



destination UPDATE

French Riviera



This inspection is based on an inspection visit with our DMC – Sunazur International.

This mainly concentrated on Cannes; with additional visits to Nice, St. Tropez & Monaco.



QUICK FACTS

- *Nice International Airport is the 2nd airport in France, with 64 airlines flying in from many cities in the UK - British Airways, Air France, bmi, Aer Lingus and EasyJet.*
- *The French Riviera is the 2nd destination in term of congresses, with congress centres in Monaco, Nice, Cannes and Mandelieu.*
- *Stretching between sea and mountains, the South offers a whole range of activities and experiences; from the most glamorous to the simplest and wealthiest, from Formula 1 to mountain biking or even hiking in preserved, natural environments at less than 30 minutes from the blue Mediterranean.*

CANNES is the glamour capital, where the likes of art, sophistication and fashion prosper. Visit the Suquet (the old town) with fine views of Cannes, the harbour and the islands of Lerins or the Croisette - one of the most famous promenades in the world, which stretches from the famous Palm Beach (sandy) to the Palais des Festivals and which is bordered by luxury boutiques, palm trees and beaches.



Cannes is quite a small town, the centre itself presents three very different landscapes - the prestigious seaside promenade, La Croisette (the lively town centre with boutiques), and the picturesque old port and Suquet hill which make up the old town. In the same style as Le Suquet, but 4km or so north of the town, Le Cannet is a delightful little village of narrow, winding streets and old houses belonging to the town's suburbs. Also bordering the town to the east, La Californie-Super Cannes is a lush, green haven, sheltering luxury villas.

Today, the International Film Festival attracts thousands of professionals and tourists from all over the world, and gives its imprint to the city, which is now associated with the image of the 7th Art. It takes place at **The Palais des Festivals**, which comprises of 5 auditoriums, from 150 to 2300 seats and 40 breakout rooms totalling 35000 m² of exhibition space.



In Cannes, coach and taxi transfers are not needed due to everything being within walking distance; making it a great CSR destination and it is possible to split large groups across a couple of the hotels due to their proximity from one another.

LA CROISSETTE



A visit to Cannes is not complete without a stroll along La Croisette, the splendid promenade that stretches along the whole length of Cannes' coastline. The atmosphere of this fabulous walkway changes with the passing of each hour. One minute you'll be surrounded by crowds of tourists, the next you'll meet a local walking their dog, while at other times you'll pass wealthy, elegantly-dressed residents, but before ten in the morning, when the

town is still quiet, the atmosphere will take you right back to the belle époque. Beneath the promenade, many sandy beaches stretch out to sea. Most of them are private, which means you have to pay to gain access, but your money will buy you the comfort of a sun bed, parasol and drinks.

CITY CENTRE

The long shopping street known as Rue d'Antibes, running parallel to the Boulevard de La Croisette, marks the very heart of the town centre as Cannes' commercial hub. Fashion boutiques abound, and there's something to suit all tastes and budgets, although most of the big-name labels are located on La Croisette. You'll find almost all the essentials here: food, the train station, libraries etc. and it's a great place to shop.

THE OLD PORT & THE HILL (LE SUQUET)



Far from the opulence and modern aspects of Cannes, the old port and adjoining Suquet district are the most picturesque parts of town. It's easy to lose your way among the labyrinth of back streets, quaint passageways and pretty little squares. Climb the streets to reach the top of the Suquet hill, from where you can take in the panorama of Cannes and the surrounding area. The Views are spectacular as dusk falls and the town begins to light up beneath you. Just behind this point is one of Cannes' museums, the Musée de la Castre, sheltered in a 12th-century castle which once belonged to the monks of the Lérins islands just offshore and a 17th-century Church.

CANNES HOTELS



The **** Palais Stephanie (formerly the NOGA HILTON) is very modern in style. Built on the Croisette, on the site of the former Palais des Festivals, it is a spectacular and glamorous property with excellent facilities.

