

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS & EVENTS

2021

#PROVENCE
#ALPES
#COTEDAZURFRANCE

After a complex and difficult 2020, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Région is showing its adaptability and determination by kicking off 2021 with an exciting palette of new projects. This year's motto? Simplicity, ecology and humanity. As we've known since the time of the Ancient Greeks, the sea washes away all of humanity's ills...

Here are just some of the treats on this year's menu: two underwater sculpture galleries off the coast of **Cannes** and **Marseille** invite us to take the plunge, two trans-generational parks make going out fun again, the new **Mini-World Côte d'Azur** near **Toulon** brings a whole new meaning to the saying "small is beautiful", while Château de la Barben is launching its much-awaited **Rocher Mistral** amusement park dedicated to Provence. And much, much more... In 2021, we see that exotic climes are just a hike, bike or bus ride away: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur abounds with wide-open spaces perfect for a breath of fresh air, getting back in shape, pedalling, walking, running or long-distance hiking. Sport and the need to breathe better and healthier is everywhere. **Mont Ventoux** – the mythical mountain of cyclists and nature buffs alike – is now the region's 9th **Regional Nature Reserve**. In **Camargue**, Domaine de Méjanes is paying tribute to Paul Ricard, who profoundly transformed the Camargue delta. On the hospitality front, the iconic palaces of the Côte d'Azur, from the **Eden Roc Antibes** to **Le Cheval Blanc Saint-Tropez**, **Intercontinental Carlton Cannes** and **Château de La Messardière** in Saint-Tropez, have emerged from their forced hibernation bigger, better and stronger. There's a hybrid trend among this year's newcomers, starting with the much-awaited **Hi Ferme Provence** by Hi Hotels, associating holiday cottages and working farms in the Luberon. You'll need to be patient though: only its HAM (Hangar à Manger) eatery will be ready to welcome guests this summer. In the **Haut-Var** area, **Lou Calen** is renewing ties with artistic tradition by adding a recording studio to its hotel offering. **Le Nesk in Sault** is delighting cycling, wellness and pampering fans alike with its secure bike rooms, whirlpool baths and cryotherapy treatments. You'll find very-friendly prices this year too – and the **People Hostel in Marseille**, **Okko in Toulon** and **Loko in Nice** aren't just for millennials. Marrying greenery, culture, design and hospitality, our regional towns and cities continue to thrive and revive: don't miss **Nice Côte d'Azur's** new Arenas and Éco Vallée quarters, or **Toulon's revamped town centre**. **Arles Camargue** is leading the way on the culture front with three major openings: the **Luma**, **Lee Ufan Foundation** and **Provençal Costume Museum**, while **Saint-Tropez** is getting on board with permaculture, agroecology and vegan alternatives. In 2021, we're going back to basics...

#OnaTousBesoinDuSud

ABOUT THE PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

The Regional Tourism Board (Comité Régional de Tourisme - CRT) works in conjunction with regional travel professionals to support the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region's tourist industry through French and international promotion and communication campaigns.

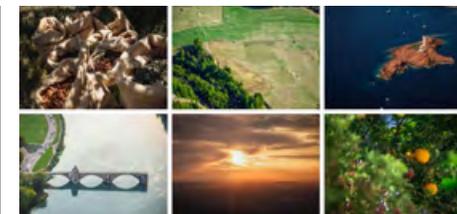
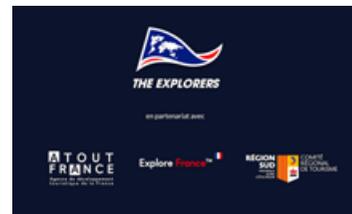
Our actions, directed towards the general public, tour operators and the media, are guided by 3 objectives: ensure our destinations are visible worldwide, promote competitive destinations and foster close ties with our clients. The strategy developed around our 3 destination brands - Monde Provence, Alpes and Côte d'Azur - has been the cornerstone of our marketing initiatives in recent years. This client-oriented strategy, using governance specific to each brand and pooled resources, is resolutely gaining momentum.

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR KEY TOURISM FIGURES

- 30 million visitors to Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, including 7 million overseas visitors.
- 213 million overnight stays in 2019
- France's 2nd leading region for international tourism after Paris-Ile de France
- 19.8 billion euros per annum generated by tourists
- Tourism share in regional GDP: 13%
- France's 2nd leading region for tourism-related income
- 143,000 jobs in 25,000 small and medium-sized firms (7.5 % of regional jobs)
- 5.1 billion euros invested in tourism between 2016 and 2018
- 3.4 million tourist beds: 678,000 commercial beds including hotels, campsites, furnished rentals and guest houses, plus 500,000 apartment hotels with a total of over 2.7 million beds.

NEW MEDIA LIBRARY

The Explorers, a new photo, video and illustration platform created in collaboration with Atout France and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur - the first region to take part in this innovative project - is now online. It offers travel professionals a myriad of free promotional content on the destination Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.



PROVENCE | ALPES | CÔTE D'AZUR



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ART & ARCHITECTURE

ON THE ROAD TO CONTEMPORARY ART

Art is part of Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur's DNA! Vineyards, remarkable gardens, artists' studios, private collections and even the region's mountains abound with contemporary creations. "Plein Sud", our brand-new artistic venue network, together with the Regional Tourism Board's modern & contemporary art map, offers visitors a new angle on art for an inspiring holiday experience. Bring your meditation cushion and yoga or Pilates mat too... Enlightening!

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART ROUTES

All the studies prove it: today's travellers want more meaning! And the new "Modern and contemporary art routes" website, courtesy of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourism Board, also available as a brochure, promises meaning to spare! The associated map, featuring the region's top 27 collections, aims to make the worlds of our great modern and contemporary artists more accessible. In addition to the detailed itinerary and presentation of the various venues, the website and brochure include the various arty experiences on offer, from yoga in the company of paintings to night tours. The cherry on the cake? Around fifteen educational web contents on major artists and artistic movements in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, from surrealism to land art.

Carte Route de l'Art Moderne & Contemporain
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

PLEIN SUD NETWORK, AN EYEFUL OF ART

Did you know that the estates of two major gallery owners, Enrico Navarra and Jean-Gabriel Mitterrand, are open to the public in Le Muy, just a few kilometres from the Venet Foundation? Initiated, among others, by the Commanderie Peyrassol and Carmignac Foundation, this first guide by the brand-new Plein Sud network is a genuine gift to art lovers. Available for free download, it features 40 art hubs - museums, art centres, regional contemporary art foundations (FRAC), private foundations and studios - showing fabulous and sometimes-surprising collections. The guide includes a map. The bonus: each venue has added its own favourite insider's addresses to the guide, all the way along the sunny coast from Sète to Monaco and up to the Southern Alps. A second edition featuring 2021 exhibitions is scheduled in spring.

Guide Plein Sud, le réseau des arts visuels du Sud
www.mecenesdusud.fr



PROVENCE



↳ Fondation Luma - © J. Luz



↳ Arles - © B. Levet

THE LUMA LIGHTS UP ARLES!

At last! Spring 2021 is set to herald the opening of the iconic Luma Arles tower designed by Frank Gehry. Forming the centrepiece of the Luma Foundation, this 56-metre, twisted tower was inspired by the brushstrokes of Arles' most famous fan, Vincent Van Gogh. Created by Maja Hoffmann, the Luma project aims to deepen understanding of issues relating to the environment, human rights, education and culture. It is currently one of Europe's most ambitious projects, located just next to the historic quarter of Arles, part of UNESCO World Heritage for the last 40 years.

Anniversary: Arles-UNESCO 1981-2021, celebrating 40 years! In 1981, eight of Arles' Roman and medieval monuments were listed as UNESCO World Heritage.

Events calendar to follow according to the latest updates from the Arles Tourist Office.

www.arlestourisme.com

Fondation Luma - 13200 Arles
www.luma-arles.org

LEE UFAN FOUNDATION, INSIDE THE WALLS OF TADAO ANDO

Born in Korea in 1936, Lee Ufan is an acclaimed master of minimalist art. From summer 2021, his paintings, sculptures and installations will be on show at the Vernon Hotel. Situated near Arles Amphitheatre, this historic mansion has been restored and redesigned by another eminent contemporary figure - architect Tadao Ando - to welcome the Lee Ufan Foundation. Following on from Maja Hoffmann's Luma Foundation and the Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for documentary photography & film, the opening of this third foundation promises to further boost Arles' renown as a major contemporary art hub.

Fondation Lee Ufan - 13200 Arles
www.leeufanfoundation.org



↳ Musée du Costume Fragonard

FRAGONARD COSTUME MUSEUM IN ARLES

Thousands of garments - dresses, hats, scarves, skirts and petticoats sewn between the 18th and 20th centuries - now adorn the lounges of the Bouchaud de Bussy mansion, bringing together two of France's largest private costume collections. The first was compiled by Magali and Odile Pascal, founders of the Arles Costume Research Centre, and focuses on the traditional costumes of Arles. The second, dedicated to Provençal costumes, was initiated by Héléne Costa in the Eighties, while she co-directed Maison Fragonard alongside her husband. The museum is signed by the dynamic duo at Studio KO (the talents behind the Yves Saint-Laurent museum in Marrakech) and features a 1,000 m² layout honouring women, craft know-how and refinement. It also celebrates the friendship between Héléne Costa, Magali Pascal and their daughters.

A Fragonard boutique (perfume, fashion and decoration) is scheduled to open on Rue du Palais this year too, featuring a special Arles range. **Opening first semester 2021.**

Musée du Costume Fragonard - 13200 Arles
www.arlestourisme.com

Fragonard www.fragonard.com

■ PROVENCE

FONDATION BLACHÈRE IN APT, LUBERON

Set the outskirts of Apt in the Luberon, this major International Foundation, with Africa as its beating heart, is set next to the firm Blachère Illuminations, also bringing a light to the world... Its founder Jean-Paul Blachère has been assisting contemporary creation in Africa since 2004. The foundation welcomes exhibitions and artists in residence while its Boutik features creations by craftsmen and designers from various African countries including Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Madagascar. Talent, talent everywhere! And definitely different too.

Fondation Blachère - 84400 Apt
www.fondationblachere.org



▲ Fondation Blachère - © O. Pascal - J. Bernardoni

CHÂTEAU LA COSTE WINE ESTATE

Since 2020, the eight almond trees planted by Yoko Ono near the Renzo Piano pavilion have been bedecked with kind wishes from visitors. A sculpture by Tony Berlant and Frank Gehry has also been added to the 36 works of contemporary art dotted around this magnificent, 321-acre wine estate. Situated to the North of Aix-en-Provence, this exceptional domain, boasting a luxury hotel, spa and two restaurants, never ceases to astonish.

Château La Coste - 13610 Le Puy-Ste-Réparate
www.chateau-la-coste.com

- Château La Coste - © B. Bechet

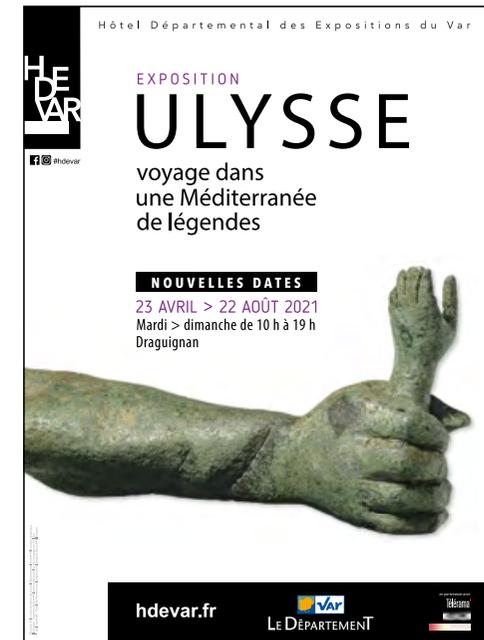


HÔTEL DÉPARTEMENTAL DES EXPOSITIONS IN DRAGUIGNAN

Set inside the former Var prefecture, built in 1830, this 650 m² modern architectural space includes 3 floors, 6 exhibition rooms and a multimedia space harmoniously incorporating features such as the original wood frame and floors.

Upcoming exhibition: "Ulysses, Voyage Through a Mediterranean of Legends", with Milan Garcin, exhibition curator and graduate of the Louvre School. **Opening April 2021**

Hôtel des Expositions du Var - 83300 Draguignan
www.var.fr/hdevar



PROVENCE

FONDATION VENET, DRACÉNIE AREA

You'll need to get off the beaten track to visit the Venet Foundation, but it's well worth your while! Welcome to the home of Bernar Venet and his wife Diane. The Moulin des Serres is a beautiful listed site bordering the Nartuby river falls, exhibiting a selection of Venet's famous steel sculptures against a stunning natural backdrop. We particularly love the impressive collapsed brown metal arches of his work "Versailles Effondrement". The grounds also showcase works by friends of the artist, including a chapel by Frank Stella, James Turrell's "Elliptic Elliptic" egg-shaped construction, Larry Bell's "Something Green" cubes and Arman's "Unchained". The Foundation is open one and a half days a week, subject to prior booking.

Fondation Venet - 83490 Le Muy
www.venetfoundation.org



▲ Fondation Venet - © J. Cavalière

COMMANDERIE DE PEYRASSOL VINEYARD

Daniel Buren's "Open Cylinder", plus works courtesy of Bertrand Lavier and Dan Graham, make for a delightful stroll in the grounds of this vast estate, welcoming Europe's largest outdoor collection of contemporary art. A new tasting room and extension of the art gallery signed by architect Charles Berthier are scheduled in 2021. Another treat for foodies: a wine bar serving tapas to nibble, plus a restaurant fronted by Chef Guillaume Delauné. The five guest rooms and apartments priced at €130 per night allow visitors to linger longer at the ancient Knights Templar commandery nestling at the heart of the property.

Commanderie de Peyrassol - 83340 Flassans-sur-Issole
www.peyrassol.com



▲ Commanderie de Peyrassol - © C. Goussard

PROVENCE | CÔTE D'AZUR

MUSÉE D'ART DE TOULON (MAT), SIMPLY STUNNING!

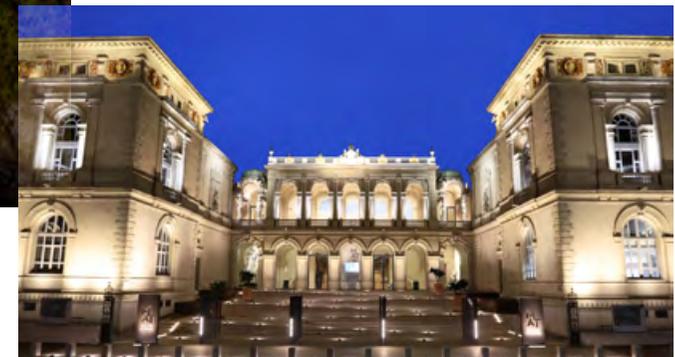
Opening its doors in spring 2021, the Toulon Art Museum - a genuine architectural jewel featuring collections of ancient, modern and contemporary art - will be pampering visitors with a stunning new show of drawings, photos and curiosities, plus a reading room devoted to regionalist art.

Musée d'Art de Toulon - 83000 Toulon
toulontourisme.com

MUSÉE DES CULTURES ET DU PAYSAGE IN HYÈRES: WE'RE BANKING ON IT!

The new "Musée des Cultures et du Paysage" culture and landscape museum will be setting up home inside an ancient Art Deco bank in Hyères town centre from summer 2021. The former apartment of the bank manager and vault room will provide the backdrop for this official "Musée de France" collection depicting the evolution of the town and coast through the eyes of artists and architects. The museum comes complete with a shop-bookshop and French-style garden.

Musée des Cultures et du Paysage - 83400 Hyères
www.hyeres-tourism.co.uk



▲ Musée d'Art de Toulon - © A. Lhuillier-Bonnat

PROVENCE | ALPES



Refuge d'Art - © AD04

HAUTE-PROVENCE ART REFUGE TRAIL

The only one of its kind in the world, this 150 km trail combines the natural and mineral beauties of the Haute-Provence Geology Reserve with works by Andy Goldsworthy, one of greatest living land art creators. Andy has adorned the trail with three egg-shaped cairns (piles of stone) and seven Refuges set in ancient, restored ruins. Opt for an 8-10 day hike if you want to explore the trail in full, although some works, such as the readily-accessible Saint Magdalene's chapel, above Thoard, are an invitation to meditate unto themselves.

Refuge d'Art www.refugedart.fr

Musée Gassendi - 04000 Digne-les-Bains
www.musee-gassendi.org

ALPES



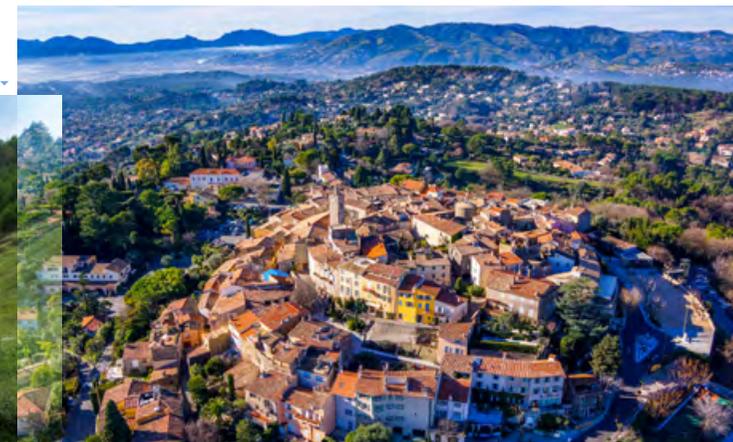
Parcours des Fées

LE PARCOURS DES FÉES SOUTHERN ALPS FAIRY TRAIL

Fairies will be waving their wands once again in 2021 in the Parpaillon hills between the Ubaye and Durance valleys, in the Hautes-Alpes and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence. Every year, this 2 km trail perched at an altitude of nearly 1,500 m is magically transformed by artists from Fées d'Hiver, a digital arts initiative based in Crévoux. Don't miss "Les féeries nocturnes #6" - a fairytale digital arts night tour in the hamlet of Champ Rond in Crévoux.

Fées d'hiver - 05200 Crévoux
parcours-des-fees.fr

CÔTE D'AZUR



Mougins vue aérienne - OT Mougins

PHOTOGRAPHY CENTRE IN MOUGINS

With its new Photography Centre opening in **mid-April 2021**, Mougins is now one of France's top three photography hubs - an adventure that began in 1986, when the Côte d'Azur's first Photography Museum showed the work of André Villers (1930-2016). Picasso's travelling companion left enlightening testimonies to the artist's daily life, together with magnificent portraits. The new contemporary Photography Centre, located in the old presbytery, dedicates a large area to international photography. Also home to the International Photography Festival and Arles National School of Photography, the Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur region has become a genuine mecca of photography. What's more, the new centre is located just down the road from Cannes, the world's undisputed movie capital. The inaugural exhibition will be dedicated to Spanish artist Isabelle Munoz.

Centre de la Photographie de Mougins - 06250 Mougins
www.mougins-tourisme.fr

MINI MUSEUMS, MAXI PRESTIGE

Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur is a giant cabinet of curiosities: its museums unveil the private lives of artists and offer visitors a chance to discover whole chapters of contemporary history along with forgotten know-how and trades, while exploring every facet of the region.

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Museums
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

PROVENCE

EDGAR MÉLIK IN CABRIÈS

In 1934, the painter Edgar Mélik rented out part of Cabriès castle, located midway between Marseille and Aix-en-Provence on a rocky outcrop lined with steep, medieval lanes. He created his oeuvre there, moving on from canvasses to the castle's woodwork and chapel walls. The studio, adorned with a red grand piano, opens onto a terrace with magnificent panoramic views over Mont Ventoux and Sainte-Victoire mountain.

Musée Edgar Mélik - 13480 Cabriès
edgarmelik.blogspot.com
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

Musée Edgar Mélik



Musée de l'Histoire du Verre et du Vitrail

GLASS AND STAINED GLASS IN GORDES

Talented stained glass artist Frédérique Duran welcomes visitors at her studio in the heart of nature, also harbouring an exceptional museum and collection bringing together 7,000 years of the history of glass from glass beads (4,000 BC) to space shuttle tiles and photovoltaic modules. Frédérique's works, created using glass slabs, are displayed throughout, in particular in the charming garden of the old Moulin des Bouillons mill.

