

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

# WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS & EVENTS

2024

#PROVENCE  
#ALPES  
#COTEDAZUR

PROVENCE  
ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

SOUTHERN FRENCH  
alpes

CÔTE D'AZUR  
FRANCE

RÉGION  
SUD  
PROVENCE  
ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM  
BOARD

**F**rance's leading region for tourism, flying the flag of three international destination brands - Provence, Southern French Alps and Cote d'Azur -, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is committed to responsible and sustainable tourism.

A little corner of France home to 5 million inhabitants, our region welcomes tourists from the world over in all seasons, come to savour our rich heritage, buzzing culture, exceptional scenery between sea and mountain, enviable lifestyle, fine food and legendary hospitality.

A forerunner for the ecological transition, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council voted Europe's first "100% green" budget, meaning the climate emergency is an important factor in every investment decision.

After the success of the Rugby World Cup, which put Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in the spotlight of thousands of international journalists, we are now getting ready to take up new gauntlets.

**In 2024, Marseille will be the stage for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events, welcoming huge crowds to the city.** The men's and women's Olympic football tournaments will be taking place in Marseille too, together with Nice. In addition, for the first time in its history, the city of Nice on the Côte d'Azur will be replacing Paris as the finish line for the Tour de France, with an impressive quarter of this year's mythical stages taking place in our region. And from August 15th, we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings and the Liberation of Provence.

More than ever before, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is top of the podium in 2024.



**Renaud MUSELIER**  
President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
Deputy President of Régions de France

**François de CANSON**  
Vice-President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board  
President of ADN Tourisme



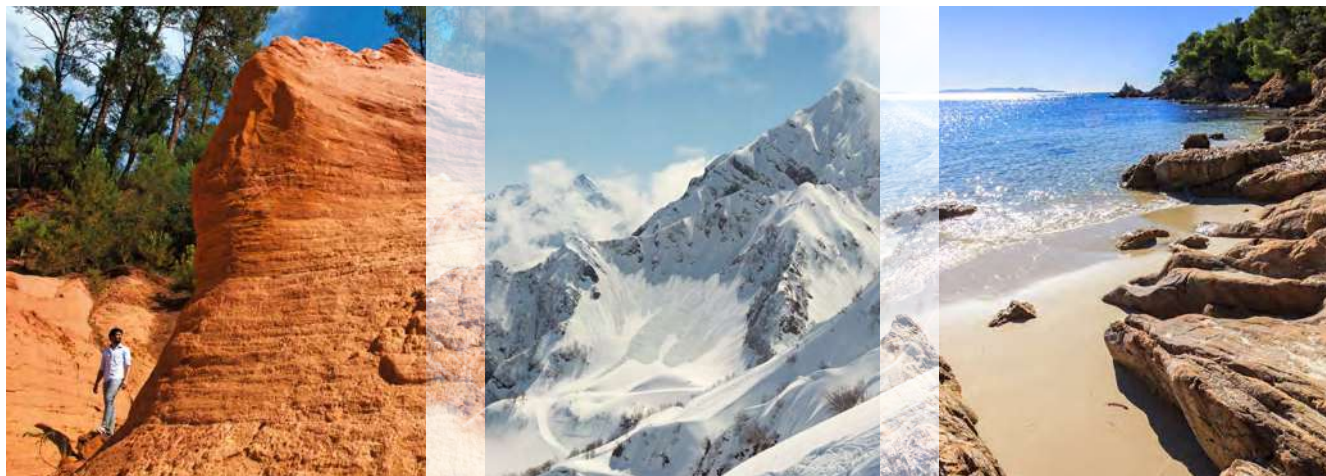
# CONTENTS

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

- 4 Map
- 5 Welcome to the Olympic Games in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur!
- 13 In the footsteps of artists... From Impressionism to Street Art!
- 20 Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the cycling El Dorado
- 25 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence
- 29 The Côte d'Azur, Winter is the New Summer
- 32 Responsible + Tourism = Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur

## PROVENCE

- 41 Map
- 42 Grand Avignon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Orange
- 46 Luberon, Ventoux
- 53 Arles, Camargue, Alpilles
- 63 Pays d'Aix-en-Provence
- 67 Marseille, Aubagne, Côte Bleue
- 77 From Cassis to Toulon
- 82 Manosque, Pays du Buëch from Sisteron to Digne-les-Bains
- 86 Verdon, Provence Verte, Dracénié



## ALPES

- 94 Map
- 95 Gapençais, Champsaur Valgaudemar, Dévoluy
- 99 Serre-Ponçon, Embrunais, Ubaye, Val d'Allos
- 106 Grand Briançonnais, Écrins, Queyras
- 113 Préalpes d'Azur, Mercantour

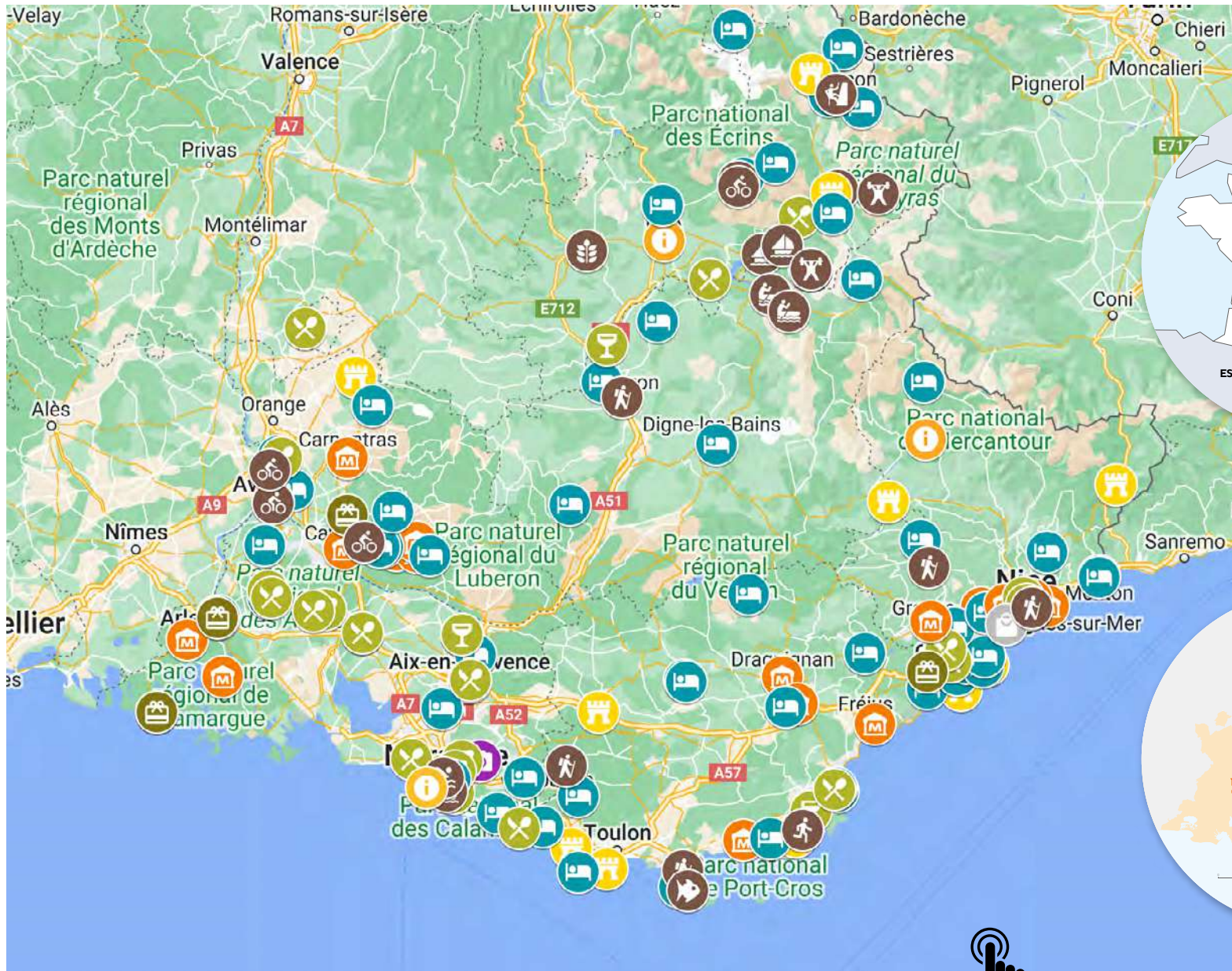
## CÔTE D'AZUR

- 117 Map
- 118 Hyères, Massif des Maures, Gulf of Saint-Tropez, Massif de l'Estérel
- 125 Cannes, Antibes, Saint-Paul-de-Vence
- 134 Nice, Èze, Menton

## READ MORE

- 141 Key figures
- 142 Sporting and cultural events
- Media library
- Contacts

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



CLICK HERE

An aerial photograph showing two kayakers on a river. The kayaker in the foreground is in a pink kayak, and the one in the background is in a green kayak. Both are wearing life jackets and using paddles. The river is surrounded by lush green vegetation.

# WELCOME TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN PROVENCE-ALPES CÔTE D'AZUR!

The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games are taking place from July 26th to August 11th and August 28th to September 8th this year and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is set to welcome the largest number of Olympic events after Paris!

So, it's no surprise that the **Olympic Flame** is starting its voyage through France on May 8th in Marseille. And on August 26th, the torch bearers will be lighting the **Paralympic Flame** in Antibes.

But the adventure begins long before the actual competitions! Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's climate, lakes, mountains and excellent amenities make it a genuine sporting paradise and many athletes live here all year round. The local inhabitants are naturally pretty sporty too. Of course, the region's official **Land of the 2024 Games** towns and **Games Preparation Centres** will be pulling out all the stops to welcome competing athletes and ensure the public enjoy the palpitating sporting line-up to the full.

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's five million inhabitants are thrilled to share this year's joyful Olympic spirit with our visitors. Economic and ecological, the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics are lighting the way to a new era of Olympic Games – and we hope to continue the good work by hosting the **2030 Winter Olympics** too!

Two Olympic Games in six years? Now that's challenge for champions!

## NICE AND MARSEILLE ON THE PODIUM

The City of Marseille is hosting the ten Olympic sailing competitions, including two major new Olympic events: kitefoiling and windfoiling.

The Orange Vélodrome stadium in Marseille and Allianz Riviera stadium in Nice are hosting the men's and women's Olympic football tournaments, with teams coached by Hervé Renard and Thierry Henry.

**From Marseille to Nice... Get ready for an Olympic Summer 2024!**



### OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

July 24th to August 6th, 2024  
Marseille & Nice

The Orange Vélodrome stadium in Marseille and Allianz Riviera stadium in Nice are hosting the men's and women's Olympic football tournaments with the final at the Parc de Princes in Paris.

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

### OLYMPIC SAILING EVENTS

July 28th to August 8th, 2024  
Marina du Roucas Blanc, Marseille

A bonanza of solo dinghy, windsurfing and formula kite racing on the Mediterranean Sea, with the Roucas-Blanc Marina as the start line. The marina has been extended and adapted for this year's Summer Olympics, with the construction of approximately 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of buildings, together with the reorganization of 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> of outdoor spaces and pool redevelopment.

The events will take place every weekday from 11 am to 7 pm, with the finals on Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd, Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th August.

Women: Laser Radical solo dinghy, 49er FX skiff, IQ foil windsurfing

Men: Laser solo dinghy, 49er skiff, IQ foil windsurfing  
Mixed: mixed multihull Nacra 17 with foils, mixed double dinghy - 470, formula kite - mixed kitesurfing, mixed event.

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



Planche à voile à foil, © O. Lefebvre



Orange Vélodrome © Y. Navarro

## TRAINING IN THE LANDS OF THE GAMES

**France's leading region for outdoor sport, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is home to nearly 350 "Land of the 2024 Games" towns and 43 Games Preparation Centres. Every athlete's dream!**



Escalade Alpes du Sud © R. Van Rijn



© Rugby World Cup France 2023

What is a "Land of the 2024 Games"? It's a town whose characteristics (relief, waves, whitewater, etc.), or indoor and outdoor amenities (Olympic pool, climbing wall, signposted MTB trails, etc.) make it ideal for welcoming high-level sports. Local vigour in terms of sports clubs and active members is taken into account too. 43 of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's "Land of the 2024 Games" towns are also official Games Preparation Centres and as such, are getting ready to welcome some of the 206 National Olympic Committees wishing to prepare in France.

- 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).

Visitors and local inhabitants will get a chance to meet athletes in training, discover lesser-known disciplines (wingfoiling, BMX, 3x3 basketball, etc.) and especially, slip into the skin of champions by enjoying their favourite sport in a perfectly-adapted location. "It's essential for athletes and the general public to share the experience", says Alexandra Louison, former professional triathlete and duathlete, in charge of the Terre de Jeux project for the Hautes-Alpes area.

Examples? In Argentière-la-Bessée (Hautes-Alpes), kayak cross competitors will be launching off from a ramp on the river Durance: the Pays des Écrins service providers offer a myriad of whitewater rafting, swimming and other river sports. Thrills and spills guaranteed! In Martigues (Bouches-du-Rhône) you can swim in the pool used to coach the French open water swimming team, or sail on Etang de Berre sea lake, alongside skippers competing in the bay of Marseille.

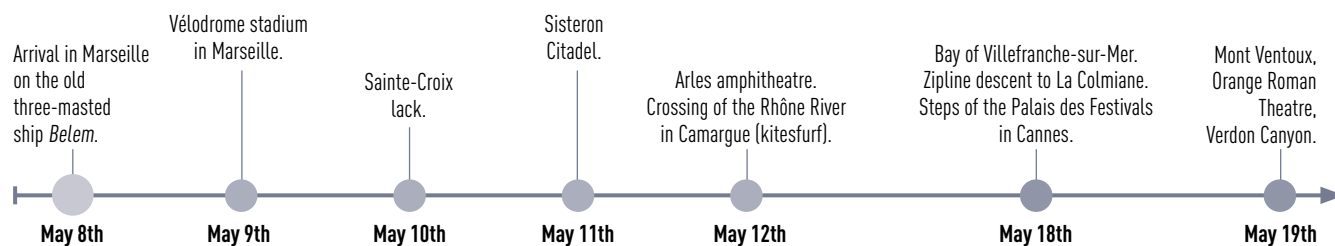
The "Land of the 2024 Games" certification means everyone can enjoy their favourite sport in great conditions, regardless of their age, gender and physical or mental capacities.

[www.paris2024.org/en/games-preparation-centres/](http://www.paris2024.org/en/games-preparation-centres/)

## WELCOMING THE OLYMPIC FLAME

Relayed by regional champions with plenty of fabulous events en route, the Olympic Torch will begin its journey through France in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region on May 8th. After travelling from Greece on the three-masted ship *Belem*, the flame will be spending two days in Marseille - one of the six major regional towns welcoming the flame alongside Nice, Toulon, Manosque, Arles and Avignon. 68 days after docking at Marseille's Old Port, and after crossing 400 towns, it will finally burn in Paris...

### ODYSSEY OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR. HIGHLIGHTS:



Stade Orange Vélodrome © Helios Images - R. Grunhec - Provence Tourisme



Visuel 3D Torche Olympique © Paris2024

### A TOUCH OF HISTORY: THE PARALYMPIC TORCH

Antibes will be welcoming the Paralympic Torch Relay on August 26th, 2024 - a privilege owed to the town's status as the twin town of Olympia in Greece and region's commitment to athletes with disabilities. Starting out from England on August 25th, the flame will be crossing France in 4 days and will be visible in several locations at once: the torch will separate into 12 flames when it arrives on the French coast, before its voyage across the mainland celebrating the Olympic values of inclusion, peace and friendship.

Why does the torch begin its journey in England and specifically in Stoke Mandeville? Because in 1948, a German neurologist working in this town located north of London was seeking ways to speed up the recovery of World War II veterans. As the Olympic Games were taking place in London at the time, he designed a series of sporting events for sixteen paraplegic pilots.

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



## OUR CHEFS ARE CHAMPIONS TOO!

The Olympic Games South of France-style is in our plates too this year! Our cuisine is organic, plant-based and healthy. A champion of local gastronomy, ex-champion basketball player and Michelin 3-starred chef, Marseille-born Alexandre Mazzia has been chosen to cook for the 2024 Olympic Games athletes. 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.

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



Alexandre Mazzia © Franck Chanevas

## CHAMPION TORCH BEARERS

### BOUCHES DU RHÔNE

**Jean-Pierre Papin**, Olympique de Marseille football legend

**Valentin Rongier**, current Olympique de Marseille football team captain

**Fabien Gilot**, Olympic swimming medallist

**Alexandre Mazzia**, Michelin 3-starred Chef, Chef of the Year 2023, Olympic Games Chef

**Laurent Tillie**, French volleyball team coach, Olympic medallist

**Laure Manaudou**, 400 metres freestyle Olympic medallist

### VAR

**Patricia Ricard**, President of the Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute



Langoustine © S. Riss

### ALPES-MARITIMES

**Nastasia Noens**, Skier

**Julia Pereira de Sousa**, Olympic snowboard runner-up

**Loïc Pietri**, Judo World Championship winner

### ALPES-DE-HAUTE-PROVENCE

**Alain Boghossian**, 1998 World Cup champion

### VAUCLUSE

**Michaël Guigou**, Triple Olympic Handball medallist

**Jérémie Azou**, Olympic Rowing medallist

**Anne-Caroline Chausson**, Olympic Mountain Bike medallist

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



Patricia Ricard - © Institut Paul Ricard Océanographique



## LES TORCHES OLYMPIQUES

June 18th to early September, 2024  
Espace Les Arcades, Antibes

Antibes-Juan-les-Pins is the only town in France twinned with the Greek town of Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games. Today, it is home to a collection of no less than forty Olympic and Paralympic torches, medals and commemorative plaques, dating from 1936 to 2020, brought together by Greek collector Stratos Klimou. The exhibition will be kicking off on June 18th, when the Olympic Flame crosses the Côte d'Azur, and running until the end of August.

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



Les torches olympiques © Alcibiade Voliotis



## OLYMPIC POSTERS AND TORCHES

Permanent exhibition  
Musée National du Sport, Nice

**Official Olympic posters.** Traditionally, each host town is in charge of promoting the Olympic Games and holding a competition to select an official poster. The five rings are always present, but every poster has its own story and a style that reflects its era. And the differences are astounding! From the Paris 1924 Summer Olympics to Atlanta 1996 or Sochi 2014, this fascinating collection is part of the museum's prestigious collection of posters on the sports theme.

**34 Olympic torches.** Showcasing the different - and more or less sophisticated - Olympic Torches over the years.

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



Torches Olympiques © Musée National du Sport



## LES ELLES DES JEUX

Until September 22nd, 2024  
Musée National du Sport, Nice

2024 will be celebrating the first gender-equal Olympic Games at a time when chauvinism is sadly still rife in the world of French media and sport. A great opportunity to look back, thanks to the numerous documents on show at the National Sports Museum, on the bizarre logic that excluded half of humanity from competitions designed to unite people. The exhibits, shown over 150 m<sup>2</sup>, include Suzanne Lenglen's silk dress by Jean Patou, as well as a letter from her father recognizing her talent. Visitors will get a chance to meet with such inspiring women as Alice Milliat, creator of the Women's World Games in 1922, tennis player Billie Jean King and great French athletes such as Christine Caron, Marie-José Pérec, Laure Manaudou and Clotilde Agbegenou, the show's godmother.

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



Les Elles des Jeux © Musée National du Sport

## THE FRENCH ALPS IN THE BIDDING FOR THE 2030 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially invited the French Alps into Targeted Dialogue as the only Preferred Host for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

### Renaud MUSELIER

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
Deputy President of Régions de France



"Today marks the start of a period of work, rationalization and performance in fine-tuning our project before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. We will be working diligently and with great humility to achieve the end result: **the return of the Games to the world's leading ski area, the French Alps, across 4 clusters and 2 regions.** We pledge to remain faithful to the Olympic spirit, with particular focus on athlete experience.

This bid is an integral part of our "Une Cop d'Avance" climate plan and 100% green budget, the first in Europe. The objective is clear: sober Games that open up the French Alps, considerably reduce financial costs and mark a return to the "snow and chalet" origins of the Winter Games. 95% of our eco-friendly Games would take place at existing sites.

To all volunteers, athletes, and community and economic players: today we are calling on all those who wish to join forces with us to make this project a proud moment for the French Alps and for all. The 2030 Winter Games are an opportunity for our travel professionals to take up the gauntlet too: we have no doubt they will live up to the challenge.

**Long live Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, long live the French Alps!"**



## A UNIQUE BID

Every Olympic bid is unique, but uniting two regions around a global project spanning such a vast area has never before been attempted. Sporting events can no longer be envisaged as they were in the last century; the joint bid submitted by the French National Olympic Committee, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is authentic, economical, environmentally-friendly and proud. This unifying project conveys the desire shared by our two regions: to ensure the voice of our mountains resounds worldwide, through sober, sustainable and flawless Games that will have a lasting impact on our destination and future generations.

## ECO-FRIENDLY GAMES

The fact that the French Alps boasts 95% operational structures obviously impacted the IOC's choice. In Savoie in particular, the downhill slopes are ready to go, hence minimizing the need for additional developments.



Alpes © R. Van Rijn

## A LAND OF SPORT AND EVENTS

The Rugby World Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games, Tour de France and Winter Games in 2030... Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is a genuine hub of international sport and events. .

**"Snow and chalet" Winter Olympics** in unique scenery... And it starts here.

**4 clusters** located from North to South: Haute-Savoie, Savoie, Briançonnais and Nice Côte d'Azur.

## EVENT

### November 29th, 2023

The only Preferred Host for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

### July 2024

Election of the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Games host.



Téléphérique La Grave La Meije © Thibaut Blais

## A TOUCH OF HISTORY

### CENTENARY OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS

A hundred years ago, in 1924, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc hosted the very first Winter Olympics! The town is, of course, celebrating this exciting centenary in 2024. The Southern Alps played a role in the event too. Sixteen years earlier, in 1907, Montgenève organized the first international skiing competition under the impetus of the French Alpine Club and army. Its line-up may seem astonishing to us today: in addition to ski jumping and military ski patrol – a sport similar to biathlon –, it included tobogganing and snow statue competitions. The competition marked the beginnings of international sporting events and Chamonix went on to host the second edition in 1908.

In 1924, France wanted to organise an International Winter Sports Week as a prelude to the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) chose Chamonix. Teams from sixteen countries came to compete in events including cross-country skiing, figure skating, ice hockey, ski jumping and curling. This well-attended event was subsequently considered as the First Winter Olympic Games and Chamonix began its transformation into a winter sports hub. But in 1928, Montgenève hosted the preparation for the Second Winter Olympic Games in Saint-Moritz. The Northern and Southern Alps continue to pass the baton to this day.

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



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ARTISTS... FROM IMPRESSIONISM TO STREET ART!

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is a vast artists' studio! Cézanne, Matisse, Van Gogh and Picasso all fell in love with the region's unique landscapes and quality of light, and frequented many fellow painters, friends and patrons here.

Over 60 museums and collections, many outdoor, testify to a creative dynamism that continues to inspire artists and craftspeople alike.

You can admire art on our streets too, accessible to all at every hour of the day, in towns such as La Seyne-sur-Mer in the Var area.

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMPRESSIONISM IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

The very first Impressionist Exhibition opened in Paris 150 years ago, on April 15th, 1874. With its unique landscapes and quality of light – a painter's dream – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur played a major role in the emergence of this flagship art movement and its various offshoots: today, we refer to “pre-”, “para-” and “post-” Impressionism, from its débuts with Renoir to Van Gogh, Bonnard, Cézanne and Matisse.

**Exceptional:** in 2024, the numerous exhibitions scheduled throughout the region will include various masterpieces on loan from the Musée d'Orsay. A unique opportunity to view these magnificent works at their birthplace!

### VAN GOGH ET LES ÉTOILES Fondation Van Gogh, Arles June 1st to September 8th, 2024

With one of Vincent Van Gogh's most famous paintings, *Starry Night over the Rhône* (1888), shown just a few metres from where it was painted, this is definitely one of the highlights of the season. The exhibition “Van Gogh and the Stars” focuses on the influence of astronomy on the work of artists such as Millet, Corot, Whistler and Van Gogh in the late 19th century.

[www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org/en/accueil/](http://www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org/en/accueil/)

### BERTHE MORISOT, ESCALES IMPRESSIONNISTES Musée des Beaux-Arts Jules Chéret, Nice April 5th to September 29th, 2024

For the very first time, this exhibition brings together works created by Berthe Morisot during her two sojourns on the Riviera, in 1881-1882 and 1888-1889. Some of her contemporaries are featured too: Eva Gonzalès, Mary Cassatt, Louise Breslau and Marie Bashkirtseff and others. A fitting celebration of the very first in-depth study on the Riviera by the first female Impressionist painter.

[www.musee-beaux-arts-nice.org](http://www.musee-beaux-arts-nice.org)



*Starry Night over the Rhône*, Van Gogh - © DR



*Enfants Thomas*, Morisot - © DR

## LE PRINTEMPS IMPRESSIONNISTE DE MONSIEUR RENOIR

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Draguignan  
March 9th to June 23rd, 2024

The study *Torso, Sunlight Effect* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir is shown in the 20th century room of the brand new MBA alongside *Child with a Biscuit*, a portrait of his son Jean. The study caused quite a stir during the second Impressionist Exhibition in 1876 due to the shades and dashes of colour chosen by the artist..

[mba-draguignan.fr](http://mba-draguignan.fr)



*Torso, Sunlight Effect*, Renoir - © DR

## TOULOUSE-LAUTREC TÊTE D’AFFICHE

Musée Bonnard, Cannet  
March 16th to June 9th, 2024

Bonnard’s role in the discovery of colour lithography was fundamental to the work of Toulouse-Lautrec. *The Clowness* and *The Woman with Gloves* strike up a fascinating dialogue with the posters on show.

[www.museebonnard.fr/index.php/fr](http://www.museebonnard.fr/index.php/fr)



*The Clowness*, Toulouse-Lautrec

## PIERRE BONNARD ET LE JAPON

Hôtel de Caumont, Aix-en-Provence  
May 3rd to October 6th, 2024

Was Pierre Bonnard a fan of Utamaro, Hokusai and Hiroshige? It is certainly not by chance that the “painter of happiness” was also nicknamed the “Japanese Nabi” in his early days. For the first time, this exhibition looks back on the artist’s deep ties with the Land of the Rising Sun.

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



Pierre Bonnard, Terrasse dans le Midi  
© Akg-images - Fine Art Images - Heritage Images

## PEINDRE MARSEILLE, 1853-1878.

### UNE AUTRE MODERNITÉ

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Marseille  
May 24th to September 4th, 2024

Did the mid 19th century foster any modern art movements aside from Impressionism? The Marseille school presented itself as an alternative to what was considered at the time as a “very-Parisian” movement. This exhibition showcases major works from the museum collections, including paintings by Adolphe Monticelli and Marius Englière, rubbing shoulders with Paul Guigou’s *La Lavandière* and *L’Estaque* by Paul Cézanne.

[musees.marseille.fr](http://musees.marseille.fr)

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

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is France's foremost cultural hub in terms of the number and quality of its museums. The Modern & Contemporary Art Routes feature 63 major collections shown in remarkable venues from Arles to Menton. The Art Routes help you plan your cultural tours with ease, from private collections to French national museums, sculpture gardens and street art centres.

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en/things-to-do/culture-and-heritage/modern-and-contemporary-art-routes/](https://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en/things-to-do/culture-and-heritage/modern-and-contemporary-art-routes/)



### HENRI MATISSE: 70 YEARS ALREADY

In addition to the Summer Olympics, 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the death of Henri Matisse in Nice in 1954. By a happy coincidence, Matisse – who loved the southern spirit and quality of light – was also very sporty! A member of the *Club Nautique* in Nice, he used to row every morning. He is now laid to rest at Cimiez cemetery, near the museum dedicated to him during his lifetime.



Musée Matisse © Ville de Nice



### MIRÓMATISSE, PAR-DELÀ LES IMAGES

Musée Matisse, Nice

June 28th to September 29th, 2024

This superb exhibition, in collaboration with the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona, unveils the deep, lasting and constructive relationship forged by the two artists, together with their oeuvre and respective conceptions of art. Although very different, their work shared an in-depth critique of the traditional use of images in the West.

[www.musee-matisse-nice.org/en/](https://www.musee-matisse-nice.org/en/)



Musée Matisse © François Fernandez

**MATISSE-BONNARD****Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence****Summer 2024**

The Fondation Maeght is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a focus on the friendship between Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse, as well as their ties with the Maeght family. It explores, through a variety of themes, the unique character of each painter, as well as their different ways of tackling the same subjects: self-portraits, street scenes, muses and the South of France's unique quality of light.

Exceptionally, a shuttle service will be provided between the Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence - Matisse's last work - and the Fondation Maeght for the duration of the exhibition.

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



Fondation Maeght - © DR

Fondation Maeght - © Olivier Amsellem

EVENT

**2025, CELEBRATORY YEAR: CÉZANNE AND HIS HOMETOWN OF AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

One day, after attempting to paint in Savoie, Cézanne is said to have exclaimed, "It's no good! When you were born down there, you can't appreciate anything else!". "Down there" being Provence of course and the artist's beloved Sainte-Victoire mountain. His birthplace, Aix-en-Provence, is getting ready to honour Cézanne in style in 2025, with a major show at Musée Granet, the public reopening of Jas de Bouffan where he lived for 40 years and rehabilitation of his studio, the Atelier des Lauves.

[www.aixenprovencetourism.com/en/aix-en-provence-en/paul-cezanne/](http://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/en/aix-en-provence-en/paul-cezanne/)



Cézanne's studio - © Sophie Spiteri

## STREET ART

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur loves all kinds of art, so you'll find street art on every corner here too in a tribute to the master of them all: Nice-born artist Ernest Pignon-Ernest.

### 📍 NICE

A sculpture titled *Pépin, la déesse et la mer* by Ernest Pignon-Ernest stands proudly over the Garibaldi tram station in Nice. His *Rimbaud vagabond* has toured the world. Today, the graffiti artist Otom, famed for *Gaia et les papillons*, has founded the association *Whole Street*, bringing together urban culture specialists (graffiti, bmx, music, dance, etc.), while *Ambiance ta ville* provides artists with walls where they can express themselves freely. Spray cans to the ready!

[www.explorenicecotedazur.com/en/travel-blog/culture-heritage/nice-street-art/](http://www.explorenicecotedazur.com/en/travel-blog/culture-heritage/nice-street-art/)



Alberoner © Andy-Street Art Tour

### 📍 ANTIBES

The street art centre sChOOL is at the origin of the *Festival Coul'Heures d'Automne*, offering a new and innovative angle on the role of art in public spaces. *Les Casemates de la Création* offers introductions to various artistic techniques in the old military bunkers lining the port. The town is a proud and active holder of the "Ville et Métiers d'Art" label.

[www.coulheures.fr/cartographie](http://www.coulheures.fr/cartographie)



Médiathèque Albert Camus Antibes © Jen Miller - César Malfi

### 📍 TOULON

Murals by Fréjus-born street artist Sufyr, depicting Coluche, Julius Caesar, David Bowie, Frida Kahlo and more, can be admired on the doors and façades of Rue de l'Hôpital and Rue des Savonnières.

[www.provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en/provence/things-to-do/culture-and-heritage/top-3-street-art-spots-in-the-var/](http://www.provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en/provence/things-to-do/culture-and-heritage/top-3-street-art-spots-in-the-var/)

### 📍 LA SEYNE-SUR-MER

The Bois-Sacré former industrial site has been home to a genuine "graffiti museum" for two decades now, complete with vast murals decorating the old hangar doors. Around a dozen walls in the town centre have been decorated by talented international artists too.

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



La Seyne sur Mer © Provence Méditerranée

## AVIGNON

The world is a stage! Even the town's façades are adorned with magnificent trompe-l'œil works representing Jean Vilar, Ariane Mnouchkine, Laurent Terzieff, Isabelle Huppert or Maria Casarès... An eternal tribute to mythical moments from the Avignon Festival, in particular on Place de l'Horloge.