The 5 * deluxe features 261 very spacious rooms, including 45 suites, junior

suites and executive rooms, an 825 seat "state of the art" auditorium, 12 multi-purpose conference and banqueting rooms with capacity for 15 - 1000 persons, a delightful rooftop terrace ideal for lunches, cocktails, buffets etc. with a heated outdoor pool and fitness centre. Add to this their own Casino, private sandy



beach and you have an excellent hotel for both conference and incentive groups.



The *****CARLTON INTER-CONTINENTAL in Cannes is for those who prefer an older, more grand "Belle Epoch" style of property. Also situated on the Croisette there are 343 rooms and suites, the Brasserie Carlton, two Bars, and a Beach Restaurant, as well as 12 conference and banqueting rooms for 12 - 800 persons. Like the Palais Stephanie Hilton, they also offer their own Casino Club



and private sandy beach, which can also be used exclusively for groups of up to 2000, in conjunction with the beach restaurant.

The Carlton, built in 1912, was designed by Charles Delma and has been designated a historic landmark. In relation to the aforementioned suites, the one pictured above was frequented by Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier whose story is treasured and respected throughout the South of France. Nowadays their legacy remains, as their descendants (the Royal family of Monaco) continue to holiday at the Carlton in the above suite as this is where Grace Kelly met Prince Rainer.

The Carlton is just steps away from the Palais des Festivals, home of the Cannes Film Festival, and minutes from designer shopping. Nice's International Airport is just 30 minutes by car and 7 minutes by helicopter. This can of course be arranged by Sunazur International.

In addition to its stunning opulence and historical elements, the Carlton now boasts a modern edge, with its newly constructed meeting facility – their permanent marquee-type building, which can host up to 1,4000 guests.



Also located on La Croisette is the deluxe and recently refurbished **5 * Hôtel Majestic Barrière**, which is very much an art-deco style property and boasts 265 rooms, including 84 suites and 2 penthouses.

Its renowned restaurant Fouquet's serves traditional French cuisine in a contemporary setting. The Majestic Barrière also houses 15 conference and banqueting rooms accommodating between 10 and 900. The largest

meeting space - Salon Croisette - seats up to 350 for a dinner, 100 boardroom-style, or up to 675 for cocktails. In addition there are also 20 break-out rooms, as well as a business centre.



The 4 * Deluxe Hotel Martinez is a stylish property with seven floors overlooking the sea and comprises 409 rooms and suites. The Martinez has three restaurants, 'La Palme d'Or', 2-star Michelin gastronomic restaurant, 'Le Relais Martinez' and the 'Zplage Beach Restaurant'.

In terms of meeting space, the property has fifteen meeting rooms, totalling 2500 square metres, accommodating from

50 up to 1000 delegates. The Martinez was selected to host Dolce & Gabbana's cocktail party during the Cannes Film Festival.



The 4 * **Gray D'albion** is a relatively small property, but modern and contemporary in style, with a laid-back elegance. It is located in the city centre, close to La Croisette and boasts 199 rooms and 8 suites. Its 8 meeting rooms allow capacity of up to 400 for a reception and 220 for a banquet. Other hotels to consider are the **5* Negresco Palace**, the **Plaza** and the **Beau Rivage**.

RESTAURANTS



L'Auberge Provençale happens to be the oldest restaurant in Cannes (operating since 1860) and is located in the old town part. The restaurant has a very rustic feel to it, making it a very quaint and charming little place, but despite its façade it does actually stretch back quite far and offers plenty of space for groups (up to 150 covers).



It even offers a cellar-type function room below the main restaurant, complete with piano, which provides perfect entertainment for pre-dinner drinks or a cocktail / canapé party. This restaurant comes highly recommend.

Restaurant Le Palm Square in front of Palais des Festivals and old harbour is perfect place to watch the world go by. In addition, with the possibilities for 300 covers as well as welcoming 650 people for a cocktail reception, it makes this venue ideal for large groups.

Another restaurant worth mentioning is the '**La Ferme de Mougins**' - a wonderful Provencal stone residence surrounded by beautiful gardens and flowers. With capacity for up to 150 the food and service are excellent and the prices reasonable (by South of France standards).



A really unusual venue, for cocktails, lunches, dinners, BBQ's etc. is the **Chateau de la Napoule**. Capacities are from 70 in the salon to 500 in the courtyard.

