

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016 IN PROVENCE-ALPS-COTE D'AZUR



2015-2016
EDITION



ACCOMMODATION

Coming soon in 2016

■ 4-star Grand Hôtel Henri at L'Isle sur la Sorgue (Vaucluse)

This 4-star establishment will open its doors in 2016 in the heart of the antique dealer district in the middle of L'Isle sur la Sorgue. Currently undergoing renovation, it will replace the La Gueulardière restaurant, which was built at the site of a former post office that dated back to 1785. L'Isle sur la Sorgue is a small Provençal town that boasts the highest number of antique dealers after Paris.

www.grandhotelhenri.com

■ The Accor group will be updating Marseille's Amédée-Armand private mansion with its luxury brand MGallery

A new 4-star hotel is set to open in Marseille's 6th arrondissement. Scheduled to open its doors in mid-2016, this large 18th century building is spread over 4 floors and will undergo extensive renovations to transform it into a new city centre luxury hotel. Clients will be able to make full use of Marseille's new tram line, with a stop located a stone's throw from the hotel. The tram takes visitors directly from Castellane to the La Joliette district, home to the MuCEM and the FRAC. The Cours Julien arty district is also close to the hotel.

<http://tourisme-marseille.com/hotel-amedee-armand-mgallery-marseille.html>

■ Opening of the 4-star Golden Tulip at the Joliette in Marseille

The Euroméditerranée is continuing to be developed, and in early 2016, will be home to a new 4-star establishment. 210 rooms spread over 9,900 m² will boast the considerable advantage of rubbing shoulders with some of the city's most recent cultural hotspots, such as Rudy Ricciotti's MuCEM or the FRAC by Kengo Kuma, all of which make Marseille and the district a unique destination.

www.altareacogedim.com/Euromed-Center-Hotel-Golden-Tulip.html

■ Renovation work at the 4-star Hôtel La Corniche in Toulon

Overlooking the little Port Saint Louis, from May to October the Hôtel La Corniche offers rentals of an authentic 'pointu', a Mediterranean fishing boat visitors can use to drift along the region's turquoise coves. Rentals complete with skipper, half-day or full-day rate. Optional add-on of a gourmet picnic basket!

A 'happy free' concierge service is available and connected to a premium selection of local services: well-being treatments exclusive to the hotel, seaside activity bookings (stand-up paddling, lounge on private beach, seaside dining, etc.) or a show at the Théâtre Liberté...

The Hôtel La Corniche is a 4-star hotel with 30 high quality rooms and suites, most of which enjoy sea views. Renovation work first kicked off in 2014, and in 2016 the hotel will be paying tribute to Toulon's festive past, embodied by characters who left their mark on the city: new design for a new atmosphere!

www.hotel-corniche.com

■ Reopening of the 5-star Mas des Herbes Blanches in Joucas, near Gordes (Luberon)

Closed for renovation, in 2016 the Relais & Châteaux Le Mas des Herbes Blanches hotel will celebrate the opening of 29 new bedrooms and suites, a new spa, a new reception area (for seminars, weddings, etc.) as well as a second restaurant - a bistro that will offer set salad and grill menus to enjoy along with views over the Parc Luberon.

www.herbesblanches.com

■ Opening of the AC Marriott Stade Vélodrome **** in Marseille

The Marriott Group is pursuing its development in France where 27 establishments already exist. It will be present in Marseille with the opening in January 2016 with the AC Hotel at Stade Vélodrome. This 4-star hotel with 126 rooms (including 9 Junior Suites) is ideally located at the foot of the Vélodrome Football Stadium and the Parc Chanot Exhibition & Convention Centre. With very easy access to the historic city-centre (metro, bus) and the Prado beaches, it is perfect for both business tourism and stays with your partner or family.

The inspiration for its modern contemporary design can be found in the major architectural features of Marseille. The Oh Massalia Restaurant & Bar and its Provençal garden will offer typical Mediterranean fare.

With Marseille scheduled to host six UEFA Euro 2016 football matches at the Vélodrome Stadium, this new facility could not have opened at a better time!

Ac Marriott Stade Velodrome

4, allée Marcel Leclerc 13008 Marseille

<http://www.marriott.fr/hotels/travel/mrsar-ac-hotel-marseille/>

What happened in 2015

■ The 3-star Boutique-Hôtel Les Voiles*** (Toulon) celebrated its first anniversary

To celebrate its first anniversary, the Les Voiles hotel opened its rooftop terrace in 2015, a sweeping space in which visitors can enjoy a drink, tuck into a refreshing salad or simply kick back with a good book. All with breath-taking views of the Mediterranean.

NB: New concierge service in 2015

www.hotel-voiles.com



■ **Exciting new developments at the Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hôtel**

Located close to the Grand Théâtre d'Aix-en-Provence a stone's throw from the city centre, in 2015 the Renaissance hotel welcomed a new chef to lead its Le Comptoir du Clos restaurant: Arnaud Davin. Outside, a summer terrace and nomadic tent stretched over 1,000 m² of garden offer pre-dinner drinks and barbecues, a refreshing summer menu and a cocktail bar. A recent addition to the hotel is an in-house Starbucks. Finally, in 2016 the Renaissance will be hosting one of the UEFA Cup's European football teams!