Musée de l'Histoire du Verre et du Vitrail - 84220 Gordes
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

AUGUSTE CHABAUD IN GRAVESON

Born in Nîmes in 1882, artist Auguste Chabaud produced a powerful and impactful oeuvre influenced by the Fauvism and Expressionist movements. Many of his subjects were inspired by his Provencal homeland, in particular Mas de Martin, the vineyard belonging to his paternal grandparents in Graveson.

Musée Auguste Chabaud - 13690 Graveson
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

YVES BRAYER IN LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE

The museum is celebrating its 20th anniversary with around a hundred oils, watercolours and drawings by the artist, gathered inside the ancient Porcelet mansion house, one of the hilltop village's most beautiful buildings.

Musée Yves Brayer - 13520 Les Baux-de-Provence
www.yvesbrayer.com

PROVENCE



Fondation Carzou - © AD04

CARZOU FOUNDATION IN MANOSQUE

This neoclassical chapel, a former monastery, was the site of a monumental work produced by Carzou – born in Aleppo under the name Karnik Zouloumian – in 1980. The fifty or so paintings and three stained glass windows on show retrace the artist's career while exploring the cycle of human adventure. The Foundation is a genuine cultural mecca, welcoming visual arts exhibitions and classical music concerts, plus “yog'art” yoga classes in the chapel courtesy of Floriane Chastin.

Fondation Carzou - 04100 Manosque
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



Espace Jouenne

ESPACE JOUENNE IN MARSEILLE

The Espace Jouenne pays tribute to artist Michel Jouenne with a site welcoming new artistic expression in the beating heart of Marseille. Seascapes, portraits and landscapes inspired by the Alpilles, Norway and Asia are showcased in this 1,000 m² space topped with a large glass roof and indoor patio. A master of figurative art, Jouenne, an official navy painter, astonishes visitors with his vibrant depictions of the living world. The Espace Jouenne is also home to an art gallery in addition to its private collection.

Espace Jouenne - 13006 Marseille
www.espacejouenne.com



L'art se loge - © JC Lett

ART SETS UP HOME IN MARSEILLE

After running a gallery in Brussels for 20 years, Catherine Bastide dreamed of creating an arts venue forged by inspiration and encounters. Her compelling project is now anchored at this gorgeous house in Malmousque, set gazing out over the sea – a combined gallery, artist's residence and conference centre, scheduled to open to the public four to five times a year.

Opening scheduled in summer 2021.

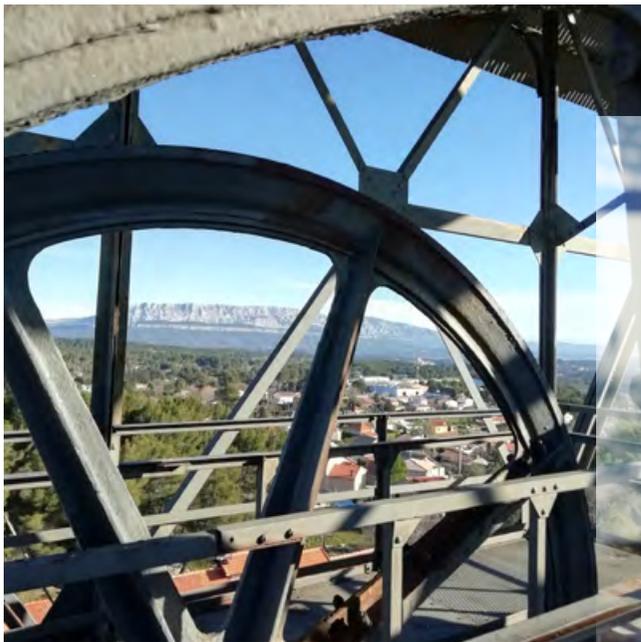
L'art se loge à Marseille - 13007 Marseille
catherinebastide.com

■ PROVENCE

MINING MUSEUM IN GRÉASQUE, AT THE FOOT OF SAINTE-VICTOIRE MOUNTAIN

The ancient Hély d'Oissel coalmine forms the centrepiece of this superb site. In operation from 1919 to 1962, it was France's most-productive mine in the Fifties. Today, it offers visitors a fascinating plunge into the mining world, including working conditions of the miners and their families, evolution of lamps and tools, geology, dangers and safety measures in the mine... The headframe is now a listed monument.

Mining Museum - 13850 Gréasque
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



Gréasque

TERRA ROSSA IN SALERNES

Home to around ten factories and twenty potters, Salernes is the region's ceramics capital and its tiles are heralded throughout the globe. One of the town's old 19th-century factories now harbours an architectural ensemble designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, including a museum and potters' showrooms. Visitors can enjoy admiring the private collection of ceramics, tiles, wall reliefs and various decorative panels, together with the oldest pieces known in Western Europe, dating back 7,000 years and unearthed during local digs. Take time to wander around the gardens courtesy of genius landscape artist Jean Mus, born in the perfume capital of Grasse. An ode to the mythical south...

Terra Rossa Museum - 83690 Salernes
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



Terra Rossa - © C. Moirenc

RED FACES IN TOURVES, PROVENCE VERTE

"Red faces" was the nickname given to miners of bauxite, the ore used to produce aluminium and considered for many years as the gold of the Centre Var area. The museum presents the geological genesis of bauxite and its transformation into alumina then aluminium, as well as various objects made with aluminium. Stop off at the lamp room to get kitted out before heading down into the 900 metres of awe-inspiring reconstructed galleries.

Red Faces Museum - 83170 Tourves
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



Red Faces Museum - © Provence Verte

PROVENCE | ALPES

La Minoterie Museum - © Verdon Pictures



TRADE SECRETS...

At various sites in the Alpes Provence Verdon area, around Barrême. From April 4th, 2021, visitors will be able to savour a brand new exhibition on the theme of food and taste at La Minoterie in La Mure-Argens. Meanwhile, the gardens of the Barrême distillery will be welcoming the "Astonishing Insects" exhibition itinerary spanning the six villages of the Verdon high valley, plunging visitors into local history in the second half of the 19th century. Interactive tablet guides are on loan free from local tourist offices.

Distillerie Museum - La Minoterie Museum
 04120 Castellane
www.secrets-de-fabriques.fr
provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



Fournel Museum - © T. Blais

MUSÉE DU FOURNEL, SILVER FROM THE ÉCRINS

This silver-lead mine, which lent its name to Argentière-La Bessée, is one of the largest in the Alps. Operated from the Middle Ages to 1908, the mine led to the construction of offices, a shop, forges, a carpentry, director's house and mechanical preparation workshops. The tour starts with the factory, nestling at the bottom of the gorge, and continues in the 20 kilometres of ancient underground galleries at one of the foremost sites of the Cottian Alps Geopark, in the heart of the Massif des Ecrins. What's more, it's always cool down there even at the height of summer!

Fournel Museum - 05120 L'Argentière-la-Bessée
www.mines-argent-fournel.com

Serre-Ponçon Lake - © B. Bodin



60th ANNIVERSARY OF SERRE-PONÇON LAKE

Serre-Ponçon is the largest artificial lake in mainland France. Spanning an impressive 26,900 acres, it is a waterskiing, canoeing and kite surfing hotspot, home to the Alps' largest sailing school and nine European Blue Flag beaches. But surprisingly, although it has profoundly transformed the surrounding landscape, this vast expanse of water is only sixty years old! Its mighty dam, located two kilometres downstream from the confluence of the Ubaye and Durance rivers, was erected to tame its dreaded floods and droughts. It took two years to fill the reservoir with water, starting in early 1959. Two villages disappeared in the process, including Savines-le-Lac, which was rebuilt higher up. The 60th anniversary of Serre-Ponçon dam will be celebrated throughout 2021.

Muséoscope de Serre-Ponçon, 05190 Rousset
www.museoscope-du-lac.com

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

SHELL MUSEUM IN ST-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT – A REAL PEARL!

Set on Quai Lindbergh, right on the port, this fabulous museum took advantage of the lockdown to extend its premises, get a facelift and come out of its shell. Visitors enjoy a 6-minute film before admiring the collection of 7,000 shells – one of the largest in the Mediterranean. Magnifying glasses are available for some, so you can appreciate their extraordinary delicacy. Last but not least, families will love taking part in the treasure hunt. Free entry.

Musée des Coquillages – 06230 Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat
www.saintjeancaferrat-tourisme.fr



▲ Shell Museum

■ PROVENCE

HARKIS IN HAUTE-PROVENCE

Set in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, in the little village of Ongles between Banon and Forcalquier in the Luberon Regional Nature Reserve, the “Maison d’Histoire et de Mémoire” (MHEMO) commemorative museum looks back on a moving page in history, filled with both light and dark. In 1962, Lieutenant Yvan Durand sought a village to shelter his harkis – French army auxiliaries threatened by Algeria’s new independence. Ongles welcomed 133 refugees, equivalent to over half of its population, and opened a training centre for the sons of the *harkis*.

Maison d’Histoire et de Mémoire d’Ongles – 04230 Ongles
www.mhemo.org



▲ Maison d’Histoire et de Mémoire d’Ongles

FOREIGN LEGION UNIFORMS NEAR AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Attached to the Foreign Legion museum in Aubagne – devoted to bringing “Legion culture” to life and closer to visitors – the Uniform Museum occupies part of the prestigious Domaine de la Légion Etrangère bastide in Puyloubier, at the foot of Sainte-Victoire mountain. The museum shows 94 uniforms on mannequins, from the original uniform of 1831 up to the Algerian war. What’s more, this 543-acre estate also produces wines, in particular rosés adorned with Foreign Legion labels.

Musée de l’Uniforme de la Légion – 13114 Puyloubier
www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr

Domaine “Capitaine-Danjou” www.legion-etrangere.com

Foreign Legion Museum provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



▲ Foreign Legion Museum – OT du Pays d’Aubagne et de l’Étoile



HOSPITALITY

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IN THE COUNTRY

PROVENCE

LE MAS DE CAPELOU IN AVIGNON

Nestling on Ile de Barthelasse island, Mas de Capelou is a beautiful country house tucked away in 5 acres of fruit trees and oleander. Hammocks and plush armchairs surround its large, heated pool. Guests enjoy a roomy 1,000 m² of guest rooms and apartments, plus free, high-speed internet, ideal for videoconferences. The estate is located just 7 kilometres from the Popes' Palace and 12 minutes from Avignon's two train stations.

Mas de Capelou, Île de la Barthelasse - 84000 Avignon
www.masdecapelou.com



Château Martinay
 © V. Ovesian



MARTINAY, A GETAWAY CHÂTEAU AT THE FOOT OF MONT VENTOUX

This elegant Provencal chateau tucked at the foot of the stunning Dentelles de Montmirail and Mont Ventoux promises a warm, family-style welcome. Built in 1763 by the Isnard family, an illustrious Provencal dynasty, the house is now the property of Rhône valley winegrower Pierre Deltin (Château Malijay in Violès and Domaine Palon in Gigondas). Tastefully renovated, the château-hotel offers luxury wine tourism experiences in 86-acre grounds crossed by the Auzon river. An ode to Provence lifestyle, the establishment's keywords are elegance and authenticity. Guests staying in the seven rooms and suites, or three outbuildings (two pavilions and a loft) are free to roam the four expansive lounges adorned with wide bay windows, fireplaces, ancient woodwork and stone, bathed in beautiful southern light and offering soothing views over the terraces and grounds. Decorated in neoclassical style, the rooms and suites boast a refined decor with contemporary notes and spacious Belle Époque bathrooms. Bicycles available. The grounds harbour a large swimming pool heated from May onwards, a tennis court, fitness course, boules court and fitness room. Private sports coach and Ayurveda / Yoga breaks available on request.



A NEW HOLIDAY HAVEN AT CHÂTEAU MARTINAY

Set in 25-acre grounds, this 400 m² farmhouse features 5 double bedrooms with bathroom, a kitchen, large living room with fireplace, a library area, heated swimming pool and terrace overlooking the Auzon waterfall. It is rented complete with full hotel services; guests also enjoy all the services on offer at the Château. **Opening mid-2021.**

Château Martinay - 84200 Carpentras
www.chateaumartinay.com

LA FERME HIBRIDE, LUBERON SOUTH

Following on from the Hi Nice, the Hi Matic in Paris and Dar Hi in Nefta, Tunisia, Philippe Roselet, Patrick El Ouarghi and designer Matali Crasset have found a dream location for their new and resolutely-different hotel project. Set in the Villelaure countryside, this gorgeous farm features a 12th-century tower - the former watchtower of Ansouis castle, visible in the distance. The views over the Luberon are magical too. Simplicity, ecology and well-being promise to be the hallmarks of the site, which is upholding its agricultural legacy with 15 acres of vines and future large permaculture garden. The upcoming pool will nestle in the agricultural watershed, while the five guest rooms, two studios and two self-catering gites will be housed in the Ferrier tower. The 300 m² hangar is the soon-to-be "Hangar à Manger" (HAM), welcoming receptions and events, adorned with custom-made furniture designed by Matali Crasset for the Hi Hotels. "Our aim is to stay as simple as we've always been" says Patrick Elouarghi. The rooms are scheduled to open in 2022, but the team hopes to welcome the public at the HAM this summer.

La Ferme HiBride - 84530 Villelaure-Luberon

[f lafermehibride](https://www.facebook.com/lafermehibride)

■ PROVENCE

BASTIDE DE FLÉCHON IN THE ALPILLES

A road waltzing between olive trees, near Maussane-les-Alpilles, leads to this impressive, 18th-century bastide topped with glazed arches opening onto a living room adorned with a vast fireplace. The 5 rooms and suites, complete with stone walls, dark oak floors, wrought ironwork, clay & lime renderings, and superb light fittings illuminating the wood beams, can accommodate ten people comfortably. Everyone can pick their favourite spot here thanks to a choice of several terraces: the main terrace sports a table for 12 in the shade of rose bushes. The pool house, near the summer kitchen and barbecue, also includes an eating area. A dip in the blue water of the overflowing pool gazing over veteran olive trees promises forever memories.

Hameau de Fléchon - 13520 Maussane-les-Alpilles
bastidedeflechon.com



▲ Domaine de Méjanes



▲ Hameau de Fléchon

WHEN GENERATIONS PASS THE TORCH: MICHELE RICARD, A TRIBUTE TO PAUL

On June 1st, 2021, Michèle Ricard, the daughter of Paul Ricard, inaugurated a museum dedicated to her father at Domaine de Méjanes bordering Vaccarès lake in Camargue. Instilled with the spirit of Camargue, the museum retraces the story of this incredible humanist, entrepreneur and artist through a vast collection of objects. Visitors can explore the estate at their own pace, in the company of local “gardians” cowboys, on foot, on horseback, by bicycle, or on the tourist train. The domain also offers a variety of accommodation at the converted old school, three gypsy caravans, two charming little houses and the Château itself - a big first for this ancient farmhouse, built on the foundations of an 11th-century Templar residence.

Paul Ricard bought up this 1,482-acre estate in 1939 and converted it into a pilot farm for dairy cows, poultry, pigs, cereals, fruit and vegetables. After the Liberation, he pioneered Camargue rice growing and Méjanes now dedicates 370 acres to rice, making it one of the largest rice producers in France. Even today, most of the estate is organic or uses sustainable farming methods. In the Fifties, Paul Ricard created his own ranch here and built arenas for “novilladas” (bullfights with young bulls) and the popular local Camargue games. The estate also features 2 restaurants: La Bergerie and Le Mazet du Vaccarès. Guests can stay for a weekend (minimum 2 nights) or week. Another Ricard museum, dedicated to the world’s most famous aniseed drink, will also be opening in Marseille in 2021. Stay tuned!

Domaine de Méjanes - Musée Ricard - 13200 Arles
www.mejanes-camargue.fr

LOU CALEN LIGHTS UP THE HAUT-VAR

Closed for the last 25 years, Lou Calen (meaning oil lamp in Provençal dialect) will once again be lighting up the pretty village of Cotignac in the Haut-Var area, set at the foot of a volcanic cliff. Lou Calen has many claims to fame: The Cure, Joe Dassin and Pink Floyd all stayed here during recording sessions at the neighbouring Château Miraval (now owned by Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie). The reborn hotel will now be offering guests an immersion in Provençal creativity and joie de vivre thanks to Canadian investor Graham Porter. Opening onto Cotignac’s main street, the hotel borders 7 acres of countryside and olive trees. The decoration of the 35 rooms is courtesy of interior designer Olivier Frémont (La Gaude). 12 rooms are scheduled to open in mid-May 2020. One of the Riviera’s most talented Chefs, renowned for his eco-friendly cuisine, will be busy in the wings of the restaurant, while the independent micro-brewery “La Tuf - Le Tailleur de Bières” has already opened its doors and will be sharing the coming 37-seater concert venue with the hotel. **First rooms opening in May 2021.**

Hôtel Lou Calen - 83570 Cotignac
www.loucalen.com



PROVENCE | CÔTE D'AZUR



Hôtel UP - © F. Amiard

ULTIMATE PROVENCE NEAR SAINT-TROPEZ: THE TRENDY WAY TO GET OFF THE GRID IN THE HEART OF VINES

Inaugurated in July 2019, the Hôtel UP, or Ultimate Provence, is shaking up the world of traditional vineyards and hotels amid the pines and cork oaks of the Maures Plain. The hotel's lobby-come-winery asserts the site's two-prong identity, while wall-hung casks and cleverly-presented bottles set the mood at Reception. The 23 rooms, 6 studios and 5 apartments share gorgeous lounges sporting fireplaces, artwork and well-stocked bookshelves. The pool, a little way away, seemingly bathes in vines. The Ultimate Provence terroir spans 114 acres of AOP Côtes de Provence wines, currently converting to all-organic production. The UP rosé was awarded a gold medal at the 2019 "Concours Général Agricole de Paris".

Hôtel UP - 83680 La Garde-Freinet près de Saint-Tropez
www.ultimateprovence.com



CAMPING DOMAINE DES VOILES DE PIERREFEU CAMPSITE

Nestling in a 15-acre pine wood planted out in terraces, at the gateway to Hyères and the Maures hills, this delightful campsite offers year-round three-star hotel accommodation, together with chalets, mobile homes and tent pitches, a pool, sports ground and children's play area.

Camping Domaine des voiles de Pierrefeu***
83390 Pierrefeu-du-Var
www.voilesdepierrefeu.com

CÔTE D'AZUR



Mas de Pierre

OLD STONE GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

Extended, refurbished and embellished, the 9 beautiful bastides of Domaine de Mas de Pierre, at the foot of the hills of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, now offer even more exoticism, comfort, luxury and hospitality. The 6 luxury suites at the Bastide des Fleurs, reserved for adults, feature a butler, garden and heated pool. The one-of-a-kind lagoon with sand and jets of water – a genuine oasis – offers a delightful playground for children. This sumptuous five-star establishment, part of the prestigious "Relais & Châteaux" group, has completely renewed its gastronomic offering too: Chef Emmanuel Lehrer's eatery now opens onto the gardens throughout the year while a new Lis Orto bistro has set up home by the pool serving typical Nice-style fare. The new, open kitchen offers titillating glimpses of the Chef hard at work. Guests are welcomed lunchtimes and evenings in the dining room lined with Provencal paintings or outside on the sunny terrace bedecked with wicker furniture. On the menu: *petits farcis* stuffed vegetables, traditional *salade niçoise*, spicy coconut risotto, melon & peas, and a host of other gourmet treats combining authenticity with a touch of originality. Reopening in spring 2021.

Le Mas de Pierre***** - 06570 Saint-Paul-de-Vence
www.lemasdepierre.com

BY THE SEA

PROVENCE

MAISONS DU MONDE HÔTEL & SUITES, LESSONS IN STYLE ON MARSEILLE'S OLD PORT

Set on Marseille's Vieux-Port (Old Port), this "Maisons du Monde Hotel & Suites" establishment courtesy of French home accessories giant "Maisons du Monde" was designed in collaboration with Céline and Sébastien Meslin de Vicartem, both specialists in independent "hôtels de charme". So expectations are high! "Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites" is first and foremost designed as a home from home, with a light-filled lounge open to all. The more or less classic or contemporary rooms, all named after iconic Provencal villages such as Gordes, Lourmarin and Saint-Rémy, are genuine lessons in style. The Vieux-Port suite boasts fabulous views over the Ombrière (Norman Foster's stainless steel canopy on the Old Port) and boats. Some of the family rooms can accommodate up to 6 guests.

Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites
13001 Marseille

www.maisonsdumondehotel.com



▲ Maisons du Monde



▲ The People Hostel



▲ Tuba

GREET HOTELS MARSEILLE

Greet Hôtels – a new Accor hotel brand – are designed to offer guests a casual, friendly break in an attractive setting celebrating recycling, local produce and eco-awareness. Two Greet hotels have now opened in Marseille, one near Marseille-Provence airport and the other at the top of La Canebière main thoroughfare, at the foot of Saint-Charles train station and 10 minutes on foot from the Vieux-Port (Old Port). Both feature rooms decorated with second-hand or repurposed items, e.g. a pot of gherkins turned into a bedside lamp. The bar-restaurant promises plenty of treats for fresh, healthy food fans. Free wifi.

Greet hôtel Marseille Centre Saint-Charles - 13001 Marseille
all.accor.com/hotel

Greet hôtel Marseille Provence Aéroport - 13127 Vitrolles
all.accor.com/hotel

THE PEOPLE HOSTEL IN MARSEILLE

Situated in the Joliette quarter, 10 minutes on foot from Gare Saint-Charles train station, The People Hostel Marseille is embellished with Grem's colourful graffiti. An offshoot of France Hostels, created in 2015 by Romain Viennois to make France accessible to young tourists, this new concept definitely lives up to its motto: "As accessible as a youth hostel, as friendly as a guest house, as stylish as a boutique hotel". Families and couples will find plenty to please here too, with a choice of shared rooms with 4, 6 or 8 "capsule" beds, or private rooms for two. Comfortable and made in France, all beds are fitted with a reading light, electrical socket and USB socket, a locker, mirror and blackout curtain. Bath towels are included. The bar-restaurant serving tapas bedecked with recycled objects hosts an exciting cultural events programme. 24/7 service and excellent wifi are yet more pluses.

The People Hostel - 13002 Marseille
thepeoplehostel.com

TUBA, AN INTIMATE HOTEL-RESTAURANT IN MARSEILLE LES GOUDES

Five rooms resembling boat cabins, a restaurant for 80 guests, beds caressing the rocks and an access ladder leading to the Mediterranean waves below... This little wonder in Les Goudes, a former diving club revisited by architect Marion Duclos Mailaender, made a buzz in summer 2000. A genuine seaside cottage...

Tuba - 13008 Marseille Les Goudes
tuba-club.com

■ PROVENCE | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

LE LODGE DES ÎLES D'OR : SEA, SPORT & SUN

Nestling on the unique isthmus leading to Giens peninsula, where the mainland becomes two long, thin strips of sand surrounded by Mediterranean waters, the 22 rooms of this ecolodge amid the pine trees resemble a series of log cabins. Sandy pathways connect the Lodge des Iles d'Or - named after the offshore islands of Porquerolles, Port-Cros and Le Levant - to the nearby beaches, including the world-famed Plage de l'Almanarre. Guests keen to get off the grid enjoy a fabulous choice of activities including hikes on the coastal footpath with Claudine, yoga, kitesurfing, scuba diving, stand-up paddleboarding and even tree-hugging...

Le Lodge des Iles d'Or - 83400 Hyères-Giens
www.lelodgedesilesdor.com

- Le Lodge des Iles d'Or



CAMPING HUTTOPIA, FORÊT DE JANAS

To the far South of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, the verdant hills of Cap-Sicié curve around the end of Toulon's magnificent bay. This brand new campsite courtesy of the Huttopia collection, reputed for its rustic-chic style, is tucked away on the peninsula at the edge of a pine forest, just a few minutes from the charming beach of Fabregas. The campsite's easily-dismountable Canadian trapper tents, gypsy caravans, cabins and chalets accommodating up to 6 people, promise a very low environmental impact. We love the pool, boules games under the pines and refreshingly slow pace... Cap Sicié is also a geological rarity: an outcrop of crystalline shale hovering over the sea. The perfect place to forget about the clock.

Camping Huttopia Forêt de Janas
 83500 La-Seyne-sur-Mer (between Bandol and Toulon)
europe.huttopia.com



▲ Camping Huttopia - © M. Reyboz

L'EAUTEL ** TOULON, BAY HERITAGE**

What a view! A specialist in enhancing ancient heritage sites, with hotels set in unusual buildings, schools and monasteries, Éhôtels-Lyon group has just opened its new four-star Eautel set facing the impressive gate of Toulon's naval base. The hotel encompasses three 17th-century buildings and is crowned with a historic glass canopy thought to have been built by the Ateliers Eiffel. The 62 rooms on offer include two dormitories with a "crew" saloon, meeting rooms and a 60-cover bistronomic bar-restaurant, plus a spa and rooftop lounge overlooking the bay and terrace on Place de l'Equerre in the must-see Quartier des Arts, in Toulon's historic quarter.

Leautel Toulon** - 83000 Toulon**
www.leautel-toulon.com



▲ Leautel Toulon - © Hotel Lyon

■ PROVENCE | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

OKKO LIBERTÉ**, FOUR STARS AND NO CLOUDS IN THE BAY OF TOULON**

When it opened in spring 2020, the Okko Liberté even earned itself a full-page article in the French newspaper Le Monde – a feat not every hotel can boast! The Okko Liberté nestles inside a nine-storey post-war building – now a 20th-century heritage listed monument – on Toulon’s iconic Place de la Liberté square. It was the former head office of a savings bank, then Toulon Provence Méditerranée metropolitan council. The 98 compact, bright and comfortable rooms and rooftop terrace offer enviable views over the city and port.

The Okko hotels have earned a loyal clientele with their pioneering “all inclusive” packages, including a €10 international call credit, and catchy “four stars and no clouds” motto.

Okko Liberté** – 83000 Toulon**
www.okkohotels.com



▲ Okko Liberté – © J. Galland

LILY OF THE VALLEY*** WELLBEING ACCORDING TO STARCK ON SAINT-TROPEZ PENINSULA**

The latest five-star on Saint-Tropez peninsula, Philippe Starck designed Lily of the Valley to resemble a “modern-day Mediterranean fantasy”... Set on the heights of La Croix-Valmer, its six wooden buildings with green roofs overlook the bay of Cavalaire and Cape Lardier. The surprises begin with the wood stove in the lobby, then the impressive collection of furniture, designer seats, olive wood, Vallauris ceramics, Biot glass and, finally, the superb, panoramic swimming pool. The 44 rooms and 6 suites are bedecked with rugs, books and marble tables. The estate also features a second, more isolated 25-metre pool located next to the Wellbeing Village. Chef Vincent Maillard pays tribute to the Mediterranean’s soil and produce from the hotel’s vegetable garden, nestling under umbrella pines.

Pets accepted up to 10 kilos.

Membre de The Leading Hotels of the World
Hôtel Lily of the Valley*** – 83420 La Croix-Valmer**
www.lilyofthevalley.com



Lily of the Valley – © CRT – Tezenas ▲

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

VILLA PORT D'ANTIBES & SPA****

Situated near the port and old town ramparts, the Villa Port Antibes & Spa promises a refreshing change of scenery topped with shimmering fabrics courtesy of Christian Lacroix and evocatively-named rooms: *La Route des Indes*, *L'Île au Trésor*, *Les Mers du Sud* or *La Vie en Rose*. The Villa by Sothys spa features a relaxation area complete with a hammam, sensory shower, winter garden and treatment area dedicated to beauty and well-being. The patio is adorned with a pool. On the 5th floor, the 3 junior suites – *Pirate*, *Corsaire* and *Capitaine* – measure 42 to 52 m2 and are fitted with a bathroom with tub and shower unit, double sink and separate toilet.

La Villa Port d'Antibes & Spa** - 06160 Antibes**
villa-port-antibes.com



▲ La Villa Port d'Antibes & Spa

LE SUD* IN JUAN-LES-PINS**

As fresh as a summer morning, this elegant and fuss-free new hotel honours the spirit of Picasso, Fernand Léger and Jean Cocteau. Its little niches are decorated with ceramics from Vallauris, while striped fabrics on a pristine white background adorn the sofas and bedspreads and a perfume of the Sixties revisited floats in the air... Interior designer Stéphanie Lizée mixes terracotta and lemon tones with touches of almond green and Klein blue, stripes and wicker. The frescoes are signed by artist Frank Lebreaux. Some of the 29 rooms have a balcony. Le Sud also features two musts: a bar with terrace and a 250 m² garden perfect for savouring breakfast or relaxing. A three-star jewel just 5 minutes' walk from the station, beach and pine wood.

Hôtel Le Sud* - 06160 Juan-Les-Pins**
www.hotellesud.com



▲ Hôtel Le Sud

LES ENCOURDOULES GUEST HOUSE-ART GALLERY IN VALLAURIS

Open since September 2020, this magnificent establishment built on terraces gazes out over the Med. Run by Martin the cook and his wife Agathe, it has a dual vocation as a guest house and art gallery. The decor consists of second-hand objects available for purchase and Agathe also loves to promote neighbouring ceramists from the village of Vallauris. Stone walls, sandblasted beams, ancient fireplaces, old sandstone or parquet floors, soft lighting and top-quality bedding embellish the rooms. The vegetable garden is organic and planted with many fruit trees. Guests can opt for a packed lunch, homemade goodies or a tasty meal concocted by the owner with a glass of pre-dinner sparkling wine from Alsace – the home region of the new owners.

Chambres d'Hôtes Les Encourdoules - 06220 Vallauris
www.lesencourdoules.com



▲ Les Encourdoules

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

**THE REBIRTH OF AN ICON,
INTERCONTINENTAL
CARLTON CANNES*******

The hotel is pursuing its ambitious refurbishment project until 2023. An international luxury hotel benchmark, the InterContinental Carlton Cannes graces the Croisette with its iconic Belle Époque facade opening onto the bay of Cannes and Mediterranean Sea. Its original 1913 architecture, signature facade and Belle Époque spirit have been lovingly preserved, but are now spiked with a contemporary mood marrying beautifully with the Côte d'Azur's exceptional quality of light. The project revolves around two major stages: refurbishment of the existing building, plus an extension. The first phase, including full restoration of the beach, was completed in 2020. The new-look hotel will feature two additional wings with 37 "Branded Suites", an interior garden measuring 2,000 m² complete with a bar and swimming pool, a spa and 765 m² conference centre. The Carlton Cannes legend lives on...

InterContinental Carlton Cannes*** - 06150 Cannes**
www.carlton-cannes.com

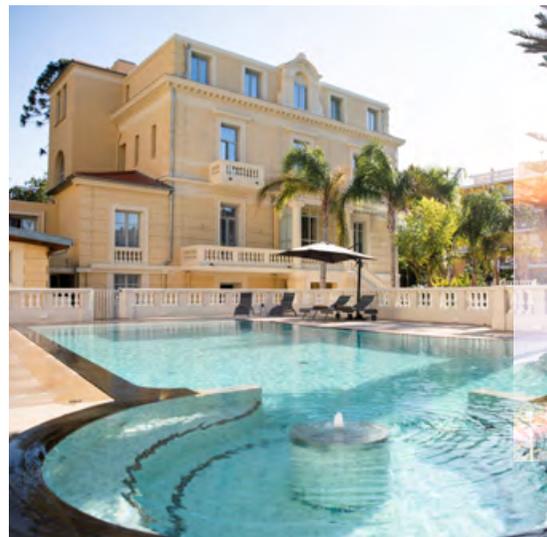
VILLA GENESIS IN MENTON

Mediterranean waves lapping the shore 100 metres away, palm trees fanning the garden and mirrors glistening between stucco columns in the lounges... Tucked inside a listed monument, the luxurious Villa Genesis was built in 1885 by the illustrious Belle Époque architect Hans-Gorge Tersling and embodies the elegance of the Riviera's finest hours – with a contemporary twist. The 17-metre pool is an invitation to relax. There's no restaurant, but breakfast promises a feast of pastries, fruit, eggs, salads, charcuterie and cheese. Green escape package: one night for two guests, including a welcome cocktail, tickets to the remarkable Jardin Val Rahmeh and Serre de la Madone gardens: €239. Reopening in spring 2021.

Villa Genesis - 06500 Menton
www.villagenesis.com



▲ Hôtel Carlton - © Semec Fabre



▲ Villa Genesis - © E. Schoettel-Kuentz



▲ Cannes - © H. Fabre

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

NICE, NEW IN 2021

Nice never ceases to reach for the stars and its hotel offering is constantly upgraded and updated for an evermore stunning travel experience.

Read more here
www.meet-in-nice.com

LE MÉRIDIEN NICE

What could possibly be more chic than an address on the Promenade des Anglais?! Designer Olivier Saguez and interior designer Didier Gomez have revamped the hotel's 318 rooms and communal areas, including the entrance, lobby, bar and restaurant, inspired by the glorious Sixties and timeless elegance of the Côte d'Azur – and it's a winner! The rooms and 15 suites with terraces all feature bay windows opening onto the Bay of Angels. The view is breathtaking from the restaurant "La Terrasse" too, set on the hotel roof alongside the pool. The new "Latitude Bar" pays homage to local flavours. At the crossroads to the Promenade des Anglais and historic quarter, Le Méridien Nice is an ideal base for exploring the city and Côte d'Azur.

Le Méridien Nice - 06400 Nice
www.marriott.com



▲ Le Méridien - © DR

LE LOKO HÔTEL - BOUTIQUE-HÔTEL

Offering 54 rooms, the Loko Hotel is a new cocooning refuge in the heart of the city and a perfect choice for cosmopolitan travellers and curiosity-seekers alike. Located next to the famous arcades adorning the very-central Avenue Jean Médecin, its design is ethical, fresh and colourful, with immaculate white rooms. **Opening in June 2021.**

lokohotelcollection.fr

L'HÔTEL PLAZA

After two years of building work, this sublime Belle Époque building, with its mythical terrace gazing over the Jardins Albert 1^{er} park, is ready to welcome guests. **Opening 2021, five stars.**



▲ Hôtel Martinez - © JF Romero

HÔTEL MARTINEZ***
 7th FLOOR, 7th HEAVEN, 7th ART**

A genuine jewel and must-have during the Cannes Film Festival, the new Penthouse Suite on the 7th floor of the Martinez will be unveiling its magnificence in spring 2021.

Hôtel Martinez***** - 06400 Nice
www.hotel-martinez.com



▲ Hôtel Martinez - © JF Romero

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

THE ARENAS BUSINESS QUARTER

Located adjacent to Nice Côte d'Azur international airport and the future Multimodal Station, and served by tram line 2 connecting to the city centre in 20 minutes and new exhibition centre in 5 minutes, the Arénas quarter is reaching for the stars. Its flagship project, the Nice Airport Promenade, currently under construction, includes a Sheraton hotel scheduled to open in late 2021. An Okko 4 four-star hotel (June 2021) and Moxy hotel by Marriott group are also in the pipeline. Last but not least, Grand Arénas is part of the Côte d'Azur Eco-Valley project, which aims to stimulate the region's economy while imposing strict environmental requirements. Eco-Valley is an Operation of National Interest launched at the Grenelle Environment Forum.

www.ecovallee-plaineduvar.fr

HÔTEL B&B NICE AÉROPORT ARENAS***

Open since December 2020
www.hotel-bb.com

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS NICE GRAND ARÉNAS

5 min from Terminal 1. Opening January 2021
www.ihg.com

CROWNE PLAZA NICE – GRAND ARÉNAS

Opening March 2021
www.ihg.com

HÔTEL SHERATON – NICE AÉROPORT****

Opening end 2021.



▲ Holiday Inn Express Nice



▲ Hôtel B&B - © N. Jacquemin



▲ Hôtel Sheraton

IN THE MOUNTAINS

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES

LES BERGERIES DE HAUTE-PROVENCE VINES AND VIEWS

A first in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence! Set between Lure mountain and the Luberon, this wine tourism estate built in terraces combines the pleasures of an extraordinary vineyard and top-quality accommodation. And the experience promises to be even better from March 2021, when the first bottles of Bergeries de Haute-Provence wine will be available for tasting. This ambitious project is also the fruit of years of efforts by Eloïse Massot and Jean-Luc Monteil. The 2-kilometre trail leading to this long-dreamed 40-acre estate area runs along the ancient Domitian road and paths used for the traditional seasonal migration of flocks, then crosses four ancient bridges. In 2018, various grape varieties including Nebbiolo, Vermentino, Blanco Gentile and Cinsault, were relocated here and the first harvest was celebrated in September 2020. The reds are aged in casks, while the micro-vintages of whites and rosés are stored in amphoras. The estate offers two converted sheepfolds with private kitchen and pool, accommodating 2 and 4 guests respectively. The view from the jacuzzi, spanning vineyards, olive trees and the Roman bridge, is simply magnificent...

Domaine des Bergeries de Haute-Provence-Saint-Jean
04200 Châteauneuf-Val-Saint-Donat

 [Domaine des Bergeries](#)



◀ Les Bergeries

■ ALPES

D'HÔMES - LUXURY, COSY, FAMILY IN LES ORRES****

A big first in the Alps, this d'Hômes village is a hub of top-of-the-range, novel accommodation. The village's nine geodesic homes - 40m² spherical structures adorned with a transparent bay window and panoramic terrace - are set in tiers on the mountain slope, a comfortable distance from each other. Each Hôme benefits from pellet stove underfloor heating. The Hômes are also available in a Luxury version for 2 guests with a balneotherapy tub, a Cosy version and Family version for 4-6 guests. A walking trail leads to Les Orres 1800 and Les Orres 1650. **Open since December 2019.**

Alpin d'Home** - 05200 Les Orres**
www.alpin-dhome.fr



▶ Alpin Cocoon ▶

LES ORRES: LA JARBELLE, LA BELLE

La Jarbelle is *belle* indeed... This refurbished barn located in the hamlet of Les Ribes, between Serre-Ponçon lake and the surrounding peaks, is an oasis of old stone, spacious rooms and mountains vistas. Its 5 rooms, studio and apartment are now even more delightful thanks to the addition of a Nordic bath with views over the bubbling torrent and gorgeous igloo sauna. In winter, a free shuttle service to the slopes of Les Orres stops at the foot of the gite. Guests can also opt for a guided walk or hire a bicycle. La Jarbelle can welcome up to 25 guests.

La Jarbelle - 05200 Les Orres
www.lajarbelle.com



■ ALPES

AU-DELÀ DES NUAGES: AN ECO EXPERIENCE IN CHAMPSAUR

If you've never holidayed in a Domespace, we can't recommend it enough! These incredibly comfortable and welcoming round wooden, bioclimatic and ecological houses revolve in the sunshine thanks to a ball-bearing assembly. The four rooms on offer at "Au-Delà des Nuages" (meaning above the clouds), set at the crossroads to Champsaur and Valgaudemar valleys, unveil ever-changing views over the magnificent peaks of the Écrins mountains as they revolve... Simply magical!

Au-delà des nuages, Chauffayer - 05800 Aubessagne
audeladesnuages.fr

TRITON ALPESTRE: A SELF-CATERING COTTAGE IN THE ÉCRINS MOUNTAINS

The only known species of Alpine newt, the *Ichthyosaura alpestris* belongs to the Salamander family. Éric and Sylvie, respectively an animal sculptor and interior designer, have dedicated their 3-bedroom holiday home with individual bathrooms, able to welcome up to 14 guests, to this unique creature. Located 12 km to the south of Briançon and less than 15 km from the ski resorts of Puy-Saint-Vincent and Serre Chevalier, the house itself was built in 1800 and is set facing Mont Brison. All 3 floors have now been refurbished. Organic and often vegetarian cuisine.

Gîtes Triton Alpestre - 05120 près de Briançon
www.autritonalpestre.com

LES CABANES ENCHANTÉES IN SAINT-LÉGER-LES-MÉLÈZES

A holder of the "Station Verte" and "Village Etoilé" labels, Saint-Léger-les-Mélèzes is a genuine treat for nature lovers, with 24 slopes zigzagging between larch trees and two new treetop cabins. "La Cabane des Trolls" for 4 guests (24 m²) and "La Cabane des Elfes" for 6 guests (32 m²) both feature a mezzanine, shower, toilet, kitchenette and private spa nestling on the terrace.

