

THE RIVIERA IS AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR LOVERS. AND THERE ARE FEW OUTINGS MORE ROMANTIC THAN THE SLOW MEANDER ALONG THE CLIFFS, COVES, THREE CAPES AND TRIO OF CORNICHERS FROM MENTON TO NICE.

ALL THE ALLURE OF THE COTE D'AZUR - THE LIGHT, THE SEA, THE VIEWS, GARDENS, SCENTS, NOSTALGIA AND LEGENDS - ARE HIGHLIGHTED ON A RAMBLING DRIVE FROM THE ITALIAN BORDER TO THE PORT AND OLD TOWN OF THE "BIG OLIVE". THERE ARE TREASURES AROUND EVERY CURVE - AND THERE ARE MANY CURVES !

MEDIEVAL HILLTOP VILLAGES SUCH AS EZE, ROQUEBRUNE AND LA TURBIE, ARE COMPLEMENTED BY TRADITIONAL HARBOURS LIKE BEAULIEU-SUR-MER, SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT AND VILLEFRANCHE, WHICH MAGNETIZE EVEN THE SOLO VOYAGER. HALLMARKS OF THE PAST - FROM BAROQUE CHURCHES, TALL CAMPANILES AND NARROW, COBBLESTONE STREETS, TO RESPLENDENT VILLAS WITH LUXURIANT MEDITERRANEAN GARDENS AND FASCINATING HISTORIES ON CAP MARTIN, CAP D'AIL AND CAP FERRAT - TELL THE FASCINATING TALE OF THE COTE D'AZUR. AND IF YOU WANT TO GET REALLY STARRY-EYED, PAY A VISIT TO THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY AT THE COL D'EZE...

MENTON TO NICE

THE GUIDE

Photo : CRT Riviera Côte d'Azur

SEEING THE SIGHTS

MENTON Known for its Citrus Festival held every February, this last-stop before Italy is also famous for its botanical gardens : Le Parc du Pian, Jardins Biovès, Val Rahmeh, Fontana Rosa, La Serre de la Madone and Le Clos du Peyronnet.

ROQUEBRUNE-CAP-MARTIN A discreet and beautiful cape overlooked by the medieval village of Roquebrune with its sturdy castle and dungeons.

LA TURBIE Above the Principality of Monaco, a village with two attractions : the Monte-Carlo Golf Club at Mont-Agel and the Trophée des Alpes, built to the glory of Cæsar Augustus and his 6th-C. victories over everyone else at the time.

EZE VILLAGE Medieval "eagle's nest" with extraordinary views and a steep climb through narrow cobbled streets to the botanical gardens.

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER Quiet, refined little town with its own casino and a lovely yacht harbour.

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT Exclusive little village on one of the world's most beautiful capes, with beautiful residences, yacht harbour, sumptuous Rothschild Foundation and a small, delightful zoo !

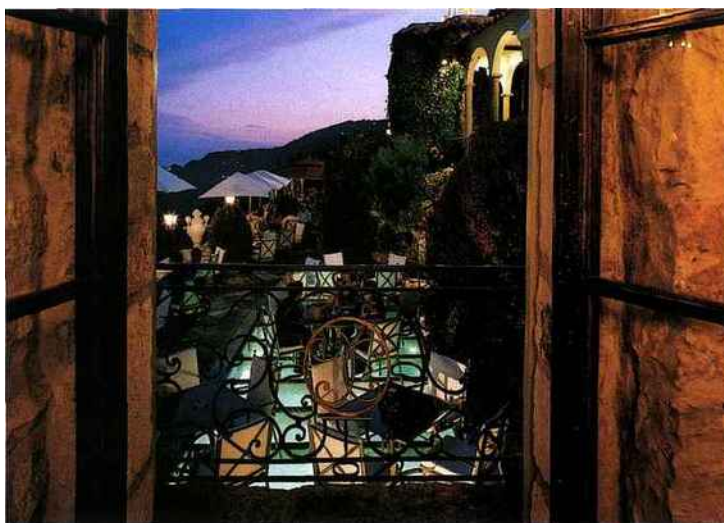
VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER A quaint old town with a famous waterfront (La Rade), imposing 16th century Citadelle, fishermen's chapel decorated by Jean Cocteau, and Sunday flea-market.



