

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

# WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS & EVENTS

2023

#PROVENCE  
#ALPES  
#COTEDAZUR

PROVENCE  
ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

SOUTHERN FRENCH  
alpes

CÔTE d'AZUR  
FRANCE

RÉGION  
SUD  
PROVENCE  
ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM  
BOARD



With a packed programme of major sporting and cultural events in 2023 and myriad of new offerings combining wellness, ecology and exceptional natural scenery, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is proving, once again, to be a place where everything is possible.

Working closely alongside Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional and our three international destination brands Provence, Alps and Côte d'Azur, we fly the flag of sustainable, good and slow tourism grounded in our love of hospitality and sharing. Breathtaking landscapes between sea and mountain, world-unique heritage, renowned gastronomy and a quality of life like no other... Welcome to Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the happiness region!

**François de CANSON**

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur  
Regional Tourist Board  
Vice-President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
President of ADN Tourisme  
Mayor of La Londe-les-Maures



## THE HAPPINESS REGION



### CELEBRATE

We're celebrating lots of anniversaries in 2023, first and foremost the 150th birthday of **Nice Carnival**, followed by the 50th anniversary of the death of **Picasso** on April 8th. This tireless explorer of 20th century art set up home in Provence and on the Côte d'Azur. In 1973, **Chagall**, another "genius of happiness", inaugurated his museum in Nice. 50 years ago too, **Écrins National Park** was made official. Ten years later, in 1963, **Port-Cros National Park** – the world's first marine park – was born.

Sixty is also the venerable age of the **Musée Matisse** in Nice. And in 2023, the **Villa Noailles** in Hyères is celebrating 100 years of eternal youth...

### IMAGINE

The region continues to attract creators and lovers of all things beautiful. The 2023 season will be heralding the inauguration of the *Fondation Nielon* Giens peninsula and *Fondation Hartung Bergman* installations in Antibes. The *Fondation Maeght* in Saint-Paul-de-Vence – the most famous of them all – is reopening in July. Our public museums are joining in the party too, with a breathtaking facelift for the *Musée d'Histoire et d'Art in Bormes-les-Mimosas*, and refurbishment and extension of the magnificent palace harbouring the *Musée des Beaux-Arts in Draguignan*.

Stretching from Arles to Menton, the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Modern & Contemporary Art Route** encompasses 63 collections and remarkable venues at the heart of always-astonishing sites.

## WELCOME

From **Hameau des Pesquiers** in Hyères-les-Palmiers to the **Villa Puebla** in Barcelonnette, in the Southern Alps, the region's new hotels and guest houses offer the combined pleasures of comfort and eco-friendliness.

**The Croisette** in Cannes is going greener too, with icons such as the **Carlton, Martinez, Majestic** and new **Mondrian** bedecked with gardens that promise to instil the town with a breath of fresh air. Testifying to this resolute eco-commitment, **Green Key** certifications have risen by 40%. What's more, the region is the proud home of France's first **"carbon-neutral" beaches**.



## ENCOURAGE

Around fifty official Games Preparation Centres are gearing up to welcome athletes prepping for the **2024 Olympic Games**, with an Olympic sailing test event scheduled in the Bay of Marseille in early July. In September, skippers will be training for the 2024 **America's Cup** off the coast of Saint-Tropez. Meanwhile, Nice – the traditional venue for the **Ironman France** triathlon challenge every June – will be hosting the final of the men's **Ironman World Championship** in September for the first time in 40 years. In September too, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur will be welcoming the **Rugby World Cup France 2023**, in parallel with the first ever **World Amateur Rugby Festival**.

## EXPERIMENT

Designated an **"ecological planning pilot area"**, the region is experimenting with a plethora of new, virtuous practises that are set to make both visitors and local inhabitants happy. Respecting natural areas sometimes means **limiting the number of people who visit them** and shining a spotlight on "unexpected places". It means encouraging **solidarity-based gastronomy that uses short circuits**, promoting **company and artisan tours**, and planting the seeds of the **agro-ecological transition**. **Born in 1823, famous naturalist Jean-Henri Fabre's passion lives on at his garden Harmas**, now reopened to the public: *"Everything ends so that everything can begin again, everything dies so that everything can live"*. Brad Pitt echoes his sentiment two centuries later: *"In nature, anything that is left over becomes food for something else"*. The actor is intent on rediscovering *"nature's original, waste-free beauty"*.



**HAPPINESS IS IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR... NATURALLY.**

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)

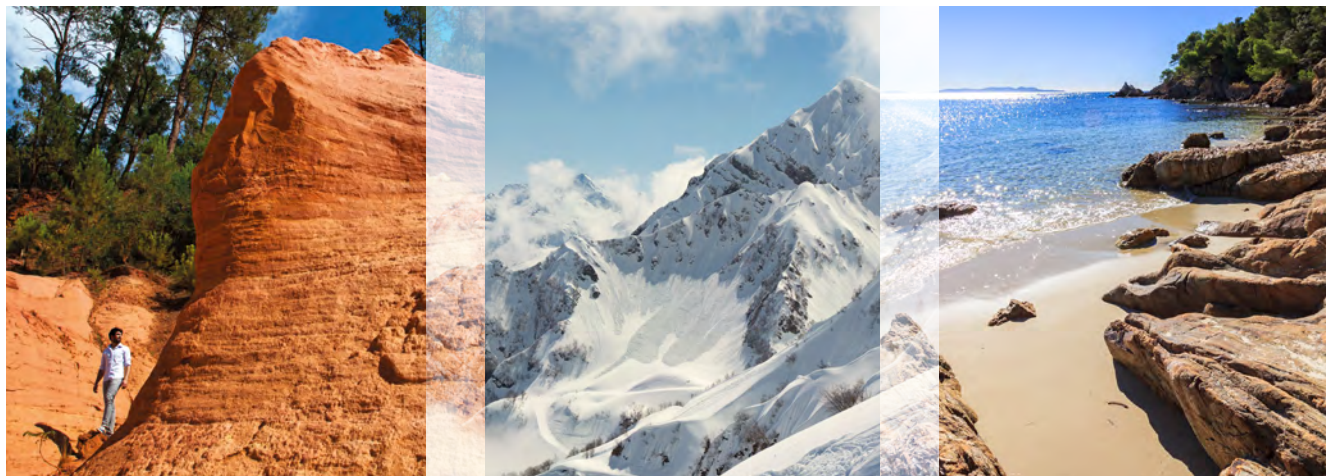
# CONTENTS

## 3 DESTINATIONS : PROVENCE, ALPES, CÔTE D'AZUR

- 05 Map
- 06 Happiness is Sustainable!
- 11 2023, the Year of Rugby
- 13 2024 Olympics, Right on Track
- 16 Picasso, the Master of Modern & Contemporary Art

### PROVENCE

- 20 Map
- 21 Grand Avignon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Orange
- 26 Luberon, Ventoux
- 32 Arles, Camargue, Alpilles
- 40 Pays d'Aix-en-Provence
- 45 Marseille, Aubagne, Côte Bleue
- 56 From Cassis to Sainte-Baume & Toulon
- 61 Manosque, Pays du Buëch  
from Sisteron to Digne-Les-Bains
- 66 Verdon, Provence Verte, Draguignan area



### ALPES

- 73 Map
- 74 Gap area, Champsaur  
Valgaudemar, Dévoluy
- 79 Serre-Ponçon, Embrun, Ubaye,  
Val d'Allos
- 85 Grand Briançonnais, Écrins, Queyras
- 91 Préalpes d'Azur, Mercantour

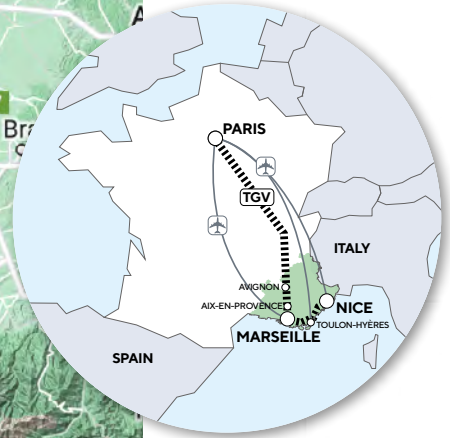
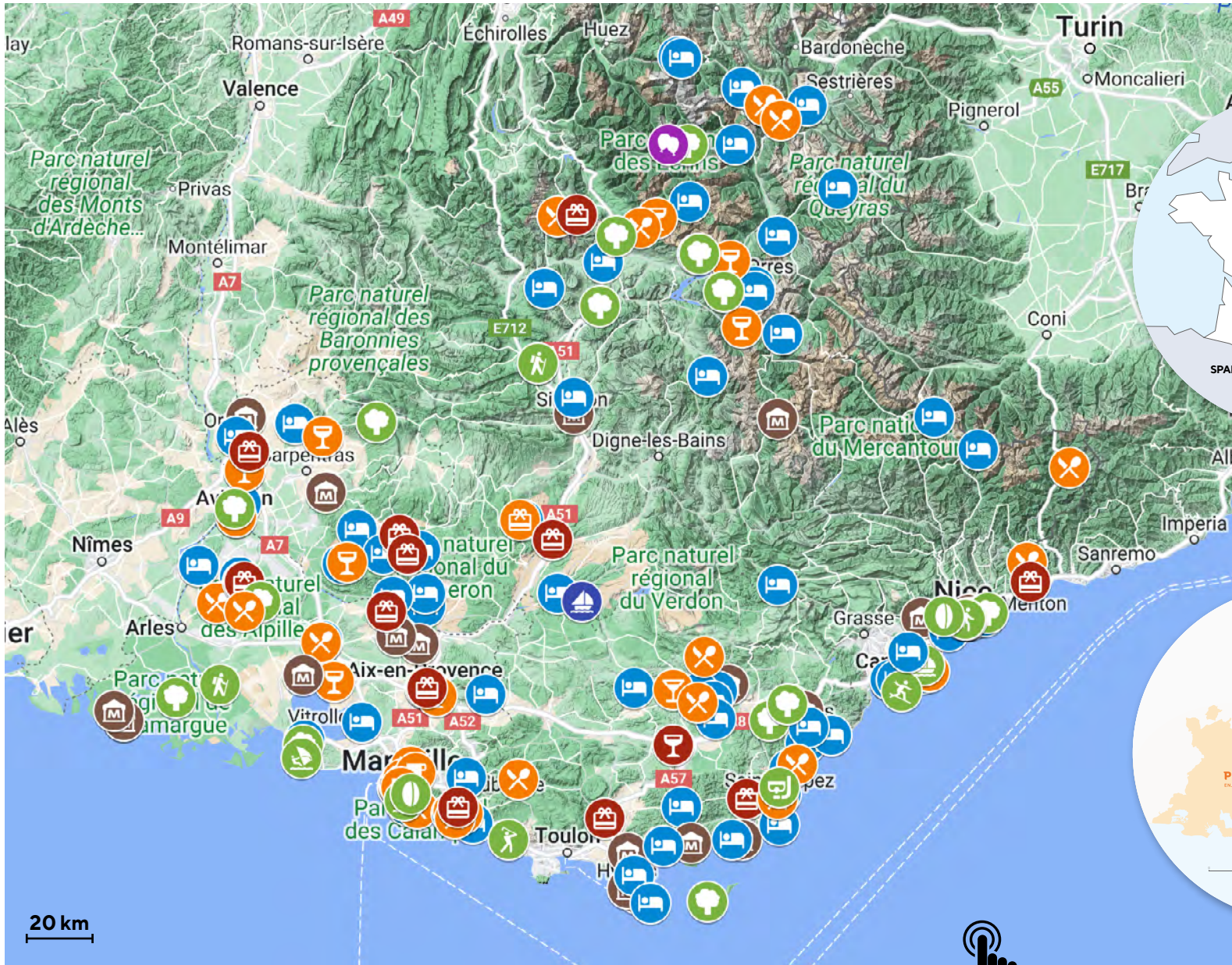
### CÔTE D'AZUR

- 95 Map
- 96 Hyères-Les-Palmiers  
from the Maures to the Estérel hills
- 106 Cannes, Antibes, Saint-Paul-De-Vence
- 111 Nice, Eze, Menton

## READ MORE

- 118 Key figures
- 119 Cultural events
- 119 Sporting events
- 119 Photos from this kit
- 119 General photo library
- 119 Contacts

# WHAT'S NEW IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR



CLICK HERE

## HAPPINESS IS SUSTAINABLE!

**D**esignated an "ecological planning pilot area" by the French government in **November 2022**, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur aims to become France's leading region for sustainable tourism. *"We're inventing another kind of tourism here, one that preserves our natural setting without deteriorating the sector's economic and social weight."*

### François DE CANSON

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board,  
Vice-President of the Région Sud Regional Council,  
President of ADN Tourisme,  
Mayor of La Londe-les-Maures

## "RESERVES THAT PRESERVE"

Nearly 60% of the region comprises protected natural areas. Our **4 national parks, 9 regional nature reserves** and numerous other protected spaces pride in welcoming the public whilst preserving the environment.

In summer 2022, the **Calanques Marseille-Cassis National Park** piloted an online booking system for *Calanque de Sugiton* and *Calanque des Pierres Tombées* fjords. This measure is intended to limit the number of people authorized to visit the park daily to 400 – versus up to 2,500 previously –, hence considerably reducing pressures on the natural environment. The initiative is extended to 2023.

[www.calanques-parcnational.fr](http://www.calanques-parcnational.fr)

Meanwhile, two measures have been put in place at **Port-Cros National Park** to channel the number of visitors to the Iles d'Or Golden Islands:

- A maximum quota of 6,000 daily visitors on **Porquerolles Island**.
- A Mooring and Small Craft Zone (ZMEL) on **Port Cros island**. Anchorage is now prohibited throughout the year to preserve Posidonia, a pillar of the coastal ecosystem. 68 mooring buoys with eco-friendly anchors, reserved for boats measuring 15 metres maximum, are now available to the public from mid-April to mid-October.

[www.portcros-parcnational.fr](http://www.portcros-parcnational.fr)

**A new way of getting around with Waze:** the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and world's GPS navigation leader, Waze, signed a collaboration in late 2019 – the first of its kind. The principle is simple: Waze app users receive regular notifications on the number of visitors at their chosen site and are directed to an alternative if numbers exceed the limit.

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)



Parc national des Calanques – Sugiton © S Le Pelley

PN Port Cros – Notre Dame © S Le Pelley

## "WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO EXPLORE NEW PLACES"

### PARK DISCOVERY TRAILS

More and more people are getting back in touch with nature and seeking out the silence and tranquillity of wide-open spaces. And that's a good thing: home to 13 national and regional parks and reserves, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region offers a host of **discovery trails**, encouraging visitors to explore the region "sustainably" on foot, by boat, on horseback or on the water...

What's more, these alternative itineraries prompt people to explore lesser-known sites versus the region's "classics". So, instead of heading to the *calanques* fjords at the height of summer, why not explore the Marseille Canal or Parc Pastré instead? Rather than jostling for space on the Route des Crêtes overlooking the Verdon Canyon, set out to roam the Artuby river. And opt for the peaks of Cheiron in Gréolières instead of the busy Lauzanier valley in Mercantour National Park...

[www.cheminsdesparcs.fr](http://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr)



Sainte Victoire © M. Draa

### UNEXPECTED PLACES

Every year, the "*Challenge des Territoires Insoupçonnés*" (Unexpected Places Challenge) hosted by ADN Tourisme shines a spotlight on the region's little-known treasures. The Pays du Buëch area won first prize in January 2023 with its *Retrouvance* travel experience, inviting visitors to rediscover four abandoned villages in Buëch valley, nestling between the Alps and Provence. The six-day hike includes accommodation in restored forester's houses. Opening the door to new discoveries and encounters, this award-winning concept holiday has a limited carbon footprint and is accessible by train.

[www.sources-du-buech.com](http://www.sources-du-buech.com)



Devoluy © D. Desbenoit

## "A FOUR-SEASONS EXPERIENCE"

### THE CÔTE D'AZUR IS A WINTER DESTINATION TOO

Awarded the title of "Winter Resort Town of the Riviera" by the UNESCO in 2021, Nice is a fitting reminder that the Côte d'Azur is a place to savour throughout the year. Winter offers visitors a unique opportunity to ski in the mountains during the day and dine under blooming mimosa trees by the Med in the evening... After all, Queen Victoria would never have entertained the bizarre idea of visiting the coast in summer! November to April is the ideal time to visit the Côte d'Azur, with the promise of a temperate climate and lots of great events, topped with tranquillity and quiet roads...

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/cote-dazur](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/cote-dazur)



Vue sur le Vieux - Nice - © C. Marchand

## "ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES GALORE"

**Whether they're located in the mountains or by the sea, the region's travel pros, hotels, golf courses and vineyards are resolutely committed to responsible tourism. Inspiring initiatives and projects abound.**

### IN THE MOUNTAINS: CARBON NEUTRALITY

The "2030 Ski Resorts Contract" project aims to replace classic snow groomers with electric or battery-powered groomers and finance wind turbines and various non-ski activities. This project allocates 100 million euros to the region's ski areas in the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, in keeping with the region's "Let's stay a COP ahead" climate plan.

**The first renewable energy laboratory located in the mountains,** Serre Chevalier ski resort now produces 30% of its own electricity requirements using renewable energy, without any major impact on the landscape or resources. It is the first ski resort and first ski area in the world to simultaneously use three production technologies: hydroelectricity, solar power and micro wind turbines, providing immediate and adapted on-site consumption.



© F. Malguy

### BY THE SEA: PROTECTED MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

**Neptune blue trails.** This international project promotes sustainable scuba diving by raising public awareness on the importance of marine ecosystem protection. The project brings together three Italian regions - Liguria, Tuscany and Sardinia -, together with Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Five pilot sites will be welcoming Neptune blue trails: the Cosquer Méditerranée centre in Marseille, Pradeau Fort in Hyères, Balaguier Fort in La Seyne-sur-Mer, the Nice Watersports Centre and Nautical and Underwater Hub in La Londe-les-Maures.

**A carbon-neutral beach.** Baia Bella in Beaulieu is France's first carbon-neutral beach (according to Allcot). Solar panels, wood furniture and recycled water combine with seabed cleaning and active participation by staff and customers. The beach is also a holder of the Green Key label. N.B. The region is home to France's only two "Green Key" beaches (the second is the Radisson Blu Nice).



© Baia Bella

### HOTEL-RESTAURANT SECTOR: RECORD PROGRESSION FOR THE GREEN KEY LABEL

Home to 149 new Green Key establishments, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur has clocked up an impressive 40% rise in holders of the coveted label - the biggest progression in France. This environmental commitment is favoured by partnerships with the Région Sud Regional Council, Marseille Tourist Office & Convention Bureau, Provence Tourisme and the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office. Green Key is the first international sustainable tourism label created for tourist accommodation and restaurants.

[www.laclefverte.org](http://www.laclefverte.org)



Radisson Nice Airport - L'Azur - © White Kitchen



**COMPANY & ARTISAN TOURS:  
HANDING DOWN KNOW-HOW**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is France's leading region for company & artisan tours, many with an ecological focus. Visitors keen to glean a better understanding of the new energy landscape can visit EveRé, France's first Integrated Waste Treatment Centre in Fos-sur-Mer, or Alcyon in Bollène Alcyon, which transforms agri-food industry green waste into compost.

Alternatively, the *Compagnie Nationale du Rhône*, located at an historic site in Bollène, offers visitors a fascinating insight into electricity production. And those are just three examples among the many suggestions you'll find on the "Map 100% Made in Sud"!

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)



**ON OUR GREENS: ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN FULL SWING**

Numerous golf courses are taking an active part in the ecological transition. After six years of work, Mandelieu's Old Course is now irrigated with recycled wastewater – a challenge achieved thanks to the ultrafiltration membranes for fine plastic particles at the Aquaviva plant, one of the best performers on the national scale. The watering system will be in place in June 2023.

The Golf de Frégate Provence golf club in the Var area is celebrating its 30th anniversary with an arbutus, evergreen oak and olive replanting programme. These species are best adapted to our climate and require little irrigation, hence fostering 30% to 50% water savings.

Both courses are part of the Golf Route and Provence Côte d’Azur Golf Pass, offering discounts of up to 25%.

[www.laroutedesgolfs.com](http://www.laroutedesgolfs.com)



Golf Frégate Provence



Golf Frégate Provence - © T. Honnorat

## IN OUR VINES: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF THE AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Provence is the first winegrowing region in France to benefit from the national recovery plan, aimed at accelerating agro-ecological transition through the EnViProv programme. The budget – over €700,000 – is 50% funded by the State, via FranceAgriMer. A study aimed at analysing and improving biomass and soils, together with an analysis of the vine's life cycle and vineyard survey assessing the environmental impact of various activities, are ongoing.

[www.vinsdeprovence.com](http://www.vinsdeprovence.com)

[www.vins-rhone.com](http://www.vins-rhone.com)



Château Galoupet

## LVMH, LEADING THE WAY

Bought up by LVMH in May 2019, Domaine Galoupet, between Hyères and La Londe-les-Maures in the Var area, aims to become an environmental benchmark. Its 171 acres of vines border 190 acres of protected woodland overlooking the Golden Islands. Director Mathieu Meyer sums it up nicely: "Exceptional wines are the reflection of a living terroir". Today, the role and responsibility of large groups is to explore all avenues of improvement – in this case ranging from organic conversion to planting grass between the vines, agroforestry and irrigation management. Packaging is under the microscope too and it's no surprise: it represents 40% of the estate's carbon emissions. In 2022, Château Galoupet's *Galoupet Nomade* AOP Côtes de Provence wine was adorned with a plastic bottle created via the POP (Prevented Ocean Plastic) programme, made with 100% recycled materials and weighing 87% less than glass. Interestingly too, the bottle – priced at €25 – is flat to facilitate transport. It has received resoundingly positive feedback from the estate's Nordic customers. "It's a good way to test mental barriers", notes Mathieu Meyer, who is currently developing a new bottle that is both attractive and eco-friendly. Part of the Moët-Hennessy group, Domaine Galoupet has set its sights on becoming a flagship of sustainable development.

[www.chateaugaloupet.com](http://www.chateaugaloupet.com)

**T**hese many environmental initiatives show that current tourism stakes go above and beyond visitor and traveller expectations, with local residents playing a key role. From the promotion of local gastronomy and short distribution circuits to the regulation of visitor numbers or promotion of soft mobility and eco-awareness, sustainable tourism is a springboard for improving everyone's quality of life.



Château Galoupet

## 2023, THE YEAR OF RUGBY

### PRO RUGBY EVENTS

**The Rugby World Cup France 2023**, taking place from September 8th to October 28th, promises to be the year's highlight.

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is the **top host region**, welcoming 10 out of 48 matches scheduled in **two host cities: Marseille** (6 matches including 2 quarter finals) and **Nice** (4 matches). Over half a million spectators from 175 countries are awaited in the stadiums of Marseille (67,000 seats) and Nice (35,000 seats).

Supporters will be able to follow their favourite team's training sessions from late August, at the region's various base camps: **Scotland** in Nice, **Uruguay** in Avignon and South Africa's **Springboks**, the outgoing world champions, in Toulon.

Home to the **Rugby Club Toulonnais** (RCT) and legendary **Stade Mayol** stadium, the city of Toulon is the holy land of rugby in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Born in 1908, the RCT boasts a long and glorious history, including three Rugby Europe Championship titles, in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The Rugby Club Toulonnais is also famed for its "war cry" – the inimitable *Pilou-Pilou* chanted by supporters, now the team's hymn.

[www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023)

**The William Webb Ellis trophy**, which will be awarded to the winner of the Rugby World Cup France 2023, bears the name of an English reverend (1806-1872), presented as **"the founding father of modern rugby"**.

In 1823, Ellis, then a pupil at Rugby school, is said to have taken the ball in hand during a mob football match, thereby defying the game's basic rules, before running to the opponent's goal. His name, which is engraved on the trophy, is a genuine legend in the rugby world. He died unknown in 1872 and now rests in Menton, about thirty kilometres from Nice. His grave, in the Vieux Château cemetery, is signposted. A definite must-do – and the panoramic view over the Mediterranean is to die for...

[www.menton-riviera-merveilles.fr](http://www.menton-riviera-merveilles.fr)



Stade Vélodrome © Rugby World Cup France 2023



Stade Mayol © J. Mauceri



Nice © Rugby World Cup France 2023

## AMATEUR RUGBY

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur will be hosting the **1st World Amateur Rugby Festival** from September 22nd to 30th, bringing together 20 clubs representing the world's top 20 rugby nations, during and under the patronage of the Rugby World Cup France 2023.

Jeremy Teyssier, President of the Digne-les-Bains Rugby Club, is the man behind this ambitious initiative, in partnership with the Fédération Française de Rugby, Ligue Sud de Rugby and Région Sud Regional Council. The group matches are scheduled in several regional host towns: Port-de-Bouc, Arles, Saint-Raphaël and Saint-Maximin, with the quarter-finals in Sisteron and Manosque, and Digne-les-Bains hosting the final rounds.

[festivalmondialrugbyamateur.com](http://festivalmondialrugbyamateur.com)



Toulon - La Rochelle © RCT



**MARSEILLE**  
STADE VÉLODROME

- D** ENGLAND v ARGENTINA  
Sat, 9 Sept
- B** SOUTH AFRICA v SCOTLAND  
Sun, 10 Sept
- A** FRANCE v NAMIBIA  
Thurs, 21 Sept
- B** SOUTH AFRICA v TONGA  
Sun, 1 Oct
- QF1** WINNER POOL C v RUNNER-UP POOL D  
Sat, 14 Oct
- QF3** WINNER POOL D v RUNNER-UP POOL C  
Sun, 15 Oct

**NICE**  
STADE DE NICE

- C** WALES v PORTUGAL  
Sat, 16 Sept
- D** ENGLAND v JAPAN  
Sun, 17 Sept
- A** ITALY v URUGUAY  
Wed, 20 Sept
- B** SCOTLAND v TONGA  
Sun, 24 sept

## 2024 OLYMPICS, RIGHT ON TRACK

**It's official! The Olympic flame will be lighting up Marseille from Spring 2024. And it'll be arriving by sea, on board the three-masted Le Bélem...**

### SAILING IN MARSEILLE

The city of Marseille will be welcoming the Olympic sailing competitions scheduled from July 28th to August 8th, 2024: 12 days of non-stop action showcasing 330 athletes from 40 different countries competing in ten disciplines, including windsurfing, kite surfing, and dinghy and multihull sailing. The bay's aerological conditions and configuration, with no currents or tides, promise a top-quality sporting spectacle, plus interesting tactical and strategic play. On the spectator front, the Corniche coast road will be offering the public 2 km of panoramic views over the races and marina. The Olympic Marina, located at the former Roucas Blanc nautical stadium, will be the home base for the competing boats. The stadium's 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of buildings have now been restored and redesigned. The Roucas Blanc basin has been a sailing hub since the 19th century and currently welcomes over 100 nautical events every year.

[www.paris2024.org](http://www.paris2024.org)



### A SPECTACULAR REHEARSAL IN JULY 2023

The Bay of Marseille and Olympic Marina will be hosting a 2024 Olympic Games Test Event from July 3rd to 13th, 2023, with several hundred athletes getting their bearings on the water or jostling for a place on the podium in the qualifying events.

## 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES: FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS IN MARSEILLE-PROVENCE AND NICE-CÔTE D'AZUR

The French team will be kicking off the Men's Olympic Football Tournament in Marseille on Wednesday July 24th, 2024, two days prior to the Olympic Games opening ceremony. We're crossing our fingers and toes! The Orange Vélodrome stadium will be the venue for nine additional tournament matches, with the Arena Allianz stadium in Nice welcoming five matches. Nice and Marseille will respectively be hosting three and five Women's Olympic Football Tournament matches.

[www.paris2024.org/fr/sport/football](http://www.paris2024.org/fr/sport/football)



Stade Orange Vélodrome © Helios Images - R. Grunche

## PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR, AN IDEAL OLYMPIC TRAINING GROUND

A conducive climate and geography, plus top-quality amenities: many of the region's towns are "Land of the 2024 Games" certified and listed as Games Preparation Centres. They are set to welcome National Olympic Committees who wish to prepare in France.

The variety of disciplines hosted by the region testifies to its year-round sporting opportunities, with examples including:

- Badminton, dressage, athletics, cycling, table tennis and rugby sevens (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence).
- Climbing, canoe-kayak slalom and XCO mountain biking (Hautes-Alpes).
- Basketball, field hockey, football and beach volleyball (Alpes-Maritimes).
- Sailing, water polo, BMX Freestyle and fencing (Bouches-du-Rhône).
- Rowing, skateboarding, wrestling, swimming and handball (Var).
- Artistic gymnastics, fencing and BMX racing (Vaucluse).

[www.paris2024.org/fr/centre-preparation-jeux](http://www.paris2024.org/fr/centre-preparation-jeux)



Col d'Allos © AD04 - M. Molle



Kayak - © P. Domeyne

## ALEXANDRE MAZZIA, GASTRONOMY CHAMPION OF THE SOUTH

Awarded three stars by the Michelin Guide, Alexandre Mazzia is featured in the annual World's 50 Best Restaurants list. What's more, he'll be cooking for the 2024 Olympic Games athletes!

Measuring an impressive 1.95 metres, Alexandre Mazzia was a former high-level French basketball player before sweeping up his Michelin stars. In 2024, alongside Amandine Chaignot and Akrame Benallal, he will be an ambassador of French cuisine at the Olympic Village, concocting dishes designed with nutritionists for 10,500 athletes from around the world. A gymnastics and athletics fan, Alexandre's admiration for high-level sports knows no bounds.

[www.alexandre-mazzia.com](http://www.alexandre-mazzia.com)



Alexandre Mazzia - © F. Chanevas

## AMERICA'S CUP

Taking place in Barcelona from August to October, the 37th America's Cup is another exciting international sailing event to look forward to on the 2024 calendar, with the Orient Express Team from the *Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez* (SNST) sailing club proudly representing France.

A combined sporting and technological challenge celebrating its 172nd anniversary, the America's Cup is one of the world's oldest sports trophies.

Some of the teams will also be taking part in the spectacular SailGP international foiling catamaran races, with a regatta scheduled in Saint-Tropez on September 9th and 10th, 2023, in collaboration with the very-active SNST.

