



Marseille

Marseille

press kit

2009 season

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Destination Marseille

COMING TO MARSEILLE

By AIR

25 km from the city, Marseille Provence airport is the fifth in France for passenger traffic with 7 millions passengers in 2007.

33 regular airlines serve **16 French cities** and **98 cities** by direct link to 37 countries.
www.marseille.aeroport.fr

The "MP2" low-cost terminal was inaugurated at the end of October 2006. More than 30 lines to Euromediterranean destinations are available.
www.mp2.aeroport.fr

There are 25 flights between Paris and Marseille every day, with an average flying time of 1 hour.

A shuttle, leaving every 20 minutes, connects the airport with St Charles rail station in central Marseille.

By TRAIN

Linking the main stations of France and Europe, St Charles station which has been modernised since December 2007, offers 17 journeys a day between Marseille and Paris, with a trip time of 3 hours (shortest).

www.sncf.fr

Known as the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Marseille is also linked by major road and sea routes.

Distances in km

Marseille – Nantes: 979 km

Marseille – Paris: 783 km

Marseille – Bordeaux: 555 km

Marseille – Lyon: 319 km

Marseille – Geneva: 432 km

Marseille – Brussels: 1046 km

Marseille – Barcelona: 500 km

Marseille – Rome: 910 km

Marseille in numbers

POPULATION

847,084

CLIMATE

Average temperatures: 19°C in spring, 25°C in summer, 14°C in autumn and 12°C in winter.

Marseille has a mild and temperate climate with 320 days of sunshine a year.

SURFACE AREA

240 sq.km including 100 sq.km of parks and gardens.

COASTLINE

57 km including 20 km of *Calanques* (rocky inlets).

BEACHES

From L'Estaque to the Calanques, and including Les Catalans and Pointe Rouge, Marseille offers many places to swim or laze and plentiful sports facilities.

MARINAS

14 marinas with 8,600 berths. (10 000 berths for MPM)

2nd pleasure boat complex in Europe, First one in France

80 associations and clubs offer a lot of activities during all the year : sailing, surfing...

HOTELS

5,512 hotel rooms from 1 to 4 stars in all parts of the city. (2007 figures)

By 2011, 1,656 rooms will be added to the present facilities.

PARKING

15 car parks in the city centre

offering more than 9,000 spaces.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

2 subway (underground) train lines,

85 bus lines,

1 tramway (Since June 2007)

1, 000 bicycles situated in 130 stations since October 2007

Marseille belongs to those who come by sea...

Blaise Cendrars

Marseille, the oldest city in France, dates back to 600 BC. Its history takes us back in time to the Greek sailors from Phocaea who discovered the narrow cove opening on to the Mediterranean. The new conquerors founded Massalia and called its natural port the Lacydon. It was to become a major trading centre.

Marseille's story has been written and enacted in the tract of water between East and West where it has sometimes been shaken by the ground swells...

Over the centuries, 111 localities have been formed (now grouped into 16 districts and 8 sectors), and given Marseille its place names.

These localities are also 111 villages: some of them still claim their foreign origins, "those who arrived by sea". They express the city's cultures, perpetuate their sometimes legendary traditions and are still attached to the past by history, as by an umbilical cord.

Many have tried to win the heart of Marseille, daughter of the Mediterranean, but few understand her!

MARSEILLE THROUGH THE AGES ...

Since its foundation by the Greeks 26 centuries ago (it was the first urbanised city), Marseille has marked history through the significant events which took place here.

Each major urban project involves excavations which bring to light many exciting remains, which are displayed on site whenever possible. This is the case of the Roman Docks Museum [Musée des Docks Romains] which was constructed on the very site where the old docks were built in the 1st century AD, and the Marseille History Museum [Musée d'Histoire de Marseille], built around the remains of the ancient port.

Built over the centuries, St Victor Abbey (5th century AD), the Charité and the City Hall [Hôtel de Ville] (17th century), Palais Daviel (18th century), Palais Longchamp (19th century) and the Le Corbusier Jeanneret Residential Unit [Unité d'Habitation de Jeanneret dit le Corbusier] (1952) are just a few examples of the rich heritage for which Marseille was awarded the label "City of Art and History".

In 1985, Henri Cosquer's discovery of a sunken temple 37 metres under the sea dated the history of Marseille 27,000 years earlier.

Tours are organised to introduce visitors to Marseille's heritage, from the origins of its foundation, through the oldest districts right up to the 20th century, following the architectural experiments carried out here.

MARSEILLE, ONCE UPON A TIME

History in a few stages? Let's go!