Les Cabanes Enchantées, 05260 St-Léger-les-Mélèzes
www.les-cabanes-enchantees.fr



• Au-delà des nuages - © B. Audigé

LE 16 I 150**** & SPA NUXE À VARS

Make way for a new kind of spa experience! Ludovic Leboeuf and his wife, who started out in the worlds of fashion and catering, are set on making Le 16 I 150 (pronounced simply Le 1650) Vars's liveliest sport-chic hotel! Set at the foot of the Olympic slope, the 29 rooms and suites and "Skitchen" bistronomic restaurant, all high design, are decorated with a clever mix of natural (wood, flannel, plaid) and industrial materials (coated steel, concrete, terrazzo) coupled with memorabilia from the late Sixties. In the kitchen, Executive Chef Vincent Poette - ex Ducasse & Robuchon - works his magic with fresh, regional, organic produce in an eclectic decor combining stone counters and solid oak tables with pieces by Paulin and Starck, vintage velvet, classic reproductions and wooden benches. The 300 m² Nuxe Spa unveils a world of wellness, playing with light and shade, and fire and water... Located 50 metres away, the Sainte-Marie ski lift offers direct access to 185 km of slopes at the Forêt Blanche ski domain, spanning Vars and Risoul.

Le 16I150** & Spa Nuxe - 05560 Vars**
hotel16-150.com

• Les Cabanes Enchantées



■ ALPES

CHALETS TO RENT AT THE RÉSIDENCE CGH PANORAMA VARS 2000** IN VARS**

A CGH exclusive, the new apartment hotel CGH Panorama Vars 2000 will be offering an exciting choice of chalets and half-chalets for rent (ideal for families and groups) in addition to its standard apartments. The first phase of 49 ready-to-ski apartments was delivered in December 2020.

Résidence CGH Panorama Vars 2000** - 05560 Vars**
www.cgh-residences.com

LES ESCOYÈRES IN QUEYRAS

Pascale is the only permanent resident of the hamlet of Escoyères, perched at an altitude of 1,600 metres. Motorcyclists and motorists have to negotiate thirty tight bends to access this plateau standing over Guil gorge. Pascale - a big-hearted woman of the mountains - has just finished refurbishing the largest of the two guest rooms, set around a lounge with fireplace. You'll find delicious dishes, mostly made with produce from her large garden, simmering on the wood stove when the first cold weather arrives. In winter, you have to walk for an hour to reach the hamlet - a wildlife winter shelter - but Pascale comes to pick up your luggage on her quad bike. The GR 58 long-distance trail passes in front of this magical refuge in the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve.

Gîtes de France
Les Escoyères, Queyras
www.lesescoyeres-queyras.com
www.gites-de-france-hautes-alpes.com



◀ Pure Montagne Resort

PURE MONTAGNE RESORT** IN SAINT-MARTIN-VÉSUBIE**

The many exciting activities on offer at the sporty Vésubie valley are now united under the Pure Montagne® brand: rock climbing in Lantosque, summer tobogganing and ziplining in La Colmiane and indoor canyoning at the Vesúbia Mountain Park - a mountain sports complex unique in Europe. Not forgetting the spa resort of Berthemont, perfect for recharging your batteries. All activities are situated within a 15 km radius of Saint-Martin-Vésubie, 1 hour from Nice. What's more, this "Nice Switzerland" dedicated to sports, games and relaxation will be benefiting from its own apartment hotel from this summer: guests will love immersing themselves in the comfort of the new, four-star "Pure Montagne Resort" offering 45 chalets and a total of 230 beds. The architecture is carefully-curated too, with larch shingle roofs, wood and local stone facades, parquet flooring, solid wood balconies and a welcoming fireplace. On the environmental front, the solar energy produced on site should satisfy an impressive 40% of electricity needs. This 5-acre site, at the gateway to Mercantour National Park, will also be planted with 5,000 local plant varieties. **Opening summer 2021.**

Pure Montagne Resort** - 06450 Saint-Martin-Vésubie**
www.puremontagne.fr

THE SOUTHERN ALPS' FIRST FIVE-STAR RESORT IN AURON!

Situated 90 km from Nice airport, Auron - a pretty, top-of-the-range ski destination in the Mercantour area, home to the Alpes-Maritimes' largest ski domain - now welcomes the Southern Alps' first five-star resort, the ambitious "Le Monde des Neiges". Spearheaded by the family-owned Epicure Luxury Spa, Hôtel & Résidences-SAS Latitudes Group, the concept combines a deluxe, 55-room hotel, 1,200 m² spa, 5 thematic restaurants and 3 apartment hotels. "Our resort focuses on wellbeing and lifestyle and we'll be welcoming guests 9 months a year - way beyond the standard winter sports season", assures Yann Anciaux, project manager and group director. The very-elegant wood and stone architecture is inspired by the old barns of Vallée de la Tinée.

Monde des Neiges*** - 06660 Auron Resort**
www.mondedesneiges.com

→ Monde des Neiges



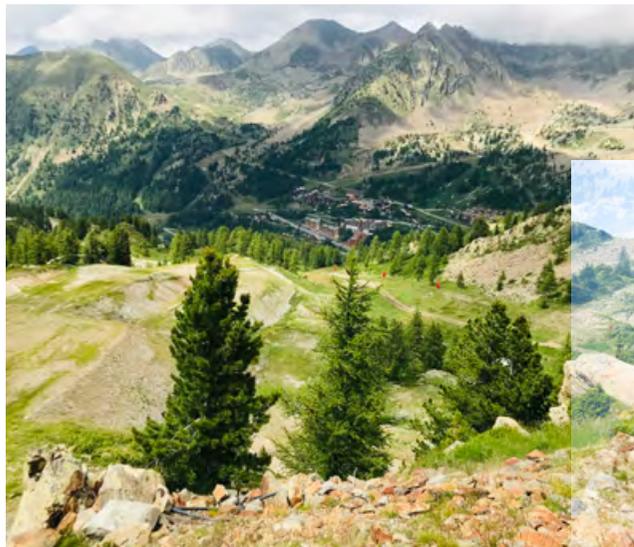
◀ Panorama Vars 2000 - © Fou d'Images

■ ALPES

SUNNY CHALETs AT ISOLA 2000

A Spa with private sauna, wifi, TV and much more... You won't find anything amiss at these splendid chalets for 6 to 12 guests set at the foot of the slopes, in the Belvédère quarter at the heart of the resort. Prices vary from €2,940 per week for the Petit Ours chalet for 6 guests to €25,200 per week for the 450 m² K2 chalet.

Les Chalets Plein Sud - 06420 Isola 2000
leschaletspleinsud.com



▲ Isola 2000 - © S. Dragon

LA CROIX-ST-JEAN IN VALBERG, A PREMIUM CHOICE FOR CYCLING FANS

La Croix-St-Jean is a wooden chalet set at an altitude of 1,720 metres overlooking the resort of Valberg. Lucie and Christophe Menei offer a warm welcome to their three pretty rooms for 2-4 guests, all with South-facing balconies. Awarded the Mercantour Ecotourism label, the address is reputed for its *table d'hôtes* serving specialities from Nice (make sure you book ahead) and the excellent advice of Christophe, an amateur cyclist who knows everything there is to know about the Mercan'Tour Granfondo and Mercan'Tour Bonette - Europe's highest altitude endurance race (June).

Chalet La Croix Saint-Jean - 06470 Péone Valberg
lacroix-valberg.com



▲ Valberg - © OT Valberg

CAMPING & SKIING!

Camping holidays near the foot of the slopes are the latest fad and perfect if you're seeking a simple, friendly and affordable break! Set at an altitude of 1,450 metres at the exit from the fabulous Cians gorge, Camping du Cians is a seductive and novel three-star accommodation choice whatever the season. Located just 6 km from Valberg, the campsite features a Boreal Lodge and two bubble tents for star-gazing...

Camping Le Cians* - 06470 Beuil (Mercantour)**
camping-le-cians.fr



Camping Le Cians ▼



TASTE & TEMPTATION

MICHELIN: A STAR STORM IN PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

A record in France! Boasting twelve new Michelin-starred establishments in 2021, i.e. 20% of this year's 54 new addresses, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region reigns supreme when it comes to fine wining & dining!



▲ AM - © S. Riss

2021'S NEW MICHELIN 3-STAR IS IN MARSEILLE!

ALEXANDRE MAZZIA. Among the new eateries on offer, the Michelin inspectors were particularly seduced by the elegant cuisine of Chef **Alain Montigny**, winner of France's 2004 "Best Worker" award, at the restaurant **L'Or Bleu** in Théoule-sur-Mer.

Other winners: La Mère Germaine in Châteauneuf-du-Pape (84), Mickaël Féval in Aix-en-Provence (13), Louroc in Cap d'Antibes (06), Pollen in Avignon (84), Le Bistronomique in Manosque (04), La Salle à manger at Château de Mazan (84), Les agitateurs in Nice (06), Villa Salome in Salon-de-Provence (13) and Signature in Marseille (13).

An impressive dual achievement for Signature's 31 year-old chef **Coline Faulquier**, who also received the Young Chef award for her creative and delicate dishes made with magnificently-curated produce.



© R. Van Rijn

FROM WELCOME TO DESSERT... HONOURING OUR PROFESSIONALS

Keen to highlight the diversity of professions forming France's restaurant industry, also hit hard by the health crisis, the Michelin Guide inspectors decided to shine a light on our waiters, sommeliers and pastry chefs too.

The Welcome and Service Award was won by **Delphine Alemany**, from the Michelin 1-star restaurant La Closerie in Ansouis.

The Sommelier Award went to **Vanessa Massé**, sommelière at the restaurant Pure & V (Michelin 1-star) in Nice, rewarding her wine menu exclusively featuring natural wines, vast experience and larger-than-life personality!

Maëlle Bruguera from the restaurant Le Art-Château de la Gaude in Aix-en-Provence (Michelin 1-star) swept up the Michelin Guide **Passion Dessert Competition**, presented in partnership with Valrhona.

You'll find details on the 2021 selection on our free **Michelin Guide app** (available on IOS and coming soon for Android). guide.michelin.com

MAZZIA RULES!

“Done!” – the first words of the wonderful text written by Alexandre Mazzia after he received his third Michelin star say it all. He thanks Marseille, where he fell in love with both his wife Anne and the city’s buzzing energy. He thanks his “exceptionally humble, selfless, passionate and talented” team. He thanks the Michelin Guide for daring to reward a track record that “obeys none of the rules”. And today, it’s our turn to thank him: so thank you, Alexandre Mazzia, for shining yet another spotlight on Marseille and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region!

Alexandre Mazzia – 13008 Marseille
www.alexandre-mazzia.com



© F. Chanevas



▲ Alexandre Mazzia

30 MICHELIN 3-STARRED CHEFS 6 IN THE PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR!

Glenn Viel
 Oustau de Baumanière – Les Baux-de-Provence
www.baumaniere.com

Gérald Passedat
 Le Petit Nice Passedat – Marseille
www.passedat.fr

Alexandre Mazzia
 AM – Marseille
www.alexandre-mazzia.com

Christophe Bacqué
 Hôtel et Spa du Castellet – Castellet
www.hotelducastellet.net

Arnaud Donckele
 La Vague d’Or-Cheval Blanc – Saint-Tropez
www.chevalblanc.com

Mauro Colagreco
 Mirazur – Menton
www.mirazur.fr

9 RENOWNED GREEN GASTRONOMY AMBASSADORS

TWELVE NEW MICHELIN STARS – A FRENCH RECORD.

The Michelin Guide has been focusing on “**Sustainable Gastronomy**” since 2020. Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is the proud home of nine restaurants sporting the new green leaf symbol, rewarding the commitment of our chefs to preserving the planet.

Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Green Champions:

Laurent Deconinck*
 Oustalet – Gigondas
www.loustalet-gigondas.com

Auberge La Fenière – Cadenet-Lourmarin
 de Reine et Nadia Sammut*
www.aubergelafeniere.com

La Mirande – Avignon
 Florent Pietravalle*
www.la-mirande.fr

Oustau de Baumanière – Baux-de-Provence
 de Glenn Viel***
www.baumaniere.com

Chassagnette – Arles-Camargue
 Armand Arnal*
www.chassagnette.fr

Hostellerie Bérard – La Cadière d’Azur
 Jean-François Bérard*
www.hotel-berard.com

Jardin de Berne – Lorgues
 Louis Rameau*
www.chateauberne.com

Hostellerie Jérôme – La Turbie
 Bruno Cirino**
www.hostellerie-jerome.com

Mirazur – Menton
 Mauro Colagreco***
www.mirazur.fr

Congratulations to our Chefs!

PALACES GO GREEN IN SAINT-TROPEZ

The new stars of the Gulf of Saint-Tropez: agroecology and permaculture. Based at Patrice de Colmont's Château de la Môle (Club 55), the association "Partager la Terre" (Share the Earth) promotes environmentally-friendly agriculture. Its first achievement: the creation of a vegetable garden at Le Byblos Palace – a 300 m² garden on the roof of one of the garages. "Plants grow faster here" explains chief agronomist André Huber. The new chef Rocco Seminara and his brigade now have their own fruit, vegetables, aromatic plants and honey to play with. Share the Earth has also designed a vegetable garden at the Lily of the Valley hotel. Green fingers take note: the association hosts permaculture internships in the privileged setting of Ferme du Ménage, at the foot of the Château.

Association Partager la Terre
Ferme du Ménage - 83310 La Mole
www.partager-la-terre.fr

LE JARDIN DE BERNE

Château de Berne was awarded a Green Star in the 2021 Michelin Guide: a distinction honouring the commitment of 33 new establishments this year to sustainable gastronomy. The initiative is backed by Chef Louis Rameau and Pastry Chef Eric Raynal, who draw their inspiration from the Château's exceptional vegetable garden. The recipes give pride of place to two or three ingredients with simple, surprising and delicious culinary harmonies.

Jardin de Berne - 83510 Lorgues
www.chateauberne.com



© E. Gentils ▲ Jardin de Berne ▶



▶ L. Rameau - Chef



▲ E. Raynal - Pastry Chef

A TRUCKLOAD OF GOODNESS!

The year 2020 also had its good sides: food trucks and takeaway sales have made the cuisine of our finest chefs available to a wider public. Legend has it that the first food truck – a pizza truck – was born in Marseille in 1962. And today, Marseille boasts a Michelin 3-star truck! Thank you, and congratulations again to our Chefs for your perseverance...

■ PROVENCE

A MICHELIN 3-STAR FOOD TRUCK IN MARSEILLE

“Michel” is sweeping up a truckload of awards! Placed in front of the AM restaurant named after our new Michelin 3-starred chef Alexandre Mazzia, this food truck tempts hungry punters with a plethora of culinary marvels every lunchtime for around 15 euros. And as far as visibility goes, a truck is definitely as good as an open kitchen... Seeing the chef’s precision, meticulous care and good humour first hand is a sheer joy.

alexandre-mazzia.bonkdo.com/fr/clickandcollect

A MARSEILLE PROVENCE GASTRONOMY “BUSTRO”

The “Sauve ton resto” (Save your restaurant) double-decker bus, complete with mobile kitchen for preparing, preserving and reheating dishes, transports our “Brigade des chefs” throughout the region. A takeaway must.

mpgastronomie.fr

CHEF’S TRUCK IN MARSEILLE

You’ll find Fabien Ruggy’s truck “La Boîte à Sardines” every day in front of the Intercontinental Hotel. The truck welcomes a variety of guests chefs keen to offer their delicious wares to customers – a great opportunity for the public to savour top cuisine at affordable prices, and the perfect way for Michelin-starred chefs such as Lionel Lévy (L’Alcyone at the Intercontinental) and Coline Faulquier (Signature) to stay in contact with their fans.

[f @gourmediterranee](https://www.facebook.com/gourmediterranee)



© Une table au Sud



▲ © Lapalus



▲ © A. Esteoule

NEW EATERIES

PROVENCE

LA MÈRE GERMAINE* IN CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

La Mère Germaine is celebrating her 99th birthday in 2021 with a Michelin star! A fabulous reward for talented young chefs Camille Lacome and Agathe Richou, together with Isabelle Strasser who hunted them down at La Tour d'Argent. The couple – a cook and pastry chef – concoct tasty dishes honouring this iconic address and former meeting place for Parisian high society from Gabin to Fernandel. The concise and carefully-curated menu reconciles the challenges of today and tomorrow with unbeatable gourmet pleasures. The cellar overflows with over 500 different wines from Châteauneuf-du-Pape and elsewhere, while the General Manager, Antoine Pétrus, is the only person to have ever obtained a dual sommelier and head waiter distinction in France's prestigious "Best Worker" awards. Isabelle Strasser, owner of the La Millière estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, is committed to restoring this legendary address to its former glory. The hotel, offering 6 rooms, has been completely refurbished and the 40-cover dining room is now adorned with a mural by artist Hippolyte Romain. And the effort to rekindle the village doesn't stop there: B&B rooms and a brasserie are also in the pipeline. Prix fixe menus €39, €59 and €78 - Rooms from €120 to €150.

La Mère Germaine - 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape
www.lameregermaine-chateauneufdupape.fr

EÏDRA IN SAINT-ÉTIENNE-DU-GRÈS

Located ten minutes from Saint-Rémy and Les Baux-de-Provence, this is the first address of creative young chefs Coline and Mathew. The couple met in Les Deux Alpes in the mountains, where Mathew won his first Michelin star before entering the 2018 Top Chef contest. Aged 32 and 26 years, the young Australian cook and New Caledonian pastry chef, who grew up in Cabriès and trained at the Anne-Sophie Pic school, chose this little village to offer guests a fabulous culinary voyage featuring locally-sourced dishes made with tender loving care. The eggs come from hens that roam among the vegetable gardens and the crockery is courtesy of a local ceramist. Nestling at the heart of the Alpilles Regional Nature Reserve, Eidra is not just an excellent eatery, it is also a hub of encounters, sharing and well-being, and foodies come here from afar to savour the Sunday Brunch. Menus from €28 - Brunch €32.

Eïdra - 13103 Saint-Étienne-du-Grès
www.eidra-restaurant.com



▲ Coline & Mathew - Eidra

LE QUAI DES BULLES IN PUYRICARD NEAR AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Their motto is "Liberté, Égalité, Apéritif!" – and who could argue with that?! Pierre and Stéphane welcome guests at two tempting addresses dedicated to France's legendary aperitif – organic style! A combined canteen, bistro, grocery store and cellar boasting 300 references, the first Apéritif Français boutique is located in Rue Gaston de Saporta in Aix-en-Provence. The second has just opened at the Bulles de Provence craft brewery in Puyricard. Punters enjoy a succulent spread of craft beers (sold by the half-metre) accompanied by meat and fish terrines, veggie spreads, homemade charcuterie and cheeses served indoors or out on the terrace, among the vines. You can also admire the sun setting over the hills from the boules court...

Le Quai des bulles - 13540 Puyricard

 [Le Quai des Bulles](#)



▲ La Mère Germaine

■ PROVENCE

CHEZ QUI IN LES GOUDES TABLE D'HÔTES OF THE YEAR IN MARSEILLE

Fronted by Christian Qui, this atypical *table d'hôtes*, overflowing with the character forged during Christian's fascinating life, is set in Les Goudes – a small village forming part of Marseille. After studying in England and working as a landscape architect in the city's northern quarters, he trained as a cook in Los Angeles with Japanese chefs, who taught him profound respect for the fish he now sources from local fishermen or at the fish market on the Vieux-Port (Old Port). His love of fish even prompted him to work with the Calanques National Park Scientific Committee, where he learnt all about less-coveted and vulnerable species. Today, comfortably seated in front of the bay window opening onto the Med, guests begin their culinary voyage with such marvels as a minute-marinated saupe with egg yolk, soy, wasabi and spring onions... Every dish – a little masterpiece of flavours – resembles an underwater garden where fish and shellfish frolic. Keen to uphold the memory of our traditional bouillabaisse recipe while reinventing it in a popular and sustainable manner, Christian offers a takeaway version of this legendary dish every Friday (€25) to members of his "Bouillabaisseturfu" association. The association also plans to host tours of the Vieux-Port and talks on the themes of marine ethology and ecology. Lunch or dinner from €55.