[www.societe-nautique-saint-tropez.fr](http://www.societe-nautique-saint-tropez.fr)



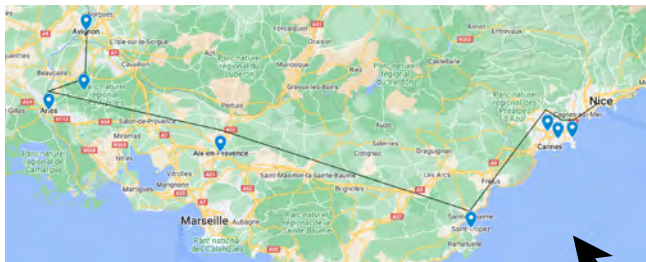
America's Cup- © DR



Orient Express Team- © DR

## PICASSO, THE MASTER OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART

Picasso passed away in Mougins on April 8th, 1973. The 20th century's greatest painter spent most of his life in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. The "In the Footsteps of Picasso in the South of France" route unveils 8 places that sparked the artist's creative flame, and at the same time honours modern and contemporary art in 2023.



### PROVENCE-ALPES CÔTE D'AZUR MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART ROUTE

Home to a wealth of high-quality museums, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is France's foremost cultural hub. The Modern & Contemporary Art Route features 63 major collections and remarkable venues.

[Modern & Contemporary Art Route](#)

#### 1 ANTIBES

"Love is the greatest refreshment in life". In 1946, Picasso painted passionately at Château Grimaldi, in front of the sea. Antibes inaugurated its Musée Picasso during his lifetime.

**Musée Picasso d'Antibes Picasso** 1969-1972, The End of the Beginning [April 8th - June 25th, 2023]

[www.antibes-juanlespins.com/culture/musee-picasso](http://www.antibes-juanlespins.com/culture/musee-picasso)



Musée Picasso © F. Trotobas

#### 2 VALLAURIS

"I paint how others write their autobiography". Picasso discovered the "Town of a Hundred Potters" in 1936 and set up home there from 1948 to 1955. He began modelling clay in 1946: ceramics and linocuts testify to his genius. In 1959, he painted *War and Peace* in the castle's Romanesque chapel. The town also owes him the statue of the *Man with the Sheep*, installed on the market square.

**Vallauris town centre.** Weekend Tribute to Picasso. Dance, music, flamenco, horse show [May 6th - 7th, 2023]

[www.vallaurisgolfejuan-tourisme.fr](http://www.vallaurisgolfejuan-tourisme.fr)

**Musée Magnelli - Musée de la Céramique.** Shapes and Metamorphoses: Picasso's ceramic creations [May 6th - October 30th, 2023]

Picasso & Goldsmithery [June 24th - September 25th, 2023]

[www.vallaurisgolfejuan-tourisme.fr/picasso-ceramique](http://www.vallaurisgolfejuan-tourisme.fr/picasso-ceramique)



### 3 MOUGINS

"When I work, I relax". Picasso was very familiar with this village, where photographer André Valter immortalized him in a series of candid works. He purchased Mas Notre-Dame-de-Vie in 1961 and died there on April 8th, 1973, aged 91.

**Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins**, Picasso seen by women

**Nouveau Centre d'Art**, Exclusive engravings exhibition [from July 2023]

[www.mouginsmusee.com/en](http://www.mouginsmusee.com/en)

### 4 SAINT-TROPEZ

"Matisse left me his odalisques". Picasso - just like Henri Matisse and Paul Signac - regularly stayed in Saint-Tropez. Opened in 1922, the Annonciade museum was one of France's first modern art museums.

**Musée de l'Annonciade**, Permanent collection

[www.saint-tropez.fr/culture/musee-de-lannonciade](http://www.saint-tropez.fr/culture/musee-de-lannonciade)

### 5 AIX-EN-PROVENCE

"I am Cézanne's grandson". Picasso and Jacqueline were laid to rest at their former home, Château de Vauvenargues, gazing out over Mont Sainte-Victoire.

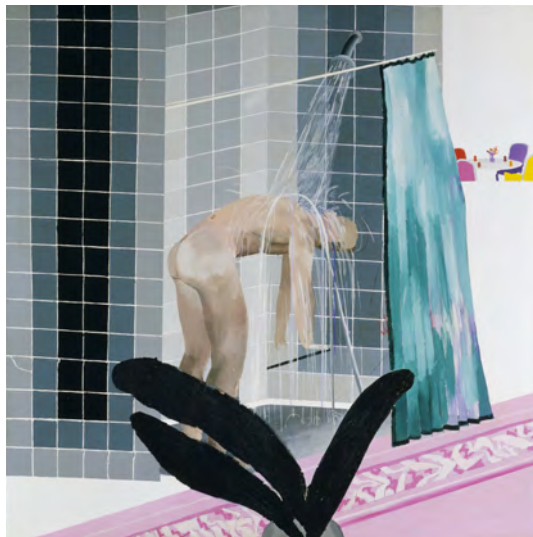
**Musée Granet**, David Hockney, Tate Collection

A major international exhibition dedicated to the contemporary artist, painter, engraver, photographer and art theorist David Hockney. [January 28th - May 28th, 2023]

[www.museegranet-aixenprovence.fr](http://www.museegranet-aixenprovence.fr)

**Hôtel de Caumont**, Max Ernst. . A monographic exhibition exploring the magical world of surrealist painter Max Ernst (1891-1976), where art and nature meet... [May 4th - October 10th, 2023]

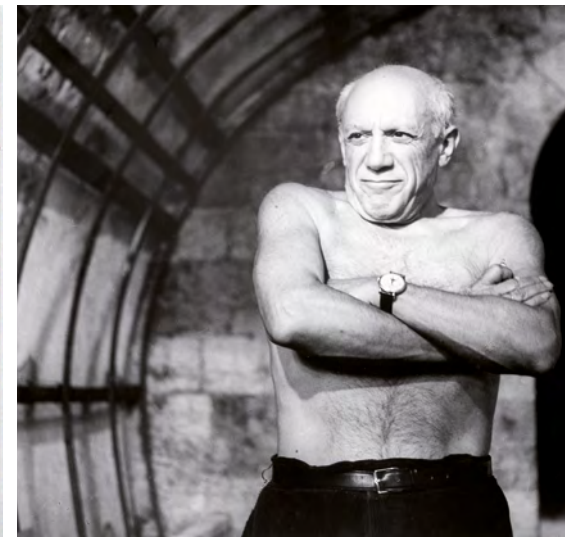
[www.caumont-centredart.com](http://www.caumont-centredart.com)



Man in Shower in Beverly Hills - D. Hockney © Tate



Max Ernst. © Ville de Marseille, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais Benjamin Soligny / Raphaël Chipault © Adagp, Paris, 2023



André Villers © ADAGP, Paris, 2023 © Succession Picasso 2023 Image Art - Claude Germain

## 6 ARLES-CAMARGUE

"How do you think I could paint without joy?" Driven by his Andalusian passion for bullfighting and the haunting ghost of Van Gogh, Picasso frequently stayed in Arles, Camargue and the Alpilles.

**Musée Reattu** : Collection of 57 drawings donated by Picasso, two years prior to his death.

[www.museereattu.arles.fr/pablo-picasso.html](http://www.museereattu.arles.fr/pablo-picasso.html)

**Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles**. A must-do photography festival, showcasing numerous exhibitions and events. This year's star venue will be the new Luma-Arles Foundation, signed by architect Franck Gehry. [July 3rd - September 24th, 2023]

[www.rencontres-arles.com](http://www.rencontres-arles.com)



Luma - © A. Deweerdt



Musée Reattu © DR



Carrières de Lumière © DR

## 7 LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE - ALPILLES

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls". In 1959, at the request of his friend Jean Cocteau, Picasso played the role of a painter carved into the rocks in the Alpilles, now an immersive exhibition space.

**Carrières de Lumière**, Baux-de-Provence  
From Vermeer to Van Gogh: The Dutch Masters / Mondrian, the architect of colour [January 24th, 2023 - January 2024]

[www.carrieres-lumieres.com](http://www.carrieres-lumieres.com)

## 8 AVIGNON

"I do not seek, I find". Picasso spent the summer of 1914 in Avignon, down the road from his friends Braque and Derain. The Jacques Doucet collection at Musée Angladon features his famous work *Harlequin*.

**Musée Angladon**, Permanent collection  
[February 1st - December 31st, 2023]

[angladon.com](http://angladon.com)

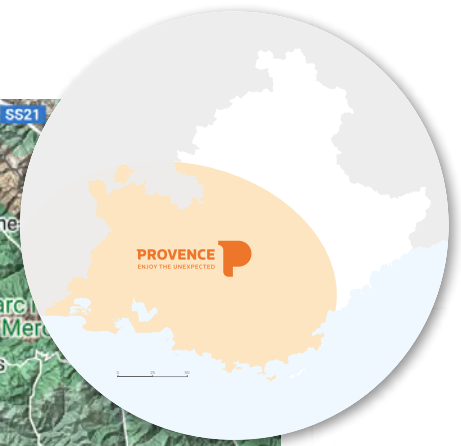
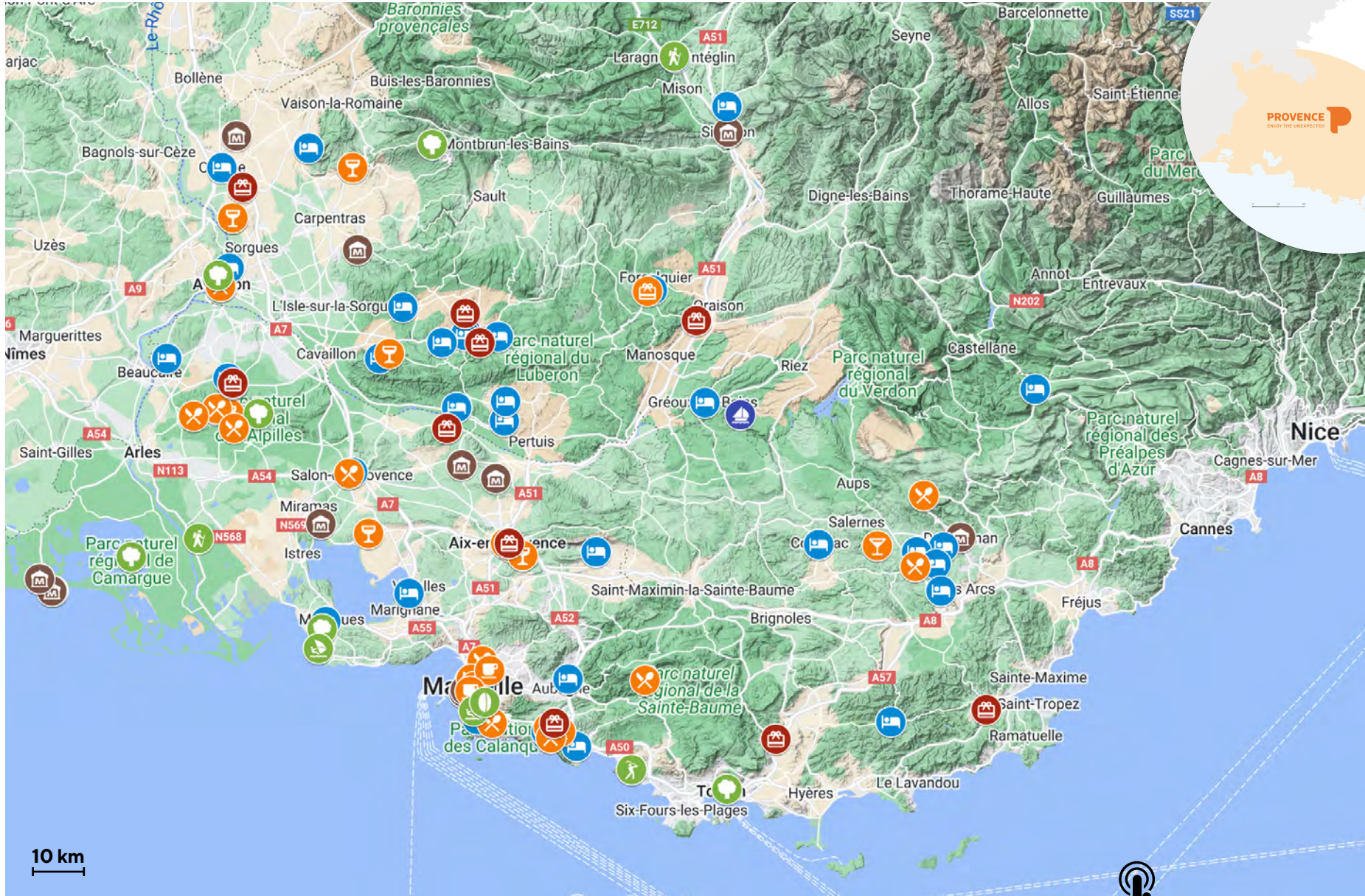


Musée Angladon © DR



# PROVENCE

# WHAT'S NEW IN PROVENCE





## GRAND AVIGNON CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ORANGE

**F**ortified castles and ancient monuments gaze out across the Rhône River, standing guard over the gateway to Provence. The vineyards of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** - the oldest in France - are just part of the glory of the Côtes-du-Rhône area and its capital, **Avignon**. The City of the Popes welcomes a magnificent Festival every summer combining culture and revelry. Not to be missed too, the **Popes Enclave** around the truffle capital of **Valréas** is a unique historic and administrative entity.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

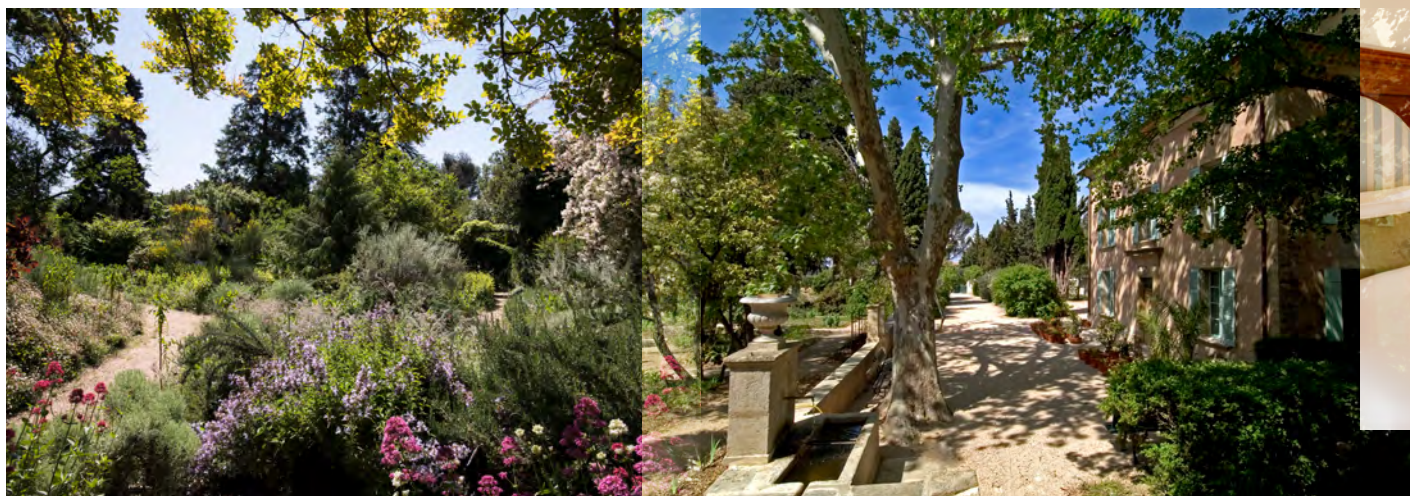
### LE HARMAS DU NATURALISTE JEAN-HENRI FABRE

📍 SÉRIGNAN-DU-COMTAT

2023 is a great year for (re)discovering Jean-Henri Fabre, while his marvellous garden is sure to spur a vocation among young visitors! This visionary naturalist and author of *Entomological Memories*, born on December 21st, 1823, purchased *Harmas* – a Provencal farmhouse with a fallow garden – in 1879. Everything there has been carefully curated, or skilfully neglected, to promote biodiversity. Fabre's modern outlook becomes evident when you visit his home and garden, restored over a period of several months by the National Natural History Museum. The tour, which spans both the interior and exterior, encompasses rooms hitherto closed to the public. *Harmas* is a benchmark for entomologists and nature lovers worldwide. Jean-Henri Fabre observed countless insects there: cicadas, beetles, dung beetles, bees and more. The house harbours his precious collection of shells, fossils, herbaria, bird's nests, naturalist watercolours, printed works and manuscripts. You'll also visit Fabre's study, kitted out with microscopes, traps, breeding domes, etc. Two passionate gardeners take care of the garden, orchard and vegetable patch.

Reopening in early June 2023. Teaching materials in French, English and German.

[www.harmasjeanhenrifabre.fr/en](http://www.harmasjeanhenrifabre.fr/en)



Harmas - © DR

## HOSPITALITY

### LE GRAND HÔTEL D'ORANGE\*\*\*\*

📍 ORANGE

The Triumphal Arch and Roman Theatre are located just two minutes on foot from this 18th-century residence, tucked away on a quiet square. The 40 rooms boast four-star service, a 4 x 6-metre outdoor pool, steam room and restaurant. The hotel is part of the *Sure Hotel Collection* by Best Western, a new collection showcasing mid-range independent hotels.

Rooms from €100.

[www.grandhotelorange.com/en](http://www.grandhotelorange.com/en)



Grand Hôtel d'Orange - © DR

## L'HÔTEL DE LA MÈRE GERMAINE, MICHELIN 1-STAR

📍 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Rubbing shoulders with the iconic *La Mère Germaine* restaurant, this hotel reopened in July 2022. It offers 12 rooms located in two Burgundy stone houses in the village, bedecked with velvet, light wood furniture, brass light fixtures, king-size beds and a study or lounge area. The 50 m<sup>2</sup> suite on the top floor is adorned with a rooftop terrace. The wellness area in the basement offers a steam room, relaxation pool and tropical shower. Created in 1922 by Germaine Vion – fresh from the Élysée kitchens –, this mythical establishment is still on the up and up, with a Michelin star in 2020 and addition of *Le Comptoir de la Mère Germaine* in July 2021, also boasting a large terrace with panoramic views over the Rhône Valley. Also new: talented Belgian chef Christophe Hardiquet's star-rated cuisine.

Truffle menu from January 11th to March 19th. Rooms from €150.

[www.lameregermaine-chateauneufdupape.fr](http://www.lameregermaine-chateauneufdupape.fr)

## HÔTEL DE CAMBIS\*\*\*\*

📍 AVIGNON

The mood is set at Reception, where you'll also find a spectacular wine bar... *Hôtel de Cambis* is a genuine ode to the Côtes du Rhône capital. The wine theme continues in the 42 Art Deco-inspired rooms by designer and artist Julie Gauthron, adorned with noble materials and sporting such tempting names as *Millésime*, *Premier Cru* and *Grand Cru*. The hotel occupies three 17th century buildings in the peaceful Rue Joseph Vernet. A glass lift hoists guests above the tiled roofs... A place to savour.

From €130.

[www.hoteldecambis.com/en](http://www.hoteldecambis.com/en)



la Mère Germaine - © V. Odessian DR

Hôtel de Cambis - © DR

## LA BASTIDE DE BELLEGARDE B&B

AVIGNON

Brian Kenna, a former hotelier with a passion for contemporary art, has lovingly restored this family home. Peacocks now parade in the 7.5-acre grounds complete with a fountain and fruit trees. The five suites, ranging from 30 to 50 m<sup>2</sup> (one has a 50 m<sup>2</sup> terrace), are named after olive varieties: *Aglandau*, *Picholine*, *Lucques*, or *Verdale*. Painted in olive green - of course -, their exposed stone walls invite guests to admire a lifetime of collecting. Brian has a very human approach to luxury and the amenities include a professional kitchen where he'll be pleased to help you rustle up a tasty dish, unless of course you'd rather opt for the *table d'hôte* meals. Scones are included in the Irish breakfast every morning.

Rooms from €120 to €300, bicycles available, large car park.

[bastidedebellegarde.com/index-en](http://bastidedebellegarde.com/index-en)



La Bastide de Bellegarde - © J. Froc

## GASTRONOMY

### LA VINOThÈQUE

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Tucked away in the heart of the village, this troglodyte wine cellar plunges visitors into the geology of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines, with a geo-sensory wine tasting experience courtesy of a collection of 1,500 tasters made of pewter, silver metal, wood, glass or ceramic, the oldest of which dates back to 1563. These traditional little utensils formerly allowed winegrowers - and fraud examiners - to inspect wines before tasting them. Today, the team invites visitors on a visual wine experience too, with criteria including texture and shine. Pending the opening of the wine bar, you can taste 4 wines from the appellation every day (3 reds and 1 white). Just down the road, the official *Vinadéa* store boasts over 200 references at producer prices.

[www.vinadea.com](http://www.vinadea.com)



Vinothèque - © C. Pelut

### BIBENDUM

AVIGNON

Chef Mathieu Desmarestand and his wife Émilie have just set down their bags at 83, Rue Vernet. Overlooking a 14th-century cloister, this mansion lies next to the Calvet Foundation. Following in the footsteps of his previous restaurant, *Pollen*, the Michelin-starred chef is committed to offering foodies a heartfelt and good-humoured gastronomic hub. Set under arched ceilings and mouldings, *Bibendum* also features a wine bar and cocktail bar. Guest musicians and artists are welcome too.

[www.bibendumavignon.fr](http://www.bibendumavignon.fr)



Bibendum - © T. O'Brien



KNOW-HOW

LE DOMAINE SKINCARE: CELEBRITY COSMETICS

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Already working hand in hand with the Perrins in the Var area (Miraval rosé wine), Brad Pitt is embarking on a new adventure with the family in the shape of the *Le Domaine Skincare* cosmetics range. The name comes from Château Beaucastel in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, owned by the Perrin family for five generations. Over 50 years ago, Jacques Perrin pioneered the production of biodynamic wines there. The name also refers to the range's active ingredients, extracted from vines.

Brad Pitt and Marc Perrin both respect nature's circularity. "There's no concept of waste in nature. Anything that is left over becomes food for something else", explains Brad Pitt. The exclusive active ingredients for the range were isolated in collaboration with two eminent names: Professor Nicolas Lévy, former head of the genetics department at La Timone hospital in Marseille and Professor Pierre-Louis Teissedre, who heads up a laboratory at the University of Bordeaux.

The products are all refillable - except the Cleansing Emulsion - and virtually entirely recyclable. Prices range from €70 for a 100 ml pump bottle of cleansing emulsion to €320 for a 30 ml pump bottle of serum.

[le-domaine.com](http://le-domaine.com)



Brad Pitt et Marc Perrin - Skincare Le Domaine - © DR

OUTDOORS

MICROADVENTURES IN GRAND AVIGNON

AVIGNON

The microadventures concept is a resounding success. But what is it? In short: you don't need to take a long-haul flight to enjoy a change of scenery - all you have to do is explore your immediate environment! Avignon is the ideal base camp for getting out and about in Provence. Among the many adventures on offer at *Grand Avignon Destinations*, adventurers can dive into the Gardon river, sleep with grey herons or embark on a 3-day hike between vines and hills... Magnificent.

[grandavignon-destinations.fr](http://grandavignon-destinations.fr)



MicroAventures - © J. Vandal



## LUBERON VENTOUX

Set at the end of the Luberon's long, cedar-crowned mount, at the heart of the Luberon Regional Nature Reserve, the town of **Cavaillon** was recently named a remarkable heritage site. The crest of the massif crosses the ochres of **Roussillon** and clays of the Pays d'Apt area, before dropping down towards the **Durance** river and fertile plain of **Comtat Venaissin**. You'll find gurgling water everywhere in **Pernes-les-Fontaines**, **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse** and **Isle-sur-la-Sorgue**, a temple of bric-à-brac and antiques. The hilltop villages of the **Luberon** gaze out over the white cap of Mont Ventoux rising to 1,912 metres. At its feet lie **Vaison-la-Romaine** - nicknamed "Little Pompeii" - and **Carpentras**, home to a very ancient synagogue.

ART & ARCHITECTURE

CHÂTEAU DE THÉZAN

SAINT-DIDIER

Abandoned for 30 years, the grounds of Château de Thézan – a hidden pearl of Comtat Venaissin – are now open to visitors. Nestling in the heart of the village, the former home of the Marquis de Thézan-Vénasque overflows with remarkable trees offering welcome shade, together with contemporary works of art and even a hydrotherapy centre dating from the last century. The scope of the chateau's rebirth, led tirelessly by the new owners Pierre de Beytia and Emmanuel Renoux, can only be applauded.

[www.chateaudethezan.com/en](http://www.chateaudethezan.com/en)



Château de Thézan - © Château de Thézan

HOSPITALITY

LA VILLA SAINTE-ANNE B&B

GIGONDAS

The family of Pierre Amadiou – the largest vineyard in the Gigondas appellation, with 297 acres of vines planted in 1929 – has just opened a gorgeous guest house. This beautiful old farmhouse niched at the entrance to the town offers five rooms, including two family suites. Interior designers *Robert and Cau* in Vaison-la-Romaine have skilfully preserved and exalted the site's original features: a freestone spiral staircase, kitchen with a backsplash in Vacluse earthenware, walnut doors and magnificent stone slabs... Outside, the patio harbours a swimming pool and Finnish sauna. Some terraces boast views over the lacy rocks of the *Dentelles de Montmirail*. Guests enjoy a kitchenette and library too. The tasting cellar is a 5-minute walk away and Marie Amadiou hosts specialist-interest tasting workshops with house wines. N.B. AOP Gigondas white wines will also be available from 2023.

Rooms from €220 to €280 per night. House from €5,500 per week.

[www.oenotourisme.pierre-amadiou.com/en](http://www.oenotourisme.pierre-amadiou.com/en)



LES MILLE ROCHES GITE AND GUEST ROOMS

GORDES

The former home of artist Pol Mara now offers two comfortable guest rooms and a self-catering gite. You'll find the guest rooms in a building at the entrance to the property, laid out in typical Provencal terraces planted with olive trees, while the gite is set inside the painter's former studio a little further on, meaning guests enjoy total independence. The architecture is astonishing: vertical windows resembling gaping arrow slits provide striking frames for the Luberon and village of Gordes. Monochromatic white blends with stone slabs from Saint Pantaléon. The layout honours the painter's open-space living philosophy and the various partition-free rooms form a single volume. Domaine des Milles Roches is also a holder of the "Veloloisirprovence" cycle touring label.

Gite for 6 guests €1,800 to €2,700 per week, rooms €120 to €200.

[lesmillesroches.com](http://lesmillesroches.com)



Gîte Les Mille Roches - © C. Bourrasse

## CHÂTEAU DE MILLE GITES

APT

Château de Mille's new gites offer guests a chance to get up-close-and-personal with this jewel of 13th century architecture, currently under restoration. Set below the medieval tower, the 70 m<sup>2</sup> *Ventoux* apartment features a large kitchen-living area, two bedrooms, a shower room, laundry room and dining area with views over Mont Ventoux. *Les Roches* welcomes up to 6 people in a 150 m<sup>2</sup> outbuilding of the winery, and offers a garden, pond and eating area under the trees. Guests also enjoy access to the estate's 247-acre grounds. The owners, Lawrence and Constance Slaughter, have undertaken to restore the chateau, graced with a remarkable monolithic suspended staircase, hilltop chapel and pond carved into the rock. A high-tech winery is also in the pipeline. Currently in-conversion to organic, the estate now produces rosés and whites as well as its traditional reds.

Ventoux apartment from €952 per week, Les Roches from €1,680.

[www.chateau-de-mille.com](http://www.chateau-de-mille.com)



Château de Mille - © chateaudemille

## MAISON D'HÔTE LE MAS DES EYDINS

BONNIEUX

After thirteen years at the *Hôtel & Spa du Castellet*, Michelin 3-star chef Christophe Bacquié and his wife Alexandra have set up home at Mas des Eydins, where they intend to "write their story" and entertain guests as they would friends, with a personal welcome and plenty of pampering. This "project of a lifetime" spans almost 9 acres, with five guest rooms, two gites, a *table d'hôte* serving gastronomic fare and – Alexandra's passion – a soon-to-be spa. To be continued...

[www.leseydins.com/en](http://www.leseydins.com/en)



Les-Eydins - © DR

## LES MAISONS D'ENAMOURA

SAIGNON

Magali Avignon, entrepreneur and founder of an online estate agency, rents out five heritage abodes brimming with timeless charm: a mansion in Marseille, one in Saumane in the Alpilles and three in the hilltop village of Saignon, overlooking Apt plain. The latest offering, the *Atelier de Saignon* features a built-in bed and couch, Cassis stone bathroom sink and decor of ropes, wood and stoneware light fittings courtesy of Marion Graux. *Enamoura* additionally produces a beautiful range of Provencal objects in collaboration with local artisans, including Franca Atelier, Manon Monge, Margaux Derhy and Franck Lebraly. *Enamoura* also rents out *La Petite Maison* in Saignon: refurbished in Spring 2022, the house offers two suites, one of which features a tub set under a glass canopy, plus a pool and terrace.

The young brand's transformation of the 10th-century chapel at the top of the village, clinging to Bellevue rock, is a widely applauded architectural feat.

Atelier de Saignon from €180, minimum two nights.

[www.enamoura.com](http://www.enamoura.com)



Les Maisons d'Enamoura- © A. Fecih

## FONTENILLE WELLNESS

📍 OPPÈDE-LE-VIEUX

The name hasn't been decided yet but sshh... Between you and me, Domaines de Fontenille's next opus will be a little paradise with 17 rooms, focusing on wellness. Aficonados will be able to come here to get back on form, do a detox cure or try their hand at yoga.

Opening spring 2023.

[www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com/en](http://www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com/en)

Oppède-le-Vieux - © A. HOCQUEL - VPA



Ferme Hi Bride - © A. Lanneretonne

## FERME HI BRIDE

📍 VILLELAURE

Following on from the *Hi Nice*, this new offering from Philippe Chapelet and Patrick Elouarghi is definitely different! The *Ferme Hi Bride* invites guests to enjoy an eco-aware wellness experience in the heart of nature, in a winegrower's house next to the old guard tower of Château d'Ansouis. You can glimpse the chateau in the distance, along with the rolling hills of the Luberon. Designer Matali Crasset, renowned for her "smart living" concept, has added her talent to the project.