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

### EXHIBITION

#### MISS.TIC - "À LA VIE, À L'AMOR"

Grande Exposition du Palais des Papes, Avignon  
June 27th, 2024 to January 5th, 2025

The Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace) in Avignon is hosting the first monograph and posthumous exhibition dedicated to street artist Miss. Tic this year, far from the walls of Paris where most of her work has been on display. For 40 years, between 1980 and 2020, Miss.Tic made visitors to the capital smile with her slogans such as "*A la vie, à l'amor*" (To life, to love), "*Cherche âme frère*" (Seeking soul brother) or "*Pas d'idéaux/juste des idées hautes*" (No ideals, just lofty ideas). Filled with humour and delicately feminist, her spray-painted aphorisms are accompanied by stencil drawn portraits, often of women. Popular and anti-snob, this pioneer of street art passed away in May 2022.

[palais-des-papes.com](http://palais-des-papes.com)



A la Vie, a l'Amor  
© Atelier Miss Tic

## MARSEILLE

The unrivalled queen of street art, with must-sees including the city's Panier and Cours Julien quarters and the innovative Belle de Mai – a former industrial site. Top names include Difuz, Nhobi and Remy Uno. You'll find Invader's *Space Invaders* here too, along with various other French towns. N.B. the former Savonnerie la Tulipe soap factory is set to house a street art museum in the framework of the Euro-méditerranée urban development project.

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

#### Château de Forbin in Marseille, an address for those in the know.

A private estate at the edge of Calanques National Park, Château de Forbin harbours a major collection of post graffiti and contemporary works. The Château can accommodate up to 30 guests and is available for private events.

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



Street art cours Julien - 2018 © OTCM

## BRIANÇON

Eighteen of the town's façades (outside the Cité Vauban) were decorated by international artists during the last three editions of the Street Art Festival. The murals, on the themes of nature and mountains, are listed on the interactive map:

[www.trompe-l-oeil.info](http://www.trompe-l-oeil.info)



© T. Poinas



## PROVENCE-ALPES CÔTE D'AZUR, THE CYCLING EL DORADO

**W**hether you're enjoying a relaxing day out along Mediterranean shores, tackling one of the region's many mountains or even taking part in the Tour de France, our two-wheeled friend reigns supreme in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

What's more, as this year's Summer Olympics are taking place in Paris, the finish line of the Tour de France on July 21st has been moved to Nice's Promenade des Anglais!

Cycling in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur isn't just about performance: the region is criss-crossed with countrified cycle paths and long-distance routes perfect for getting around while honouring the natural environment.

## A REGION OF CHAMPIONS

Home to Mont Ventoux, mythical mountain passes including Le Galibier – featured for the 63rd time this year in the Tour de France – and the Grande Traversée des Alpes long-distance trail, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is a stunning training ground for all types of cycling disciplines. The region also hosts the world’s biggest MTB event: the Roc d’Azur.

**Did you know?** One quarter of the professional peloton lives on the Côte d’Azur!

### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024: NICE ON THE PODIUM!

**The race is on in Nice.** A first for this year’s 111th edition! As France’s capital is hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics this year, the Tour de France finish line has been moved to Nice for the first time in 110 years. Another novelty in 2024: a suspense-packed time trial winding up two new stages. With 5 out of 21 stages in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, this year’s sun-drenched Grande Boucle promises plenty of surprises.

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



Tour de France 2019 Serre Ponçon © A.S.O. Alex BROADWAY

#### Thursday July 4th, 2024

##### Stage 4: Pinerolo / Valloire. 138 km

Departing from Florence in Italy, this is the first French stage on the Tour. The peloton will be arriving in the Briançon area via Col de Montgenèvre, before heading to Col du Galibier (11.9 km, 7.1% then 17.7 km, 6.9%), via Le Lautaret. Monêtier-les-Bains marks the start of the last 11.5 km stretch to the finish line, with an average 9.2% uphill climb and some gruelling stretches at 10%.

#### Tuesday July 16th

##### Stage 16: Gruissan-Nîmes. 187 km

A flat stage between Gruissan and Nîmes. The region’s gusting mistral wind could well foil the plans of sprinters along the Narbonne coast, under Pic Saint-Loup or at the entrance to the beautiful town of Nîmes.

#### Wednesday July 17th

##### Stage 17: Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux / Superdévoly. 178 km

The race is on to the Southern Alps, with some likely surprises in store for the peloton on the last 40 km of climbs including the formidable Col du Noyer (7.5 km, 8.4% uphill slope) and arrival in Superdévoly, welcoming the Tour for the first time this year.

#### Thursday July 18th

##### Stage 18: Gap / Barcelonnette. 179 km

Ubaye Valley is in the limelight for two days, although sprinters will barely have time to admire Serre-Ponçon lake before attacking the slopes of Saint-Apollinaire and Les Demoiselles Coiffées.

#### Friday July 19th

##### Stage 19: Embrun / Isola2000. 145 km

A dizzy, ultra-mountain stage spanning less than 150 km, with three climbs to altitudes of over 2,000 metres and up to 2,802 metres at the summit of La Bonette. A record altitude for the Tour de France!

#### Saturday July 20th

##### Stage 20: Nice. 132 km.

Departing from Nice Côte d’Azur, the peloton will be tackling four successive climbs: Col de Braus (10 km, 6.6%), Col de Turini (20.7 km, 5.7%), Col de la Colmiane (7.5 km, 7.1%) and Col de la Couillole (15.7 km, 7.1%). Just 24 hours from the finish line, the bets are still on!

#### Sunday July 21st

##### Stage 21: Monaco / Nice. 35 km

Boredom definitely isn’t an option this year, with a heart-stopping time trial winding up in the heart of Nice. The layout between Monaco and Nice features several climbs: La Turbie (8.1 km, 5.6%), Col d’Èze (1.6 km, 8.1%) and a long, final descent towards the Promenade des Anglais in Nice.

Trip down memory lane: in 1989, the last time trial ended on a defeat for Laurent Fignon. Greg Lemond won by just 8 seconds!

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

### PARIS-NICE, THE TOUR BEFORE THE TOUR!

#### March 3rd to 10th, 2024

The 82nd edition of the famous Paris-Nice race will be tackling several category 1 slopes also featured on the Tour de France itinerary. Lasting eight days and crossing 1,219 km between Paris and Nice, it promises a great foretaste of the Tour to come.

[www.paris-nice.fr/en/](http://www.paris-nice.fr/en/)

## LE ROC D'AZUR, WORLD LEADING MTB EVENT

Fréjus - Roquebrune-sur-Argens  
October 9th to 13th, 2024

The first edition of the Roc d'Azur mountain bike festival in 1984 had just 7 participants. Now the world's leading MTB event, the annual festival in early October brings together over 20,000 mountain bike fans from every country to take part in the various races or simply meander around the vast, free fair.

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

## LE BOL D'OR VÉLO

Circuit du Castellet  
April 27th to 28th, 2024

**New:** The Bol d'Or motorcycle race is famed worldwide. But when it started out, in 1894, it was actually a cycling race! *Le Cycle* and *Larivière Organisation* have now brought this heritage event back to life on the Paul Ricard racetrack. The challenges last 6 to 24 hours!

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



©Bol d'Or

## LA GRANDE TRAVERSÉE DES HAUTES-ALPES OU GTHA

It's France's longest cycle route: 350 km (7 to 10 days) with 17,000 metres of uphill climbs, stretching across mountains and glaciers from La Grave-Villar d'Arène to Laragne-Montéglin, and along the shores of Serre-Ponçon lake.

[www.hautes-alpes-tourisme.com/en/](http://www.hautes-alpes-tourisme.com/en/)



GTHA  
Tour de France  
2019  
Serre Ponçon  
© A.S.O.  
Alex BROADWAY



Grands cols - Lautaret Galibier Izoard © P. Domeyne

## TOURNÉE DES GRANDS COLS

During the "Cols Réservés" operation held every summer in the Southern Alps, mythical mountain passes such as **Echelle, Izoard, Agnel, Allos, Galibier, Granon, Montée de Chabre** and **Pommerol** are closed to traffic on certain mornings – and wide open to cyclists keen to measure themselves against the champions in all safety. Saddle up!

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

## BREVET DES 7 COLS

If you manage to climb the seven mythical mountains of Ubaye Valley in the Southern Alps you'll be rewarded with a diploma! Welcome to the very select "Brevet des 7 Cols" club!

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



Le Brevet des 7 cols - Dévoluy © K. Kestler

## A CYCLE TOURING REGION *PAR EXCELLENCE*

Family day excursions, solo long-distance adventures or a simple ride to the station or office... **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is a paradise for road, mountain, electric and gravel enthusiasts alike. Some of the region's old cattle tracks, Mediterranean coastal footpaths and pine wood trails have now been turned into exhilarating EuroVelo cycle routes too, making getting around a piece of cake.**



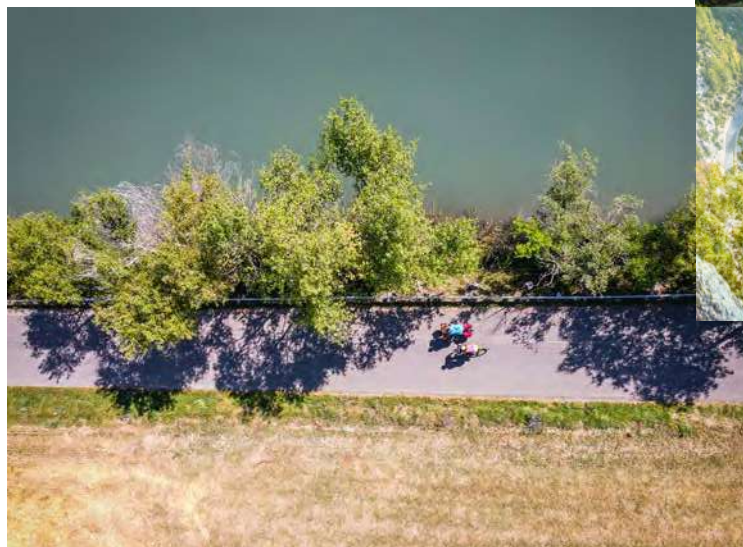
Vélo village © A. Hocquel

### THE DURANCE RIVER BY BIKE

The Durance is Provence's largest river. Today, the V862 cycle route – aka "La Durance à vélo" – follows the river's 438 kilometres of magnificent landscapes, from its source on the heights of Montgenèvre to its confluence with the Rhône in Avignon. The local railway stations allow you to hop onto the route at any time with your bicycle or mountain bike. The Hautes-Alpes section of the route is fully signposted.

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

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



La Durance à vélo Gap Embrun © Cedric Tempier

### LE TOUR DU VERDON

**New :** A breathtaking and sometimes dizzy 258 kilometres (4 to 7-day) loop crossing the Verdon Canyon and shores of Sainte-Croix-du-Verdon and Esparron lakes.

[www.uk.veloloisirprovence.com](http://www.uk.veloloisirprovence.com)



Gorges du Verdon et Lac de St Croix - © Ph. Murtas - Verdon Tourisme

## LA MÉDITERRANÉE À VÉLO

Spanning 850 kilometres from Le Perthus to Menton along the French section of the EuroVélo 8 route. The itinerary winds its way along varied coastal scenery with a few inland escapades too. Some sections cross the ViaRhôna route and V65 coastal route.

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



Menton © CRT-Cote-d-Azur-France - C. Moirenc

## LA VÉLOROUTE LITTORALE

Scheduled to span 460 kilometres on completion, this route crosses Camargue, the Côte Bleue coast, Var coast, Prealps and Côte d'Azur.

If you'd like a foretaste of the cycling pleasures to come, the *Parcours Cyclable du Littoral Varois* crosses 20 towns in the Provence Méditerranée area between the Gulf of Saint-Tropez and Var-Estérel, following the old *Chemin de Fer de Provence* railway track. 92 km of the scheduled 120 km between Six-Fours and Saint-Raphaël have been completed so far, with 77 in clean areas (no motor vehicles allowed)..

[Véloroute littorale - from Sanary-sur-Mer to Nice \(francevelotourisme.com\)](http://francevelotourisme.com)



Vélo La digue à la mer © V. Beaume & B. Soulage - Provence Tourisme

## LA VIARHÔNA

The ViaRhôna (or EuroVelo 17) and EuroVélo 8 cycle routes form the backbone of the regional cycle network set to reach an impressive 2,020 kilometres in 2025. Stretching from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean, the ViaRhôna takes you to Port Saint-Louis or Sète according to the chosen itinerary.

Six stages are located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur: Viviers to Lapalud in Vaucluse, Lapalud to Caderousse, Caderousse to Avignon, Avignon to Beaucaire, Beaucaire to Arles and Arles to Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône.

<https://en.viarhona.com/cycle-route>



Palais des Papes Avignon © C. Martelet



## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS AND LIBERATION OF PROVENCE

Launched 70 days after the Normandy Landings, the Allied Landings in Provence on the night of August 14th to 15th, 1944 caught the German troops posted on the coast and inland by surprise.

Provence was freed in less than two weeks, but the operation, which mobilized 350,000 Allied soldiers including 260,000 French troops, lasted over three months. It was pivotal in two ways: firstly, it gave political legitimacy to the new French State presided by General de Gaulle at the Liberation. Secondly, as it was mainly conducted by French troops - the B Army - it allowed France to position itself among the victors and claim its current seat at the UN Security Council.

## PLAGE DU DRAMONT

📍 CAP DRAMONT

Plage du Dramont is one of the eighteen beaches, between Toulon and Cannes, on which the Allies landed on August 15th, 1944, from 8 a.m. onwards. It was D-Day for Operation Dragoon.

A Landings barge and stele dedicated to the soldiers stands on this pebble beach to the south of Cape Dramont, facing Ile d'Or island. A quarrymen's footpath has now been created at the site too, as a reminder of another story that took place here: the mining of a rare magnetic rock called dacite.

[www.saint-rafael.com/en/](http://www.saint-rafael.com/en/)



Mémorial du Mont Faron  
© Office de tourisme Provence Méditerranée

## ALLIED LANDINGS AND LIBERATION OF PROVENCE MEMORIAL

📍 TOULON, MONT FARON

Mont Faron boasts the Côte d'Azur's only cable car. The climb to the summit at 580 metres, offering magical views over Europe's largest military port, Bay of Toulon and Embiez islands, lasts just 7 minutes. It was here that General de Gaulle ordered the building of an Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence Memorial, harbouring remarkable archives, photos and films on the Allied Landings in Provence and, in particular, the difficult surrender of the eighteen thousand soldiers of the Wehrmacht in Toulon. The fighting lasted until August 28th, 1944, when Admiral Ruhfus and his men surrendered on the beaches of Les Sablettes. The Memorial is one of the cornerstones of the 2024 commemorations.

[www.tourismprovencemediterranee.co.uk](http://www.tourismprovencemediterranee.co.uk)

[memorial of the Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence](http://memorialoftheAlliedLandingsandLiberationofProvence)



Mont Faron © Office de tourisme Provence Méditerranée



Téléphérique Toulon © Office de tourisme Provence Méditerranée

## NOTRE-DAME DE LA GARDE

📍 MARSEILLE

The façades of Notre-Dame de la Garde Basilica, fondly nicknamed *La Bonne Mère*, still bear traces of the fierce fighting that took place in Marseille up to August 28th, 1944, despite the insurrectional strike and revolt of the population from August 19th, 1944.

The Moroccan Goumiers and, especially, Algerian Tirailleurs, took part in the strategic liberation of the Basilica on August 29th and it is partly thanks to them that France was able to claim its place among the victors a year later. At the time, General de Monsabert, a fervent Catholic, paid homage to the Virgin Mary, exclaiming "It is all thanks to her!".

[notredamedelagarde.fr/?lang=en](http://notredamedelagarde.fr/?lang=en)



Notre Dame de la Garde © N. Aldrovandi  
Office de Tourisme Marseille

## CIMETIÈRE AMÉRICAIN

📍 DRAGUIGNAN

The Allied Landings in Provence began inland, when 5,000 British paratroopers landed around the plain of Le Muy on the night of August 14th to 15th, 1944. Many fell during the march to Cannes to secure the imminent arrival of 2,000 warships.

The Cimetière Américain is the only American cemetery in the South of France. It commemorates the fifth landings campaign on the western front (after Sicily, North Africa, Normandy and Calabria). A bronze relief map pays tribute to the 858 soldiers buried there. Don't miss France's only artillery museum too, located nearby.

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



Cimetière américain Draguignan © C. MOIRENC

## MOSQUÉE MISSIRI MUSÉE DES TROUPES DE MARINE

📍 FRÉJUS

Many soldiers from France's overseas colonies fought alongside French troops during WWI and WWII. The contingent of 260,000 French soldiers (called B Army) who took part in the Landings in Provence, under the orders of General Lattre de Tassigny, consisted mainly of "brave African Chasseurs, Goumiers, Tabors, Spahis, Tirailleurs, Zouaves, tireless artisans of victory" (former President Jacques Chirac). The Musée des Troupes de Marine in Fréjus dedicates the majority of its 120 showcases to them. The museum is located near the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment and astonishing Sahelo-Sudanese style mosque or *Missiri* (meaning mosque in Bambara), paying homage to the Sudanese artillerymen. Today's Mali was called French Sudan at the time.

[www.frejus-tourist-office.com/discover/the-missiri-mosque/](http://www.frejus-tourist-office.com/discover/the-missiri-mosque/)

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



Mosquée Missiri © Office de Tourisme de Fréjus



## "LA ROUTE DU DÉBARQUEMENT DE PROVENCE"

Glide through the skies in Saint-Exupéry's reconnaissance aircraft, land on the beaches of Le Rayol alongside the GIs on August 15th, 1944 and climb the rock of Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde in Marseille... This app invites users to relive every moment of the Allied Landings in Provence thanks to a plethora of archive footage. The perfect companion to your visit to the Landings sites, or to enjoy at home.



Musée Troupes Marine Fréjus © Esterel Côte d'Azur

## “LE CHEMIN DE LA MÉMOIRE”

### 📍 LA LONDE-LES-MAURES

Walk in the footsteps of a soldier from La Londe during the Allied Landings in Provence in August 1944 – but at your own pace! You can follow the “Memory Road” – in the form of an interactive game on the downloadable Baludik app – by car, on foot, or by bike, preferably starting out from the Stèle de la Libération on Route Saint-Honoré. The 10-kilometre route is dotted with nine memorial sites, each with its own set of anecdotes.

Not to be missed: On August 17th, 2024, La Londe-les-Maures will be celebrating the Liberation with a parade of WWII vehicles and large firework display, followed by a “Liberation Ball”!

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



Baludik Le Chemin de la Mémoire Affiche  
© Office de Tourisme Méditerranée Porte des Maures



## COMMEMORATIONS

### Saint-Raphaël - Cavalaire

**August 15th and 28th, 2024**

Commemorations featuring processions and military vehicle parades are held every year in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, especially in the Var area towns lining the coast and mainly Saint-Raphaël and Cavalaire. This year’s August 28th events, marking the anniversary of the Liberation of the Saint-Mandrier peninsula and City of Marseille, coincide with the start of the Paralympic Games.



Débarquement à Saint-Raphaël - © Fond patrimonial médiathèque municipale de Saint-Raphaël



**A selection of events, ceremonies exhibitions and more celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence**

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

## RECONSTRUCTION

### 📍 BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS

Bormes-les-Mimosas is hosting a spectacular reconstruction of the events of August 16th, 1944, as part of the 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings in Provence. On that day, following an ambush set up by resistance fighters, nearly 200 hostages from Le Lavandou were taken to Bormes by the Germans. They were subsequently freed by African commandos under the orders of Colonel Bouvet, together with American soldiers from the 509th parachute regiment.

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



## EN VADROUILLE, LOUIS DE FUNÈS ET LE DÉBARQUEMENT EN PROVENCE! Musée Louis de Funès, Saint-Raphaël

**Summer 2024 to May 31st, 2025**

France’s 5th most-watched film of all time, *La Grande Vadrouille* has become part of France’s collective memory. Released in December 1966, it parodies the German Occupation of France and subsequent reconciliation. The recently re-mastered version is a resounding success too. Reluctantly dressed up as Resistance fighters, Bourvil and Louis de Funès’ hilarious one-liners such as “But alors you are French?” have become part of France’s cultural lexicon.

<https://museedefunes.fr/?lang=en>

A couple is walking away from the camera on a large, checkered plaza. The woman is wearing a blue patterned jacket and skirt, and red shoes. The man is wearing a light-colored checkered jacket, beige trousers, and a flat cap. In the background, there are colorful buildings with yellow and red facades and green shutters. The sky is clear and blue.

## THE CÔTE D'AZUR, WINTER IS THE NEW SUMMER

**T**he delights of winter on the Côte d'Azur... A well-kept secret known only to insiders until now! Nice and the Côte d'Azur promise marvellous travel experiences from November to March. The sky is bluer, the air is purer and you'll find less people on our Mediterranean shores.

Our recent "Winter is the New Summer" advertising campaign repositions Nice and the Côte d'Azur as a winter sun destination, just like it was between the 18th and early-20th century. So very chic! Winter is the new summer.

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

### WINTER RESORT TOWN

In 2019, UNESCO listed Nice as a “Winter Resort Town of the Riviera”, meaning its architecture, layout and exceptional parks and gardens are perfect for relaxing and socializing outside the hot summer months. After all, that’s how Europe’s wealthiest people, including Queen Victoria, appreciated it for two centuries!



Nice © ville de Nice

### AZURE SKIES

Bring a sweater and... sunglasses! Although winter temperatures vary from 5 to 14°C, they often feel warmer. You can usually savour lunch outside on a terrace, even in winter. What’s more, you can whoosh down the snowy slopes less than a hour’s drive away and dine at the water’s edge all in one day...



© DR

### CELEBRATIONS & CULTURE

Nice Carnival, the world’s third most-popular carnival, now features a gay carnival too – Lou Queer Naval – promising plenty of fun, feathers and glitter! You’ll find plenty of great events here off season – the Fête du Citron in Menton and Fête du Mimosa in Mandelieu-la-Napoule to name but two, plus a host of museums (20 in Nice alone) and a plethora of exciting exhibitions and shows in every season sure to delight culture fans.



© Ville de Nice

## GASTRONOMY

You won't find anywhere more locavore que Nice! The city's cuisine even has its own name: "cuisine nissarde", with treats including wild game, chard, orange blossom and Menton lemons on the winter menu. Fine dining is a cornerstone cultural experience in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and culinary tourism is booming, attracting travellers who care about the quality and origin of the food they eat and are keen to immerse themselves in local life. Visiting during the olive and orange harvest is a recipe for success...



© DR

## SHOPPING

Winter on the Côte d'Azur means just a quarter of the usual visitors plus plenty of great deals on offer at the Carré d'Or in Cannes and Nice, or in the aisles of Cap 3000, France's oldest shopping mall overlooking the Med. You'll find designer boutiques and artisan studios galore in the historic quarter of Antibes, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Juan-les-Pins and Saint-Tropez. Not to be missed too in winter: the flower markets and their breathtaking show of anemones, mimosa, violets and the first lilacs...



© C. Luparini


## "PASS SUD AZUR EXPLORE"

A great way to get around the Côte d'Azur (Alpes-Maritimes) on public transport for 3, 7 or 14 days at a very friendly price (from €2.10 / trip).

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



Vue sur le Vieux-Nice © C. Marchand



## RESPONSIBLE + TOURISM = PROVENCE-ALPES CÔTE D'AZUR!

**H**ome to 60 % protected areas, a record number of producer-to-consumer direct sales, an ever-better slow mobility offering and the possibility of getting around by bike all year long, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is proudly upholding its status as a pilot region for the energy transition.

In 2023, the region was also top of the podium in terms of sustainability labels (Green Key), low-carbon transport and slow mobility, as well as organic farming (Vaucluse and Hautes-Alpes). But we're not ready to sit on our laurels yet! Welcome to the green new world of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur!

## “LOW CARBON” PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### NEW! THE “PASS JOURNÉE” DAY PASS

Valid all year round, this new pass allows you to travel all day on TER and ZOU! public transport services in one or two administrative areas (departments) in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region.

The deal: €20 per day for one department, €35 for 2 adjacent departments, plus plenty of options. Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is home to 6 departments. The mega deal: people accompanying the pass holder (up to 7 people) pay a discount rate of €5.

The “Pass Journée” is on sale at regional train station ticket offices and ticket machines, as well as on the SNCF Connect and TER SNCF websites.

[www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/](http://www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/)



### OTHER GREAT DEALS:

#### Côte d’Azur, “Pass Sud Azur Explore”

A great way to get around the Côte d’Azur (Alpes-Maritimes) on public transport for 3, 7 or 14 days at a very friendly price.

[www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/](http://www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/)

#### Southern Alps, ZOU! Neige

The ZOU! Neige buses and trains offer easy access to the region’s ski resorts and mountain villages at attractive rates (from €2.10 per trip).

[www.zou.maregionsud.fr/en/](http://www.zou.maregionsud.fr/en/)



Train des Pignes © CRT-Cote d’Azur France - G. Veran

Le train ZOU © Serge Maccario



Gare Bollène © A. Hocquel

## SOFT MOBILITY HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR!

Over 10,000 km of signposted GR® and GR® de Pays long-distance hiking trails, plus numerous PR® trails you can tackle in a day.

### GEOTREK, THE BEST OPEN SOURCE APP

The Geotrek app has just been selected out of 101 candidates for the European Commission's Open Source Observatory (OSOR) prize rewarding open source digital tools.

Designed and launched in 2012 by three national parks (including Écrins and Mercantour), GeoTrek is a must-have app for hikers, allowing users to find, try out and share routes. Today, it is in use in over 150 parks, municipalities and administrative areas.

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



Randonnée Dévoluy - © K. Kestler

### GR®69 LA ROUTO®

Hikers can now follow in the footsteps of shepherds and their flocks on the GR®69 La Routo® long-distance trail, connecting the plains of Provence to the alpine valleys of Piedmont. Listed as UNESCO Intangible Heritage, the transhumance (translocation of flocks to their summer/winter pastures) is still widely practised today.

[www.larouto.eu/en/](http://www.larouto.eu/en/)

### THE GR® DE PAYS "MONTAGNE SAINTE-BAUME"

long-distance trail connects the villages situated along the 12-kilometre rocky ridge of the Sainte-Baume hills.

[www.pnr-saintebaume.fr](http://www.pnr-saintebaume.fr)



Trail Lauzon - Champsaur Valgaudemar - © Thibaut Blais

**ON THE CYCLING FRONT**, 2025 should see the completion of around 2,000 km of signposted "veloroute" cycle routes. The region is ideal for all types of cycling: cycle touring, competitive cycling, excursions with family or friends, mountain biking and new disciplines such as gravel bike. Over a thousand accommodation providers and shops are now proud holders of the "Accueil Vélo" (Cyclists Welcome) label.

**New:** the V862 Durance à Vélo cycle route, running through Durance valley from Briançon to Sisteron, crosses historic sites and remarkable landscapes.

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

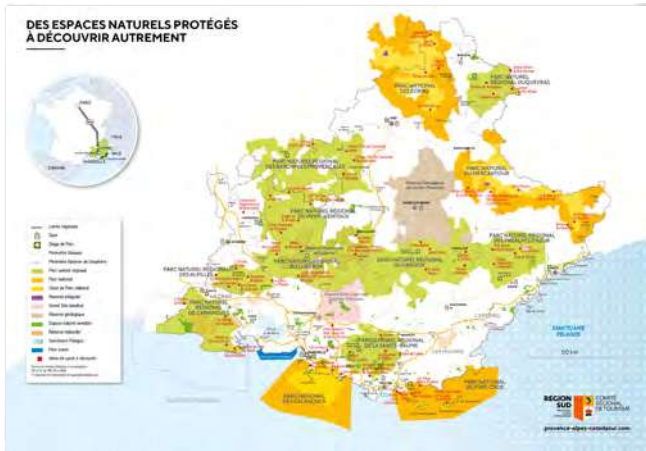


Lac Oules Serre Chevalier © R. Van Rijn

## A WELL-PRESERVED REGION

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is home to 60% protected natural areas – the highest percentage in France. The region offers numerous leisure activities, accommodation providers and even local products bearing the “Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional” or “Esprit Parc National” quality labels, pertaining to regional nature reserves and national parks.

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



© Estérel Côte d'Azur

## WHALE AND DOLPHIN-WATCHING

Part of the Pelagos Sanctuary, the maritime area located off the coast of the Esterel hills harbours eleven species of cetaceans. Although fin whales – the largest mammals in the world after the blue whale – and sperm whales are fairly rare sightings, it is not uncommon to see bottlenose and Risso's dolphins there. Service providers awarded the High Quality Whale-Watching® label guarantee a respectful approach to the animals, in the company of a naturalist guide.

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



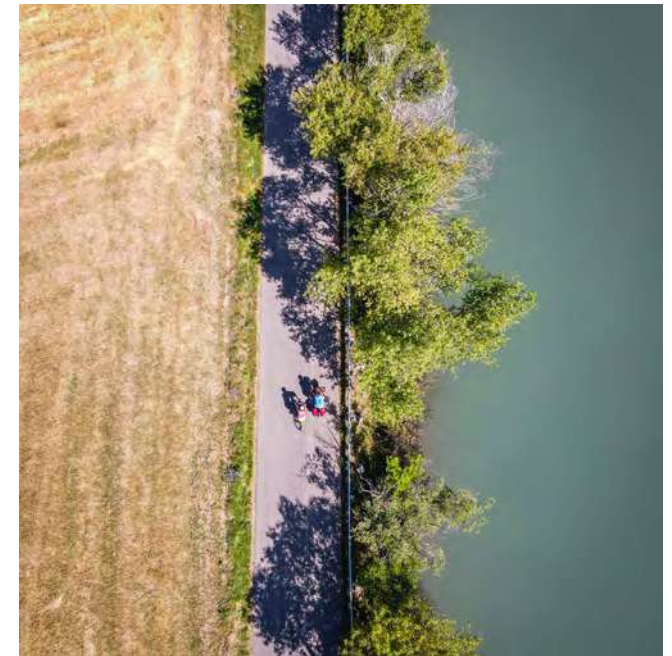
© Estérel Côte d'Azur

## A GOLDEN AGE FOR GREEN LABELS

In 2024, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is France's leading region for “Clef Verte” (Green Key) establishments. 242 new establishments, i.e. 93 more than 2023 (+ 62%) now proudly sport this tourism label on their accommodation and restaurants.

Our other eco-friendly labels – Valeurs Parcs Naturel Régional, Esprit Parc National, European Ecolabel, Écogites, Michelin Green Star, Gîtes Biodiversité and Gîtes Panda by Gîtes de France – are also progressing, reflecting the commitment of our service providers to responsible tourism.

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



La Durance à vélo © Cedric Tempier

## LOCAL TOURISM

The diversity of the region's three destinations – Provence, French Southern Alps and Côte d'Azur – makes it the ideal candidate for a "staycation", or holiday near home. The idea is gaining ground! According to the latest survey, 40% of our French visitors (representing 71% of all tourists) live in the region!.

### "ÇA C'EST LE SUD" TOUR

Well-managed tourism makes everyone happy! The proof of the pudding? The "Ça c'est le Sud" tour organized by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board brings local inhabitants and visitors together around fun, free comedy and music shows. For this year's second edition, the tour will be stopping off at several towns and villages in Provence, the Southern Alps and on the Côte d'Azur.

The tour aims to promote the region's environmental initiatives, strengthen ties between inhabitants and tourists and showcase the region's legendary lifestyle and hospitality. Long live Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur!

### "Ça c'est le Sud" tour

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



© C. Gensollen



## AGRITOURISM: WELCOME TO OUR MORE-SECRET TERROIRS!

At a time when most of us are in a constant rush, it's good to know that unhurried havens do still exist, where people like to sit down and chat, where vegetables take their time to grow and where animals patiently wait to be patted...

There's no need to go to the ends of the world to enjoy a change of scenery and enriching travel experience to remember. Simply savour lunch at a local farmhouse inn, enjoy a few days at a farm, or treat yourself to some delicious local produce and flavourful specialities to take back home. And all that at a friendly price. Merci!



© R. Van Rijn

### REGIONAL FARMING: KEY FIGURES

In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, most (56 %) of our 20,000 farms span less than 25 acres. Almost 80 % produce plants (lavender, "Foin de Crau" hay, vegetables, vines, etc.), 38 % of which is sold through short distribution circuits. And 44% are holders of quality labels, with the IGP, Label Rouge, AOP or AOC stamp featured on around 300 products.