OTHER VENUES

In the old town of Cannes (uphill) lies a huge market – **Marche Forville**, which is the town's primary fruit, flower and vegetable market as well as a flea market and antiques fair every Monday. The venue can also be privatized for evening functions, which makes it the perfect venue for large-scale events, with a Bollywood event having recently been carried out.

OTHER DISTRICTS NEARBY

Golf Juan is located in the Vallauris region, next to **Juan les Pins**. Both towns have a sleepy, seaside town feel, with Juan les Pins hosting its annual Jazz Festival entitled 'Jazz à Juan'. The town also offers a variety of 3* hotels, which can be used for much smaller budgets. In addition the town of **Vallauris** has a Provençal feel, whilst the port of **Antibes** is situated within the old town / walls and has its own English quarter.

Mandelieu-La Napoule has an intriguing history, dating back to La Belle Epoque. Its castle - La Napoule Castle - is ideal for group visits and private functions. Although the main room is less atmospheric than the gardens, it opens out on to a lovely terrace overlooking the sea and the bay of Cannes and would make an venue for cocktails and gala dinner and can be themed Medieval style or similar.



The gardens however are the real attraction as they can easily be sectioned to produce an 'Around the World' gala event with each section offering different cuisine and with strolling minstrels, jugglers etc. or even a small band playing popular and/or classical music. Available for private functions only, it is more economical to use it for larger numbers but can be used for small groups, if the budget allows.



Within this town and facing the Bay of Cannes, lies the recently renovated **5* ROYAL HOTEL CASINO**. It is ideally located; at just a 10 minute drive from La Croisette and the Palais des Festivals and 25 minutes from Nice Cote d'Azur International Airport.

This modern resort offers 213 rooms with private terraces and views of the sea or golf course. There is free access to the sauna, Turkish baths and fitness room plus a large outdoor swimming pool, a private beach, 2 tennis courts and a number of golf courses within the immediate vicinity of the hotel.

Conference groups are well catered for with 2 main rooms, both divisible into three, for 25 - 1000 persons plus 2 smaller rooms and up to 25 breakout rooms for 12 - 25 persons. The outdoor pool terrace is also an excellent venue for cocktails for up to 700 persons and banquets for 400/500 persons. They also have their own Casino and nightly disco. Although the hotel is probably more suited for groups who wish to stay within the hotel and surrounding areas, there is a regular hotel shuttle bus into Cannes.





NICE is the capital of the Riviera and is surrounded by mountains. Its main appeal is its fantastic setting, natural charm and above all, a wonderful climate. Stroll around the Old Town below the castle that guards the town and the bay below, with its labyrinth of narrow streets, tiny squares and friendly street cafes; not to mention its beautiful flower and Provençal market.

Stretching along the Bay of Angels, Nice is regularly chosen as the town where most French people would like to live and it is not hard to see why. As Capital of the French Riviera, it is a town of broad palm-fringed avenues, grand hotels, beaches & fine museums. Its spectacular light and beauty have long been an inspiration for many artists and musicians. Toulouse Lautrec, Matisse, Chagall, Berlioz and Verdi to name but a few who fell under its spell.

The spectacular Promenade des Anglais, which curves along the seafront for 6 kilometres, was established by Nice's English colony in 1822, as a seaside walking path. Strolling along it is a superb way to get your bearings and to take in the magnificent Bay of Angels.



Situated at a 20 minute transfer from Nice International airport and only 18 km from Monaco and 30 km from Cannes, it is ideal location for an overview of the French Riviera, its coastlines and hilltop villages.

In Nice you will want to shop, visit famous museums, or stroll around the typical old town, enjoy leisure time at café terraces, or taste the French gastronomy in local restaurants.

It is a lively city with a 'new look', since the centre has recently been total renovated after the completion of its Tramway system.

HOTELS



Overlooking the Baie des Anges (Bay of Angels) and the Mediterranean Sea, **Le Méridien** is located in the heart of the city and equidistant to the old town. Its 318 sea view rooms have been newly renovated in a modern and contemporary style.

The property boasts fantastic meeting facilities within its state-of-the-art conference centre, complete with 10 meeting rooms, accommodating up to 600 guests and the largest ballroom in Nice.