The new, raw concrete facade blends seamlessly with the old stones. The five rooms, two studios and two houses, painted with cheerful pink, yellow and blue frescoes, are situated next to the Ferrier tower, in the old farm buildings. The highlight is the raised swimming pool set in the farm's former pool, gazing out over the Luberon. The 15 acres of vines are grown using biodynamic methods.

A restaurant is scheduled to open in the old barn in 2024, but you can enjoy cocktail dinners there from March this year. "We try to offer simple sophistication", says host Patrick Elouarghi.

From €200 per night (staggered rates).

[www.lafermehibride.com](http://www.lafermehibride.com)

## LE DOMAINE LA PARPAILLE GUEST HOUSE

📍 CUCURON

Located almost a kilometre from Cucuron, this 17th-century farmhouse has now been restored by Eve Obert from Aix-en-Provence in modern bohemian style, with raw materials, waxed concrete, stone and wood. In addition to *La Maison Sous l'Amandier* (house under the almond trees) with its own pool, the establishment offers 5 rooms and a loft, all with soothing names: *Lumière d'Étoile*, *Mon Amour*, *Romance*, *Tendresse*, *Pierre de Lune* and *Attrape Rêves*. The rooms also enjoy a large, shared pool, heated from April to mid-October, plus a lounge-bar where you can savour a drink, lunch or dine – the owner loves pampering guests with her gourmet, mainly vegetarian cuisine. *Table d'hôtes* dinners served on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Yoga and gastronomy breaks on request.

La Maison sous l'Amandier: €1,300 to €2,300 per week. Attrape Rêves loft: €212 to €284 per night. Bed & breakfast €180 to €260. Meals: €32 per person.

[www.domaine-la-parpaille.com/en](http://www.domaine-la-parpaille.com/en)



Domaine la Parpaille - © X-ray Mediacy

## CHÂTEAU SAINT-PIERRE-DE-MÉJANS

PUYVERT

This 12th-century Benedictine priory in Puyvert, near the Durance canal, is finally open to the public for year-round tours – and you can opt to stay overnight there too. *Mas de Puyvert* already offered four rooms, a garden and swimming pool. But now you can opt for the five rooms on offer at the historic chateau, still boasting their original volumes, freestone masonry and floor tiles, now spiked with contemporary touches. The 80 m<sup>2</sup> apartment can accommodate up to 4 people. The organic breakfast includes herbal teas and eggs from the estate. The site is also a wine estate dating back to 1118, producing reputed wines including the latest vintage, *La Chapelle*. You'll find an events marquee overlooking the Luberon there too, plus 49-acre grounds. A genuine rebirth!

Wines from €10 to €18. Mas de Puyvert rental: €3,500 per week. Rooms from €195 to €295 for 4 guests.

[saintpierredemejans.com/en/home](http://saintpierredemejans.com/en/home)



Château Saint-Pierre-de-Méjans - © P. Magoni

## GASTRONOMY

### LA DISTILLERIE DU CHÂTEAU BARROUX

BARROUX

The Vayson de Pardonne family has been restoring this fort overlooking the village of Barroux since 1929. Its terrace stands over the Comtat plain, encircled by the mounts of Vaucluse, and offers gorgeous views over Mont Ventoux. Fanny and Jean-Baptiste have now installed a "country distillery" inside the 12th-century walls, producing whisky made with spelt from Haute-Provence. The couple host a range of workshops, with themes including whisky and regional goat cheese pairing...

[www.chateaudubarroux.fr](http://www.chateaudubarroux.fr)



Distillerie du Château Barroux - © DR

### DOMAINE LE MAS DES INFIRMIÈRES

OPPÈDE

Ridley Scott initially came to this wine estate near Oppède to paint and rest, then settled there in 1992. Since 2020, he has been making his own wines, crowned with his own hand-drawn label. And the movie maestro has thought of everything: a magnificent 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> cellar, shop and museum. What's more, costumes from his films adorn the tasting counter and you can admire the director's cult objects in the basement: the egg from *Alien*, Matt Damon's astronaut suit from *Alone on Mars*, a Gladiator helmet, Adam Driver's bike in *House of Gucci*... and even a preview of the costumes for his next movie on Napoleon, starring Joachim Phoenix. This top-notch experience has won *Le Mas des Infirmières* the "wine tourism" distinction awarded by Inter-Rhône.

Note: the farmhouse offers three villas to rent, very stylishly designed and decorated by Ridley Scott and welcoming up to 16 guests.

€20 per tour, wine tasting subject to prior booking.

[www.chateaudubarroux.fr/en](http://www.chateaudubarroux.fr/en)



Le Mas des Infirmières - © DR

KNOW-HOW

LUSTRERIE MATHIEU

GARGAS

The *Lustrerie Mathieu* is doubling in size this year. An unexpected treat in the Luberon, this chandelier maker is a world-unique institution! Its founder, Régis Mathieu, makes chandeliers for chateaux, monuments and palaces all over the planet, including Versailles. Contemporary creations, restoration work and reissues rub shoulders with the largest collection of ancient chandeliers for sale you'll find anywhere. The recent purchase of a neighbouring ochre factory has now added 2,000 m2 of rooms with ceilings rising to a dizzy 14 metres – high enough to hang a cathedral chandelier. You can enjoy a tour of the site now too: a great opportunity to observe the 30 chandelier makers going about their day in the two workshops, or admire the 500 historic and contemporary light fittings – 15th century to current day – on show in the two exhibition spaces. Régis has also purchased a 5-acre garden harbouring 23 ochre settling basins: a magical site set to open to the public in years to come. Eye-opening!

[mathieulustrerie.com](http://mathieulustrerie.com)



Lustrerie Mathieu; - © DR

EMILY IN PROVENCE, A SCENT OF LAVENDER!

BUOUX, DISTILLERIE LES AGNELS

America's favourite working girl took a break from her beloved Paris in season 3 of the series. We saw Emily – the Anglo-American actress Lily Collins – in the Luberon, Gordes, Buoux, Apt and Bonnieux, and with a sickle in hand in the lavender fields of the Agnels distillery in Apt. Véronique Agnel, heiress to 5 generations of distillers, has just created a 100% natural, certified-organic *Pur Nature* cosmetic range, comprising a perfume, body care oil, hand cream and face cream. Of course, Lily Collins adored her perfume with its notes of lavender and clary sage. Provence in a bottle!

[www.purnature-provence.com](http://www.purnature-provence.com)

[www.lesagnels.com](http://www.lesagnels.com)



Les Agnels - © P. Clin

OUTDOORS

NEW ON THE SUMMIT OF VENTOUX

BRANTES

After two years of work, the summit of Mont Ventoux has been turned back to nature: the esplanade is once again the domain of pedestrians and cyclists, the car park down below has been reorganized and the natural environment restored. A walking trail created by the Mont Ventoux Regional Nature Reserve now offers four major stop-offs to contemplate the view: the old Observatory forecourt, the Rotunda, the Alps Belvedere and the Provence Belvedere. 11 interpretation points named *Les pierres qui parlent* (Talking Stones) throw a spotlight on the site's unique character.

[www.parcduventoux.fr](http://www.parcduventoux.fr)



Ventoux - © Sols



## ARLES CAMARGUE ALPILLES

France's most beautiful Gallo-Roman city, **Arles** has recently been embellished with an outstanding new cultural complex, the Luma Arles, together with numerous other foundations. All around, the stony steppe of La Crau and wetlands of Camargue pan out to the Montagnette and Alpilles mountain ranges. The scenery alternates olive groves and vines with the delightful ancient towns of **Tarascon**, **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**, **Les Baux-de-Provence** and **Salon-de-Provence**, proud of their cherished rural celebrations, Camargue races and traditional costumes...



## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### L'ESPACE HÔTEL DE LAGOY

SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

A specialist in cultural publications, *Maison Templar* has steered many successful exhibitions. Its new venture, showcased at the 16th-century Hôtel de Lagoy in the heart of Saint-Rémy, spans over 800 metres. Opening on June 1st, 2023, *Marilyn Monroe, The Secret of America*, curated by Frédéric Lecomte-Dieu, includes 220 photos, the dresses from *Bus Stop* and President John F. Kennedy's birthday, 10 lithographs by Andy Warhol and even a reconstruction of the actress's bedroom... Visitors discover a free-thinking, intellectual woman, who was passionate about Van Gogh. This new space also honours the memory of celebrities such as Audrey Hepburn, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, Modigliani and David Bowie. A daring feat and great day out for all the family.

Entry: adults €15. Shop.

[maison-templar.com](http://maison-templar.com)

[espace-hoteldelagoy.com/en](http://espace-hoteldelagoy.com/en)



Le Bistrot de Marie - © C. DUTREY - Provence Tourisme

### INTRIGUE IN THE ALPILLES

SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Held throughout Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, *Intrigue dans la ville® - Les Alpilles* is a fun detective game for all the family, designed to introduce visitors to the town's heritage.

[www.alpillesenprovence.com](http://www.alpillesenprovence.com)



Affiche finale Marilyn Monroe - Le secret de l'Amérique

### SUSPENSE IN THE ALPILLES LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE

LES-BAUX-DE-PROVENCE

Enjoy a deep dive into the history of the Château des Baux as you hunt for the fortress's last princess... *Le Secret d'Alix* is an escape game for 2 to 6 participants. €5 in addition to the castle entry fee.

[www.lesbauxdeprovence.com](http://www.lesbauxdeprovence.com)



Baux-de-Provence - © DR

## VINCENT VAN GOGH WALK

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

"Now that I have seen the sea here, I truly feel the importance of staying in the South and sensing how colours needs to be further exaggerated (...)", wrote Van Gogh to Théo in June 1888. 125 years later, the *Parcours Van Gogh* walk, dotted with six information panels and lecterns, exalts some of the twenty canvasses painted during the artist's short stay. The artist is also celebrated every year in June, during the Van Gogh week.

[www.saintesmaries.com](http://www.saintesmaries.com)



Parcours Vincent Van Gogh - © DR

## MUSÉE DES SAINTES-MARIE-DE-LA-MER

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

Facing the sea, next to the amphitheatre on Avenue Théodore Aubanel, this new space sheds light on the history of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. Highlights include Greek, Etruscan and Roman treasures unearthed during 40 years of offshore digs at what was once one of the Mediterranean's largest ports, many discovered by archaeologist and diver Luc Long. Visitors can admire Etruscan, Greek, Norman and Saracen ships, together with two world-unique wooden rolling systems invented by Ancient Greeks to transport the marble blocks used to build temples. This magnificent collection has earned the museum the coveted *Musée de France* label.

[museedessaintesmariesdelamer.fr/en](http://museedessaintesmariesdelamer.fr/en)



Saintes-Marie-de-la-Mer - © J. ROCHE - Provence Tourisme

## ÂME BOHÉMIENNE

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

Located next to the Petit Rhône river, this extraordinary site leads visitors on a deep dive into the gypsy soul... Collected by the Reyes siblings - their family formed the famous band *Gipsy Kings* - several caravans, including that of José Reyes, unveil the everyday life of a family rooted here for 13 generations, under the wing of Saint Sarah. The family also offers boat trips on the Petit Rhône including a swim and guitar playing around a campfire, plus traditional nibbles you won't find anywhere else.

[www.amebohemienne.com](http://www.amebohemienne.com)



Âme bohémienne - © DR

## HOSPITALITY

## MAISON D'HÔTE LE MAS DES PRÊCHEURS

TARASCON

The *Mas des Prêcheurs* was erected on 36 acres of land on Montagnette hill in 1649. Today, it forms the core of a new wellness project led by Émilie Briand and Guillaume Multrier. A coach, logotherapist and professor at the Sciences Po university in Paris, Émilie specializes in therapy through meaning, i.e. giving a meaning to one's life and career by instilling them with one's own values. Renowned entrepreneur Guillaume Multrier is planning to install a pilot farm specializing in regenerative agriculture, which will eventually host over 200 vegetable varieties. The 800 m<sup>2</sup> *Mas des Prêcheurs* has now been converted into a guest house with five duplex rooms, each bearing the name of a sense: Touch, Hearing, Intuition, Taste and Sight. The rooms measure 25 to 80 m<sup>2</sup> and feature old beams, parquet flooring, reversible air conditioning, delightful natural materials (linen, wood), bathrooms with tub or walk-in shower and large windows overlooking the gardens, olive grove, cypress alley or courtyard and fountain. Sofa beds and baby cots are available on request. "We love families here", says Émilie who hosts workshops in the garden and parent-child cookery classes, in addition to private consultations. Meals are provided on request by chef and cheese maker Camille, with vegetarian dishes served at the fireside in the vaulted lounge, by the pool or next to the fountain. Evening meals can be left in the kitchen on request. The garden leads to a Montagnette hiking trail and is within easy reach of Saint-Victor chapel and the various Alpilles walking, cycling, riding and car routes.

Rooms from €100 to €350, specialist-interest breaks on the search for meaning theme on request.

[maisondesens.com](https://maisondesens.com) • [www.masdesprecheurs.com/?lang=en](https://www.masdesprecheurs.com/?lang=en)



Le Mas des Prêcheurs - © DR

Le Mas des Prêcheurs - Propriétaire - © DR

## HÔTEL LE DOMAINE DE CHALAMON

SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Located on the way to Chalamon, not far from the first *Domaine de Fontenille* in Lauris, in the Luberon, this exceptional new address, restored by the architecture firm Lafourcade, marks Domaines de Fontenille's tenth family venture. Frédéric Biousse and former gallery owner Guillaume Foucher are committed to creating luxury hotels with a home-from-home feel, instilled with a classic atmosphere plus the sunshine of the South. On the menu: gastronomy, wellbeing and nature.

Opening spring 2023.

[www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com](https://www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com)

## HÔTEL MONTE ALTA\*\*\*\*

### SALON-DE-PROVENCE

This contemporary building is located on the heights of Salon, in a quiet area 5 minutes on foot from the mossy fountain and town's historic and shopping quarters. The fruit of two years' work by Bénédicte and Damien Demongeot, it is now a zen hotel with plenty of privacy, where guests feel at home. The spacious ground floor lounge combines retro furniture, works of art and soap cubes, in tribute to Salon's status as the capital of *Savon de Marseille* soap. The well-insulated rooms are genuine cocoons, with 4-star amenities including a dressing room, Nespresso machine, purified water and a study area. Paying homage to the Patrouille de France and the Air Force Aerobatics Team, their names are military-inspired: *Echo*, the largest room, *Alpha*, offering stunning views over Salon, south-facing *Bravo* and the smallest room *Charlie*. The garden harbours a pool overlooking Saint-Laurent collegiate church. The property is not suitable for children under 16 years old.

Rooms from €100 to €144.

[www.montalta.com/en?origin\\_locale=fr](http://www.montalta.com/en?origin_locale=fr)



Hôtel Monte Alta - © DR

## GASTRONOMY

### LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE, THE FIRST ALL-ORGANIC APPELLATION IN 2023

Swept by vine-cleansing Mistral winds, the Alpilles' eleven wine estates and twelve winegrowers will all be certified organic and biodynamic in 2023: a first in France. "It's a genuine tribute to our terroir and its magnificent, protected landscapes comprising Natura 2000 areas and the Alpilles Regional Nature Reserve", underlines Caroline Missoffe, President of the AOC and co-manager of *Mas de la Dame*. Provence is planning to convert its entire terroir to organic and HVE (High Environmental Value) growing by 2030.

[masdeladame.com](http://masdeladame.com)



Baux-de-Provence- © Vignoble Mas de la Dame

### CHOCOLATERIE BAUMANIÈRE

#### LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE

Resembling an old-fashioned sweet shop, this chocolate maker is located on the new Place des Artisans in Baumanière, alongside a shop and pottery workshop. Geneviève and Jean-André Charial are committed to making *Baumanière* a beacon of artisan excellence. Brandon Dehan, Pastry Chef at the mythical Michelin 3-starred *Oustau de Baumière*, has taken up the chocolate challenge, with praline as his signature. In collaboration with Chocolate Chef Julien Despaquis and Head Chef Glenn Viel, his selected origin chocolate bars (Cuba, Sao Tome, Ecuador, Vietnam, etc.) and astonishing candies promise to please. Don't miss his "Cicadas flavoured with garden plants"...

[www.baumaniere.com/en](http://www.baumaniere.com/en)



Chocolaterie Baumanière- © V. Ovessian

## MAS DES BARRES

MAUSSANE-LES-ALPILLES

This 17-acre site on the road to Mouriès in the Alpilles Regional Nature Reserve has been producing olive oil – now bearing the prestigious *AOP Vallée des Baux-de-Provence* label – since 1654. In 2020, the *Mas des Barres* and its olive groves, mainly planted with *Grossane, Aglandau and Salonenque* varieties, were taken over by Isabelle Weill and Paul Dardel, who are currently modernizing the facilities and planting an additional 5 acres in the aim of developing tourist activities focusing on olive oil from Baux valley. In 2022, their *AOP Vallée des Baux-de-Provence* fruity green oil won a gold medal at the *Concours Général Agricole* in Paris. Spanning 1,400 m<sup>2</sup> of buildings, the site will also be welcoming an events space and shop from summer 2023.

[masdesbarres.fr](https://www.masdesbarres.fr)



Mas des Barres - © DR

## LA TABLE DU CHÂTEAU D'ESTOUBLON

FONTVIEILLE

Built in 1731 by the de Grille family, this chateau formed the backdrop for the 1974 TV series *Les Gens de Mogador*. Purchased in 2020 by the LOV Group, specializing in luxury hotels, in association with the Prats family, its muse is now Carla Bruni. Basking at the foot of the Alpilles, the property opens onto 484 acres of rolling hills leading to Les Baux-de-Provence. The chateau continues to pursue its dual vocation: olive and winegrowing. The winner of numerous awards, its *AOP Vallée des Baux-de-Provence* olive oil is dressed in "haute couture" bottles, while its much-acclaimed wines – Roseblood is the "flagship rosé" – should be treated to a new winery this year. In addition to the shop, you'll now find a public restaurant there, headed up by Antwerp-born Chef Wim Van Gorp, a disciple of Alain Ducasse. In fine weather, tables shaded by olive trees next to the mill's historic stone grindstone, invite you to enjoy vegetarian cuisine paying homage to the vegetables, herbs and fruit grown in the splendid vegetable garden created by landscaper Dominique Lafourcade. The chateau, offering ten rooms and suites, can also be rented as a whole.

[chateau-estoublon.com/en](https://www.chateau-estoublon.com/en)



Château d'Estoublon - © DR >

## LA TRIBU DES GOURMANDS

SALON-DE-PROVENCE

Passionate pastry chef Ivan Barès pampers foodies with revisited classics under the stucco of this 1903 soap maker's house, or out on the terrace, with treats including a Paris-Brest cake with pecan nut praline and blackcurrant & violet Mont-Blanc. Ivan explores exciting new taste combinations too – don't miss his chocolate & yuzu Saint-Honoré, liquorice millefeuille, or calisson-inspired Alpilles cake. Situated a stone's throw from Salon town centre, the tearoom also hosts exhibitions and book readings.

[latribudesgourmands.fr](https://www.latribudesgourmands.fr)



La Tribu des Gourmands- © I. Bares

KNOW-HOW

**LAFOURCADE ARCHITECTURE, THE ART OF CONSTRUCTION**

📍 SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

The Lafourcade family, renowned for its expertise in the restoration of beautiful old houses, hotels and wine estates in the South of France, is refurbishing and renting out one of its own creations for the very first time. Mas le Gaudre des Servières lies at the end of a path running alongside the Gaudre river, on the Rougadou road in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. This magnificent site is now enjoying a new lease of life thanks to the talent of exceptional local masons, ironworkers, tilers, plasterers, upholsterers and craftsmen. The vaulted ceilings of the kitchens have been recreated, the fountain designed by Dominique Lafourcade has been carved by a stonemason from the Baux stone quarry and the library's secret door has been restored by a carpenter. The 8 bedrooms, on the first and second floors, are adorned with furniture, paintings, gorgeous light fittings and – unusually – semi-precious stones with soothing properties. Landscaper extraordinaire Dominique Lafourcade imagined the Provencal garden complete with a tea house next to the rectangular swimming pool and orangery. The stuff dreams are made of... Here are just some of the [Lafourcade family's](#) majestic achievements: [Domaines de Fontenille](#), [Château de Mille](#), [Abbaye de Pierredon](#), [Baumanière](#) in the Luberon and Alpilles; [Château de Berne](#) near Draguignan; [Villa Baulieu](#) near Aix-en-Provence.



Lafourcade Architecture - © B. Suet

**ELSA LENTHAL, LAVENDER WAND WORKSHOP**

📍 SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Elsa Lenthal learnt the art of lavender wand making from her grandmother. Now growing 2.5 acres of organic *lavandin grosso* in Baux-de-Provence, she has decided to turn her passion into a fully-fledged business after selling her wands for many years on the local markets. In Provence, lavender wands have been slipped into cupboards to perfume clothing since the 18th century. Today, Elsa is committed to promoting them as decorative objects. You can take part in her wand weaving workshops in the lavender fields, using freshly cut lavender and "Made in France" satin ribbons, from June 20th to September 20th. Available for groups or individuals, they last two hours – and English is spoken! Make sure you book early though... You can also find Elsa at Saint-Rémy's market every Wednesday morning in July and August.

Two-hour workshop: €65. Wands: €30 to €34.

[fuseauxdelavande.com](http://fuseauxdelavande.com)



Fuseaux de lavande - © Joana MacLennan Photography

OUTDOORS

**ORNITHOLOGY IN THE ALPILLES & CAMARGUE REGIONAL NATURE RESERVES**

- 📍 ALPILLES
- 📍 CAMARGUE

The Alpilles and Camargue Regional Nature Reserves are taking part in the European LEADER programme, alongside six other French reserves, in the aim of promoting France's reserves as "Outstanding ornithological tourism destinations". The Alpilles and Camargue areas offer birding fans a host of species to admire, including 13 protected by the LIFE program. The new initiative features six specialist-interest routes, topped with three packages by Excursia and the *Life Alpilles* app. France's Regional Nature Reserves also offer training to professionals awarded the *Valeurs Parc Régional* label.

[www.birdingfrance.info](http://www.birdingfrance.info)  
[oiseaux.parc-alpilles.fr](http://oiseaux.parc-alpilles.fr)



PNR Camargue – © V. Pacaut – The Explorers

**WALKING ON WATER AT VIGUEIRAT MARSH**

📍 MAS-THIBERT

This 500-meter walkway on piles, set inside one of the Coastal Conservancy's most remarkable properties in Camargue, has now been restored with the help of the Procter & Gamble Foundation. It allows visitors to walk atop the water, stopping off at eight interactive cabins where you'll learn all about the remarkable ecosystems of the Rhône Delta and steppe plain of La Crau. Also new: an electric bus now whisks nature tour participants to the reserve..

[www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org/en](http://www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org/en)



Ornithologie Alpilles – © D. Tatin



Marais du Vigueirat- © DR



## PAYS D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**A**ix-en-Provence's beautiful 18th-century mansions, Cours Mirabeau thoroughfare and bubbling old fountains pan out harmoniously under the white veil of Sainte-Victoire mountain, painted over and over by Cézanne. The hustle and bustle of modern-day Provence still harbours pockets of peace: haughty bastides, inspired hills, pine forests and vineyards... Cellars overflowing with wine in the pink are bedecked with works by the finest artists, while music and dance festivals light up this land of olive trees, cicadas and "calisson" candies in every season.



ART & ARCHITECTURE

NIEMEYER AND DYLAN AT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

LE PUY-SAINTE-RÉPARADE

A combined wine estate, palace, contemporary arts centre, oasis of well-being and gastronomic flagship, *Château La Coste* is a one-of-a-kind venue in Provence and France! There's always something to do at this 495-acre estate tucked away in the gorgeous Provencal countryside. Don't miss the pavilion designed by the late great Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Erected between 2010 and 2013, the project was his last gift to France. "It's a magnificent place with a healthy and peaceful environment. I wanted to create a lightweight construction there, in harmony with the landscape and vegetation. It is perfectly adapted to the site and promises to bring joy to visitors". Built in the heart of a Vermentino vineyard, the pavilion houses an exhibition space and auditorium set at the end of a walkway overlooking a curved glass facade and 380 m<sup>2</sup> space. The adjacent auditorium offers around 80 seats. An icon of Niemeyer's organic and sensual signature style, the curvy pavilion embraces the vineyard's hilly environment to perfection. The pond at the entrance plays with sunlight and shade. The Niemeyer Pavilion is one of the finest achievements of the Art & Architecture walk, winding between the vines and dotted with around forty works by Tadao Ando, Renzo Piano and, recently, Bob Dylan...

[chateau-la-coste.com](http://chateau-la-coste.com)



Château La Coste - © WEARECONTENT

Château La Coste - © WEARECONTENT

CHÂTEAU BONISSON

ROGNES

Basking in the Rognes countryside, Château Bonisson has just erected a magnificent winery at the entrance to the estate, where you'll find stainless-steel vats, horizontal and vertical presses, casks and *Oeuf de Beaune* "wine egg" ovoid tanks for wine ageing. Managed by Victoire Le Dorze, the winery is striving for a faultless environmental track record in terms of waste management and energy consumption. The site, which dates back four centuries, is also home to a gallery where Christian Le Dorze shows a selection of contemporary art and artists he has frequented throughout his life. The vineyard's motto? "The fresh perspective". Free admission.

[www.bonisson.com/en](http://www.bonisson.com/en)



Château Bonisson - © DR



Château Bonisson - © DR

## HOSPITALITY

### HÔTEL ESCALETTO\*\*\*

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The 44 rooms of this delightful haven on Cours Sextius, a stone's throw from the Roman baths and town centre, have now been refurbished in sleek white and wood, with cosy duvets. In-house secrets: the panoramic terrace on the 4th floor, where which you can enjoy sunbathing and lapping up the views over the rooftops of Aix-en-Provence, Saint-Sauveur cathedral and Sainte-Victoire mountain.

Double room from €112, quadruple room from €150.

[www.hotel-escaletto.com/en](http://www.hotel-escaletto.com/en)

### LA MAISON MIP

PUYLOUBIER

At the foot of the Sainte-Victoire, Guillaume and Virginie Philip nurture 173 acres of vines on two estates, *Domaine des Diables* and *Domaine MIP*, as in Made in Provence. Their delightfully-refurbished *Bastide Blanche* by *Maison MIP*, offering a spa, jacuzzi and pretty garden, pampers hosts with an in-the-pink immersive experience, in this hub of rosé winegrowing. Accommodating up to 6 people, the seductive and spacious Bastide features a spacious living room opening onto the Sainte-Victoire, with a sofa, coffee table, stools and a mini bar. The adjacent relaxation area is fitted with a sofa, TV, wood-burning stove and arcade machine with nearly 1,500 games. The welcome products are signed by the Aix-en-Provence brand *Rose et Marius*.

From €500 per night excluding weekends in low season (2 nights minimum), €600 in mid season (4 nights minimum), €750 in high season (7 nights minimum). Low and medium season weekend offer, 2 nights from Friday to Sunday: €1,800.

[www.mip-provence.com/en](http://www.mip-provence.com/en)



Hôtel Escaletto - © DR



Maison MIP - © DR

GASTRONOMY

**RESTAURANT AMA TERRA**

📍 AIX -EN-PROVENCE

Tucked inside the 5-star *Hotel Villa Saint-Ange*, the restaurant Ama Terra, meaning "Soul of the Earth", serves melodious, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine signed by Pierre Gagnaire. The dishes are created in conjunction with executive Chef Jean-Denis Le Bras and local producers, and served in the glass-topped dining room or peaceful, shaded garden, in the centre of Aix-en-Provence.

[pierregagnaire.com](http://pierregagnaire.com) • [villasaintange.com](http://villasaintange.com)



**RESTAURANT YVES**

📍 AIX -EN-PROVENCE

Christophe Buffille has opened a must-do eatery named after his father – a market gardener – at 23, Rue Lice des Cordeliers. After 20 years at the service of the world's finest restaurants, Christophe is back to basics, with around a dozen tables serving ultra-fresh market fare at a friendly price. The meal, including a choice of two starters, two main courses and two desserts, comes to about 30 euros. Not to be missed!

[www.yvesrestaurentaix.com](http://www.yvesrestaurentaix.com)

**CHÂTEAU DES TROIS SAUTETS**

📍 MEYREUIL

Ever heard of "vitipastoralism"? It refers to a synergy of winegrowing and farming: the animals provide free weeding services and their manure nourishes the soil... The Chaullier family story began with the mother, Laurence, the owner of a herd of Rove goats. Then came her three sons, Thomas, Matthieu and Nicolas, who decided to replant the estate's 16 acres of terraces with vines, hence creating the smallest vineyard in Provence's smallest appellation – AOC Palette -, at the gateway to Aix-en-Provence. The dad has now joined the adventure too and the vineyard heralded its first vintage in 2020. Visitors can enjoy a 1½-hour guided tour, including the cellar and goat farm, followed by cheese tasting paired with red or white wine: the fruit of a Clairette, Bourboulenc, Grenache and Ugni Blanc blend.

2020 white 75 cl, €25 - Tour & tasting, €15.

[www.chateaudestroissautets.com](http://www.chateaudestroissautets.com)



Château des Trois Sautets - © Cova productions

**VILLA BELLEVUE AT CHÂTEAU CALISSANNE**

📍 LANÇON-DE-PROVENCE

A former 19th-century registrar's house, the beautifully restored Villa Bellevue now welcomes business and family events for up to 40 people. Set in 2,965 acres of vines and olive trees, it offers 360° panoramic vistas spanning Sainte-Victoire mountain and Etang de Berre sea lake. This gorgeous building, decorated with a frieze inspired by Paul Elie Ranson, is available for rental, with services including tasting workshops and oenology classes. Château Calissanne has kicked off the year in style: its owner, Sophie Kessler-Matière, has just been made an Officer of the Order of Agricultural Merit. What's more, the Evooleum contest named their Font de Leu AOP Aix-en-Provence olive oil the best in France... Shop on site.