The Old Port [Vieux Port]

The port very quickly became the most important economic feature of the city, and its booming trade grew all around the Lacydon which was a centre for maritime life and business.

In the 12th century, the crusades gave a commercial boost to the city and its port. Ships from Marseille took the crusaders to the Holy Land. A blue cross on a white background identified the Marseille fleet and is still the City's coat of arms today.

Fort St Nicolas

The prosperity of the traders encouraged the independence of Marseille, which rebelled against the power of Louis XIV. The king decided to build Fort St Nicolas on the spur of the Port's south bank, between St Victor Abbey and the Pharo. This gave him control over the city's defence and especially its rebellion. This task was assigned to the Knight De Clerville.

Fort St Jean

Later, the Sun King added to his first military project by creating a veritable fort around the square tower of King René and the tower of Fanal. This meant that the city and the two banks of the Lacydon were under royal control. Once calm had been restored Colbert liberated the port, granted the monopoly of trade with the Levant and brought the royal galleys back from Toulon to Marseille. This was a time of large-scale building works when the artist Pierre Puget attempted to propose a completely new design for the city. Only the Vieille Charité, however, benefited from his talents. Part of the future Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations [MUCEM] will be installed in Fort St Jean.

City Hall [Hôtel de Ville]

On the north quay, this Genoese-influenced baroque building was previously a town mansion. It was the architects Gaspard Puget and Mathieu Portal who drew up the plans for the city hall in 1665.

Marseille's coat of arms was carved on the façade by Pierre Puget.

A rebuilding programme after the war provided the opportunity of redesigning the Port's northern façade, which was destroyed during the winter of 1943. The Pouillon buildings, built over a shady pavement with a series of arcades, are aligned with the city hall. The complex forms a harmonious unit from which the "Genoese palace", Marseille's City Hall, stands out. Right in front of it the ferry-boat shuttle, which crosses from one side of the port to the other in less than five minutes, has been in service for more than a hundred years!

Carré Thiars

An enclave behind the South bank of the Old Port, this district was built to accommodate the arsenal of galleys which was modernised by Louis XIV after Fort St Nicolas had been built. In 1748 the galleys returned to Toulon and the arsenal fell into disuse. Cours d'Estienne d'Orves was occupied by warehouses built around enclosed courtyards, which today house restaurants, art galleries and theatres.

The lively and colourful atmosphere inspired artists who set up their studios in this area. The school of Péano had its hour of glory with the painter Ambrogiani as its spearhead.

Since the 1980s the Cours has become an attractive Italian-style piazza, preserving its façade of neo-classical Marseille architecture, and lit by the "seagull" street lamps created by Bové.

Pharo Park and Palace

The view from the gardens extends from the Old Port to the city. At the four cardinal points you can see the different important buildings of the city.

The palace, Napoleon III's imperial residence, was given to the Empress Eugénie who bequeathed it to the city of Marseille at the beginning of the 20th century. Since 1996, equipped with modern infrastructures with a conference centre, including an amphitheatre seating 900 people, the palace has hosted high-quality events.

The Corniche

A superb seafront with views over the roadstead and the islands, which begins after the Pharo, leads away from the noise and bustle of the city and runs like a balcony above the Mediterranean. Part of the way along is the Monument to the Fallen of the Eastern Armies [Monument aux Morts des Armées d'Orient], an open door facing the foaming sea, by the sculptor Sartorio. After the cove of Malmousque, a few prestigious mansions such as Villa Valmer stand as reminders of the buildings made for Marseille's bourgeois of the Belle Epoque.

The Algerian Returnees' Monument [Monument des Rapatriés d'Algérie], by César, is another cornerstone in the history of Marseille as a host city. And lastly, Carrare's marble David, a replica of Michelangelo's statue in Florence, stands majestically at the crossroads of Promenade de la Plage and the beautiful Avenue du Prado, which was designed in 1839 and leads to Place Castellane.

Château d'If

This "island opposite Marseille", to quote Julius Caesar, was a godsend for François I who wanted to defend the city against the enemy. Three towers and a keep overlook the Marseille roadstead and wink at history: it was the verve of Alexandre Dumas which fostered the legendary character of the castle where Edmond Dantès, the "Count of Monte-Cristo", was imprisoned. However, Mirabeau actually was imprisoned there for six months on his father's orders.

It is an outstanding tourist site, reached by shuttles that leave regularly from the Old Port. The boat trip and entry to the Castle are included in the City Pass!