www.marriott.fr/hotels/hotel-photos/mrsbr-renaissance-aix-en-provence-hotel/

■ **A rooftop terrace built on the Sofitel Vieux-Port in Marseille**

Following the success of the terrace opening at the Bar le Carré, the decision was taken to build a rooftop terrace on the Sofitel, boasting views of the Old Port. Thanks to this panoramic view, the terrace transforms business lunches and dinners between friends into moments of pure pleasure in a unique, stylish and intimate setting. The menu features an array of choices, from perfect classics to smoked salmon and foie gras, all served with a fantastic selection of wines and champagnes and the delightful treats of the Glacier du Roi, one of Marseille's best ice-cream makers.

www.sofitel-marseille-vieuxport.com

■ **Grand opening of the "La Coquillade 5-Star Village" - Gargas, Vaucluse**

Located in the heart of a Luberon vineyard, this winery is renowned for its 5-star hotel and Michelin-starred restaurant, and opened its doors in 2015:

35 new rooms from 30 to 70 m² equipped with outdoor terraces or balconies, a 1500m² spa complete with 10 treatment booths, an indoor pool, a fitness room, a relaxation room and 2 private spaces with sauna, jacuzzi, and Turkish baths, as well as a reception space of 300 m² to host 150 people. Finally, to have fun while exploring the Carrières d'Ocres quarries in Roussillon, the Coquillade offers a BMX bike rental service.

www.coquillade.fr

■ **New well-being area at the 4-star Gorges du Verdon hotel (Alpes de Haute Provence)**

This 30-bedroom boutique hotel is ideally located at the gateway to the Route des Crêtes overlooking the Gorges du Verdon, and opened a new Cinq Mondes spa in April 2015. The spa is housed in a new building around the existing heated and covered pool, and includes three massage rooms (a double and a single), a spa bath room, a Turkish bath, a sauna, a gym, and a large semi-outdoor swimming spa with counter-current feature and a jacuzzi. We love the panoramic views over the village and valley, with fields of lavender popping up throughout the summer. NB: all rooms have been renovated since 2011.

www.hotel-des-gorges-du-verdon.fr

■ **Opening of the Hôtel de Tourrel in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence (Alpilles)**

German publicist Ralph Gunter was a geology enthusiast who bought 3 of the village's old listed houses with the ambitious idea of renovating them to create a luxury haven in the midst of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence in the Alpilles. Since June 2015, this new intimate space (7 suites, a panoramic terrace and an inner courtyard complete with a bathing pool) has been offering visitors elegance, comfort and refinement.

Chef Benoit Fauci delights the taste-buds with his colourful, gourmet cuisine that remains good value for money (3-course menu for €48).

The perfect location to explore the exceptional sights around Saint-Rémy (Saint-Paul de Mausole hospices visited by Van Gogh, the Roman ruins in Glanum, bike tours in the Alpilles, the medieval castle of Les Baux-de-Provence, the wineries of the Les Baux valleys and the famous oil mills) while enjoying full immersion in village life. The perfect spot for a private family event in Provence!

www.detourrel.com

■ **Renovation work at the Dolce Frégate Golf Resort Bandol**

The Dolce Frégate Golf Resort has been equipped with 30 additional rooms since summer 2015, terraced with views over the golf course and the sea at Les Bastides. The bedrooms enjoy access to a new swimming-pool overlooking an inner courtyard. The hotel and restaurants are scheduled to undergo full renovation works between now and 2016, over the course of which a new spa will be fitted.

www.dolcefregate.com

■ **The Bastide de Gordes reopens its doors after 8 months of renovation (Luberon)**

Enjoying a spectacular location in Gordes, a village labelled 'one of France's most beautiful', the hotel is expanding its offer with a new meeting space comprised of 5 rooms ranging from 27 to 190 m². In addition to the spa and pool with view over the Luberon, clients can tuck into fine cuisine whipped up by Michelin-starred chef Pierre Gagnaire, who heads up the hotel's restaurant.

www.bastide-de-gordes.com



RESTAURANTS

Coming soon in 2016

■ Opening of the Carré du Palais, Avignon

Avignon, the capital of the Côtes du Rhône, deserved a prestigious location to showcase its wines of the Rhône Valley. And that is exactly what will happen come spring 2016: the magnificent 18th century Calvet de la Palun private mansion, one of the last hotels to be built in pontifical Avignon and formerly used for the Bank of France, announced the transformation it is to undergo in 2016, destined to be turned into a new exceptional establishment: the Carré du Palais.

A wine school, a hub of taste devoted to regional produce, a wine bar, a gourmet restaurant led by a renowned chef and a bistro, as well as charming suites will all find their place here, tucked away between the Place de l'Horloge and the Palais des Papes.

www.carredupalaisavignon.com

What happened in 2015

■ The restaurant at the Palace La Messardière in Saint-Tropez welcomed its new chef

In 2015, the gourmet restaurant L'Acacia welcomed head chef Patrick BERTHIER to its kitchen. He joins the team at the Palace de la Messardière after over twenty years as a chef in a number of Relais & Châteaux and luxury hotels. Supported by a new sous chef and pastry chef, the team concocts simple, refined, light dishes for guests, drawing on delicious, quality ingredients inspired by regional produce.

www.messardiere.com

■ The Le Poulpe restaurant opens in Marseille

Former Michelin-starred chef at Bordeaux's Saint James restaurant Michel Portos is the brain behind this local produce restaurant.

The concept? All ingredients, whether solid or liquid, are sourced, grown or produced less than 200 km away from Marseille, except for champagne and Corsican specialities.

Food with regional produce - including the wine.