MUSEUMS

Jean Cocteau Museum in Menton.
Villa Kérylas at Beaulieu-sur-Mer (photo above) : faithful reconstitution of a Greek residence with frescos, mosaics and pillared courtyard at the edge of the sea.
Ephrussi de Rothschild Foundation on Cap Ferrat : sumptuous "Belle Epoque" villa with gardens in different styles, plus collections of porcelain, costumes, tapestries, paintings and oriental treasures.

WHERE TO STAY AND DINE



CHÂTEAU DE LA CHÈVRE D'OR. Spectacular eagle's-nest location for this luxury residence of worldwide renown. Medieval castle proposing 33 unique surtes and rooms, scattered around the village, from 270 € per night. Breathtaking view of the coast, superb terraced gardens, heated pool, piano-bar, fitness centre. In the high-class restaurant with its terrace and knock-out view, Philippe Labbé proposes gastronomic cuisine. Mid-day menus from 95 €, evenings from 210 €, "à la carte" from 150 €. Re-opens on March 7th, 2009. Rue du Barri, Eze Village. Tel. 04 92 10 66 66 - Fax 04 93 41 06 72.

MENTON
LES AMBASSADEURS
3 rue Partenoux
Tel. 04 93 28 75 75
Fax 04 93 35 62 32

Romantic charm for this Belle Epoque hotel with its pink façade 32 rooms and suites from 180 €, all tastefully decorated and sound-proofed Private beach, champagne bar, gourmet restaurant (Le Louvre) proposing Riviera cuisine Lunch-time menu 35 €, evenings from 60 € Open 7 days a week

L'AIGLON
7 avenue de la Madone
Tel. 04 93 57 55 55
Fax 04 93 35 92 39

Charming turn-of-the-century residence with lovely gardens, pergolas and swimming pool amidst the pines Twenty-nine guest-rooms from 90 € to 212 €, some air-conditioned Family-run restaurant Le Riuamont offering traditional French cuisine such as foie gras, grilled lamb, sea-bass with fennel Menus from 29 90 €, formula at 19 25 € + cheese 6 € Closed Mondays and mid-day Tues

RESTAURANT MIRAZUR
30 avenue Aristide-Briand
Tel. 04 92 41 86 86
Revamped into an ultra-modern gem of glass and chrome, this address with the very inventive

Mauro Colagrecò (Chef of the Year 2009) offers a lounge-bar, terrace and dazzling view of the Med Mid-day menu at 35 €, evenings from 55 €, sampling menu at 80 € and "Carte Blanche" menu at 90 €

LA TURBIE
HOSTELLERIE JÉRÔME
20 rue Comte de Cessole
Tel. 04 92 41 51 51

Chef Bruno Cirino proposes gourmet Mediterranean cuisine in his 13th-C inn with terrace red-mullet, sea-bass, gamberoni, pigeon with black olives, Sisteron lamb with Provençal herbs Menus from 65 €, a la carte from 50 €

ROQUEBRUNE
CAP-MARTIN
LE ROQUEBRUNE
100 avenue Jean-Jaurès
La Basse Corniche
Tel. 04 93 35 00 16

Beautifully situated, with elegant interiors and a superb terrace with a breathtaking view of the sea, this former gastronomic restaurant has been transformed into a chambre d'hôte - for the lucky few ! Five charming guest-rooms with their own terraces overlooking Cap Martin and the Med, all with air conditioning, sound proofing, TV, ADSL, full bath or shower rooms Table d'hôte by request

VISTA PALACE
Grande Corniche
Tel. 04 92 10 40 00
Fax 04 93 35 18 94

Unique cliff-hanger location for this luxury hotel with beautiful gardens, knock-out view of the Bay of Monaco, swimming pool, fitness center, helipad 68 rooms and suites Panoramic Vistaero restaurant for gourmets (menu 55 €), open only for dinner Annual closing January 8th to March 1st