[www.chateau-calissanne.fr](http://www.chateau-calissanne.fr)



Huile Font de Leu © Calissanne

KNOW-HOW

LE CHAMP DES COULEURS

LA ROQUE D'ANTHÉRON

Part of a family of market gardeners from La Roque d'Anthéron, Laura and Amandine Roussier have been putting plant dyes back in the limelight since 2016. They manage the whole production chain, from seed collection to pigment harvesting and packaging. To obtain their indigo blue, maya blue, reseda yellow and madder red, Laura and Amandine select plants rich in pigments that grow well on this particular soil. Their favourites are *persicaria tinctoria* for indigo, dyer's madder or *rubia tinctorum* for red and *reseda luteola* or dyer's rocket: a large biennial plant reputed for its yellow dye. Filtering, purification, drying, grinding and extraction of pigments are performed using natural methods. Sold in micronized powder forms, they can be used in all types of formulas: dyes, cosmetics, soaps, paints or inks. Whole plants and pigments are available from the online store. Introductory days in summer.

[lechampdescouleurs.com](http://lechampdescouleurs.com)



Le champ des couleurs - champ de persicaire - © DR

Le champ des couleurs, Amandine et Laura roussier © Studio Payol

THE SECRETS OF ROSE & MARIUS

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Workshop. 10 years ago, Magali Fleurquin Bonnard created the best-selling *Vin rosé*, a unisex fragrance topped with a candle and diffuser, which even found its way into the Élysée! The new "Perfume and rosé wine" workshop invites visitors to plunge into the mystery of the best-selling perfume, with its fruity and woody notes inspired by three AOP Provence wines. Participants taste a few drops of each, smell, marvel and leave with a delicious grape seed soap engraved with their first name...

Perfume bar. How to create your own perfume in a few minutes? *Rose et Marius* provides 21 magical essences and a host of tips, so you can set off home with your own candle or diffuser stamped with the brand's famous tile motifs. You can savour these fragrant experiences at the superb *Rose et Marius* boutique in Aix-en-Provence, bedecked with a fireplace, boudoir, traditional tomme floor tiles and dried flowers, inspired by Magali's grandma's boutique.

Workshops from €45 to €95.

[www.roseetmarius.com/en](http://www.roseetmarius.com/en)



Rose et Marius - © DR



# MARSEILLE AUBAGNE CÔTE BLEUE

The fruit of a cosmopolitan love story, France's oldest city is a fountain of youth. Its 111 villages and uniquely down-to-earth yet refined lifestyle, combining ancient and modern, attract increasing numbers of visitors every year. The shores of Marseille harbour many treasures such as the **Cosquer Cave**, whose replica can now be admired next to the **Mucem**, together with coves made for surfing, sundowners and togetherness... And the shadow of Marcel Pagnol still roams the hills he described so beautifully, crowned by the iconic, herb-scented **Garlaban**.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### CORNICHE KENNEDY

MARSEILLE

After four long years, the restoration work on Marseille's Corniche Kennedy coast road – nicknamed the "world's longest bench" – has swept up a prize at the *American Concrete Institute Excellence Awards*.

A safe cycle path now runs along the Corniche for 2 kilometres. This new promenade also allows cyclists and walkers to rediscover the mosaics designed by art therapist Paola Cervoni, with the help of 140 partner associations and students from 55 schools: i.e., 201 metres of benches dressed in the colours of the sky and Mediterranean down below.



© Helios Images - R. GRUNCHEC - Provence Tourisme

### LES ÉLÉGANTES

MARSEILLE

Nicknamed *Les Éléantes*, the five cranes on the city's sea wall have been saved once more after a close shave in 2001... Soaring to a height of 40 metres, these giants, commissioned in 1961 to develop port activity, are icons of Marseille's industrial legacy. Three years of restoration work, funded by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and Grand Port Maritime de Marseille, were needed to restore them to their former glory.

[www.marseille-port.fr/en/port-visit](http://www.marseille-port.fr/en/port-visit)



Musée Subaquatique - © G. Ruoppolo

### MUSÉE SUBAQUATIQUE

MARSEILLE, 7<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

The waters off *Plage des Catalans* beach now harbour the tenth underwater sculpture installed by the *Musée Subaquatique* museum. The latest work is by Bruno Catalano, a Marseille-born artist known famed worldwide for his *Travellers*: depictions of people with fragmented silhouettes, walking with their luggage. The underwater museum is defined as an artificial art reef, also designed to foster marine biodiversity by encouraging fish, shellfish, algae and various organisms to make a home there.

[www.musee-subaquatique.com](http://www.musee-subaquatique.com)

### POUDRIERIE BUCKET WHEEL

MIRAMAS

Spanning 272 acres of forests and marshes on the banks of Etang de Berre sea lake, this magical historic site is also home to a gunpowder factory dating back to Louis XIV. Three of the powder mills, built under Napoleon III, have been preserved, and one has just been reunited with its bucket wheel! Measuring 6 metres in diameter, the wheel operates during opening hours.

[www.poudrierie.fr](http://www.poudrierie.fr)



Miramas - © ADT 13 - J. Carrière

HOSPITALITY

**MAISONS DU MONDE HÔTEL & SUITES\*\*\*\* APARTMENTS**

📍 MARSEILLE, 1<sup>st</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

16 apartment-suites, set inside an historic building on the corner of Rue Paradis and Rue Francis Davso, have now joined the offering of the *Maisons du Monde* hotel on Marseille's Vieux-Port. Each apartment bears the name of a character from Marcel Pagnol's novels: Marius, Panisse, César, Philomène, Ange or Naïs. Cécile Meslin, Director of the Vicartem Group, designed the sleek interior, with furniture courtesy of Vicartem, plus Art Deco inspirations and very trendy artisan touches: sumptuous wallpaper on the headboards, heated mirrors, a mix of rattan, wood and velvet, top-notch lighting including palm tree chandeliers, and stoneware and ceramic crockery. Four of the apartments (for 3 and 4 people) have terraces.

N.B. *Maisons du Monde Hotel & Suites* offers coworking in association with Wojo. Wandering workers can enjoy settling down in the large room overlooking the Vieux-Port, complete with natural light, hot drinks, ergonomic furniture and, of course, an excellent wifi connection.

37 m<sup>2</sup> apartment from €160 per night.

[www.wojo.com](http://www.wojo.com) • [maisonsdumondehotel.com](http://maisonsdumondehotel.com)

**HÔTEL MAISON JUSTE**

📍 MARSEILLE, 6<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

This little hotel is committed to offering the "right price". Its 20 m<sup>2</sup> rooms feature eco-friendly king-size beds, blackout curtains, a walk-in shower, practical kitchenette and, especially, high-speed wifi throughout. Welcoming 2, 3 or 4 people, they are set under the eaves or overlooking the garden, in the beating heart of the city. Booking, check-in, breakfast and check-out are all done through the dedicated app, but your hosts, Olivier and Naomi, are on hand if needed.

Rooms from €110.

[justejuste.com/en](http://justejuste.com/en)

**HÔTEL CHÂTEAU BEAUPIN**

📍 MARSEILLE, 8<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Standing on Pointe Rouge, this is one of the rare chateaux in Marseille to have withstood real estate pressures. It was built in the 19th century by Paul Sédille, the architect behind the *Printemps* store in Paris, now a listed monument. The 14 rooms and apartments, including Paul Sédille's own abode at the top, gazing out over the sea, are decorated in beautiful deep colours – e.g. blue greens – that lend them a "Parisian" mood. You'll find light meals on offer there all year round, also served to non-residents, and a chef presides over the 55-cover restaurant in summer. Pool. Member of *Les Collectionneurs*.

Rooms from €140 to €230.

[www.chateau-beaupin.com](http://www.chateau-beaupin.com)



Maisons du Monde - © N. Aneston

Hôtel Maison Juste - © F. Raynaud

## HÔTEL HILTON GARDEN INN\*\*\*\*

📍MARIGNANE

The former *Pullman Marseille Provence* is enjoying a new lease of life under the *Hilton Garden Inn* banner. In addition to its spacious grounds with pool and light-filled *MIA* bar-restaurant, the hotel is immediately adjacent to Marseille-Provence airport and just 10 minutes away from Aix-en-Provence's TGV high-speed train station. Its fully-equipped, modular meeting rooms can accommodate up to 250 guests. The airport shuttle service operates 24/7 and the car park is free.

[www.mia-marseille.com](http://www.mia-marseille.com)



Hôtel Hilton Garden Inn - © DR

## HOTEL GOLDEN TULIP\*\*\*\*

📍MARTIGUES

The town's first 4-star hotel borders Caronte channel, connecting Etang de Berre sea lake to the Mediterranean. The 72 rooms, some with balcony, enjoy stunning views over the water, plus an outdoor pool. You can enjoy breakfast on the rooftop, also the venue for a lounge bar and evening restaurant perfect for watching the sun go down. Ferrières beach is just 2 km away if you fancy an idyllic dip in the Med.

[martigues-provence.goldentulip.com/en-us](http://martigues-provence.goldentulip.com/en-us)



Hotel Golden Tulip - © S. Delaye

## MAISON D'HÔTE BASTIDE BEAUDINARD

📍AUBAGNE

Set at the gateway to Aubagne, this 15th-century bastide swathed in 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> grounds - the former property of the Counts of Langlade -, now delights guests with three rooms and two suites: *Lou Cigalou*, *Campagne Langlade*, *Garlaban*, *Marcel Pagnol* and *the Atelier du Potier* (potter's studio), showcasing Made in Aubagne *santon* figurines and ceramics. All offer views over the Garlaban, Sainte-Baume hills or tree-filled grounds, where you'll also find a pool, tennis court and pétanque court. A shared kitchen is available and hot drinks are free of charge. Tour guide Yohann Da Costa knows the area like the back of his hand: he offers excellent sightseeing advice and will happily accompany you on request. Green Key label.

Rooms from €130.

[www.bastidebeaudinard.fr](http://www.bastidebeaudinard.fr)



Bastide Beaudinard - © DR



## GASTRONOMY

## MARSEILLE - HEARTFELT EATERIES

## LE RÉPUBLIQUE

📍 MARSEILLE, 1<sup>st</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

This fabulous address on Rue de la République, nestling between the colonnades of a brasserie dating back to 1900, a short hop from the Vieux-Port, is France's first solidarity restaurant catering to a mixed clientele. Serving 200, it welcomes traditional customers plus people who have booked their meal through one of the 86 *La Petite Lili* charities. Lili was the name of Chef Sébastien Richard's mother and it is to him that we owe this unique project. 10% of the standard bills go to finance charity meals. The fare is excellent and affordable, and punters are free to share their tables and make new friends. 60 chefs, all members of the association *La Petite Lili*, are in charge of the dishes. Top names include Michelin 3-star chefs Gérald Passadat, Alexandre Mazzia and Glenn Viel, together with Armand Arnal, Emmanuel Perrodin, Georgiana Viou and Thierry Marx.

Dish of the day: €14.50.

Starter-Main Course-Dessert: €25.

[restaurantlerepublique.com/#lerestaurant](http://restaurantlerepublique.com/#lerestaurant)



Le République - © DR

## LES BEAUX METS

📍 MARSEILLE, 9<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Unique in France, this restaurant set inside Les Baumettes prison sprang from a smart idea: help prisoners return to normal life. The project is led by the prison release support structure and association *Festin*. Offering 42 covers, the comfortable, sleek and sober dining room in the former women's quarters opens onto the hills. Chef Sandrine Sollier (who formerly worked alongside Michelin 3-star chef Gérald Passadat) and her brigade of prisoners due for release within 2 years, serve cuisine concocted with fresh produce from Monday to Friday, at 12.30 and 1.15 p.m. Fruit and vegetables from the prison vegetable garden will be on the menu in coming months. You'll need to complete a few formalities before settling down to eat at *Les Baumettes*. Bookings - open to adults only - are online at least four days in advance, so the administration can check your record. You'll need ID too, mobile phones stay at reception and alcohol is prohibited. Restaurant access is via a small courtyard, at the remand centre. A guard at the entrance confides: "It's an excellent rehabilitation project. It helps visitors lose their preconceptions too and realize prison is a place where life goes on."

Set menu €29 to €35.

[www.lesbeauxmets-marseille.fr](http://www.lesbeauxmets-marseille.fr)



Les Beaux mets - © C. Dutrey

## L'APRÈS M

MARSEILLE, 14<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Located at Carrefour Sainte-Marthe in the northern quarters of Marseille, this one-of-a-kind eatery is all the rage! Signed by Michelin 3-star Chef Gérald Passadat, you can grab a bit to eat there for an unbeatable €5.90. The speciality? A burger baked in a mould complete with a beef or fish filling. The *Ovni du Chef* meal, including fries and a drink, costs €9.60. You can eat in or take out, along with wraps and donuts, in the cheerful decor of a former McDonald's - hence the name (*L'Après M* means the After M). This social and community initiative also encompasses an association and mutual aid platform with the same name. Come as you are!

f [L'Après M](#)



L'Après M - © DR

## MEET MY MAMA

MARSEILLE, 14<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Launched five years ago in the Île-de-France region, this business incubator, dedicated to offering 1-year training to female entrepreneurs, has just taken on 6 budding chefs newly arrived in Marseille. We'll be back in a year to enjoy their new catering service, offering dishes from the world over.

[www.meetmymama.com](http://www.meetmymama.com)



Meet my Mama- © DR

## FOOD CUB

MARSEILLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

This concept restaurant at the Docks Village - a cross between a business incubator and food corner - offers a 10-month showcase for entrepreneurial chefs keen to make a name for themselves. It's definitely worth popping over there to savour a gourmet kebab, flammekueche, Indian, Shawiya or Berber specialities or treats from Aleppo and the East...

[www.lesdocks-marseille.com](http://www.lesdocks-marseille.com)



Food Cub - © Treizelux

## MARSEILLE - STREET FOOD

### CAMION AM

📍 MARSEILLE, 8<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Recognize the name? Of course you do! Michelin 3-starred Chef Alexandre Mazzia, the talent behind the *Michel* food truck in the St-Giniez quarter, woos passers-by with a tempting blackboard of delicacies with the "Mazz touch", priced from €9 to €19. So what will it be? A Hot-Mazz (100g lamb with galangal, sweet & sour chilli jelly and smoked carrot mousse), Cass-Mazz, Bun-Mazz, Beira-Mazz or Choco-Mazz? Bon appétit!

[www.alexandre-mazzia.com](http://www.alexandre-mazzia.com)



Le camion AM - © D. Girard

### PAN-BAGNAT BY DIANE & FRANÇOIS

📍 MARSEILLE, 7<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Head over to Boulevard de la Corderie, in the heart of the Saint-Victor quarter, to savour Diane and François' delicious, revisited pan-bagnat rolls: traditional, vegetarian or slightly spicy Tunisian style. Round off with a bag of crisps from Allauch if you're extra-hungry...

📷 [@bagnat\\_marseille](https://www.instagram.com/bagnat_marseille)



© Jubc

## FRESH UP AT THE VIEUX-PORT FOOD HALL

MARSEILLE, 1<sup>st</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

A magnificent fresh food section has now opened opposite the *Grandes Halles* food hall on Cours d'Estienne-d'Orves. Goodies on offer include cheese, charcuterie, bread, fruit & veg, fresh pasta and spices. You'll find a marine-style tavern on the 1st floor too, open all day from Tuesday to Sunday.

Opening Spring 2023.

[www.lesgrandeshalles.com](http://www.lesgrandeshalles.com)



Halles du Vieux-Port - © DR

## LE PAIN À L'AIL

MARSEILLE, 1<sup>st</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

The little Rue de la Tour, a stone's throw from Marseille's Vieux-Port, overflows with must-do addresses. Real crowd-pullers, Linda Vila Palleja's sandwiches inspired by Provençal cuisine – aioli, beef stew and even bouillabaisse – are served with *panisse* chickpea flatbread or Corsican *fiadone* flan... Everything is homemade and frankly, we can't get enough of it! Linda has now opened a second shop at 30, Rue Berlioz, near Castellane (6th arrondissement).

[painailstreetfood.fr](http://painailstreetfood.fr)



Pain à l'ail - © DR

## MARSEILLE COFFEE BREAK

French people consume an average of 6 kg of coffee each every year. And would you believe it, the tradition first took root in Marseille! The city's merchants shipped coffee beans to the great Mediterranean port from the 15th century onwards. In 1644, Pierre de la Roquer returned from Constantinople with the equipment needed to roast the beans and prepare the magic brew.

France's first public café opened its doors near the city's Vieux-Port in 1671, under the impetus of Pascal Haroukian, an Armenian nicknamed Pascali. He baptized the venue and drink alike "café". The coffee fad spread so fast that doctors were alarmed. But its success never dwindled: magnificent cafés sprang up everywhere in the 19th century, including the *Café Turc* and *Café Riche*, where many artistic and political movements were born. Coffee is now an intrinsic part of French lifestyle... And it's resolutely here to stay!



Café Luciani- © DR

### COFFEE BY LUCIANI

📍 MARSEILLE, 13<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Cafés Luciani (ex Escudier) have been supplying the people of Marseille with excellent "caoua" (the local nickname for coffee) for the last 160 years. And enthusiasts continue to flock to their roasting workshop swathed in delicious scents in the Saint-Just quarter, to pick up coffee beans and ground coffee for their daily brew. Frédéric's beloved Vittoria coffee roaster – he has been roasting his beans with it for the last 30 years – stands amid hessian bags from Brazil and Colombia, and a wooden bean silo. The Luciani family, led by André and his son Jean-Baptiste, is committed to maintaining artisan production and quality. Top chefs Gérard Passadat and Alexandre Mazzia's menus now feature their signature Imperial blend, curated by their grandfather with beans from Central America. Another loyal client: the singer Clara Luciani. To be savoured on the city's finest terraces...

On sale at local delicatessens, online and at the shop (St-Just metro station), from €6 to €8.50 for 250 g.

[www.cafe-luciani.fr](http://www.cafe-luciani.fr)



Café Luciani- © DR

### LA TISSERIE

📍 MARSEILLE, 7<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Speciality coffees, sourced from small arabica producers often committed to sustainable agroforestry practises, represent just 2% of the global market. Ex-special needs teacher Gallien Jeanroy developed a taste for them while he was travelling in Australia. You can savour his top-quality coffees, lovingly roasted on site, on Rue d'Endoume. Once a month, you can also enjoy a 3-hour deep dive into his secrets: how to select the coffee beans, exalt their aromas and roast green beans without burning them... You'll also find La Tisserie's coffees at Razzia (6th arrondissement), or *Pétrin Couchettes* (1st arrondissement).

[www.tisserie.coffee](http://www.tisserie.coffee)



La Tisserie- © DR

OUTDOORS

MARSEILLE, SAILS TO THE WIND

MARSEILLE, 8<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

Panning out around the shores of the Med, the city of Marseille is endowed with a bay appreciated by top yachtsmen and sailors. Every day, over 70 athletes from the French team train here in the framework of the *Pôle France Voile* sailing hub and *Espoir* yachting and kayak hub, attached to the Roucas-Blanc nautical stadium. Thanks to the city's favourable aerological conditions, shores swept by prevailing winds and lack of currents or tides, the stadium has also been chosen as the venue for the next Olympic Games sailing contests. The harbour offers excellent conditions for competitors and spectators alike, with crowds gathering on Prado beach or the Corniche coast road - a genuine balcony ideal for enjoying the show. Demonstrations from July 3rd to 13th, plus a 2024 Olympic Test Event offshore of the Olympic Marina.

[www.paris2024.org/en](http://www.paris2024.org/en)



Marseille voiles au vent - © ADT 13



Marseille - rugby - © DR

A RUGBY CITY TOO

MARSEILLE, 8<sup>th</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

The people of Marseille love football and their beloved *Olympique de Marseille* club, but that's not all!

Last November 12th, the French rugby team clashed with the Springboks at the Vélodrome stadium, also the venue for two European Cup finals, with a record 51,000 spectators attending the Challenge Cup. Rugby has been played here since the stadium opened in 1937 and many local inhabitants have got to know the sport thanks to the *Stade Marseillais Université Club*, founded in 1923 by a rugby player from Toulouse. Football-mad Marseille also has a soft spot for rugby and will be proving it at the much-awaited Rugby World Cup!

[www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023)



Marseille - rugby - © DR

## MARTIGUES GREENWAY

MARTIGUES

Martigues is home to three train stations! Lavera, where the Train de la Côte Bleue stops off, is now linked to the lift bridge in the town centre via a 2-km greenway.

[www.ville-martigues.fr](http://www.ville-martigues.fr)



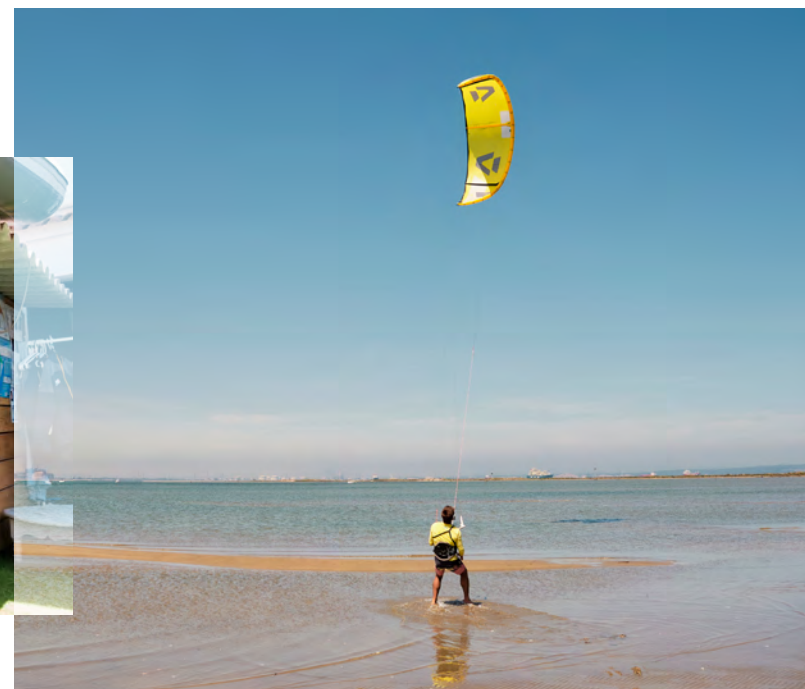
Marseille voiles au vent - © P. AGUILAR

## A WINGFOILING & KITESURFING SCHOOL IN LE ROC

MARTIGUES

The Bouches-du-Rhône is one of France's windiest areas. The increasing popularity of surfing and foil surfing around the city's Carro beaches has inspired the Le Roc school to set up home on Laurons beach, where they now offer kitesurfing, wingfoiling and towfoiling lessons for all levels. Kitesurfing sessions are held at *Pointe de la Gracieuse* in Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône: its generous expanse of sand and shallow waters make it a safe location, ideal for beginners.

[lerocspot.fr](http://lerocspot.fr)



Le Roc - © DR



## FROM CASSIS, TO SAINTE-BAUME & TOULON

Niched at the foot of the flaming red rocks of Cape Canaille, one of Europe's highest maritime cliffs, the **port of Cassis** is a lively meeting place for foodies and sailors alike. Before arriving in the **Bay of Toulon's** sweeping natural harbour – Europe's finest according to Vauban – don't miss a stop-off in **La Ciotat**, ranked one of the "World's Most Beautiful Bays". The Mediterranean's legendary dolce vita is everywhere here, from azure waves lapping the shores to rolling hills and prestigious vineyards, such as **Cassis** and **Bandol**. Drop the anchor in the delicious hilltop villages – **Le Castellet** to name but one. Famed for its racetrack but lesser-known for its medieval heart, it has just joined the élite "France's Most Beautiful Villages" club. A first-class cultural port of call, the buzzing City of Toulon is setting the pace for yet another exciting events calendar.



## HOSPITALITY

## THREE NIGHTS IN CASSIS

Book two consecutive nights between Sunday and Thursday until April 7th, 2023 and get a 3rd night free! The offer, promoted by six local hotels, includes discounts on *calanques* fjords boat tours, restaurant meals and other surprises

[www.ot-cassis.com](http://www.ot-cassis.com)

## MAISON D'HÔTE SUITE 23

📍 CASSIS

Author, photographer, food stylist and horticulturist Magali Ancenay has been concocting her ambitious project for years. An expert in feng shui (she published a book with Hachette in March 2023), this talented Provençal woman has built a house on the heights of Cassis. She called on the finest craftsmen for the interior design, with bedding by Bonnet, ceramics by Pierre Casanova and Patricia Mielinski, and a giant cicada courtesy of the Bufille studio... The house features a large terrace with a pergola, two 35 m<sup>2</sup> suites named *Provence* and *Canaille*, a small pool for relaxing and cooling down, Mediterranean and exotic gardens and vegetable plots. Cooking and gardening classes are in the pipeline.

Rooms from €220 to €320.

[www.suites23.com](http://www.suites23.com)



Cassis - © Ville de Cassis E. Ruf

Maison d'Hôte Suite 23- © M. Ancenay

## L'AMARANTINE

LA CIOTAT

Frédéric and Jean-Marc's property set amid pines and named after amaranth - a flower with de-stressing properties -, features three refined cabins. Romantic, refined and cosy, Ama and Ista both offer a private heated pool. The spacious Adoura, meaning "to adore" in Provençal, boasts a fireplace, jacuzzi under the arbutus tree and gardens. Guests have access to a summer kitchen with barbecue, vegetable garden and pétanque court. Breakfast delivered every morning.

From €250 to €350 per night, minimum three nights.

[amarantine.fr/en](http://amarantine.fr/en)



L'Amarantine - © DR

## LE FRÉGATE PROVENCE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

SAINT-CYR-SUR-MER

The Frégate Provence resort lies at the centre of one France's most beautiful golf courses, basking in the vineyards of Bandol and gazing out over the bay of Saint-Cyr and Cape Canaille. The 100 South-facing rooms and suites, decorated in contemporary Provençal style and measuring minimum 28 m<sup>2</sup>, are spread over two buildings. Amenities include 3 tennis courts, 2 pétanque courts, 5 pools, a fitness space, bar, restaurant and 222 acres of natural scenery. The Frégate Provence Golf & Country Club, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, offers 2 courses: the Frégate (18 holes, 6,209 m, par 71) and Frégalon (9 holes, 2,400m, par 29), equipped with 50 driving stations, 2 putting greens and 50 golf carts. You can even walk all the way to Port d'Alon fjord from there if you fancy.

Rooms from €129.

[www.lefregateprovence.com](http://www.lefregateprovence.com)

A member of the Provence Golf Pass: [www.laroutedesgolfs.com](http://www.laroutedesgolfs.com)



Le Frégate - © DR

GASTRONOMY

LE BAÏTO

CASSIS

Restaurateur Warren Tejedor has joined forces with his childhood friend and winemaker Émile Bontoux at this restaurant serving fish, meat and vegetables cooked over a brazier. The setting, inside one of Cassis' largest estates, is both rustic and elegant: you can enjoy sipping an aperitif seated on heated straw bales before heading to your table adorned with a white tablecloth, amid the vines. Planted with around 75 acres of grapes, *Domaine Cassis-Bodin*, part of the prestigious AOP Cassis appellation, has been producing four white wines, a rosé and two reds since the 19th century. Visitors also come here virtually all year round to enjoy the feasts served noon and evening from Wednesday to Monday in the Nomad's tent, paired with estate wines. Sunday brunch.

[baito-cassis.eatbu.com](http://baito-cassis.eatbu.com)



Le Baïto- © DR

DONA TIGANA

CASSIS

Jean Tigana, the unforgettable Euro '84 midfielder, is now the front man for this 35-acre estate basking under the distinctive silhouette of the limestone *Couronne de Charlemagne*, or "Charlemagne's Crown". You'll often find the footballer, or his daughter Cannelle, in the large stone winery overlooking vines tumbling down to the sea. Visitors can opt for a guided tasting session (€12) with or without a charcuterie and cheese platter (€28). *Dona Tigana* celebrates summer every Tuesday in high season, with DJ sets, Eighties vibes and cheese or pizza platters paired with estate wines. Renowned chefs enjoy a carte blanche one evening a month throughout autumn and winter.

[www.domaineladonatigana.com](http://www.domaineladonatigana.com)



La Dona Tigana- © DR

THREE STARS FOR VILLA MADIE

CASSIS

It's a hat trick for Dimitri Droisneau! Elected Chef of the Year 2022 by his peers, this Normandy chef's talent was rewarded with a 3rd Michelin star in 2022 – a distinction he shares with his wife Marielle, in charge of the dining room of this magnificent establishment hovering over Corton cove and sheltered by Cape Canaille. After earning their spurs at various prestigious eateries (Michel Guérard, Marc Veyrat and Martin Berasategui for him, and Lucas Carton and Bernard Pacaud for her), Dimitri and Marielle finally joined forces at the *Réserve de Beaulieu*, a few dozen kilometres to the East. Foodies will be pleased to learn that the *Brasserie du Corton*, set above the Michelin-starred restaurant, also offers succulent surprise menus and 3-dish selections. Meals €60, prior booking recommended.

[lavillamadie.com](http://lavillamadie.com)



Villa Madie- © E. DeSousa

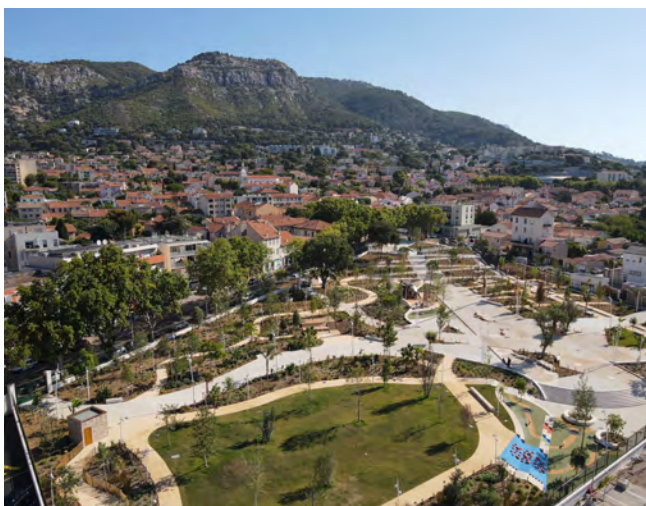
OUTDOORS

**A NEW LANDSCAPED PARK IN LA LOUBIÈRE**

TOULON

This new, 16,000 m<sup>2</sup> park is the 85th of its kind in a city overflowing with green spaces and gardens. A real city centre treat! In keeping with the "Mediterranean Sustainable Quarters" initiative, even the soil of this former industrial wasteland has been changed: 12,000 m<sup>3</sup> of new, clean soil will be welcoming 5,000 shrubs and 250 trees, including typical cork oaks. Toulon city council, which has created over 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> green spaces in recent years and planted over 3,000 trees, was ranked "France's Greenest City" in 2019 and recognized as a "Territory committed to nature" by the French Biodiversity Agency.