Choose from two starters, two mains and two desserts. Lunch menu from €19.

Open 7 days a week.

www.lepoulpe-marseille.com

Coming soon in 2016

■ Exhibition PICASSO at the MUCEM in Marseille

After the Picasso exhibition in 2009 in Aix-en-Provence, this time it's the famous Marseille museum's turn to host an exhibition on the artist from 26 April to 29 August 2016, focusing on the parallels to be drawn between Picasso's work and popular art and tradition. Visitors will be treated to the artist's favourite objects and themes and his work based on traditional techniques and materials (ceramics, goldsmithery, wood) as well as his interest in using recycled materials and everyday items in his sculptures. This exhibition once again pays tribute to the painter's love for Provence.

www.mucem.org

■ Korean contemporary art exhibition at Marseille's MAC

As part of France's 'Year of Korea' campaign, the MAC (Museum of Contemporary Art) will be hosting the 'The Future Is Now' exhibition from September 2015 to February 2016, showcasing a broad spectrum of Korean creativity via its collections of video art. This exhibition aims to build European awareness of contemporary Korean artistic creativity, particularly in the fields of high technology applied to art.

www.marseille.fr/siteculture/les-lieux-culturels/musees/le-musee-dart-contemporain/exposition-temporaire

What happened in 2015

■ New historic sight-seeing trail at L'Isle sur la Sorgue (Vaucluse)

A new historic trail dotted with plaques detailing the historical background behind each monument and site (fishing quarter, the Collegiate Church, the Jewish quarter, etc.).

www.oti-delasorgue.fr/

■ A new art centre in the Saint Tropez Gulf

Port Tonic Art Center, a new 4,000 m² site with 180° views of the sea, hosted a number of international contemporary artists in 2015, as well as works from the Saudi BASMOCA museum.

Summer 2015 line-up available online

www.porttonicartcenter.org

■ Reopening of the Lambert collection in Avignon

After expansion works that lasted a year, the contemporary art collection belonging to famous gallery owner Yvon Lambert reopened its doors on 4 July 2015. His contemporary art collection is one of the most prestigious in the world and includes works from the 1960s to the present day, encompassing paintings, sculptures, installations, videos and photography. The collection is now brought together in a 3,600 m² space, more than double the size of its former venue.

As well as a reception and screening area, an apartment for artist residences has been set up, as well as an artwork restoration space and spaces dedicated to educational activities.

www.collectionlambert.fr

■ The Hôtel de Caumont: a new art centre in the heart of Aix, open since May 2015, Aix-en-Provence

The 18th century Hôtel de Caumont is one of Aix-en-Provence's most beautiful mansions. Located near the Cours Mirabeau in the Mazarin area, it is currently being fully renovated. The establishment will host large-scale temporary exhibitions dedicated to leading figures in art history from the 14th to the 19th century.

The Hôtel de Caumont plunges visitors back into the atmosphere and surroundings of the 18th century and aims to become a leading venue on the Aix cultural scene - a place to discover and share a love of art. Thanks to its new owner, Culturespaces, the Hôtel de Caumont is to be dedicated to art and culture. The tour then continues through to the cultural bookshop and boutique, followed by the two Caumont cafés for a quick break.

www.hoteldecaumont.com

■ A new lavender museum in Digne les Bains (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)

Inaugurated on 26 June 2015, the museum unveils the history and growing of lavender through an original concept: a tour given in via a sound and light show to explore the beauty of the Southern Alps and the work carried out by its farmers. The tour includes stories and real-life experiences as well as distillery workshops held in the museum's courtyard. Open every day in summer and from Monday to Saturday in winter.

www.musee-lavande-digne.fr

■ The L'Occitane museum in Provence opens its garden in Manosque (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)

The internationally-renowned brand L'Occitane en Provence invites visitors into its factory as well as its garden, where the aromatic and medicinal plants used in its products are grown. A sensuous stroll through patches of wild Mediterranean flora, in addition to a tour of the factory, museum and Boutique.

<http://fr.loccitane.com/fp/Visite-de-lusine-lOccitane-dans-les-coulisses-de-la-beaut%C3%A9,74,1,a1168.htm>

■ A new 'the Landscapes of Vincent van Gogh' trail opens in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence (Alpilles)

This one-hour walk showcases 19 copies of paintings created by the artist in Saint-Rémy. Beginning at the Hôtel Estrine, the route encompasses the Place de la Mairie, carrying on up the Rue de la Commune to the Tourist Office before trailing along the Avenue Van Gogh to the Cloître Saint-Paul de Mausole. Each of the painter's works is accompanied by an extract from the letters that Vincent Van Gogh wrote to his brother Théo.

www.saintremy-de-provence.com

■ The Rex, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence's old cinema, is converted into a cultural centre (Alpilles)

The REX is Saint-Rémy's latest retro-flavoured urban venue: a wine bar, exceptional concerts all year-round (its summer jazz line-up speaks for itself), vernissages every Monday designed to showcase as much fine art talent as possible, wine-tasting courses and conferences on spirituality, philosophy and art. The REX is a place that is dedicated to culture and its enthusiasts.

www.rex-saint-remy.fr

■ Entrevaux: an app that helps you explore the village (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)

In Entrevaux, not far from the Gorges du Verdon amidst Vauban's citadel and fortifications, lie buildings packed full of history, from the electricity factory, the wash house, and of course the flour and oil mills. Discover this heritage thanks to the Moulins d'Entrevaux app, which leads you on a trail from monument to monument. The reception desk at Entrevaux is also on-hand to lend you tablets free of charge.