LE GRAND INQUISITEUR
18 rue du Château
Village de Roquebrune
Tel. 04 93 35 05 37

A very long-established address with a romantic, vaulted dining-room in the medieval village of Roquebrune, proposing traditional French cuisine with dishes that take inspiration from the seasons Menu from 28 € to 38 € Open every day

LA DAME JEANNE
5 chemin Sainte-Lucie
Village de Roquebrune
Tel. 04 93 35 10 20

Authentic village house with Provençal atmosphere, vaulted dining-room, terrace and sea view Seasonal French cuisine stuffed vegetables, kidneys with mustard sauce, rabbit with mushrooms (16-28 €) Open evenings + Sunday lunchtime

WHERE TO STAY AND DINE



MARRIOTT RIVIERA HOTEL. Facing the harbour of Cap d'Ail, this white 4-star hotel in modern style stands at the very gateway to the Principality of Monaco. It offers 186 rooms and suites, lounge-bar and ground-floor restaurant Le Cap, open-air pool, a gym for a quick work-out before checking e-mails via Wifi or at the Business Centre. Port de Cap d'Ail, Cap d'Ail. Tel. 04 92 10 67 67.

EZE

LE CAP ESTEL

1312 ave. Raymond-Poincaré
Eze Bord-de-Mer
Tel. 04 93 76 29 29

One of the Riviera's most idyllic sites. At the water's edge in an exquisite lawned park, it offers 11 suites, eight rooms of great sobriety and luxury. Indoor and outdoor pools, sauna, spa, poolside restaurant and gourmet Mediterranean cuisine proposed by chef Nicolas Vie.

CHÂTEAU EZA

Rue de la Pise
Eze-Village
Tel. 04 93 41 12 24

Once owned by Prince William of Sweden, this medieval castle (requiring a steep climb through the village) now offers ten

rooms and suites, recently redecorated in excellent taste, with spectacular views of the sea 427 metres below! Ancient stones but cosy comfort, beautiful bathrooms, jacuzzis on the balconies. Superb 1-star restaurant with panoramic terrace proposing mid-day menus from 45 €, *a la carte*, and an evening menu at 110 €.

LES TERRASSES D'EZE

Route de la Turbie
Eze-Village
Tel. 04 92 41 55 55
Fax 04 92 41 55 10

Between the Middle and High Corniches, modern 4-star hotel complex with stunning vista of the sea. Six suites, 75 comfortable rooms from 160 € with terraces, sea view and top-notch

facilities. Outdoor pool, fitness centre and sauna, conference rooms. Restaurant Les Princes serving *a la carte* delicacies from 40 €, poolside salad bar in summer, lounge bar Le Cosy.

LE MAS PROVENÇAL

3 avenue de Verdun
Tel. 04 93 41 19 53

On the main road just west of Eze Village, a luxuriant conservatory atmosphere, brimming with fresh flowers and plants, and a dining-room whose antiques, Provençal tiles, huge fireplace and talented pianist set the tone for a gourmet experience at table. Heinz guarantees a regal but refined feast: saddle of lamb, suckling pig, tender veal and a traditional risotto. Menu at 88 €.

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER AFRICAN QUEEN

Yacht Harbour
Tel. 04 93 01 10 85

Popular and long-established restaurant with terrace right opposite the sea. Generous cuisine with hearty pizzas, pasta, tartare and carpaccio, wonderful platters of sea-food, giant salads, the freshest fish, succulent meats and daily specials, all at surprisingly reasonable prices *a la carte* only. Open daily.

LES AGAVES

4 avenue Maréchal Foch
Tel. 04 93 01 13 12

Discreet little restaurant in Provençal style, offering a warm welcome and classic cuisine: lobster salad, mushroom ravioli, roast pigeon with figs, homemade fruit pies for desserts. Open for dinner only, 6 nights a week. Menu at 38 €. *A la carte* from 30 €.