[metropoletpm.fr](http://metropoletpm.fr)



Parc paysager de La Loubière - © Ville de Toulon

KNOW-HOW

**2CV MEHARI CLUB CASSIS**

CASSIS

The *Mehari Club Cassis* and its passionate members have been preserving the Citroën legacy and handing down its artisan and industrial know-how for 35 years. They even use the original 2CV and Méhari tools! And the future looks bright: the 2CV Mehari Club has just designed a "Made in France" electric Méhari, baptized the *Eden*, at its Cassis workshops. The 2CV Méhari Club Cassis hosts guided tours of its various iconic workshops: the chassis production line, upholstery and ironwork, engine overhaul, and reconstruction and electrification of old vehicles... The 90-minute tour treats participants to a deep dive into the various professions and know-how behind the preservation of France's automobile heritage. You'll also find classic Citroën cars on display in the showroom. A Living Heritage Firm.

[www.mehariclub.com/en](http://www.mehariclub.com/en)



2CV Mehari Club - © DR

**CASTEL DE FIES**


SOLLIÈS-PONT

This 25-acre organic fig grove in the heart of Gapeau valley - the world's fig capital - is home to a farmhouse welcoming ten guests, plus a prestige suite for two. It is one of the rare remains of an estate formerly belonging to the Seigneurs de Forbin. The site can be privatized for weddings, private events, seminars and meetings. Wine tasting and local arts & crafts every Friday evening from May 12th. *Castel de Fies* can also be visited by appointment, preferably on Mondays or Thursdays.

[www.casteldefies.fr](http://www.casteldefies.fr)



Castel de Fies - © Var Tourisme



## MANOSQUE, PAYS DU BUËCH FROM SISTERON TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the beautiful Southern Alps, the hills of Haute-Provence, rising 700 to 1,200 metres above sea level, pan out in the sunshine under a comfy forest blanket. Trees cover 70% of the 500,000 acres comprising the **Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve**. **Orpierre** and its cliffs offer a thrilling adventure playground for climbing enthusiasts from the world over. Guarding the gateway to this magnificent area, the citadel of **Sisteron** stands on the Napoleon Road and "Route du Temps" heritage trail leading to **Digne-les-Bains**. Dotted with geological treasures, the trail offers stunning views over **Lure mountain**, a herbalist's paradise.

ART & ARCHITECTURE

MEET SISTERON!

SISTERON

Sisteron and its famous citadel are definitely worth a visit! But you can do it remotely too if you'd rather, thanks to the "Sisteron, virtual discovery" app available for smartphones and tablets. You can also use the app on site, to enjoy a voyage back in time while you roam. Don't miss the "zigzag" drawbridge, recently restored after several years of research by the association ATM (Arts Theatre Monuments). Its mechanism is unique in France.

[www.citadelledesisteron.fr](http://www.citadelledesisteron.fr)

[www.sisteron-buech.fr](http://www.sisteron-buech.fr)



Citadelle de Sisteron - © AD04 - Itinera Magica



Citadelle de Sisteron - © AD04 - Itinera Magica

HOSPITALITY

LE COUVENT DES MINIMES HÔTEL & SPA - L'OCCITANE\*\*\*\*\*

MANE

After three years of improvement work, the *Couvent des Minimes*, a 5-star Relais & Châteaux Virtuoso establishment, has now been transformed, enlarged and embellished. The 49 rooms and suites measuring 30 m<sup>2</sup> or more offer vistas over the superb cloister and natural scenery of the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence area. You can also rent out the 255 m<sup>2</sup> church for private events. The L'Occitane Spa now spans 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> in a separate building and features outdoor and indoor pools, plus flawless rituals by L'Occitane using essential oils and natural ingredients promising long-term wellness. A new pool has been added and the old pool has been converted into a garden. Louis Gachet is executive chef of the two restaurants: the gastronomic *Le Cloître* and bistronomic *Le Pesquier*, now offering more covers. The chef is set to pamper *Le Cloître* guests with Provencal-inspired cuisine incorporating his extensive culinary track record – he was born in Burgundy, trained in the Jura region and presided over *La Chèvre d'Or* in Eze.

Reopening in autumn 2023.

[www.couventdesminimes-hotelspa.com](http://www.couventdesminimes-hotelspa.com)



Mane - ©VCC04 - T. Vergoz

## LA VILLA CASTELLANE

GRÉOUX-LES-BAINS

Set opposite the thermal complex, the Marquis de Castellane's former hunting lodge now offers 38 rooms and 22 apartments, plus a suite and two superior rooms, all swathed in elegance and comfort. The bistronomic restaurant and lounge bar boast an exceptional selection of wines by the glass. The spa and fitness area open onto the swimming pool. The villa's clientele includes spa guests and golfers alike, as the *Golf du Luberon* course is just 22 kilometres away.

Rooms from €95.

[villa-castellane.fr](http://villa-castellane.fr)



La Villa Castellane - © DR

## LE COTTAGE DE SOPHIE\*\*\*

SISTERON

This ancient farm, now a 3-star hotel with 5 rooms and suites, lies on the road running from Sisteron to the hilltop village of Valernes. Sophie Vincembeau, the talent behind the charming *Patio de Sophie* in Sisteron, has put her interior design expertise to work in the spacious lounge with exposed stonework, now adorned with shells, rattan furniture, terracotta, wrought iron and beautiful grege furniture. The hotel basks in 5 acres of breathtaking natural scenery with 360° views over Sisteron to the South, Lure mountain to the West, the Hautes-Alpes to the North and mesmerizing *Pointe de Gâche de Saint-Geniez* to the East. The cottage is the departure point for a delightful 7 km walk and the fortified town of Sisteron is just 5 km away.

Dinners subject to prior booking, bicycles available. Open from March to October, rooms from €180.

[www.lecottage-desophie-sisteron.com](http://www.lecottage-desophie-sisteron.com)



Le cottage de Sophie - © S. Vincendeau

## LES TERRASSES

LARAGNE-MONTEGLIN

Laura Lombard and Valentin Samtmann met in Marseille – she's from London and he's from Salon-de-Provence. Valentin's studies in motorcycle mechanics sparked his passion for restoration. Set in the heart of the Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve, on Route Napoléon, the ten welcoming rooms of *Les Terrasses*, decorated by artists, overlook the river and Chabre mountain. Valentin pampers guests with traditional cuisine "like my mother makes". A fabulously friendly address.

Rooms from €64 to €96.

[www.leterrasseslaragne.fr](http://www.leterrasseslaragne.fr)



Les Terrasses - © L. Lombard

GASTRONOMY

LA CAMELERIE

MANE

This confectioner makes vintage olive oil caramels – you can see them on show behind the large bay window. After a whirl in the copper cauldron, the delicacies are shaped and moulded by a series of ancient machines to form succulent caramel squares. Set inside an 18th century silkworm factory, the site also boasts a gorgeous garden – now a butterfly refuge –, set opposite Salagon priory. *La Caramellerie* is part of the Maison Brémond network including the *Leblanc* confectionery in Banon, the Forcalquier biscuit factory, *Roy René* confectionery, and *Olivier* ecomuseum, dotted along the "territoire-provence.com" eco-tourism route.

Opening in spring 2023.

[www.territoire-provence.com/caramellerie](http://www.territoire-provence.com/caramellerie)



La Caramellerie - © DR

KNOW-HOW

TERRE D'OC

VILLENEUVE

One of the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence foremost firms since 2022, *Terre d'Oc* is continuing its forward march with an elegant new boutique-workshop, located between Oraison and Manosque. Stop off there to stock up on home perfumes, wellness goodies and teas – the house speciality sourced from small producers. You can now buy their refined blends in bulk. The boutique's bay windows also offer visitors a glimpse of the incense, diffuser and essential oil packaging workshop.

*Terre d'Oc*, a subsidiary of *Nature & Découvertes*, employs 60 staff.

[www.terredoc.com](http://www.terredoc.com)



Terre d'Oc- © DR



Terre d'Oc- © DR



OUTDOORS

**RETRouvance BUËCH DEVOLUY:  
ON THE ROAD  
TO OUR FORGOTTEN VILLAGES**

📍 LARAGNE-MONTÉGLIN

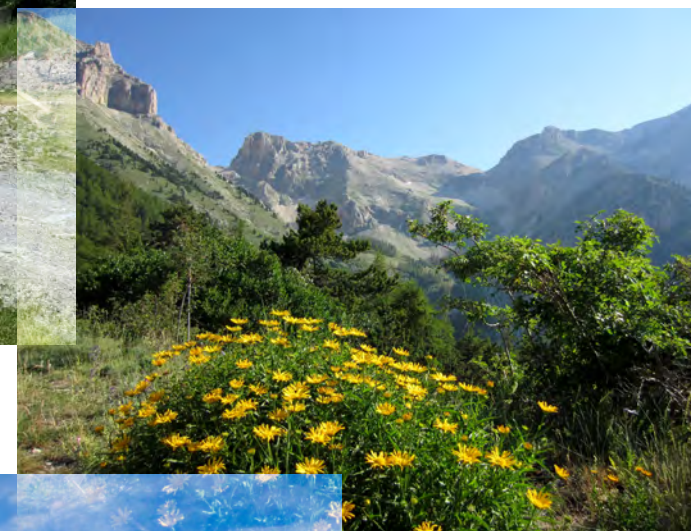
Enjoy a 6-day hike in the Pays de Buëch area, stopping off at four abandoned villages... This *Retrouvance* (a French National Forestry Commission brand) holiday experience won the Challenge 2023 prize at the French *Territoires Insoupçonnés* (Unexpected Places) competition. The groups of 5 people minimum, which can comprise individual participants, are led by a mountain guide and coordinator, with accommodation at a beautifully restored forester's house in one of the villages. Nestling between the Southern Alps and Provence, on the border of the Drôme, the Buëch area is swathed in alpine lakes, forests, pastures and torrents... The *Retrouvance* break – an immersive, back-to-nature experience – is marketed by Ahimsa-Voyages.

[ahimsa-voyages.com/alpes-du-sud](https://ahimsa-voyages.com/alpes-du-sud)

[www.sources-du-buech.com](https://www.sources-du-buech.com)




Retrouvance Buëch-Dévoluy © P. Lefevbre



Retrouvance Buëch-Dévoluy © JB. Gache



Buëch Randonnée- © E. Burllet



## VERDON PROVENCE VERTE DRAGUIGNAN AREA

texte  
toujours  
trop long  
à tailler

**T**urquoise and lavender... This beautiful area is dressed in countless shades of blue. The Verdon river snakes its way 175 kilometres from Col d'Allos to the Durance. Home to the spectacular Verdon Canyon and Sainte-Croix lake, the Verdon Regional Nature Reserve forms its beating heart. Stretching around Draguignan and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, the green and fertile Provence Verte area is dotted with a string of pretty villages clinging to the banks of the Argens river. Water abounds here, transforming every valley into a green oasis. In addition to climbing, hiking and white-water sports, Moustiers-Sainte-Marie introduces visitors to the joys of clay and earthenware, while Valensole plateau titillates the senses with scents of lavender and clary sage... From Tourtour or Bargème - the Var's highest village at an altitude of 1,097 metres -, verdant expanses pan out as far as the eye can see, encompassing vineyards coveted by stars and world-class artists. Who knows, you might just come across George Clooney or Brad Pitt. What else?!

ART & ARCHITECTURE

MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS

DRAGUIGNAN

Four years of refurbishment work, coordinated by the architectural firm *Brochet-Lajus-Pueyo*, have restored Monseigneur du Bellay's ancient summer palace in the heart of the town centre to its former glory, complete with trumeaux, a monumental staircase and 19th-century wallpaper. The new extension offers a fitting showcase for masterpieces such as Rembrandt's iconic *Child with a Soap Bubble*. The new museum layout also includes works by Philippe de Champaigne, Van Loo, Renoir and sculptures by Houdon and Claudel, plus a cabinet of curiosities containing 17th to 20th century objects, including François de Montmorency's armour and naturalized specimens.

Opening second half of 2023.

[tourisme.dracenie.com](http://tourisme.dracenie.com)

HOSPITALITY

LE CHÂTEAU DE TAULANE VERDON GOLF & SPA\*\*\*\*

LA MARTRE

Sprawling at the gateway to the Verdon Canyon, next to the Napoleon Road, this 18th century chateau surrounded by 840 acres of land - including a 200-acre golf course -, has now reopened after a few months of refurbishment work. Its 30 rooms promise to enchant anyone who loves space, simple elegance, authenticity and golfing. Named Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's (and even France's) most beautiful course several times by *Fairway* magazine, the adjacent golf course is South African champion Gary Player's first French feat. Domaine de Taulane's 18-hole, Par 72 layout boasts an unrivalled variety of styles and challenges. Two Sicilian chefs concoct excellent Italian and Provencal specialties at the *Trattoria da Mario*, complete with a terrace opening onto the course.

A member of the Provence Golf Pass

[www.laroutedesgolfs.com](http://www.laroutedesgolfs.com)

[www.chateau-taulane.com](http://www.chateau-taulane.com)

HÔTEL CLOS DIÈRE, DOMAINE RABIEGA

DRAGUIGNAN

The *Hôtel Clos Dière* used to be an oenology school for Swedish lovers of Provence wines. Yohan and Blenda Adell von Corswant have breathed new life into this Provencal bastide, whose 27 rooms now combine Nordic simplicity with a passion for antique furniture. It nestles at the heart of the Rabiega estate, producing red wines (now certified organic) on 30 acres of terraces since the 16th century. The renowned *Clos Dière* vintage is named after this quarter of Draguignan, a kilometre from the town entrance. Ex-Top Chef Jean-Baptiste Ascione, now at the helm of the *Bistrot Rabiega*, has his eye on a Michelin star.

Bottles from €8 to €40. Rooms from €100 to €350, mini bar and breakfast included.

[rabiega.com](http://rabiega.com)



Musée des Beaux-Arts - © DR



Le Château de Taulane - © DR



Hôtel Clos Dière - © M. Martin Photography

## VILLA VANADO AT CHÂTEAU DE BERNE

FLAYOSC

The sumptuous *Château de Berne* is tucked away between Lorgues and Flayosc, in 2,470 acres of woods and vineyards. The hotel resembles a genuine village, with a little central square and fountain. Three private villas have now been added to the offering of 34 rooms. Following on from *Jasso and Fito*, 2023 will be heralding the opening of *Villa Vanado*, also with a private pool. Featuring 7 bedrooms and an outbuilding, it enjoys optional 5-star hotel service and is just 3 minutes on foot from the Relais & Châteaux amenities, including a superb Cinq Mondes & Vinésime spa.

The villas are available for short-stay rental (minimum 3 nights) from October 1st to January 1st and weekly rental (minimum 7 nights) from June 4th to September 30th.

[www.chateauberne.com](http://www.chateauberne.com)



Villa Vanado - © Hiddencliffs

## HÔTEL LOU CALEN, ECO-FRIENDLY

COTIGNAC

This hotel is situated in the heart of Cotignac, whose rich and varied heritage has now earned it a place in the select "France's Most Beautiful Villages" club. Highlights include Notre-Dame-des-Grâces sanctuary, Saint-Joseph monastery, 17 fountains and Troglodyte dwellings...

*Lou Calen* offers rejuvenating holiday experiences, instilled with scents of lavender and olive. The hotel is opening 12 new rooms in 2023, together with a family pool complete with a lagoon and waterfall cascading down the rocks. A pastis bar serving around fifty aniseed drinks is scheduled this summer, plus two event spaces welcoming 25 and 250 guests.

Rooms from €180.

[www.loucalen.com](http://www.loucalen.com)



Hôtel Lou Calen - © H. Fabre

## TINY HOUSE AT CHÂTEAU ROUBINE

LORGUES

Two eco-friendly and minimalist *tiny houses* now grace this 320-acre former Knights Templar commandery located on the Roman road. 100% energy self-sufficient, they are fitted with solar panels and sawdust-free dry toilets invented by an engineer from Marseille. Measuring 18 m<sup>2</sup>, the wood-clad abodes were designed at a workshop in the South of France. *Château Roubine* is now a big name in the Provencal wine world and this is a great place to switch off just a few hundred metres from winemaker Valérie Rousselle's cellars, where you'll find reds, whites and rosés grown biodynamically since 2020. Enjoy a stroll along the estate's wine walks to learn more about botany and oenology, or opt for a cookery class.

From €139 per night.

[en.parceltinyhouse.com](http://en.parceltinyhouse.com)

[www.chateauroubine.com](http://www.chateauroubine.com)



Tiny House - © DR

## CHÂTEAU DE TARADEL GUEST HOUSE

TARADEAU

Erected in 1788, *Château de Taradel* has been welcoming guests since its change of ownership. The 50-acre estate includes a 12-acre vineyard, grounds and woods. The main building harbours three gorgeous rooms and two suites with sleek bathrooms. The *Palmier* self-catering gite at the entrance to the grounds offers three bedrooms, a bathroom and living room with open-plan kitchen. The Chateau offers two pools plus an excellent concierge service. Optional pick-up service at Les Arcs – Draguignan TGV high-speed train station 5 km away.

Rooms from €250, gite from €3,000 per week.

[chateau-de-taradel.com](http://chateau-de-taradel.com)



Maison d'Hôte- © DR

## UNE HISTOIRE DE FAMILLE

COLLOBRIÈRES

Sébastien Borello has just opened a guest house in the Var area's chestnut capital, opposite the family's *Hôtel des Maures*, welcoming foodies in the heart of the hills since 1886. In keeping with the manor-style architecture, the five rooms are decorated in a blend of Haussmannian and contemporary styles. A pool basks on the rooftop terrace and a brewery producing Provence chestnut beers is set to join the offering by the end of the year.

Rooms from €100.

[www.unehistoiredefamille83.com](http://www.unehistoiredefamille83.com)



Une Histoire de Famille- © ComptedeCom'

## GASTRONOMY

### AUBERGE DES BRACONNIERS

AMPUS

Insiders claim they've seen Sofia Coppola there... This country bistro with its old-fashioned decor of mosaics and exposed stones, is one of the treasures of the medieval village of Ampus, a Var "Village de Caractère" perched 600 metres above Nartuby gorge. You can now enjoy sleeping off their succulent cod brandade or Provençal beef stew in one of the 4 upscale rooms designed by Bertrand and Lisa Urtado, combining the building's traditional architecture with contemporary touches.

Rooms €120 room with breakfast.

[www.bistrotdepays.com/les-braconniers](http://www.bistrotdepays.com/les-braconniers)



Auberge des Braconniers - © DR

## CHÂTEAU MENTONE

SAINT-ANTONIN-DU-VAR

Sébastien Sanjou, the talent behind the *Relais des Moines* in Les Arcs, has now taken over the reins of this venerable eatery first mentioned in ... 1033! A thousand years and counting, who could beat that? Tucked inside an old farm, *La Table de Mentone* also pampers guests with the luxury of home-grown produce from the olive grove, vegetable garden, orchard and chicken coop. Not forgetting wines from 79 acres of Ecocert-certified vines. You can take time to savour it all on site thanks to the charming accommodation options: guest suites in the wooden cabin nestling at the foot of an old oak tree, three duplex apartments in the *Mas du Moulin*, or six rooms to share in the old oil mill.

[www.chateaumentone.com](http://www.chateaumentone.com)



Château Mentone - © chateaumentone

## LA TABLE DU MOULIN

LORGUES

Chef and "Best French Artisan" Jacques Rolancy invites foodies to enjoy a friendly and delicious culinary experience in a character-filled old mill in the centre of Lorgues.

[www.restaurant-la-table-du-moulin-lorgues.com](http://www.restaurant-la-table-du-moulin-lorgues.com)



Lorgues - © Var Tourisme - O. Simon

## BISTROT DE PAYS DE RIBOUX

RIBOUX

Extolling the virtues of slow food, this *Bistrot de Pays* establishment is located between Signes and Gémenos, near a village home to just 47 inhabitants, under the pine trees of the Sainte-Baume Regional Nature Reserve. Philippe returned to his home region to build the bistro from scratch, complete with travertine stones, exposed beams, antique furniture and a fireplace... Maryvonne offers guests a home-from-home welcome, topped with hearty local dishes including tripe & trotters, roast lamb, Provençal wild boar or beef stew, local cheese and charcuterie platters. The terrace under the pines is the starting point for numerous hikes: don't miss Saint-Pilon chapel set above Sainte-Baume cave, forming part of a sanctuary dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene.

Dish of the day on weekdays from €12.

[www.bistrotdepays.com/riboux](http://www.bistrotdepays.com/riboux)



Bistrot de Pays de Riboux- © DR

KNOW-HOW

**TONY PARKER  
AT CHÂTEAU LA MASCARONNE**

📍 LE LUC

The Var's vineyards are welcoming yet another celebrity this year! The legendary San Antonio Spurs basketball legend and NBA star Tony Parker has got together with Michel Reybier at Château La Mascaronne. Michel owns numerous wine estates, including Cos d'Estournel, and is the creator of the luxury hotel brand *La Réserve* – so you'll find naturally Château La Mascaronne wines at *La Réserve* Ramatuelle! The Franco-American Tony grew up in Lyon and is a devout foodie who knows his way round a bottle of wine. The local growers sometimes crack open a bottle of '82 – his birth year – when he visits. His aim? To make one of the finest rosés in Provence. The vineyard is entirely organic and La Mascaronne also produces extra-virgin AOP Provence olive oil.

[www.chateau-lamascaronne.com/en](http://www.chateau-lamascaronne.com/en)



Château La Mascaronne - © S. Clavel

OUTDOORS

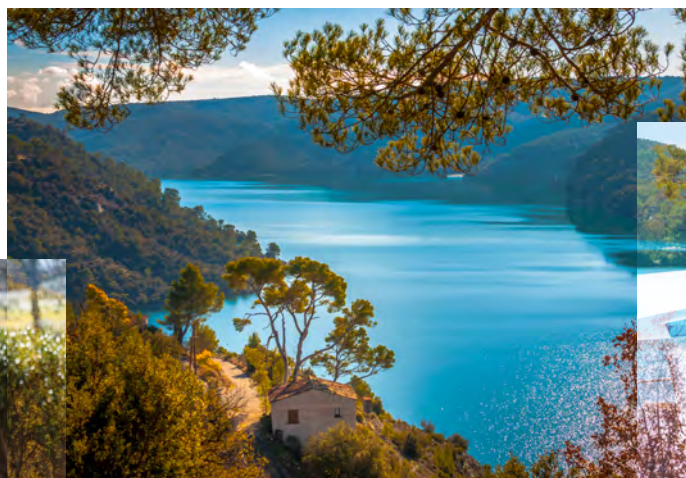
**VERDON CROISIÈRES**

📍 ESPARRON-DE-VERDON

From April 2023, the Durance-Luberon-Verdon Tourist Office will be inviting visitors to hop on board an electric boat for a tour of Esparron-de-Verdon lake. It's the only boat trip available on the river, so not to be missed! The mini cruise heads up the turquoise waters to the entrance to the lower Verdon Canyon, near the Gréoux-les-Bains dam. Highlights include a 12th century keep, the gorgeous architecture of the village of Esparron and arid river banks. A real change of scenery...

Adults €10 – children €5.

[en.durance-luberon-verdon.com](http://en.durance-luberon-verdon.com)



Lac d'Esparron-de-Verdon - © AD04 - P. Murtas



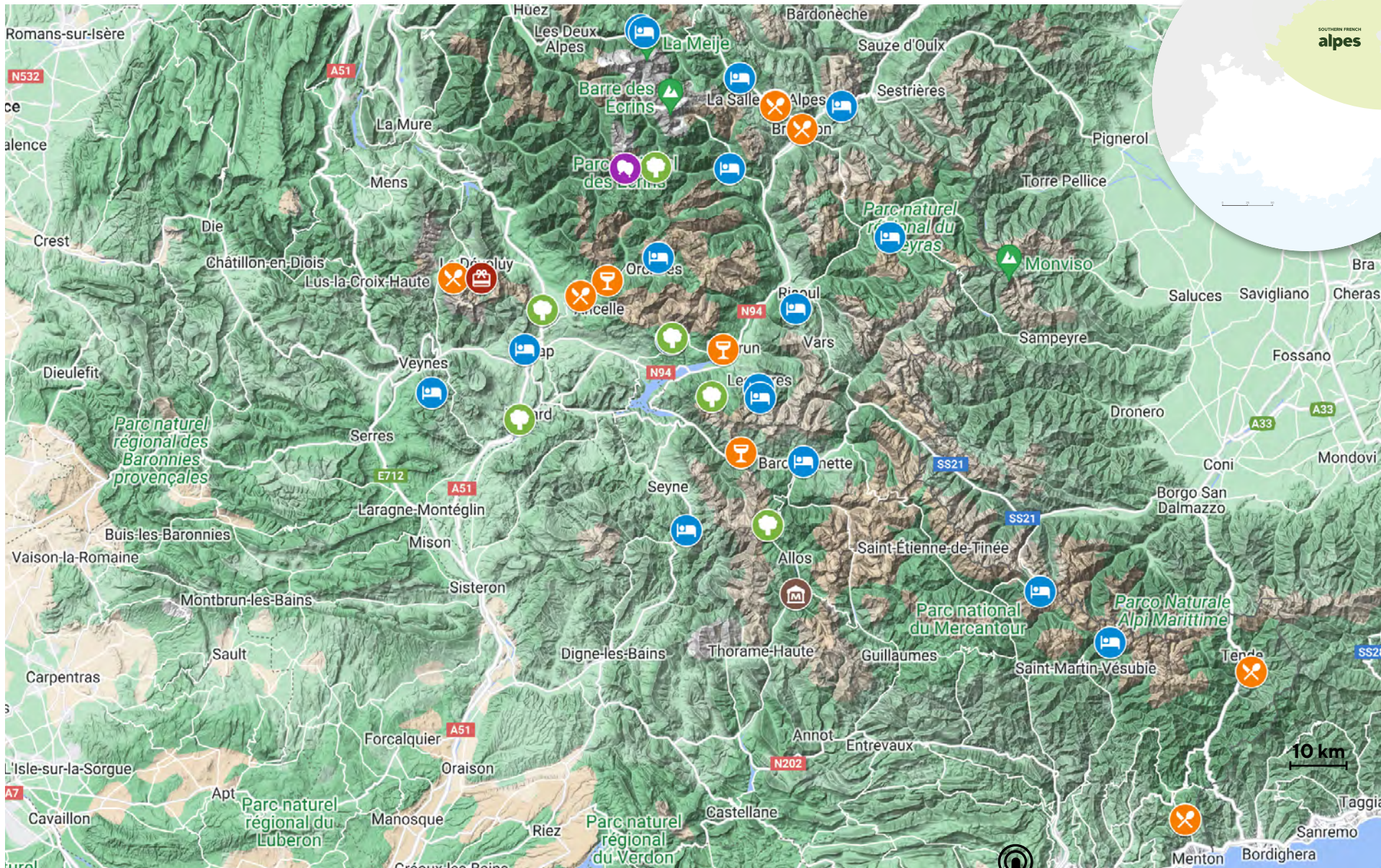
Verdon Croisières - © P. Iecq



# ALPES



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS



CLICK HERE



## GAP AREA CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY

The town of **Gap** – the administrative capital of the Hautes-Alpes area – is steeped in the atmosphere of the Southern Alps. Along the ancient Napoleon road, the bluish horizons of Provence give way to breathtaking scenery and Europe's highest bocage adds an extra green touch to **Champsaur valley**. **Valgaudemar**, on the other side of the valley's emblematic **Chaillol mount**, is France's most Himalayan valley, while **Pic de Bure**, the region's largest astronomical observatory, gazes out over the striking mineral formations of the **Massif du Dévoluy**.

## HOSPITALITY

### CHALET LE KITZ

📍 ORCIÈRES

Perched at an altitude of 1,950 metres, amid slopes crossing the tiny hamlet of Forest des Estaris, *Le Kitz* was formerly a shelter for shepherds come to make sheep's milk cheese in days gone by. This historic, 120 m<sup>2</sup> chalet has now been completely restored using local larch wood. Its 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, with sweeping views over the ski resort and Champsaur valley, can welcome up to 10 guests.

[www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)



Chalet Le Kitz - © OT Orcières

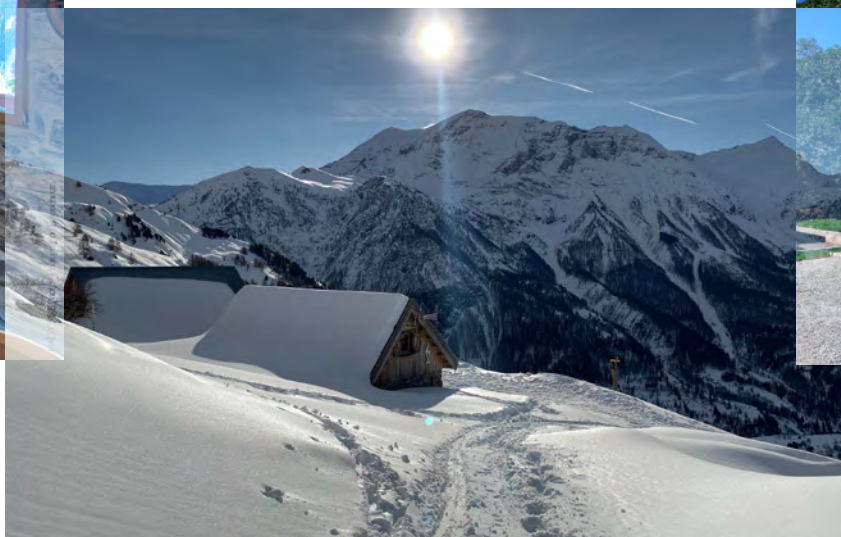
### LUMINSENS, DEFINITELY DIFFERENT

📍 GAP

Health professionals with a holistic outlook, Frédérique and Daniel Walsere are the brains behind this "energetic hub", ideal for recharging your batteries. The site comprises a deconstructed villa, with four LumiPods scattered throughout 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of meadows, above Gap. Offering 180° vistas over the valley and peaks of the Hautes-Alpes - Le Brec de Chambeyron and Le Viso -, each glass and wood bubble measures 15 to 43 m<sup>2</sup>: one contains a living room and kitchen, two feature a bedroom and bathroom and the fifth houses a spa. The "villa" as a whole can be rented out and comes with the joys of a heated swimming lane. An aperitif is included in each rental, for two nights minimum.