Frioul Islands

Near Château d'If, Pomègues to the south, which was used for the mooring of suspect boats from 1627 onward, and Ratonneau to the north, were linked by a dyke 361 metres long in the early 19th century to create a quarantine port.

The chapel, built by Penchaud on the model of an ancient temple, overlooks the island of Ratonneau where the Caroline hospital stands. These two buildings, designed for quarantine accommodation, were the largest health complex in the Mediterranean. Nowadays a festival is held on summer nights in the Caroline hospital which has become an auditorium. The design of Port Frioul, which was created in 1974, reproduces the layout of a fishing village.

Vallon des Auffes

Vallon des Auffes is a genuine fishing village just a few minutes from the Old Port. Here you can see authentic cottages and sense its gentle way of life. There is a choice of several restaurants, from pizzerias to gourmet dining ... something for everyone to enjoy.

Panier district

The Mediterranean is never far from this locality, the first district behind the North bank of the port. Fishermen, sailors and tradespeople lived in these tall houses, crowded together along the narrow streets where water flowed down the middle. Montée des Accoules leads to this, the oldest quarter of Marseille.

Place des Moulins (Windmill Square) is a reminder that 15 windmills were there and gave their name to the hill. From this picturesque site you can see the baroque building of Pierre Puget.

Vieille Charité

Following the royal edict to "lock up the poor and beggars", the plot of land near Cathédrale de la Major was used for the construction of a hospice. Made of pink stone from La Couronne, it was built in several phases and testifies to the different architectural periods from 1671 to 1745. Pierre Puget was the first architect, who designed the baroque chapel surmounted by an oval dome. The pediment, added under the Second Empire, illustrates the theme of "charity welcoming poor children surrounded by two pelicans". Later Le Corbusier remarked on the unity and cohesion of the building, which deserved a renovation programme. Vieille Charité, a listed historical monument, has become a major museum and cultural centre for Marseille.

La Joliette

This district recalls the port activity in the 19th century and the northward expansion of the port. In 1858 the city set up its docks which were operated under concession by a private company, on a plot of 10 hectares. Compagnie des Docks et Entrepôts (Docks and Warehouse Company) built the four stone and brick buildings, as well as the metal-framework warehouses for customs and storage of goods. Designed according to the plans of Gustave Desplaces and inspired by the London docks, they were the largest docks in Europe at the end of the 19th century. Now a business district under the impetus of the Euroméditerranée programme, the Docks have been restored by the architect Eric Castaldi. Rue de la République, a former Imperial street built in the Second Empire on the Haussmann model and lined with Napoleon III buildings, runs between the Old Port and La Joliette. Its current renovation is also part of the Euroméditerranée project.

THREE LEADING PLACES OF WORSHIP

Marseille is not Rome, but it experienced a real frenzy of church building throughout the 19th century, associated with the growth of suburbs on the outskirts of the city. Most of these buildings can be visited as part of the Tourist Office and Convention Bureau's heritage tours. But the two major constructions remain Cathédrale de la Major and Notre Dame de La Garde, and of course the ancient Saint Victor Abbey from the mediaeval period.

St Victor Basilica

Cassien, a monk who came from the East in 416, helped to build two monasteries, including the one dedicated to the martyr Victor, and introduced the cult of the Western Virgin. After the barbarian invasions the abbey, rebuilt in the 13th century, was fortified by Guillaume Grimoard, the abbot of St Victor who became Pope in Avignon under the name of Urban V.

The crypts form a full-scale underground church and house the statue of Our Lady of Confession [Notre Dame de Confession], made of painted walnut wood and more traditionally called the Black Virgin. She is honoured at Candlemas, and leads the procession on 2 February which attracts devotees from Marseille and elsewhere.

Cathédrale de la Major

On the port of La Joliette, near the Vieille Charité. The Old Major [Vieille Major], a former cathedral, was built in the 12th century (currently closed to the public for restoration).

The New Major [Nouvelle Major] was built between 1852 and 1893 and modelled on Saint Sophia of Constantinople. With a base course of white stone from Calissane and green stone from Florence in Romanesque-Byzantine style, it recalls the craftsmanship of Notre Dame de la Garde which it faces and which was also designed by Vaudoyer, Espérandieu and Revoil. It is thought to be the largest cathedral built in France since the Middle Ages.

Organ concerts are regularly given here as part of the "musical vespers" and the redevelopment of its surrounding area is included in the Euroméditerranée project to restore it to its deserved position as a place of worship and culture.