LE B... LOUNGE

Grand Casino de Beaulieu
4 avenue Fernand-Dunan
Tel. 04 93 76 48 00

Take a break from the slot machines, roulette and blackjack tables in this *Belle Epoque* casino. Le Panoramique has been replaced by a new concept lounge bar like the one visitors discovered last summer on the terrace. An inviting atmosphere with live music and enticing world cuisine proposed *a la carte*. The B Lounge is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, from 7.30 p.m., from June to mid-September.



LA RÉSERVE DE BEAULIEU. Reminiscent of a Florentine palazzo, this legendary 4-star hotel at the edge of the Med has played host to Queen Victoria, Chaplin, Bogart, Frank Sinatra, among others! 39 rooms, suites and villas in ultra-refined taste with period furniture and pastel shades. Dreamy pool, Maria Galland spa, billiard room, private jetty. Olivier Brulard's creative gourmet cuisine (2 Michelin stars) can be savoured in the enchanting Restaurant des Rois overlooking the sea or at the new poolside restaurant, Le Vent Debout (open for lunch year round). 5 blvd. du Maréchal Leclerc, Beaulieu. Tel. 04 93 01 00 01 - Fax 04 93 01 28 99.

FOR FANS OF EXOTIC GARDENS

This stretch of the coast still manages to evoke the "original version" of the French Riviera. Its three lovely capes - Cap Martin, Cap d'Ail and Cap Ferrat - are havens of tranquillity offering fragrant vegetation and meditative walks. In Menton, the gardens created by talented botanists and romantic souls alternate between exuberance and harmony (to visit, contact Menton's Tourist Office, Tel. 04 92 41 76 76 or the Maison du Patrimoine). The dizzy heights of Eze-Village and its botanical gardens were highly prized by Nietzsche and George Sand, while Beaulieu's micro-climate gave rise to a neighbourhood called "La Petite Afrique"! Finally, for connoisseurs of landscaped gardens, the Ephrussi de Rothschild Foundation is a must on your agenda: various styles, including formal French, Florentine, even Japanese...

SHORE IS PEBBLY !..

Except for the beaches of Menton, the shoreline on this stretch of the coast is mostly pebbly (Cap-d'Ail, Eze-sur-Mer, Beaulieu), taken over by yacht harbours (Beaulieu, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Villefranche-sur-Mer), or very rocky. Bathing is therefore pretty much restricted to a few little coves on Cap Ferrat, public beaches at Menton or Eze-sur-Mer, or the hotel pool (the most exclusive is the Club Dauphin at the Grand Hôtel du Cap Ferrat).

WHERE TO STAY AND DINE

BASTIONS OF GRACIOUS LIVING

Grouping together the 22 most illustrious establishments on the Riviera, the organization LES PALACES DE LA CÔTE D'AZUR promotes the traditional values of hospitality, impeccable service and gracious living which have made the Riviera an example for the entire world. This part of the coast boasts eight of these flagship hotels, most of them offering a fascinating history and visitors' books that read like a Who's Who of the international elite. The exception in terms of history is the VISTA PALACE, perched high above the Principality of Monaco, with gourmet restaurants, private heliport and a heated pool cut out of the rock. Those with a head for heights will also appreciate the CHÂTEAU DE LA CHÈVRE D'OR in Eze-Village : its medieval atmosphere is complemented by luxury, warmth and gastronomy. Down on the coast, the intimate CAP ESTEL nestles in a 5-acre park below the cliffs. Now comprised of elegant suites, it once belonged to a Russian prince and still offers a privileged, noble atmosphere. Beaulieu-sur-Mer is home to the magnificent RÉSERVE DE BEAULIEU, a palace in Italian Renaissance style which dates back to 1880 and was originally a fish restaurant frequented by the 19th-century "jet-set". On Cap Ferrat, the ROYAL RIVIERA (photo below) reflects the golden age of the "Belle Epoque", its neo-Hellenistic architecture recently embellished by tasteful contemporary decor, while the charm of the harbourside VOILE D'OR, originally owned by the eccentric Captain Powell, has played host to Jean Cocteau, Roger Moore and Madonna. Last but far from least, opened in 1908 in fourteen acres of gardens, the very imposing GRAND HÔTEL DU CAP FERRAT has hosted Russian dukes, English lords and baronets, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill, Aristotle Onassis, Charlie Chaplin and Picasso, to name but a few !