Prolong the experience in unique, quirky accommodation: a week for the entire family in a former Entrevaux miller's house, and get up-close-and-personal with history! Guaranteed authenticity!

www.entrevaux.info

■ Daytour: family cycles throughout Provence

'Talking bikes' with which to discover Avignon and its surroundings: slip on the helmet and sit back as the audio-guide takes you on a ride or walk along a trail drawn up by Daytour, leading you to spectacular monuments and to visit local producers in partnership with the project. Kids will also enjoy activities especially designed for them, including mazes and treasure hunts. Choose from a range of different tour themes (Avignon, wine, local produce) and bikes (electric or standard) available at Daytour rental points with delivery available to your holiday accommodation.

www.daytour.fr

Mobile app: ProvencePass@, to discover all the Daytour trails and enjoy reduced rates from our partners

Horizon 2018

■ Opening of the Fondation Luma in Arles

The American-Canadian architect Frank Gehry, famous for having designed the Guggenheim in Bilbao and the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris brings us a new project for the Fondation Luma in Arles, in the heart of Camargue. Maja Hoffmann also collaborated on the project. The Foundation aims to promote the production of new art forms by allowing artists and researchers from different fields to collaborate. Located a couple of hundred metres away from the Roman sites in the city's historic centre, this extraordinary building is due to be completed in 2018.

www.eiffage.com/home/le-groupe-1/our-projects/projets-en-cours/fondation-luma-a-arles.html

IN THE VINEYARDS

Coming soon in 2016

■ **Renovation of the Domaine de Rimauresq in Pignans (Var)**

For 2016, the estate is being renovated, extended and most importantly of all, being given a disability-friendly aspect. Located at the foot of Notre-Dame-des-Anges, the Domaine de Rimauresq will also be introducing an unprecedented vintage. A magnificent sunrise breaking over the estate, the fresh, morning scent of the vines, redesigned guest rooms: an unforgettable stay between earth and sky!

www.rimauresq.eu

■ **10th anniversary of the Château Mentone in Saint-Antonin-du-Var – New farm inn**

Don't miss the estate's new features in 2015: after many long months of work, the Château Mentone had already opened new tasting, catering and sales areas in May 2015 to sit alongside its 5 guest rooms and 7 guest houses. The farm inn was born: the old farm attached to the estate was redesigned by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, a Paris-based urban designer. It opened its doors to the public for a 'great outdoors' gourmet stay package, and an original way to explore the world of wine...

The Chateau Mentone hosts events and entertainment throughout the year. Check the programme at

www.chateamentone.com

What happened in 2015

■ **The Château Gassier Sainte-Victoire opened its doors to families in Puylobier (north of Aix-en-Provence)**

The Domaine Gassier Sainte Victoire in the Aix en Provence surrounding region primarily produces Côte-de-Provence rosé and launched its 'Sentier des Vignes' wine route in April. This fun activity lets children explore the estate and its wines thanks to a trail game and clues to be solved over the course of a walk that can take from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Visitors can also enjoy commented tours of the estate's wines while admiring views of the Sainte-Victoire, with free access from Monday to Saturday.

www.chateau-gassier.fr

■ **Domaine Tourbillon in Lagnes (Luberon)**

These new cellars and reception room were opened in April 2015 in Lagnes, nestled between L'Isle-sur-La-Sorgue, Fontaine de Vaucluse and the Sénanque Abbey. This space amidst the vineyards, carved into sculpted stone and symbolising vines, can host weddings, birthdays, conferences and product launches. Events based on wine (Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas, Côte du Rhône) and wine tasting can be provided during the events.

www.domaine-tourbillon.com

■ **The Domaine Faverot in Luberon is bought by the New Hotel group**

The New Hotel group has long been established in Marseille and has become involved in Provence's wine-making scene by founding the Domaine des Peyre and buying the Domaine Faverot in the neighbouring village of Maubec. The latter offers 2- to 4-person cottages.

Depending on the season, visitors are invited to explore the life cycle of a vineyard, help with harvests and/or pruning, and sample the Estate's wines.

www.cottages-faverot.com

SPORT & LEISURE

Coming soon in 2016

■ The Tall Ship is back in Toulon

As part of the Tall Ship's Regatta, Toulon will be one of the stop-off points for this legendary sail boat event that brings together a number of young sailors. In honour of these exceptional boats, from 13 to 16 May 2016 the city will host an exhibition village stretched over 8,000 m² in which these magnificent traditional sail boats will be viewable by the public.

www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/2016-the-tall-ships-races

■ French Canoe and Kayak Championships on the Ubaye from 5 to 10 July 2016 (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)

Following 2014's edition, yet another hundred-odd clubs and around 450 participants will be battling it out on the iconic Ubaye River. Enjoying a strong natural flow with no barrages, the Ubaye boasts rapids classified from 2 to 5 on a scale of 1 to 6, making it the perfect river for competitions. All spectators are welcome and will be able to explore the natural richness of the valley with a Mexican past. The list of accommodation here is as long as it is varied, from campsites to hotels via tourism residences, guest houses or an original night spent in a bubble through which you can stargaze!

www.ubaye.com

■ The UEFA Football World Cup in France and Marseille from 10 June to 10 July 2016

The 2016 UEFA European football championship aka the Euro 2016 is the 15th edition of the European football championship, a competition organised by the Union of European Football Associations that brings together the very best European teams. It will take place in France from 10 June to 10 July 2016 in the following cities: Paris-Saint-Denis, Lyon, Lille, Marseille, Bordeaux, Saint-Etienne, Lens, Nice and Toulouse.

