece of French Southern Gothic-style architecture with elaborate ceiling frescoes—the largest and oldest Italian Renaissance paintings in France. Visit the Collégiale Saint-Salvi, which impeccably merges 10th-century Roman and 13th-century Gothic architectural styles.

Cultural Enrichments:
Tour the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, housed in the imposing Palais de la Berbie, which exhibits the world’s largest collection of works by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, the famed Art Nouveau artist born here in 1864.

Savor lunch with regional wine in a restaurant. Enjoy time to explore Albi at your own pace. Experience a special Town & Country LIFE® Forum with local residents, who will discuss daily life in the South of France.

Gaillac
The quaint town of Gaillac is located in one of France’s oldest wine-growing regions, where narrow rues brim with bâtisse à colombages (half-timbered buildings) and open up to charming village squares. The vineyards of Gaillac produce grapes to make red wines like Syrah, Cabernet and Merlot and white wines such as Mauzac and Sauvignon. Visit the historic, French Southern Gothic-style Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac, founded on the banks of the Tarn in A.D. 972 by Benedictine monks and consecrated by the Bishop of Albi.

Cultural Enrichment: In nearby Noailles, enjoy a private tasting of local wines at a family-owned vineyard.

Cordes-sur-Ciel
The 13th-century hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel appears to float above the sky, or sur ciel, among low-lying clouds that hang in the surrounding Cérou Valley.
It is said to be the first ville bastide (fortified city) ever built, intended to protect its inhabitants from the siege of the Cathars. It is one of the most picturesque villages in all of France, with attractive Gothic-style architecture and sculpted, decorative façades of merchants’ houses, evidence of the wealth from the 14th-century leather and cloth trades.

Castres
The small, scenic village of Castres was built around a ninth-century Benedictine monastery on the Agout River, and has been a great center of the wool industry since the 14th century—its farmers and weavers used wool from their own sheep to make yarns, cloth and fabrics. Today, it is France’s most important producer of carded wool.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** Tour the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France in the fascinating Goya Museum, located in the original Archbishop’s Palace and designed by one of the architects of Versailles.

Castelnaudary
The charming market town of Castelnaudary—the main port of the famous Canal du Midi—is located on the Roman route from Toulouse to the Mediterranean and is the birthplace of one of France’s most beloved regional specialties, le cassoulet.

**C'EST BON! CULINARY TRADITIONS™**

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** By special arrangement, lunch in a local restaurant includes an exclusive cooking demonstration illuminating the history of the region’s famous le cassoulet.

Carcassonne/Canal du Midi
This former frontier between France and Spain has been occupied since the sixth century B.C. and is the largest walled city in Europe. Carcassonne was fortified by the Romans, conquered by Visigoths, captured by Persians, invaded by Franks and overrun by Barbarians, each leaving an indelible influence on the city’s architectural and artistic heritage. The medieval core of Carcassonne, La Cité, is a UNESCO World Heritage site characterized by cobblestone streets and fairy-tale turrets. Visit the Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, and the medieval Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:** Enjoy time on your own in storybook Carcassonne before the specially arranged cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat in the shade of picturesque plane trees, which canopy the grand, 17th-century Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features unique oval locks and stone bridges.

Floure
In the heart of Cathar Country lies Floure—a pastoral village surrounded by lush vineyards and comprised of ivy-covered stone cottages with time-worn wooden shutters and colorful blooms in window boxes.
Abbaye de Fontfroide/
Corbières Wine Region
Travel into the scenic, rugged Corbières Mountains to the characteristically Southern French Narbonne to tour the city’s historic center, quartier de Cité, and the incredibly well-preserved Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, founded in 1093. Walk through the abbey’s Gothic arched chapter hall and cloisters, and stroll its rose-filled gardens with more than 3000 fragrant bushes.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy a private tour of a renowned family-owned château and wine cellar and enjoy a tasting of four regional wines—an indelible program highlight.

Caunes-Minervois/Minerve
The renowned Minervois wine region—whose appellation produces rich red wines from the Carignan, Grenache and Syrah grapes, and white wines including Viognier, Clairette Blanche and Muscat—was named for the Roman goddess Minerve and is comprised of sweeping scenery, fortified medieval villages and rolling vineyards. In Caunes-Minervois, see the Châteaux de Lastours and visit the Benedictine abbaye, featuring a mélange of architectural periods, from an eighth-century foundation to early southern-Romanesque art to 18th-century stained glass. Inhabited since prehistoric times and fortified in the Middle Ages, the village of Minerve overlooks the French countryside from atop a lofty gorge. Visit the Église Saint-Étienne, the village’s austere Romanesque church consecrated by the Bishop of Narbonne in A.D. 456, and its museum devoted to the region’s prehistoric archaeology.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy time on your own to explore the enchanting, medieval hillock of Minerve.

Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides
Located on the banks of the River Tarn, the charming, historically registered Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides is housed in a former 18th-century water mill within walking distance of Albi’s red-brick Cathedral and iconic Pont Vieux (Old Bridge), the perfect home base for your exploration of the surrounding medieval towns and vineyards.

Each of the 56 guest rooms features a private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The inviting hotel restaurant serves fine regional cuisine complete with a panoramic view across the old city.

Château de Floure
Once the site of a Romanesque monastery and, during the reign of King Henry IV, the country estate of the Toulouse Parliament’s president, the Château de Floure is tucked into the French countryside near Carcassonne, and offers 25 individually appointed guest rooms overlooking formal French gardens.

Accommodations feature a private bathroom and individual climate control. Guests may enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi in le salon and the full spa with hot tub, Turkish-style bath, sauna, heated pool and fitness area. Breakfast is served in the lounge, and fine local cuisine is served in the hotel restaurant.

Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, the hilltop village of Minerve is the historic capital of the Minervois region.
Included Features

In Albi
◆ ◆ Three nights in the comfortable HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn and with views of the medieval old city of Albi.
◆ ◆ Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
◆ ◆ Breakfast each day and one dinner with wine in the hotel.

In the Château de Floure
◆ ◆ Four nights in this charming and authentic château in the countryside near historic Carcassonne.
◆ ◆ Breakfast each day and two dinners with wine.
◆ ◆ Private Farewell Reception.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ ◆ Two tastings of local wines—at a family-owned estate in the village of Noailles near Cordes-sur-Ciel and at a winery amid the beautifully rugged Corbières Mountains.
◆ ◆ Three lunches featuring regional cuisine and wine, including a "C'est Boy! CULINARY TRADITIONS" demonstration of traditional cassoulet.
◆ ◆ Full-day excursion to the historic town of Gaillac to visit the imposing Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac and the well-preserved, picturesque village of Cordes-sur-Ciel.
◆ ◆ Tour of the comprehensive Goya Museum in Castres, housing the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France.
◆ ◆ Visit to the extensively restored Romanesque former Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, including its church, cloister, chapter hall and rose garden.
◆ ◆ Walking tour to the well-preserved medieval town of Caunes-Minervois and to Minerve, one of the most beautiful villages of France, with visits to the Abbaye de Caunes-Minervois and the Église Saint-Étienne.
◆ ◆ Special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® FORUM with local residents who will discuss life in southern France.
◆ ◆ Time at leisure to experience the rhythms of daily life in Carcassonne and Minerve.
◆ ◆ French language introduction.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
◆ ◆ Walking tour of provincial Albi, once a stronghold of the Cathars, including a visit to the impressive, 14th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile and Collégiale Saint-Salvi.
◆ ◆ Guided tour of Carcassonne, including visits to the Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, and the impressive archaeological museum in the restored Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.
◆ ◆ Cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat on the Canal du Midi.

Always Included
◆ ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ ◆ Experienced, local guides for included excursions.
◆ ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ ◆ Complimentary bottled water on excursions.
◆ ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and château.
◆ ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
◆ ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ ◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
A medieval university town, and in the 13th century, Europe’s second largest city, Toulouse lies along the sun-kissed banks of the Garonne River in the idyllic South of France. Explore the extraordinary Les Jacobins, the first Dominican monastery in the world, established in 1230. Enjoy a walking tour through Toulouse’s centuries-old cobblestone streets and discover the city’s most impressive 11th- to 14th-century Romanesque and Gothic churches and its opulent 16th-century mansions. Visit the Musée des Augustins, housed in the former monastery, and admire fine medieval stone sculpture. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located Grand Hotel de L’Opera in Toulouse.

Deep in the heart of Pays Cathare stand the awe-inspiring castles and fortified towns—rich with beguiling mystery and religious intrigue—built on the foothills of the Pyrénées by this Christian denomination that flourished during the 12th and 13th centuries. Envision Languedoc’s enchanted history during guided excursions—visit well-preserved Château de Quéribus, site of the Cathars’ last stand; the 10th-century bastide town of Mirepoix; the enigmatic hilltop village of Rennes-le-Château, with its centuries-old legends of the Holy Grail and the Knights Templar; and mystifying Alet-les-Bains, built on a natural hot spring. Explore the unusual rock-hewn troglodyte Church of Sainte-Marie in Vals and the medieval Château de Foix. Enjoy a specially arranged tasting of the region’s famous Blanquette de Limoux—the world’s first sparkling wine—at a historic, family-owned estate. Spend three nights in the charming CHATEAU DES DUCS DE JOYEUSE, an authentic 16th-century castle turned hotel in the village of Couiza.

Protected behind impregnable walls, the strategic Château de Foix has surveyed over the town since the 10th century.
The small villages and verdant, rolling vineyards that dot the landscape of the historic Languedoc region have produced some of the most celebrated wines in France and the world for over 2,600 years.

LAND TARIFF excluding taxes*  

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<th>Per person, based on double occupancy</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through March 30, 2018</th>
<th>Tariff* after March 30, 2018</th>
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Singles are available upon request for an additional $900.*

*Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

IN FRANCE’S LANGUEDOC RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514
Fax: (979) 845-9263

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program Option
  - Double at $740 per person.
  - Single at $1,040 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Option
  - Double at $1,625 per person.
  - Single at $1,925 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from

  - Economy Class
  - Upgraded Economy
  - Business Class
  - First Class

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by June 12, 2018.
Seasonal ivy and foliage frame the centuries-old castles and churches tucked throughout the French countryside.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT
RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring agency, and its agents, carriers, airlines, conveyances and their respective servants, agents, employees, independent contractors, and successors, collectively “Gohagan”). do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide any accommodations, transportation, or services which are part of your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food services, and any other related providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, war, acts of war or peace, riot, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, acts from or by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, the acts or omissions of any airline, airline personnel, government, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, other transportation companies, guide services or persons or organizations of any kind, the acts or omissions of any local government or any of its officials, businesses, contractors, subcontractors, agents, employees, invitees or other persons or organizations, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, with or without notice, anyone who, in its judgment, is incapable of meeting the requirements or the activities, or who is abusive to other participants, violates the rules or policies of the hotel or cruise line, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation.

Travelers requiring assistance must be able to travel independently between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

All programs require physical independence and the ability to travel independently. Travelers requiring assistance must be able to travel independently between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a traveling companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by March 30, 2018. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.