Table Christian Qui - 13008 Marseille - Les Goudes
Réservation : 📧 poissonturfu@gmail.com



VIGNA IN LORGUES

Founded in 1620, Château La Martinette, crossed by the Argens river, is one of the oldest and largest estates in the Var. The vines occupy a small area – 103 acres – of the 865-acre property. From May onwards, the terrace set next to the ultramodern winery provides the setting for the Vigna 100%-outdoor restaurant. And the vistas over the vines, orchards, olive trees and woodland, are simply splendid... Top chef Juan Arbelaez's menu is on offer until September, with temptations including a fish, melon and coriander ceviche, vegetable ravioli with taleggio cream and white chocolate panna cotta, paired with the Château Rosé, Rollier Blanc or La Grand Pièce wines. All of the Côtes de Provence grape varieties from Grenache to Tibouren are nurtured here using organic or biodynamic techniques.

Château de la Martinette - Vigna Restaurant - 83510 Lorgues
www.vignarestaurant.com



📍 Château de la Martinette - © Studio 1895

■ ALPES

L'ÉTINCELLE RESTAURANT IN LE DÉVOLUY

Located in Agnières-en-Dévoluy, a stone's throw from the Joue du Loup and Super Dévoluy ski resorts, this beautiful village restaurant, built in local stone, serves high-quality local fare including Couttières lamb, Courtil ewe's cheese and Champsaur terrines – plus a 100% Made in Dévoluy burger! The vegetables are partly grown in Chef Olivier's vegetable garden.

L'étincelle - 05250 Agnières-en-Dévoluy
restaurantletincelleagnieresendevoluy.com

LES TABLES DE GASPARD, SAINT-CRÉPIN

This renowned, Michelin-starred eatery seats just 20 lucky guests. Virginie Blampoix (in the dining room) and Sébastien Corniau (in the kitchen) form a formidable 2-man team. From the aperitif served by the fireplace to dessert shining the spotlight on Alpine produce, their kindness, professionalism and talent definitely hit the mark. When you finally leave the vaulted dining room, take time to stroll around the pretty village of Saint-Crépin before heading back to relax, stary-eyed, in one of the three rooms, or the upstairs gîte. Prix fixe menus €36, €53 – "Surprise" tasting menu €74 – L'Andalou €60 per night – Gîte €250 to €350 per week.

Les Tables de Gaspard - 05600 Saint-Crépin
www.lestabledegaspard.com

■ ALPES

COCOTTE ET MANDOLINE, TALLARD

Dutch-born Brun Alberts and Nice-born chef Max Bernard launched this restaurant-café-concert venue a year back on Tallard's main square. The food is as creative as the decor signed by Brun's wife, the fashion designer behind the retro-vintage brand "Lilipouss".

 [Lilipouss](#)

A genuine home-from-home, open from 8 a.m. 'til lunchtime, Cocotte & Mandoline also welcomes concerts, storytellers and theatre plays. During lockdown, people came here to show their support for local artists while enjoying a feast. The initiative continues today – but just for fun this time. For €29, revellers enjoy an aperitif, starter, main course, dessert, and show. An ode to fun and freedom in the paragliding mecca...

Cocotte et Mandoline - 05130 Tallard

 [cocotteetmandoline](#)



▲ Cocotte et Mandoline



▲ Restaurant Le Zèbre Vert

■ PROVENCE | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

LE ZÈBRE VERT IN BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS

This luminous eatery set between the village of Bormes-les-Mimosas and beaches, built entirely in glass and wood, reflects the dazzling personality of Thierry and Sarah to perfection. Sarah loves veggies (her amazing polenta is served with pickled red onions) and her specialities include a vegan banana brownie, while Thierry's fetish dish is Belgian-style mussels and fries – a nod to his origins – which he concocts with around ten different sauces. Most of the ingredients come from local organic producers and the fabric napkins are eco-friendly too. Le Zebra Vert boasts three "Ecotable" stars.

Restaurant Le Zèbre Vert - 83230 Bormes-les-Mimosas

 [Le Zèbre Vert](#)



▲ Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

HOTEL DU CAP-EDEN-ROC*** ANTIBES
150 YEARS AND A STAR FOR LE LOUROC**

The Louroc's first star is a fitting reward for the Palace's gastronomic rebirth in 2020, masterfully orchestrated by Michelin 3-star chef Eric Frechon, together with chefs Arnaud Poette and Sébastien Broda, for the 150th anniversary.

Le Louroc is the night-time version of the establishment's Eden-Roc restaurant. Curated under the watchful eye of Thierry Demolliens, winner of France's "Best Worker" award (Head Waiter & Table Art category), and relished facing one of the world's most beautiful panoramic vistas, the menu features an excellent choice of locally-sourced produce including lobster and cod, served in a classic Provencal *aioli*. The breads are homemade and the herbs are freshly-picked from the garden... The tableware is sourced locally too, with ceramic trays from Vallauris signed by Agnès Sandahl and olive wood bowls courtesy of artisan cabinet makers Dubosq et Fils from Tourrettes-sur-Loup. At lunchtime, the restaurant simply reverts back to Eden-Roc's usual casual-chic style. Brazilian interior designer Patricia Anastasiadis has also instilled the Eden-Roc Grill, set by the hotel's legendary pool carved into the rocks, with colour and vitality and it now features a fish bar serving ceviches, carpaccios, tartares and marinated fish, together with the day's local catch, a selection of grilled meats and homemade pastries. In 2020, the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc's chocolate cellar was enriched with an exclusive Eden-Roc chocolate – a blend of two *grands cru* chocolates courtesy of the in-house chocolate maker.

Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc - 06160 Antibes

www.oetkercollection.com

“SCÈNE DE BISTROTS” FESTIVAL

Home to 46 official “Bistrots de Pays” bistros, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region offers France’s densest network of authentic country eateries. And there’s a good reason for it: the concept was born here! Artists from throughout the region provide live entertainment during the “Scenes de Bistrots” festival, running from spring to autumn. Events abound in other seasons too, and 14 of the bistros even offer delightful accommodation. A warm welcome to this year’s new additions.

Check out the full list of “Bistrots de Pays” establishments, latest news and events calendar here.

www.bistrotdepays.com

■ PROVENCE

L’AUBERGE DES BRACONNIERS IN AMPUS

Nestling in the medieval village of Ampus, at an altitude of 600 metres, above Nartuby gorge, L’Auberge des Braconniers is a genuine institution. Lisa’s grandmother held the reins of the establishment way back in the Sixties. The veranda is a great vantage point for admiring the culinary brio of Bertrand, trained by the French pizza champion. Guests can also savour excellent-quality meats under the plane trees shading the terrace.

Auberge des Braconniers - 83111 Ampus
www.bistrotdepays.com



▲ Azimut

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES

L’AZIMUT IN SENEZ

Guillaume revisits traditional recipes from Normandy, Lyon and Provence at this gorgeous establishment set next to the 12th-century cathedral. His childhood friends, Vincent and Jessica, greet guests with a smile on the expansive terrace. The 4 rooms and studio are the perfect base for enjoying a range of outdoor activities while indulging in local flavours.

Azimut - 04330 Senez
www.bistrotdepays.com

LE CAFÉ LES LAVANDES IN VACHÈRES

Christian pays tribute to old-fashioned culinary treats such as stuffed vegetables and veal kidneys, while Magali pampers guests and ensures the house motto - “Savour the moment, taste the present” - is upheld to the full.

Le Café Les Lavandes - 04110 Vachères
www.bistrotdepays.com



Le Café Les Lavandes ▲



▲ Auberge des Braconniers

■ ALPES

**LE COURS DU DRAC
IN SAINT-LAURENT-DU-CROS**

Laurence welcomes you at this former primary school situated 15 kilometres from Gap, complete with garden and panoramic views over the peaks of Aiguille and Gleize. Franck the cook excels in Champsaur specialties such as *ravioles* topped with Champsaur blue cheese and *oreilles d'âne* spinach bake. Laurence also offers a range of local produce and hampers. An ideal stop-off on the way to the nearby ski resorts.

Le Cours du Drac
05500 Saint-Laurent-du-Cros
www.bistrotdepays.com/le-cours-du-drac



▲ Le Cours du Drac

LE BALCON DE THÉUS IN THÉUS

The Balcon de Théus wears its name well: from the terrace, guests can admire the Durance valley and curious spectacle of the famous *Demaiselles Coiffées* (young ladies with hats) rock formations. Mathieu concocts his cuisine in line with the seasons and hosts thematic evenings and free outings every Tuesday to meet with the village's local producers. The plus: two cosy gites inviting you to linger longer to savour the landscape...

Le Balcon de Théus - 05190 Théus
www.bistrotdepays.com/le-balcon-de-theus



▲ Le Balcon de Théus

**LE 69, THE PIZZERIA
AT THE END OF THE WORLD IN LE SAIX**

Situated around thirty kilometres from Gap, Sisteron and La Joue du Loup, Le 69 – an official “Bistrot de Pays” establishment – offers a warm welcome to the beautiful flowering village of Le Saix, in the Buëch area. The bistro's name pays homage to 1969 – a year dear to Stéphane and Karelle as witnessed by the photos of top artists from that legendary year adorning the bistro walls. At the helm of the kitchen, Karelle concocts heartfelt dishes reflecting her love of good food.

Le 69 - 05400 Le Saix
www.bistrotdepays.com/le-69-la-pizzeria-au-bout-du-monde



▲ Le 69

THE CHIC CHICKPEA!

Humble no more! The chickpea, or *cicer arietinum*, is the latest fad. Southern chiefs are singing the praises of the Mediterranean's star legume with a plethora of vegan dishes ranging from socca (chickpea pancake) to desserts. What's more, you can now see it growing in the region's fields again!



© AC Héraud ▶



■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

ON YOUR PLATE IN THE LUBERON

Nadia Sammut and her mother Reine Sammut hold the reins of the famous Auberge La Fenière in Lourmarin – the world's first Michelin-starred gluten-free restaurant. The humble chickpea plays an important role here thanks to its high protein and fibre content. What's more, its juice can be used instead of eggs and its flour can replace wheat flour. Nadia Sammut, the talent behind the Cuisine Libre® movement and With Love-Allergen Free, is an expert in finding substitutes for allergens. In conjunction with Ernest Do, she has also launched the new KOM&SAL brand, comprising a bakery, pastry shop and mill devoid of wheat flour. Together, they create and source local farms in the aim of encouraging virtuous agriculture and rekindling the local economy. Her chickpeas are now grown in the vegetable garden of the Isle-sur-la-Sorgue agricultural school; Nadia and Ernest have signed a contract with the establishment agreeing to buy their entire production as long as no chemical treatments are used (the seeds are attacked by the heliothis moth). The dynamic duo are currently working on a major new project: the opening of France's first positive eating centre, including training pavilions (agriculture, health, food) a research & development centre, around thirty dismountable lodgings on the site of Auberge La Fenière to accommodate students, plus a shop and training restaurant.

Book "Construire un monde au goût meilleur" (Building a better-tasting world) with journalist Paule Masson, Actes Sud
www.aubergelafeniere.com
 Kom&Sal, mill & bakery
www.komandsal.fr

IN GRANDMA'S GARDEN AT THE FOOT OF MONT VENTOUX

Claire and Felix Droin, who grew up at the foot of Mont Ventoux, returned to set up home at the Corneyrette family farm in 2014, where they now grow organic spelt and chickpeas in their 17-acre "Grandma's Garden". You can purchase their chickpeas in dry, flour or canned form, or transformed into delicious hummus (plain, turmeric or paprika-flavoured). Claire and Félix also serve 100% organic and local meals at the farm on certain days.

Le Jardin de nos Grands-Mères - 84210 Venasque
lejardindenosgrandsmeres.fr

CHICKPEAS AND WELLBEING IN THE LUBERON

You can visit this superb estate in Oppedette simply to buy a kilo of chickpeas or spelt produced on the 494-acre property. The farm also grows organic lavender and helichrysum (everlasting), which is then distilled and used in aromatherapy products. The small hamlet located on the property accommodates up to 24 guests in radiant rooms decked out with terracotta tiles, quality-certified latex mattress and organic cotton linen, heated with a wood stove and served with spring water... The site is so coveted for relaxation, training courses and meetings that nearly all weekends in 2021 are already fully-booked. And of course, all eyes were on Domaine de Saint Quentin – a partner of hotels.com – in 2020, when star footballer Eric Cantona stayed there during UEFA Cup final.

Domaine de Saint Quentin - 04110 Oppedette
www.domainedesaintquentin.fr

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

CANNED BY NICOLAS BOTTERO

A little solace for gourmets deprived of fine dining during lockdown, Michelin-starred chef Nicolas Botero now sells around fifty of his recipes, prepared with tender loving care throughout the year, in jars. You'll find rarities such as hare royale, together with hummus (€5.40) or chickpea, red pepper and chorizo salad (€7.50). A combined delicatessen and wine shop offering producer prices, the Mas Bottero gourmet shop also sells organic chickpeas (€3.50) and organic chickpea flour from Cucuron (1kg €6.50). Every Friday, the chef publishes his new online takeaway menu, which you can order until Monday evening for €39 - a very reasonable price for a top chef. The main course (meat or fish), is topped with a choice of two starters and two desserts.

Restaurant Le Mas Bottero - 13760 Saint-Cannat
www.lemasbottero.com



▼ Le Mas Bottero

STREET FOOD-STYLE: SOCCA, CADE AND PANISSES

Rich in plant proteins, chickpea flour forms the basis of our legendary *socca*, *cade* and *panisse* - healthy southern street food delicacies promising to satisfy small and large appetites alike...

SOCCA NIÇOISE

Best eaten straight out of the oven, sprinkled with fleur de sel, this succulent pancake is an emblem of Nice. The city's must-do addresses are Chez Pipo near the port, founded in 1923, complete with a brick oven (13, Rue Bavastro) and Chez Thérèse (28 Rue Droite and on Cours Saleya market). Several trucks also serve them hot off the press at the local markets.



▲ La socca niçoise

CADE TOULONNAISE

Slightly thicker, hence softer than *socca niçoise*, *cade* can also be cut into large strips generously sprinkled with pepper and salt. You'll find La *Cade* à Dédé, a historic cade maker, at the bottom of the market on Toulon's Cours Lafayette, or Cade-Man Toulon and his small blue delivery tricycle fitted with a magnificent wood-fired oven, on Rue Paul Lendrin.

PANISSES MARSEILLAISES

You can buy these large, sausage-like pieces of dough from certain dairies and markets (Le Prado in Marseille). They are easy to cook: simply cuts the dough into slices and fry in a pan with plenty of oil. The best bit? The crispy - and yes, a bit greasy - golden crust. You'll also find panisses in the Estaque quarter to the West of Marseille, rubbing shoulders with three little chichi fregi stands selling these delicious long doughnuts smothered in sugar.

▼ Pois chiche - © R. Benaissa



A TASTE FOR EXCELLENCE

Exceptional products are legion in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and adorn every occasion, whether big or small. Let's revise our timeless tasty classics!

Fromagerie Banon



Apple des Cimes

PROVENCE | ALPES | CÔTE D'AZUR

A GOURMET VOYAGE TO GASTRONOMY VALLEY

Climb aboard for a wonderful voyage into regional gastronomy. And you won't devour kilometres here – we are fans of slow tourism, new encounters and sensory awakening! Offering an endless spectacle of vineyards, orchards, truffles, garlic, nougat and cheeses, the Rhône valley's culinary treasures are literally countless. The valley is at the crossroads to two regions covered by foodies: Burgundy and Provence. Created in 2019, the Gastronomy Valley concept fosters mouth-watering offers and experiences, all within 45 minutes of a highway exit (A6 / A7), with a total of 300 large or small producers, restaurateurs, artisans, farms and cultural sites promising to enchant the tastebuds...

Quality-certified offerings for curious foodies in Provence

Provence boasts 24 offerings and nine remarkable experiences bearing the prestigious "Vallée de la Gastronomie" (Gastronomy Valley) label, including small producers and artisans – like La Ferme du Brégalon's goat cheesemakers in Rogne, or nougat-maker Sylvain in Saint-Didier –, together with events such as "Les Vendanges Etoilées" in Cassis. An immersion in Camargue at Mas Saint-Germain ranch, a truffle-hunting weekend at Château de Massillan and wines & contemporary art at Château La Coste are among the memorable experiences on offer in this land of plenty. A valley good enough to eat! Inauguration Spring 2021.

www.valleedelagastronomie.com

BANON CHEESE

This little goat cheese was already a favourite delicacy of emperors back in Roman times. Made using soft curds moulded with a ladle, it is France's smallest AOP cheese in terms of volumes produced, alongside *Brousse de Rove*, with just 70 metric tons per year. It is dried for one to two months in chestnut leaves tied with natural raffia, where its aromas develop thanks to an alchemy of curd fermentation and leaf tannins. La Fromagerie de Banon, located in the village of Banon in the Alpes de Haute-Provence, collects 6 million leaves every year from the local chestnut groves to pamper its cheesy little treasures...

www.aoc-banon.com

www.fromagerie-banon.fr

ICE CIDER

"Apple des Cimes" – the Hautes-Alpes in a bottle! This innovative firm produces succulent syrupy drinks inspired by ice cider (a fermented beverage made from the juice of frozen apples), crowned with the prestigious "Hautes-Alpes Naturellement" label certifying that the fruit is harvested and processed in the Southern Alps. 4 kilos of apples (in particular white reinette apples, grown high up on the slopes of Petit Buech) are needed to obtain just 35 cl of "Pomme Givrée". The pressed juice is reduced using a cryoconcentration technique, followed by slow, natural fermentation. "Pomme givrée" is ideal served as an aperitif or after-dinner drink and also marries well with foie gras or white sausage. Served at numerous Michelin-starred gourmet restaurants, the "Pomme Givrée" 2021 vintage is also organic. The first of many!

www.appledescimes.fr

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

AOP OLIVE OILS

Provence's liquid gold... Awarded 5 AOP (Protected Designation of Origin) labels.

Huile d'Olive de Nice: This AOP label spans 99 towns in the Alpes-Maritimes area.

Huile d'Olive de Haute-Provence: This AOP label spans 95 towns and 4 areas - Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Bouches-du-Rhône, Var and Vaucluse.

Huile d'Olive de Provence: This AOP label spans the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Alpes-Maritimes, Bouches-du-Rhône, Var and Vaucluse, as well as several towns in Le Gard Rhodanien and a town in La Drôme Provençale.

Huile d'Olive d'Aix-en-Provence: This AOP label spans 73 towns - 70 in the Bouches-du-Rhône and 3 in the Var.

Huile d'Olive des Baux-de-Provence: This AOP label spans 16 towns in the Vallée des Baux-de-Provence in the heart of the Alpilles, to the North-East of the Bouches-du-Rhône.

Huile d'Olive de Nyons: Les Baronnies is the southernmost olive-growing area in France. The production area spans the South of La Drôme and North of Vaucluse (18 towns).

AN OLIVE OIL MUSEUM IN THE LUBERON

Entrepreneur, architect and winegrower Jean-Pierre Hugues at Domaine de la Royère in Oppède exhibits over a thousand lovingly-presented objects and tools on the theme of olive growing, against a beautiful backdrop of vines. The exhibition covers every aspect of the profession, from the tree to the harvest, sorting, weighing, grinding and pressing. His two ancient mills originating from Corsica and Fez offer visitors a particularly stirring sight.

The estate now boasts a working mill too, in operation from late November, so visitors will be able to see the olives being cold-pressed in front of their eyes...

Musée de l'Huile d'Olive - 84580 Oppède
www.museehuiledolive.com

LAVENDER HONEY

Spike lavender and true lavender grow wild in Provence and, of course, many beekeepers place their hives near lavender fields, especially on the Sault and Valensole plateaux. All types of lavender from the lavandula and mint family are melliferous (honey-producing) and sought-after by bees. Lavender flowers do not contain large amounts of pollen and their scent is subtle. But lavender honey has a plethora of health benefits: it soothes coughs, fights insomnia and helps treat burns, bronchitis, tonsillitis, flu, infected wounds, high blood pressure, etc. It is a natural antirheumatic, antispasmodic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory.