€750 per night, minimum two nights.

[www.lumi-n-sens.com](http://www.lumi-n-sens.com)



Chalet Le Kitz - © DR

### LE PETIT BÉGOU - B&B

📍 SAINT-AUBAN-D'OZE

Audrey has opened three "country chic" B&B rooms at her family farm on the outskirts of the little village of Oze. Dressed in linen, wood and dried flowers, their gorgeous natural materials exalt the exposed stone walls. One room offers views over the mountains, while the other two overlook the apple and pear orchard, tended to by Audrey's arborist husband. Don't miss the exceptional fruit and fruit juices served with the *table d'hôte* dinners and breakfast! A holder of the "Accueil Paysan" Label.

Rooms from €85 to €110.

[www.lepetitbegou.com](http://www.lepetitbegou.com)



Le Petit Béguou - © DR

## GASTRONOMY

## GUILLAUMETTE DRY GENEPI

📍 SAINT-JEAN-SAINT-NICOLAS

The talent behind a distinguished genepi liqueur, winner of the Excellence prize at the 2021 *Concours Agricole*, Maison Guillaumette now produces a dry genepi with half the usual sugar content, applauded by restaurateurs and mixologists alike. The distillery, located at Pont-aux-Fossés in the town of Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas, at the gateway to Écrins National Park, is open to the public mornings and afternoons.

[www.guillaumette.com](http://www.guillaumette.com)



Génépi dry de Guillaumette - © Genepi Guillaumette

## WELCOME TO THE FARM!

📍 SAINT-LAURENT-DU-CROS

The Hautes-Alpes is one of France's most-organic areas, with a whopping 500 or so farms committed to organic production, many of which welcome visitors. Fancy savouring some high-alpine lamb, apples or cheeses?

**A few addresses:** the *Ebrard* cheese dairy in Chabottes - where you'll find the coveted *Crèmeux des Ecrins* cheese and whipped fromage blanc with blueberries - is celebrating its 120th birthday. *Salaisons du Champsaur* is a charcuterie specialist, whose secrets have been handed down from father to daughter since 1987. Different but just as tempting: two husband-and-wife farmer teams have converted an old sheepfold in the hamlet of Matherons, in the ski resort of Ancelle, where they now offer a range of organic farm produce (eggs, potatoes, etc.) grown on mounds at an altitude of 1,300 metres. You'll find jams, pestos and aperitif nibbles at *Les Soldanelles*, plus two rural gites, introductions to permaculture and hikes with the house donkeys...

[www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com](http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com)



Rendez-vous à la ferme - © P. Domeyne



Rendez-vous à la ferme - © P. Domeyne

## GOURMET

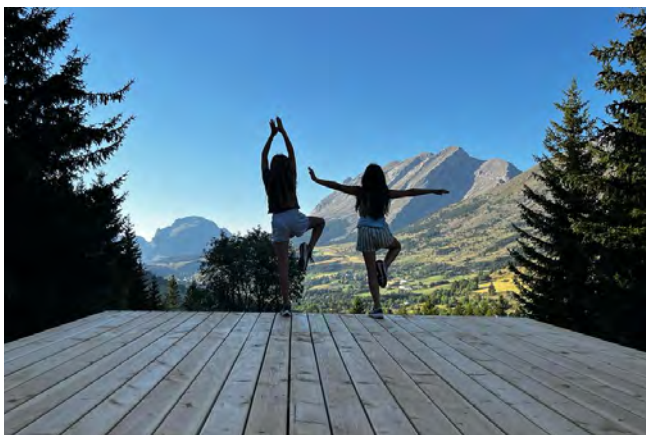
## CHALET NAÏSKA

📍 LA JOUE DU LOUP

Perched at an altitude of 1950 metres, at the arrival of the Les Fontettes telemix (open in summer), this wooden chalet boasts an exceptional location above Joue du Loup and facing the draped slopes of the Dévoluy mountain chain. Audrey Bouteiller, Benoît, and their dog Chukka, now the chalet's mascot, took over the reins of this high-flying establishment in September 2022. The fare is simple and family-style, with freshly-tossed pancakes savoured on wooden tables. You can spend a night there too if you book ahead – the pretty wood-clad rooms bedecked with felt curtains open onto the picturesque surrounding scenery. You can travel up on a snow groomer on certain dates in winter, to feast on a fondue before spending a night a little closer to the stars.

Snow groomer ride, fondue and night: €480 for two guests. €199 per night in winter, from €159 in summer.

[chaletnaïska.fr](http://chaletnaïska.fr)



Des Cimes et des Racines © DR

## KNOW-HOW

## DES CIMES ET DES RACINES

📍 LE DÉVOLUY

Country-born herbalist Luc Bernard has been exploring the rocky scree and ridges of the Dévoluy mountain chain for nearly 40 years, collecting sea buckthorn and larch flowers and growing edelweiss and genepi at high altitudes. You'll find the syrups, herbal teas and creams he makes with the fruit of the land at his farm *L'Herbier du Dévoluy*. His encounter with yoga teacher Maryline Schied prompted him to build a cabin complete with a meditation platform, tucked away among the spruces and larches of Bois Rond forest. You can climb up there to enjoy a Tibetan Singing Bowl sound bath while contemplating the peaks of Pic de Bure and mount Arrouze. The session ends with a cup of herbal tea or soup cooked over a wood fire. Pure magic.

Thursday afternoons and Tuesday evenings €40, plus €15 for the meal.

[herbierdudevoly.fr](http://herbierdudevoly.fr)



Le Naïska © OT Le Dévoluy



Le Dévoluy - © F. Thibault

## OUTDOORS

### BIATHLON EVOLUTION

📍 GAP BAYARD

High-level athlete Yann Debayle, a member of the French biathlon team until 2007, created *Biathlon Evolution* in the aim of offering training amenities and encouraging sports fans of all levels to give it a go. He has now partnered up with Frédéric Jean, also a biathlete and former coach for the French women's biathlon team: "The idea is to develop biathlon and introduce children, teenagers and adults from in and around the Hautes-Alpes to the discipline. We offer four laser rifles, five air rifles and three .22 long rifles for the 50-metre event." The two athletes offer training sessions in Pelleautier, a few kilometres from Gap, or on Gap-Bayard plateau at an altitude of 1,246 metres.

[biathlon-evolution.fr](http://biathlon-evolution.fr)



Golf Gap-Bayard © Gap-Bayard OT GTV

### HIGH MOUNTAIN BALLOONING

📍 TALLARD

*Alpsudmontgolfiere* invites visitors to admire the Southern Alps from on high - and even very high, because they are the only firm offering flights at altitudes of over 4,000 metres! Kitted out with oxygen, the four passengers even enjoy a chocolate fondue on board... The flying adventure takes off from Orcières at sunrise, from November to March - weather permitting of course, although Champsaur valley offers great flying conditions all year round. The team also offers slightly less unique but equally spectacular year-round family flights over the mounts of the Southern Alps: a great chance to admire Ceüse cliff shaped like a big birthday cake, the jutting Pic de Bure, Ecrins mountain range and vast blue expanse of Serre-Ponçon lake...

Flights from €250, high-altitude adventure €385.

[alpsudmontgolfiere.com](http://alpsudmontgolfiere.com)



Vol en montgolfière au départ d'Orcières Merlette © P. Domeyne



## SERRE-PONÇON EMBRUN UBAYE VAL D'ALLOS

**S**ailing, windsurfing, rafting or a spa break? Basking to the South of the Hautes-Alpes area, **Serre-Ponçon lake** resembles a small inland sea, dedicated to the joys of boating and bathing. **Embrun**, nicknamed the "Little Nice of the Alps", stares down at the lake from the top of its rock. **Ubaye valley's** natural legacy remains untarnished despite its turbulent past, offering a virgin paradise for hiking, skiing and white water sports. In the 19th century, a mad migratory story unfolded in this magical valley, still visible today in the shape of **Barcelonnette's** Mexican-style villas.

## ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE

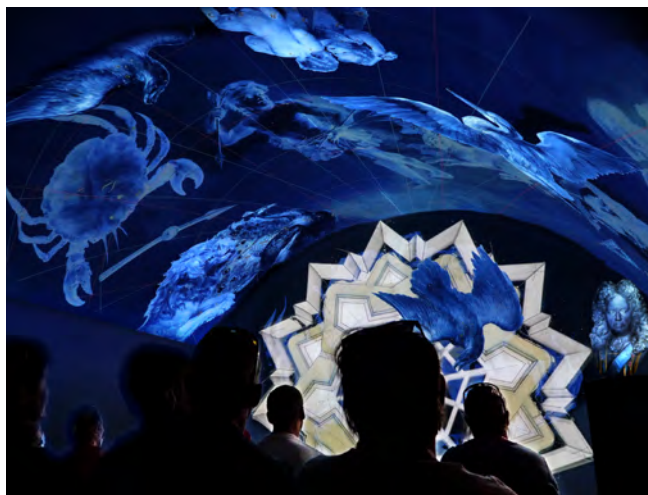
## THE STORY OF VAUBAN

📍 COLMARS-LES-ALPES

This 20-minute multimedia show in the guard room of Fort Vauban promises an exciting foray into the medieval town of Colmars. Set overlooking the Verdon river, Colmars formerly marked the border between the Kingdom of France and Savoie. Prolong the pleasure on the walkway leading to the ramparts and fortified towers.

From July 1st to September 30th, 2023.

[www.verdontourisme.com/en](http://www.verdontourisme.com/en)



Le récit de Vauban- © DR

## HOSPITALITY

## APPART'HÔTEL YOONLY &amp; FRIENDS\*\*\*

📍 RISOU

This aparthotel, opened in spring 2022, is a great choice for 18-35 year-olds keen to get away from it all, have fun and share plenty of forever memories - mainly freeriders who love the resort's (very) festive atmosphere! It is ideally located on the snow front, 400 metres from the Pelinche ski lift. The 63 apartments for 4, 5, 6 and 9 people are spread over 7 floors, with direct access to a shared kitchen, terrace and relaxation area. Some feature an equipped kitchenette. Holidaymakers, seasonal workers and valley inhabitants alike enjoy chilling at the chic, industrial YoYobar-restaurant. You can opt for a yoga class on Sundays too, including warm-up exercises and detox tea. Smart locks allow fast and easy check-in. N.B. A new *Yoonly & Friends* establishment is scheduled to open in Briançon's ancient barracks in 2024. From €250 per week for 4 people.

[www.yoonly.eu](http://www.yoonly.eu)



Appart'hôtel Yoonly & Friends- © OT Risoul

HÔTEL LE BALCON DES ECRINS\*\*\*  
VACANCES LÉO LAGRANGE

📍 REALLON

This fully-refurbished hotel is now the 3-star *Hotel Le Balcon des Écrins Vacances Léo Lagrange*. The 37 rooms with 2 to 5 beds overlook the mountains. The hotel is instilled with the Léo Lagrange philosophy, promoting the right to holidays and leisure for all. Priority goes to accessibility, social and intergenerational diversity, environmental friendliness, working hand-in-hand with local inhabitants and fostering a great entente between holidaymakers and staff. Strongly committed to the environment, the Léo Lagrange clubs proudly sport the Clé Verte, Marque Valeur Parc and Plastic Origin labels, plus partnerships with the Surfrider Foundation, France Nature Environnement and Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux (Bird Protection League).

From €80/night.

[www.lebalcondesecrins.com](http://www.lebalcondesecrins.com)



Le Balcon des Ecrins- © DR



## LE GÎTE 05

📍 LES ORRES

A group of musicians and cabaret enthusiasts, united by 25 years of passion for French songs, now heads up this former summer camp converted into a 13-room lodge, set at an altitude of 1,450 metres. You'll find well-being treatments here, plus pure air and great music at the novel dinner shows. Each room features 4 beds (a double bed and two bunk beds) and looks out over the forest. Guests also enjoy a bar with board games, restaurant kitted out for musical performances, an artists' studio, billiard table, table football, sauna, crazy golf and even yoga lessons. A free shuttle connects the hamlet of Mélézet to Les Orres ski resort.

[www.legite05.com](http://www.legite05.com)



Le gîte 05 - © DR

## LE SPA BY ALPIN D'HÔME\*\*\*\*

📍 LES ORRES

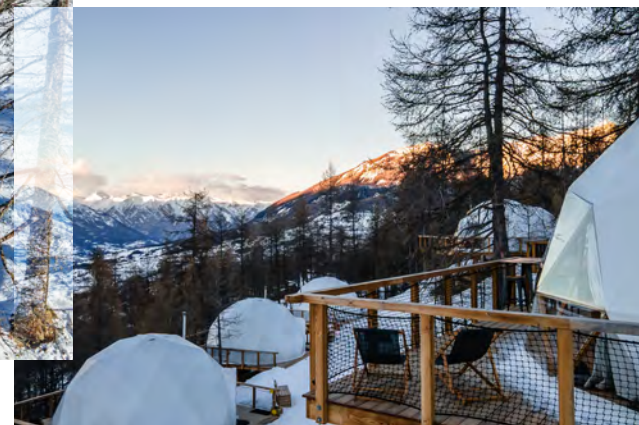
*Alpin d'Home's* new spa is set inside a 200 m<sup>2</sup> dome rising to 8 metres in height. This soothing bubble offers a steam room, sauna, Nordic bath and herbal tearoom. Two treatment cabins, including a duo cabin, welcome guests for delicious treatments courtesy of *Gemology*, reputed for its mineral-packed cosmetics. Don't miss the signature massages with precious warm stones and parent & child treatments with products by Colin Maillard - a genuine ode to the senses. Outside, the 80 m<sup>2</sup> solarium and hanging nets boast exceptional views over the valley and Serre-Ponçon lake. *Alpin d'Hôme* now offers eleven high-end transparent bubbles tucked away among the larch trees. The perfect way to switch off and recharge your batteries.

Domes from €399 to €649/night. Restaurant dinner €25 to €35/pers. Finnish Kota €149 to €249/night.

[www.alpin-dhome.fr/en/spa](http://www.alpin-dhome.fr/en/spa)



Alpin d'Hôme - © Kinaphoto



Alpin d'Hôme - © Kinaphoto

## MAISON D'HÔTE VILLA PUEBLA

📍 BARCELONNETTE

Standing witness to the exodus of Ubaye valley inhabitants to South America in the late 19th century, one of Barcelonnette's most beautiful "Mexican villas" now offers room and board! Its builder made his fortune trading in Puebla, near Mexico City, hence the villa's name. And the same family have lived there since 1880. Laurent Marais and his Swedish wife Tessie were determined to preserve the villa's timeless atmosphere, Art Nouveau ceramics and furniture, and now-restored floral wallpapers. The three guest rooms on the first floor gaze out over the famous *Chapeau de Gendarme* Alpine summit or spacious grounds filled with veteran trees. From time to time, the second floor welcomes artists in residence: the new owners love bringing the house to life with exhibitions and talks.

Rooms €120 and €150 with breakfast.

[villapuebla.com](http://villapuebla.com)



Villa Puebla- © DR



## GÎTES L'INATTENDU

📍 LE VERNET

Cécile Cloître and Bruno Cavagieni took over this lodge perched on a plateau near Seyne-les-Alpes in Vallée de la Blanche in 2020. The perfect place for a getaway break in the middle of nowhere, it offers eleven spacious rooms plus an apartment, all promising 3-star comfort. Bruno is at the helm of the kitchen and meals are served in the dining room or out on the terrace. As its name suggests, *L'Inattendu* (the unexpected), also hosts concerts, events and various get-togethers at the heart of Haute-Provence's UNESCO Geopark. Cyclists, bikers and riders enjoy a warm welcome from Cécile, whose two horses graze peacefully in the meadow next door. N.B. Le Vernet is served by the number 28 bus running from Marseille to Barcelonnette.

Rooms from €77 for 2 guests to €124 for 4 guests, including breakfast.

[linattendu04.fr/en](http://linattendu04.fr/en)



L'Inattendu- © C. Cloître

## GASTRONOMY

### DOMAINE DU MONT GUILLAUME

📍 EMBRUN

Domaine du Mont Guillaume spans 11 acres of vines at an altitude of 880 metres. Originating from Burgundy, Emmanuel and Delphine Berteloot are committed to restoring the lost lustre of two historic winemaking villages: Saint-André d'Embrun and Puy-Sanières. Since 2017, they have been producing organic wines with Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Syrah and Cabernet grapes, plus the endemic Mollard variety, on the south-facing slopes of Serre-Ponçon lake. Take note! Their wines - Clos de la Pinée, Le Roc and Altitude 880 - are only available for purchase in the Hautes-Alpes!

[www.domaine-du-mont-guillaume.com](http://www.domaine-du-mont-guillaume.com)



Domaine du Mont Guillaume- ©P. Domeyne

### LACHANENCHE WHISKY

📍 SERRE PONÇON UBAYE

Lachanenche, an artisan distillery in Ubaye Valley, has just produced very-first whisky brewed, distilled and aged in the region. Free of additives, this organic, single malt whisky is made with French barley and aged for 3 years in an old railway tunnel built in 1880. The taste? Elegant and subtle with gourmet, spicy flavours...

[www.lachanenche.com](http://www.lachanenche.com)



Whisky Lachanenche- © DR

## OUTDOORS

**BALCONIES OVER THE LAKE**

📍 RÉALLON

This little ski resort in the Embrun area is committed to seducing summertime visitors too (currently representing just 10% of total yearly business). And it has plenty of assets to do so... The resort has now created a series of belvederes and a footpath, so everyone can enjoy its breathtaking vistas over Serre-Ponçon lake and the Aiguilles de Chabrières rock formations. Réallon currently devotes half of its revenue to energy and economic transition through the creation of non-snow products even in winter, such as play areas for children.

[en.reallon-ski.com](https://en.reallon-ski.com)



Lac de Serre-Ponçon © B. Bodin

**A NEW MUSHROOM IN BOSCODON FOREST!**

📍 CROTS

Its name is *Calonarius flavomirus*... The high-alpine mycologist Jacques Guinberteau and his wife discovered this magic new mushroom in 2016 in Boscodon forest, home to remarkable biodiversity. This newcomer went on to become the subject of a scientific publication and DNA study. Boscodon forest, a 2,174-acre fir and beech forest, is France's eleventh official "Exceptional Forest" – a distinction awarded by the National Forestry Commission. Now state property, the forest was for many years part of Boscodon Abbey, a beautiful 13th-century Romanesque monument perched at an altitude of 1,150 metres. It is located in the Hautes-Alpes area, not far from Serre-Ponçon lake.

[en.serreponcon.com](https://en.serreponcon.com)



Forêt de Boscodon- © J. Photography

**PASTORAL HIKE IN VAL D'ALLOS**

📍 ALLOS

In the expert hands of a mountain guide, hikers can now get up-close-and-personal with the flocks, help take care of the sheep and learn how to approach their four-legged guardians, locally nicknamed "patous". A dozen or so shepherds are taking part in this initiative to promote their time-honoured know-how. The first pastoral hike should take place on July 4th, but it depends on when the ice thaws and the flocks are herded up to their alpine pastures. This winter 2022-2023, Val d'Allos is currently France's 4th snowiest ski resort...

[en.valdallos.com](https://en.valdallos.com)



© Drone Alp04



## GRAND BRIANÇONNAIS ÉCRINS QUEYRAS

Look up and breathe in! Set at the gateway to the ski resorts of **Montgenèvre** and **Serre-Chevalier**, **Briançon** is surrounded, in the words of Vauban, "with valleys that descend into the abyss and mountains that touch the clouds". The latest French summits conquered by mountaineers, **La Meije** and **La Barre des Ecrins** tease the stars, while the great mountain passes of **Galibier** and **Lautaret** spur on sporting feats. At the gateway to **Ecrins National Park**, the **Queyras Regional Nature Reserve** - a haven of stone pines, larches and traditional craftsmen - shines like an island in the ocean of the Southern Alps...

## HOSPITALITY

### RESTAUBERGE LA REINE MEIJE

📍 LA GRAVE

One of our current faves, this inn in the hamlet of Les Terrasses, at an altitude of 1,800 metres, offers comfy rooms with breathtaking views over La Meije. The new manager, Frédéric Jongen, has added a delightful Belgian touch to both the welcome and choice of beers, while local cuisine has given way to signature sand shrimp fritters.

Half board from €28, rooms from €65.

[reinemeije.com](http://reinemeije.com)



La Reine Meije- © DR

### CHALET LA CABANE

📍 LA GRAVE

This chalet offers 3 rooms with bathrooms set on 4 floors with views over La Meije, a superbly equipped kitchen and balcony overlooking the river. Other amenities include a garage, ski store and very handy boot dryer.

[www.gites.fr](http://www.gites.fr)



Chalet La Cabane- © DR

### NEW APARTMENTS AT HÔTEL LE MONÊTIER\*\*\*\*

📍 LE MONÊTIER-LES-BAINS  
SERRE CHEVALIER

*Hôtel Le Monêtier* is enjoying a new lease of life! Located 200 metres from the original building, *Les Chalets* now offers 6 superb apartments built in wood, for 4, 6 or 8 people. Guests enjoy plenty of room, a terrace, views over the summits, designer furniture, high-quality services and optional hotel services including a concierge, the *Stabatio* restaurant with panoramic terrace and breakfast delivered to your door... The hotel is part of the *Les Hôtels Très Particuliers* group.

From €450 for 3 nights for the Quartz apartment for 2 to 6 guests.

[www.lemonetier.com/fr/appartements](http://www.lemonetier.com/fr/appartements)



Les appartements de l'Hôtel le Monêtier - © LHTP

## MAISON ALLIEY & SPA APPART-HOTEL \*\*\*

📍 LE MONËTIER-LES-BAINS

The same brand, but a new concept: the warm and welcoming Maison Alliey, in the centre of Monëtier-les Bains, now offers 15 aparthotels (studios or duplexes) for 2 to 6 people, available all year round. Guests enjoy a gorgeous spa featuring an indoor pool with massage jets, lauze stone steam room, heated outdoor pool, flower garden and deckchairs facing Pic de Rochebrune. Maison Alliey also rents out a 185 m<sup>2</sup> chalet - Les Clochettes -, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms for 6 to 8 people, set in a country house complete with central fireplace. Other treats in store include à la carte hotel services and a concierge service. The reception is located at 320 Route de Grenoble, where you'll also find the breakfast room and wine bar set around a fireplace.

From €129/night for 2 guests.

[www.alliey.com/en](http://www.alliey.com/en)



Alliey & Spa - © DR

## RÉSIDENCE LE CRISTAL LODGE

📍 CHANTEMERLE

Located on the site of *Hôtel de la Balme*, owned by the family of French ski champion Luc Alphand, this *Terrésens Hôtels & Résidences* lodge is divided into two separate chalets and comprises 20 hotel rooms, plus 26 apartments ranging from studios to 4-room cabins. Both are holders of the new "Daddy Pool" label and feature living and activity areas, topped with an original decor of bric-à-brac furniture, colourful neon lights and houndstooth wallpaper. The delightful atmosphere combines made-to-measure playlists with fragrances of lavender and wood. You'll find a wellness space there too (massage cabin, steam room, sauna and jacuzzi), plus a children's playroom, large underground car park and bar. Residents can opt for the "Welcome Pack" containing travel essentials and set off home with the "Goodbye Pack". Last but not least, the team offers short breaks and overnight stays with hotel services (bed linen, daily cleaning, concierge service).

From €672 per week for a 2-bedroom apartment for 4 guests.

[www.terresens-hr.co.uk](http://www.terresens-hr.co.uk)



Le Cristal Lodge - © Terrésens

## LE REFUGE DU GRAND HÔTEL

📍 SERRE-CHEVALIER

Perched at an altitude of 1,900 metres, this classy chalet with eleven deluxe rooms for 2 to 5 people and an indoor/outdoor bar-restaurant, is part of the Grand Hôtel located down below. Although the Hotel and Refuge were both redesigned by *Studio Frémont*, their atmospheres are very different. The chalet is accessible on foot or via the Serre Chevalier gondola lift and offers breathtaking panoramic vistas over the valley's villages. Guests at the *Refuge du Grand Hôtel* enjoy full board, a courtesy bar and the services and activities on offer at the 4-star Grand Hôtel, including a Nuxe Spa and outdoor pool. The Grand Hôtel also markets luxury apartments designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte.

Open until April in winter and July to September in summer. Rooms €240.

[lerefuge-grandhotel.fr](http://lerefuge-grandhotel.fr)



Le Refuge du Grand Hôtel - © P. Bréchu

## LE CHALET BLANC HÔTEL & SPA\*\*\*\*

📍 MONTGENÈVRE

Perched at an altitude of 1,860 metres, just five minutes from the Chalvet gondola lift, this gorgeous, fully-refurbished chalet combines stone and alpine wood architecture with contemporary touches. The 34 rooms - including one allergy-free - feature balconies and handmade beds. *Le Chalet Blanc* also offers a patio, solarium, swimming pool and wellness centre complete with whirlpool bath, steam room and sauna.

[www.hotellechaletblanc.com](http://www.hotellechaletblanc.com)



Le Chalet Blanc- © DR

## CHALET AU FIL DE L'ONDE

📍 VALLOUISE

Peaceful, welcoming and cosy... Your host and mountain guide Catherine offers guests a warm welcome to this environmentally-friendly, wooden eco-chalet located near Vallouise, featuring 3 private rooms. The *table d'hôtes* shared meals, rich in colours and flavours, are concocted with fresh, local produce. The entire chalet, for 8 to 12 people, can also be rented out on a self-managed basis.

Room for 2 guests from €83. Breakfast €10 per person.

[www.aufildelonde.fr](http://www.aufildelonde.fr)



Au fil de l'onde- © M. Lachaud

## GÎTES MAISON EMME

📍 MOLINES-SAINT-VÉRAN

Lovingly restored by Justine and Mathieu, this typical country house perched at an altitude of 1,730 metres in the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve blends beautifully into the surrounding environment. It now offers four uniquely charming lodgings, aimed at reconnecting visitors with life's simple pleasures. The 4 gîtes for 2 to 6 guests feature a pellet stove, outdoor areas and a myriad of delightful little details to get you in the holiday mood. *La Grande Ourse* is a roomy stone duplex with an attic atmosphere; the self-catering *Bon-Henri* is a small, independent chalet with a garden and river below; *Céleste* is set on the top floor and *Philème*, with its large terrace, is set around a spacious living room.

From €125.

[www.maison-emme.com](http://www.maison-emme.com)



Maison Emme- © Office de Tourisme du Guillestrois et du Queyras



## GASTRONOMY

### PICNIC TIME!

#### 📍 SAINT-CHAFFREY SERRE CHEVALIER

Accessible to all and kitted out with plancha grills and wooden deckchairs (all you have to do is bring along your food and a bit of charcoal in your backpack), these mountain picnic areas delight skiers in winter and hikers in summer. Saint-Chaffrey, one of the five towns comprising the suburbs of Briançon and part of Serre Chevalier Valley, has just joined the club.

[www.serre-chevalier.com](http://www.serre-chevalier.com)

### LE CHAMP DU VAGABOND

#### 📍 BRIANÇON

Recently opened on the main street of historic Briançon, nicknamed "the gargoyle", this tiny restaurant with just 15 covers is a dream come true for fervent wild plant and cooking fans Stéphanie Soulasse and Gaëtan Bartevelle. Their gluten and lactose-free dishes are inspired by the plants and berries they collect in the wild: roasted celeriac, creamed meadowsweet, chocolate & larch tart, or panna cotta with wild carrot seeds... The other ingredients are courtesy of organic producers. Talk about healthy!

 [Le Champ du Vagabond](#)



Serre-Chevalier © T. Blais



Le Champ du Vagabond- © A. Régnier



Serre-Chevalier © T. Blais

## OUTDOORS

### MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL SITES

#### 📍 ÉCRINS NATIONAL PARK

Mountaineering is an art! And to learn it, opt for one of the 15 mountaineering school sites located near the Écrins' *Villages d'Alpinisme* mountaineering villages. The mountaineering school site concept is "one of a kind in France", in the words of Jean-René Minelli, a member of the *Compagnie des Guides Oisans Écrins* guide association. Its members have kitted out natural boulders, climbing routes and waterfalls for beginners at sites located adjacent to seven mountaineering villages. Examples include the Pic des Aupillous ridge (Vallouise-Pelvoux), Pantalón site (Le Monétier-les-Bains), Fréaux ridge and Balmes boulders (La Grave), plus the route leading from Sirac to La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar.

These committed initiatives are set to encourage younger generations to discover the beauty and values of mountaineering. The project is led by the Hautes-Alpes Agency for Economic and Tourism Development in partnership with Écrins National Park, and backed by European funding.

[guides-ecrins.com](https://www.guides-ecrins.com)

### ÉCRINS NATIONAL PARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY

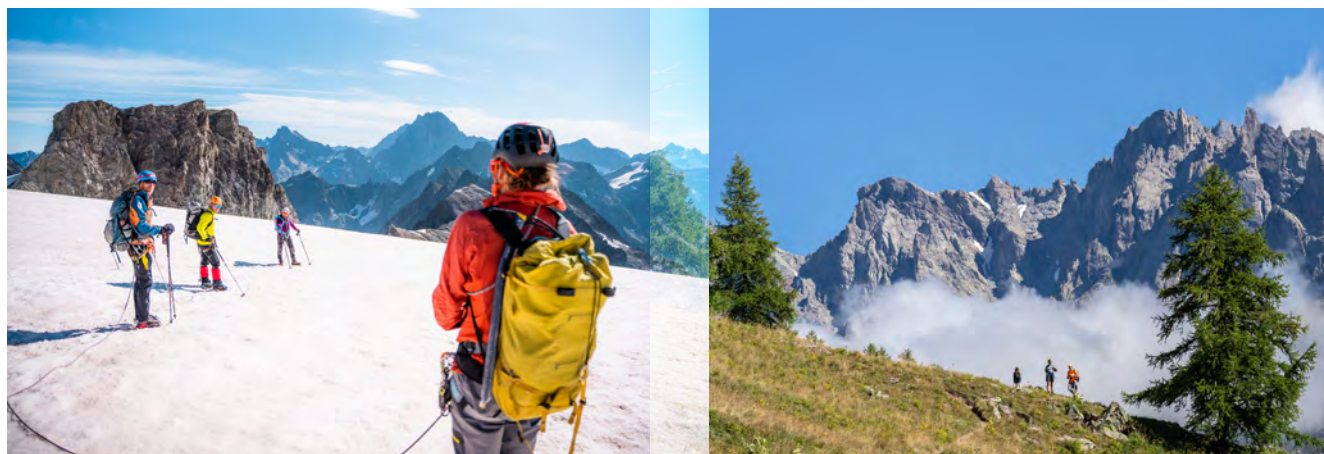
#### 📍 ARGENTIÈRE-LA-BESSÉE

In 2023, Écrins National Park is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its official opening on March 27th, 1973. In fact, the park was born much earlier: its current core is that of the old Bélarde national park, created in 1913. 110 years ago, its aim was to protect the mountain from the impact of excessive grazing. In 1923, it was renamed Pelvoux national park and covered 32,000 acres. In 1960, France finally began creating national parks as genuine tools for the "conservation of fauna, flora, soil, subsoil, atmosphere, waters and the natural environment in general".