France has hosted the championship more times than any other country, in 1960, 1984 and 2016. This is the first edition in which the number of participants has been increased from 16 to 24 teams. Marseille's new Velodrome was inaugurated in 2014 and can seat 67,000, including 6,000 in boxes and business seats.

Marseille will be hosting 6 matches, more than any French city other than Paris - Saint Denis (7 matches). The draw for the final stages will be held on 12 December 2015.

Qualifying matches:

- 11 June at 9pm: Group B
- 15 June at 9pm: Group A (France)
- 18 June at 6pm: Group F
- 21 June at 6pm: Group C

Final matches:

- 30 June at 9pm: quarter final
- 7 July at 9pm: final

2.5 million spectators are expected to flock to the stadiums, including 1 million visitors from abroad. They are expected to spend around 1 billion euros during the competition period.

The 5-star Renaissance hotel in Aix-en-Provence will also host one of the European football teams.

www.lenouveaustadevelodrome.com

www.marseille-tourisme.com/fileadmin/user_upload/DP-Euro2016.pdf

(Subject to confirmation) Opening of the Parc Spirou in Montoux (Vaucluse)

Around 25 world-class attractions were selected for the Parc Spirou, each representing a theme from the Spirou & Fantasio comics or other characters from within the pages of Spirou's notebooks. Most of the attractions are based on digital technology and the park's layout will incorporate roller-coasters, dark rides and scenic trails. The park will be designed to appeal to the entire family, with rides accessible to visitors of all ages. Planned to be located on the same site as Splashworld.

www.parc-spirou.com

■ The Walk Inn agency is developing 2 trails based on a Wine and Culture theme

For fans of hiking and biking, Walk Inn offers a mix of challenging hikes and cultural trails of all kinds across Provence. A wonderful opportunity to discover iconic locations such as Avignon, the Mont Ventoux, Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Arles, and to try out the very best restaurants and greatest local grands crus. Bikes are included in the price of the stays, ensuring you get the very best quality experience! Available all year-round for individuals and groups.

www.walkinproveance.com/fr

What happened in 2015

■ Opening of an extensive horse-riding trail along the Route Napoléon (Alpes de Haute-Provence) in May 2015

A large part of the Route Napoléon is accessible on horseback thanks to a new Digne-Sisteron section added to the area already cleared between Castellane and Digne. 350 km connecting Grasse to Vizille en Isère overlapping 4 départements to follow in the footsteps of Napoléon upon his return from Elba in 1815. The route is dotted with anecdotes and iconic sites related to the famous Emperor.

www.tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com/randonnees-route-napoleon/

■ **New bike circuit – the Vaucluse ‘Grande Traversée’ mountain bike crossing**

The full route of this new mountain-biking circuit was established by the département of Vaucluse and entitled the mountain-biking Grande Traversée by the French Federation of Cycling.

This highly technical and physically demanding circuit is dotted with single tracks and has been perfectly cleared to allow for an unprecedented trip through the exceptional landscapes of the Vaucluse. This unique mountain-biking trail is accessible throughout the year, between the Mont Ventoux, Dentelles de Montmirail, Monts de Vaucluse and Luberon, taking cyclists on a journey through authentic countryside, picturesque villages and unspoilt nature.

Details of the route by section are available on the Vaucluse tourism departmental website:

www.provenceguide.com/itineraires/vtt/offres-33-1.html

■ **Opening of the Splashworld water park in Monteux in Vaucluse**

This 5-hectare park opened its doors in August 2015, featuring 15 attractions from rivers and giant slides to Europe's largest surf simulator! The park includes catering points, a boutique and a club for nights out, and was entirely built based on an eco-friendly design.

www.splashworld.net

Horizon 2017

■ **Marseille appointed European Capital of Sport for 2017**

Founded in 2001 by Gian Francesco Lupattelli, every year the ACES (European Cities and Capitals of Sports Federation) hands out awards to the European “Capital”, “City” and “Municipality” of sport. These titles are awarded to cities that comply with the ethics and roles played by sport in improving standards of living and physical and mental well-being, as well as promoting sport among various social categories. The ACES is recognised by the white paper on sport and is therefore committed to working for sport in the long term across Europe.

In late October 2014, Marseille was appointed European Capital of Sport for 2017, with the city's application sponsored by Nathalie SIMON, former French Windsurfing Champion.

www.mpsport2017.com

■ **Via Rhône: a biking circuit that follows the Rhône from Lake Léman to the Mediterranean**

This new circuit will thrill all biking enthusiasts: between now and 2017, 700 km of cycling trails will follow the river's course. The itinerary is open to all, from kids and pedestrians to cyclists and visitors with reduced mobility. In 2014, 275 km had already been laid down, which, once completed, will allow visitors to cycle past some of the region's most iconic sights and sites: Avignon, Camargue, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, les Alpilles, and beyond.

www.viarhona.com

■ **Opening of a new 9-hole golf course in Cassis on the Route de la Gare**

Scheduled for September 2017

More info coming soon

MOUNTAINS

Coming soon in 2016

■ An underground Via Ferrata in Dévoluy from summer 2016 (Hautes-Alpes)

