



***'FROM MONTPELLIER TO MENTON—
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SPARKLING SOUTH OF FRANCE'***
10 days / 11 nights



From the gracious imperial architecture of vibrant Montpellier, to the gorgeous Ligurian town of Menton, astride the alps as they tumble into the Mediterranean—this tour is designed to showcase the best the fabled south of France has to offer. From the vineyards of the Languedoc and the walled city of Carcassonne to the Camargue at the mouth of the mighty River Rhône—every step of the way we enjoy all the various facets that make living in this part of the World so desirable. From the 'perched villages' of the Lubéron, studded with lavender fields to the glamour of the tiny jewel of Monaco set within the glorious Côte d'Azur, playground of the élite since the 19th Century. Finally, we dip our toes in the Mediterranean coast of Italy. Will you ever want to go home?

SPRINGTIME TOUR

New Vistas Tours, Rothesay, UK

www.newvistastours.com

From Montpellier to Menton—A Journey Through the Sparkling South of France—2

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN FRANCE, TRANSFER TO MONTPELLIER CENTRE

*Arrival at Montpellier airport, meet your guide and transfer by coach to your central hotel for time at leisure before meeting this evening for an included group Welcome Dinner at the hotel. **Overnight in Montpellier. WELCOME DINNER INCLUDED.***



Place de la Comédie, Montpellier—H. Rubio

DAY 2: PÉZENAS & CARCASSONNE

*Following breakfast this morning, we transfer to Pézenas for a short visit to enjoy the charming streets of this small town - birthplace of Molière - and the local market. Following our visit here, we continue to spectacular Carcassonne where we have a walking tour within the walled city with a local guide—headsets included. Following the walking tour, we have free time for shopping and for lunch, before returning to our hotel in gracious Montpellier later in the afternoon for the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner this evening is at leisure. **Overnight in Montpellier. BREAKFAST INCLUDED.***

DAY 3: AIGUES MORTES, ST. RÉMY DE PROVENCE, L'ISLE SUR LA SORGUE & ARRIVAL IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

*After breakfast, we check-out of our hotel and depart for a morning visit to the walled town of Aigues-Mortes on market day, on the edge of the fabled Camargue delta. We continue to delightful St. Rémy de Provence for free time and lunch. Following our visit here, we travel to L'Isle sur la Sorgue, famous for its antiques market, also held on Sundays. Finally, we journey to our welcoming hotel in lovely Aix-en-Provence for an included dinner at the hotel. **Overnight in Aix-en-Provence. BREAKFAST & DINNER INCLUDED.***

DAY 4: ARLES, AVIGNON & CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE

*Following breakfast, we depart for Roman Arles, for a morning walking tour to include the amphitheatre, Roman theatre, the cathedral of Saint Trophème and the connections with Vincent Van Gogh – complete with headsets. Later we continue to Avignon for a visit to the historic centre and to have lunch at leisure. Later this afternoon, we continue to Châteauneuf-du-Pape where we enjoy a visit to a vineyard and a tasting of the World-famous wine with some local produce. We return to **overnight in Aix-en-Provence. BREAKFAST INCLUDED.***



Palace of the Popes, Avignon

DAY 5: THE LUBÉRON

*This morning we depart for a visit to the natural park of the Lubéron, esteemed for its atmospheric ‘perched villages’ and typical landscapes, celebrated in the book ‘A Year in Provence’ by Peter Mayle. We commence at Ménerbes, continuing to Gordes for photo stops - in particular of Senanque Abbey - and for time to stroll the village. From here, we continue to Roussillon and allow free time for lunch. Later we continue to Bonnieux and finally to Lourmarin where we visit a lavender farm. After completing our circuit of the Lubéron, we return to Aix-en-Provence and to an evening and dinner at leisure. **OVERNIGHT IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE. BREAKFAST INCLUDED.***

DAY 6: CASSIS, LES CALANQUES & COOKERY CLASS

*This morning, following our breakfast, we depart for lovely Cassis. Here we take the mini train down to the harbour area and alight our boat for a cruise along the famous Calanques. Following our cruise, we return to Cassis where we have an included lunch at a local restaurant that includes some of the local wine. We allow a little free time in Cassis. Later, we continue to a cookery school near to Aix-en-Provence for a class in French cuisine! Finally, we return to Aix-en-Provence for the rest of the day and evening at leisure. Perhaps you may wish to shop for some local ceramics or textiles, or browse the lovely shops on Cours Mirabeau. **OVERNIGHT IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE. BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED.***

DAY 7: VALBONNE, NICE & ARRIVAL IN ÈZE

*After this morning’s breakfast, we check-out of the hotel and depart for Valbonne. Here we make time to enjoy this authentic little town, with its charming houses and main square, loved by Princess Margaret. **CONTINUED OVERLEAF...***