The new "100% Valeurs du Sud" label distinguishes regional produce that guarantees farmers a fair wage. Processing and distribution firms can also qualify for the label.

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



©La Valbonnette



### BIENVENUE À LA FERME

The "Bienvenue à la Ferme" (Welcome to the Farm) label has almost 420 members in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (out of around 20,000 farms). Whether accommodation, camping, educational tours or farm shops, the label guarantees a delightfully warm welcome.

New website:

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



### ACCUEIL PAYSAN

What if you could help the environment by going on holiday? Deeply committed to sustainable development, the "Accueil Paysan" farmers welcome visitors with open arms for a different kind of getaway.

[www.accueil-paysan-paca.com](http://www.accueil-paysan-paca.com)

## SOME OF OUR FAVES

## FERME PARA LOÙ

Sainte-Croix Lake sparkles down from the pool. The honey workshop is set just behind the pretty guest rooms decorated in typical Provencal style. Your hosts Richard and Laetitia Rippert, - innkeepers and beekeepers alike -, are always delighted to introduce guests to their bees and honey harvesting techniques. Lavender honey on a fresh baguette and homemade gingerbread promise to get the day off to a good start. A holder of the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" label.

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



Lac de Sainte Croix © Di Duca

## FERME-AUBERGE LES CLARINES

The Barban family has lived at this impressive farmhouse in Saint-Jacques de Valgaudemar, at the entrance to Valgaudemar under the 3,000-metre peaks of Écrins National Park, for the last 330 years. And they have been pampering hikers and mountain lovers for almost as long!

This delightful farmhouse inn includes self-catering gites for families or friends, together with guest rooms. Josiane's *tourtons* are a must, while dinners focus on grilled meats and goat cheeses. A holder of the "Gîte de France", "Bienvenue à la Ferme" and "Ecogîte" labels.

[www.auberge-clarines.com](http://www.auberge-clarines.com)



Josiane Barban - Auberge des Clarines  
© P. DOMEYNE

## FERME-AUBERGE LA MAGUETTE

Magali Malavard has taken over the family farm - a pretty blue house in the heart of sweet-scented lavender fields on Plateau d'Albion -, where she now grows 125 acres of spelt, chickpeas, cereals and lavender she distils to make essential oils. Hungry guests at her farmhouse inn are in for a treat, with chicken, rabbit, mutton, goat, pork and guinea fowl, all born and bred on site, typically on the menu. You can opt for a relaxing night at the two guest rooms or bungalow at the foot of Mont Ventoux. Camper vans welcome ("France Passion" network). A holder of the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" label.

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



Ferme Auberge la Maguette

## MAS DU BRÉGALON

Sheep have an enviable life here, under the pines of this little paradise in the Aix countryside. Hugues, Christine and Anaïs Girard's affection for their animals – Rove and alpine chamois goats – is the secret to their outstanding cheeses. You'll need to get there early though: the fresh and mature goat cheeses never have time to ripen in the window.

Their grape juice is irresistible too, not to mention the goat milk ice cream infused with cocoa beans... Afternoon visits from Tuesday to Saturday from February to November. A holder of the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" label.

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



© C. Chillio



© Eglantine de Valbonnette

## LA FERME SAINT-PIERRE

In Bargème, 30 minutes from Castellane and 1¼ hours from Nice and Toulon, Carina and Berté nurture a 200-acre organic farm offering several gîtes for 6 to 8 people decorated with wrought iron, plus a quaint caravan, yurt and African hut. The restored 11th-century chapel is ideal for workshops and small events. Carina and Berté also raise ponies, peacocks and miniature donkeys (a genuine breed). Animals welcome. A holder of the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" label.

[www.fermesaintpierre.net](http://www.fermesaintpierre.net)



## NEW

### BIENVENUE À LA FERME ROAD TRIPS

The Alpes de Haute-Provence area offers five "farm road trip" discovery tours lasting three days, with accommodation in gîtes, "Bienvenue à la Ferme" guest rooms or at rural campsites.

The five road trips: "The Land of Giono", "The Haute-Provence UNESCO Geopark", "Verdon Lavender and Lakes", "Verdon Towns and Villages of Character" and "Three Mythical Mountains" includes stop-offs to meet with friendly local farmers, always delighted to introduce visitors to their profession and produce. The brochure also features farm shops, agricultural fairs and day trips to the region's mountain pastures.

[www.tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com](http://www.tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com)



### FESTIVAL BRIN DE CULTURE

**October 1st to November 1st, 2024**

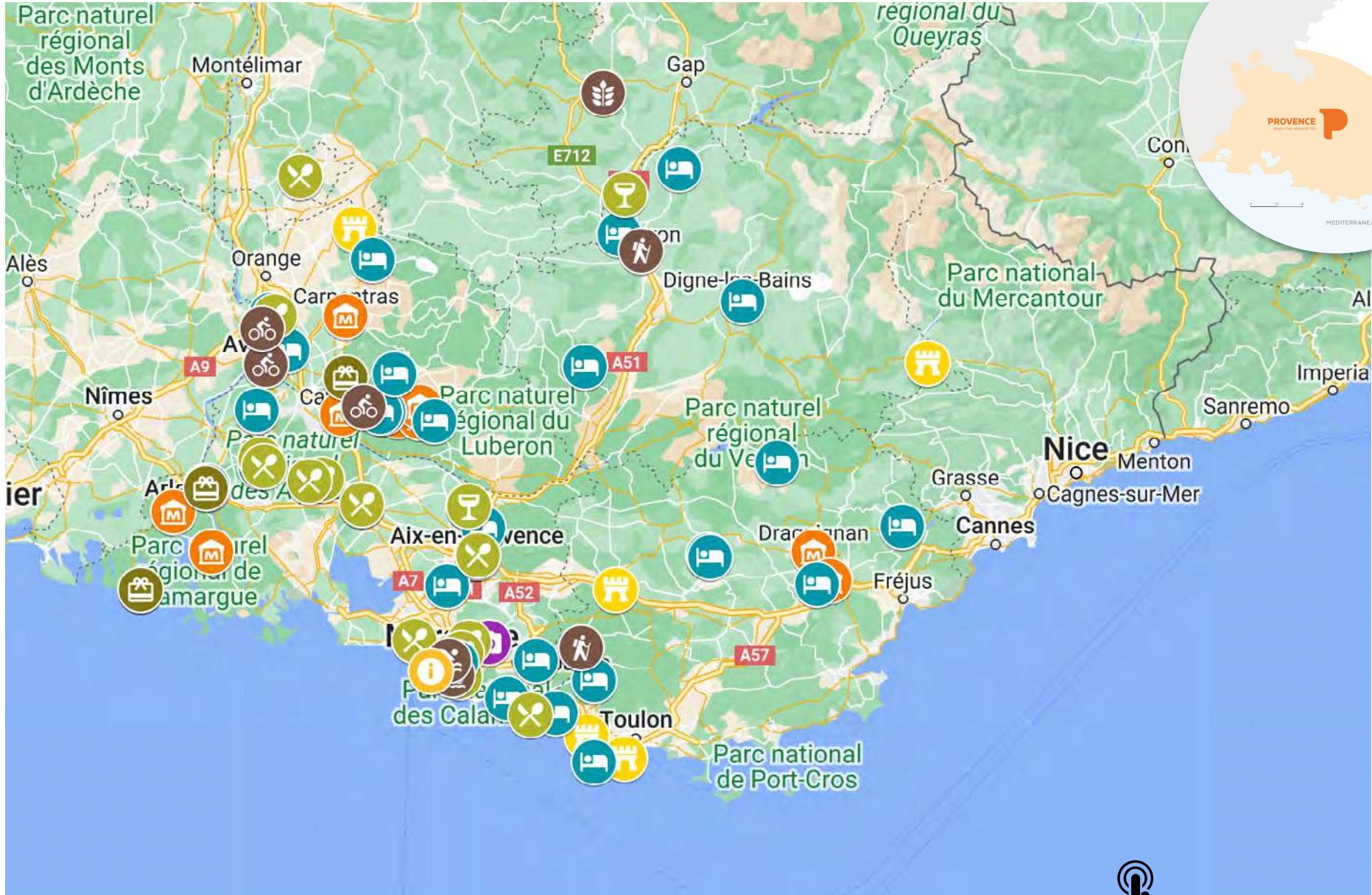
A fabulous fair combining culture and agriculture, taking place every year in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Regional farms open their doors to host shows, concerts, exhibitions, talks and tours.

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

# PROVENCE



# WHAT'S NEW IN PROVENCE



CLICK HERE

A large, well-lit wine cellar with a high, vaulted wooden ceiling. Rows of wooden barrels are stacked on metal racks on both sides of a central aisle. In the center of the aisle, a single barrel is suspended from the ceiling. A person is visible in the distance, walking through the aisle. The floor is polished and reflects the overhead lights.

## GRAND AVIGNON CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ORANGE

The Catholic popes took up residence in **Avignon** in the 14th century and the town remained under pontifical reign until 1791: its **Popes Enclave**, still standing today, is a truly unique heritage site. **Richerenches**, the truffle capital, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its world-famous market.

The vineyards of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** claim to be France's oldest too; they are part and parcel of the glorious **Côtes-du-Rhône** area, with Avignon at its core. Every summer, the City of the Popes hosts a Theatre Festival welcoming every artistic expression, transforming the town into an international creative hub.

## HOSPITALITY

### LES HAUTS DE CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE GUEST HOUSE

📍 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

This large, contemporary house, set in a pretty garden, is a haven of harmony. Véronique Galliot and Bernard Naud are passionate about music, especially choir singing and the Renaissance period. When they aren't busy with singers or pianists come to train, they rent out their four cosy rooms, *Les Vignes*, *Les Oliviers*, *Terracotta* and *Les Ochres*, set against the opera-worthy backdrop of a castle, Rhône River and distant Popes' Palace...

Visiting musicians can reserve two music rooms, one with 5 upright pianos and the other measuring 100 m<sup>2</sup>, offering 2 grand pianos. The rooms are used for the hosts' music school - *La Plage Musicale* - based on the alternative Martenot method.

This is a perfect venue for music or other workshops, able to accommodate eight participants on site with access to the garden, 8 private parking spaces and a locked bicycle shed.

Double room from €85 with breakfast. Workshops from €1,100 including a 2-day weekend for 6 students and 2 teachers.

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



Les Hauts de Châteauneuf du Pape - © DR

Les Hauts de Châteauneuf du Pape - © DR

### HÔTEL 1770\*\*\*\*

📍 LE PONTET AVIGNON

This abode, built in 1770 then converted into a printing shop, has now been modernized while conserving its original exposed beams, marble staircase and various ancient objects.

Located 6 km to the north-east of Avignon, it now features 19 double rooms, 3 family duplex rooms, 2 junior suites and 2 wheelchair-friendly rooms. The *Factory* restaurant offers a choice of moods: an industrial-style brasserie or intimate lounge. The *Kokoon* spa features a heated indoor pool. The meeting and banquet room, *L'Évènement Ciel*, can welcome 180 seated guests.

Rooms from €140. Breakfast €18 per adult and €13 per child up to 12 years.

[www.en.1770-avignon.fr](http://www.en.1770-avignon.fr)



Hôtel 1770 - © DR

## GASTRONOMY

EVENT

### CENTENARY OF THE TRUFFLE MARKET

📍 RICHERENCHES, ENCLAVE-DES-PAPES

France's oldest truffle market in Richerenches celebrated its centenary in 2023, with celebrations continuing until mid-March 2024.

[www.grignanvalreas-tourisme.com](http://www.grignanvalreas-tourisme.com)



Truffles - © P. Leroux

### TERRAE

📍 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Fine wines - Châteauneuf of course - and truffles: agricultural engineer and fresh truffle seller Philippe Latil designed Terrae as a dual tribute the noble nugget, with a Truffle Bar on one side and restaurant on the other. The Truffle Bar seats 15, the restaurant seats 22.

Starters €15 to €25, main courses €35 to €45 depending on the truffle variety.

[terrae-truffe.fr](http://terrae-truffe.fr)



Terrae - © DR

### GRAINES DE PIMENT

📍 AVIGNON

On Place de la Principale. Generous dishes prepared with organic produce and served by a team of youngsters as part of a reinsertion programme.

Choice of 3 prix fixe menus from €11 to €18.

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



Graines de Piment © O. Tresson

## OUTDOORS

### SOFT MOBILITY IS GAINING GROUND

📍 AVIGNON

The new multimodal hub at Avignon Centre railway station forms the new gateway to the city – and its a great place to park your bike too. The Popes’ Palace and Pont Saint-Bénézet are now proud holders of the “Accueil Vélo” (Cyclists welcome) label. Both are located three minutes from the ViaRhôna cycle route.

[en.viarhona.com/cycle-route/](https://en.viarhona.com/cycle-route/)



Microaventure gare - © Projet Azur

### FOOTBRIDGE BETWEEN SORGUES AND SAUVETERRE

📍 SAUVETERRE

Measuring 200 metres in length and 3 metres in width, the new footbridge, reserved for pedestrians and cyclists, is set to change everyone’s lives for the better. With its masts soaring 22 metres into the air, this vast construction connects the ViaRhôna cycle route to northern Avignon.

It crosses the Rhône River, linking Ile de la Motte to Sauveterre and Ile de l’Oiselay to Sorgues, at Barthelasse dam.

Meanwhile, restoration work on the Pont des Arméniens, forming the last section of the ViaRhôna cycle route in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, is currently in the completion stage. The ViaRhôna stretches all the way from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean Sea.

[avignon-tourisme.com/en/](https://avignon-tourisme.com/en/)



© Cyril Cortez - Département du Vaucluse



Vélo Caromb © A. Hocquel VPA



## LUBERON VENTOUX

A hundred years ago, Vaison was renamed **Vaison-la-Romaine** in tribute to its many beautifully-preserved Gallo-Roman remains.

Sixty kilometres away, a mountain crowned with cedars forms the backbone of the **Luberon Regional Nature Reserve**. Many of its villages – now favourite haunts for artists – enjoy views over the white skullcap of **Mont Ventoux**, rising to an altitude of 1,912 metres.

One of the Luberon's best-known villages, **Gordes**, was recently elected "Most Beautiful Village in the World" by the American magazine *Travel + Leisure*. Streams and rivers bubble their way through **Pernes-les-Fontaines**, **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse** and **L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue**, an international hub of antiques and bric-à-brac.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### CENTENARY OF VAISON-LA-ROMAINE

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE

Vaison, the best-preserved Roman town in France, officially adopted the name Vaison-la-Romaine in 1924. The former capital of the Voconces people still harbours its Roman theatre, statues of emperors, a few Roman patrician villas, cobbled streets and ancient gardens, whisking visitors 2,000 years back in time. The Voconces benefited from a *civitas foederata* (federated city) status, i.e. linked to Rome by a treaty. A packed events programme is scheduled to celebrate the centenary.

[vaison-ventoux-tourisme.com/en](http://vaison-ventoux-tourisme.com/en)



Vaison-la-Romaine - © A. Hocquel - VPA

### INGUIMBERTINE LIBRARY-MUSEUM

HÔTEL-DIEU, CARPENTRAS

Inauguration on April 19th, 2024.

Hôtel-Dieu in Carpentras is the second-largest historic monument in Vaucluse after the Popes' Palace. Spanning 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, it is now home to a library-museum unique in France, set to open its doors in April 2024. The Bishop of Inguibert, founder of both institutions, was committed to healing both the body and mind: his humanist philosophy is at the origin of an exceptional collection of 70,000 ancient books, paintings, prints, antiques, coins, medals and scientific objects, to which various other objects have been added over time to make this a genuine hub of knowledge-sharing through books and images alike.

On the ground floor, the public multimedia library invites visitors to settle down to read or work in the company of Provençal paintings and archaeological treasures. On the first floor, at the top of a monumental staircase, the heritage collections are now open to the public and feature a permanent exhibition. Tour highlights include a presentation of the ancient Papal State (1272 to 1791) and its capital Carpentras, the study of Malachie d'Inguibert, bishop of Carpentras from 1735 to 1757, and the 19th-century library created by local-born scholar Casimir Barjavel. The tour continues with a gallery of fine arts harbouring rare paintings by Louis XVI's official painter Joseph Duplessis.

Adults €8 to €12 (without or with temporary exhibition). Ages 12 to 25 years: €5 and €8. Free for children under 11 years. Groups: €15 and €22 (3 people) or €20 and €32 (4 people).

[inguibertine.carpentras.fr](http://inguibertine.carpentras.fr)



Façade © A. Hocquel - VPA

Cabinet Inguibert © Ville de Carpentras

## CENTRE CULTUREL DORA MAAR

📍 MÉNERBES

The **Centre Culturel Dora Maar** spans two buildings, the **Maison Dora Maar** and **Hôtel de Tingry**.

The Maison Dora Maar, an 18th-century mansion house, was the famous former residence of surrealist artist and photographer Dora Maar from 1944. Picasso's partner for a decade, she subsequently retired there and lead a solitary existence. After her death, the house was purchased by the American patron Nancy Brown Negley, who restored it and converted it into a residence for writers, artists and academics. She also purchased the neighbouring Hôtel de Tingry.

Today, the Dora Maar Cultural Centre features a ground floor visitor's centre and art gallery (MOB).

[maisondoramaar.org](http://maisondoramaar.org)



Dora Maar © Centre Culturel Dora Maar

### EXHIBITION

**March to November 2024**

Exhibition of photos by Dora Maar and works by Leonor Fini. Free entry. Hôtel de Tingry is also open to the public during exhibitions.

Summer 2024: Joseph Havel

Guided tours of the Maison Dora Maar also available in summer subject to prior booking.

Tour length 20 minutes. Price: €10.



Bibliothèque Dora Maar © DR

## SCAD SCULPTURE WALK

📍 LACOSTE

The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), a private graphic arts and design school, has been located in Lacoste for 20 years, at the foot of the Marquis de Sade's ancient castle. The school has now created a Sculpture Walk, accessible free of charge, dotted with ten major works by American artists and an Indian artist.

Every summer, the SCAD FASH fashion school hosts a fascinating exhibition dedicated to a designer.

[www.scad.edu/locations/lacoste](http://www.scad.edu/locations/lacoste)



SCAD Lacoste Promenade de Sculptures - © DR

## FONDATION BLACHÈRE

📍 BONNIEUX

The first African Contemporary Art Foundation is setting up home at Bonnieux railway station. This fabulous, multidisciplinary collection, featuring around two thousand works, never ceases to expand. Created by Jean-Paul Blachère, founder of Blachère Illumination, its philosophy and objective remains the same: to support and distribute contemporary creation from Africa and its diaspora. The boutique is well worth a stop-off too – you'll find original works on offer there plus a fabulous range of innovative lighting products.

[fondationblachere.org](http://fondationblachere.org)



Fondation Blachère - © Jérémie Pitot



### “Chimères”

Running until March 9th, 2024

This inaugural exhibition titled “Chimères” brings together 24 artists from across Africa and its diaspora. Exploring the limits between reality and fantasy, it plunges visitors into a world of hybrid creatures, ancient tales, bestiaries and the spirit realm...

### “Bandiagara”

Au commencement de la collection Blachère

April 4th to September 21st, 2024

20 years ago, in front of the cliffs of Bandiagara in the Dogon country (Mali), Jean-Paul Blachère pledged to bring his commitment to the arts to life through the creation of a foundation dedicated to promoting, supporting and distributing the work of artists from the African continent. Bandiagara showcases the work of 20 artists who have spearheaded West African contemporary art over the last two decades. An event to look forward to at Gare de Bonnieux station.

Entry €5.



Fondation Blachère © Collection Blachère

## SYNAGOGUE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

📍 CAVAILLON

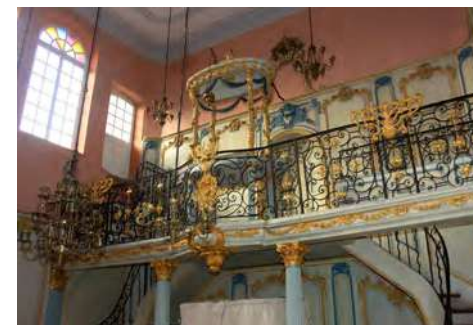
This year, the region is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Cavillon synagogue, the 100th anniversary of its classification as a listed monument and the 40th anniversary of its restoration. Home to the Musée Juif Comtadin since 1963, this extraordinary construction, featuring a medieval tower and rococo rostrum, tells the story of the so-called “Pope’s Jews”, from the expulsion of Jews from the Kingdom of France in 1307 to their welcome on Papal ground (corresponding more or less to current-day Vaucluse) and particular status that was a mixture of both tolerance and exclusion. The Revolution brought freedom of worship and the Comtat Venaissin area was subsequently attached to the new Republic. Avignon is also home to an ancient synagogue, while the Carpentras synagogue is the oldest in France still in operation.

Numerous heritage events are scheduled in 2024, including talks, tours, concerts and children’s workshops. Guided tours only.

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

### Discovering the Jewish heritage of Provence

From the Roman-Byzantine Grand Temple in Marseille, to Place de la Juiverie in Pernes-les-Fontaines and the Jewish cemetery in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, a route retraces the history of the Jewish communities that have lived in Provence from time immemorial.



Synagogue Cavillon © A. Hocquet - VPA

## HOSPITALITY

### LES DOMAINES DE CLARA

OPPÈDE & GORDES

#### La Bastide in Oppède.

Spanning 845 m<sup>2</sup>, this 18th-century farm and its two outbuildings harbour seven suites named after flowers, ranging from 31 m<sup>2</sup> to 97 m<sup>2</sup>, complete with exposed wood beams, traditional tomette floor tiles and objects carefully curated by the Colombian owner. The pool, jacuzzi and pool house are set in 17 acres of vineyards and olive groves.

From €30,000 per week.

#### Le Mazet de Beaumes in Gordes

Le Mazet offers three rooms, two of which - Isis and Osiris - are set inside an old ironworker's house in Gordes. The third, Sidonia, inhabits an old stone borie now listed as regional heritage. The view over Gordes is superb.

From €10,000 per week.

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



La Bastide à Oppède - © Les Domaines de Clara

### MAISON D'HÔTES MAS EN SCÈNE

MALAUÇÈNE

Born in the Belgian town of Knokke-le-Zoute, designer Béa Monbaers now lives in Malaucène, the main departure point for the ascent of Mont Ventoux. After decorating the Pont de l'Orme hotel, she purchased this U-shaped house decorated with antique objects and designer furniture. It now offers four suites (*Tilleuls*, *Cyprès*, *Olivier* and *Pin Parasol*), a guest lounge, covered terrace and pool with pool house.

From €200 to €310 per night.

[masenscene.com/maisondhotes](http://masenscene.com/maisondhotes)



Mas en Scène - © DR

### LA BASTIDE DU MOURRE

OPPÈDE

An oasis of for self-pampering... Domaines de Fontenille is an intimate address featuring 16 rooms set in five bastides, with stunning views over the Luberon and vines. A spa and outdoor pool complete the offering.

From €250 to €420, breakfast €30.

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



Bastide du Mourre - © DR

## LES HAUTS DE GORDES, ICONIC HOUSE

📍 GORDES

A fourth address for Thibaud Elzière and Robin Michel, founder of Iconic House, a collection of exceptional house-hotels. The three buildings comprising Les Hauts de Gordes are situated less than 2 km from Sénanque Abbey. Interior designer Jérémie du Chaffaut called on the talent of numerous artists for the project: a blue gate by Gaultier Rimbault-Joffard, sculpture by Charles Kalpakian, painting by Pierre Malbec, drawings by Caroline Beauzon and a graphic pool on two levels courtesy of Robin Vermeersch. The kitchen is swathed in enamelled tiles – a reedition of the illustrious *Carrelage de cuve*. *L'Épicerie* is an XXL take on the classic hotel mini bar. Seven rooms including a family suite and children's dormitory form the beating heart of the property. Spanning 15 acres home to an old stone borie surrounded by a trampoline, slacklines, a pétanque court and open-air cinema, the property can be fully privatized..

[fr.iconic.house/les-hauts-de-gordes](https://fr.iconic.house/les-hauts-de-gordes)



Les Hauts de Gordes - © Drone Iconic House



© Mr. Tripper

## HÔTEL CAPELONGUE\*\*\*\*\*

📍 BONNIEUX

Niched in 15 acres of beautiful grounds on the heights of Bonnieux, Capelongue resembles a picturesque Provencal hamlet. Redesigned by Jaune Architecture with terracotta flooring and wrought ironwork, it now offers 57 rooms and suites, a new spa and restaurants headed up by Noël Berard (*La Bastide* and *Café Capelongue*) and Mathieu Guivarch (*La Bergerie*), regaling guests with Provencal cuisine cooked over a wood fire. An events space courtesy of the Beaumier group is now available too.

Reopening May 1st, 2024.

[www.beaumier.com/en](https://www.beaumier.com/en)



Capelogue Bonnieux © Capelongue

# KNOW-HOW

★ ARTISAN TOURS

Discover the list of workshops hosting artisan tours

## BRUN DE VIAN-TIRAN, WORLD'S BEST FAMILY BUSINESS

ISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE

The Brun de Vian-Tiran firm, a manufacturer of noble wools since 1808, was awarded the “World’s Best Family Business” title in 2022 by the PFV (Primum Familiae Vini), an association of twelve exceptional wine estates. The award takes into account the firm’s family status of course, together with its commitment to ethics, handing down know-how, eco-friendliness and innovation. In the words of 7th and 8th generation directors Pierre and Jean-Louis Brun, “This prize rewards 8 generations of our family, as well as our sustainable ecosystem, from breeders to designers, manufacturers and loyal customers who pass our fabrics down from parent to child. Thank you all for being part of this benchmark for a kinder world”.

**New:** Outlet next to the La Filaventure boutique and museum, offering great deals, unique prototypes and even a top-comfort bed with a mattress topper and pillow.

<https://www.brundeviantiran.com/en/>



Brun de Vian-Tiran - © DR



Brun de Vian-Tiran - © DR



Brun de Vian-Tiran - © DR



## ARLES CAMARGUE ALPILLES

It's a great year for **Arles**, with the return of **Van Gogh's Starry Night** and election of the 25th queen of Arles. From the **Roman Theatre** to the **Luma Foundation**, the town juggles brilliantly with ancient and modern.

All around, the stony steppe of **La Crau** and marshy landscapes of **Camargue** dotted with reed beds unfurl their way to the mounts of **La Montagnette** and the **Alpilles**.

Olive trees and vines encircle the ravishing Roman towns of **Tarascon**, **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**, **Les Baux-de-Provence** and **Salon-de-Provence**. Traditional soap making, Camargue races and costumes are still alive and kicking here, alongside gorgeous old farmhouses and inspired restaurants known only to insiders.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITION

### MUSÉE DU PARC RÉGIONAL DE LA CAMARGUE

CAMARGUE

**“La Camargue entre deux eaux”  
“Bras de fer, un Rhône au destin très bref”**

The exhibition Camargue between two waters explores how the soil, animals and plants of Camargue have adapted to water, whether from the Rhône River or Mediterranean Sea. An additional exhibition entitled Power struggle, the very short destiny of the Rhône (1587-1711), completes the offering.

The refurbished and extended museum, nestling inside an old sheepfold at Mas du Pont de Rousty, also features a 4 km walking trail. Visitors can climb up to the wooden observatory by artist Tadashi Kawamata free of charge to gaze over the start of the trail, winding between rice fields, reed beds and salt meadows.

Audio tours available in English, German, Spanish, Italian and Provençal. Accessible to all four types of disability: visual, auditory, physical and mental.

Full price: €7 - Reduced rate: €4

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



Départ exposition - © M. Colom

### A MUSEUM SPACE AT MAS DE LA CAPELIÈRE

CAMARGUE

The new museum space at Mas de la Capelière, on the shores of Vaccarès lake, revisits the creation of Camargue’s first nature reserve in 1927 through photos and documents. Touchscreens and an immersive room invite visitors to discover the unique characteristics of the reserve, spanning much of Vaccarès lake. The nature trail in the grounds leads through typical landscapes and promises birding fans some great sightings.

The site’s manager, the National Society for the Protection of Nature, is the oldest society of its kind in France. It also manages the Salin de Badon rustic gîte set inside a former royal saltworks, as well as the Gachole lighthouse site on the sea dyke.

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



Mas de la Capelière © DR

EXHIBITION

### 150 years of Impressionism FONDATION VAN GOGH

ARLES

**“Van Gogh et les étoiles”**

Exceptional loan from the Musée d’Orsay

**June 1st to September 8th, 2024**

The 19th century witnessed the birth of a passion for astronomy. This year, the Van Gogh Foundation is breaking all the rules with a mix of artists from various eras revisiting the history of art off the beaten track. Alongside Van Gogh and his iconic *Starry Night over the Rhône*, on loan from the Musée d’Orsay, the exhibition showcases the painters that followed in his wake: Edvard Munch, Robert Delaunay, Frantisek Kupka, Kasimir Malevitch, Georgia O’Keeffe, Helen Frankenthaler. Gustave Doré, Vassily Kandinsky, Jean-François Millet, Adolphe Monticelli and Raymond Roussel.

[www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org/en/](http://www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org/en/)

Van Gogh - Nuit Étoilée

EVENT

**FESTIV'ARLES CENTENARY**

ARLES

Traditions are made to be upheld! Following in the footsteps of poet Frédéric Mistral, the Arles Festival Committee has been flying the flag of Provence's heritage celebrations – the *Pegoulado* and *Roussataio* to name but a few – since 1924. Since 1930, it has also overseen a much-awaited election: that of the Queen of Arles. The centenary coincides with the start of the reign of the 25th new Queen, presented to the crowds on the Town Hall balcony on May 1st, 2024.

Several centenary events are scheduled in addition to the usual annual offering: the International Opera Forum, Satin Race, Arles Festival, a show at the Roman theatre and Costume Festival.



© Lionel Roux

EXHIBITION

**FESTIV'ARLES  
VU PAR L'ŒIL DES RENCONTRES**

**February 3rd to March 24th, 2024**

The 100th anniversary of the Arles Festival Committee and Queen of Arles contest seen through the eyes of the International Photography Festival at the Museon Arlaten chapel.

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



© B. Levelt



Hôtel de ville Arles © A. Celindano

## HOSPITALITY

### LE MOULIN D'AURE\*\*\*

GRAVESON

The Moulin d'Aure in Graveson has won a third star! Hélène Martin has been busy restoring this old mill, nestling amid olive groves and grounds where rabbits gallivant. Located in the fields eight kilometres outside Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, this 19-room hotel complete with a pool is definitely different. The rugs and craftwork from Hélène's travels in Morocco lend a chic bohemian touch to the walnut tables. A Neapolitan chef oversees the *Tutti Quanti* restaurant, serving pasta dishes to die for. The venue also offers a meeting room for 25 people.

Rooms from €140, prix fixe menu €40 approx.

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



Le Moulin d'Aure - © My groom service

### HAMEAU DES BAUX

MAUSSANE-LES-ALPILLES

With its village air, little square in the shade of plane trees and murmuring fountain nestling under stone farmhouses, Hameau des Baux is an ode to good times. Now managed by Beyond Places, part of the Petites Maisons collection, it cultivates an arty atmosphere, with playlists courtesy of DJ Samuel Boutruche, interior design by Constance Breton and artwork in the rooms and grounds. A corner of the lobby is dedicated to the Actes Sud bookstore in Arles. The 21 rooms and suites feature whitewashed walls, exposed beams and vintage furniture mixed with designer pieces. The 12-acre grounds overflow with hiding places perfect for enjoying a good book under the olive trees. Chef Julie Chaix serves joyful Bistronomic cuisine at *Allegria* and *La Petite Guinguette*, while the concierge service at this "luxury friends' house" offers great suggestions for exploring the Alpilles off the beaten track.

From €238 for two guests.