When the Parc National des Écrins – France's 5th national park – was set up in 1973, it had already been a conservation test site for 80 years. Now spanning 227,000 acres between the towns of Gap, Briançon and Grenoble, Écrins National Park has always been a scientific hub. Friendly scientific meetings are scheduled throughout the area for the park's 50th anniversary celebrations, with researchers and residents alike meeting up for a series of café-aperitifs, talks and field trips. June marks the peak of this year's events programme.

A call for projects has also been launched in the aim of creating public events at sites throughout the park.

[www.ecrins-parcnational.fr](https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr)



© alpesphotographies.com

© R. Van Rijn



## PRÉALPES D'AZUR MERCANTOUR

From summits to shores, where the mounts of the Southern Alps plunge into the Mediterranean, cheered on by the Côte d'Azur... Set on the Italian border, **Mercantour** National Park is a hiking and rock climbing paradise, whose high peaks unveil the distant sparkling sea. Nestling between the coast and Southern Alps, the **Préalpes d'Azur** Regional Nature Reserve is carved out by small rivers yearning for the big blue - Le Paillon, La Siagne, Le Var and Le Loup -, with peaceful villages perched on their banks, sheltering precious old frescoes and altarpieces.

## HOSPITALITY

### APPARTHÔTEL MMV LES TERRASSES D'ISOLA

📍 ISOLA 2000

Beautifully kept and decorated in cosy colours, this MMV aparthotel offers 2-room apartments and 4-room cabins for up to 10 guests, promising a delightful holiday with family or friends. Guests enjoy a heated indoor pool, AquaZen and AquaTonic classes, and a 200 m<sup>2</sup> relaxation area hosting activities led by fitness coach Lucile Woodward. Children from 4 to 10 years old are treated to their very own entertainment programme - and pets are allowed!

[www.mmv.fr](http://www.mmv.fr)



MMV - © DR

### CABANES PERCHÉES DU BORÉON

📍 SAINT-MARTIN-VÉSUBIE

You'll now find an extra two treetop cabins perched at an altitude of 1,600 metres on the outskirts of the *Parc Alpha* animal park. Welcoming 4 guests, the cabins enjoy breakfast service out on the terrace, plus their own kitchenette. Entry to the animal park (2 adults + 2 children) is free with your stay, and for a small fee you can rent a pair of binoculars to observe the eagles and, of course, wolves.

[www.saintmartinvesubie.fr](http://www.saintmartinvesubie.fr)



Cabane perchée - © DR



Cabane perchée - © DR

## AUBERGE SAINT-MARTIN

📍 LA BRIGUE

This century-old hotel-bar-restaurant, now fully restored, sits between two churches at the heart of the village of La Brigue, in the upper Roya valley. Patrick Teisseire gives pride of place to valley cuisine, also referred to as Cucina Bianca in reference to its proximity to the high valleys of Piedmont and Liguria. Made with typical ingredients from the agropastoral era - flour, potatoes, leeks, legumes and, especially, herbs gathered on the transhumance routes -, it is simple, tasty and healthy. Upcoming: a "Cucina Bianca Route" running from La Brigue to Mendatica in Italy, plus holidays in partnership with AetNature (aetnature.com).

[www.hotel-la-brigue.fr](http://www.hotel-la-brigue.fr)



Auberge Saint Martin - © Pango Visual

## BISTROT DE PAYS L'HARTMONIE

📍 CASTILLON

Castillon - a genuine picture-postcard, with its old stone walls and tiled roofs clustered around a proud bell tower - is a hilltop village located just next to Menton. This new *Bistrot de Pays* establishment serves delightful meals on a shaded terrace in the village centre, at a friendly price. But that's not all: for the first time in France, it also incorporates an ESAT (establishment facilitating employment for disabled workers). Chef Stéphane Taton and his accomplices Jérémy, Sabrina, Élisabeth and Stéphane, have a flair for creative cuisine.

Dish of the day €10.20 on weekdays / €12.50 on weekends. Starter + main course + dessert €19 on weekdays / €21 on weekends.

[www.bistrotdepays.com/castillon](http://www.bistrotdepays.com/castillon)



Auberge Saint-Martin - © R. Cortin



Bistrot de Pays L'Hartmonie - © Kolandjian



Bistrot de Pays L'Hartmonie - © Kolandjian



# CÔTE D'AZUR





## HYÈRES-LES-PALMIERS FROM THE MAURES TO THE ESTÉREL HILLS

A duo of giants, the Maures and Estérel hills stand guard over the flamboyant shores running from **Hyères-les-Palmiers** to **Mandelieu-la-Napoule**. A paradise for hikers, botanists, sportsmen and the protected Hermann tortoise alike, they both rise to maximum altitudes of 780 metres, but the resemblance ends there... Cloaked in deep green cork oaks and vines, the Maures hill chain stands guard over the **Gulf of Saint-Tropez** and is set to become the area's **10th Regional Nature Reserve**.

Different but just as splendid, the red porphyry rocks of the Estérel hills embrace **Fréjus** and **Saint Raphaël**. The two towns are linked by the aptly-named Corniche d'Or coast road, which celebrated its 120th birthday just recently.



## ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE

VILLA NOAILLES 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

📍 HYÈRES

Now a national contemporary arts centre, this villa was commissioned by the Viscount of Noailles and his wife Marie-Laure de Noailles on land gifted to him by his mother for his wedding. "I am seeking an infinitely simple and practical home, where everything would be combined for a solely utilitarian purpose", wrote Charles de Noailles in 1924. Patrons of the arts and close friends with the stars of modern art, Charles and Marie-Laure's villa was one of France's first modern style constructions. A Cubist garden by Gabriel Guevrekian was added to the original Mediterranean garden in 1925.

The couple entertained such illustrious artists as Giacometti, Cocteau, Picasso, Dalí, Buñuel and Man Ray. Today, the Villa Noailles remains a foremost artistic meeting place, with a rich events programme dedicated to architecture (exhibition in February), fashion & photography (International Fashion & Photography Festival), and design (Design Parade in Hyères and Toulon). The villa is celebrating its centenary in 2023 with a series of exciting events from March to November, as well as reissued poems by Marie-Laure de Noailles and various other surprises, in particular on France's Heritage Days on September 16th and 17th.

[villanoailles.com](http://villanoailles.com)

## FORT DU PRADEAU

📍 HYÈRES

It's often referred to as *La Tour Fondue* or "melted fort". And passengers sailing to the Levant islands embark at its feet.

This listed monument occupies the southern tip of Giens peninsula, part of Hyères-les-Palmier's *Grand Site* protected area and Port-Cros National Park. The public can now access the ramparts and discover the ancient drawbridge, barracks, guardhouse and other buildings, or savour the idyllic views over the Golden Islands from the terrace and paths connecting the various buildings. Amateur botanists will love discovering the site's protected plant species, such as sea lavender (*limonium pseudominutum*) and haircap moss (*plantago subulata*).

Entry: €8. Reduced rate (children and students): €5

[www.portcros-parcnational.fr](http://www.portcros-parcnational.fr)



La Villa Noailles - © Var Tourisme - D. Latour



Le Fort du Pradeau - © Agence Urope

## MHAB

📍 BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS

This nearly century-old *Musée de France* museum, nestling in the heart of the protected village of Bormes-les-Mimosas, has been completely redesigned. Its two main collections are now showcased under beautiful, 17th-century coffered ceilings, rising to a dizzy 8 metres in height. The Fine Arts rooms showcase works by Théo Van Rysselberghe, Emmanuel Charles Bénézit and Henri-Edmond Cross, while the ethnographic and archaeological collections immerse visitors in 2,400 years of the town's history, with augmented reality reconstructions courtesy of the Histopad and Histovery app issued at the start of the tour. Celtic-Ligurians belonging to the Bormani tribe settled on this vast territory as far back as 400 BC...

[musee-bormes.com/en/accueil-english](http://musee-bormes.com/en/accueil-english)



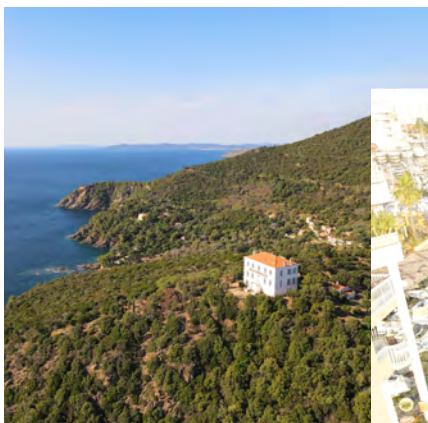
MHAB - © Histovery

## MAISON FONCIN

📍 CAVALAIRE

This magnificent abode belonged to geographer and historian Pierre Foncin, one of the founders of the Alliance Française. His daughter, Mireille, bequeathed it to the *Conservatoire du Littoral* coastal conservancy – their first donation – in 1977. Its white facade served as a landmark for sailors for many years. This year, its interior and exterior are opening to the public for the first time, every Wednesday. The 2½-hour guided tour introduces visitors to the story of the house and Foncin family, the arrival of the *Train des Pignes* train in Cavalaire and other chapters of history. Prior booking obligatory.

[www.cavalaire.fr](http://www.cavalaire.fr)



Maison Foncin - © DR



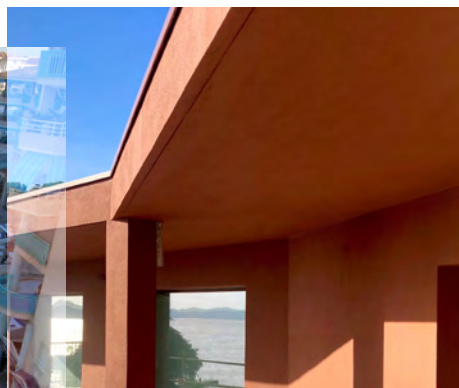
Le port Fréjus © Var Tourisme - O. Simon

## MUSÉE DES TROUPES DE MARINE

📍 FRÉJUS

Located 5 km from the town centre, at the gateway to the Maures hills, this military museum partially reopened in September 2022. Situated near the headquarters of the 21st Marine Battalion, it invites visitors to discover the history of France's Marine Troops. Part of the French Army, the marines originated from the navy corps created by Cardinal de Richelieu in 1622. Weaponry through the ages forms the common thread of the various collections, spanning over 120 showcases. The museum will be opening full-time in 2024, in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings in Provence.

[www.aamtdm.net/en/museum/the-museum](http://www.aamtdm.net/en/museum/the-museum)



Fondation Niel - © DR

## FONDATION NIEL

📍 HYÈRES

Set right on the waterfront, on this picturesque little harbour on Giens peninsula, this 1962 villa will be the venue for the *Les chemins de l'abstraction* exhibition, running all summer. The show features a selection of works from the private collection of entrepreneur Jean-Noël Drouin, a fervent fan of non-figurative paintings from the Fifties and Sixties. The exhibition shines a spotlight on 17 artists, including celebrities such as Pierre Soulages, Olivier Debré, Hans Hartung, Camille Bryen, Michel Carrade and André Marfaing. The interviews with each artist, conducted at the time by the philosopher Jean Grenier, are positively enlightening. Alongside the Carmignac Foundation in Porquerolles and Villa Noailles, this third venue is sure to delight contemporary art lovers. Film buffs will also be able to (re)discover the mythical scene from *The Big Blue* shot at Niel harbour, while hikers can follow up their visit with a walk around the peninsula.

June 1st to September 30th, 2023. Admission: €12, free for children under 12 years

[www.museduniel.com](http://www.museduniel.com)

## HOSPITALITY

## LE HAMEAU DES PESQUIERS ÉCOLOGE ET SPA\*\*\*\*\*

📍 PRESQU'ÎLE DE GIENS  
HYÈRES-LES-PALMIERS

Abandoned in 1995, the ancient Salins des Pesquiers workers' village is a magnificent site, nestling at the heart of a protected pine wood opposite a beach facing Porquerolles island. The new *Hameau des Pesquiers*, powered with renewable energy, consists of twelve abodes including a "customs house", "canal house", two "sea houses" and four "glade houses", clustered around a church and connected via wooden paths in the sand. A holder of the European Eco label, it is the Côte d'Azur's first 5-star ecolodge. One of the two main buildings houses the reception; the other is home to the spa and *Saliniers* restaurant, designed first and foremost as a living space open throughout the day. The Lelièvre family is deeply attached to the project: Stéphane and Adrian crafted the decoration – an eclectic mix of leather armchairs, an old coffee maker and driftwood – themselves. Raw, natural and relaxing materials reign. You'll find beehives there too, plus a large vegetable garden, organic chicken coop, solar lighting and rainwater tanks for watering. The *Hameau des Pesquiers Ecolodge & Spa* is part of the Curio Collection By Hilton. On the other side of the road, production is currently being relaunched at the old saltworks, together with an ecomuseum.

Rooms from €260 without breakfast.

[www.lespesquiers.com](http://www.lespesquiers.com)

## GÎTES SOUS LES PINS

📍 LA LONDE-LES-MAURES

Daughters of one of La Londe-les-Maures' oldest families, Augé, Cécile and Olivia run a 15-acre farm, half of which is planted with vines, set at the edge of the Maravel river and 3 km from the beaches. In addition to their three 45 m<sup>2</sup> gîtes and 140 m<sup>2</sup> villa-gîte gazing over hills and vines, the three ladies have now added four gorgeous rooms complete with their own bathroom and toilet, set inside their grandma's old country house. Guests also enjoy a pool throughout summer.

Rooms from €120 to €190.

[www.gites-souslespins.fr](http://www.gites-souslespins.fr)



Le Hameau des Pesquiers Écolodge et Spa - © DR



Gîtes Sous les Pins - © JM. Elophe

## HÔTEL RESTAURANT L'OUSTAOU

📍 ÎLE DE PORQUEROLLES

Éric Champ, who formerly played for the Rugby Club Toulonnais and French rugby team, is also a fishing fanatic. He has now teamed up with his Porquerolles-born friend and professional fisherman Romain Pairault at L'Oustaou, on the island's Place d'Armes. You'll find excellent, responsibly-fished seafood there, plus six inviting rooms: two gazing over the port and sea, three overlooking the village and one set over the patio. The sober interior decoration gives pride of place to wood, gentle colours and the frescoes of Porquerolles artist Sabine Chautard.

From €80 with breakfast.

[www.oustaou.com](http://www.oustaou.com)



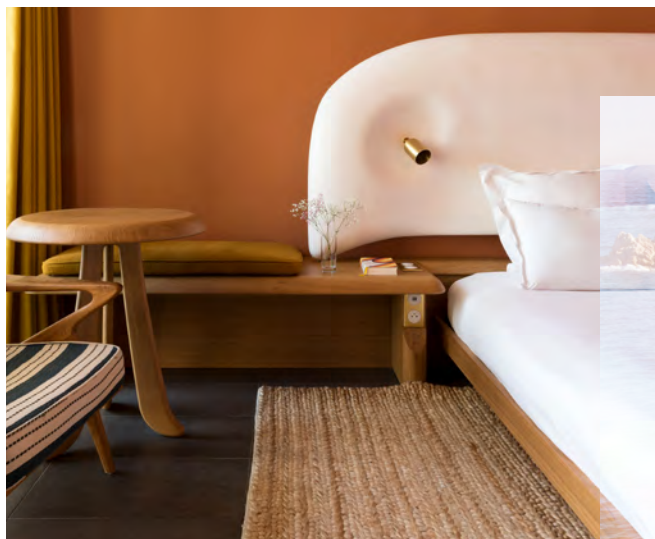
Fort du Petit Langoustier à Porquerolles  
© Var Tourisme - E. Dautant

### LES TERRASSES DU BAILLI\*\*\*

📍 RAYOL-CANADEL-SUR-MER

Set gazing over its big brother - the 4-star Bailli de Suffren on Rayol beach -, this 3-star establishment reopened its doors on December 23rd, 2022, after major refurbishment work. The rooms, decorated in ochre and terracotta tones combined with natural materials, were designed by Marseilles-born architect François Champsaur, famed for his sober-yet-joyful style exhaling serenity and simplicity. "Southern French architecture is a poor man's architecture, in stone, earth and wood"... A style that marries perfectly with the spirit of this site, combining the confidentiality of a guest house with hotel services.

[www.hotel-terrasses-dubailli.com/en](http://www.hotel-terrasses-dubailli.com/en)



Les Terrasses Du Bailli - © DR

### STORIA RAMATUELLE

📍 RAMATUELLE

Located 750 metres from Escalet beach - the Gulf of Saint-Tropez's best-kept secret - this Provencal bastide topped with an old tiled roof offers 31 rooms and suites ranging from 15 to 35 m<sup>2</sup>, most with terraces. *Storia Ramatuelle* nestles happily in 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of protected pine woods perfect for a delightful stroll, while the sun loungers and lounge area around the swimming pool invite guests to chill and chat. A real home-from-home!

From €200 to €780.

[storia-ramatuelle.com](http://storia-ramatuelle.com)



Le cap Camarat Ramatuelle © Var Tourisme - E. Dautant

### LE BLOOM\*\*\*\*

📍 SAINT-AYGULF

Spanning 800 metres, Plage de Saint-Aygulf is one of the Estérel-Côte d'Azur area's most beautiful beaches. The 4-star Le Bloom hotel is part of the Van der Valk group, Holland's largest hotel chain. Located a few minutes from the beach, the establishment offers 33 rooms including 3 suites, some with bathtubs, plus a swimming pool, bowling alley, solarium and rooftop terrace sporting 3 whirlpool baths. Saint-Aygulf is a major kitesurfing and windsurfing hotspot, exposed to gusting winds. Its hiking trails and cycle paths cross the wetlands of the Villepey marshes, where pink flamingos dabble.

[www.hotelbloom.fr](http://www.hotelbloom.fr)



Le Bloom - © J. Desvignes

## NEW SPA AT LE BYBLOS

SAINT-TROPEZ

The redesigned spa offers a range of new mind and body wellbeing experiences. Sober colours, natural materials and water walls foster a soothing atmosphere. The patio now incorporates a yoga-meditation space, set under a large fresco by Roger Capron. Two relaxation and rest areas - one on the *Terrasse de l'Olivier* terrace -, 5 luxurious and elegant treatment cabins, a steam room and sauna form the perfect setting for consultant Marion M'Santin's delicious, tailored wellness treatments courtesy of Sisley. The establishment also hosts workshops and retreats.

[www.byblos.com](http://www.byblos.com)



Spa au Byblos - © A. Chaplier

## EDEN HÔTEL\*\*\*\*

SAINTE-MAXIME

A road winds its way between this new 4-star hotel and its delicious Beach House on *Plage des Eléphants* beach: Jean de Brunhoff, the author of Babar, had a house there, hence the name! The hotel offers just 16 cosy, elegant rooms, ranging from 20 to 40 m<sup>2</sup>, with blond wood, silky fabrics and maritime motifs lending a timeless tone. Their spacious terraces gaze out over the hilly Gulf of Saint-Tropez. The outdoor swimming pool nestles among oleander and cacti. The private beach also features a restaurant serving wines from the owners' vineyard, Domaine des Vallats. And the Golf de Sainte-Maxime is just nearby.

Reopening March 31st. Rooms from €195.

[edenhotellounge.com](http://edenhotellounge.com)



Eden Hôtel- © DR



Eden Hôtel- © DR

## LUCIAMAR WELLNES BOUTIQUE HOTEL

SAINT-RAPHAËL

Set on the stunning *Plage de la Tortue* beach, upstream of the Estérel hills, the *LuciaMaris* a haven of wellbeing offering 21 rooms and 7 suites drenched in natural light, designed by architect Jean-Pascal Clément. On the food front, the restaurant and piano-bar opening onto the water invite guests to savour a bistronomic menu paired with fine wines.

Opening March 2023.

[luciamar.fr](http://luciamar.fr)



Massif de l'Estérel © Var Tourisme - E. Dautant

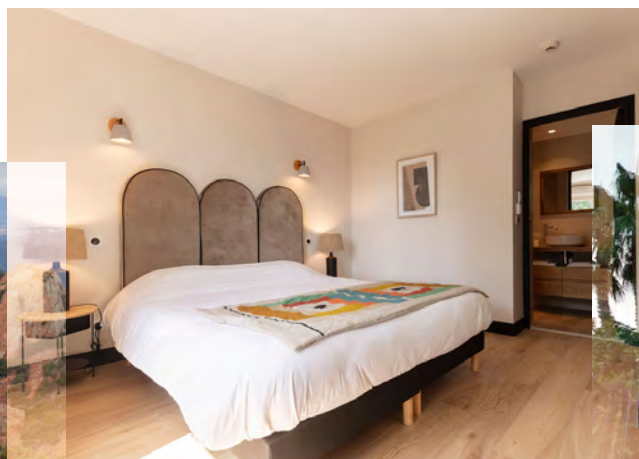
## L'ARÉNA\*\*\*

FRÉJUS

Brimming with charm, this genuine institution, now reopened after a 2-year closure, is situated a stone's throw from Fréjus' little railway station and 1.5 km from the beaches. Bonaparte, Pius VII and Victor Hugo have all set down their bags in these three ochre buildings adorned with veteran palm trees, bougainvillea and oleander. The Arena features 30 rooms, a restaurant, meeting rooms, a pool, fitness room and palm garden. The restaurant, *La Table de Guillôme*, serves carefully-curated bistronomic cuisine with dishes including *Bourride raphaëloise* fish stew with vegetables, courtesy of Jean-Charles Orso.

Rooms from €120.

[hotel-frejus-arena.com](http://hotel-frejus-arena.com)



L'Aréna - © Hôtel Aréna



L'Aréna - © Hôtel Aréna

## GASTRONOMY

## PÂTISSERIE CYRIL LIGNAC

📍 SAINT-TROPEZ

A French superstar cook, pastry chef and TV presenter, the good-humoured Cyril Lignac has been gracing France's TV screens for 15 years now, with shows including *Le Meilleur Pâtisier* and *Tous en Cuisine*. You'll find marshmallow bears and a range of cakes created with his pastry chef Benoît Couvrand at his cake shop at 66 Route des Plages, also boasting its very own Creation Workshop. Good enough to eat!

[cyrillignac.com](http://cyrillignac.com)



Pâtisserie Cyril Lignac - © Y. Deret

## VILLA LES GLYCINES

📍 LES ISSAMBRES

Barely thirty years old, Victor Rizzoto (a name his first employer rightly told him would shape his future!), forged his career in the kitchens of Domaine de Murtoli. Hand in hand with Italian Chef Marco Puggioni, ex-L'Orangerie Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris, he has now opened a restaurant with around 20 covers on the ground floor of this former guest house. The cuisine is creative, light and fresh. In collaboration with Christina Chrusciel, Victor has renovated the Villa's five upstairs apartments with sea-facing balconies in fuss-free greige and white, perfect for showing off the artwork. Cultivating art in every shape and form - whether painting or cooking - La Villa Des Glycines will be welcoming guests all year round.

Open evenings from Tuesday to Sunday. Three, five or seven-course menus from €59.

[www.villa-les-glycines.fr](http://www.villa-les-glycines.fr)



Restaurant Les Glycines - © DR



Restaurant Les Glycines - © DR

## KNOW-HOW

## RIGOTTI, A LIVING HERITAGE FIRM

📍 COGOLIN

The Établissements Rigotti in Cogolin have been gathering Provence's wild reeds and transforming them into reeds for wind instruments for over 50 years. Their "Made in France" reeds for clarinets, saxophones, flutes, oboes, bassoons, English horns, contrabassoons, bombardes and bagpipes are coveted by musicians worldwide: an unrivalled know-how that recently earned them the "Living Heritage Firm" label.

[www.rigotti.fr](http://www.rigotti.fr)



Rigotti - © DR

## OUTDOORS

## PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY

📍 PORQUEROLLES

Port-Cros National Park was created on December 14th, 1963. Occupying 4,200 acres of land and 7,166 acres of sea, it is the oldest marine park in France and Europe. Fringed with Mediterranean waters, the islands of Port-Cros and Porquerolles form its beating heart. The national park also spans various towns adhering to the Port-Cros National Park Charter: Hyères-les-Palmiers, La Croix-Valmer, La Garde, Le Pradet and Ramatuelle. Concocted with local inhabitants, the 60th anniversary celebrations promise an exciting and varied line-up of exhibitions, films, books, talks, guided tours, artistic and cultural projects, etc.

[www.portcros-parcnational.fr](http://www.portcros-parcnational.fr)



Parc national de Port-Cros - © S. Ruitton



Parc national de Port-Cros - © L. Guilbaud



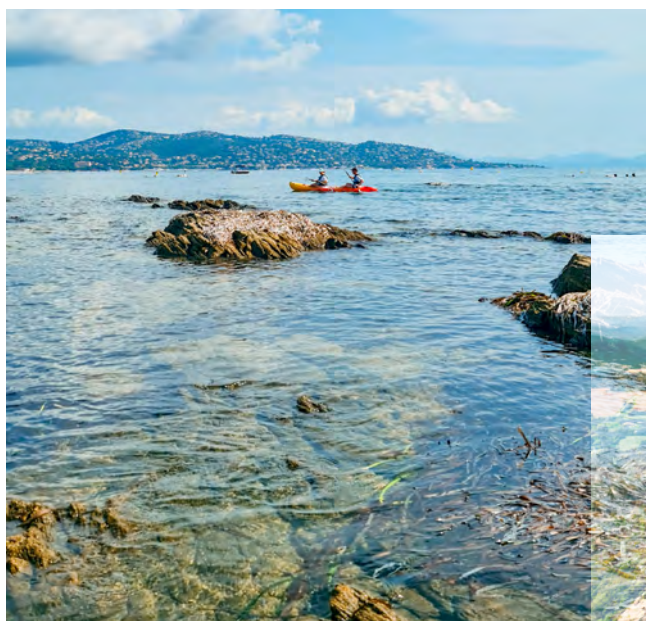
OUTDOORS

**SNORKELLING TRAILS**

📍 GOLFE DE SAINT-TROPEZ

Slip into your mask and flippers and head out to meet our coastal marine life thanks to these four new snorkelling trails, complete with underwater information panels. You'll find them offshore of Le Rayol-Canadel, La Pointe des Sardioux, La Croix-Valmer and the illustrious Pampelonne beach, where you're sure to come across some famous fish!

[www.golfe-saint-tropez-information.com](http://www.golfe-saint-tropez-information.com)



Sentiers sous-marins - © Soliver

**HIKES ON ROCHER DE ROQUEBRUNE ROCK**

📍 ROQUEBRUNE-SUR-ARGENS

Nicknamed "The sleeping woman", this magnificent rock bristling with rocky spurs stands over Roquebrune-sur-Argens and the Argens plain. Resembling a giant ochre and purple mineral sculpture, it spans 6 km<sup>2</sup>. Four new trails, ranging from 1 to 2.3 kilometres in length, now climb to its summit at 373 metres. Good walking shoes are recommended - the terrain is tricky but a two-fold reward awaits you at the top: three gigantic crosses by sculptor Bernar Venet, topped with 360° panoramic views over the Maures and Estérel hills, Argens river, Rouet forest and Mount Lachens...

[www.roquebrunesurargens-tourisme.fr](http://www.roquebrunesurargens-tourisme.fr)



Rocher de Roquebrune - © DR

**LE LAC DE CŒUR**

📍 ROQUEBRUNE-SUR-ARGENS

Visitors will be able to access *Lac de Cœur* lake - shaped like a heart as its name implies - from spring onwards, via a trail leading from Quartier de la Bouverie, near the entrance to the Gorges du Blavet gorge. Small but beautiful!

[www.roquebrunesurargens-tourisme.fr](http://www.roquebrunesurargens-tourisme.fr)



Lac de Cœur - © DR



## CANNES ANTIBES SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

**D**otted with fortresses and castles often inhabited by artists, these beautiful shores are redolent with the carefree fragrance of freedom. The chock-a-block cultural offering is a sight to behold too, with dazzling highlights including the **Antibes** Jazz Festival and **Cannes** Film Festival. Meanwhile, floating in the Bay of Cannes, the **Lérins islands** watch benevolently over the revelry on the red carpet, while behind the scenes, chefs and craftsmen continue to forge the beating heart of such charming villages as **Mougins**, **Biot** and **Vallauris**...

## ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE

## FONDATION HARTUNG-BERGMAN

📍 ANTIBES

The Hartung-Bergman Foundation is a remarkable architectural ensemble, now listed as 20th Century Heritage. Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung bought up the land on which they built their property – inspired by traditional Mediterranean houses and Roman domus – in 1961. The reception building-come-shop leads onto a 5-acre olive grove, then the exhibition spaces adjoining the old workshops, set around the iconic patio and swimming pool. The "Archives of Creation" exhibition offers a fascinating insight into the couple's production secrets. N.B. Don't miss the snacks lovingly prepared by Marcelle since 1973: her *pissaladière* tart is almost as famous as she is!

Open Monday to Friday from May to September 2023.

[fondationhartungbergman.fr](http://fondationhartungbergman.fr)



Fondation Hartung-Bergman - © C. Dorn



Château de Vaugrenier - © DR

## CHÂTEAU DE VAUGRENIER

📍 VILLENEUVE-LOUBET

Located 5 km from the town's medieval fortress, this Italian Renaissance chateau is the pearl of Vaugrenier Park, spanning 250 acres of Mediterranean shores. The chateau now welcomes groups of ten or more visitors and is also open on various dates set by the tourist office. Superbly restored over the past twenty years by the current owners, it features a typical Palladian central area, an oratory laden with stucco and magnificent vaulted rooms. The old sheepfold has now been converted into a reception hall.