A 'Calanque', near Marseille

DAY 7: VALBONNE, NICE & ARRIVAL IN ÈZE CONTINUED

*Later, we continue to Nice for a group lunch of local specialities at a restaurant in the old town. Following this, we enjoy a walking tour of Nice old town with a local guide, complete with headsets. Finally, we allow some free time in Nice to shop and to perhaps stroll the famous 'Promenade des Anglais'. Leaving Nice, we take the scenic 'Moyenne Corniche' route above Villefranche-sur-Mer and continue to our hotel near the lovely village of Èze—to a spectacular location—for check-in and a group dinner together this evening. **OVERNIGHT IN ÈZE. BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER INCLUDED.***

DAY 8: VENTIMIGLIA MARKET, HANBURY GARDENS & MENTON

*This morning we depart for the Italian border, crossing into Liguria to head for one of the region's busiest street markets – at Ventimiglia. We allow time to stroll the maze of stalls, to haggle for leather goods, shoes and to have a light lunch before we rejoin our coach and aim for a more tranquil setting! Our afternoon visit is to the dreamy Hanbury Gardens, just a stone's throw from the French/Italian border. Here the terraced gardens spill down the hillside almost into the azure Mediterranean Sea beyond. On our homeward journey, we make a stop in lovely Menton for a stroll to enjoy the setting of the old town, where the Maritime Alps descend into the sea. Following our visit here, we return to Èze for the rest of the day and evening at leisure. **OVERNIGHT IN ÈZE. BREAKFAST INCLUDED.***

DAY 9: MONACO

After breakfast this morning, we make our way to the tiny principality of Monaco – after all, no visit to the Côte d'Azur would be complete without it. We commence at the surprising Exotic Gardens, which affords spectacular views over Monte Carlo's Grand Harbour. Following our visit here, we continue further down into this tiny little independent state. We walk together to the 'palace on the rock', in time to see the changing of the guard. We allow a little free time for a drink and some shopping before continuing below to the famous area surrounding Monte Carlo's Grand Casino and allow time to watch the 'jet set' in their sports cars and perhaps stroll the designer stores to window-shop for things we don't want to afford!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

DAY 9: MONACO CONTINUED

*Following our visit to surreal Monaco, we return to Èze for a further evening and dinner at leisure. **OVERNIGHT IN ÈZE. BREAKFAST INCLUDED.***

DAY 10: PERFUME CREATION WORKSHOP AT GALIMARD & VILLA EPHRUSSI DE ROTHSCHILD, CAP FERRAT

*After our breakfast this morning, we travel very nearby to the centre of the stunning hilltop town of Èze. Here we enjoy an opportunity to create our own French perfume at Galimard. Following this experience, we allow time to stroll the narrow labyrinth of mediaeval streets, for the little artisan boutiques and some may even make it all the way up to the Exotic Garden. Following our visit here, we travel nearby to Cap Ferrat for a visit to the exquisite Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. After our visit here, we return to our hotel for a little relaxation before our farewell dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant. **OVERNIGHT IN ÈZE. BREAKFAST & FAREWELL DINNER INCLUDED.***

DAY 11: END OF TOUR; TRANSFER TO NICE AIRPORT

Following breakfast this morning, we journey to Nice International Airport for our homeward journeys.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ◆ *10 Nights 4* hotel accommodation (en suite)*
- ◆ *4 dinners and 2 lunches—breakfast daily at the hotel*
- ◆ *A boat trip around the Calanques from Cassis, with return land train ride*
- ◆ *A walking tour of the mediaeval citadel of Carcassonne, of Roman Arles and the old town of Nice with a local guide—headsets included*
- ◆ *A French cookery class*
- ◆ *A visit to a lavender farm in Provence*
- ◆ *A Vineyard visit and wine tasting at Châteauneuf-du-Pape, near Avignon*
- ◆ *Entrances to Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, Monaco Exotic Gardens and the Hanbury Gardens*
- ◆ *A perfumery workshop at Galimard in Èze—'make your own'!*
- ◆ *Porterage of one piece of baggage at the hotel—in and out*
- ◆ *Executive coach travel, taxes and service charges—airport transfers also included*
- ◆ *Services of an English and French speaking guide—Gavin Bade—throughout*

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- ◆ *Flights*
- ◆ *Gratuities to driver and guide*

OUR HOTELS (CLICK THE LINKS TO BE TAKEN TO THE WEB PAGES)

- ◆ **MONTPELLIER: HOTEL OCEANIA MÉTROPOLE**—<https://www.oceaniahotels.com/en/hotel/hotel-oceania-le-metropole-montpellier>
- ◆ **AIX-EN-PROVENCE: GRAND HOTEL ROI RENÉ**—<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1169-grand-hotel-roi-rene-aix-en-provence-ctr-mgallery/index.shtml>
- ◆ **ÈZE: LES TERRASSES D'ÈZE**—<https://www.hotel-terrasses-deze.com/pictures-gallery/>



Senanques Abbey, The Lubéron

If you would like to contact Gavin Bade—your Tour Guide and author of the itinerary—for further information or for any questions, please email: GRB@newvistastours.com

Looking forward to travelling with you in the south of France!

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