<https://en.les-petites-maisons.com/>



Hameau des Baux - © DR



Hameau des Baux - © DR

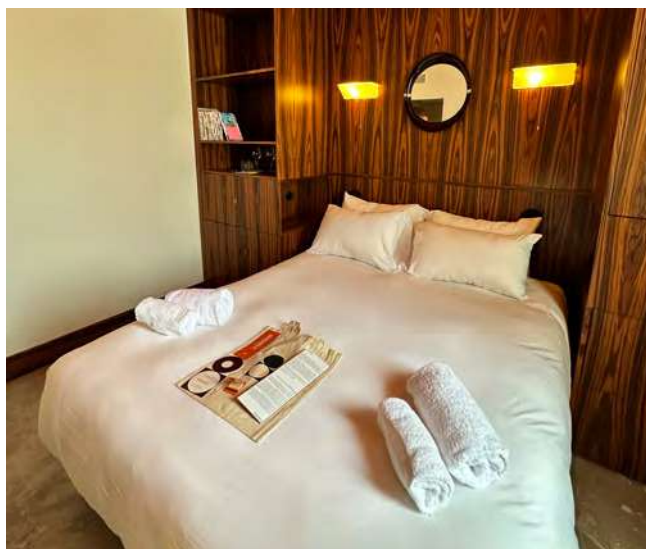
## HÔTEL PRÉSENT

ARLES

Set on the little Place Voltaire, the Hôtel Présent is the fruit of a 1953 collaboration between renowned town planner Pierre Vago and young local architect Georges Imbert. Its 13 rooms, all different, with or without a balcony, are divided into 5 categories. Their wood burl walls harbour artwork, vintage furniture and many books, plus a mini wine cellar with a selection of bottles at friendly prices. The blue-tiled rooftop resembling an empty swimming pool is somewhat surreal. The bar is open to exterior guests, as is the restaurant of course, welcoming Finnish chef Maud Saddok for its first season, aided and abetted by Ophélie Caurant.

Rooms from €72.

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



Hôtel Présent - © Office de tourisme Arles Camargue

## LES BAINS GARDIANS

SAINTE-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

Paris's mythical address Les Bains has laid claim to another legend: the Auberge Cavalière in Pont de Bannes, at the gateway to Saintes-Marie-de-la-Mer. Jean-Pierre Marois, the son of the former owner of Les Bains Douches night club, intends to honour the site's heritage: his gypsy evenings and concerts in the amphitheatre promise to be the talk of Camargue. The 48 herdsman's cabins, bean-shaped pool and 18-bedroom farmhouse have all been refurbished, while the twenty or so horses promise breathtaking treks through the marshes. The restaurant is having a rebirth too, with a more eclectic choice of cuisine plus a team of mixologists. And more is in the pipeline. The hotel should be open all year round.

Rooms from €250.

[www.lesbains-paris.com/en/](http://www.lesbains-paris.com/en/)



Les Bains Gardians - © DR

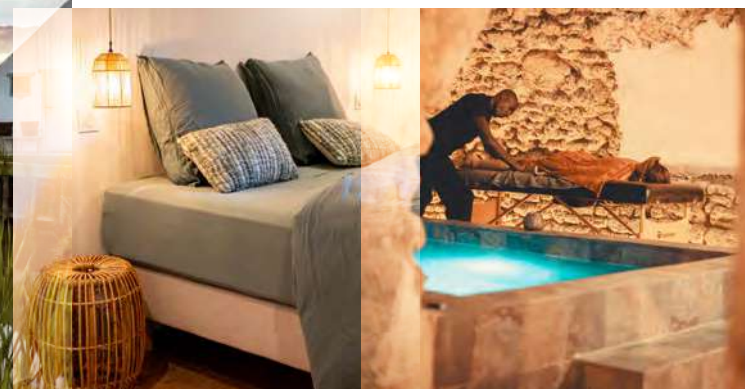
## LA MAISON DES LAMANON

SALON-DE-PROVENCE

The entrance to this 18th-century mansion house stands under a porch adorned with a Renaissance window. Nine out of the ten apartments, at the foot of Château de l'Empéri, are served by a magnificent stairwell and can accommodate 2 to 6 people. Four are connecting and two feature a terrace. Stone walls, parquet flooring, cream linen sofas and Made in France bedding complete the charm. The shared lounge is dedicated to the house's former owner, Robert de Lamanon, a botanist, physicist and meteorologist who died in 1787 on the island of Maoua, during the Pérouse expedition. Set inside the 14th century cellar, the spa with jet pool and sauna is free for guests, subject to prior booking. The very approachable owner, Éric Pace, is committed to a hybrid concept, midway between a hotel and apartment hotel. The ground floor patio is home to the restaurant *Le Moulin des Sens*.

From €95 to €380 per night.

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



Chambre & Espace bien-être - La Maison des Lamanon © Com du Sud

## GASTRONOMY

### LA CABRO D'OR, MAISON BAUMANIÈRE

LES-BAUX-DE-PROVENCE

La Cabro d'Or in Les-Baux-de-Provence is now a proud bearer of the "Green Food" label in recognition of its environmental efforts.

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



© Virginie Ovessian

### LE MOULIN DES SENS

SALON-DE-PROVENCE

Eric Larroche - a disciple of Escoffier - and Marc Fornieles concoct bistronomic cuisine made with seasonal produce, served in the courtyard of this 18th century mansion house. The private room can welcome up to 40 guests.

Inspiration menu €28.

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



© Virginie Ovessian1



© Virginie Ovessian1

## KNOW-HOW

★ ARTISAN TOURS

Discover the list of workshops  
hosting artisan tours

### OLIVES DE LA VALLÉE

📍 BAUX-DE-PROVENCE – ALPILLES

With 370,000 trees panning out in waves over an area of 6,000 acres, the Vallée des Baux-de-Provence in the Alpilles area boasts the highest density of olive trees in the South of France. Find out what the 2024 vintage has to offer!

#### Grenier à Olives museum at Moulin Cornille

Maussane-les-Alpilles

With over 700 active members and a history dating back to 1924, Moulin Cornille, aka the Vallée des Baux Olive Cooperative, has many a story to tell. The mill's attic is now dedicated to a museum relaying the site's history, from its olive oil famed for its ripe taste to the AOC label awarded to its oil, crushed olives and black olives alike. Entry €6.50.

Moulin Cornille also offers "experience packs" in conjunction with Mas Petit Roman, the neighbouring riding centre, with treats including a trek (or team roping demonstration), Provencal buffet, visit to the *Grenier à Olives* and olive oil tasting.

Price: adults €69.50 - children €56.

[www.moulin-cornille.com/visites](http://www.moulin-cornille.com/visites)

### DOMAINE JOLIBOIS

📍 EYGUIÈRES

**The first Vallée des Baux-de-Provence AOP olive oil**, signed by Domaine Jolibois, was bottled in late 2023. Its fruity version was immediately snapped up by Pierre Ragot from Maison Saint-Honoré. The Domaine also offers Vallée des Baux-de-Provence AOP mature olive oil, along with three single variety oils. Spanning 590 acres (a Natura 2000 protected site) between the limestone Alpilles and stony steppe of La Crau, Domaine Jolibois is quite simply the finest olive oil producer in Les Baux-de-Provence and even France. Two years ago, Clément and Anne-Laure Pellissier became the new owners of this oasis crossed by the Canal de Craonne. Villa Poésie. This 300 m<sup>2</sup> villa in the heart of a magnificent olive grove welcomes up to 10 guests. It comprises a spacious lounge, 5 air-conditioned bedrooms including two master bedrooms sharing four bathrooms, an upstairs children's play area and games room and a home cinema. A spacious terrace leads to the pool set above the trees.

From €6,900 to €13,800 per week (minimum 7 nights).

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



Exposition - Grenier à olives - © Le Grenier à Olives



Domaine Jolibois - © Mathias Del Cista



Domaine Jolibois - © Divinemenciel

## AWARD-WINNING OLIVE OILS AND A GITE AT MARICERA

### AUREILLE

Émilie and Nicolas Racamier swept up the International Agricultural Show prize in 2022 for their “fruity green” Vallée des Baux-de-Provence AOP olive oil. Both born into farming families they started out as peach growers before planting ten thousand olive trees on a 64-acre plot they baptized Maricera (an anagram of Recamier) in 2015. Made with a blend of five olive varieties – Aglandau, Salonenque, Grossane, Verdale des Bouches-du-Rhône and Picholine – their AOP Vallée des Baux-de-Provence AOP olive oil is truly unique. “We don’t sell olive oil, we sell know-how, an elixir made with complex blends”, explains Nicolas. Their fruit juices boast remarkable aromatic complexity too.

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



Pâte d'Olive - © Maricera



Huile d'olive fuité vert © Maricera



AOP Huile d'olive © Maricera

## LES BOTTES CAMARGUAISES

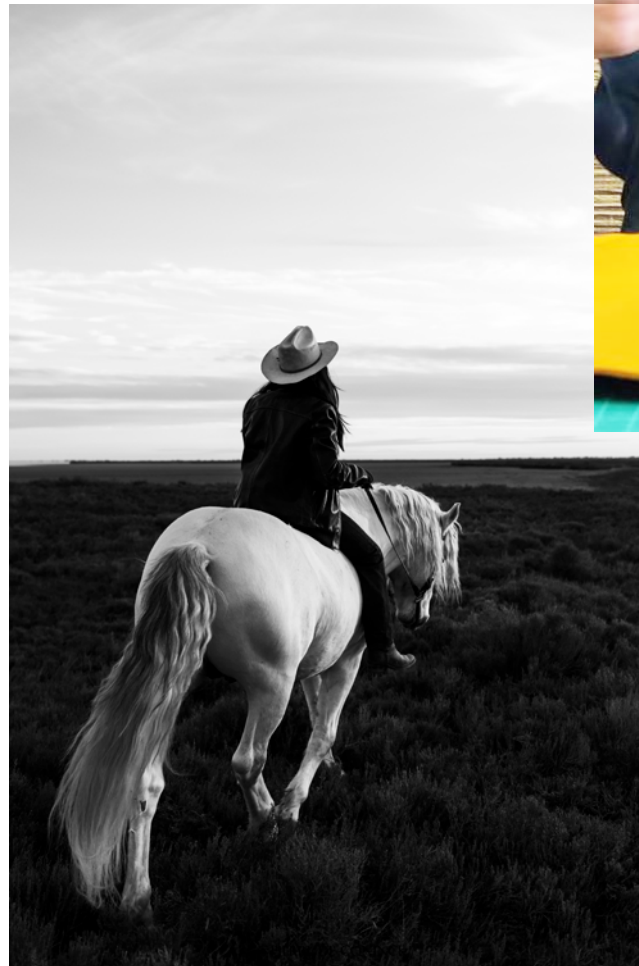
SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

*Bottes camarguaises* (Camargue boots) are now the subject of an IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) bid, aimed at protecting the know-how of the leather boots made for horse and bull breeders in Camargue. Adorned with characteristic strips of leather, placed on either side, these unique boots are manufactured by a single firm, La Botte Gardiane, based in Aigues-Vives. The new appellation would cover 30 towns in the Gard area, 18 towns in Hérault and 10 towns in the Bouches-du-Rhône. The shop in Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer is well worth a visit.

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



Atelier piquage - © La Botte Gardiane



La botte gardiane aux cabanes de cacharel - © Pierre De Coninck



Tablier © La Botte Gardiane

★ ARTISAN TOURS Discover the list of workshops hosting artisan tours

## BOUTIQUE MARIUS FABRE

ARLES

The Savonnerie Marius Fabre’s new outlet on Rue du Palais in Arles pays tribute to a fascinating family history. Henri Fabre, son of the founder of the Marius Fabre brand, grew Camargue rice in addition to his profession as a soap maker. He even founded a horse ranch – the Manade Fabre – in Camargue. Now in charge of the brand, Marius Fabre’s great-granddaughters Julie and Marie Bousquet-Fabre partly grew up at this family farmhouse on the banks of the Rhône. The new outlet is redolent with the family soap maker’s world. It features shelves inspired by the reeds used to dry soap cubes in bygone days, plus old soap stamps, an ancient fountain-wash house and family photos...

[www.marius-fabre.com/en/](http://www.marius-fabre.com/en/)



Marius Fabre - © D. Dalmasso



Marius Fabre - © D. Dalmasso



Marius Fabre - © D. Dalmasso



## PAYS D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The **Sainte-Victoire** swells upwards like a white wave a few kilometres from **Aix-en-Provence**. One can contemplate it endlessly, like **Cézanne**, or roam up to its summit. The winding lanes of Aix-en-Provence, the former capital of Provence, are lined with mansion houses, students and opera buffs alike.

All around, the Aix countryside pans out in pockets of peace, home to ancient bastides hidden away in pine woods, prestigious vineyards and confidential cellars swathed in works of art.

## ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE

EVENT

## THE FESTIVAL D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE WINS THE BEST FESTIVAL AWARD!

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

July 3rd to 23rd, 2024

In November 2023, the International Opera Awards, organized by the Opera Award Foundation, awarded the "Best Festival Award" to the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. The jury of experts considered the 75th edition to be the world's top music and opera festival. Among the nominees from 26 countries, it singled out the work of the festival teams and the programme's **artistic ambition**.

**Record audiences.** The Festival attracted an impressive 75,000 spectators for its 75th anniversary – a 5 % rise versus 2022, resulting from a dynamic accessibility policy and attractive prices, with a third of seats (i.e. 18,000) at less than €60 and special rates for youngsters. Not forgetting the many free events: *Aix en Juin*, concerts by the *Orchestre des Jeunes de la Méditerranée*, public rehearsals and round tables. The Festival is yet another great reason to visit Aix: according to a study by Amadeus, more than four Europeans out of ten have already travelled to attend a concert or festival.

[festival-aix.com/en/homepage-festival](https://festival-aix.com/en/homepage-festival)



La scala di Seta © V. Beume – Festival d'Aix-en-Provence



Concert d'amour et de mort © V. Beume – Festival d'Aix-en-Provence

EVENT

## 150th anniversary of Impressionism

HÔTEL DE CAUMONT,  
AIX-EN-PROVENCE

## "Bonnard et le Japon"

May 3rd to October 6th, 2024

Was Pierre Bonnard a fan of Utamaro, Hokusai and Hiroshige? It is certainly not by chance that the "painter of happiness" was also nicknamed the "Japanese Nabi" in his early days. For the first time, this exhibition looks back on the artist's deep ties with the Land of the Rising Sun.

[caumont-centredart.com](https://caumont-centredart.com)



Pierre Bonnard, L'Amandier en fleurs  
© Musée Bonnard - Le Cannet

## HOSPITALITY

### L'AUBERGE LA COSTE

📍 CHÂTEAU LA COSTE  
LE PUY-STE-RÉPARADE

Nestling at the heart of the very-exclusive Château La Coste wine estate, Auberge La Coste will be offering more budget-friendly accommodation from spring onwards. This new hotel, featuring 76 chic and sleek rooms and suites with whitewashed stone walls adorned with artwork, will be crowned with a rooftop terrace with views over the vines, pines and sculpture park.

A new restaurant – the estate’s sixth – will be celebrating Provencal cuisine with a contemporary twist. The Auberge is located at the start of the Art Walk, next to brand-new stands dedicated to regional gastronomy and craftwork.

From €300 per night.

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



Auberge La Coste © Richard Haughton

### LE DOMAINE DE VIOLAINE

📍 VENELLES, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Spanning 74 acres and planted with 12 acres of vines, Domaine de Violaine’s treasures include a bastide with a listed façade mentioned in archives dating back to 1503, a classic garden designed by Le Nôtre, a 16th-century chapel painted by Monticelli and protected woodland harbouring numerous statues by Rambot... The owners, the Jeuffrain family, are France’s second-largest solar power stakeholders. They grow cereals and chickpeas on site and produce olive oil from the estate’s 600 trees. The wines are all “organic but reasonably priced” (three reds and two rosés, including a 2022 *Mondial du Rosé* medal winner).

The Bastide and its 7.5-acre grounds can be rented out in full: it comprises nine bedrooms with 15 beds, two lounges and a 90 m2 kitchen. The tasting room is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons and all day Saturday. You’ll find wines priced from €6.50 to €14 there, plus an excellent grape juice. The estate is part of the Route des Vins de Provence (Provence Wine Route).

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

Domaine Violaine - © H. Fabre



### LA BASTIDE BOURRELLY\*\*\*\*\*

📍 CALAS CABRIÈS, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Michelin-starred Chef Mathias Dandine, already the owner of La Magdeleine in Gémenos, has now set up home with his brigade at this ancient Provencal abode offering 30 rooms and suites decorated with bright, geometric paintings and vintage furniture. The gastronomic restaurant, led by Mathias Dandine and Executive Chef Guillaume Lemelle, stays loyal to Provencal traditions with a creative touch. Jean-Baptiste Gelly is the talent behind the desserts. The marble tables, rattan chairs with pink cushions, green sofas and open kitchen procure a relaxed atmosphere in the restaurant and bar alike. A wellness space with two treatment cabins, a jacuzzi and sauna will be gracing the existing gym and outdoor pool in the first quarter of 2024.

Rooms from €214, lunch from €45.

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



Bastide Bourrelly - © Aurelio photographe

## GASTRONOMY

### NOOH CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

📍 CHÂTEAU LA COSTE  
LE PUY-STE-RÉPARADE

Château La Coste is launching two new alcohol-free rosé wines, including one sparkling, redolent with aromas of citrus and red fruit and instilled with the pretty, salmon pink hues of the estate's iconic Rosé d'Une Nuit. After the winemaking process, the alcohol is extracted using a vacuum distillation process similar to evaporation. The new wines are called Nooh - the OH, is the chemical symbol for alcohol. Dressed in magnificent metallic bottles, they offer an elegant alternative to their more potent peers.

Nooh by La Coste Pétillant €35. Nooh by La Coste Rosé €17.

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



Nooh by La Coste © La Coste

### MAISON SAINT-HONORÉ

📍 AIX -EN-PROVENCE

We love their flaky pastry bread, charcoal bread, *focaccia* and custard tarts... Maison Saint-Honoré (named after the patron saint of bakers) has been gifting Marseille with its delicious breads and pastries for several years now. The founder, Pierre Ragot, a self-taught baker, uses organic flours made with ancient wheat varieties grown in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence and milled on site. A much-awaited new address in Aix.

Opening 1st quarter of 2024.

[www.instagram.com/maisonsainthonore](https://www.instagram.com/maisonsainthonore)



Maison Saint-Honoré - © Divinemenciel

★ ARTISAN TOURS

Discover the list of workshops  
hosting artisan tours

### INFINIMENT CALISSON PIERRE HERMÉ

📍 AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The "World's Best Pastry Chef" is bringing a new macaron to Aix this year with his Infiniment *Calisson d'Aix*, a variation on the traditional calisson candy made with almond, candied melon and candied orange. The new range will include sweet treats inspired by the Aix Opera Festival too.

Macaron €2.80.

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



Calisson d'Aix - © Laurent Fau



# MARSEILLE AUBAGNE CÔTE BLEUE

On May 8th, 2024, the Olympic Flame will be crossing two of Marseille's most iconic venues: the **Vélodrome** stadium and **Roucas Blanc Marina**. The Bay of **Marseille** - a sailing sports haven - will be swaying to rhythm of dinghies, foil kites and iQFOils throughout August. A magnificent show under the watchful gaze of **Château d'If** and the **Frioul archipelago**.

Born 2,600 years ago, this ancient Greek city of 111 villages, instilled with a sunny lifestyle and lined with **Calanques** fjords and the shores of the **Côte Bleue**, never fails to fascinate.

From the heights of La Treille, Marcel Pagnol, who passed on 50 years ago, watches benevolently over the hubbub panning out under his beloved **Garlaban** hills in **Aubagne**.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### CITADEL OF MARSEILLE

#### 📍 MARSEILLE

Better known as Fort Saint-Nicolas, or Fort d'Entrecasteaux, the Citadel of Marseille watches over the entrance to the city's Vieux-Port (Old Port). It was built between 1660 and 1664 by the knight de Clerville, by order of Louis XIV, to keep the city's rebellious spirit in check... Today, the 12-acre site is reopening progressively to the public after a 350-year closure.

Under the auspices of the *Acta Vista* integration project, the association *Citadelle de Marseille*, in charge of managing the site with the Heritage Foundation, has been restoring the Moulin (mill) since 2022.

A wheat mill in a fort? Yes indeed: this old windmill guaranteed the autonomy of the Antreville bastion. In operation until the French Revolution, its tower gazing over the Old Port was made into a War Memorial in 1954. The East Guardhouse is set to be restored after the mill.

Guided tours spring 2024.

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



Citadelle - © J. Verchere



Citadelle et port © J. Verchere

## THE GLORY OF MARCEL PAGNOL

Marcel Pagnol was born in Aubagne in 1895. That same year, just a few kilometres away, cinema was born in La Ciotat, thanks to the talented Lumière brothers. A screenwriter, director, decorator and talent scout alike, Pagnol was one of the geniuses of this emerging art. So how about making a Pagnol-style film to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his passing?

### ON LOCATION AT LA PROPRIÉTÉ LUC

#### ALLAUCH

Pending the opening (2026) of a museum dedicated to Pagnol and his work, let's take a tour of La Propriété Luc. In the films of Yves Robert (1990) and Christophe Barratier (2022), this gorgeous old bastide adorned with blue shutters depicted little Marcel's childhood home. Its furniture echoes the atmosphere of *My Father's Glory*, *My Mother's Castle* and *Time of Secrets*. It is set inside Pichauris park, running between the "world's most beautiful hills", i.e. the Garlaban and Massif de l'Étoile.



Tournage La Femme du boulanger © Fonds de Dotation Marcel Pagnol



Studios © Fonds de Dotation Marcel Pagnol



Portrait Marcel Pagnol © Fonds de Dotation Marcel Pagnol

### DOMAINE DE LA FONT DE MAI

#### AUBAGNE

Domaine de la Font de Mai, well served by the local buses, is a great place to immerse yourself in the work of Pagnol, while lapping up scents of thyme and stunning vistas over Marseille. It is here that Pagnol, who worked only with natural decors – a revolution at the time –, set up his camera several times and even built an entire village!

While you're touring Aubagne, the clay capital, don't miss a visit to Pagnol's birthplace, the Maison Natale de Marcel Pagnol, and Le Petit Monde de Marcel Pagnol, staging scenes from his works using traditional santon clay figurines.



Pagnol tribute on the weekend of April 20th to 21st including talks, readings and reconstructions.

[en.tourisme-paysdaubagne.fr](http://en.tourisme-paysdaubagne.fr)

## REBIRTH OF FRANCE'S CULT SOAP OPERA "PLUS BELLE LA VIE"

*Plus Belle la Vie*, France's longest-running soap opera, is back on the TV channel TF1 under a new name *Plus Belle la Vie, encore plus belle* (Life is even more beautiful) - a title that could well have been chosen by Pagnol himself. Shot on location in Allauch, it's another great reason to visit this charming town. The series' cult bar *Le Mistral* is now housed inside the Hostellerie on Allauch's main square in front of a fountain and next to the town hall, magicked into the soap opera's police station for the occasion.

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



Place - © Ville d'Allauch

## 2025, THE CENTENARY OF CINEMA AND AN AWARD-WINNING FILM?

Fabulous! The new masterpiece by Sylvain Chomet, *Marcel et Monsieur Pagnol* will be screened throughout France in 2025 as part of the Marcel Pagnol and cinema anniversary celebrations. After a 10-year absence, Sylvain Chomet, the talent behind *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, often nicknamed the "French Miyazaki", is turning his artistic eye to Pagnol and his star actors Raimu, Marcel Achard and Orane Demazis. That's entertainment...



Planche film Chomet - © R. Benaissa

## AN HISTORIC MOVIE LOCATION

Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur remains a prime location for movies and TV series that have travelled the world. The region is featured in a new website created jointly by France's national tourism development agency Atout France and Netflix, inviting visitors to discover its many filming locations.

<https://netflix-en-france.fr/en/guides-de-voyages>



© Netflix en France

## MARSEILLE, EVERMORE ACCESSIBLE, SOCIAL AND... FLAVOURFUL!

### LE VENTRE DE L'ARCHITECTE

📍 MARSEILLE 8TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Le Ventre de L'Architecte, also known as the Hôtel Le Corbusier, has been awarded the Accessible Tourism trophy. Participating establishments must be holders of the French "Tourism & Handicap" label for all for disabilities (auditory, mental, physical and visual), guaranteeing the building's accessibility, optimal autonomy and a privileged welcome.

[restaurant.hotellecorbusier.com](http://restaurant.hotellecorbusier.com)



Le Corbusier - © OTCM FLC

### GROTTE COSQUER

📍 MARSEILLE 2ND ARRONDISSEMENT

The "Exploration Cabin" is designed to welcome visitors with challenges (claustrophobia, major disabilities) and offer them an equal opportunity to discover the replica of this incredible submerged cave, adorned with 470 paintings dating back 17,000 to 27,000 years. In this intimate space, welcoming up to 6 people, audiences enjoy a 3D presentation of the Cosquer cave. The fascinating, 35-minute film really gives you the impression you're a diver swimming through the original cave - you can explore the site simply by moving your head thanks to the virtual reality headsets.

Eager to welcome all audiences, the Cosquer teams are developing various adapted devices including folding armrests in the tour capsules for people with reduced mobility, hearing loops and easy-to-read-and-understand booklets. A dedicated email address is available too:

[accessibilité@grotte-cosquer.com](mailto:accessibilité@grotte-cosquer.com)



Atelier scolaire Grotte Cosquer - © KléberRossillon

### PIZZERIA MIA BELLA

📍 MARSEILLE 2ND ARRONDISSEMENT

The gastronomic pizzeria Mia Bella has just opened on Place Sadi Carnot, two tram stops from the solidarity restaurant (Le République) that inspired it. The same co-founders are at the helm too: Sébastien Richard, Sébastien Cortez, Sylvain Martin and Richard Lepage. The principle is the same - pizzas priced at one euro for people funded by associations. Pizzas concocted by local chefs with ingredients paying tribute to the city's various quarters are on the menu too: the Lacydon with sardines and balsamic cream, Roucas Blanc with clams and pesto, or Beaumont with minced beef and mint... Classic pizzas including cheese, anchovy and "half & half" are served upstairs or to take out.

Pizzas from €12 to €19.

[www.instagram.com/mia\\_bella\\_pizz](https://www.instagram.com/mia_bella_pizz)



© Mia Pizza

## LA GARE DE NIOLON, CÔTE BLEUE

LE ROVE

Inclusion is on the menu for the old railway station of Niolon on the Côte Bleue coast, currently being transformed into a third place mixing various audiences, including youngsters with Down syndrome. The association T'cap2 campaigns for the recognition of the capabilities of people with Down syndrome and offers global support centred around home autonomy training, tourism and organic market gardening. The Train Inc Café is an eco-friendly auberge-come-school complete with a training café and restaurant. The establishment offers three guest rooms, two with views over the Med and Marseille, a gîte with twelve beds for hikers, coworking spaces, a piano bar, local designer boutique and 500 m<sup>2</sup> garden growing permaculture vegetables. The café-restaurant serves soups, salads and homemade *panisse* (a local chickpea pancake speciality).

Rooms from €40 to €60 per adult per night, €25 per night for children aged 7 to 13 years. Gîte €20 per person per night. Breakfast €9.

[train-inc-cafe.com](http://train-inc-cafe.com)



Train Inc Café - Gare de Niolon - © K. Bergamelli

## LES JARDINS DU CLOÎTRE

MARSEILLE 13TH ARRONDISSEMENT

A talented new chef, Valentin Small, spotted by Michel Portos, has taken up the reins of *Les Jardins du Cloître*, Marseille's place to be for the last two years. This former Salesian convent, a property of the *Fondation des Apprentis d'Auteuil* is located on the green hill of Saint-Bruno, in the Saint-Jérôme quarter. It is now a hub for professionals committed to training youngsters from the region, including renowned caterer Mina Kouk.

Awarded 3 "Ecotables" and recognized as a "Business with a Mission", Les Jardins du Cloître has trained around forty apprentices since its beginnings, including, in the words of the new chef, "some very promising profiles". The chef describes his cuisine as "hyper contemporary, eco-friendly, tasty, light and visual". Dishes are served in the dining room, out on the terrace, or as a private shared meal for 16 guests – always paired with regional wines.

*Les Casseroles Solidaires* distributes meals to people in need and struggling students.

The cloister was elected as one of "France's 25 most-innovative venues" after a study by France Urbaine.

Prix fixe menu €40 approx.

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



© J. Verchère



© J. Verchère

## RESTAURANT DE NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-GARDE

MARSEILLE 6TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Set inside the Basilica and run by nuns, the former restaurant L'Eau Vive has now been renamed *Restaurant Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde*. The decor is as magnificent and simple as ever, with old photos and posters, windows opening onto the bay and prayers on every table. It is open from 8.15 am to 5 pm for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. Committed to social inclusion, it works in collaboration with the UNAPEI-Alpes Provence (National Union of Parents of Children with Challenges). Prepared with tender loving care, the dishes include fish soup-bouillabaisse (€24), *panisse* (chickpea pancake), homemade rouille sauce (€7) and magret of duck with heritage vegetables (€21), or you can opt for the prix fixe menu at €16. You'll find monastic craftwork on sale there too: Moines du Barroux biscuits, Ganagobie Abbey soaps and red wines courtesy of Notre-Dame de Fidélité de Jouques...

[www.lerestaurant-ndg.fr](http://www.lerestaurant-ndg.fr)



© DR

## SUNSHINE ON THE MENU AT LE PRÉSAGE

MARSEILLE 4TH ET 13TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Pioneering solar cooking, the team at *Le Présage* - the first 100% solar-powered restaurant in France -, is getting ready to anchor its former pop-up eatery in Chutes-Lavie, a grass roots quarter in Marseille's 4th arrondissement, from January 2024. Two alternative cooking methods are on the menu: solar stoves designed by Le Présage and a Biogas oven using methane produced from bio-waste.

The new, permanent Présage promises to be just as green as its predecessor, with a bioclimatic restaurant building set in a permaculture garden enriched with bio-waste fertilizers. Présage number two, a large "bioclimatic restaurant powered with solar energy" set next to Chateau-Gombert, is set to open its doors in May 2024. Both restaurants will serve as marketing tools for the solar-powered ovens and stoves the Présage team is designing for restaurateurs.

For now, the team uses its own cooking tools combined with innovations by the French startup Solar Brother, also a booming business that has just launched a production site for its Made in France environmentally friendly products in Carnoules (Var area). One thing is certain: safe (no fires or smoke), autonomous, ecological, economical and fast (250°C in 10 minutes), solar-powered cooking has a bright future ahead of it.

[lepresage.fr/blog](http://lepresage.fr/blog)



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



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

## HOSPITALITY

### BARON AMÉDÉE ARMAND HOTEL & SPA - MGALLERY\*\*\*\*\*

📍 MARSEILLE 6TH ARRONDISSEMENT

The city's new and fifth five-star hotel nestles inside the private mansion of the Marquis Chevalier de Cypières, inhabited by Baron Amédée Armand during the Second Empire. The Bonaparte family lived here for 6 years from 1793, after Napoleon fought off the English in Toulon. The hotel features 49 rooms and suites, prestigious drawing rooms, a ballroom, pool, spa, bar and smoking room and is situated a stone's throw from the Prefecture and Port.

[all.accor.com/hotel](http://all.accor.com/hotel)



© Baron Amédée

### LA MAGDELEINE\*\*\*\*\* MATHIAS DANDINE

📍 GÉMENOS

A long driveway lined with plane trees, gravel crunching underfoot, 18th century drawing rooms laid with traditional *tomette* floor tiles and Michelin-starred cuisine courtesy of Mathias Dandine... The elegant and sober Relais de la Magdeleine has just been awarded a fifth star. Marcel Pagnol loved this place and he'd be pleased to see it now, mastering the art of simplicity and living in the moment. Treats include evening gastronomy walks, tea times, Sunday brunches, cooking and baking classes and walks in the 5-acre grounds. *Le Grand Café* offers terrace service in summer.

Rooms from €210, prix fixe menus from €55.

[www.relais-magdeleine.com/en/](http://www.relais-magdeleine.com/en/)



©Hôtel La Magdeleine



©Hôtel La Magdeleine

## OUTDOORS

### OLYMPIC MARINA

MARSEILLE

The Olympic sailing events, taking place in the Bay of Marseille in summer 2024, have prompted the development of a bigger and better marina in the city centre. Spanning over 12 acres, including the 480-metre Anse du Roucas Blanc cove, the Roucas Blanc basin has been welcoming nautical activities since the 19th century. It has now been redeveloped and enhanced with an additional six buildings by architecture firms Rougerie+Tangram and Carta Associés. The French sailing team and French Sailing Federation (FFV) building forms the bow of the seafront complex.