As well as being able to utilise their own private beach for events for a cocktail party of 600 or gala dinner for 400, the hotel also offers, Le Riviera Room, totalling 210 square metres. This has breathtaking views of the Baie des Anges and is ideal for events, especially if weather does not permit beach utilisation.



Also located on the Baie des Anges lies the **Le Palais de la Méditerranée**, with its Art Deco façade, dating back to the 1930s. Inside however, it is a thoroughly modern and luxurious in style, as it was restored in 2004 and boasts 188 rooms and 12 suites.

The third floor is the heart of the hotel with an indoor/outdoor pool, gastronomic restaurant, fitness rooms, and lounge area, as well as sun terrace with stunning views.



Le Palais de la Méditerranée is an excellent location for meetings and conferences. There is a choice of seven well-equipped rooms, offering a wide variety of sizes, spaces and functions. Equipment can be installed on request and rooms can cater for up to 1040 guests.

In addition, **The Acropolis Convention Centre** is just a 15-minute walk from the hotels.



The Radisson Blu Hotel offers fully equipped, state-of-the-art meeting facilities, accommodating both small groups and large events of up to 360.

With 12 rooms spread out over 1450 m², a private beach welcoming up to 250 guests and a 700 m² rooftop terrace, all spaces are perfect for private events, including galas dinner or cocktail parties.

RESTAURANTS

In Nice we would really recommend that you try the family-run **Cave Bianchi** for a small, high-end events. Utilising wine produced in their own vineyards, this beautiful wine cellar (with its own shop opposite), may be used for intimate events and functions, including wine tasting and cocktail evenings.

The choice is amazing both in Cannes and Nice and within 35 minutes drive. From relaxed bistros to elegant, sophisticated restaurants, all ranges, theme and nationality are available.



More restaurants can be recommended by our DMC Sunazur International.

MONACO



From the beginning of the VIth century to the end of the Xth, the Barbarians and then the Saracens were the masters of the region. Through many rulers, Monaco has been part of the U.N since 1993. Religious and civil traditions have been upheld for centuries in Monaco, which is now a Principality, with *Prince Albert* now in charge. It faces the Mediterranean and consists of approximately 30,000 inhabitants and is divided into five districts:

- *Monaco-Ville on The Rock is an old city with museums and a Cathedral.*
- *Monte-Carlo, which is renowned for its palaces, casinos, and flamboyant atmosphere.*
- *La Condamine, is the magnificent harbour area sheltering astonishing yachts.*
- *Fontvieille (the business and sports complex) is an amazing technical achievement that has been reclaimed from the water.*
- *Finally Moneghetti, the Révoires and the Exotic Gardens are beautiful areas to escape to.*

In the winter Monaco can see a lot of rain, despite the fact it is still relatively mild. However, summers can reach lovely temperatures of around 30°C.



MONTE CARLO is the wealthiest district of the Principality of Monaco, known for its casinos, gambling, glamour and sightings of famous people. Monte-Carlo hosts the only *town-based* Formula 1 circuit and offers year-round entertainment and sports events.

Monte-Carlo welcomes you to some of the most luxurious hotels in the world, some magnificent yachts and huge cruise liners, expensive restaurants, fast cars and celebrity style shopping. This is a city that will make you feel like a millionaire!

Always make sure that your clients have their passports to hand if they wish to visit the casinos!!

HOTELS



4 * **Luxe Hotel de Paris** - This stylish, luxurious property in the style of a palace is ideally located on Monaco's Casino Square opposite the Casino de Monte Carlo. It has 182 rooms, including 74 suites and junior suites. In terms of meetings, the property offers 7 meeting rooms, as well as the Salle Empire, which is the main room for events and gala dinners.

Other hotels that would be well worth considering are the **4* Hotel Hermitage** and the **4* Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort**.

The Brasserie du Café de Paris (opposite the Hotel de Paris) is the perfect location for people watching. It is also suitable for large for groups. The Terrace of the Brasserie can also be proposed for groups of 100 persons (maximum).