A classic via ferrata featuring climbable cleared walls, tethered and secured to the cliffs...except the space is entirely underground, in the Chourums de la Tune in Superdévoluy! A unique adventure for young and old alike - not recommended for those with claustrophobia! Activity available in summer and winter.

www.ledevoluy.com

■ Airboard in the Ecrins (Hautes-Alpes)

Airboarding is a new style of sledding that lets you fly down the runs in an inflatable sled - head first! Unlike traditional sledding, airboarding is very easy to get to grips with. To turn, simply shift your body into the curve and to stop, skid over so that the sled is perpendicular to the run: easy-peasy. Introductory days to this quirky sport start with training on regular runs followed by an afternoon spent higher up for a real adrenaline rush.

www.airboard-ecrins-raquette.com

What happened in 2015

■ New coach route between Serre-Chevalier/TGV station of Oulx, Italy

Open every day, this line sets off from Monetier-les-Bains to the TGV station in Oulx (Italy), taking around ninety minutes. Three trains depart every day, with timings structured to coincide with arrivals and departures of trains for Paris and Milan. Users can buy combination tickets (TGV train + Shuttle) from the SNCF, and can buy their tickets online at www.05voyageurs.com or directly from the driver. www.autocars-resalp.com

■ The 4-star Nevalhaia Le Chalet in Vars (Hautes-Alpes) 5 rooms opened in February 2015

This new 4-star hotel located at 2,000 metres above sea level opened its first 5 rooms in February 2015. Boasting bio-climatic architecture in harmony with the environment and contemporary, ultra-comfortable interiors, this cosy, intimate hotel offers a small restaurant open to hotel clients only. On the ground floor, a hot spa offers views over the snow-laden landscapes...

www.nevalhaia.com

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

■ Camper van rentals from Marseille-Saint-Charles station with the opening of the Blacksheep agency

This van rental agency has set up shop in the Friche district to offer a new holiday concept: enjoy total freedom while you travel in full-comfort camper vans to sleep up to 6 people. In addition to this, Blacksheep offers all of its clients reduced rates on a number of partner services, from climbing and kite-surfing to rafting, diving and beyond. www.blacksheep-van.com

■ The Terre de Mistral estate in Rousset (Bouches-du-Rhône) introduces its 'pay-what-you-like' deal

Located 20 minutes away from Aix-en-Provence, the Domaine Terre de Mistral offers a range of activities. The estate produces wine and olive oil and is equipped to host seminars, receptions, tasting and Provençal catering events in its farmhouse inn. On the last Thursday of every month, you decide how much you pay based on the quality of your meal. On other days, the farmhouse inn is open every lunch time and Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings to bring you refined cuisine with a Provençal accent. www.terre-de-mistral.com

■ RendezvousCheznous, quirky tours throughout Provence

RendezvousCheznous is a network of private individuals across the South of France who offer guided tours based on a variety of themes: culture, photography, sport, gastronomy and more. Available in all of Provence's most beautiful locations, from the cities of Arles, Avignon, Marseille and Aix to the Var, the Luberon, Languedoc and Camargue. Perfect for budget-friendly experiences with family and friends. Information and bookings online at www.rendezvouscheznous.com

■ 'Botanical' walk to discover the wild flora in the Alpilles

Sylvie Girardot is a naturopath and herbalist who offers botanical walks in the Alpilles designed to help visitors better appreciate the flora and to learn to recognise and use medicinal plants and herbs. Every Tuesday and Thursday from June to November or upon booking. Individuals, groups, families, guided in French or English. From 4 to 10 people. Half-day or full-day tickets (upon request). In French or English. www.naturopathe-13-84-sylviegirardot.com

■ Discover the colorant plants at the Couleur Garance botanical garden in Lauris (Vaucluse)

This garden is home to over 250 species of plants designed to be used in dyeing, ink-making, cosmetics or food. Labelled a 'Remarkable Garden' in 2011, the centre describes itself as a place of research, exchange and documentation thanks to the many workshops it runs for kids and adults with a view to promoting these different techniques. 2 new offers were launched in 2015: a 2-day beginners' introduction workshop to Shibori, a Japanese technique, and an introductory workshop on plant-based dyeing that runs for 5 days. www.couleur-garance.com

■ Rodolphe macaroons walk away with first place in the French Macaroon Championships 2015

The word 'macaroon' conjures up images of Paris and Ladurée, but the French macaroon champion in 2015 actually comes from Vaucluse! Rodolphe Janot, based in Morières-Lès-Avignon, won this prestigious prize for the second time (first win in 2011) thanks to around thirty different flavours: Espelette Pepper & Chocolate, Rhubarb, Rose & Raspberry, Yuzu, Quince & Orange Blossom, Kaffir Lime & Raspberry, Apricot & Saffron, melon & Mint, Lemon & Basil, Banana, Ginger & Blackcurrant - there's something for all tastes! The patisserie in Morières, Le Plaisir Gourmand, sells approximately 5,000 macaroons every week. www.provence-mag.fr/les-macarons-de-rodolphe

■ Greeters at the Salon-de-Provence

Founded in New York in the 1990s, the international Greeters' movement brings together volunteer locals who are passionate about their city or region. Greeters host visitors as they would friends - free of charge. The passion that Greeters have for their regions, cities and villages marks a return to local hospitality, and in 2014 France became home to more Greeters than anywhere else in the world. Salon-de-Provence, famed for its soap-making and Nostradamus, set up its network of volunteer locals in 2015, thus becoming part of the regional network alongside Marseille-Provence and Nice www.francegreeters.fr www.salondeprovence-greeters.com