The remaining buildings will be welcoming the public, the future Municipal Sailing Centre, a technical centre and future biodiversity room. The existing Courbet building will house the Coastal Monitoring and Protection Unit, as well as the head office of Calanques National Park. Built in bio-sourced concrete and aluminium, with a minimal environmental footprint, green roofs and a lacquered aluminium louver ventilation system, the buildings' curvy design is reminiscent of a boat.

The new Roucas-Blanc nautical stadium aims to assist the future development of sailing, facilitate sea access for local residents and increase awareness of the marine environment. This year's Olympic events are a great opportunity for Marseille, a city founded by Ancient Greeks, to further develop its sailing activities as well as cycling: the same architectural firm is in charge of developing the "Coastal" section of the Marseille Cycling Plan!

<https://www.paris2024.org/en/>



Marina de Marseille - © Paris 2024



### 2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS - SAILING EVENTS

July 28th to August 8th, 2024

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

### 2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS - FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

July 24th to August 6th, 2024

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

## BATHING AT THE FOOT OF THE MUCEM

MARSEILLE

The *Libres-Nageurs* collective has been campaigning for the opening of a sea pool in the J4 basin, to facilitate sea access for Marseille's inhabitants, for many years. A new, supervised bathing area at the foot of the Mucem and Cosquer Cave centre is now set to open on around June 15th.

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



Mucem - © St Jean-Lamy

## LA MAISON DES ÎLES ET DU LITTORAL

ILE DU FRIOUL, MARSEILLE

Villa Marine on the Frioul archipelago is set to become the new *Maison des Iles et du Littoral* (Island and Coastal Centre): a public site dedicated to awareness and understanding of the archipelago's unique biodiversity. The project is spearheaded by the *Conservatoire du Littoral* (French coastal conservation agency), Calanques National Park and Marseille City Council. Opening scheduled in 2024.

[www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr](http://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr)



© HELIOS IMAGES - R. GRUNCHEC - Provence Tourisme



© OMTCM



## FROM CASSIS TO TOULON

Cinema was born here on these shores, in **La Ciotat**, almost 130 years ago. In 2024, we're celebrating the finest hours of the Allied Landings and the Liberation of Provence on the heights of Toulon. The **Mont Faron Memorial** gazes out over the city's bay – Europe's finest according to Vauban and certainly one of the most curious with its Moorish constructions all around.

La Dolce Vita is everywhere here, from the Mediterranean shores to villages such as **Le Castellet** or **La Cadière d'Azur** and vines rolling from **Bandol** to **Cassis**. The little port of Cassis blooms between the flaming red rocks of **Cap Canaille** and limestone **Calanques** lining the coast all the way to Marseille.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ALDOUS HUXLEY VILLA

📍 SANARY-SUR-MER

Who knew that *Brave New World* was written in the town of Sanary? The book, describing a dystopian world, is still widely read today. Aldous Huxley wrote it in four months, in 1931, a few steps away from Cap de la Gorguette, in the villa where he lived with his wife Maria Nys. The couple discovered the site in the Twenties, although Sanary only rose to fame between 1933 and 1944, when it welcomed artists and writers fleeing Nazism and anti-Semitism, such as Thomas Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger and Moïse Kisling. Huxley also wrote *Music At Night* and *Deep Reflection* at the villa. The couple entertained Paul Valéry, Edith Wharton, Victoria Ocampo and the Noailles man and wife team there. The villa, which features on the Exiled Writers Route, is now a holiday village. A room dedicated to the memory of Aldous Huxley is currently being built with the help of the Heritage Foundation.

[www.fondation-patrimoine.org](http://www.fondation-patrimoine.org)



Sanary-sur-Mer- © DR



© DR



### 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS AND THE LIBERATION OF PROVENCE

📍 TOULON, MONT FARON

Commemorating the Allied Landings and the Liberation of Provence, the Memorial on the summit of Toulon's iconic Mont Faron will be one of the focal points of this year's anniversary celebrations.

Mont Faron boasts the Côte d'Azur's only cable car. The climb to the summit at 580 metres, offering magical views over Europe's largest military port, Bay of Toulon and Embiez islands, lasts just 7 minutes. It was here that General de Gaulle ordered the building of a Landings Memorial, harbouring remarkable archives, photos and films on the Allied Landings in Provence and, in particular, the difficult surrender of the eighteen thousand soldiers of the Wehrmacht in Toulon. The fighting lasted until August 28th, 1944, when Admiral Ruhfus and his men surrendered on the beaches of Les Sablettes.

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



Sanary-sur-Mer- © DR

## REHABILITATION OF CORNICHE DE TAMARIS

LA SEYNE-SUR-MER

Stretching five kilometres along the shores of Tamaris (or Lazaret) in the Bay of Toulon, the Corniche de Tamaris coast road, is undergoing refurbishment work until 2027. The road, leading to the isthmus connected to the Saint-Mandrier peninsula, features key architecture, including the astonishing Michel Pacha Institute of Marine Biology. This Moorish-style building testifies to the incredible epic of Pacha, born in Sanary in 1819. A former ship's captain, he was appointed director of the lighthouses authority for the Ottoman Empire and awarded the honorary title of Pasha by Sultan Abdul-Medjid. In 1880, as mayor of Sanary, he built a seaside resort in Tamaris from scratch, as well as the coast road connecting Tamaris to the beach of Les Sablettes. Passionate about marine biology, he commissioned his Swiss friend Paul Page to build an Institute of Marine Biology, which he donated to the Faculty of Sciences in Lyon in 1890. Abandoned in 2008, the ensemble is now the property of the Claude Bernard Lyon University.

2023 was marked by the historic building's transformation into a scientific and events hub by the Heritage Mission in collaboration with the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Heritage Foundation. Public donations are still welcomed.

Delivery scheduled in February 2027.

[www.fondation-patrimoine.org](http://www.fondation-patrimoine.org)



Institut de biologie Michel Pacha © FdP MyPhotoAgency - Ludovic Beyan



Corniche de Tamaris © S.Cervos

## HOSPITALITY

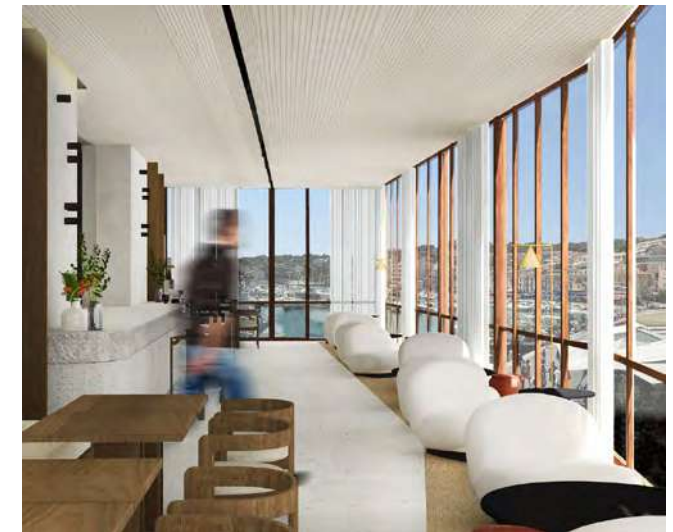
### HÔTEL LIAUTAUD\*\*\*\*

CASSIS

After 18 months of renovations, the Hôtel Liautaud is enjoying a new lease of life topped with a fourth star. Nestling on the port of Cassis, a hundred metres from the beach, this small, 38-room hotel – a local institution – invites guests to enjoy village life at the heart of Calanques National Park.

Reopening in May 2024.

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



Hôtel Liautaud - © Cabinet d'architecture

## GRAND HÔTEL LES LECQUES

SAINT-CYR-SUR-MER

The family-owned Cap Canaille group (Le Cassitel, La Rade, Cœur de Cassis, Best Western La Ciotat) bought up and restored this magnificent establishment offering rooms with terrace or balcony overlooking the bay of Les Lecques. Set in 7.5-acre grounds, complete with a bowling alley and tennis court, and a hundred metres from the beaches and shops, the hotel also offers a restaurant (*Le Parc*) and wine bar. The Grand Hôtel Les Lecques was in the spotlight in 2023 when it was chosen as the shooting location for the French movie *Sexygénéralistes* starring Thierry Lhermite, a hotel manager out of his depth.

Reopening in May 2024.

[www.grand-hotel-les-lecques.com/en/](http://www.grand-hotel-les-lecques.com/en/)



Plage Saint-Cyr-sur-Mer © VT Valérie Sarda

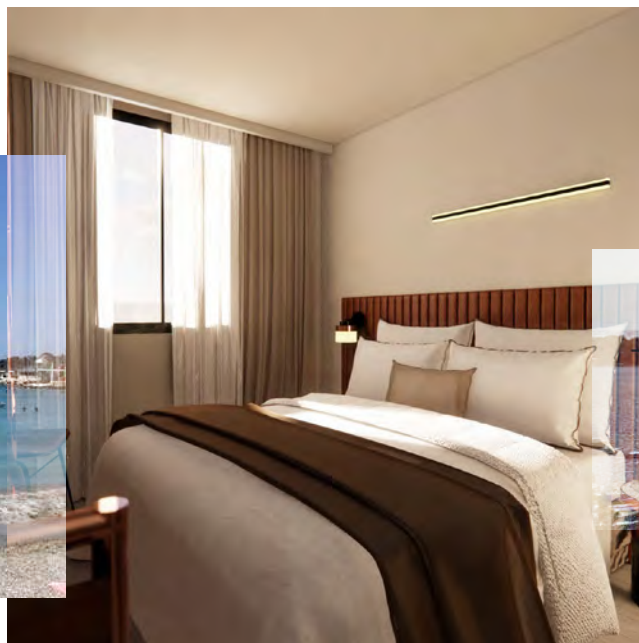
## ADONIS LE CASTELLET\*\*\*

SIGNES

Located 16 kilometres from the Paul Ricard racetrack, 2 km from the Plateau de Signes business park and a few minutes from the medieval village of Le Castellet, this new hotel offers 82 rooms ideal for business and leisure travellers, complete with a relaxing pool and pétanque court. The Adonis brand, launched in 2010, operates 37 hotels and apartment hotels in France, including 7 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Rooms from €120.

[www.adonis-le-castellet.com](http://www.adonis-le-castellet.com)



Hôtel Adonis - © DR

## GUEST HOUSE VILLA CAPRICE

LE BRUSC, SIX-FOURS-LES-PLAGES

Situated just 50 metres from the charming little port of Le Brusuc, this old hotel built in 1873 has now been superbly restored with traditional mouldings, friezes and Versailles parquet flooring. The three beautifully-decorated guest rooms feature king size beds and air-conditioning, and enjoy a private car park. The blue and green rooms can accommodate two adults and two children (the blue room features two separate rooms), while the smaller yellow room – still 24 m<sup>2</sup> – is ideal for couples. Guests are separated from the private area of the house. A generous breakfast is included in the price, served in the breakfast room or on the large terrace – complete with a hot tub!

A boat service runs to the islands of Petit Gaou, Grand Gaou and Embiez from the port of Le Brusuc.

Double room from €140.

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



© Var Tourisme - Christian Raolison

## GASTRONOMY

### COULEURS DE SHIMATANI

#### 📍 LA CIOTAT

The proud holder of a brand-new Michelin star, this pocket-size restaurant, boasting a simple and discreet contemporary design, is located in a pedestrian street in the centre of La Ciotat. Stone, glass and porcelain crockery do justice to the dishes concocted by Yuichiro and Mika - ex Régis Marcon, Marc Meneau, Christophe Bacquié and Alexandre Mazzia -, while honouring the Magokoro art of sincerity. Book early! The dining room can only seat around 10 guests.

Chirashi €27, lunch menus €119 to €189, takeaway dinner on Saturdays.

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



La Ciotat © G. Clement - Provence Tourisme

### WINE CRUISE

#### 📍 TOULON

Set sail for a delicious wine cruise with live commentary around the magnificent Bay of Toulon - reputedly Europe's finest bay - and bay of Tamaris. Savour a sundowner with a hand-picked selection of wines, served with delicious fare from Tamaris.

Departure every Thursday at 7 pm (length 2 hrs).

Adults €43 / Children 4-18 years €19.50.


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



La Croisière Vignerone ©Office de Tourisme Provence Méditerranée



Port de Toulon © Var Tourisme David Latour



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

**S**tanding 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**. The cliffs of **Orpierre** and **Céüse** offer a thrilling vertical playground for climbing enthusiasts from the world over, while the **Massif du Dévoluy**, carved out with 600 hollows, is a haven for caving enthusiasts.

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.

## HOSPITALITY

### LE GRAND LOGIS

LE CAIRE

This magnificent house on Place de Le Caire harbours many a treasure. The second floor, at the top of a grand staircase, features a billiards room and table tennis room, a 7-metre climbing wall and two spacious guest rooms, one for two guests (*Santorin*) near the terrace, gazing out over the mountain. Inspired, as its name suggests, by mountain refuges, the second room (*Le Refuge*) is clad in cosy wood and offers three bunk beds. Guests have access to the cellars converted into a spa with whirlpool bath, a musical grotto and massage room. Owner Arnaud Lecreux promises plenty of other upcoming surprises too.

€200 to €230 for two guests including breakfast. Additional guest €30 to €50. Optional meals €40 to €50 for two.

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



© Le Grand Logis

### LE DOMAINE DE COMBE BELUZE

MISON, SISTERON-BUËCH

Set between Méouge gorge and Sisteron's citadel, this 1678 construction surrounded by chestnut trees was abandoned for a long time. After five years of respectful restoration work, Anne Truphème has transformed the house into a tranquil haven complete with two barns for receptions. The five rooms are called *Vigne, Olive, Lavande, Pomme* and *Grenier* (*Grenier* still features graffiti dating from WWI). All are fitted with a kitchenette. The gites for two and four guests share a rooftop terrace. A summer kitchen with pizza oven, BBQ and brazier is available near the main courtyard lined with veteran cedar trees. Three natural springs supply water to the pool. The estate can be privatized for a day or weekend.

€113 to €198 per night for two guests including breakfast, gites for two or four guests €250 and €350 per weekend, €550 to €1,200 per week.

[www.domaine-combe-beluze.fr](http://www.domaine-combe-beluze.fr)



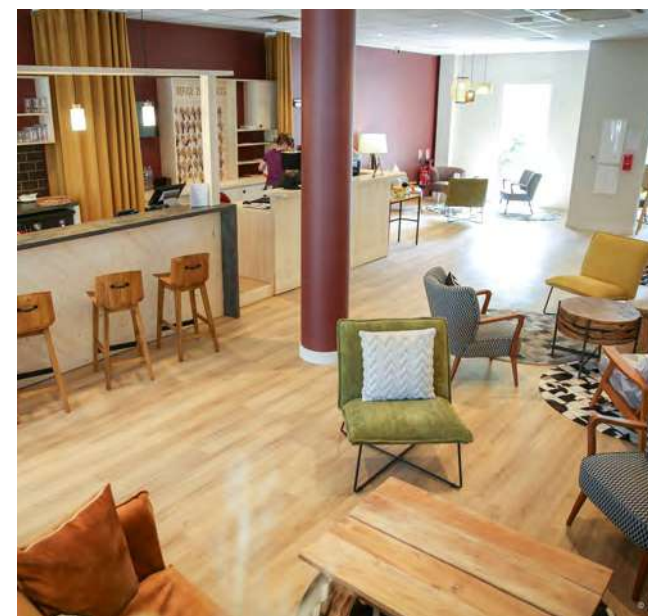
© Domaine Combe Beluze

### LE REFUGE DES SOURCES\*\*\*

DIGNE-LES-BAINS

Located just outside Digne and a ten-minute walk from the thermal baths, the Refuge des Sources underwent a 4-month facelift before reopening in summer 2023 as a three-star hotel. Architecture firm A26 Igloo has instilled the 60 rooms - some ideal for families or groups of 6 - with a cosy feel. The delightful pool and terrace are open in summer. You can also opt for a package deal including accommodation and treatments at the Haute Provence spa. General Manager Vanessa Delmas offers spa guests an extra-special welcome, while Chef Matthieu Bonnoure pays tribute to local produce at *La Table du Refuge*.

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



Le Refuge des Sources - © DR

## ★ ARTISAN TOURS

Discover the list of workshops and cosmetics manufacturers hosting artisan tours

## COUVENT DES MINIMES\*\*\*\*\* HÔTEL & SPA L'OCCITANE

📍 MANE

This monastery was founded in Mane in 1613 by the Order of Minims monks, versed in astronomy and botany. A Relais & Châteaux establishment since 2008, it is now one of the region's most beautiful establishments and also one of the most zen, with treats including a spa spearheading the *L'Occitane en Provence* brand, developed by the site's owner. The chapel lit with 18 stained-glass windows is a haven of peace. A staircase connects the reception lounge to the cloister, featuring a superb old wooden structure now housing the *Alambic* bar. Surrounded by 20 acres of grounds, the Couvent offers 49 large rooms and suites. One room is set in the bell tower, while the ground floor suites open onto a loggia or terrace. The interior design courtesy of Jérémie du Chaffaut, aided and abetted by local artisans, honours straw, linen, oak, cane and cut stone.

The two restaurants – the good-humoured *Pamparigouste* bar and gastronomic *Le Feuillée*, named after Louis XIV's botanist – are overseen by Louis and Pauline Gachet, both holders of the "Meilleur Ouvrier de France" (Best French Artisan) distinction. 28 year-old Laure Desmorieux is the Pastry Chef. The Dame-Jeanne wine cellar boasts 800 references. Plants rule here in the plate and garden alike, where lavender, aromatic plants and vegetables thrive under evergreen oaks. The site's iconic stations of the cross and 25-metre pool are must-sees too.

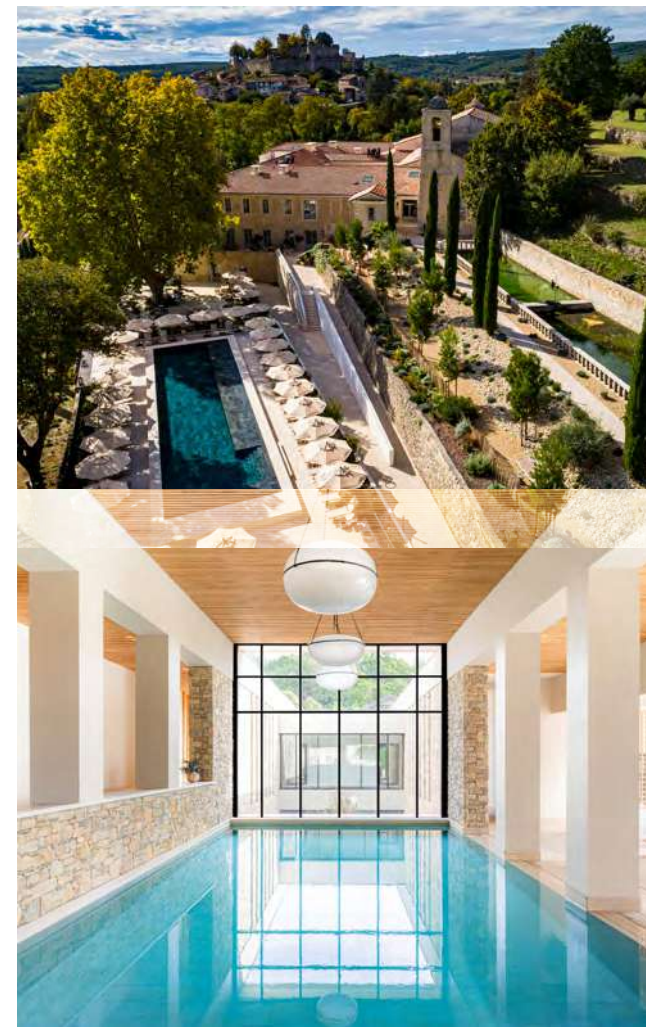
Rooms from €274. Market menu €38. Le Feuillée is open every evening from Wednesday to Sunday and Sunday lunches.

**Le Spa L'Occitane.** Forming the beating heart of the Couvent des Minimes, *L'Occitane en Provence's* flagship spa pans out over 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>. The dry area features 10 treatment cabins, a gym and yoga room. The wet area features two facing pools and an astonishing and innovative water itinerary. You'll find a boutique selling *L'Occitane* products there too.

Located on the roof of the spa, *Les Serres*, comprising eight rooms and suites, is designed for guests seeking even more tranquillity and a holistic retreat.

The concierge service organizes special tours of the *L'Occitane en Provence* production site near Manosque on request. .

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



© Think - Utopia - Deplanta - CDM

## GASTRONOMY

### VILLA COSTEBELLE

📍 UPAIX, SISTERON-BUËCH

Inspired by an idea put forward by the Laragne cinema, Magali Vignaud now hosts a “Wine of the Month” event every 20th of the month (“le vingt” in French!). Her 6-acre vineyard in Rourebeau produces an impressive 15 natural wines, all bearing the IGP Hautes-Alpes label, including a Cuvée Jany Gleize named after the illustrious lady chef from Châteauroux. Magali also invites visitors to enjoy a day in the vines harvesting the ten or so grape varieties.

Free cellar tours and wine tasting on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6.30 pm. “Wine of the Month” tasting on every 20th of the month paired with regional specialities. Please book ahead.

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



© Villa Costebelle

## OUTDOORS

### WELLBEING BETWEEN PROVENCE AND ALPS

📍 LES SOURCES DU BUËCH

Dotted with springs and waterfalls, the alpine-come-Provencal valleys of the Buëch area are perfect for getting away from it all. You’ll find around 40 wellness specialists here, offering a wide panel of specialities ranging from equine therapy to Chi Nei Tsang abdominal massage, kinesiology and Wutao. You’ll find various training courses on offer all year round too, including Nuad Boran Thai massages by Laetitia Cassin and yoga retreats with Pascale Javaux. Not forgetting the yearly wellness fair in Veynes at the beginning of autumn, perfect for getting your energy back on track.

Details available from the Sources du Buëch Tourist Office.

<https://www.sources-du-buech.com/>



Randonnée à Marayse © Communauté de Communes Sisteronais-Buëch - M. Marmier

### PLANT GATHERING IN PAYS DU BUËCH

📍 MONTMORIN, SISTERON-BUËCH

Located near the village of Montmorin, Claire Girard invites visitors to enjoy a stroll in the hills to get to know and gather local wild plants used to concoct two meals. Her Pra Boyer gîte is hidden away at the end of a forest path in the secret little Vallée de l’Oule. You’ll also enjoy a visit to Aurore Thenoux, a local walnut grower and holder of the “Valeurs Parc Régional” quality label. Other activities on the menu include hikes to Le Duffre, the highest point of the Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve. Concocted by the Sisteron Buëch Tourist Office, this magical experience, lasting 3 days and 2 nights, was awarded a prize by ADN Tourisme, the National Federation of Tourism Institutions.

€300 per person, 3 days/2 nights.

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



### ANNIVERSARY: TRAIL DE HAUTE PROVENCE #10

📍 FORCALQUIER

**May 8th to 11th, 2024**

Set midway between the Alps and Mediterranean Sea, the “Pays de Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure” is part of the beautiful Haute Provence area.

Don’t miss the Trail de Haute Provence 10th anniversary in 2024. Climb the lunar landscapes of Lure mountain and gaze in wonder at the 360° panoramic vistas. Descend into the mysterious underwoods leading to Notre-Dame de Lure Abbey and its giant trees. And slalom between the age-old stone rock faces of Les Mourres, before the final push to the finish line in Forcalquier!

[mythp.fr/trail-de-haute-provence](http://mythp.fr/trail-de-haute-provence)



## VERDON, PROVENCE VERTE, DRACÉNIÉ

**T**urquoise and lavender... This beautiful area overflows with 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**, resembling an exotic lagoon bordering **Valensole plateau**, 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** and its tributaries. Water abounds here, transforming every valley into a green oasis.

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** here. What else?!

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

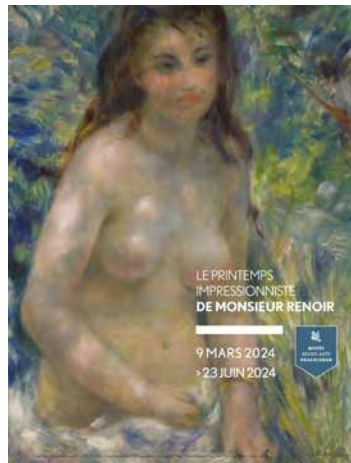
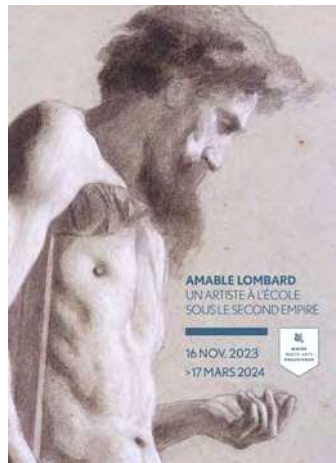
### LE MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS

#### DRAGUIGNAN

After five years of refurbishment work, the Draguignan Museum of Fine Arts, a former episcopal residence, is reopening with an original new layout presenting its collection – started during the Revolution – from the collectors’ angle, with a close-up on the aesthetic quest that lasted from the 17th to the 20th century.

Built in 1628, the Ursuline convent became the summer palace of the Bishop of Fréjus in 1751. The four ceremonial rooms on the ground floor now show 150 works dating from the 17th to the 20th century, out of a collection of ten thousand. The new museum focuses first and foremost on artist training during the Grand Tour and voyage to Rome: Philippe de Champaigne, Simon Vouet, Jean-Baptiste Oudry, Amédée Van Loo, Albert Marquet, Camille Claudel (*Dream by the Fireside*) and Auguste Renoir (*Child with a Biscuit*).

Architecture firm Brochet-Lajus-Pueyo has adorned the site with a winding staircase and mezzanine to make circulation easy while maintaining a focus on the artwork and building’s original doors and mouldings. Upstairs, a rare Chinese panoramic wallpaper from the 19th century unearthed during the restoration work has been carefully preserved. Spectacular pieces, such as the ceremonial armour of François de Montmorency and marble mausoleum of the Count of Valbelle, are also given pride of place. An oak cabinet of curiosities displays a plethora of artifacts, from painted ostrich eggs to a collection of water jars. Raising numerous questions regarding the history, distribution and origin of the works (including two paintings wrongly attributed to Rembrandt for many years), this 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> museum complete with an auditorium and educational workshop is a paradise for curious minds. Set in a dynamic pedestrian quarter, its Mediterranean identity extends to the square forecourt, ideal for welcoming concerts.



#### “Amable Lombard, un artiste à l’école sous le Second Empire”

**November 16th, 2023 to March 17th, 2024**

65 drawings unveiling the gifted Amable Lombard, a Draguignan-born artist sadly forgotten for many years, despite his immense talent. A friend of Cézanne and student of Émile Signol, he chose a peaceful existence over fame and glory.

[mba-draguignan.fr](http://mba-draguignan.fr)



#### 150th Anniversary of Impressionism

#### “Le printemps de l’impressionnisme de Monsieur Renoir”

Exceptional loan from the Musée d’Orsay

**March 9th to June 23rd, 2024**

The study *Torso, Sunlight Effect* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir is shown in the 20th century room of the brand new MBA alongside *Child with a Biscuit*, a portrait of his son Jean. The study caused quite a stir during the second Impressionist exhibition in 1876 due to the shades and dashes of colour chosen by the artist.

[mba-draguignan.fr](http://mba-draguignan.fr)

## ENTREVAUX, FRANCE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES

### ENTREVAUX

In September 2023, the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” committee decided to add Entrevaux to the club of France’s most beautiful villages, making a total of 176 villages bearing the prestigious label nationwide. Situated between Digne and Nice, Entrevaux, fortified by Vauban, lies on a rocky ridge tumbling down to the Var area.

22 of the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” are located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur. The label is awarded subject to 32 criteria: in addition to its aesthetics, the village must have at least 2,000 inhabitants and be home to two protected sites. The label was created in the stunning village of Gordes in the Luberon, honoured with the title of “Most Beautiful Village in the World” by the American magazine [Travel + Leisure](#) in 2023.

[www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org/fr](http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org/fr)

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



Entrevaux © Thibault Vergoz - Verdon Tourisme

## CHAPELLE SAINTE-ROSELINE

### LES ARCS-SUR-ARGENS

**The mission of Marguerite Maeght  
Chagall, Giacometti, Bazaine, Ubac  
June 7th to September 22nd, 2024**

Marguerite Maeght was fully invested in the creation of the discreet little Chapelle Sainte-Roseline in Les Arcs-sur-Argens. This extraordinary chapel, now a listed building, harbours a shrine containing the body of Saint Roseline, the prioress of the abbey also located in the grounds of this reputed wine estate. Featuring works by Marc Chagall, Jean Bazaine, Raoul Ubac and Diego Giacometti, the chapel decor is truly impressive. This exhibition looks back on the genesis of the privately commissioned work, as well as the Maeght family’s role as patron of the artists.

[www.sainte-roseline.com](http://www.sainte-roseline.com)



Sainte-Roseline © Herve Fabre



Sainte-Roseline © Herve Fabre

## MARY MAGDALENE IN PROVENCE

The two foremost sites honouring Mary Magdalene's travels through Provence have been restored to their former glory. Saint Mary Magdalene is a fundamental figure in Christian teachings and Pope Francis recently reiterated her importance and status as "apostle of the apostles".

### BASILIQUE DE ST-MAXIMIN: 3RD TOMB OF CHRISTIANITY

#### SAINT-MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME

Considered by many as the most beautiful Gothic building in Provence, it is the largest Basilica in south-eastern France. Its Gallo-Roman crypt harbours a reliquary shrine containing the skull of Mary Magdalene and four sarcophagi. It is Christianity's third most-important tomb after the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and Saint Peter's tomb in Rome.

The current renovation work has restored the former beauty of the choir and its 92 walnut stalls, with 22 medallions representing the Dominican saints dating from 1692. The 1520 altarpiece by Antoine Rozen, featuring 22 paintings of the crucifixion on wood, has also been restored, along with the 18th-century pulpit decorated with seven sculpted panels retracing the story of Mary Magdalene.

In addition to their spiritual importance, the masterpieces harboured inside the Basilica have made it a place of pilgrimage for the ancient craftsmen's guild *Les Compagnons du Devoir*, especially joiners and carpenters.

The construction of the Basilica under Charles II of Anjou, Count of Provence, King of Naples and Sicily, began in 1295 and lasted for nearly 250 years.

[www.la-provence-verte.net](http://www.la-provence-verte.net)



Saint Maximin © DR

## GROTTE DE LA SAINTE-BAUME

#### PLAN D'AUPS

This natural cave (*baumo* in Provençal dialect), carved out by erosion at the top of the Sainte-Baume hills, is one of the oldest places of pilgrimage in the Christian world: Saint Mary Magdalene is said to have lived there for the last thirty years of her life. Today, the cave attracts 500,000 visitors every year, welcomed by the Dominican friars in charge of the site. The retaining wall of shrine and its stained glass windows are currently being restored.

The cave lies at the top of 150 steps, after a 45-minute walk on Chemin des Roys. The path is dotted with seven oratories set in the shade of the beech and yew trees of the Sainte-Baume relic forest, now listed as a "Forêt d'Exception".

Although the cave attracted hundreds of illustrious people including French kings and popes in bygone days, it was largely abandoned in the mid-19th century before being brought back to life by Father Lacordaire who said, "The holy places are to the world what the stars are to the firmament, a source of light, heat and life".

[www.pnr-saintebaume.fr](http://www.pnr-saintebaume.fr)



© J. Auray

## HOSPITALITY

### LOU CALEN, EVER GREENER

COTIGNAC

Lou Calen's restaurant *Le Jardin Secret*, presided over by Chef Benoit Witz and his brigade, has been awarded a Michelin Green Star in recognition of its eco-friendly gastronomy. The distinction comes after years of efforts: suppliers all located within a 60-kilometre radius, the installation of around ten beehives, organic olive oil, lavender and edible grapes all grown on site, plus the creation of a vegetable garden, orchard and herb gardens.

The hotel has also installed a glass canopy fitted with solar panels that power its lights, plus a geothermal heating and cooling system. Wind turbines providing electricity for its heat pumps are set to go up in 2026. The establishment is a member of the "Business Convention for the Climate". Congratulations, Lou Calen!

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



Lou Calen © H. Fabre

### HÔTEL LA FALAISE\*\*\*

COTIGNAC

La Falaise is the name of the town's arts centre, as well as this pretty, brand-new three-star hotel. The nine rooms nestle behind the rounded façade of a 19th century building. Airy and adorned with paintings, they measure 20 to 65 m<sup>2</sup>. La Falaise is ideally situated a few minutes from Cours Gambetta and the market of Cotignac, a holder of the "Plus Beaux Villages de France" label.