Apiland, Espace Muséographique Apicol - 05190 Rousset
www.apiland.com



Château Virant - Huile d'Olive



Musée de l'Huile d'Olive



© V. Pacaut - The Explorers

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

POUTARGUE

This food of kings has a powerful, even wild taste. Provence and in particular Martigues and the Rhône delta, produce tiny quantities of highly sought-after, delectable mullet *poutargue*, or bottarga, made from dried, salted mullet roe. Set on the quaysides of Port-de-Bouc port, the Conserverie Lou Mujou cannery offers it in butter, taramasalata and tapenade form, together with the classic "leg of poutargue". You can savour it cut into thin slices with the aperitif, or grated on spaghetti with parsley. A genuine energy bomb!

La Saveur des Calanques - 13110 Port-de-Bouc
www.saveurdescalanques.com

SAFFRON

The world's most expensive spice is one of the few grown in France, and at high altitudes. Bouillabaisse owes part of its mythical reputation to our very high-quality saffron. The crocus flowers bloom in autumn, unveiling their precious scarlet filaments, which are hand-picked then sorted and dried. And like all good things, saffron demands time and patience: 200 flowers are required to obtain just 1 gram of dried saffron! Between October 15th and November 15th, most of the region's saffron farms host tours by appointment. Not to be missed!



▲ Poutargues

SAFR'ÂNERIE

Lucien and his family are donkey drivers and saffron farmers. They sell their precious spice in traditional filaments, together with jellies, jams and a surprising saffron-scented cider vinegar, absolutely fabulous on shellfish! While you're visiting the Safr'ânerie, take time to stroll around Saint-Martin-de-Brômes and its magical river Colostre. And who knows, you might just fall in love with one of their 14 donkeys too - a discreet yet comical companion ideal for keeping your garden in check or lugging your gear when you head out for a hike. Last but not least, Lucien hosts donkey therapy sessions: according to him, donkeys are an ideal way to foster social ties...

Safr'ânerie - 04800 Saint-Martin de Brômes
safranerie.fr



▲ Saffron



▲ Truffle - © Zurn Seiller

BLACK TRUFFLE OR RABASSE

We call them Périgord truffles, but over half (60%) of the prestigious *tuber melanosporum* black truffles harvested in France come from Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur - from the Var, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence and, especially, Vaucluse. The world's two largest truffle markets are held here too, in Richerenches and Carpentras. The black nuggets hunted down in the soil to the North of Vaucluse and South of the Drôme bear the "Truffe Noire du Tricastin" AOC appellation. Maison Plantin, one of the globe's leading truffle merchants, has a truffle centre and shop there. The town of Aups, in the Verdon Regional Nature Reserve, also hosts a large black truffle market every Thursday morning from December to January. And when summer comes around, we love to feast on *tuber aestivum* white summer truffles: cooks covet this subtle, long-ignored little treasure. You can purchase it, among other places, at the Maison de la Truffe in Ménerbes, in the Luberon.

Maison de la Truffe et du Vin - 84560 Ménerbes Luberon
www.vintruffeluberon.com

Maison de la Truffe - 83630 Aups Verdon
maisondelatruffe-verdon.fr



▲ Truffle - © AD04 - P. Murtas

AOC WINES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Bandol, Bellet, Cassis: some of France's most famous Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) wines are found in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Digs have shown that vines were grown in Marseille even before Ancient Greek sailors – the Phocaeans – moored here in circa 600 BC.

Downloadable apps galore! The cellars and tasting rooms of the region's winegrowers are often – of course – lost in the vines! Use our apps to locate them, along with local merchants, wine bars, restaurants and guided tours.

Destinations Vins de Provence app
www.vinsdeprovence.com

Vin Rhône Tourisme app



▲ Cassis – © OT Cassis

PROVENCE | ALPES | CÔTE D'AZUR

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape is the cradle of the AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée) label. In 1923, a union was formed to defend the unique character of this little territory in Vaucluse, blessed by gods and popes alike. In fact, its wines are even nicknamed "Wines of the Popes". The first official Châteauneuf-du-Pape terroir was recorded under the pontificate of Clement VI, in 1344, and Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Cassis were among France's first 5 AOCs, crowned on May 15th, 1936. Since 2019, the 18 grape varieties and particularly-complex winemaking techniques required to produce Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines have been listed as French Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Vins Châteauneuf-du Pape
www.chateauneuf.com

CASSIS

Alongside Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cassis was the first AOC wine to be distinguished in Provence, in 1936. The town's flagship white wines are grown mainly on terraces at altitudes of 10 to 150 metres in the Gulf and Bay of Cassis. The main Cassis grape varieties are Marsanne (60%) and Clairette.

Vins de Cassis
www.ot-cassis.com

BELLET

Set on the heights of Nice, this is the only French terroir located entirely in a city. Its 143 acres span nine vineyards and produce intense and heady white and red wines.

Vins de Nice
www.vindenice.com

BANDOL

Colourful tributes to the Mourvèdre grape, the fine wines of Bandol are the epitome of panache. They are often considered as "grand cru" wines, due to the diversity of their soil, very old vines and obligatory ageing in oak casks for at least 18 months. The Bandol appellation also produces excellent rosés.

Vin de Bandol
www.vinsdebandol.com

THE RESILIENT MOLLARD GRAPE

Mollard, grown at the foot of the mountains, is a heritage grape variety that is regaining popularity with winegrowers due to rising temperatures. Abandoned in the late 19th century, this high Alpine grape – whose name means small mountain – was first replanted by Marc Allemand from Domaine de Théus, where its spicy notes grace a variety of wines. Mollard vines are adorned with large leaves, allowing the grapes to ripen gently and accumulate less sugar than other varieties. Mollard is typically found in "Vins des Hautes-Alpes" IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) wines, grown on 320 acres of slopes overlooking the Durance river.

Domaine Allemand - 05190 Théus
www.domaine-allemand.com



■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

A NEW VINEYARD IN THE SOUTHERN LUBERON

Located near Ansouis, the 17th-century walls of Château de Sannes rise up among magnificent, French-style gardens and 183 acres of vines and olive groves. The Château owner, Pierre Gattaz, is gradually opening up his superb abode to wine buffs and wedding receptions. The delightful winery and cellar were inaugurated in 2020, together with an educational trail and host of activities including singing lessons, yoga in the vines, nature walks, introductions to beekeeping, windmill tours, outdoor concerts and musical aperitifs...

Château de Sannes - 84240 Sannes
www.chateaudesannes.fr



Château de Sannes ▶▶



A BRAND-NEW WINERY IN SAINT-TROPEZ

The Torpez cooperative, bringing together 130 winegrowers from the Gulf of Saint-Tropez, now boasts an impressive new winery located at 111 Route des Plages. Vines painted red, courtesy of artist Jean-Jacques Pigeon, embellish the hall leading to a spacious terrace and patio perfect for all types of event. The vast shop sells an excellent range of wines, including “La Bravade”, plus limited editions sporting the famous “Gendarme de Saint-Tropez” label. And by the way, the blue van that appears in the famous movie series should soon be back in service, ready to whisk visitors off to this impressive ochre-coloured building on the outskirts of the town...

La Torpez - 83990 Saint-Tropez
www.torpez.com



ARTS & CRAFTS

LOCAL BUSINESSES, LIVING HERITAGE

Here in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, we love creating and showing off our time-honoured know-how. Here's a little taster of the many artisans that welcome visitors with open arms (while respecting the health & safety guidelines of course...).

Entreprise et Découverte
www.entrepriseetdecouverte.fr



◀ Nougat Sylvain

■ PROVENCE

NOUGATERIE SILVAIN, LOCAL HERITAGE TO SAVOUR

The Silvain family are proud of their dual identity as confectioners and farmers. Their nougat factory in Saint-Didier, at the foot of Mont Ventoux in the Vaucluse area, uses almonds from their fields and honey from their hives... Their fifteen legendary recipes come mainly from their grandmother Henriette. But the family is creative too and this year heralds the launch of their new energy bars made with olives and Camargue fleur de sel. You'll find a range of both sweet and savoury nougats on offer, including white nougat with truffles or olives, perfect as an appetizer. You can book a tour on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., winding up with a tasting session bang on time for the aperitif!

Silvain Paysans Nougatiers - 84210 Saint-Didier
nougats-silvain.fr

MATHIEU LUSTRIERIE, LIGHTING UP THE WORLD

Raedy to be dazzled? Then hop over to the Ateliers Mathieu Lustrerie. Exceptional craftsmen restore and create several hundred light fittings every year at this enlightening establishment, set inside an old ochre factory in Gargas, near Apt in the Luberon. A family business, managed by Régis Mathieu since the Nineties, the workshop is coupled with a lighting museum and classic car collection - Régis' other passion. A genuine firework display of know-how, knowledge and elegance.

Mathieu Lustrerie - 84400 Gargas
www.mathieulustrerie.com



▶ Mathieu Lustrerie

PROVENCE

LA FILAVENTURE, A FEEL FOR NOBLE FIBRES

Visitors learn all about fine wool manufacturing during a tour of the extraordinary “Musée sensoriel des fibres nobles” (Noble fibre sensory museum), set inside the firm’s walls, while getting a feel for the dexterity and expertise required to appreciate the finesse of cashmere, or hunt down the northern hemisphere’s most delicate wool: merino wool from our very own town of Arles! The shop offers a range of irresistible creations, from felt pencil cases to gorgeous plaids.

La Filaventure Brun de Vian-Tiran - 84800 Isle-sur-la-Sorgue
www.lafilaventure.com
www.brundeviantiran.com

LES TOILES DU LARGE, SAILS AND SECOND-HAND

When her friend returned from a sailing trip around the world, Anne Couderc decided to make bags out of the sails, complete with “scars” from the adventure. Since then, Les Toiles du Large, founded in La Ciotat in 2006, has never ceased to expand, while honouring its commitment to social and solidarity-based work ethics. A bag made out of their sails is offered to each donor as a reward, and the six team members also work with ESATs (organizations that help disabled people return to work). The two Workshop-Boutiques, located next to the shipyards in La Ciotat where the firm is based and under the arches or Cathédrale de la Major in Marseille, can be visited on request.

Les Toiles du Large - 13600 La Ciotat
www.lesstoilesdularge.com



Filaventure Brun de Vian-Tiran ▶



▶ Toile du Large - © Voile

CÔTE D'AZUR

VERRERIE DE BIOT, THE ART OF BUBBLES

A Living Heritage firm (EPV), the Verrerie de Biot® invented bubble glass in 1956, turning what was considered until then as a defect into a quality. Each piece of tableware – glasses, carafes, pitchers and plates – is unique and mouth-blown by a master glassmaker, promising to bring joy and good humour to every table. Visitors to the Verrerie de Biot enjoy seeing the creation process in action and can opt for a tour of the International Glass Gallery, exhibiting works by internationally-renowned artists. Last but not least, the Verrerie also hosts discovery courses.

Verrerie de Biot - 06410 Biot
www.verrieriebiot.com



▶ © V. Pacaut - The Explorers

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

SPOTLIGHT: "ABSOLUE PAYS DE GRASSE"

How to capture the intangible essence of a scent? Drawn by the quality of the roses, jasmine, tuberose, irises and other flowers grown in the region, many perfume manufacturers settled in Grasse in the mid-19th century, where they perfected, in particular, the processes used to extract the essence – also referred to as "absolute" – of the local perfume flowers. In late 2020, their art was recognized by the French National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), which now rewards plants grown, picked and processed in the Alpes-Maritimes, Var and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence areas with an "Absolue Pays de Grasse" IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) quality label. This prestigious distinction also marks the 2-year anniversary of UNESCO's recognition of the region's perfumery know-how as part of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition to the art of perfume composition, this priceless know-how includes perfume plant growing, knowledge of raw materials and extraction techniques.

Les savoir-faire liés aux parfums Pays de Grasse
savoirfaireparfum.paysdegrasse.fr



▲ Cueillette Roses - © A. Issock

THE CÔTE D'AZUR FRANCE BRAND MAKES ITS MARK

The "Côte d'Azur France" brand now has its very own collection: a range of iconic products manufactured under license or co-branded in collaboration with a variety of local talents. This exciting new range features all the essentials – perfumes courtesy of Fragonard or olive oils by Saint-Michel in Menton – , plus novel discoveries such as Eccity's electric scooters. There's always something new in the pipeline: the range is growing by the month and now offers capsule collections too. Nice-born Éric Garence drew his inspiration from the symbols of the Côte d'Azur – olive leaves, palm trees, and the Mediterranean Sea and sunshine – to create the brand logo. Lifestyle products on the holiday and travel theme are now based around the motto "Côte d'Azur France, I enhance everything I touch".

www.boutique-cotedazurfrance.fr



■ ALPES

THE FLOUKA FARM, WEAVING DESTINY

The Arnaud family set up home in Le Dévoluy to breed sheep way back in 1817. Two hundred years later, Sébastien and his sister Séverine began producing merino knitting wool. Its fibre (the finest of all wools at around 18 microns) offers warmth, softness and natural comfort. The wool is sheared on site, washed without chemicals and spun in France. The duo are the only people in France selling cones or balls of merino wool using short distribution circuits. They also host creative pom pom workshops, farm tours and tractor rides. In Le Dévoluy, a region home to many sheep (25,000 sheep and around forty breeders), the animal that leads the herd is traditionally referred to as the Flouka – a name adopted by the farm and its fabulous "Flouka 100% Devoluy" creations and organic cotton duvets.

La Ferme Flouka - 05250 Le Dévoluy
www.flouka.fr



▲ Flouka - © ADT05

STAR PLANTS

We come across them on every path and encounter them on our plate, in the air and even on our skin. From the calanques fjords to the Southern Alps, our green and tender-hearted southern plants – lavender, thyme, rosemary, fennel and more – make life better, healthier and tastier...

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

IN A SLAB

WILD GARLIC

Fromagerie de la Durance in Guillestre swept up a gold medal at the prestigious “Concours International de Lyon” thanks to its “Le Fruichier” raclette cheese made with cow’s milk flavoured with *allium ursinum* – wild garlic that brightens up our forests with its white petals in spring.

La Fromagerie de la Durance - 05600 Guillestre
www.fromageriedeladurance.fr

IN POTS

APPLEBERRY, ROSEHIP & BARBERRY...

Sébastien Chosson, an “artisan gatherer” from Queyras, creates innovative, vitamin-packed products with his pickings, including hyssop sugar, rosehip vinegar cream, wild rosehip “quey’tchup” and larch flower jelly... With the region’s harsh climate, poor soils, low temperatures and short growing season, plants that manage to grow here have strength of character. And its shows: their flavours are delicate-yet-powerful and their colours – bright red rosehips, pink barberry and orange sea buckthorn – are dazzling.

Cueillette en Queyras

 [cueilletteenqueyras](https://www.facebook.com/cueilletteenqueyras)



◀ Ail des Ours - © Istock



▲ Fromagerie de la Durance - © JL. Armand

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

IN A BOTTLE

Thyme - also nicknamed *farigoule*, together with mint, clary sage and mugwort - are used to flavour the region's delicate syrups and spirits - including our iconic pastis!

PASTIS GARAGAI

A young producer from Aix, Maixent Dubois distils plants gathered at the foot of Sainte-Victoire mountain. Aficionados snatched up his 300 bottles of slightly-sweet, minty pastis in 2019 and the 2020 vintage has been ready to savour since last November.

Distillerie Garagai - 13142 Puylobier
distillerie-garagai.fr

PASTIS HENRI BARDOUIN

The "Concours Général Agricole" 2020 gold medal winner! According to connoisseurs, this pastis is made with up to 65 macerated, distilled and blended plants and spices. Its thyme, rosemary, sage and mugwort come from Lure mountain (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence).

Distilleries et Domaines de Provence - 04300 Forcalquier
www.distilleries-provence.com

LIQUEURS - THYME, VERBENA, MINT & MORE...

Marco Fari uses water from the Groseau spring, flowing at the foot of Mont Ventoux, to distil local plants such as thyme and elderflower using an Alsatian copper still dating back to 1954.

Distillerie Fari - 84110 Vaison-la-Romaine
www.distillieriefari.com

ORANGE & BITTER ORANGE ECOMUSEUM IN VALLAURIS

This new ecomuseum was created by the Nerolium producers' cooperative. Founded in 1904, the cooperative takes its name from the essential oil of bitter orange, or neroli: a natural fixative widely used in perfumery. About forty farmers located between Juan-les-Pines and Vallauris continue to pick the blossom of bitter orange trees by hand every May. Orange blossom water is a by-product of distillation: it takes one metric ton of flowers to obtain 700 litres of this hydrosol, with its powerful and delicate fragrance. Used in cosmetics and cooking alike, "Made in France" orange blossom water is a genuine marvel you can relish all year round.

L'écomusée de l'oranger-bigaradier in Vallauris
 06220 Golfe-Juan
www.vallaurisgolfejuan-tourisme.fr



AS A BEAUTY TREATMENT

STONE PINE

An emblem of Queyras, this conifer plays a major role in the flagship treatments of the Alta Peyra hotel spa in Saint-Véran. Warm marbles made from its wood are used for face and body massages for a zen experience to remember at this charming hotel comprising seven log cabins... Built in stone pine of course.

Hôtel Alta Peyra**** - 05350 Saint-Véran
www.lvh-vacances.com



◀ Henri Bardouin

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

WHITE PINE

A talented soap maker and geomorphologist, Clément gathers white pine (common fir) needles, which he distils to extract the essential oil used to make his O'Soap soaps. Mild and rich in shea butter, these soaps also tell the story of his beloved forest in Le Dévoluy, in the Southern Alps. You'll find them, among other places, at Petit Gallou, the extraordinary grocery store located on Joue du Loup mountain.

O'Soap - 05250 Le Dévoluy
www.osoaplaboutique.com

LARCH FLOWER

A subtle ally in the kitchen, larch flower is known as the flower of self-confidence in Bach Flower remedies. It is also renowned for boosting drive and faith in one's abilities, and helping overcome negative feelings. Daisy, the creator of Fée des Bulles, grew up among the larch trees in the Mont Viso nature reserve in Queyras. She uses arnica, Scots pine, calendula (marigold) and edelweiss to make her cold-pressed soaps and 100% -natural, organic and zero-waste cosmetics.

Fée des Bulles - 05460 Abriès-Ristolas
www.fee-des-bulles.com

IN A BUNCH

MISS TRUC'S ORGANIC HERBS

The Truc family has lived in Esparron-de-Pallières, between Saint-Victoire mountain and Sainte-Croix lake, since 1919. Elodie Truc embarked on the Truc & Co adventure in 2016, when she began growing organic Herbes de Provence. Everything from planting to drying is done on site. You'll find her little sprigs of rosemary and thyme in organic grocery stores in Digne, Manosque, Aix and Toulon. And if you're passing through Esparron and see an old tractor in the hamlet of Les Plaines du Grand, make sure you stop off to say hello!

Truc & Co - 83560 Esparron-de-Pallières
www.truc-co.fr

EVERYTHING ABOUT MOUNTAIN PLANTS

Kitted out with snowshoes in winter and hiking boots in summer, Virginie Romette, a mountain guide and keen ethnobotanist, leads visitors on exciting forays into the Hautes-Alpes mountains to meet with the local alpine flora. Her delightful discovery packages combine botanical walks, plant gathering and transformation, and include accommodation at hand-picked locations such as the hamlet of Bramousse at the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve. Virginie also offers year-round "back to basics" adventures, where guests can camp out or stay at a refuge.

Nature ma compagne - 05600 Risoul
naturemacompagne.com



↳ Larch Flower - © P. Domeyne



↳ Hand-Pick Thyme - © CRT



BREATHS OF FRESH AIR

A WIND OF CHANGE ON MONT VENTOUX

A genuine territory unto itself, Mont Ventoux, nicknamed the “Giant of Provence” and its vicinity have now become the **Ventoux Regional Nature Reserve**. And that’s excellent news for this mythical mountain soaring to a height of 1,909 metres, as well as its 150 species of nesting birds, 500 or so species of butterfly, 1,500 plant varieties and, of course, its 88,000 inhabitants. These various wonders span 35 towns, all graced with breathtaking landscapes: Toulourenc gorge, Sault plateau and the world-famed bald or snow-capped summit of Mont Ventoux itself. The beauty, isolation, biodiversity and legendary climbing routes of this magnificent site have hoisted it to worldwide fame and earned the affection of pilgrims, botanists, entomologists, hikers, skiers and cyclists alike. A UNESCO biosphere reserve since 1990, Mont Ventoux is now France’s 55th Regional Nature Reserve and the 9th located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur.

www.ventouxprovence.fr/en/home.html

PROVENCE

ALL-TERRAIN ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

How about exploring the southern slopes of Mont Ventoux on an all-terrain electric scooter? The pedigree of the man behind the Trotrx brand trotrx.com is positively awe-inspiring: Christian Taillefer, a cross-country mountain biking professional and passionate fan of the Luberon, Vaucluse and Ventoux, is several-times French cross-country and downhill mountain biking champion and the mountain bike speed world record holder on snow. His scooters are easy to use and very pleasant to drive even on flatter terrains than those favoured by the champion. Their battery life is approximately 2.5 hours. Trotee Cime is located at the foot of Mont Ventoux, in the Vaucluse area.