On the first Floor is the Salon Bellevue, which can accommodate large-scale events, including private receptions and gala dinners etc. The Salon Bellevue is 343Sq.m and its terraces can accommodate up to 350 guests for cocktails and 280 for a banquet.



GRASSE

City famed in the 16th century for the manufacture of perfumed leather gloves and aromatic plants. It has since become the world centre for the perfume industry. Before or after a short walking tour of the old city, guests can visit a perfume factory, its rich museum, and discover the fascinating world of this trade. The commented visit lasts approximately 40 minutes and concludes in the factory shop, where guests can purchase all types of goods (perfumes, soaps etc...)



La Vignette Haute, located in Auribeau is a very superior, boutique hotel (6 rooms), with beautiful views of the countryside below. It is the perfect setting for small, but high-end groups, perhaps wishing to experience a night or two of complete relaxation and tranquillity.

On a larger scale however The Tower Room can accommodate up to 40 people in a meeting while the restaurant will seat 150 persons for dinner, plus 100 guests on the terrace. In addition there are also possibilities for concerts and cocktail evenings in the gardens around the pool at the Roman baths.



Tarinology Session



Molinard is a family-owned perfume company that was founded in 1849. The recently renovated **Molinard Perfume Factory** is a perfect venue for teambuilding / incentive groups.

Tarinology is the science of perfume making. The workshop takes place in a superb 1900 Provencal villa. Theoretical and practical lessons allowing each trainee perfumer to create his/her own perfume with help and

advice from the master perfumer. Olfactory session using 80 essences (jasmine, rose, mimosa, vanilla, patchouli...) At the end, each creator takes away his/her own perfumed water and may reorder it anytime. A diploma is also given to each participant and they are also able to name their own perfume, which is an incentive in itself!

Larger groups would be best suited to the main room for the perfume making activities, however, for a smaller and more exclusive, high-end group, the private house would be well worth a recommendation for a more personal touch.



Restaurant La Jarrerrie – This is a delightful venue; the main dining room is situated within a house, which dates back to the 17th century. It is decorated in a genuine style, with an ancient, huge fireplace. The banquet room, which can accommodate up to 160 persons, is an ancient monastery, which was transformed (in the 19th century) into a place where olives and olive oils were kept in earth jars - thus the name La Jarrerrie. In the early 20th century the 'jarrerrie' was converted into a perfume factory.

It is now a place where a warm ambience and excellent traditional Provençal cooking will leave your guests a taste of serenity and quality.

Another notable restaurant one ought to visit is **L'Amandier de Mougins**, which is perfect for groups, as it can accommodate up to 800 for a dine-around.

SAINT PAUL DE VENCE



This village was made famous by all the artists who lived there, inspired by the outstanding quality of its light; one is struck by its beautiful position, dominating the foothills, and the quiet atmosphere of living there.

To be discovered, in this enchanting spot : the Ramparts (to walk on around the village to appreciate the point de vue), the Fountain, and the Grande Rue where one can stop by local art galleries and craft shops, as well as a most fascinating history.



The MAEGHT Foundation, a highlight of modern art gatherings, can be offered as optional visit. This museum of modern art located outside the village in a unique setting offers a large collection of 20th century painting



ST TROPEZ – To get to St. Tropez we would advise that you drive to St. Maxime and then take a water taxi the rest of the way. Traffic jams can pose a problem, especially in the summer, so anything to shorten the journey would be preferable.

St Tropez is famous for its colourful alleys and Provencal market. Despite the influx of the rich and famous and subsequent tourists, the town still remains a small fishing village, complete with its original seaside appeal and other such charms.

A short, but steep climb out of the busy hub of St Tropez will take you to the luxurious **Hotel Byblos**, which affords beautiful views of the town below. With an almost Polynesian feel about it, this property is very exclusive, especially with its regular celebrity guests and would therefore suit a small, high-end group for an incentive. The hotel offers 44 rooms and 47 rooms as well as a spa, swimming pool and fitness centre.

Due to its size, the property offers just 3 meeting rooms – 2 of which cater for up to 40 people and the third, offering space for 180 delegates.





every day in high season.