From €80 per night.

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



Hôtel La Falaise

### CHÂTEAU D'ARGENS\*\*\*\*

LES ARCS-SUR-ARGENS

After a first restoration phase of this Château perched on the heights of the medieval villages of Les Arcs, Daphnée Godin and Filipe Gomes are now tackling Phase 2. Both international-level artists – Filipe specializes in mirror-finish steel – they have adorned the 13th-century rooms, gardens and eleven rooms with a variety of artwork. Now the proud holder of a fourth star, the hotel is getting ready to open a spa. You can admire one of Filipe Gomes' sculptures at the village mill, soon to be converted into an arts centre.

Rooms from €90.

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



Château d'Argens

**TERRE BLANCHE\*\*\*\*\*  
20TH ANNIVERSARY**

TOURRETTES

The “Green Key” eco label is a fitting addition to this year’s anniversary celebrations at the five-star Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf & Resort. The Fayence area has plenty more to celebrate this year too, with a Michelin star awarded to the Faventia restaurant, presided by Christophe Schmitt. Visitors will be enjoying a plethora of events combining history, gastronomy, wellness and sport throughout 2024, starting with a 20th anniversary special offer: a free night on certain dates if you book before the end of February.

7th free night when you book 6 nights in July or August. 4th free night when you book 3 nights at Easter, from April 1st to May 5th or October 18th to November 10th.

Rooms from €450.

[www.terre-blanche.com](http://www.terre-blanche.com)



Terre Blanche

**GÎTE LA FERME DES CAVALIERS**

AIGUINES

Nestling at the heart of the breathtaking Verdon Canyon, the Ferme des Cavaliers gîte, set inside an old farmhouse, is a paradise for sport, nature and ecology fans. Offering five rooms and a dormitory, no mobile network and no TV in the rooms, it is the perfect place to switch off. Water comes from a natural spring, the toilets are dry and showers are limited. After a day out on the local trails (Grand Margès, GR99, GR4) or climbing routes, ravenous adventurers enjoy a homemade dinner concocted with fresh produce. A shared kitchen is available too if you want to cook for yourself.

Breakfast with artisan bread and homemade jam €6.50. Picnic with homemade savoury cake €8.

Shared room €22, double room €50, triple room €70 per person.

[fermedescavaliers.wixsite.com](http://fermedescavaliers.wixsite.com)



© Gîte La Ferme des Cavaliers



Gîte La Ferme des Cavaliers

## OUTDOORS

### SOIL, TRUFFLE AND WATERFALL CYCLE ROUTE

Winding its way between the Draguignan and Verdon areas, this 35-kilometre loop in the Haut-Var area is an absolute delight, leading avid pedallers through the gorgeous villages of Tourtour, Aups, Villecroze, Salernes, Sillans-la-Cascade and more... Stop-offs at local artisans and producers (including truffle growers of course), are scheduled along the way. Remarkable and unexpected surprises en route include Sillans waterfall, the Troglodyte caves of Villecroze and natural swimming pool of La Muie..

<https://uk.veloloisirprovence.com>



Trufficulteurs et leur chien - © C. Raolison

### GR® DE PAYS MONTAGNE SAINTE-BAUME

The new Montagne Sainte-Baume GR® de Pays (long-distance urban trail) features two loops in 5 to 7 stages connecting the villages of the Sainte-Baume hills: a rocky ridge measuring 12 km in length, also nicknamed the "rooftop of the Bouches-du-Rhône".

The 35 belles balades en Sainte-Baume (35 walks around the Sainte-Baume) guidebook, published in collaboration with the French Walking Federation, describes the loops in detail, along with 25 one-day walks. An app is also available.

€19.90 Éditions Belles Balades.

[www.pnr-saintebaume.fr](http://www.pnr-saintebaume.fr)



Chemin de randonnée © J. Auray

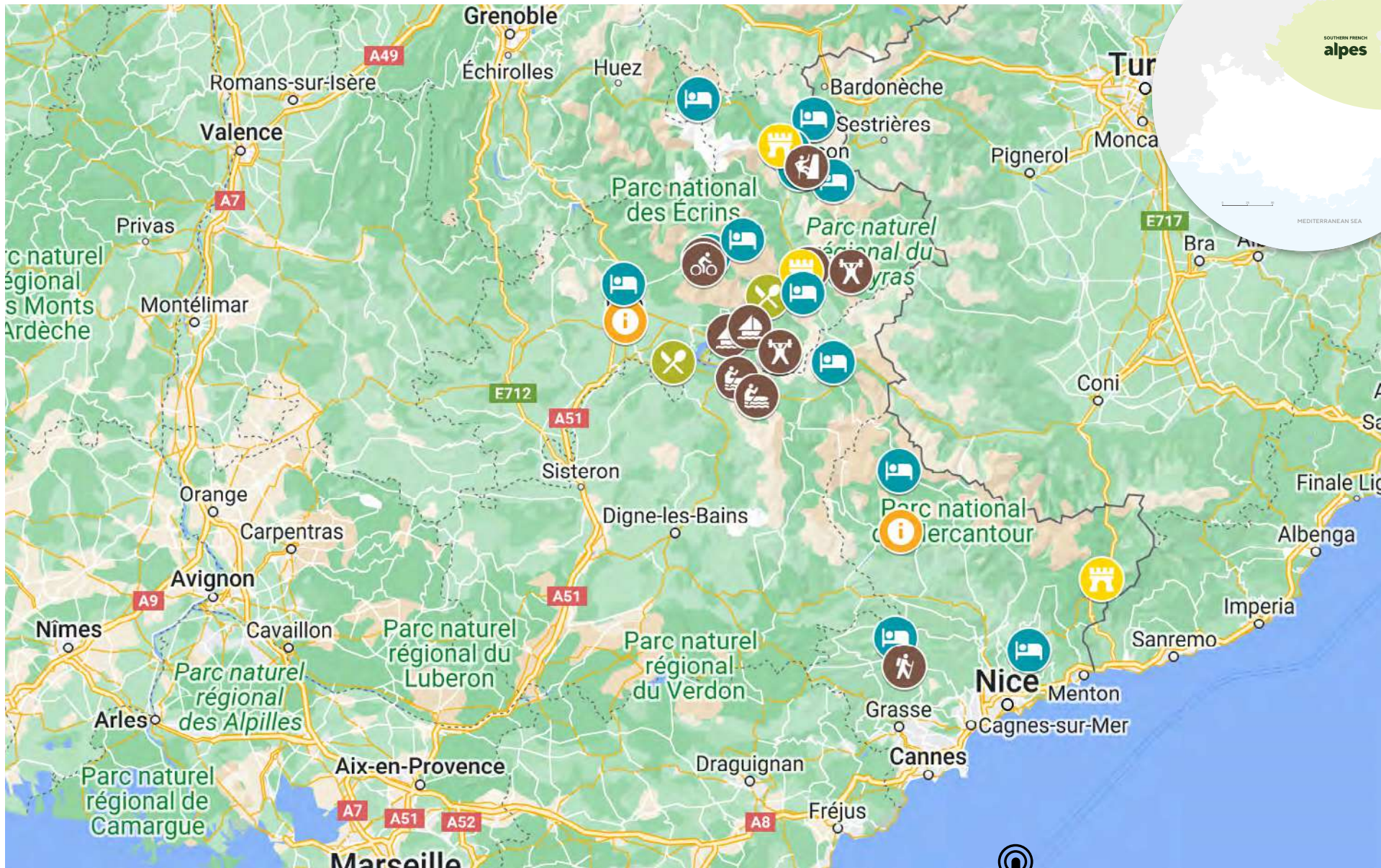


Massif de la Sainte Baume © J. Auray



# ALPES

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE ALPS





# GAPENÇAIS CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY

**A**n air of the South of France envelops **Gap**, the genteel capital of the **Hautes-Alpes**. As you head onto the **Napoleon Road**, the blue horizons of Provence give way to spectacular scenery. The green expanse of Europe's highest bocage pans out in the valley of **Champsaur**.

On the other side of the iconic **Vieux Chaillol**, **Valgaudemar** could easily be mistaken for a Himalayan valley... **Pic de Bure**, the region's largest observatory, gazes over the mineral landscapes of the **Massif du Dévoluy**. Its *chourums* – mysterious natural hollows formed from karst – attract cavers from the world over in both summer and winter, while botanists flock here to contemplate the local flora.

## HOSPITALITY

### DOG-FRIENDLY: GUIDE DU TOUTOURISME 📍 GAP TALLARD VALLÉES

Available from the Gap Tallard Vallées Tourist Office and website, the new *Guide du Toutourisme* (Dog-Friendly Tourism Guide) offers a comprehensive list of professionals offering a warm welcome to holidaymakers travelling with their four-legged companions. The Gap Tallard Vallées Tourist Office was one of the first in France (the third to be precise) to offer VIP dog-friendly services including a *Toutou Bar*, *Toutou Pack*, advice and plenty of pats on the head. And with over 7 million dogs in France, demand is high! N.B. the town of Tallard is now a holder of the “Commune Station Touristique” resort label in recognition of its outstanding tourism policy.

<https://www.gap-tallard-vallees.fr/en/stay/toutourisme/>



© AD04 - Raoul Getraud

### GUEST ROOMS AND GITES AT LA MAISON L'AIGUILLE 📍 LAYE STATION, CHAMPSAUR

Marjorie and Guillaume Barry's guest rooms and gites are set inside a former hotel in Laye Station. The two self-catering gites with terrace and garden can accommodate up to 6 people. The guest rooms are decorated with objects brought back from the couple's travels in Canada, Bali and Polynesia.

Get ready for superb views over the peak of L'Aiguille and mountains of Champsaur. Good news for gourmets too: Guillaume runs a delicious table d'hôte with specialities including vegetarian or beef lasagna, *oreilles d'âne* spinach bake and Champsaur ravioli. Guests staying at the gites can also book a breakfast basket with granola, brioches, and homemade bread. In fact, Guillaume's bread is so popular he now bakes for the village's 275 inhabitants.

Table d'hôte meals €28 per person. Breakfast basket €45. Gites and guest rooms from €80 per night, minimum 2 nights for gites.

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



Maison l'Aiguille - © DR

### CHALET REFUGE IBEX\*\*\*

#### 📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

Eco-luxury in the heart of nature! Ivo Ricou - the grandson of Camile Ricou, mayor of Orcières-Merlette when the resort was built in 1962 - spent four years doing up this isolated chalet on the slopes of Queyrelet. Today, its solar panels make it 100% energy self-sufficient. The chalet offers two rooms, a dormitory accommodating eight guests, two bathrooms and three toilets, plus a living room and kitchen, all designed using noble materials. In addition to its three stars, the establishment is rated “5 Claws” in recognition of its comfort and quality. It is located half an hour from the car park on foot or with snowshoes, or you can ski or walk down to it from the Rocherousse cable car and telemix ski lift.

€2,300 to €4,000 per week.

[www.refugeibex.com/en/](https://www.refugeibex.com/en/)



Refuge Ibex - © G. Baron

## GASTRONOMY

★ ARTISAN TOURS

Learn more about  
Southern Alps honey

### MIEL DE PIN DES ALPES DU SUD

📍 SAINT-JEAN-SAINT-NICOLAS

This rare honeydew – as pine trees don't have flowers, it isn't exactly a honey – is gathered by bees in Aspremont forest. Its sweet and gentle flavour unveils notes of underwoods and pine nuts.

250g: €13.90.

On sale at:

<https://hedene.fr/en/>



Miel - © P. Domeyne

## OUTDOORS

### CABANE DE ROUANETTE

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

Nestling in Champsaur valley, this new cabin set amid green pastures is committed to supporting local agriculture, maintaining the balance between tourism and pastoralism, and facing the various challenges brought about by the presence of wolves, allowing shepherds to keep their flocks safe at night without having to walk too far.

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



Cabane Rouanette - © M. Aimar

### LE MONDE DES 6 LACS

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

This 3-hour walk sets out from the summit of Drouvet (you can reach the summit on the Télémix®) and runs along the six sumptuous lakes bordering Écrins National Park. 18 works of art now line the lakes, adding an extra touch of poetry to the sublime landscapes: the *Rêveur des Cîmes* in oak and weathering steel, pointing his finger upwards to the peaks, *Repaire des Marmottes* and *Fontaine Dragon*, standing regally in Estaris forest. A feast for the senses...

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



Monde des 6 lacs © G. Baron

## ORCIÈRES CYCLING TEAM

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

Cycling reigns in Orcières and the resort has welcomed the Tour de France no less than 5 times. The new Orcières Cycling Team is a never-before-seen initiative in the cycling world. Created just over a year ago, the structure comprises three hubs – competition, leisure and events. It has now teamed up with Groupama's Ton Club Ton Maillot and champion cyclist Delphine Reinert, the French Cycling Federation ambassador now in charge of developing women's cycling. Already boasting 250 members, it has also launched the Orcières Cycling Festival, winding up the summer season.

These initiatives are part of a wider drive to promote cycling in the Hautes-Alpes, Champsaur valley and Orcières.



VTT grands espaces © G. Baron



**On August 25th, 2024**, Orcières is welcoming a new French stage on the GFNY circuit (Gran Fondo cyclo sportive event). The 158 km course, with an uphill climb of 4,469 metres, is open to non-professionals of all levels, from 18 years upwards.

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



Bike Park - Orcières © Gilles Baron



## TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

**Wednesday July 17th**

17th stage:

Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux / Superdévoluy. 178 km

The race is on to the Southern Alps, with some likely surprises in store for the peloton on the last 40 km of climbs including the formidable Col du Noyer (7.5 km, 8.4% uphill slope) and arrival in Superdévoluy, welcoming the Tour for the first time this year.

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



© Agence Kros - Remi Fabregue



# SERRE-PONÇON EMBRUNAIS 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 & ARCHITECTURE

### STATION-PILOTE

📍 LES ORRES

A belvedere suspended over Serre-Ponçon lake, Les Orres is an inventive resort. Its unique cedar wood architecture has earned it the “20th Century Heritage” label, but Les Orres is a forward-looking destination too and a pilot resort for the European green transition. The resort’s new Sports & Innovation Hub and Patrolair mountain drone training centre, unique in France, further confirm its visionary reputation.

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



Les Orres- © DR

## HOSPITALITY

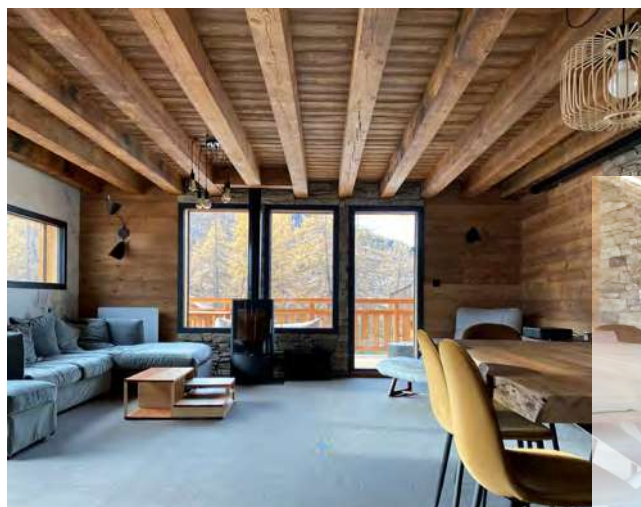
### LE REFUGE DES CAST'ORRES

📍 LES ORRES

This chalet built in 2022 accommodates up to ten guests in four airy rooms, including a master suite and dormitory. Guests enjoy a sauna, giant screen, board games, boot dryers and two spacious terraces. The refuge is rated “4 Larches” by the Les Orres Quality Accommodation label.

From €2,600 per week.

[refuge-des-castorres.com](http://refuge-des-castorres.com)



Le refuge des Cast'Orres- © DR

### LES CLEFS D'ORRES

📍 LES ORRES

Located in the Pramouton quarter, this 150m<sup>2</sup> chalet can be rented as a whole or two apartments. The ground floor apartment, featuring a 39 m<sup>2</sup> lounge, offers direct access to a large, flat garden. The upstairs apartment is bedecked with a 50 m<sup>2</sup> living area with a glass façade, mezzanine, open-plan kitchen and balcony with uninterrupted views over the mountains and valley. The front door is shared by both apartments, with space to take off your shoes and a laundry room.

From €5,500 per week for twelve people.

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



Les Clefs d'Orres- © DR

## CHALET-HÔTEL SAINTE-ANNE

📍 SAINTE-ANNE-LA-CONDAMINE CHATELARD

Perched at an altitude of 1,830 metres, this chalet run by Fabienne Arnoux has just had a facelift: the 38 rooms, most with balcony, are now decked out in blue, yellow and red. The cosy bar, lined with old barrels and skis, leads into the restaurant complete with a spacious, south-facing terrace. In the garden you'll find two heated Nordic baths and a sauna set inside in a welcoming cabin, perfect for a relaxing getaway.

Double room from €80, half-board €39 per person. Pets: €8.

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



Chalet-Hôtel Sainte-Anne - © DR



© Patrick Domeyne

## GASTRONOMY

### ÉPICERIE DES LYS

📍 CHÂTEAURoux-LES-ALPES

According to the Gourmet Sélection delicatessen fair, it's the best grocery shop in France. A genuine treasure trove, set on Châteauroux-les-Alpes village square, the Épicerie des Lys was handed down to 25 year-old Delphine Bernard by her aunt Carole. The jury particularly appreciated the old-fashioned service and fabulous selection of cheeses plus, no doubt, the charm of this little village home to 1,200 inhabitants between Risoul and Serre-Ponçon, already famed among whitewater sports fans the world over for its "Rabioux wave".

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



Fromage de chèvres - © B. Bodin

## OUTDOORS

### SAILING ON THE KHAYA

📍 SERRE-PONÇON

Local-born Stéphane Russo had *Khaya* built by hand in Brittany. Varnished mahogany, glinting chrome and comfy seating... *Khaya* offers all the elegance of a luxury Seventies boat plus the advantages of modern technology for a minimal environmental impact. Passengers – no more than a dozen – enjoy venturing into the river's coves, watching firework displays on the water and listening to the captain's anecdotes: he is a genuine expert on the history of Serre-Ponçon lake. A taste of luxury at the very friendly price of €34 per person for adults and €29 for children. *Khaya* and its skipper cater to private events too.

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



Khaya - © DR



### IQFOIL YOUTH AND JUNIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

📍 CLUB NAUTIQUE ALPIN  
SERRE PONÇON

**July 2nd to 11th, 2024**

An international-scale iQFOIL event hosted in the Southern Alps for the very first time. Entertainment and festive evenings are on the menu too.

[www.cna-embrun.com/en/](http://www.cna-embrun.com/en/)



IQFOIL © Club Nautique Alpin Serre Ponçon

### SPORT & INNOVATION HUB

📍 LES ORRES 1650

The only one of its kind in the mountains, this hub is set inside a futuristic building and features five virtual reality sport simulators. Novices and seasoned athletes alike can enjoy refining their skills on the indoor ski carpet, hooked up to video analysis software. An indoor climbing wall and fitness room hosting various workshops complete the offering. Spanning 300 m<sup>2</sup>, the hub offers a new twist on traditional sporting practises and promises visitors an exciting new way to discover Serre-Ponçon valley.

Open December to April and July-August.

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



Pôle Sport Innovation © DR



## TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

### Thursday July 18th

Stage 18: Gap / Barcelonnette. 179 km

Ubaye Valley is in the limelight for two days, although sprinters will barely have time to admire Serre-Ponçon lake before attacking the slopes of Saint-Apollinaire and Les Demoiselles Coiffées.

### Friday July 19th

Stage 19: Embrun / Isola2000. 145 km

A dizzy, ultra-mountain stage spanning less than 150 km, with three climbs to altitudes of over 2,000 metres and up to 2,802 metres at the summit of La Bonette. A record altitude for the Tour de France!

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



Lac de Serre Ponçon © B. Bodin



Tour de France Serre Ponçon © ASO - Alex Broadway



## FESTIVAL OUTDOOR MIX #10

📍 EMBRUN

### May 17th to 20th, 2024

After the winter edition it's time to make way for the spring 2024 anniversary edition of this fabulous festival combining extreme sports, concerts headlining top names and an events village. An original and explosive cocktail, this festival is now one of the Southern Alps' musts.

[www.outdoormixfestival.com/fr/les-editions/](http://www.outdoormixfestival.com/fr/les-editions/)



© DR

## NEW IN UBAYE AND VAL D'ALLOS



## PRA LOUP FESTIVAL BY DELTA FESTIVAL

📍 PRA LOUP

**March 30th to April 1st**

Artists and DJs will be taking over the peaks of Pra Loup over Easter weekend! Get ready to party at the resort's high-altitude restaurants: *La Dalle* at 2,006 metres, *Costebelle* at 2,130 metres and a newcomer this year – the 2024 address already spotted by the in-crowd: *Le Petit Chaperon Rouge* at Clos du Serre at 1,800 metres. Treats in store include pop and electro sets on the summits and a blend of music and family entertainment at the partner village on the snow front of Pra Loup 1600 – Espace Lumière.

The Pra Loup Festival is organised by the Delta Festival, lighting up the beaches of Marseille for the last 10 years. The event is free but that's not all:

- Ski passes: To allow festival-goers (on skis or on foot) unlimited access to the high-altitude stages, buy two day passes for the ski lifts and get one free.
- Transport: transfers to Gap are free too on the Zou! buses. Numerous shuttles from Barcelonnette will also be serving Pra Loup.

[www.praloup-festival.fr](http://www.praloup-festival.fr)



© Pra Loup Festival 2024



© Pra Loup Festival 2024



## ON THE WHITE WATERS OF UBAYE

Ubaye Serre-Ponçon Valley is THE whitewater hotspot.

Almost completely wild, the Ubaye river cascades freely through the valley's stunning mountainscapes, offering an impressive 50 km run with no dams. Whitewater is classified from I to VI in terms of difficulty and the Ubaye has them all, with a total of 8 courses and a diversity that caters to everyone, from champions to 4 year-olds.

## PACKRAFT EXPEDITION

### LE LAUZET-UBAYE

The packraft is a small, inflatable boat combining a kayak and raft, easy to transport in a backpack and offering unique whitewater thrills. The Crazy Water rafting teams hosts 2 and 3-days trips down the Ubaye river, with bivouacking on the river banks.

Who needs the Grand Canyon! Bubble tents nestling in the trees at Lauzet invite adventurers to enjoy a well-earned rest after their odyssey. The entrance to the Crazy Water rafting base has been redesigned and is now very easy to access.

[www.crazywater-rafting.com](http://www.crazywater-rafting.com)

## AQUA TREKKING

### MÉOLANS-REVEL

Fun and refreshing – what could be better in the heart of summer?! The waters of the Ubaye river can reach temperatures of up to 18°C during the hot months. In addition to a “Rand’eau” aqua trek, Raft’Ubaye also hosts river descents in a 35 kg featherweight “Sotar” raft handmade in Oregon. A fabulous toy for whitewater fans.

[www.raft-ubaye.com](http://www.raft-ubaye.com)



Kayak sur l'Ubaye © AD04 - Raoul Getraud

## NIGHT WALKS IN VAL D'ALLOS

The “International Dark Sky” label is awarded to locations boasting particularly pure, starry skies. There are only 14 in the world, and the Alpes Azur Mercantour area has been one of them since December 2019. The label rewards the quality of the area's night skies and local efforts to reduce light pollution.

Nestling at the centre of Mercantour National Park, Val d'Allos is a particularly fabulous site for appreciating the “black velvet expanse covered with thousands of flickering lights”, as described by mountain guide Marc Aynié from the association Rando Azur. Marc leads participants on an easy night walk, with eyes raised to the heavens: a truly astonishing and disconcerting experience, rekindling the senses of our ancestors. A novel and magical foray for all ages (from 7 years).

3-hour walks on Monday and Wednesday evenings and on request from mid-June to October.

Price: Adults and children over 10 years €30, special rates for groups and families.

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



# GRAND BRIANÇONNAIS ÉCRINS QUEYRAS

**L**ook 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 **Écrins 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...

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### LES OASIS ENCHANTÉES

📍 EYGLIERS, QUEYRAS

A new way of discovering heritage, the *Sens'action* walking trails, first introduced in Ubaye valley and around Serre-Ponçon lake, are dotted with riddles! This new 4.3-kilometre loop in the Queyras regional nature reserve winds its way between the Catinat cliffs and Guil gorge, unveiling a string of enchanted oases with many stories to tell. The project is part of the Serre-Ponçon/Guillestrois-Queyras bid for the "Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" (Land of Art & History) label.

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



Randonnée © Itinera Magica



### VAUBAN

📍 VILLAGE FORTIFIÉ  
DE MONT-DAUPHIN, QUEYRAS

Make the most of it. On every first Sunday of the month until March, the National Monuments Centre in Mont-Dauphin is opening the doors to Ousmane Sow's "Battle of Little Bighorn" exhibition free of charge. The *Les Enquêtes de Anne Mésia* app allow visitors to enjoy a self-guided exploration of this listed monument, fortified by Vauban and now a UNESCO Heritage Site.

[www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en](http://www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en)



Mont-Dauphin © B. Bodin



### OUSMANE SOW

The National Monuments Centre is hosting "The Battle of Little Big Horn", a 10-year renewable exhibition by artist and sculptor Ousmane Sow in the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin. A world-unique voyage under the exceptional Philibert Delorme-style wooden ceiling of the Rochambeau barracks. Prior booking obligatory.

[www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en](http://www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en)



Ousmane Sow © C. Chillio

## HOSPITALITY

### HÔTEL LE CASTILLAN\*\*\*

📍 LA GRAVE - LA MEIJE

As its manager proudly proclaims, Le Castillan is a four-seasons destination, just like La Meije glacier towering over it. Open all year round, this family-style hotel offering cosy rooms, a sauna, garden, children's games to share and bicycle and motorcycle stores, has just swept up a third star. The chef, a proud holder of the "Maître-Restaurateur" label, concocts a different menu with local produce every day, plus a discovery menu for kids.

Prix fixe menu from €26, children's menu €10.

[www.le-castillan.com](http://www.le-castillan.com)



Hôtel Le Castillan - © DR

### LES CHAMBRES D'HÔTES D'ANAVO

📍 NÉVACHE, VALLÉE DE LA CLARÉE

Good news for ski tourers exploring Clarée valley in Névache this year: Raphaël and Nathalie have added a small dormitory for visiting athletes to their two spacious guest rooms. Measuring 35 and 40m<sup>2</sup> and accommodating up to 12 people or two families, the rooms feature a living area and private bathroom decorated in chic mountain style. The house can be partly privatized – the owners live on the top floor. Guests enjoy a spacious dining room, cosy lounge with a wood burner and a 300 m<sup>2</sup> garden complete with Norwegian bath. The table d'hôte meals give pride of place to local produce. Nathalie manages a Hautes-Alpes information website, while Raphaël is a mountain guide, so guests benefit from plenty of excellent advice. Chalet Anavo is located in the middle of Clarée valley's two Nordic ski areas: Les Alberts and Névache.

€90 to €125 per night for 2 guests, table d'hôte meals €21.50. Open January to mid-April and mid-May to mid-November 2024.

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



Anavo - © N. Martin

## GUEST HOUSE INSPIRATION MONTAGNE

📍 NÉVACHE, VALLÉE DE LA CLARÉE

Keen hikers for the last 30 years, Hervé and Marie-Ange fell under the spell of Clarée valley while they were touring mount Thabor. They restored a house there, in the little village of Plampinet, en route to Col de l'Échelle. The three rooms for 2, 3 and 4 guests pay homage to wood: their original wood beams are still on show, along with the openings used to air fodder in days gone by. In room 4 - a duplex - you'll find an ancient miller's ladder climbing up to the mezzanine. Breakfast is served in the old vaulted stables and guests also enjoy a garden.

Rooms €105 to €120.

[inspirationmontagne.ellohaweb.com](http://inspirationmontagne.ellohaweb.com)



Inspiration Montagne - © DR

## AUBERGE-CHALET LA MAISON DE CATHERINE

📍 PUY-SAINT-PIERRE  
SERRE CHEVALIER BRIANÇON

For the last year, Maison de Catherine has been enjoying a new lease of life in the heart of Puy-Saint-Pierre. This auberge-come-chalet actually comprises two chalets offering double rooms or an apartment for 4 to 6 people, available for weekend or weekly rental. The decoration is charming and the cuisine faultless, with treats including homemade caillette pâté, soup of the day, roast quail and a morel mushroom fondue. Puy-Saint-Pierre - a hamlet perched above Briançon - is the first stop for the Prorel gondola; skiers only have to walk a few metres to reach it. Ideal for skiers and summer hikers alike.

Double room €90 to €100, triple €125 to €131, quadruple €131 to €158. Breakfast €9.50.

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



La Maison de Catherine - © DR

## HÔTEL LE PETIT CERF LODGE

📍 CERVIÈRES,  
SERRE CHEVALIER BRIANÇON

Revamped and buzzing with good vibrations, the former Hôtel d'Izoard, situated at the foot of Col d'Izoard on the Briançon side, basks in stunning natural scenery. Isabelle Bertrand redesigned the 16 rooms with a nice dose of colour plus wood from the valley. After a day's skiing in winter, or hiking in summer, relax on the lounge-bar fireside sofas or terrace to the sound of live music. A shuttle service runs to the lodge from Briançon railway station.

Open until end April and from end May to end September 2024.

Double room: Lodge from €90, Hotel €120 or €164.

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



Le petit Cerf - © M. Costet

## LE REFUGE DE L'ONCLE ÉMILE

📍 DORMILLOUSE FREISSINIÈRE,  
LES ÉCRINS

Claude Bounous and Stéphanie Lavinia left their family plumbing business in Saint-Crépin to live year-round in Dormillouse. A brave decision: this hamlet in the heart of Écrins National Park is only accessible on foot and it takes 45 minutes in summer and an hour and a half in winter to climb up to their refuge perched at an altitude of 1,800 metres. The 400 m<sup>2</sup> house used to belong to Stéphanie's uncle. Today, the two mountain lovers have refurbished it superbly, complete with cosy bedding and delightful bathrooms. The solar panels, pellet stove and heated floors are sustainable too. The dormitory features six single beds plus two more-secluded beds. The three wood-clad bedrooms – *Crocus*, *Lys* and *Lys Martagon* – offer superb vistas over Tête de Gramusat, famed for its ice waterfalls in winter. And the *fondues* and *tartiflettes* are just the ticket after a day out on the slopes.

Dormitory €79 per night, double room €199 per night, meals €29.

[refuge-dormillouse.fr](https://refuge-dormillouse.fr)



Ecrins © Itinera Magica

## RÉSIDENCE CLUB MMV LE SILVANA

📍 RISOUL

This new MMV Club Residence, located 15 minutes from the snow front, offers all the advantages of the MMV Club topped with the privacy of your own apartment. Redesigned by architect Marc Miginiac from the Savoie-based agency Studio Arch Inside, the building now resembles a fun mountain cabin, complete with corridors lined with coarse wool carpets, illuminated arches, a lounge with fireplace, real and fake mountain memorabilia and paintings of animals in ski suits... 4-10 year olds enjoy morning skiing lessons led by the MMV activities team, while teens love getting together at the Squ@t – no parents allowed of course! Other amenities include an indoor pool, sauna and hammam, outdoor whirlpool bath, cinema and gaming area. Gourmet afternoon snacks are provided to tide you over until the evening quizzes, cooking demonstrations, MMV Shows and MMV Games, winding up on the dancefloor. You can opt to have your week's meals delivered and book your ski passes and ski gear on site at a friendly price. And you can wear skis all the way out and back too.

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



Résidence MMV – © Manu Reyboz

## CHALET DU GRAND HÔTEL

📍 CHANTEMERLE - SERRE CHEVALIER

Jean-Michel Wilmotte designed the four new chalets now adorning the old Grand Hôtel – Serre Chevalier's very first hotel located in the historic heart of the resort, at the foot of the legendary Luc Alphand slope. The 21 apartments with terraces ranging from 44 to 192 m<sup>2</sup> are instilled with a contemporary mountain mood, with spacious volumes, glass façades and decoration courtesy of interior designer Olivier Frémont. The 102 guests enjoy the Grand Hôtel's premium services, including a Nuxe Spa and access to the Grand Hôtel refuge at an altitude of 2,200 metres.