■ The 'Apple des Cimes' spirit is created: a drink that sparkles with excellence, inspired by the ice ciders of Canada, recreated in the Hautes-Alpes

Pomme Givrée (Iced Apple) and Pomme Rôtie (Roasted Apple) are the Yin and Yang expressions of the Hautes-Alpes' orchard apples, alcoholic beverages based on high altitude pippin apples harvested late at the end of October. The exceptional excellence here is linked to how these quality apples are used, drawing on a technique called 'cryo-concentration' for the Pomme Givrée (the water contained in the juice is extracted at -20°C) and a long fermentation process in controlled temperatures for the Pomme Rôtie. Over 3 kilos of apples are needed to make a 35 cl bottle. Perfect served with foie gras or spicy dishes. See a full list of distribution point online (public price of €22) www.appledescimes.fr



SAVE THE DATE!

More information available
in the annexes: Events 2016

Cultural line-up 2016

■ Exhibition: **Korean contemporary art**

*From September 2015 to February 2016
at the contemporary art museum in Marseille*

The MAC (Museum of Contemporary Art) will be hosting the 'The Future Is Now' exhibition from September 2015 to February 2016, showcasing a broad spectrum of Korean creativity via its collections of video art. This exhibition aims to build European awareness of contemporary Korean artistic creativity, particularly in the fields of high technology applied to art.

www.marseille.fr/siteculture/les-lieux-culturels/musees/le-musee-dart-contemporain/exposition-temporaire

■ Exhibition: **Les vies**

*From 19 September 2015 to 20 March 2016
at the Musée Regards de Provence - Marseille*

The Musée Regards de Provence museum brings together works of art from the 18th, 19th and 21st centuries, showcasing classical or original compositions, objects and still life works from the Fondation Regards de Provence collection. Paintings and photographs that reveal classic, romantic, modern and contemporary compositions will feature side-by-side here, along with sumptuous bouquets of flowers and still life paintings featuring an abundance of fruits, game, objects and rich fabrics.

The Fondation Regards de Provence is dedicated to Marseille and Provence's artistic and cultural heritage. Located inside the Fernand Pouillon former maritime sanitary resort, the venue is a listed 20th century heritage building.

www.museeregardsdeprovence.com

■ Exhibition: **'J'aime les panoramas' S'appropriier le monde**

*From 4 November 2015 to 29 February 2016
at the Mucem - Marseille*

This exhibition invites visitors to reflect on viewpoints and images through spectacular installations of historical and contemporary panoramas. The question of appropriating a region in all of its many forms (artistic, geographical, military, etc.) is considered alongside the role played by images within our societies as key to civilisation.

www.mucem.org

■ Exhibition: **The Prince of Liechtenstein's Collections**

*From 7 november 2015 to 20 march 2016
at the Hotel de Caumont - Aix-en-Provence*

The Prince of Liechtenstein's collections are some of the largest private collections currently in existence, and some of the most vibrant, as the current Prince Hans-Adam II is a regular and active art collector and buyer. The selection on show at the Caumont Centre d'Art serves as an introduction to the tastes of this royal family featuring works of art from the 14th to the 19th centuries. Located in the heart of Aix-en-Provence, the Centre d'Art opened its doors on 6 May 2015 in the Hôtel de Caumont, a fully-restored 18th century private mansion.

www.caumont-centredart.com

■ **Easter Festival**

*From 22 March to 3 April 2016
at the Grand Théâtre - Aix-en-Provence*

Founded and directed by Renaud Capuçon and Dominique Bluzet in 2013, the Easter Festival is dedicated to classical music and brings together international musicians of all stripes: Hélène Grimaud Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Valery Gergiev, Iván Fischer...

A press conference in Aix en Provence will be held on 28 September 2016 at the Théâtre du Jeu de Paume.

www.festivalpaques.com/fr/4/aix-et-les-theatres

■ **Feria d'Arles**

From 3 to 6 April 2015

This feria returns year after year to mark the beginning of the bull-fighting temporada (season) in France. Thousands of fans flock here to celebrate this tradition, with the old town being entirely pedestrianised and orchestras flooding the streets. In addition to the corridas, the feria is synonymous with exhibitions, events and activities and even conferences.

www.feriaarles.com

■ Exhibition: **Picasso**

From 26 April to 29 August 2016 at the Mucem - Marseille

The famous Marseille museum will be hosting an exhibition on the artist, focusing on the parallels to be drawn between Picasso's work and popular art and tradition. Visitors will be treated to the artist's favourite objects and themes and his work based on traditional techniques and materials (ceramics, goldsmithery, wood) as well as his interest in using recycled materials and everyday items in his sculptures.

www.mucem.org

■ **Traditional Herdsmen Festival**

1 May 2016 - Arles

Every year on the 1st of May, the herdsmen celebrate Saint George. In the morning, herdsmen from around the Camargue region take part in a procession alongside Arles women in traditional garb, followed by a mass service held in Provençal in tribute to the patron saint. In the afternoon, the herdsmen go head-to-head in equestrian games held in the Roman amphitheatre

www.arlestourisme.com

■ **Fondation Vincent van Gogh**

From 20 May To 11 September 2016 - Arles

The Foundation dedicated to the famous painter will host an exhibition on the works of Van Gogh from 14 May to 11 September. Other exhibitions will be scattered throughout the year, such as a David Hockney exhibition from 11 October 2015 to 10 January 2016 entitled 'The Arrival of Spring' and an Urs Fischer exhibition from 15 February to 20 April. The Musée Départemental Arles Antique will be hosting an exhibition on Khaemwaset, the fourth son of Ramesses II and the second son of the second Great Royal Wife Isetnofret.