[chateauvaugrenier.com](http://chateauvaugrenier.com)



Fondation Maeght - © O. Amsellem

## FONDATION MAEGHT

📍 SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

The Maeght Foundation harbours a 13,000-strong modern art collection: one of the largest in Europe, with particular focus on works by Joan Miró and Alberto Giacometti. The site's refined architecture signed by Josep Lluís Sert has also earned it the "Remarkable 20th Century Architecture" label. But with over 130,000 visitors a year and an area of just 850m<sup>2</sup> devoted to exhibitions, the foundation struggles to fit temporary shows alongside its permanent exhibits. Architect Silvio d'Ascia has now resolved the issue thanks to an "invisible" extension that respects the original construction: "The two new rooms slide under the two outer courtyards, dedicated to Miró and Giacometti, into the bedrock on which Sert placed his building. Nothing could be added, only taken away... So we dug into the embankment of the original sixties site to build new spaces, opening onto the pine wood to the south to form a dialogue with nature."

The foundation will be reopening in its "classic" form on July 1st, 2023. The extension work and underground layout are scheduled for completion in summer 2024, in celebration of its 60th anniversary.

[www.fondation-maeght.com](http://www.fondation-maeght.com)

## HOSPITALITY

## LE 1932 HÔTEL & SPA CAP D'ANTIBES - MGALLERY

📍 ANTIBES

Standing proudly at the entrance to Cap d'Antibes, this magnificent hotel built in 1932 (hence its name) is a radical example of Art Deco architecture. Interior designer Laurent Maugoust has restored the beautiful white facade and rotunda to their former glory, and added a 400 m<sup>2</sup> rooftop venue complete with swimming pool and outdoor bar. The 64 spacious rooms, now bedecked with majestic headboards, boast original marble, mouldings and wrought ironwork. Virtually all offer sea views over the pine wood. The 4 large suites on the ground floor feature a garden and small swimming pool. The gentle colours throughout - celadon blue, black, green and white - are echoed at *La Rotonde* restaurant. Worthy of a Fitzgerald novel...

Codage spa opening in April (next to *La Rotonde*), specializing in skin treatments with tailored serums.

[all.accor.com/hotel/B9Q4/index.fr.shtml](http://all.accor.com/hotel/B9Q4/index.fr.shtml)



1932 Hôtel & Spa - © DR

Le Carlton - © DR

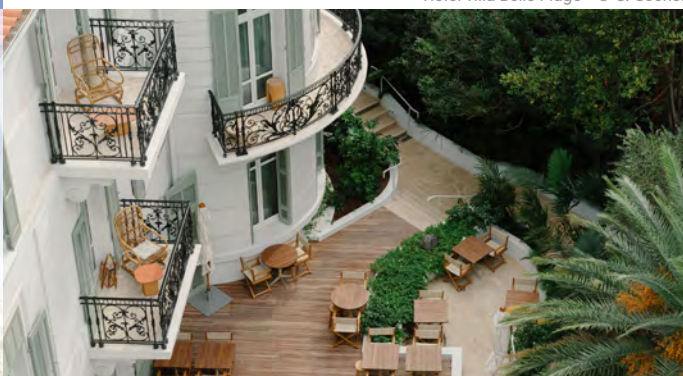
## LE CARLTON

📍 CANNES

The Croisette's iconic hotel with its two cupolas inspired - so legend says - by the breasts of the Beautiful Otero, is reopening this year under the Regent brand after 3 years of refurbishment work and an investment of 350 million euros. The biggest surprise is the additional wing at the rear, housing thirty-seven 2 to 4-room apartments catering to guests, often families, eager to combine privacy and hotel services. The 369 rooms are spread over seven floors. The decoration signed by Tristan Auer gives plenty of nods to the movies while respecting the site's history, and the lobby now opens onto an alley of marble columns. The building's spacious rear now welcomes an intimate garden overflowing with 10,000 plants, plus a new heated swimming pool surrounded by columns and arcades. The semi-buried, 800 m<sup>2</sup> meeting room and 4 modular rooms ranging from 50 to 100 m<sup>2</sup> make this an ideal seminar palace too. Three restaurants complete the offering.

Rooms €1,000 to €2,000.

[www.carlton-cannes.com](http://www.carlton-cannes.com)



Hotel Villa Belle Plage - © C. Coënon

## HÔTEL VILLA BELLE PLAGE

📍 CANNES

Set at the foot of Le Suquet, this 55-room hotel, complete with adjoining spa set on the historic Villa Rocamare site, has just enjoyed a facelift courtesy of interior designer Raphaël Navot. With its sculpted stone facade, high circular tower, ornamental balconies and Mediterranean garden, the Belle Époque architecture of the *Villa Belle Plage*, erected in 1874, lends itself perfectly to an "active break" led by the hotel's team of beauty experts, dieticians and sports coaches. On the ground floor, the *Villa* restaurant and juice bar offer menus curated by chef and detox coach Martine Fallon. Upstairs, guests enjoy personalized fitness and wellbeing plans, with premium technology and amenities including seven treatment cabins with private balconies overlooking the garden, a sauna, steam room, pink salt cave, Watsu bodywork pool and body composition monitor... Last but not least, the sports offering includes indoor activities in the fitness room, plus outdoor yoga, beach walks, etc. The La Clé group's 3rd establishment, *Villa Belle Plage* is the perfect pick for a one-off spa treatment or holistic cure (detox, slimming, well-aging, etc.), topped with an idyllic moment out of time by the Med.

From €175 to €650 per night.

[www.hotelbelleplage.fr](http://www.hotelbelleplage.fr)

## HÔTEL LE MONDRIAN

📍 CANNES

The former *Grand Hôtel* - the Croisette's oldest luxury hotel - is enjoying a new lease of life under the Mondrian banner. Fully refurbished, it will be offering 75 rooms measuring 35 m<sup>2</sup> from springtime onwards, including three suites, meeting and event rooms, the *Hyde Beach Cannes* private beach and an innovative culinary concept. Renowned for their avant-garde design and cultural offering, the Mondrian hotels are deeply rooted in culture, art and design. The Mondrian Cannes is the only hotel on the Croisette boasting seaside grounds (an impressive 4,600 m<sup>2</sup>), plus direct access to the shops on Rue d'Antibes and private beach. *Mondrian Hotels & Residences* is part of the Ennismore group created in 2021 as a joint venture with the majority shareholder Accor.

[all.accor.com/hotel/B6V5/index.fr.shtml](https://all.accor.com/hotel/B6V5/index.fr.shtml)



Hôtel Le Mondrian - © DR

## HÔTEL CANOPY BY HILTON

📍 CANNES

Superbly situated on the Old Port at the bottom of Le Suquet, opposite the jetty serving the islands, the former Radisson has rebirthed under the Hilton's friendly "local" *Canopy by Hilton* hallmark. Biot glass sculptures set the stage in the lobby and lounges, set to host brand, product and local innovation presentations every two days. The 143 rooms, including 12 apartments, were designed - one could almost say staged - by the audacious and eclectic interior designer Ramy Fischler. Guests enjoy vistas spanning the sea and port from the rooftop. The hotel also offers the delights of the adjacent old thalassotherapy centre and two indoor and outdoor swimming pools. You'll find 380 m<sup>2</sup> of event and conference spaces there too, plus rooms with sea views. The *Canopy by Hilton* hotels are committed to the environment (filtered water stations) and animal welfare courtesy of the *Paws in the Neighborhood* initiative.

[www.hiltonhotels.com](https://www.hiltonhotels.com)



Cannes - © P. Behar

## A NEW GARDEN AT LE MARTINEZ

📍 CANNES

This gorgeous Palace now offers guests and local birds alike nearly 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of greenery dedicated to wellness and self-pampering. Signed by Ghislain de Larouzière and Patrick Bouchardon from *Pena Paysages*, the *Oasis du Martinez* nestles at the rear of the iconic building, on the roof of the ground floor. The landscape gardeners have created a tropical forest with around forty tree ferns, magicking into a Mediterranean garden as you approach the twenty-metre heated swimming lane. Paths lead to wooden platforms designed for gym and yoga classes. The 600 m<sup>2</sup> *Oasis Spa by Carita*, complete with a salt cave and seven treatment cabins, opens onto santolinas and rosemary. The Pool House bar serves healthy, detox, toning and antioxidant drinks and teas made with herbs, vegetables and flowers. Stylish...

[www.hyatt.com](https://www.hyatt.com)



L'Oasis du Martinez - © N. Grosmond

## GASTRONOMY

## MAISON DE BACON

📍 ANTIBES

From its beginnings as a buffet welcoming campers from Cap d'Antibes in 1948 to today's new lease of life under the impetus of Laurent Lefur, former Managing Director of the Lenôtre group, the *Maison de Bacon* is an everlasting success story. The recipe? An expansive terrace facing the sea and old quarter, topped with delicious fare – sometimes cooked over a wood fire – by Nicolas Davouze. You'll still find the historic dishes dating back to 1948, e.g. bouillabaisse, on the menu.

[maisondebacou.fr](http://maisondebacou.fr)



Maison de Bacon - © G. Martinez

## OUTDOORS

## YACHTING &amp; HERITAGE BOATS AT PORT VAUBAN

📍 ANTIBES

The Mediterranean yachting capital Port Vauban now offers a "heritage pontoon" reserved for old rigs, wooden *pointu* fishing boats and other illustrious vessels. You can currently admire a wooden sloop designed by François Camatte at the B2 pontoon, plus the Marseille fishing boat *One Wave* built by the Fouques shipyard in 1933, and a *pointu* bearing witness to Antibes' boatbuilding legacy. The pontoon can welcome up to 23 boats at preferential rates ranging from €1,000 to €3,000 a year.

[leportvauban.com](http://leportvauban.com)



Port Vauban - © DR

## CANNES, SURFING AND MORE!

📍 CANNES

Cannes is now the proud bearer of the *Ville de Surf* surfing city label awarded by the French Surfing Federation. And before you ask, you will find waves there, at the reputed Vague du Batéguiers hotspot to the west of Île Sainte-Marguerite, Pointe Croisette, towards Palm Beach, or beach number 17 in front of the Thalès Alenia Space building. The label is awarded subject to stringent criteria: the town or city in question must be home to a French Surfing Federation club (in this case *Cannes Jeunesse*) and the municipality must take an active part in developing surfing and associated sports, including Stand Up Paddleboarding (launched in the framework of the 2016 "Cannes, outdoor sports capital" initiative. N.B. Surfing has been an official Olympic Games sport since the Tokyo Games.

[leportvauban.com/en](http://leportvauban.com/en)



Cannes - © Mairie de Cannes



# NICE EZE MENTON

**B**eaches named desire, flourishing gardens and Baroque, Belle Époque, modern and futuristic architecture form a succession of breathtaking landmarks along the coast around Nice. Above the Riviera shores, set gazing out over this iconic city, a thousand and one astonishing gems nestle in the shade of flat-topped cliffs, flamboyant peaks and secret valleys. Here and there, villages emerge above the oaks and pines, discreet vineyards beckon visitors in to admire their art shows, and everywhere is instilled with scents of exotic climes...

## ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE

NICE CARNIVAL 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:  
1873-2023

📍 NICE

France's biggest carnival and one of the most famous in the world. This year's bonanza is scheduled from February 10th to 26th – a whole two weeks including three weekends – with six big parades plus four flower battles on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. France's first Gay Carnival is scheduled on Friday February 17th. As Sébastien Dalbera, creator of the very playful *Musée Français du Carnaval* (French Carnival Museum), explains: "It's the 150th anniversary of the Carnival, although the King has only been burned 137 times as the party stopped during the wars, then the pandemic. Farandoles were first mentioned as far back as 1294, but the Festival Committee really put the carnival back in the limelight in 1860, after Nice became part of France. Of course, overseas visitors and locals alike were delighted!" Head to the Musée Français du Carnaval in Contes to get your fill of stories and anecdotes. You can even learn how to make your own giant carnival head while you're there...

[www.museeducarnaval.com](http://www.museeducarnaval.com)

[www.nicecarnaval.com](http://www.nicecarnaval.com)

Carnaval de Nice - © Ville de Nice

MARC CHAGALL NATIONAL  
MUSEUM 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

📍 NICE

Marc Chagall inaugurated this house, hosting his extraordinary *Biblical Message Cycle*, on his birthday on July 7th, 1973: "I was captivated by the Bible from a very early age. To me, it has always seemed and still seems to be the greatest source of poetry of all time. [...] I created these paintings to honour a distant dream: I wanted to leave them in the house so that men could seek a certain peace there, a certain spirituality, religiosity and meaning of life". In celebration of this generous donation, the exhibition *Chagall et moi* is inviting 12 current-day personalities (artists, writers, dancers, etc) to take part in a colourful programme culminating on July 7th, 2023 and continuing until January 8th, 2024.

[musees-nationaux-alpesmaritimes.fr](http://musees-nationaux-alpesmaritimes.fr)



Musée national Chagall - © CRT Côte d'Azur France G. Veran

## EMILY IN VILLEFRANCHE

📍 VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER

The bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer has been featured in over 200 films and series, including the latest *Avatar* and *Emily in Paris*, where it was actually presented as the Gulf of Saint-Tropez! But let's not spoil the pleasure... Sheltered by Cap Ferrat, it is one of the world's most beautiful bays. Following in the footsteps of Elizabeth Taylor and Winston Churchill, Emily and her friends set down their bags for the weekend at the so-glamorous Grand Hôtel Cap-Ferrat. And Emily's delicious weekend begins on the Corniche coast road running atop the Mediterranean waves from Nice to Menton. Absolutely fabulous!

[www.tourisme-villefranche-sur-mer.com](http://www.tourisme-villefranche-sur-mer.com)



Villefranche-sur-Mer - © J. Kelagopian



## HOSPITALITY

## ANANTARA PLAZA NICE\*\*\*\*\*

📍 NICE

Basking above the *Jardins Albert 1<sup>er</sup>* gardens in Nice's "golden square", this hotel built in 1850 in neo-classical style has now rebirthed under the Thai-American Anantara brand (part of the Minor group). It is the brand's first "own name" establishment in Europe, beautifully curated by Nice architect Jean-Paul Gomis along with the London-based interior design firm David Collins. The decor, featuring a 140-metre facade overlooking the *Jardins Albert 1<sup>er</sup>*, is inspired by the golden age of the Riviera, with exotic touches including oak benches upholstered with green mohair, wall lights niched in golden alcoves, mother-of-pearl motifs and pink, green and black marble tiles. The rooms are adorned with Haussmannian-style moulded headboards, Thai silk lampshades and black & white Riviera photos. The spa situated on the ground floor offers five wooden cabins and a pedicure studio courtesy of Bastien Gonzalez. The rooftop venue, perched on the 6th floor, is simply stunning... The hotel caters to every mood and whim, with a lounge area for live music and DJ sets, a little herb garden and expansive glass canopy with terrace for savouring Denis Gamard's live-cooking at breakfast or brunch, and evening fare courtesy of *Seen* by Olivier Da Costa.

The decor? Italian blue marble tables, cut glass samovars, silky wisteria, lemon trees and breathtaking vistas over the sea, old castle, Cannes and even the airport runways. *Cho Nature* in Mouans-Sartoux adds a touch of regional DNA with their ginger and mimosa home fragrance, while *HD Fragrances* in Eygalières is the local talent behind the shower gels (for him and her) and the mini bar features special Château Crémant vintages savoured in glasses crafted by *Val de Pôme* in Biot... Opened in December 2022.

[www.anantara.com](http://www.anantara.com)



Anantara Plaza Nice - © DR

Seen by Olivier da Costa - © DR

Hôtel Apollinaire - © DR

## SEEN BY OLIVIER DA COSTA

📍 NICE

It's all the rage... Presiding over the 6th floor of the Anantara Plaza Nice, chef and entrepreneur Olivier da Costa has brought the recipe that swept the board in Lisbon all the way to Nice... The ingredients? Panoramic vistas, an intimate setting, eclectic cuisine, a cocktail bar and easy-listening DJ sets perfect for drinks or a night out with friends. On the menu: Nice specialities such as *pissaladière* tart, *petits farcis niçois* stuffed vegetables, snails, fish soup with rouille sauce and Riviera-style rigatoni enjoy pride of place, among flavours from the four corners of the world.

[seennice.com](http://seennice.com)

## HÔTEL APOLLINAIRE\*\*\*\*\*

📍 NICE

Set inside two 19th-century buildings, this 4-star hotel lies on the corner of Boulevard Dubouchage, a stone's throw from Place Masséna. It offers 95 rooms and suites prettily decorated in blue shades; the suites gaze out over the gorgeous *Romain Gary* library. Guests enjoy a patio crowned with a statue, private steam room, gym and art deco-style breakfast lounge. The Apollinaire is part of the *WorldHotels Distinctive* collection by WorldHotelsTM, incorporating *Best Western Hotels & Resorts* and *WorldHotel Collection*. Its name pays tribute to Guillaume Apollinaire, who was a high school student in Nice.

[www.bestwestern.fr](http://www.bestwestern.fr)

## HÔTEL LA PÉROUSE\*\*\*\*

NICE

An address for those in the know! Set at the end of the Promenade des Anglais, at the foot of Château hill, a discreet reception desk leads to Hôtel La Pérouse's six floors, suspended above the Bay of Angels. At the top, nestling against the rock, lie a Mediterranean garden and heated swimming pool. Offering 54 rooms and suites, this little paradise opened in 1936 has now been redesigned by Virginie Friedmann and Delphine Versace in the spirit of the Riviera's finest abodes. Le Patio & Terrasse restaurant opens onto a terrace adorned with veteran lemon trees, while a private beach at the foot of the hotel invites guests to enjoy a dip in the Med...

Reopening in April 2023.

[www.hotel-la-perouse.com](http://www.hotel-la-perouse.com)



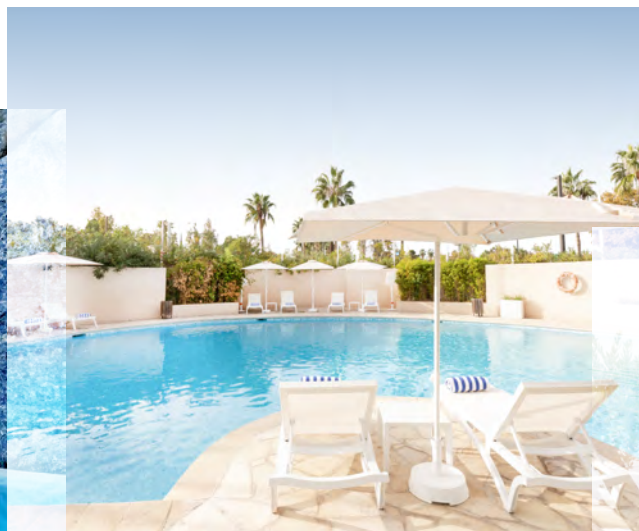
Hôtel La Pérouse Nice - Piscine hôtel - © DR

## RADISSON NICE AIRPORT\*\*\*\*

NICE

A futuristic design, majestic facade and dizzy windows... The Radisson group has spent 14 million euros transforming this establishment located next to Nice airport. It now offers 151 rooms with Scandi-style decoration, including a suite with sea views beyond the runways, 390 m<sup>2</sup> of meeting spaces and a fitness area. At the foot of the hotel, the *Azur Bistrot Niçois* offers dishes prepared with TLC by Gaëtan Debes, served under the poolside parasols. The beautifully-presented specialities include Secca d'Entrevaux dried beef, stuffed vegetables and Provence saffron risotto. And that's no surprise: the young chef earned his spurs at the Martinez's *Palme d'Or*.

[www.radissonhotels.com](http://www.radissonhotels.com)



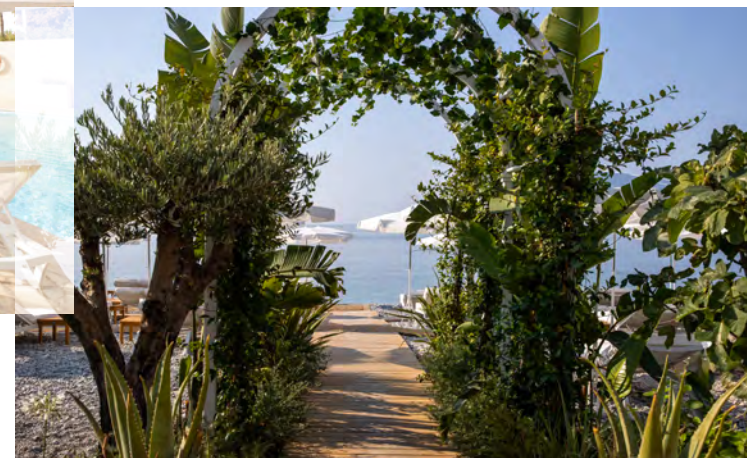
Radisson Nice Airport - © White Kitchen

## A SPA AT THE NEGRESCO\*\*\*\*

NICE

One of France's only remaining independent luxury hotels, the Negresco is treating French lifestyle lovers to a new garden overlooking the sea for its 110th anniversary. A radiant, soothing and verdant beach garden now unfolds at the foot of the hotel's iconic dome, lapping the waters of the Big Blue. Landscape architect and designer Anne Laure Blonde imagined a botanical waterside haven combining elegance and refinement. Her pergola structures and furniture were all designed in the spirit of excellence that embodies the Negresco. Chef Virginie Basselot, a holder of the prestigious "Best French Artisan" label, presides over the kitchen, where vegetables fresh from the hinterland are paired to perfection with magnificent fish and dry-aged meats meat. "Rolls and Finger Food" by Homer Lobster are exclusively served to guests on the poolside sun loungers. A Spa is set to join the offering in autumn. A Living Heritage Company, the Negresco was also one of the first Riviera establishments to sweep up the Ecolabel.

[www.hotel-negresco-nice.com](http://www.hotel-negresco-nice.com)



Negresco - © G. Gardette

## LE VICTORIA-MAISON ALBAR\*\*\*\*\*

NICE

Located 100 metres from the Promenade des Anglais, the 5-star Victoria-Maison Albar features 132 rooms and suites imagined by the dynamic duo of architects Marc Hertrich and Nicolas Adnet (Studio MHNA) as cosy cabins set gazing over the Bay of Angels and mountains of the Nice hinterland. Behind the preserved facade of the ancient Park Hôtel, the site is also set to welcome a 600 m<sup>2</sup> spa with indoor pool, four seminar rooms and a rooftop venue with restaurant, bar and pool facing the sea. The ground floor will be hosting around a dozen luxury boutiques set along the Park Avenue Nice gallery. A passageway is also scheduled between Avenue de Suède and Rue Masséna.

Opening late 2023.

[www.maison-albar-hotels.com](http://www.maison-albar-hotels.com)



Victoria-Maison Albar- © DR

## HÔTEL LE MOXY

NICE

Moxy Hotels - a new Marriott International brand - are opening a 112-room Marriott group hotel inside this 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> hotel and para-hotel complex (including offices, shops and a car park with 124 spaces) in the vast Nice Méridia district.

Opening in 2023.

[moxy-hotels.marriott.com](http://moxy-hotels.marriott.com)



Hôtel Royal Riviera- © G. Gardette

## HÔTEL ROYAL RIVIERA \*\*\*\*\*

SAINT JEAN CAP FERRAT

Standing proudly at the entrance to the Cap Ferrat peninsula, opposite Villa Kerylos, the Royal-Riviera is the epitome of refined luxury. The world-famous dancer Isadora Duncan and Russian composer Prokofiev once stayed at this Belle Époque building with 78 rooms and suites, whose ochre facade dates back to 1904. The next-door villa, *L'Orangerie*, harbours 18 recently refurbished rooms and suites swathed in a contemporary Provençal mood. More good news: the *Le Cap* bar has now reopened with an exciting new cocktail selection served in an Art Deco ambience. Perfect for a refreshing drink after a dip in the heated swimming pool or Med, or a spot of pampering at the Thalgo wellness centre...

Rooms from €215

[www.royal-riviera.com](http://www.royal-riviera.com)



Hôtel Royal Riviera- © G. Gardette

## KNOW-HOW

## IN THE LAND OF LEMONS

## MENTON

Set at the foot of the Borrigo hills, Menton's largest PGI lemon farm, *La Ferme des Citrons*, now welcomes visitors to its 7.5 acres of avocado, olive and lemon trees. You can reach the site on the four-times daily shuttle service from the *Conservatoire de Menton*. The 1-hour tour is followed by a picnic showcasing Menton specialties. The lemon farm has plenty of projects up its sleeve too, including olive and lemon tree pruning, a new walking trail, beekeeping workshops and a vegetable garden...

Price €29 for adults including 1-hour tour and picnic and €19 for children aged 3 to 10 years (food not included).

[www.aupaysducitron.fr](http://www.aupaysducitron.fr)



Villa Maria Serena, Menton - © A. Kahlmann

## OUTDOORS

## PLAGE BAIÀ BELLA

## BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

When Agathe Vanini created this little paradise two years ago, her family were adamant: the sublime *Petite Afrique* beach had to be preserved to the utmost degree. Today, her *Baia Bella Plage* - France's first carbon-neutral beach according to the firm Allcot - has just been awarded the coveted Green Key. Its eco-friendly initiatives include solar panels for water heating, Made in Europe wooden furniture, returnable glasses, plant watering using recycled shower water, annual seabed cleaning and active employee and guest involvement, with most of the cooking done over charcoal. "We're happy to show it can be done," says Agathe.

[www.baiabella.com](http://www.baiabella.com)



Plage Baia Bella- © DR



Plage Baia Bella- © A. Dalivoust

## TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

📍 NICE

For the first time in its history, the Tour will be winding up on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, instead of Paris, on July 21st, 2024! The final stage of the 111th edition will consist of an individual time trial – a first since 1989.

[www.explorenicecotedazur.com](http://www.explorenicecotedazur.com)



Nice - © DR

## IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

📍 NICE

Nice will be hosting the final of the men's Ironman World Championship on September 10th, 2023. Around 40,000 athletes taking part in around fifty events worldwide, will be vying for a place in the spectacular pinnacle of this triathlon challenge, held for the last 40 years in Hawaii. The final comprises a 3.8 km swimming race in the Bay of Angels, followed by a 180 km cycling race through the Nice hinterland and 42 km running race on the Promenade des Anglais. Nice will also be welcoming the 2025 men's final and women's Ironman World Championship in 2024 and 2026.

[www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com)



Coupe du Monde de Rugby - © DR

## RUGBY WORLD CUP

📍 NICE

Nice stadium is hosting four Rugby World Cup matches scheduled from September 8th to October 28th: Wales / Portugal (Sept. 16th), England / Japan (Sept. 17th), Italy / Uruguay (Sept. 20th) and Scotland/Tonga (Sept. 24th). The city is also the base camp for the Scottish team. Nice has regularly hosted prestigious Top 14 matches, including the semi-finals in June 2022. Set inside Nice stadium, the National Sports Museum showcases an impressive 45,000 objects and 400,000 documents, medals, jerseys, films and trophies dedicated to rugby.

[www.museedusport.fr](http://www.museedusport.fr)

Did you know? The trophy awarded to the winner of the Rugby World Cup bears the name William Webb Ellis Trophy. This reverend (1806-1872), often portrayed as the inventor of modern rugby, is buried in Menton, around thirty kilometres from Nice. You'll see signposts leading to his grave in the *Vieux Château* cemetery. Definitely worth the trip – and the panoramic views over the Med are to die for...

[www.menton-riviera-merveilles.fr](http://www.menton-riviera-merveilles.fr)



Le cimetière du vieux château - © Ville de Menton

## THE TOURISM ECONOMY IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

The **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board** is in charge of **promoting regional tourism**. It **coordinates and accompanies** public and private tourism stakeholders (accommodation providers, restaurants, transport firms, cultural sites, activity providers, incoming agencies, etc.) via **promotion and communication initiatives** targeting the media, tour operators and the general public. The CRT's strategy is built around three world-class destinations - Provence, Alps and Côte d'Azur - and focuses on **European and international markets** alike.

[Plus d'informations](#)



**30 MILLION**  
visitors



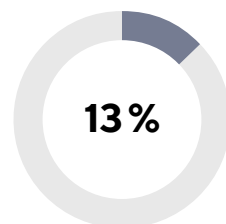
**213 MILLION**  
overnight stays



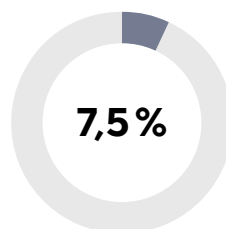
**19 BILLION€**  
per annum generated by tourists

**143 000**  
jobs

**Tourism share  
in regional GDP**



**Tourism share  
in regional employment**



Source: [Observatoire Régional du Tourisme](#)

## France's 2<sup>nd</sup>

leading region for international tourism after Paris-Ile de France

leading region for tourism-related income. Tourism share in regional GDP: 13%

**54 BILLION€**

invested in tourism between 2017 and 2019, i.e. an average of 1.8 billion euros per year

678,000 commercial beds, including hotels, campsites, furnished rentals and guest houses, plus 500,000 apartment hotels with a total of over 2.7 million beds.

**I.E. A TOTAL OF**

**3.4 MILLION  
BEDS**



## EVENTS IN REAL TIME!

SPORTING EVENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS

## MEDIA LIBRARY

GENERAL PHOTO LIBRARY

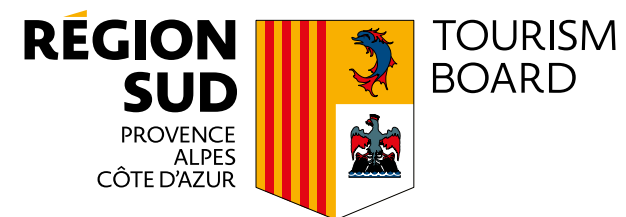
PHOTOS FROM THIS KIT

## CONTACTS

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✉ [presse@provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](mailto:presse@provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)

Check out our [Media Space](#) for the latest news, press releases, press kits, events, media libraries and video library.

N.B. Although great care is taken to ensure the information provided in this kit is correct, it is non-exhaustive and cannot be guaranteed.

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