Trotee Cime – 84570 Mormoiron
www.troteecime.com

A NEW WAX MUSEUM DEDICATED TO LAVENDER

The Lavandoscope at the Aroma’plantes distillery in Sault now welcomes a fascinating “Time gallery” too... Wax characters are used to illustrate ancient lavender trades at this “mini Madame Tussaud’s” open 7/7 free of charge, on the road to Mont Ventoux.

Aroma’plantes
www.distillerie-aromaplantes.com



▲ Mont Ventoux - © A. Mouton

LAND ART TRAIL

The astonishing signposted trail winding its way around the foot of the northern slopes of Mont Ventoux is dotted with works and installations by international artists in residence. The trail, starting out from the village bakery, begins with a small climb – but it’s well worth your trouble: you’ll soon come across hanging sails, blue trees, staring eyes, a lady in a hat and bizarre creatures inspired by the natural scenery of Ventoux... A reconstruction of the last coalmine in Ventoux appears around the bend, standing witness to six centuries of the mountain’s history. The poetic stroll lasts about an hour.

Sentier Land Art
www.vaison-ventoux-tourisme.com

TOUR DE FRANCE 2021: HONOURING MONT VENTOUX

Wednesday July 7th: this year’s racers will be departing from the little town of Sorgues, between Avignon and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and arriving in Malaucène. On the programme: a dual ascension of Mont Ventoux, via Sault then Bédoin, plus a bonus for the final section: a 9-10% climb not once but twice from Chalet Reynard to the limestone summit! A first in the history of the Tour de France and a fabulous way to honour the Mont Ventoux site, now a cherished Regional Nature Reserve.

www.letour.fr

MAGICAL CHÂTEAUX & GARDENS

From the shores of the Med all the way to the Alps, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region overflows with flowers, fragrances and greenery. Today, we're just sowing some seeds... But we're pretty sure they'll bloom into an irresistible desire to explore!

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

SECRETIVE REMARKABLE GARDENS

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's 50 official "Remarkable Gardens" all have their little secrets... Welcome to our botanical gardens, perfume gardens, Riviera gardens, vegetable gardens, artist gardens, water gardens and prestige gardens...

www.parcsetjardinspaca.com

■ PROVENCE

POPES' PALACE GARDENS, A PLUNGE INTO HISTORY...

The Avignon Popes used to access these two gardens, nurtured back to their former beauty, directly from their quarters. Plants that were very commonly-found in the 14th century, such as sagebrush or rosemary, now thrive in the 1,250 m² Jardin Benoît XII, crisscrossed by 14th-century canals. In addition, the Jardin du Pape (662 m²) has re-found its ancient flowering meadow, monumental pergola and Griffon fountain. Breathtaking.

www.palais-des-papes.com

PROVENCE CHÂTEAUX & GARDENS ROUTE

The 2020 edition of the "Route des Châteaux et Jardins en Provence" encourages visitors to enjoy a new kind of holiday experience and honours the picturesque roads and secret little lanes connecting six châteaux between the Luberon and Verdon areas, between Pays d'Aix and Haute-Provence.

Route des Châteaux et des Jardins de Provence

www.routechateauxprovence.com



© M. Rogliano

Château Saint Martin de Pallières ▶



© CRT



Popes' Palace Gardens - © L. Lucas ▶

PROVENCE

CHÂTEAU DE LA BARBEN FUTURE PROVENCE PARK – PICTURESQUE!

Château de la Barben is starting a new chapter in its 1,000-year existence. And what a challenge! This splendid building, dating back partly to the 12th century, was the former property of King René and love nest of Pauline Borghese. Thanks to its new owner, Vianney Audemard d'Alançon, it is about to become the centrepiece of the Rocher Mistral park dedicated to the history of Provence. The project includes an amusement park, shows inspired by Provençal culture, a reconstructed village and two restaurants. Vines, almond trees and olive trees, plus the creation of a vegetable garden, are also in the pipeline. 30 million euros have been invested in the project, which could create 400 jobs for inhabitants living in the Salon-de-Provence and Saint-Cannat areas. Vianney d'Alançon, aged 37, has already successfully revived the fortress of Saint-Vidal in Auvergne. **Opening June 2021.**

Le Rocher Mistral, 13330 La Barben
www.rochermistral.com



CAMARGO FOUNDATION IN CASSIS – INSPIRING!

Some of the inhabitants of Cassis have never even heard of it! This terraced park overlooking the Med was designed by the American patron and filmmaker Jerome Hill from 1939 onwards. At the time, only a small cottage built by Napoleon stood on the site. Its goal? To foster creativity... And there's no doubt about it: the views over Cape Canaille and the port of Cassis, together with 6,000 m² of veteran Aleppo pines and blue cedars, certainly are inspiring. The one-hour guided tour includes a replica of the Theatre of Delphi, together with insights into the Camargo Foundation's various initiatives. A residence for artists, researchers and international minds alike, the foundation works in close collaboration with Calanques National Park. A not-to-be-missed multifaceted marvel!

Fondation Camargo – 13260 Cassis
www.camargofoundation.org



▲ Fondation Camargo

PROVENCE | CÔTE D'AZUR

DOMAINE DU RAYOL – COSMOPOLITAN!

This Mediterranean Garden, designed by botanist Gilles Clément as part of a 50-acre coastal property bordering set facing the Golden Islands, is a genuine masterpiece. The perfect place for a relaxing stroll or reverie, it also hosts a whole palette of surprising activities. For example, at the start of every year, Rayol's botany guides invite visitors on a mimosa world tour... Domaine du Rayol is home to around fifty of the 1,200 species of this fragrant acacia adorned with yellow pompoms. Alternatively, from spring break onwards, visitors can indulge in tree-climbing at no extra cost. Led by an instructor equipped with ropes, this activity is designed to raise environmental awareness by allowing visitors to get up close and personal with the estate's magnificent trees. And those are just two examples of the exciting activities on offer!

Domaine du Rayol – 83820 Rayol-Canadel-Sur-Mer
www.domainedurayol.org



▲ Domaine du Rayol

■ ALPES

JARDIN DU LAUTARET – INFORMATIVE!

The Lautaret Botanical Garden, perched at an altitude of 2,100 metres, is home to around 2,000 alpine plants from around the world, together with a CNRS (National Centre of Scientific Research) and Grenoble Alps University research station. Every year, dozens of researchers study come here to study the impact of climate change, tourism and agriculture. Visitors emerge from the “Discovery and Sciences” itinerary and Alpe gallery with a whole new set of knowledge.

www.jardinalpindulautaret.fr

Located near La Meije, the welcoming Logis Le Faranchin hotel offers plant discovery tours in the delightful company of mountain guide, geologist and earth sciences professor Anne Zanolin. The tours include a visit to Jardin du Lautaret garden and the honey maker, where you can even learn to make your own honey balm. Botany fans can opt for a longer course lasting 2 nights / 3 days, priced at €306 per person with full board in a superior room overlooking La Meije. The “Bureau des Guides” in La Grave also hosts half-day hikes.

www.guidelagrave.com

Hotel Le Faranchin

www.lefaranchin.com



▲▲ Jardin du Lautaret – © B. Bodin – P. Domeyne

DOMAINE DE GAP-CHARANCE PANORAMIC!

Situated in the Hautes-Alpes, the Gap-Charance National Alpine Botanical Conservatory is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its efforts to safeguard alpine flora. The Conservatory works hand-in-hand with the Domaine de Gap-Charance, offering sweeping vistas over the town of Gap and mountains. Its terraced garden, now listed, sports the prestigious “Remarkable Garden” label. It is also home to an English-style garden spanning 544 acres hectares of forests, meadows and an exceptional collection of apple trees, pear trees and heirloom roses. Among the 600 varieties of roses on show, many planted prior to 1914 exhale heady scents you won’t find anywhere else...

Domaine de Charance – 05000 Gap

www.gap-tallard-vallees.fr



▲ Domaine de Charance – © OT GTV

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

Their freedom makes soar, their song soothes our soul and observing them plunges us into the world of wildlife... Birding is everyone's favourite pastime, especially in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur!



© V. Pacaut - The Explorers

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

HAUTE-PROVENCE ORNITHOLOGICAL RESERVE

Although Camargue is a must-do during your stay, the "Réserve Ornithologique de Haute-Provence" (Haute-Provence Ornithological Reserve) is also well worth going out of your way for. Poised at the confluence of the Durance and Bléone rivers, at Château-Arnoux, the reserve spans L'Escale and Joël Siguret lakes in Les Mées and the Malijai reservoir, and is home to around 140 bird species. The Bléone is the only river in the French Alps that pans out into channels, offering a fabulous playground for our feathery friends! The various guest lodgings dotted around the reserve have all set up LPO (Bird Protection League) shelters and promote favourable conditions for wild fauna and flora. They have also banned chemical products and hunting – a treat for us holidaying humans too!

paca.lpo.fr

WINGED WALKS WITH THE BIRD PROTECTION LEAGUE

Birds are stealthy, fast, discreet and always on the move in the branches, grass or sky, so birding requires all our attention. And that's a good thing, because, as naturalist François Sarano (Aix-Marseille University) explains: "Observing and focusing are the only ways to enter into the world of wildlife. When you truly see what's around you, a whole new world comes into existence". The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur LPO (Bird Protection League) offers a variety of ornithology walks, in particular in the Haute Provence Ornithological Reserve, with over 600 excursions every year. Nature fans also get a chance to make their own contribution to the environment, for example by observing the local dragonflies...

paca.lpo.fr



© V. Pacaut - The Explorers

2021 IS MICRO ADVENTURE YEAR!

It's a huge trend! There's no need to travel far to discover extraordinary sites and return home with the impression you've achieved something big. For example, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's Mercantour and Buëch areas really are just as sexy as Costa Rica! Not to mention your carbon footprint... What does a micro adventure consist of? It means leaving room for the unexpected and, preferably, spending a night on site to better immerse yourself in these beautiful little corners of the world, right at our door...

PROVENCE

JUST HANGING IN THE ESTÉREL

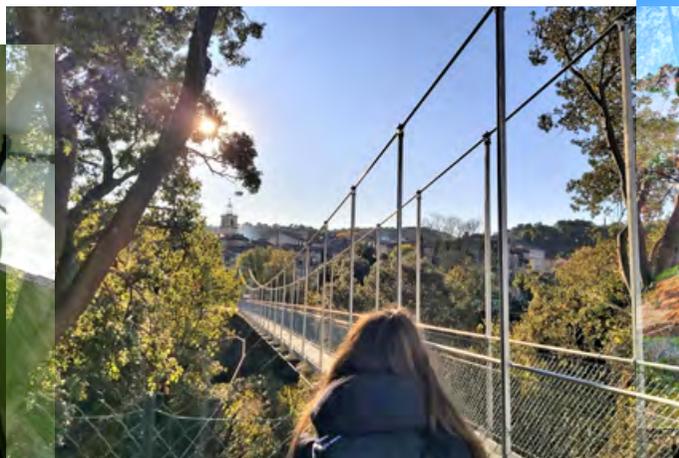
The portaledge is a platform framed by a metal structure that climbers anchor securely on relays attached to the rock face, allowing them to rest in the middle of a climbing route. Adventure-lovers can now test the experience first hand in the Estérel hills or Verdon Canyon thanks to climbing instructor Jonathan Bargibant. No knowledge of rock climbing is required and climbers abseil their way down to the platform. What's more, the instructor sleeps nearby for added safety. However, it's obviously best not to be afraid of heights or suffer from vertigo... For 2 to 3 people, €140 per night.

Vertical Evasion
www.vertical-evasion.fr

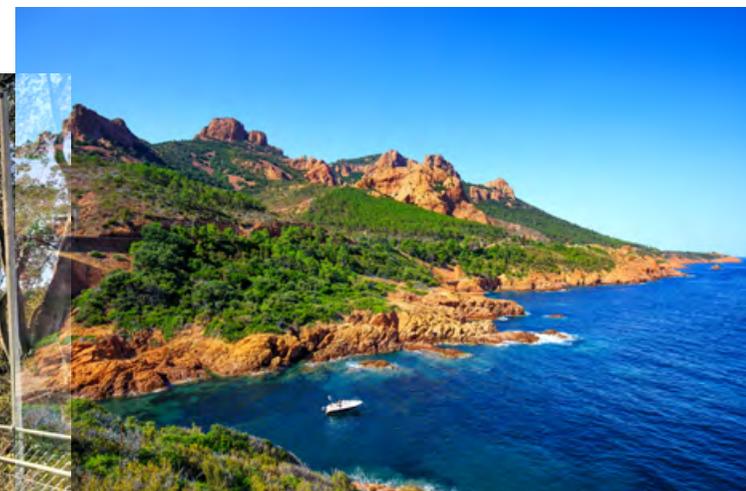
TRANCE IN TRANS-EN-PROVENCE

A 70-meter-long Himalayan footbridge will soon be suspended over the Nartuby, a splendid river crossing Trans-en-Provence, dotted with several waterfalls. Around twenty mills and ancient bridges formerly adorned this beautiful village in Dracénie (an area between the Verdon and Provence, originating from *Dracenois*, the name given to the inhabitants of Draguignan). From summer 2021, you'll be able to admire the river again from the dizzy heights of the new bridge. Mesmerizing...

Dracénie Provence Verdon
www.tourisme-dracenie.com



▲ Passerelle himalayenne



▲ Esterel - © Fotolia

PROVENCE | ALPES

SAINT-MICHEL OBSERVATORY: A NEW PLANETARIUM IN THE VILLAGE OF STARS

The world's first exoplanet – a planet located outside our solar system – was pinpointed here in 1995. The ground-breaking discovery of this hot Jupiter, baptized 51 Pegasi b, located in the Pegasus constellation 40 light years from Earth, earned researchers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz a Nobel Prize for Physics. Europe's largest astronomy centre for many years, this superb site in Haute-Provence, perched at an altitude of 600 metres in the beautiful Luberon, boasts one of the purest skies in Europe. Resembling a genuine artist's sculpture, the impressive parabolic dome of the new 69-seater planetarium rises up today between the surrounding linear constructions. Sessions are scheduled for take-off on July 15th, 2021.

Centre Astronomique - 04170 Saint-Michel-L'Observatoire
www.centre-astro.com



▲ Planétarium

GEOLOGICAL ADVENTURE APP

Geology is quite an adventure, especially in the Southern Alps! From past upheavals (earthquakes, ice ages, extinction) to today's tribulations (fossil trafficking, ichthyosaur smuggling, or 200 million year-old sea anemones torn from their rocks...), this new app uses police investigative techniques to introduce the general public to four remarkable geosites in the Alpes de Haute-Provence. And there's plenty of suspense... Budding detectives are provided with all the clues they need to hunt down the site's ammonites (La Dalle aux ammonites, Dignes-Bains), sirenians (Castellane) and the coveted "young ladies with hats" (Les Penitents des Mées) rock formations.

App Aventure Géologique
aventuregeologique.com



▲ Pénitent Mées - ©L. Lagarde

BIVOUACKING IN THE VERDON CANYON WITH ACTIVE-ROAD

On the adrenaline front, Active-Road adventures are on a par with the greatest expeditions. The weekend kicks off in the Verdon Canyon with a climbing route along the cliffs, complete with handrails, a monkey bridge and abseiling, followed by bivouacking in the heart of Europe's largest canyon.

active-road.com



▲ Verdon - © A. Mouton

■ ALPES

THE HIGHEST NIGHT IN FRANCE

A starry night to remember – but you'll need to earn it! The adventure takes place at the Saint-Véran observatory, perched at an altitude of 2,936 metres under Pic de Château Renard. A thousand metres separate this observatory – the highest in Europe – from Saint-Véran, often referred to as Europe's highest village. You can complete the climb on foot in four to five hours in summer, or six hours with snowshoes or cross-country skis in winter. Don't forget your GPS, AVD, shovel, probe, IGN map and camp stove, or – better still – opt for a qualified mountain guide. Make sure you book ahead too – the address is very popular. Although the observatory only has three rooms for up to twelve guests, the on-site scientists greet you with a smile in both summer and winter. After the tour of the observatory and presentation on energy autonomy and eco-friendly construction techniques, it's time to get to the heart of the matter: the telescopic dome. Its 500 mm telescope offers unbeatable deep sky observation, complete with star clusters, planets, comets, nebulae and galaxies. At dawn, you can even see the magical "green ray" arching over the Alps.

Les Nuits de l'Observatoire – 05450 Saint-Véran – Queyras
www.saintveran-astronomie.com



▲ Observatoire de Saint-Véran – © G. Vallot

■ PROVENCE | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

MINI WORLD CÔTE D'AZUR

How about a casual stroll between the *calanques* fjords and Promenade des Anglais just a few metres away, coupled with a bird's eye view of the Côte d'Azur's iconic sites and monuments? Opening on February 3rd, 2021, this fabulous new miniature world in La Valette-du-Var near Toulon promises to enchant all the family. If you've got an eye for detail, you'll enjoy hunting down different characters hidden among the dozens of little figures sunbathing on Pampelonne beach or climbing the Verdon cliffs. History buffs will love trying their hand at operating the cable-car at Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde Basilica in Marseille, while beach bums will simply want to stare at the waves lapping Mediterranean shores... The talented model workshop craftsmen spent nearly 70,000 hours painstakingly reproducing each monument dotted around the 2,000 m² park on a scale of 1:87. Projections, lights, sounds and even smells ensure the experience is as lifelike as possible. The park shop – the Geek Store – offers thousands of toys, figurines and pop culture merch. Richard Richarté, the site's creator, was spurred on by the success of Mini-World Lyon launched five years ago. Just for the anecdote, this entrepreneur, also the creator of the Jeuxvideo.fr franchise in 2000, aims to "Get teens away from the virtual world" with his mini worlds.

Mini World Côte d'Azur – 83160 La Valette-du-Var
miniworldcotedazur.com



▲ Mini World Côte d'Azur – Le Belem à Saint Tropez

JUST CHILLING' IN THE OCHRE GALLERIES

Crisscrossed with 40 km of underground galleries at a constant temperature of 10°C and topped with a magnificent fawn-coloured entrance, this former ochre quarry whisks visitors away on a colourful tour unique in Europe, where they can stroll over the water table and admire jade reflections dancing on the ochre walls... Ochre – a coloured clay rich in iron – has been used for decorative purposes since prehistoric times. Today, it is also employed in cosmetics. The "Société des Ogres de France" in Apt operates the last ochre quarry in Europe, located in Gargas. You'll find plenty of souvenirs to take home at the showroom too!

www.provenceguide.com



▲ Ochre – © CRT

HAPPY HIKING

What could possibly be better than a region lapped by azure-blue waters for walking, running, getting a breath of fresh air and letting off steam? Home to 4 national parks, 9 regional nature reserves and around 15,000 km of hiking trails caressed by the Mistral wind and dazzling sunshine, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is a genuine paradise for walkers and hikers!



▲ © DR - CRT

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

OVER 15,000 KILOMETRES TO ROAM

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is home to over 15,000 kilometres of signposted hiking trails, maintained by over 600 volunteers. Each of the region's administrative areas boasts around 3,000 km of long and short-distance trails indicated by white, red or yellow markings, leading from seaside coves to mountain refuges, alpine pastures or lakes... Stretching from the hinterland of Grasse to the Rhône Valley, the GR4 long-distance trail crosses Valensole plateau, the Luberon, Mont Ventoux and the Verdon.

IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

Head to the ends of the world on the region's captivating long-distance trails, leading from mountain gites to refuges, far from the madding crowds... The "Grand Tour des Écrins" www.grand-tour-ecrins.fr allows hikers to explore Ecrins National Park in 2 to 15 days, with a choice of 17 itineraries, while the "Grande Traversée du Mercantour" www.mongr.fr crosses the Haut-Verdon, Haut-Var, Tinée, Vésubie, Roya and Bévéra. The "Grande Traversée des PréAlpes" www.rando-alpes-haute-provence.fr, running from Sisteron to Entrevaux through the landscapes of Haute-Provence and Europe's highest Regional Nature Reserve, is a must for hikers, snowshoers and mountain bikers alike.



Transhumance - Routo - © P. Fabre - AD04 ▶

MEANINGFUL WALKING

If you enjoy combining culture with contemplation, you'll love hiking on our ancient transhumance routes (the paths used for the traditional seasonal migration of flocks), venturing along the coastal footpaths formerly used by customs officers to look out for smugglers, following in the footsteps of pilgrims on the Roman Road or Camino de Santiago, retracing the route of Napoleon on the Imperial Road running from Castellane to Digne-les-Bains, or exploring the beautiful scenery of Jean Giono's Lure.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FLOCKS: LA ROUTO

Approved by the French Hiking Federation in June 2020, the GR® 69 La Routo long-distance hiking trail, measuring 520 km, runs from the plain of La Crau (Bouches-du-Rhône) to Vallée de la Stura (Italy) via the Var and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence. Hikers follow in the footsteps of the summer "transhumance", the traditional seasonal migration of flocks that began in the 15th century, with millions of sheep keen to "get on the road" ("far la routo" in Occitan dialect) to their green mountain pastures. Updated and signposted courtesy of the "Maison des Transhumances" in Salon-de-Provence, the trail now features 33 stages and ends in Piedmont. Some sections are suitable for horses, mountain bikes and electric mountain bikes. This project is financed by the European ALCOTRA transborder programme.

La Routo
www.larouto.eu

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

THE EXTRAORDINARY MOUNTAIN BOCAGES OF CHAMPSAUR

Panning out on the foothills of the Massif des Ecrins massif, the Champsaur-Valgaudemar territory is home to Europe's highest bocage (from 800 to 1,350 metres in altitude) – a totally unique sight in the mountains. This 150 km² bocage standing over the river Drac is crisscrossed with around 800 km of beech tree hedges and a canal network, home to deer, foxes, hares, an army of insects and local farmers alike. You can explore this extraordinary Southern Alps phenomenon – and learn more about the local climate – on foot thanks its to tens of kilometres of hiking trails and cycle paths.

www.hautes-alpes-tourisme.com



© R. Van Rijn

CAR-FREE, NATURELLEMENT

Take your time rather than wasting it in traffic jams, preserve the air breathed by all living beings and cherish our natural soils... The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Région recommends exploring its beautifully-preserved natural areas in slow mode! Here are just a few examples:

- Mercantour National Park and its Italian neighbour Alpi Marittime have got together to promote the use of public transport and bicycles. This smart initiative has now been adopted by all of the region's nature reserves, together with the Calanques, Ecrins, Mercantour and Port-Cros national parks.
- The "Grands Sites de France" network is testing the new Escapades Sans Voiture (car-free escapades) concept. The label has already been awarded to Sainte-Victoire mountain and the Verdon Canyon should soon follow suit. The Massif des Ogres in the Luberon, Giens Peninsula, Salins d'Hyères, Mont Ventoux, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse and Clarée Valley – a narrow valley in the Hautes-Alpes – are also candidates.
- An absolute must: ZouMaRegionSud offers a full list of public transport (buses, trains, trams) serving regional destinations.

zou.maregionsud.fr



© CRT

SCENIC TRAINS

We often overlook them, but the *Train des Merveilles* running from Nice offers year-round services to the villages of Sospel, Breil-sur-Roya, Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende and Tende, while the ancient *Train des Pignes* allows hikers to reach the lower valleys of the Var and Verdon, the villages of Puget-Théniers, Annot, Digne-les-Bains and Thorame, within easy reach of Val d'Allos and Mercantour National Park. The gorgeous *Côte Bleue* train chugs from the *Calanques de Marseille* fjords to Miramas in 1¼ hours, crossing a 32-km succession of viaducts and tunnels. Every stop is withing easy walking distance of a local beach.

Trains touristiques

www.maregionsud.fr



▲ Train des Pignes- © GECP



SPORTS CRAZY

ON YOUR BIKE!

With the 2020 lockdown and increasing awareness of global warming, this little star is gaining an increasing number of followers. What's more, electrically-assisted bikes mean the sport is now accessible to everyone. Provence lanes lined with olive groves and lavender, the mythical mountain passes and green valleys of the Southern Alps, and panoramic seascapes of the Côte d'Azur are a genuine cyclists' paradise.



© CRT

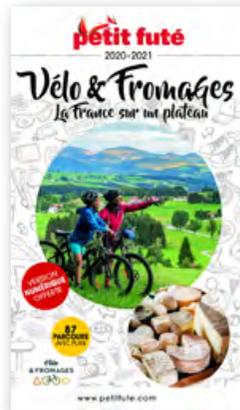
■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

CYCLING & CHEESE: FRANCE ON A PLATTER

Launched in 2019, this tasty concept combines cycling and cheese! Cyclists can stop-off to nibble a selection of cheeses one afternoon a week on the region's various cycle paths. The first edition of the Petit Futé "Vélo & Fromages" (Cycling & Cheese) guide features six itineraries in Provence, five on the Côte d'Azur and three in the Southern Alps. Other Alpine routes should be included in the guide's 2021 new edition, such as Guillestrois-Queyras and its legendary mountain passes (e.g. Izoard), home to many "Bleu du Queyras" cheesemakers.

Must-read: Vélo & Fromages
la France sur un plateau, 2020-2021, Edition Le Petit Futé

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



■ PROVENCE

A CYCLING ROADBOOK FOR CAMARGUE

This detailed guide covers Camargue's 1,050 km network of signposted cycle paths. Co-written by the Camargue Regional Nature Reserve, Grand Site de France Camargue Gardoise, local tourist offices and the Bouches-du-Rhône, Gard and Hérault area councils, this must-have roadbook is the perfect pick for slow tourism fans keen to explore unique Camargue, lapped by the sea and Rhône delta, at their own pace. Major European routes such as the Via Rhôna and the Eurovelo8 (the Mediterranean by bike) form the backbone of this vast cycling network.

Road Book Vélo Camargue
www.parc-camargue.fr

VVAUCLUSE - MADE-TO-MEASURE MOUNTAIN BIKING

Available as a brochure or download, this map features Vaucluse's 850 km of signposted mountain bike trails and two official French Cycling Federation (FFC) areas. On the front of the map you'll find "La Grande Traversée du Vaucluse", measuring nearly 500 km, and "Les Grands Tours" ranging from 40 to 120 km - perfect if you want to explore the Petit Luberon, Mont Ventoux or Dentelles de Montmirail in a day. On the back, you'll find the two FFC areas (VTT-FF, Ventoux and VTT-FFC Provence-Luberon-Lure), added just recently. In all, a total of around a hundred routes that promise to get cycling addicts, novices and mountain bike enthusiasts alike saddled up in no time...

La Provence à Vélo
www.provence-a-velo.fr

■ PROVENCE

LE NESK*** JUST ROLLING

Initially a monastery, then converted into a hospital, this impressive building perched on Sault rock has re-found its vocation as a hub of hospitality thanks to digital entrepreneur and amateur mountain biker Michel Navarro. The six dormitories for 4 to 6 guests (44 beds in all) and 17 rooms for 2 to 4 guests all offer breathtaking views over the plateau's lavender fields. A combined three-star hotel, gite, vintage bicycle museum and fitness centre, this base camp at the foot of Mont Ventoux promises to delight curiosity-seekers, sports fans and cyclists alike. You'll find a secure bicycle room and changing room there, together with bike repair and cleaning gear and Bosch charging stations. A jacuzzi, steam room, sauna and cryotherapy cabin are also on call to get you back on your feet after a challenging day's efforts. The ancient chapel houses part of Lino Lazzerini's extraordinary vintage bicycle collection. This former local cyclist has been collecting bikes, jerseys, caps and cycling memorabilia from former champions such as Eddy Merckx or Raymond Poulidor for the last 60 years. Fresh, local food is served on site, or you can prep your own meals in the dedicated kitchen area. The prices are well-oiled too... "Our project is focused on sharing, not profitability. We want to become a genuine part of this area", explains the creator of Le Nesk (which takes its name from Nesque Gorge). Prices per night: €28 to €38 / pers. in dormitory - €90 to €140 in double or single room.

Le Nesk* - 84390 Sault**
lenesk.com



TAKE A STAND!

We're all familiar with the indoor elliptical trainer, excellent for keeping us in shape. So how about combining it with the mobility of a traditional bicycle and taking it for a ride to see our sumptuous scenery?! Jean Didier, based in Taillades at the far end of the Luberon, a reseller of elliptical and stand-up bikes by the Elliptigo brand (to keep it simple, the stand-up bike is a bicycle without a saddle) is flying the flag of this innovative new concept. You can test and rent out his bikes for a spin along the lanes of the Luberon. This playful device also allows people with fragile ankles, knees or backs to train without risk, as vibrations are extremely low. 1-hour rental €15. Staggered rates.

Endorf'inn Luberon
www.provence-a-velo.fr

GREEN PEDALLING IN DRACENIE

Open since January 2021 and departing from Les Arcs-Draguignan railway station, the 20 km "La Vigne à Vélo" cycle path connects Les Arcs-sur-Argens, Trans-en-Provence and Draguignan. It is open to cyclists, walkers, roller-skaters, scooters, skateboarders and even baby buggies thanks to a gentle slope, welcome shade and comfortable tarmac overlay - and the tables, benches and fountains are perfect for picnic breaks. "La Vigne à Vélo" links up with the 70-kilometre EV8 "Méditerranée à Vélo" path in Draguignan, crossing the Dracénie area from East to West. Going forwards, it is set to connect Vidauban, Taradeau, La Motte and Le Muy.

La vigne à vélo en Dracénie
www.tourisme-dracenie.com

■ ALPES

SOUTHERN ALPS - MOUNTAIN PASSES RESERVED FOR CYCLISTS

The mythical mountain passes of the Southern Alps - Col d'Izoard, Col du Galibier and Col d'Allos - and the ascents to Risoul or Orcières, are closed to motor vehicles and reserved for cyclists on certain mornings, so aficionados can pedal in the wake of champions in all safety. What's more, access is free and open to all, no registration is required, no classification is required, and there's no start or finish line!

www.hautes-alpes.net
www.tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com



© R. Fabrègue



5 REASONS TO GET GOLFING

Frankly, what's not to love about golfing? Home to 60 golf courses, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is the ideal place to try your hand at this reputedly very-healthy sport, whatever your age. With benefits including fit bones and joints, an improved social life and better brain functioning in teenagers, this age-old leisure activity really does tick all the boxes!



▲ CRT

■ PROVENCE | ■ ALPES | ■ CÔTE D'AZUR

1 A YEAR-ROUND SPORT FOR ALL LEVELS

Forget about golfers huddled under an umbrella, you can perfect your swing in the sunshine here whatever the season!

2 RENOWNED GOLF COURSES

Examples abound: Severiano Ballesteros designed the Golf International de Pont Royal, while Robert von Hagge is the talent behind the Royal Mougins Golf Club layout...

3 FRIENDLY PRICES (THANKS TO OUR GOLF PASS)

The Provence Côte d'Azur Golf Pass pampers golfers with up to 30% off green fees. Players are free to use their Pass according to their personal tastes and enjoy access to 35 partner courses.

4 MAGNIFICENT AND CHERISHED ENVIRONMENTS

Set at the water's edge, in the mountains or inland, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Southern Alps, the region's golf courses nestle in splendid landscapes and beautifully-preserved environments and are all committed to eco-friendly policies. The Terre Blanche course has designed its layout to collect runoff water, while Domaine de Manville, in the Alpilles, was the first French golf course to be awarded the "Ecocert" label.

5 FABULOUS AFTER-GREEN EXPERIENCES

The pleasure continues long after tee time, with Bandol wine tasting at Dolce Frégate, relaxation at the Domaine des Sources spa or hiking around the Blue Green Estérel...

provencecotedazurgolf.com

■ CÔTE D'AZUR

ANNIVERSARY MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE 130 YEARS OLD AND FRESH AS A DAISY

In 2021, new footpaths will connect Mandelieu's two legendary layouts: the Old Course created in 1891 and the Riviera Golf de Barbossi opened a hundred years later, in 1991.

The Old Course, created by the Grand Duke of Russia, is lined with 4,000 magnificent umbrella pines.

The Riviera Golf de Barbossi, designed by Robert Trent Jones, is adorned with 22 contemporary sculptures dotted along its 9 and 18-hole layouts, winding their way amid four lakes. Domaine de Barbossi, also home to private stables, a tennis club, fitness club and vineyard, is the Côte d'Azur's largest private estate.

Riviera Golf de Barbossi - 06210 Mandelieu-la-Napoule
www.domainedebarbossi.fr



▲ Riviera Golf de Barbossi - © C. Moirenc

PROVENCE

SPECIAL MENTION TWO EXCEPTIONAL COURSES AT TERRE BLANCHE

The five-star **Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort** has been rated Top Best Golf Resort in Continental Europe in Golf World's Top 100 for the third year in a row.

CHEF CHRISTOPHE SCHMITT is taking over the reins from Philippe Jourdin, who is retiring this year after hoisting the resort's restaurant to the heights of haute cuisine. Christophe's track record is already lit with stars and awards. His "back to roots" cuisine pays homage to local produce, with vegetables from the Vivres farm in Seillans, olive oil from Moulin de Callas and goat cheese courtesy of the Monteiro family...

Terre Blanche - 83449 Tourettes
www.terre-blanche.com



▲ Golf Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa

NEW 6-HOLE COMPACT COURSE

Open to all golfers from beginners to professionals keen to get started or perfect their swing, this course is set against the stunning backdrop of the Sainte-Baume Regional Nature Reserve.

Golf de la Sainte Baume - 83860 Nans-les-Pins
www.golfsaintebaume.com



▲ 6 trous - Golf Sainte Baume

TOURNAMENT HOPPS OPEN DE PROVENCE GOLF INTERNATIONAL DE PONT ROYAL ALPILLES

Unique in the South of France, the Hopps Open de Provence is a major European professional golfing tournament held at the prestigious Golf International de Pont Royal golf course, signed by Severiano Ballesteros. French golfer Romain Langasque emerged victorious on the European circuit after the first edition in 2018. Free and open to all, the Hopps Open de Provence welcomed over 7,000 spectators in 2019 and is now a key tournament on the European Challenge Tour. **Scheduled in September 16th to 18th 2021.**

Golf International de Pont Royal - 13370 Mallemort
www.golf-pontroyal.com



▲ Golf International de Pont Royal

2021, THE BIG BLUE ODYSSEY

Two underwater museums, located in Marseille and Cannes, are making a buzz this year on the shores of the Med – the birthplace of scuba diving. The region is also home to the world’s oldest diving federation, the FFESSM based in Marseille, and Aqualung, the world’s leading manufacturer of scuba diving and water sports gear.



Home to nearly 500 dive sites, over 300 diving clubs and a quarter of French club members, our shores are worshipped by fans of stunning sea beds, marine fauna and underwater cliffs. And that’s a good thing for everyone, because today’s eco-aware divers have become our foremost ambassadors of environmental protection.

Following on from Jacques Mayol, who inspired Luc Besson’s cult film “The Big Blue”, free diving is becoming more popular every year. Nice-born Guillaume Néry and Marseille-born Arnaud Jerald – holder of the world record for the deepest free dive at 112 metres last September – consider freediving as a lifestyle and meditation technique. It’s obviously not for everyone though. You’ll also find a fabulous and far more accessible choice of snorkelling trails along the shores of our coves, fjords and islands... So enjoy the view and look but don’t touch – our sea beds are precious!



▲ © F. Launette

PROVENCE

30,000 YEARS UNDER THE SEA

The Maison Méditerranée in Marseille (near the Mucem) will soon be exhibiting a life-size replica of the Cosquer cave. Hidden away in the *calanques* fjords of Marseille-Cassis, at the back of a 135-metre cave lying at a depth of 37 metres (public access prohibited), this gem of prehistoric art is truly unique. Today, it is sadly threatened with destruction due to rising sea levels, which would compress the air in the cavity and hence weaken this magnificent work painted over 30,000 years ago. Financed by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Région, this vast reconstruction project entrusted to the firm Kleber-Rossillon company, which also created a replica of the Chauvet 2 cave, will be opening to the public in 2022.

Video of the Cosquer cave replica project



PROVENCE

MARSEILLE SUBAQUATIC MUSEUM – MSM

Three sculptures – Evelyne Galinski’s “Nereids”, David Galbiati’s “The Seed and the Sea” and Daniel Zanca’s “Test Urchin” – have been immersed at a depth of 5 metres, about a hundred metres offshore of Plages des Catalans beach. And the first lucky observers are ecstatic: their effect changes constantly according to the waves and sunlight. As in Cannes, these artificial artistic reefs also act as marine wildlife habitats: the open shell of “Test Urchin” aims to provide a shelter and feeding ground for fish and shellfish alike. The Mediterranean Oceanology Institute (MIO) is in charge of ecological monitoring for the project.

www.musee-subaquatique.com

FRÉDÉRIC DUMAS INTERNATIONAL DIVING MUSEUM IN SANARY

The current huge popularity of scuba diving owes almost everything to the work and documentaries of Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his fellow “Mousquemers” such as Frédéric Dumas, together with the town of Sanary in the Var, the historic cradle of scuba diving. Unique in France, this museum named after Dumas houses an impressive collection of rare objects and scuba diving equipment prototypes used to explore the depths of Cousteau’s “Silent World”...

museedumas.fr



▲ Marseille Subaquatic Museum – © Wallis

PROVENCE | CÔTE D’AZUR

SNORKELLING TRAILS: THE SUCCESS OF PORT-CROS

The Mediterranean Sea, which represents 0.8% of the total area of the world’s oceans, is home to 8% of global marine biodiversity. The region’s snorkelling trails are designed to encourage swimmers to put their head under the water to better understand the incredible riches of the Med. The trails are marked out with buoys, each corresponding to a different biotope: rocky scree, sand, or Posidonia meadow. Handrails help swimmers stay on course in the current and the trails are dotted with underwater information panels. Inaugurated in 1979, the Port-Cros snorkelling trail is the oldest in the French Mediterranean. The Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region boasts around twenty trails, most of which can be toured with a guide. If you’re already familiar with Port-Cros, take the plunge at Carry, La Redonne, Port d’Alon, Le Jardin des Mattes, Pointe de l’Aiguille or Villefranche-sur-Mer ...

www.ssmmed.org



▲ Port Cros – © DR – CRT

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM IN SAINT-RAPHAËL

Located in the town centre, a stone’s throw from the sea, this museum is set inside a high, fortified tower offering extraordinary panoramic vistas over the Med. But there are plenty of other treasures to see before you stop off to gaze at the view at the end of the tour, most collected from wrecks washed up offshore of the fjords of Agay and Anthéor. Many of these fascinating discoveries were made by the museum director Anne Joncheray and her husband Jean-Pierre, both professional divers and shipwreck hunters. Reconstructions of merchant ships testify to the Mediterranean’s thriving trade during the Roman Empire. The neighbouring medieval church, embellished with superb crypts, welcomes temporary exhibitions.

www.ville-saintraphael.fr

UNDERWATER ECOMUSEUM AT ÎLE SAINTE-MARGUERITE - CANNES

Six 2-metre masks created by Jason de Caires Taylor, moulded on anonymous Cannes inhabitants, were immersed around Ile Sainte-Marguerite last October. Manufactured using pH neutral ecological cement, the sculptures are easily-accessible without any special equipment. Over time, the underwater works of this British sculptor and environmentalist transform from inert objects into living, breathing reefs.

www.cannes-destination.fr

CHARLES
ET MARIE-LAURE
DE NOAILLES



Charles et Marie-Laure de Noailles, 1938.
Collection de la Fondation de la Noailles.
Marie-Laure de Noailles, 1938.
Collection de la Fondation de la Noailles.

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