<https://grandhotel.fr/en/>



Studio Frémont – © Fremont Serre Chevalier

## KNOW-HOW

### A SECOND HYDROELECTRIC TURBINE

📍 SERRE CHEVALIER

Key to Serre Chevalier Vallée's renewable energy programme, a second hydroelectric turbine has now been installed at the Fréjus snow factory in La Salle-les-Alpes. From spring to autumn, it will be working the waters of the Bez river to produce 3 gigawatt hours of electricity per year. Fitted with a 5-ton alternator, it is set to account for 70% of the total power produced with renewable energy sources (hydroelectric, wind and solar), allowing the resort to achieve 30% self-sufficiency.

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



turbine- © DR

## OUTDOORS

### V862 LA DURANCE BY BIKE CYCLE ROUTE

📍 BRIANÇON À AVIGNON

It's great for long-distance adventures and everyday travel alike – and as it crosses numerous railway stations, it's ideal for mixed train-rail journeys too! The Durance by Bike (V862) cycle route covers 438 kilometres along the river Durance between Briançon and Avignon. Stretching all the way from the source of the Durance, at an altitude of 2,390 metres on the heights of the Col du Montgenèvre, to the Rhône river, it crosses the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin, Serre-Ponçon lake and enchanting landscapes of orchards and lavender...

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



Durance à vélo © Patrick Domeyne

Durance à Vélo © ADDET 05 - C. Tempier



### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

**Thursday July 4th, 2024**

Stage 4: Pinerolo / Valloire.138 km

Departing from Florence in Italy, this is the first French stage on the Tour. The peloton will be arriving in the Briançon area via Col de Montgenèvre, before heading to Col du Galibier (11.9 km, 7.1% then 17.7 km, 6.9%), via Le Lautaret. Monêtier-les-Bains marks the start of the last 11.5 km stretch to the finish line, with an average 9.2% uphill climb and some gruelling stretches at 10%.

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

## CLIMBING WALL

### 📍 BRIANÇON

A stunning natural setting, brilliant architectural feat and impressive variety of routes of varying difficulty: the Briançon outdoor climbing wall inaugurated in July 2023 is already a benchmark! Architect Grégory Poles wanted it to be visible from all around, like “a tree furling skywards”. A joint project by Briançon town council and the French Climbing Federation, the wall is open to schoolchildren, clubs and for various events, so climbers of all levels can enjoy their favourite sport throughout the year. The host town for the Climbing World Championships for the last 34 years, Briançon is the international climbing capital – a renown set to continue thanks to the climbing wall, refurbishment of the high-altitude sports centre and opening of the O27 bouldering hall. It is also an official climbing Preparation Centre for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

<https://www.serre-chevalier.com/en/climbing-wall>



© Patrick Domeyne



© Patrick Domeyne

## STADE DE BIATHLON

### 📍 CEILLAC, QUEYRAS - GUILLESTROIS

It's one of 2024's top new events in the Southern Alps and in particular Queyras - now a flagship 4-Seasons destination for snow sports enthusiasts -, Ceillac's new Biathlon Stadium features fifteen 50-metre shooting ranges plus a penalty loop. It is connected to a 50-kilometre network of cross-country trails winding through larch forests. From summer 2024, three new roller ski trails will allow enthusiasts to train all year round in good weather. This low environmental impact stadium spans 5 out of the valley's 24,000 acres.

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



Stade Biathlon Ceillac © Vision'R



# PRÉALPES D'AZUR MERCANTOUR

**F**rom 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.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### PLUS BEAU VILLAGE DE FRANCE

📍 SAORGE

In September 2023, the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” committee decided to add Saorge (Alpes-Maritimes) to the club of France’s most beautiful villages, making a total of 176 villages bearing the prestigious label nationwide. The tall façades of Saorge cling to the rock face, in the heart of Roya valley. The village boasts an exceptional religious heritage on three levels, connected by a maze of stone staircases. 22 of the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” are located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur. The label is awarded subject to 32 criteria: in addition to its aesthetics, the village must have at least 2,000 inhabitants and be home to two protected sites. The label was created in the stunning village of Gordes in the Luberon, honoured with the title of “Most Beautiful Village in the World” by the American magazine **Travel + Leisure** in 2023.

[www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org](http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org)

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



Saorge © G. Veran

## HOSPITALITY

### RÉSIDENCE ODALYS LE MONT D'AURON\*\*\*\*

📍 AURON

Situated in the village centre, five minutes from the snow front, this four-star residence offers 2, 3 and 4-room apartments accommodating up to 8 people, plus a wellness space with a heated indoor pool, sauna and steam room. On-site breakfast service. Odalys’ excellent panel of services includes early/late arrivals, online check-in, shared payments, discounts on ski equipment rentals and special offers on early bookings and 2-week stays.

Prices: from €429 per week for 4 people outside school holidays and from €1,419 per week for 4 people during school holidays.

[www.odalys-vacation-rental.com](http://www.odalys-vacation-rental.com)

### BISTROT DE PAYS L'AUBERGE DE CALENDAL\*\*\*

📍 AIGLUN

This delightful auberge nestles on a staircase street in the centre of Aiglun, on the slopes of Mont Saint-Martin, one hour from Nice and Grasse. Owners Gwen and Michel Rocton set up home in this picturesque little village after years spent preparing fine fare for palaces and stars, from Naomi Campbell to Serge Gainsbourg. Now a proud holder of the “Bistrot de Pays” label, pastry chef Michel concocts traditional dishes with a twist such as Guinea Fowl Wellington and Veal Blanquette, served at the *Endrone* restaurant with terrace overlooking the mountains, open from Thursday to Monday. Wind the day up with an unrefined cocoa tea from Saint Lucia – Gwen’s birthplace – or Caribbean cocktail. The five double rooms and two dormitories with 6 to 8 beds are refurbished every spring. You can also swim in one of France’s cleanest rivers, the Esteron, just down from the hotel. Aiglun is a popular meeting place for canyoning enthusiasts, also home to many hiking trails criss-crossing the Préalpes d’Azur Regional Nature Reserve.

Five rooms from €70, dormitory €30 including breakfast.

[auberge-de-calendal.leprovencehotels.com](http://auberge-de-calendal.leprovencehotels.com)

Auberge de Calendal - © DR

## OUTDOORS

### BISTROT DE PAYS HÔTEL RESTAURANT BEAUSÉJOUR

📍 BERRE-LES-ALPES

Located 22 kilometres from Nice, the hilltop village of Berre-les-Alpes gazes out over Paillon valley, the Mercantour mountain chain and Mediterranean Sea. And this stunning eagle's nest harbours another little treasure too – its bistro! A holder of the “Bistrot de Pays” label, the Beauséjour Hotel-restaurant, set inside a magnificent stone building, invites guests to relax on its pretty terrace adorned with virgin creeper, or take a seat inside the old vaulted stables. Philippe and Monia pay homage to Nice's traditional, old-fashioned cuisine, with dishes including pissaladière, courgette flower fritters, beef stew and *merda di can*, aka gnocchi with chard. A professional pastry chef, Philippe also pampers guests with a whirlwind of sweet treats including tiramisu, a tart of the day, Saint-Honoré cake, black forest gâteau and cheesecake. Luckily, six comfortable rooms await you at the LogisHotel.

Prix fixe menus €9.50 to €25. From €70 per night.

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



Gréolières - © G. Veran

Valfit © OT Valberg

### EXPLOR GAMES

📍 GRÉOLIÈRES

Explor Games® are outdoor adventure games designed for families, friends or teams. The Gréolière game consists of nine challenges set over a distance of six kilometres around Gréolière-les-Neiges, between hollows, pastures, lapiaz, forests and lakes.

The pitch? Pollution, droughts and hurricanes are threatening to destroy the Earth. But Gaia – the Earth's personification – has taken refuge in Gréolières-les-Neiges, one of the last havens of biodiversity. As scientists, you have been called on to examine the site and judge if it can save Gaia and the planet...

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



Eté © OT Valberg

### VAL' PASS, VAL'FIT

📍 VALBERG

Valberg is a great destination in every season! The Val'Pass multiactivity pass – a sort of electronic wallet you can credit with the amount you need – offers access to a fabulous range of activities including the new Val'Fit gym.

Fitness, core training or muscle strengthening: the digital equipment on offer at this new gym facing the Parc des Sports caters to every need, while the connected wristband allows users to tailor their training schedule.

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



### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

#### Saturday July 20th

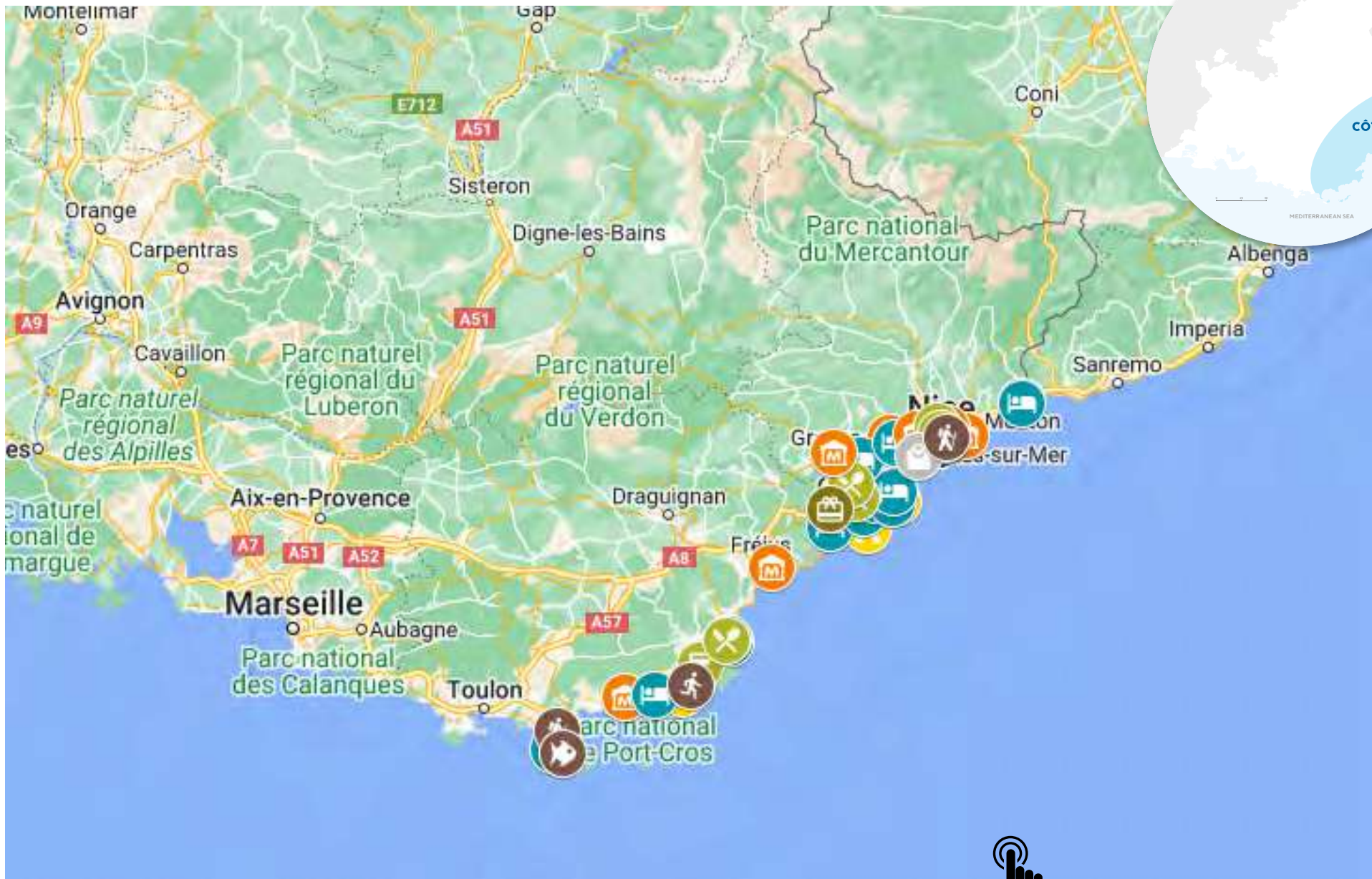
Stage 20: Nice > Col de la Couillole 132 km  
Departing from Nice Côte d'Azur, the peloton will be tackling four successive climbs: Col de Braus (10 km, 6.6%), Col de Turini (20.7 km, 5.7%), Col de la Colmiane (7.5 km, 7.1%) and Col de la Couillole (15.7 km, 7.1%). Just 24 hours from the finish line, the bets are still on!

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

A scenic view of the Côte d'Azur coastline. In the foreground, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a grey coat and blue jeans, is walking down a stone staircase with a black metal railing. The staircase is surrounded by lush greenery, including various cacti and succulents. In the background, the blue sea stretches to the horizon, with a small island visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

# CÔTE D'AZUR

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR



CLICK HERE



# HYÈRES, MASSIF DES MAURES, GULF OF SAINT-TROPEZ, MASSIF DE L'ESTÉREL

**80** years ago, this stunning coast was witness to an event that changed the course of history: the **Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence**. Its aptly-named **Corniche d'Or** coast road, which has just celebrated its 120th anniversary, was baptized the Corniche of Heroes at the time. Today, people visit its beaches to relax or, in the case of **Saint-Tropez**, party rather than remember. This is also home to the bay of **Bormes-les-Mimosas**, which has just joined the very-select "Most Beautiful Bays in the World" club.

A duo of giants, the **Massif des Maures** and **Massif de l'Estérel** 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 region's 10th **Regional Nature Reserve**. Different but just as splendid, the red porphyry rocks of the **Estérel** hills embrace **Saint-Raphaël, Théoule** and **Mandelieu**.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITION

### LE MOBILIER DU FORT DE BRÉGANÇON

📍 BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS

Until May 25th, 2024

Brégançon Fort, a fortress set on Pointe de Cabanon, has been the official summer residence of France's Presidents since 1968. It is traditionally furnished according to their taste, using items from the National Furniture collection. Although the fort is located near Bormes-les-Mimosas, it is not always open to the public, so this exclusive exhibition at the town's Museum of Art and History is well worth a visit. The 45 items on show, with a special focus on designer Pierre Paulin, recreate the fort's Chapelle lounge, presidential office, breakfast room and drawing room between 1969 and 2017. Brégançon Fort will be welcoming the public every Wednesday and Saturday in 2024.

Permanent and temporary exhibition: €8.50. Family ticket: €26.

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



Salon de la Chapelle - Musée d'Histoire et d'Art de Bormes

### A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE HÔTEL DE LA MER

📍 DOMAINE RAYOL-CANADEL-SUR-MER

In the last 34 years, around two million people have visited the Hôtel de la Mer, an ancient seaside villa leading to Domaine du Rayol and its magnificent Jardin des Méditerranées. Heritage architect Philippe Matonti and his team have now restored the villa's dazzling white facade, bas-reliefs and friezes. After your tour, head into the Jardin des Méditerranées designed by Gilles Clément: the paths leading down to the cove meander through stunning Mediterranean and exotic flora. Employing over 30 permanent staff, the estate is dedicated to landscape gardening, ecology and ethnobotany. It is 85% self-financed and now certified as a Caring Company. More projects are in the pipeline, including restoration of the pergola on the grand staircase, stripping of tar from the landscaped drive and the creation of a reception area for cyclists and Planetary Botanical Index. A new discovery trail showcasing local Mediterranean flora is in the making too, running alongside the greenway linking Domaine du Rayol to Maison Foncin and the future Maison de la Nature in Cavalaire.

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

### LA MAISON DE LA NATURE

📍 CAVALAIRE-SUR-MER

Set on the Corniche des Maures coast road, three kilometres from Cavalaire town centre, the Maison de la Nature will be offering an intergenerational vegetable garden, café, exhibitions and educational activities. It will also be the starting point for guided tours of the neighbouring Maison Foncin and its 37-acre estate overlooking the sea.

Opening spring/summer 2024..

[lusine.org/index.php/la-maison-de-la-nature](http://lusine.org/index.php/la-maison-de-la-nature)



© DR



Domaine Rayol - © DR

## MAISON FONCIN

📍 CAVALAIRE-SUR-MER

Resembling a beautiful White House perched on the heights of Cavalaire, Maison Foncin is the former property of eminent geographer Pierre Foncin. It soon became a landmark for sailors and pilots. Pierre Foncin's family used to travel there on the *Train des Pignes* for their holidays - the station is situated just below the house. Pierre Foncin's daughters gifted their property and its 37 acres of grounds to the Conservatoire du Littoral (French coastal conservation agency), marking the agency's very first donation. A 2.5-hour tour allows visitors to admire the site and its permanent exhibition on cartography and the *Train des Pignes*.

[www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr](http://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr)



Maison Foncin - © DR



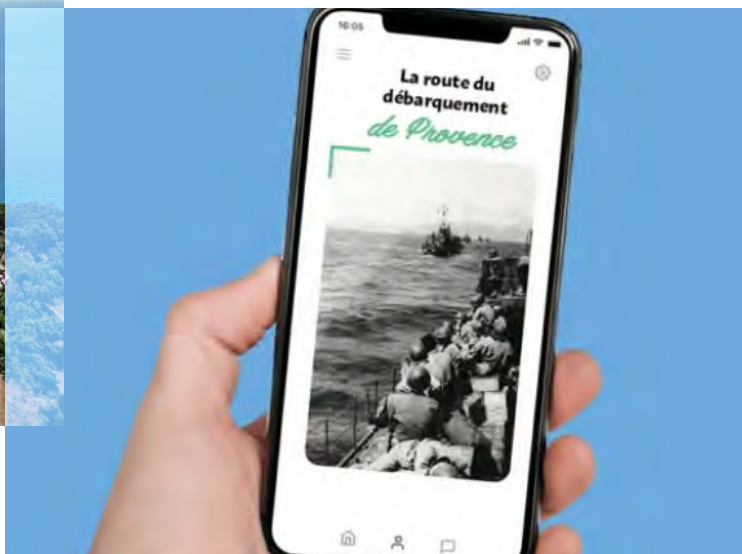
## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN PROVENCE

📍 BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS

August 16th, 2024

Bormes-les-Mimosas is hosting a spectacular reconstruction of the events of August 16th, 1944, as part of the 80th anniversary of the Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence. On that day, following an ambush set up by resistance fighters, nearly 200 hostages from Le Lavandou were taken to Bormes by the Germans. They were subsequently freed by African commandos under the orders of Colonel Bouvet, together with American soldiers from the 509th parachute regiment..

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



© DR



## EN VADROUILLE, LOUIS DE FUNÈS ET LE DÉBARQUEMENT EN PROVENCE!

📍 MUSÉE LOUIS DE FUNÈS, SAINT-RAPHAËL

Summer 2024 to May 31st, 2025

In 1966, movie director Gérard Oury filmed a comedy starring Louis de Funès. It was a triumph! Ten years after its release, *La Grande Vadrouille* had attracted no less than 17 million spectators and remained top of the French box office for thirty years. The story, in which a conductor and house painter agree to escort English pilots into the free zone in 1942, actually describes a chapter of the war that culminated in the Allied Landings and Liberation of Provence. Entirely dedicated to Louis de Funès, this museum invites visitors to discover the artist and man in the intimacy of his family chateau and garden. Featuring hundreds of objects, it retraces the life and work of France's favourite comedy actor.

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



© DR

## HOSPITALITY

### LE PROVENÇAL\*\*\*

📍 PRESQU'ÎLE DE GIENS, HYÈRES

An historic address on Giens Peninsula, *Le Provençal* is divided into two parts. At the southern tip of the peninsula lies an apartment hotel offering 23 apartments, hotel services and a restaurant - Le Bar du Soleil - set in vast grounds (the former home of Louis Renault, founder of Renault), complete with a pool and beach dug into the rock. The hotel is set in the village of Giens, opposite the brand new Villa Barret restaurant, also part of the complex.

The hotel will be closed for refurbishment work in 2024, but the two restaurants and apartment hotel - boasting unbeatable value for money outside peak season - will remain open.

Studios €50 to €250 per night.

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



Le Provençal - © DR

### SURPLAGE HÔTEL CAVALIÈRE\*\*\*\*

📍 LE LAVANDOU

Seven kilometres down the coast from Le Lavandou, the bay of Cavalière pans out between Cap Nègre and Pointe du Layet. Ideally located on the beach, the Surplage Hôtel is part of the small, family-run Dokhan group, known for its masterful decoration combining works of art and vintage furniture. Carole Schmitz-Caroni oversaw the interior design, aided and abetted by Stéphane Dokhan. 54 of the 58 rooms and suites feature balconies with sea views and 6 open onto a verdant terrace on the sand where you'll find the Surlage Grill beach restaurant. A barefoot paradise.

Rooms from €240 to €800.

[www.surplagehotel-cavaliere.com/en/](http://www.surplagehotel-cavaliere.com/en/)



Surplage Hôtel - © DR

### HÔTEL DU PARC\*\*\*\*

📍 CAVALAIRE-SUR-MER

The Hôtel du Parc offers 36 rooms and suites with views over the 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> grounds and sparkling waves, just 350 metres away. The refined, very-Zen decor courtesy of architectural firms Marullaz and Architectrices combines materials in warm colours, cherry and olive woodwork and Salernes tiles. The custom-made bar is adorned with ceramics and a green quartz top. Local stone lends the rooms a cosy-yet-contemporary atmosphere. Chef Jean-Brice Ruffroy and his brigade - you'll find them at the *Mil8 Avoriaz 1800* in winter - take up their summer quarters at *La Table du Parc*, specializing in regional fish and vegetables. The restaurant terrace, overlooking the grounds, offers a wonderfully discreet hideaway perfect for enjoying the balmy Riviera evenings, far from the madding crowds.

Rooms from €280.

[www.hotelduparc-cavalaire.com/en/](http://www.hotelduparc-cavalaire.com/en/)



Hôtel du Parc © DR

**SUITE RIVIERA DE LA VILLA COSY\*\*\*\*\***

📍 SAINT-TROPEZ

The Riviera Suite is the latest addition to the five-star Villa Cosy hotel, superbly located just outside Saint-Tropez gazing over the vineyards. Measuring 120 m<sup>2</sup>, the suite for six guests features three bedrooms, three toilets and two bathrooms. The spacious terrace overlooks the garden. A kitchenette, dining room and living room with sofa bed complete the offering. With just 25 rooms, the aptly-named Villa Cosy also features a Spa by Sothys, garden, pool and exceptional wine cellar...

From €2,000 per night.

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



Suite Riviera de la Villa Cosy - © DR

**AREV HÔTEL\*\*\*\*\***

📍 SAINT-TROPEZ

This new five-star hotel on Chemin des Vendanges offers a pleasantly old-school atmosphere paying tribute to the golden years of Saint-Tropez. The central courtyard adorned with four veteran olive trees basks at the end of a tree-lined drive, in grounds designed by landscape architect Jesús Ibáñez. Madrid-born interior designer Luis Bustamante imagined the 43 airy rooms, bedecked with bright colours that echo the hotel's sunny ambience. Most have private gardens. The pool is lined with blue and white cabanas. The Strand restaurant, Champagne Lounge and Q's Bar offer extended opening hours, perfect for glam partying 'til dawn. You'll also find a villa with private access on site, plus an AREV x Maison ST Spa, gym and padel tennis court.

Opening March 15th, 2024.

From €590 per night.

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



Villa Cosy - © DR



© Arev Hôtel

## GASTRONOMY

### DOMAINE CHÂTEAU DE CHAUSSE

📍 LA-CROIX-VALMER

After two years of restoration work, this 136-acre organic estate in the hills of La Croix Valmer and Gassin, in the Gulf of Saint-Tropez, is reopening to the public with a bigger and better cellar and winery. Of note: although this is largely rosé territory, almost half of the estate's production is dedicated to red wines.

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



Domaine Château de Chausse © Serge Chapuis

### VIP ROOM

📍 SAINT-TROPEZ

The party never ends in Saint-Tropez! The famous VIP Room, imagined by Jean-Roch at the entrance to Saint-Tropez complete with a garden, shaded terrace and lemon trees, describes itself as a "Dispenser of happiness"! Now open all year round, the VIP Room and neighbouring Gioia transform into a VIP Chalet every Saturday in winter until Easter, with festive catering followed by clubbing until 5 am.

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



VIP Room- © DR



VIP Room- © DR

## OUTDOORS

### LE PAS DU SAUNIER

📍 SALIN DES PESQUIERS, HYÈRES

A must for bird lovers and photographers alike, the delightful *Pas du Saunier* pedestrian and cycle path, featuring two footbridges, winds its way 1,600 metres through Salin des Pesquiers saltmarsh. This 59-acre wetland lies at the heart of the stunning double isthmus (two arms of sand with the sea on either side) connecting the mainland to Giens Peninsula. A Natura 2000 protected site, managed by the Conservatoire du Littoral (French coastal conservation agency), it is home to many species of nesting birds including grey herons, kingfishers, white stilts and pink flamingos. Please note: studies are scheduled on the impact of this new human presence on the wildlife and the path may close during nesting periods.

[www.hyeres-tourisme.com](http://www.hyeres-tourisme.com)



Salin des Pesquiers - © Var Tourisme - Nicolas Lacroix

### WHALE AND DOLPHIN-WATCHING

📍 PRESQU'ÎLE DE GIENS, HYÈRES

Espace Mer, a diving club based in Hyères, hosts a great range of water and underwater activities including whale and dolphin watching in the Pelagos Sanctuary. Sperm whales and fin whales find food and refuge in the subsea canyons off the coast of the Golden Islands, near Hyères. Sightings are unpredictable of course, but with a bit of luck, you'll be able to spot bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales and sometimes even turtles. The excursions, in collaboration with the association Souffleurs d'Écume, are fully compliant with the ACCOBAMS agreement and Espace Mer is a holder of the High Quality Whale-Watching® label. The Pelagos sanctuary is a protected marine area measuring 87,500 km<sup>2</sup>, jointly managed by Italy, Monaco and France and dedicated to marine mammal conservation. The tours depart from La Tour Fondue.

Adults €98, children under 12 years €83.

[www.observation-cetaces.fr](http://www.observation-cetaces.fr)



Presqu'île de Giens - © Var Tourisme - John Walzl



### MARATHON

📍 GOLFE DE SAINT-TROPEZ

March 24th, 2024

This marathon between Sainte-Maxime and Cavalaire-sur-Mer is a great opportunity to (re) discover the mythical Gulf of Saint-Tropez. The unique layout combines Mediterranean shores, vineyards, hills and garrigue. A sporty and festive event, with participants bedecked in their finest fancy dress.

New: This year's Gulf of Saint-Tropez marathon will be a qualifier for the French marathon championship. With numerous champion runners expected, the stakes are high.

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



# CANNES ANTIBES SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

A carefree scent washes over these shores dotted with fortresses and châteaux often converted into artists' homes. Take your time, it's not a race... Though that's hard to say in 2024, when **Antibes**, twinned with **Olympia** in Greece, is getting ready to welcome the **Paralympic Flame**. The Summer Olympics are here and **jazz** music is quickening its pace in **Antibes** too. The town's **world-famed festival** follows on from **the international film festival in Cannes**. The **isles of Lérins**, floating offshore in the **Bay of Cannes**, will be watching the parade of movie actors and celebrities from afar.

Out of sight of the cameras, chefs and artisans form the beating heart of such ravishing village as **Cagnes-sur-Mer**, **Mougins**, **Biot**, **Vallauris**, **Tourrettes** and, of course, the archetypal hilltop village of **Saint-Paul-de-Vence**. Little treasures coveted by the discretion-loving stars of today and yesteryear.

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### FONDATION MAEGHT 60TH ANNIVERSARY

SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

The fruit of a magnificent human story - that of the Maeght family, friends and patrons of the artists of their era - the Maeght Foundation, located a stone's throw from Saint-Paul-de-Vence, houses one of Europe's largest art collections, featuring over 13,000 works by the masters of the 20th and early 21st centuries. For its 60th anniversary, the Foundation will be unveiling a unique display of large formats from the collection and taking possession of the new rooms situated under the original listed building. Lasting a whole month, the anniversary celebrations include concerts, dance, readings and screenings, culminating on July 28th, the date of the foundation's inauguration in 1964.



Fondation Maeght



### AMITIÉS, MATISSE-BONNARD

June 29th to October 6th, 2024

This major exhibition focuses on the friendship between artists Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse, as well as their ties with the Maeght family. Under the curatorship of Marie-Thérèse Pulvéris de Séligny, it explores the character of each painter, as well as their different ways of tackling the same subjects: self-portraits, street scenes, muses and the South of France's unique quality of light. Exceptionally, a shuttle service will be provided between the Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence - Matisse's last work - and the Fondation Maeght for the duration of the exhibition.

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



Pierre Bonnard, Au Bar, 1892 © Heritage Images

### REOPENING OF THE TOUR DE L'ÎLE SAINT-HONORAT

CANNES

Pilgrims, as well as anyone and everyone who loves Saint-Honorat island, off the coast of Cannes, will enjoy rediscovering the restored fortified tower of Lérins Abbey free of charge in summer 2024. Set next to the abbey, the tower was transformed into a monastery in the 20th century and features two cloisters set one above the other. In addition to its unusual architecture, it offers one of the best views you'll find over the bay of Cannes. Lérins Abbey was founded in the early 5th century. Today, 21 Cistercian monks continue to pray, study and work the vines there, while welcoming 100,000 visitors every year.

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



Île Saint-Honorat - © Camille Moirenc

## PHARE DE LA GAROUBE OPEN AT LAST!

📍 ANTIBES-JUAN-LES-PINS

Perched on the Cap d'Antibes peninsula, Garoupe lighthouse is finally reopening for the first time in a quarter of a century. You can access this 29 metre-high white limestone monument on foot via Chemin du Calvaire, or by car on Route du Phare. 116 steps lead to the top of the building gazing out over magnificent landscapes of Mediterranean waters, Estérel hills, Mercantour national park and the sumptuous villas of the cape...

A wooden watchtower occupied this strategic site from the year 1500. The current building took the place of the 1836 lighthouse, destroyed in 1944 during WWII and rebuilt in 1948. Still in use, it is the most powerful lighthouse on the Mediterranean coast. Remember to salute the sanctuary of Notre-Dame-de-la-Garoupe on your way, and stop off for a kiss in front of the Peynet lovers' oratory.

Open to the public. Free entry. Tours in groups of 10 every 20 minutes.

<https://www.antibesjuanlespins.com/en/>



Phare de la Garoupe © Service communication Ville d'Antibes

### EXHIBITION

## OLYMPIC TORCHES

📍 ANTIBES-JUAN-LES-PINS

**June 18th to September, 2024**

Antibes-Juan-les-Pins is the only town in France twinned with the Greek town of Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games. Today, it is home to a collection of no less than forty Olympic and Paralympic torches, medals and commemorative plaques, dating from 1936 to 2020, brought together by Greek collector Stratos Klimou. The exhibition will be kicking off on June 18th, when the Olympic Flame crosses the Côte d'Azur, and running (no pun intended) until the end of August.

<https://www.antibesjuanlespins.com/en>



Les torches olympiques - © Alcibiade Voliotis

### EVENT

## PARALYMPIC TORCH RELAY

📍 ANTIBES-JUAN-LES-PINS

**August 25th, 2024**

Antibes will also be welcoming the Paralympic Torch Relay on August 25th, 2024 – a privilege owed to the town's status as the twin town of Olympia in Greece, as well as the region's commitment to athletes with disabilities. The flame will be crossing France in 4 days against 80 for the Olympic Flame, but unlike the latter, it will be visible in several locations at once. Starting out from England, the torch will separate into 12 flames when it arrives on the French coast, before its voyage across the mainland celebrating the Olympic values of inclusion, peace and friendship.