Well worth a visit is **Le Sénéquier Café**. Not the prettiest of cafés; however it has gained its reputation over the years as *the* place to people-watch and is thus popular among tourists and locals alike. With its bright red façade, including red chairs and sunshades the café has a relaxed yet sophisticated vibe to it. Open since 1889, today, the café (which is run as a family business) is now in its third generation and currently serves thousands of tourists



For a restaurant with a relaxed vibe, **Le Girelier** would suit any discerning group. It is popular among the yachting crowd and ideal for a light lunch or evening meal. The restaurant is particularly famed for its seafood cuisine; especially the fish soup and its delightful décor, maritime theme and its prompt and friendly service make it a popular place in which to dine.



Sightseeing cruises around the billionaire's famous homes in the Bay des Canoubiers, St Tropez are very popular in Sanint Tropez and Sunazur International would be delighted to arrange this with their partner company - "Les Bateaux Verts". The vessels they use may be privatised for groups wishing to undertake a private sightseeing tour or host a special event (i.e, private party, incentive etc.)

SOUTHEN FRANCE - WHAT TO DO - WHAT TO SEE

Again, the choice is tremendous, as the Cote d'Azur offers so much diversity. For the active there are nautical pursuits, such as sailing, scuba diving, water skiing, kayaking and speed boating etc. For the land based - mountain biking, rock climbing, riding, karting and 4-wheel drive vehicles; and for the not quite so active - golf, tennis, treasure hunts and even 'Petanque' - the most popular game of the region that anyone can play - a cross between bowls and skittles, which is great fun. There is even a special Provencal Train operating from Nice to Entrevaux, which can be used for a day in the countryside, with wine tasting etc. and the train can be decorated in your client's company colours and logos. (Minimum 50 participants).



Located in Cagnes-sur-Mer (in between Cannes and Nice) the famous **Hippodrome Côte d'Azur** is a fantastic venue for large events and meetings. Open since 1952, the racetrack and additional amenities spread themselves over an area of 60 hectares and the venue also doubles up as a training centre.



In addition, with 3 restaurants and additional bars and cafés, the venue caters for many a discerning guest; entertaining both leisure and corporate clients alike. With the option to watch a race and then have a meal, special packages for groups or companies can be customized. The Hippodrome could therefore be the perfect venue for a relaxed incentive programme, combining sport and relaxation / luxury; during

racenights you can dine in the restaurant and bet from you table.

ELSEWHERE

There is also an excellent choice of half day and full day excursions to typical fortified hilltop villages, such as St Paul de Vence and Eze, with their narrow cobbled streets overlooking the vineyards, to other famous coastal resorts, such as Villefranche, St Tropez, Antibes (with its Picasso Museum), Monaco-Monte Carlo, en-route with a visit to the Oceanographic Museum. You can also visit Perfumeries, Glass Blowing factories, an automobile museum and of course vineyards for the odd tittle or two. Or almost any combination of the above that takes your fancy.

The region is of course famous for its nightlife and again it presents an enormous choice of discos, nightclubs, casinos and bars. In Cannes, look for the Casinos in the Noga Hilton, the Palm Beach and the Palais des Festivals and clubs such as 'The Opera' and 'Jimmyz'. In Nice visit the Casino at the Rhul on the Promenade des Anglais and there are many clubs that old Nice offers, making it a great venue for dining and dancing. Not forgetting of course all of the entertainment available in Monte-Carlo; all in all a wide selection of options to keep any kind of group happy.

IN CONCLUSION

The South of France presents a whole host of options for any discerning group; be they a small, high-end group in need of an exclusive and relaxed incentive, or a large group of delegates requiring large conference spaces and teambuilding activities.

For that extra special group, speedboat and helicopter transfers can be organised by Sunazur International from the airport, which will certainly present an amazing first impression of the South of France to your guests.

With flights only taking 7 minutes to Cannes and 15 minutes to St. Tropez, helicopter flights could be the ideal option. In addition, the DMC are able to offer vintage car transfers for that quirky, but elegant touch.

Lastly, for a very unique day programme combining both sun and snow, as it is only approximately 45 minutes to the Alps it is as possible to visit Mont Blanc.

Along with our esteemed DMC – we look forward to welcoming you to the South of France and assisting you with your new enquiries.

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