GRAND HÔTEL DU CAP FERRAT. This palatial "Belle Epoque" residence at the tip of Cap Ferrat is an historic landmark with luxuriant gardens in a divinely isolated setting. After being treated to extension, the hotel now offers 49 magnificent guest-rooms and 24 suites. In the restaurant, fans of gastronomy are well looked after by the excellent chef Didier Aniès, distinguished by a Michelin star, and also in charge of the wonderful Club Dauphin with its huge pool right at the edge of the sea. Boulevard du Général de Gaulle, Cap Ferrat. Tel. 04 93 76 50 50 - Fax 04 93 76 04 52.



SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT ROYAL RIVIERA

3 avenue Jean-Monnet
Tel. 04 93 76 31 00
Fax 04 93 01 23 07

Facing the bay and the Villa Kérylos, this de-luxe turn-of-the-century hotel offers 96 recently renovated guest rooms with view of the flower-filled park. Heated outdoor pool with Pergola Bar and grill, private beach, wellness Spa, restaurant Le Panorama with terrace (risotto with shell-fish, lamb and Swiss chards) Menus from 49 €, a la carte from 70 €

LA VOILE D'OR

Avenue Jean-Mermoz
Tel. 04 93 01 13 13
Fax 04 93 76 11 17

Overlooking the sea, this charming residence in Italian style boasts 45 exquisite rooms, two pools and private beach. Seasonal cuisine featuring asparagus, roast pigeon, locally caught fish. Weekday lunch menu 48 €, evenings from 75 €. Open daily, April to October

LA TABLE DU CAP

2 avenue Denis-Séméria
Tel. 04 93 76 03 97

Laurent Poulet has transformed the former "Provençal" into a

restaurant, lounge-bar and art-gallery. A refined treat for the eyes and taste-buds, with a delightful terrace overlooking the yacht harbour

LE SLOOP

Yacht Harbour
Tel. 04 93 01 48 63

Sea-fresh cuisine including risotto with lobster, crayfish with asparagus, sea-bass, John Dory with fresh pasta, veal cutlets. Menu 30 €, a la carte from 50 €. Closed Wednesdays (off season), mid-Nov to mid-Dec

VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER HÔTEL WELCOME

3 quai Courbet
Tel. 04 93 76 27 62
Fax 04 93 76 27 66

Over two centuries old, this world-renowned hotel was once frequented by artist-poet Jean Cocteau. 36 personalized guest-rooms overlooking the enchanting quayside and the boats

LA MÈRE GERMAINE

7 quai Courbet
Tel. 04 93 01 71 39

Well-known family-run address on the famous quayside, especially appreciated for sea-fare including crayfish with garlic, lobster salad, salmon with olive

cream, sole, sea-bream, sardines with potatoes. Menu at 41 €, a la carte from 60 €

LE BELUGA

3 quai Ponchardier
Tel. 04 93 80 28 34

Stylish lounge bar (with DJs in summer) and restaurant with a great view of the sea. Mediterranean cuisine on a menu that features fish but also generous salads. Or simply relax with tapas and wine by the glass as if you were on a luxury cruise !

LA FILLE DU PÊCHEUR

13 quai Courbet
Tel. 04 93 01 90 09

Family-run restaurant with wood-panelled dining-room, benefitting from Mr Roux's catch-of-the-day *petite friture, bouillabaisse*, rockfish soup, grilled sea-bream etc. A la carte only, from about 37 €. Open daily for lunch and dinner

L'OURSIN BLEU

11 quai Courbet
Tel. 04 93 01 90 12

Facing the sea, inventive dishes including crab tartare, ravioli with shrimps, pan-fried *foie gras*, Thai noodles with teriyaki, tempting desserts. A la carte approx 60 €. Closed Tuesdays