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



Mona Francis © Paris 2024

## FAMM, THE 1ST EUROPEAN MUSEUM DEDICATED TO WOMEN

MOUGINS

In June 2024, the Mougins Museum of Classical Art, or MACM, is set to be renamed the FAMM (Femmes Artistes du Musée de Mougins - Women Artists of the Mougins Museum). It is the first major museum in Europe entirely dedicated to female artists. Among the featured artists: Joan Mitchell, Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan, Elaine de Kooning, Louise Bourgeois, Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, Howardina Pindell, Joan Semmel, Nancy Graves, Cecily Brown and Carrie Mae Weems. A fervent antiques lover, Christian Levett, born in Britain, has been collecting ancient paintings for many years. In 2020, he decided to redirect his focus to expressionist works by women artists. You can enjoy a glimpse of the upcoming artists and their work on the museum's Instagram account @famm.mougins

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



Affiche FAMM - © DR

## HOSPITALITY

### LE CHÂTEAU DE THÉOULE-SUR-MER

THÉOULE-SUR-MER

The history of this Château, basking at the foot of the Estérel hills, is closely tied to that of the region. It started out as a Savon de Marseille soap factory, before being converted into a Scottish-style manor by an English aristocrat in 1913. Today, this little jewel has come back to life as a distinguished hotel-restaurant operated by the family-owned Millésime group. The 33 rooms and 11 suites nestle inside the Villa des Pêcheurs art deco villa, within the château's neo-Gothic stone battlements. Offering sweeping views over the bay of Cannes, the rooms are an ode to plants and perfumes. Interior designer Marie-Christine Mecoen drew her inspiration from the Queen of Hungary's Cologne, as well as Coco Chanel's N°5, honouring Room 5 of course... The castle interior reflects the pomp and splendour of past eras, with Empire, Egyptian and Napoleon III-style furniture. The restaurant, adorned with mosaics and large art deco columns, serves fine Italian cuisine, while La Plage Blanche restaurant, already open on the private beach, seats around a hundred guests. The Éc(h)o spa at the heart of the castle features a sauna, hammam and three Nordic baths, two of which are set outdoors, near the pool. One of the old outhouses is now a concept store dedicated to wellness.

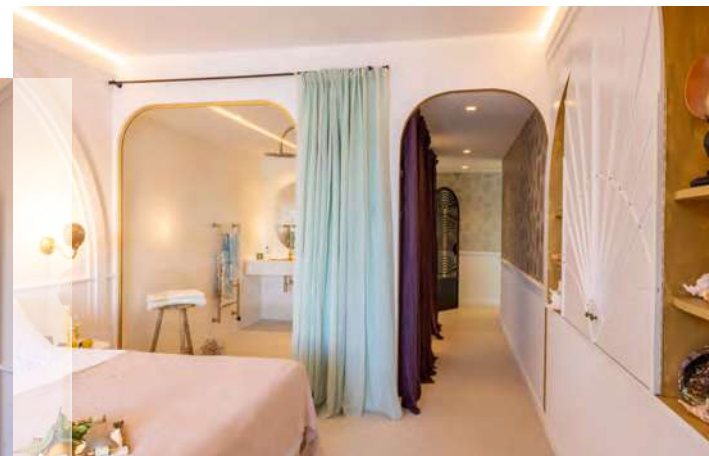
Château de Théoule offers direct access to the port. A private boat provides transfers between Théoule-sur-Mer and Cannes in ten minutes. Hiking trails lead to Pointe de l'Aiguille and Mont San Peyre. Opening March 8th, 2024.

Double room €360 in low season, €920 in high season.

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



Château de Théoule - © Cedric Fruneau



Château de Théoule - © Cedric Fruneau

## MOB HÔTEL

📍 CANNES

A fourth address for the MOB hotel family created by Cyril Aouizerate, an innovative entrepreneur committed to social ecology. This rehabilitated Seventies abode in the lanes of Le Cannet, surrounded by gardens, a vegetable garden and pool, is located just 15 minutes from the beaches. The 43 rooms and apartments pay homage to nature with rice straw headboards and recycled materials. Special paint and thermal curtains reinforce the action of the fans and reduce the need for air-conditioning, so guests can enjoy the terraces with sea views to the full. And of course, music and partying – the MOB signature – are on the menu too, together with organic cuisine, a regional wine list and BBQs in summer. In addition to a MOB Shop and Biocoop grocery store, this particular address offers a one-of-a-kind Patagonia store dedicated to the world of travel. Opening spring 2024.

Rooms from €130.

[www.mobhotel.com/cannes](http://www.mobhotel.com/cannes)



Croisette Cannes © CRT Cote d'Azur-France P. Behar

## STAYBRIDGE SUITES CANNES CENTRE

📍 CANNES

Opened in November 2023, the former Club Maintenon is the first establishment in France flying the flag of the IHG group's new Staybridge Suites brand. Situated just 5 minutes from the station, in a quiet residential street, the 81 apartments with kitchenette are perfect for a short break or longer stay. Added extras: a very plentiful free breakfast and happy hour included in the price of the stay, perfect for getting to know your neighbours around a glass of local wine.

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



Jardin Villa Rothschild © CRT Cote d'Azur France C. Moirenc

## REBIRTH OF THE PALM BEACH

📍 CANNES

The Palm Beach is back at Pointe Croisette! Famed for its Moorish architecture and iconic pool featured in the film *Melody in the Basement* with Alain Delon and Jean Gabin, the establishment is now a high-end entertainment hub, boasting nine gastronomic eateries, a nightclub, spa, sixteen luxury boutiques, a gym, private beach and event space. Two hundred million euros were invested in the project and 5,000 guests are expected every day throughout summer. The reopening should be among the headline news at the MIPIM – the world's largest International Market for Real Estate Professionals (from March 12th to 15th, 2024).

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



Port Cannes © T. Honnorat

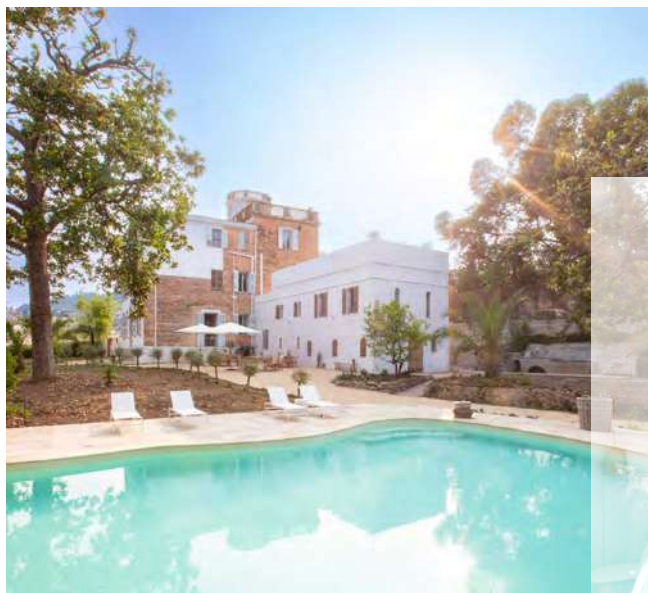
## CHAMBRE D'HÔTES LA BÂTISSE EN BLANC

📍 GOLFE-JUAN

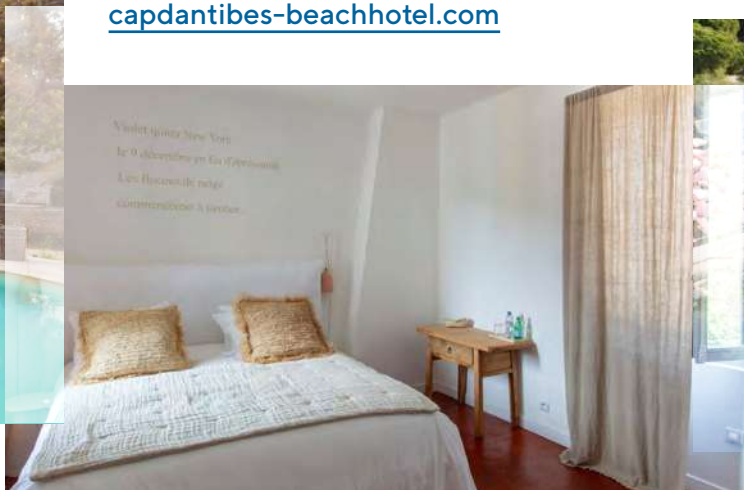
Virginie and Laurent, a hotelier and interior designer, fell in love with this century-old mansion set in 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> grounds at the entrance to Cannes, 400 metres from Plage du Midi. Frescoes, woodwork, terrazzo floors and palace-quality bedding grace the five rooms and suites. Guests also enjoy a bar and rooftop venue, plus an additional self-catering gîte for four guests inside an old chapel in the grounds. Table d'hôte meals available on request.

€200 to €400 per night for two including breakfast, La Chapelle gîte €400 per night.

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



La Bâtisse en Blanc - © Rivierao



La Bâtisse en Blanc - © Rivierao

## CAP D'ANTIBES BEACH HOTEL\*\*\*\*\*

📍 ANTIBES

Redesigned by Belgian architect Bernard Dubois - who represented Belgium at the Venice Biennale in 2014 - the Cap d'Antibes Beach Hotel and its renowned restaurant Les Pêcheurs lie at the entrance to Cap d'Antibes, between the ports of Gallice and Croûton. A tribute to modernist architecture, this five-star boutique hotel - part of the Adresse Hotels group alongside Monsieur George in Paris and La Ponche in Saint-Tropez - features 35 rooms with sober, geometric designs, bright walls and casson mosaic floors. The 10 Deluxe rooms (30m<sup>2</sup>), 13 Privilege rooms (36m<sup>2</sup>), 6 suites (over 50m<sup>2</sup>) and spacious Le Cap suite (66m<sup>2</sup>) all enjoy balconies or private gardens, plus made-to-measure wood furniture. The pink and black marble bathrooms are lit with stained-glass windows and you'll find massage cabins in the exotic garden. A kid's club is available in July and August for children aged 4 to 12 years, led by a qualified entertainment team in English and French.

The rotunda bar, resembling a balcony overlooking the horizon, is set inside the Baba beach restaurant headed up by Chef Assaf Granit, serving a tempting range of mezze, octopus and fish cooked over a mangal grill.

*Les Pêcheurs* restaurant, formerly Maison des Pêcheurs, is a genuine Mediterranean cuisine benchmark, renowned for its yacht-like decor complete with a mahogany staircase and portholes. Michelin one-star Chef Nicolas Rondelli serves specialities curated with carefully-sourced ingredients (e.g. olive oil from Gérard Ferry in Grasse and the catch of the day courtesy of Tony, a fisherman located opposite the restaurant entrance).

Double rooms from €550, €950 in high season, sun lounger from €40 per day.

[capdantibes-beachhotel.com](http://capdantibes-beachhotel.com)



Cap d'Antibes - © Early Online

## BEDBOAT

📍 ANTIBES

Founded in Nice by Félix Nacach, this start-up offers a delightful range of boatels moored at the quayside along the coast. According to studies, many boats are only used around ten days per year; using them as accommodation reduces their environmental impact while allowing owners to minimize their costs and holidaymakers to enjoy rare sea views topped with optimal comfort. Boats are also a great alternative to traditional accommodation in high season, offering guests a full immersion in the lively port atmosphere. The prices are affordable too. A few examples: *Eclipse* in Golfe-Juan, a 13-metre sailboat for ten people (€183 per night), *Sun Chaser*, a two-cabin motorboat in the Cannes Mandelieu Marina (€136 per night) and *La Croisière du Temps* barge in Port Saint-Louis on the Arles canal (€148 per night). BedBoat is one of the 16 start-ups selected by the Travel Camp Sud regional travel initiative.

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



BedBoat - © DR

## REOPENING OF MAS CANDILLE\*\*\*\*\*

📍 MOUGINS

Tucked away among cypress trees just outside Mougins, in 12 acres of grounds, Mas Candille is one of the Côte d'Azur's top addresses. Redesigned by star architect-come-designer Hugo Toro, the new Mas Candille is inspired by Californian lifestyle, where luxury goes hand-in-hand with hospitality and well-being. With the Courtins-Clarins family featuring among the investors, the Spa by Clarins promises to be top notch. The 46 rooms and suites, two restaurants and bars and two pools are set open all year round. Opening June 2024.

Prices from €300 (standard room in low season) to €1,400.

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



Croquis Mas Candille - © Hugo Toro

## SPA BY THALGO

### AT CHÂTEAU DE LA BÉGUDE\*\*\*\*\*

📍 OPIO

The Opio-Valbonne Golf Resort has opened a spa this year, set in 544 acres of greenery. "With 41 recently-refurbished rooms and suites set inside a 17th-century bastide and sheepfold, an 18-hole golf course, pool and tennis court, our resort offering is now complete", promises General Manager Thomas Benassayag. Heading up the kitchen, Chef Steve Carda - awarded 2 chef's hats in the Gault & Millau guide - concocts excellent cuisine at an affordable price.

The Spa by Thalgo features three treatment cabins set around a sensory space in a wing of the bastide, complete with a sauna, hammam, whirlpool bath, cold bath, experience shower, relaxation room, herbal tea room, fitness room and Pilates studio. And of course, you'll find the cult Thalgo products on offer there - a cosmetics range "Made in French Riviera" since 1964, using marine ingredients.

The Opio Valbonne Golf Club enjoys a hilly setting shaded with veteran trees, also home to a Gallo-Roman aqueduct. It is part of the Resonance Golf Collection managed by Patrick Scicard, bringing together 13 exceptional golf courses.

Rooms from €140. Two-course prix fixe menu €27.

[www.resonance.golf](http://www.resonance.golf) - [www.chateau-begude.com](http://www.chateau-begude.com)



## SUITES AT THE TOILE BLANCHE

SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

The Toile Blanche estate, a property of Leroy Brothers, spans over 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> of grounds dotted with works of art. The establishment now offers 16 suites endowed with such delightful names as *Mas de l'Artiste*, *Suite de la Bronzette*, *Suite du Bon Vivant* or *Pénard* (the smallest suite, measuring 30 m<sup>2</sup>), complete with private patios and sometimes a private pool, in addition to the two main outdoor pools. It goes without saying that luxury is casual here and the same goes for the excellent fare on offer at the two restaurants, including the friendly Guinguette café offering panoramic views. A novel address, just two kilometres from Saint-Paul-de-Vence.

Leroy Brothers is a Belgian collective of three brothers, Nicolas, Gilles and Gregory Leroy, born in 1975, 1978 and 1979. Since 1997, they have united their talents around artistic expression anchored in Post-Internet Art.

Suites from €209.

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



Toile Blanche - © DR

## GASTRONOMY

### A PASTRY CHEF AT VILLA ARCHANGE

CANNES

Yohan Jara is the talented pastry chef now in charge of desserts at La Bastide Bruno Oger, Le Bistrot des Anges and Michelin 2-starred Villa Archange. After managing his own eatery in Uruguay, he directed his talent to Le Paloma in Mougins then Pierre Hermé. N.B. you can also order a treat to take out at the sweet price of €7.50.

New too: from mid-April, La Bastide Bruno Oger will be 100% energy self-sufficient thanks to its just-fitted solar panels!

[www.bruno-oger.com](http://www.bruno-oger.com)



Bruno Oger, Yohan Jara, Jacques Di Guisto  
© La Photographe Sucrée Salé



### LES ÉTOILES DE MOUGINS

MOUGINS

September 14th to 15th, 2024

This year's 15th edition of the "Les Etoiles de Mougins" International Gastronomy Festival, under the aegis of guest of honour Guillaume Gomez, former Élysée Chef and French ambassador for gastronomy, will be bringing together around a hundred prestigious chefs. Highlights include cooking demonstrations, cooking classes, children's workshops, the Roger Vergé Young Chef and Young Pastry Chef competitions, plus book signings and, of course, an exceptional line-up of delicacies... Simply delicious.

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



Denis Fétysson, chef de La Place de Mougins © Les Etoiles de Mougins

## KNOW-HOW

## DOUCEUR DE MIMOSA

📍 MANDELIEU-LA-NAPOULE

From mid-December to mid-March, Mandelieu - one of the hotspots on the Mimosa Route stretching 130 kilometres between Bormes-les-Mimosas and Grasse - is redolent with the sweet scent of mimosa blooming in the surrounding hills. What's more, the town's Bon Pin park has now been converted into a Mimosa Museum. Maison Galimard 1747 has recreated this bewitching scent with a new perfume, *Douceur de Mimosa*, available from the Tourist Office.

[www.mandelieu-tourisme.com](http://www.mandelieu-tourisme.com)



© DR



Discover the list of workshops and cosmetics manufacturers hosting artisan tours

## DOMAINE DE LA ROSE LANCÔME

📍 GRASSE

Life really is beautiful in Grasse! In 2020, Lancôme set up home at Domaine de la Rose, named after the iconic flowers that bloom there. The brand, part of the L'Oréal group, set about planting 10 acres of ancient terraces with organic centifolia roses, tuberose, jasmine and irises. Three years later, La Maison Rose opened its doors: redesigned by architects Lucie Niney and Thibault Marca (NeM Architectes), the building's pink facade, circular entrance evoking the Ô of Lancôme and insulation using lavender or Camargue rice straw is a genuine tribute to the brand. Featuring a perfume organ from the Ateliers Gohard and distillery specializing in the extraction and distillation of different rose varieties, the site aims to introduce the public to the brand's extensive perfumery know-how. Lancôme has long been present in Provence - the roses used in their eau de parfum and eau de toilette ranges are grown in fields not far from the Valensole Plateau.

La Maison Rose in Grasse is open to the public free of charge on the second Wednesday of each month (please book ahead). Training sessions, workshops and receptions are also in the pipeline.

[www.lancome.fr/domaine-de-la-rose.html](http://www.lancome.fr/domaine-de-la-rose.html)



Maison Rose - © Laziz Hamani

Maison Rose - © Laziz Hamani

A couple is seen from behind, sitting on blue plastic chairs on a terrace. They are looking out over a vast blue sea towards a clear, light-colored sky. The man is wearing a dark jacket and sunglasses, and the woman is wearing a patterned top. A brown jacket is draped over one of the chairs. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. A white structure, possibly a lifeguard stand, is visible in the background.

# NICE ÈZE MENTON

Here too, the Azure Coast could aptly be named the Art Coast. In **Nice Côte d’Azur**, now a listed **UNESCO Winter Resort Town of the Riviera**, museums and beaches alike abound. A city of every colour, it flies the flag of the “Nice Irisée Naturellement” label, offering a warm welcome to LGBT guests at its Luxury Hotels Collection Nice Côte d’Azur and family-owned establishments alike.

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 such as Eze emerge above the sea, pines and flourishing parks and gardens, from intimate oases to the majesty of **Menton**, while discreet vineyards beckon visitors in to admire statues and works of art. There’s no doubt about it, here on the Riviera, **winter is the new summer.**

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### MATISSE YEAR

📍 NICE

Reopening of the Musée Matisse. The Musée Matisse is reopening on March 16th, 2024 after refurbishment work over winter. The museum harbours around 600 works, including numerous sculptures, plus 130 objects that belonged to Henri Matisse. It is set inside a majestic, 17th-century Genoese villa located in Cimiez, between Roman sites, olive trees and the cemetery where the artist was laid to rest.

<https://www.musee-matisse-nice.org/en/>



Musée Matisse - © François Fernandez



### MIRÓMATISSE, PAR-DELÀ LES IMAGES

**June 28th to September 29th, 2024**

The bond between Matisse and Miró definitely wasn't a given. Matisse was born in 1869, Miró in 1893. They are associated with different generations, movements and aesthetic preferences (Fauvism and decorative harmony for Matisse, surrealism and the bizarre for Miró). But both critiqued the traditional use of images in the West. The Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona and Musée Matisse in Nice aim to shine a spotlight on the artists' relationship and their mutual appreciation and admiration. Miró paid homage to the "wild spirit" of Matisse, who relied on Miró's works to overcome his artistic crisis in the mid-Thirties. Their mutual friends brought them even closer: art critics and writers such as Aragon, Breton, Georges Duthuit and Christian Zervos, and collectors such as Pierre Matisse and Aimé Maeght.

Price €10, including entry to the neighbouring Archaeology Museum.



Musée Matisse - © François Fernandez

### MUSÉE NATIONAL DU SPORT

📍 NICE

### LES ELLES DES JEUX

**Until September 22nd, 2024**

2024 will be celebrating the first gender-equal Olympic Games at a time when chauvinism is sadly still rife in the world of French media and sport. A great opportunity to look back, thanks to the numerous documents on show at the National Sports Museum, on the bizarre logic that excluded half of humanity from competitions designed to unite people. The exhibits, shown over 150 m<sup>2</sup>, include Suzanne Lenglen's silk dress by Jean Patou, as well as a letter from her father recognizing her talent. Visitors will get a chance to meet with such inspiring women as Alice Milliat, creator of the Women's World Games in 1922, tennis player Billie Jean King and great French athletes such as Christine Caron, Marie-José Pérec, Laure Manaudou and Clarisse Abgègnenou, the show's godmother.

Price: €10, free for under 18s.

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

Musée National du Sport - Maria Sharapova

## NICE CARNIVAL: OVER 150 YEARS OF CELEBRATIONS

📍 NICE

**February 14th to March 3rd, 2024**

Founded in 1873 and now one of the world's top three carnivals alongside Rio and Venice, this magnificent popular and artistic mega-event promises the usual stunning line-up of floats created by artists and artisans. The Nice Carnival now features Lou Queernal too, France's only gay carnival promising plenty of fun, feathers and glitter. Yet another great reason to visit the Côte d'Azur in winter!

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



Carnaval de Nice - © Ville de Nice

## FÊTE DU CITRON® 90 YEARS AND FULL OF ZEST

📍 MENTON

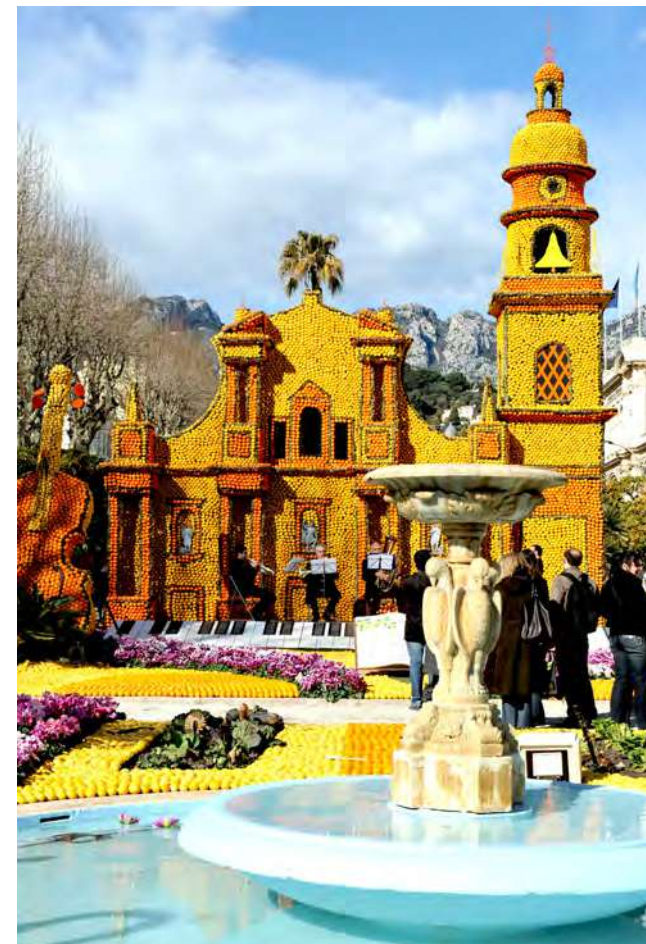
**February 14th to March 3rd, 2024**

This year's 90th edition of the Fête du Citron® on the theme "The Olympic Games from Antiquity to Current Day" is set to welcome an extravaganza of floats piled high with lemons plus vitamin-packed night parades. Visitors will also enjoy a tempting exhibition on the citrus fruit motif theme at Jardins Biovès, Salon de l'Artisanat craft fair and sweet-scented Festival des Orchidées orchid festival. The Fête du Citron® has been part of UNESCO Intangible Heritage since 2019.

[www.fete-du-citron.com](http://www.fete-du-citron.com)



Troupe percussionnistes brésiliens - © Ville de Nice



Fête du citron - © CRT Côte d'Azur France - G. Veran

## HOSPITALITY

### HÔTEL DU COUVENT\*\*\*\*\*

📍 NICE

Set in Nice's historic quarter, the Couvent de la Visitation is set to reopen as a five-star hotel (part of the Perseus group). The architectural restoration work by Studio Mumbai and Studio Méditerranée, and interior design by Festen, respects the site's original vocation as a convent. The restoration work on the listed buildings uses traditional methods and the new wing on the adjacent plots is being constructed using metal, wood, lime and hemp. The 88 rooms measuring 45 m<sup>2</sup> on average will include a quasi-monastic cell plus rooms with a terrace overlooking the garden, some with city views, some with sea views and others with a large private garden, plus apartments of up to 166 m<sup>2</sup> with a large kitchen and dining room.

On the food front, you'll be able to opt for lunch at the cloister restaurant, garden café or bistro on Rue des Serruriers. A farm in Touët-sur-Var will provide vegetables and eggs, while bread will be baked on site at the old bakery.

The listed garden spanning 2.5 acres will supply herbal teas for the bar and aromatic herbs for the kitchen. In addition to the thermal baths and large, outdoor thermal pool, the hotel garden will feature a 20-metre swimming lane, a pool near the café and Movement Studio dedicated to dance, functional training, gymnastics and yoga.

Opening May 2024.

[www.hotelducouvent.com/info](http://www.hotelducouvent.com/info)



Hôtel le Couvent - © Ville de Nice

Hôtel Le Victoria - © DR

### HÔTEL LE VICTORIA\*\*\*\*\*

📍 NICE

The former Park Hotel, set on the city's golden triangle between the Promenade des Anglais and Place Masséna, has been reborn under the Maison Albar banner. Its name, Victoria, is a tribute to the daughter of Céline Falco, founder and general manager of Maison Albar Hôtels, the luxury arm of the family-owned Centaurus Hospitality group. A nod to Art Deco, the hotel was designed to resemble a luxury yacht. The 102 rooms and 30 suites offer the refinement of designer furniture, majestic mirrors and straw marquetry headboards. Some feature a balcony, loggia or terrace, perfect for admiring the garden and endless blue waters beyond. The top floor restaurant adorned with photos of Nice and panoramic bar decorated in graphic black and white, share the outdoor terrace. The hotel also features a deluxe spa with indoor swimming pool and massage cabin. The lounges and spacious ballroom welcoming up to 100 guests are perfect event venues. The establishment will also be offering nearby luxury boutiques in the future City Mall.

<https://maison-albar-hotels-le-victoria.com/en/>

## YELO HÔTEL

📍 NICE

Redolent with a chic bohemian spirit, this hotel is set inside a majestic Haussmannian building on the pedestrian Avenue Jean Médecin. Lana Sarich Goujon took inspiration from her travels to decorate the 54 rooms in olive greens, azure blues, terracotta, antique patinas and Balinese wood furniture. Technology makes life easy, with ultra-high-speed Internet access, multimedia sockets and Bowo touchscreen tablets in the rooms. The “cosy capsule” signature City room features a raised queen-size bed, complete with built-in TV and plenty of storage space.

Yelo is operated by Sonder Holdings Inc., an apartment hotel management firm based in San Francisco, California.

Rooms from €76.

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



© Ville de Nice

## MAMA SHELTER

📍 NICE

Located in the Riquier quarter, in the centre of the city and 600 metres from the Old Port, Mama Shelter offers 102 colourful rooms, a restaurant and rooftop venue complete with a pool. Benjamin El Doghaïli, at the head of the Mama Design Studio, is the talent behind the quasi-exclusive design. Created as “urban refuges”, the Mama Shelter aesthetics and trendy-yet-simple ambience never fail to please. Mama Shelter is now part of the Accor group Ennismore brand. Opening in June 2024.

Price from €90.

[fr.mamashelter.com](http://fr.mamashelter.com)



Mama Shelter - © DR

## HÔTEL DE LONDRES\*\*\*

📍 MENTON

Located 50 metres from Promenade du Soleil beach, the Hôtel de Londres, bedecked with green shutters, has been a benchmark in Menton for the last 200 years, welcoming such illustrious guests as philosopher Nietzsche and author Robert Stevenson. It was purchased in 2022 by Nicolas Flamand and his wife, who intend to turn the three-star icon into a haven of relaxation. Their motto? Consideration, generosity and optimism. The 28 rooms, decorated with Art Deco floral wallpaper, each feature a meditation cabin. Snorkels and stand-up paddleboards are available free of charge. The Limehouse bar serves lemonades and cocktail specialities showcasing Menton lemons indoor or outdoors from June to October. The hotel is open all year round.

Double room €65 to €500.

[www.hotel-de-londres.com](http://www.hotel-de-londres.com)



Menton © CRT Côte d'Azur France G. Simon

## GASTRONOMY

### 33 "CUISINE NISSARDE" EATERIES

📍 NICE

*Bagna cauda*, *secca de bœuf* and *tourta de blea* - Nice's traditional culinary specialities rule here! Today, 33 of the city's restaurants are proud bearers of the "Cuisine Nissarde" label, including the mythical L'Escalinada and A'Buteghinna in the old town (Vieux Nice) and La Ratapignata, nearer to Villa Arson. The label is awarded to restaurants as well as takeaways, e.g. Merenda & Goustaroun.

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



Pain Bagnat © J. Kelagopian

### MEDITERRANEO AT THE GARE DU SUD

📍 NICE

The food court erected in 1892 now has a new name: Mediterraneo. Under the auspices of Renato Iera's group (of IT Trattoria fame), hungry punters enjoy a range of Mediterranean flavours topped with various entertainments on the arts & culture theme. A chef's training school is in the pipeline too.

[mediterraneo-nice.com](http://mediterraneo-nice.com)



Tourte de Blettes © J. Kelagopian - OTM NCA



La pissaladière © J. Kelagopian - OTM NCA

## KNOW-HOW

### CAP 3000

📍 SAINT-LAURENT-DU-VAR

In 2023, Cap 3000 welcomed a whopping 12 million visitors – even more than forecast –, a success owed to the many events on offer, plus around forty eateries including Philippe Tayac's Yamas with sea views and Alain Ducasse's Rivea. Located in Saint-Laurent-du-Var, Cap 3000 is France's oldest and fifth-largest shopping mall. Thanks to its seawards expansion it continues to please: in 2022 the MIPIM – the world's largest International Market for Real Estate Professionals – awarded it the "Best Shopping Centre" distinction.

[www.cap3000.com](http://www.cap3000.com)



Cap 3000 - © OTM NCA

## OUTDOORS

### NEW LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL: LOU CAMIN NISSART

📍 NICE

The new Lou Camin Nissart trail is a 42-kilometre loop departing from Place Garibaldi and winding its way through the hills above Nice. Although it is the Alpes-Maritimes first urban long-distance trail (GR de Pays) – 80 % of the route is actually outside the city. The itinerary is hilly (1,000 metres of uphill and downhill slopes) and crosses the port, Mont Alban, Mont Vinaigrier, Saint-Pancrace and vineyards of Bellet and Magnan, amid forests, vines and olive trees. You'll find various accommodation en route and several sections are served by public transport, so you can tackle the trail in 4 days with the family. The aim: to encourage local inhabitants to enjoy hiking on their doorstep.

[alpes-maritimes.ffrandonnee.fr](http://alpes-maritimes.ffrandonnee.fr)



Nice © C. Moirenc

## KEY FIGURES



**36.6** million stays in the region



**237.7** million nights spent,  
including **15.8** million by domestic visitors



**86.8** million nights spent by overseas visitors



**32.7** million nights spent by first-time visitors



**6.5** days average length of stay



**70.8** euros average expenditure per person per day

Source : Regional Tourist Board 2023 customer survey / Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and local partners

**Observatoire du Tourisme Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

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

READ MORE



## EVENTS IN REAL TIME!

SPORTING EVENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS

## MEDIA LIBRARY

GENERAL PHOTO LIBRARY

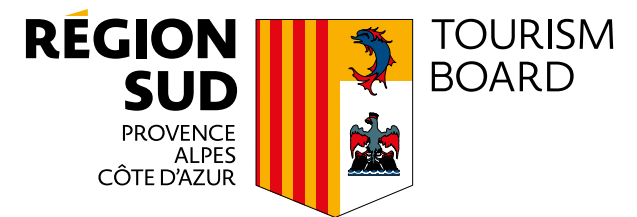
PHOTOS FROM THIS KIT

## CONTACTS

MEDIA SPACE

presse@provence-alpes-cotedazur.com





✉ [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.

Creation: [mathieu@pointvirguledesign.com](mailto:mathieu@pointvirguledesign.com) - © Front & back cover: C. Luparini & iStock - February 2024.