Musée Réattu: exhibition held as part of the Rencontres dedicated to the photographer Katerina Jebb, from early July 2016 to late December.

www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org

■ **80 years of the AOC of Cassis**

Sunday 15 May 2016

In honour of the anniversary of France's very first AOC region, a rich line-up of festivities is scheduled for 15 May: a harvest feast, coupo santo, blessing, procession, folk dances, picnic and tasting sessions. Today, the AOC of Cassis encompasses 215 hectares and produces on average 7,500 hl per year. Unique in Provence, it primarily produces white wines. Rosés make up 30% of production and reds the remaining 3%.

■ **Exhibition: Mario Prassinos at The Musée Estrine**

From 12 June To 4 September 2016 - Saint Rémy de Provence

Located in the heart of the old town and easily accessible, the Estrine museum was renovated and expanded in 2014, and is a living museum that holds a number of key temporary exhibitions every year, alongside its modern and contemporary art collections. The biggest for 2016 will celebrate 100 years since the birth of the painter Mario Prassinos.

The museum's permanent collection is dedicated to painting and graphic art from the 20th and 21st centuries in a tribute to Vincent van Gogh and Albert Gleizes who spent one and twenty years respectively in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

www.musee-estrine.fr

■ **The luminescences d'Avignon**

From 12 August to 3 October 2016 at the Palais des Papes - Avignon

Sound and light display designed by Bruno Seillier. A 35-minute staged show that restores the castle to its medieval glory, when Christianity had reached its apex.

The Cour d'Honneur at the Palais des Papes is drenched in light, plunging spectators into the midst of over-sized high-resolution images and 3D sequences. A heady journey through time.

New: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the 10:15pm session is in English.

www.avignon-tourisme.com

■ **Exhibition: 'Charles Camoin un peintre dans sa lumière'**

From 18 June to 2 October 2016 at the Musée Granet - Aix en Provence

Drawing on his regular correspondence with Cézanne, Charles Camoin features among the artists of that generation who sought to surpass impressionism by taking inspiration from the Master of Aix. The 'Charles Camoin: a Painter in His Light' exhibition offers a glimpse of this artist's life in the 20th century by attempting to reposition him within his artistic setting and environment in Provence. Another entirely overlooked aspect of his life pertaining to European artistic exchanges at the beginning of the century, in particular exchanges between France and Germany. Charles Camoin was one of the artists whose work was introduced to the German public very early on.

www.musee-granet-aixenprovence.fr



Sports line-up 2016

■ Tall Ship RACE

From 13 to 16 May 2016 - TOULON

As part of the Tall Ship's Regatta, Toulon will be one of the stop-off points for this legendary sail boat event that brings together a number of young sailors. In honour of these exceptional boats, from 13 to 16 May 2016 the city will host an exhibition village stretched over 8,000 m2 in which these magnificent traditional sail boats will be viewable by the public.

www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/2016-the-tall-ships-races

■ French Canoe and Kayak Championships

From 5 to 10 July 2016 - UBAYE

Following 2014's edition, yet another hundred-odd clubs and around 450 participants will be battling it out on the iconic Ubaye River. Enjoying a strong natural flow with no barrages, the Ubaye boasts rapids classified from 2 to 5 on a scale of 1 to 6, making it the perfect river for competitions. All spectators are welcome and will be able to explore the natural richness of the valley with a Mexican past. The list of accommodation here is as long as it is varied, from campsites to hotels via tourism residences, guest houses or an original night spent in a bubble through which you can stargaze!

www.ubaye.com

■ UEFA European Football Cup

From 10 June to 10 July 2016 - MARSEILLE

The 2016 UEFA European football championship aka the Euro 2016 is the 15th edition of the European football championship, a competition organised by the Union of European Football Associations that brings together the very best European teams. It will take place in France from 10 June to 10 July 2016. France has hosted the championship more times than any other country, in 1960, 1984 and 2016. Marseille's new Velodrome was inaugurated in 2014 and can seat 67,000, including 6,000 in boxes and business seats.

This is the first edition in which the number of participants has been increased from 16 to 24 teams.

Marseille will be hosting 6 matches, more than any French city other than Paris - Saint Denis (7 matches). The draw for the final stages will be held on 12 December 2015.

Qualifying matches:

- 11 June at 9pm: Group B
- 15 June at 9pm: Group A (France)
- 18 June at 6pm: Group f
- 21 June at 6pm: Group C

Final matches:

- 30 June at 9pm: quarter final
- 7 July at 9pm: final

2.5 million spectators are expected to flock to the stadiums, including 1 million visitors from abroad. They are expected to spend around 1 billion euros during the competition period.

The 5-star Renaissance hotel in Aix-en-Provence will also host one of the European football teams.

www.lenouveaustadevelodrome.com

www.marseille-tourisme.com/fileadmin/user_upload/DP-Euro2016.pdf

■ French mountain-biking championships in Montgenevre

The Hautes-Alpes resort will host the famous national competition in August 2016, after having hosted in the French cup final.

Dates coming soon.

www.montgenevre.com

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