Notre Dame de la Garde

Near the seafront and built high on the Garde hill at an altitude of 154 metres, Notre Dame de la Garde overlooks the whole city. It was originally a simple chapel in the 13th century, and was fortified and enlarged on the orders of François I in the early 16th century to ensure the city's protection and defence.

In 1853, Espérandieu completed this colossal Romanesque-Byzantine project which is particularly representative of the architectural style of the period. Pope Leo XIII gave it the title of a basilica in 1879. The monumental statue of the Virgin and child (9.70m), plated with fine gold and cast in the Christofle workshops, can be seen for miles around in Marseille.

Many votive plaques decorate the walls of the basilica in thanksgiving. They are of several kinds: seafarers' plaques, plaques connected with sickness, some with wars and even with the OM football team! The devotion of Marseille is such that every year several more votive plaques are offered to Notre Dame de la Garde. As there is no more room inside, these simple marble plaques are displayed on a terrace outside.

A pilgrimage is held every year at the Feast of the Virgin on 15 August.

La Canebière

This renowned and illustrious avenue derives its name from the word *canebe*, the hemp rope factories that were installed near the shipyards. La Canebière was opened on to the port with the destruction of the Great Arsenal in 1774. It stretched from the Old Port to the Réformés Church in 1928 and included Rue Noailles and Allées Meilhan, which used to be particularly lively with the *santons* fair in the weeks before Christmas. A few buildings boast fine frontages from the 18th and 19th centuries, including Palais de la Bourse (stock exchange), the Monoprix building and the C&A building. A redevelopment policy is in place to ensure that La Canebière is included in Marseille's design for the 3rd millennium. One of the first projects completed has been the arrival of the tramway in July 2007.

Palais de la Bourse (stock exchange)

Inaugurated by Napoleon III, this project was the first of the large-scale building works of the Second Empire.

The décor of the façade illustrates the themes of trade and navigation which are intrinsic to Marseille.

Today the building houses the oldest Chamber of Commerce in France, founded by Henri IV in 1599, as well as the Maritime and Economy Museum [Musée de la Marine et de l'Économie].

www.cciimp.com

Belsunce

An carriageway, similar to the one in Aix-en-Provence, was opened in 1670. This has been the entrance to the city since the 17th century, with the Aix Gate [Porte d'Aix] being added in the early 19th century.

In 1857 a theatre built in the Moorish style made the street into a major attraction and became an essential stepping-stone for artistes in their careers. The voices of Mistinguett, Montand and Chevalier still haunt this theatre, the Alcazar, although its function has since changed. The Regional Municipal Library [Bibliothèque Municipale à Vocation Régionale] has been built on the site of the theatre, keeping its status as a historical monument.

The geographic situation of this whole section of the city justified the location nearby of St Charles station, which was inaugurated in 1848. This district is included in the redevelopment project intended to confirm the city's future.

Cours Julien / Notre Dame du Mont

This is an unusual district where children's play areas, ponds and fountains, markets, café and restaurant terraces form a vast pedestrianised area for fun and relaxation. The little 'Montmartre' of Marseille prioritises creativity in all its forms:

Culinary innovation with a number of restaurants that are well known for their good food, fashion creations, with quality ready-to-wear brands that are famous well beyond Marseille (Madame Zaza of Marseille, Inari...), interior design and decor (Flower Box Gallery...), but also eclectic cultural programmes in venues that are open to innovative creations (l'Espace Julien, le Balthazar...)

Aix Gate [Porte d'Aix]

A single arch and an acroterion supported by four Corinthian columns were designed at the beginning of the 19th century according to the plans of the architect Penchaud who took inspiration from the triumphal arches of antiquity, and especially the arch of Orange. This construction is supposed to commemorate the victory of the Duke of Angoulême in the Spanish campaign. The historic sculptures, statues and bas reliefs were carved by David d'Angers and Ramey. The dedication on the front has been altered to keep pace with history and changing political regimes.

Longchamp

The great drought of 1834 and the cholera epidemic made it necessary to plan an ambitious project: the building of a canal 87 km long to bring the water of the Durance to the heart of the city.

11 years of work by 5,000 workmen, directed by the engineer Franz Mayor de Montricher, culminated in this major construction of the 19th century which was full of technical promise. The dramatic and grandiose palace, designed by Espérandieu in the eclectic spirit of the 19th century, includes a whole range of architectural styles. On either side of the water tower a double Ionic colonnade winds in a semi-circle and ends in two buildings: the Art Gallery [Musée des Beaux-Arts] (currently undergoing restoration) and the Natural History Museum [Musée d'Histoire Naturelle].

In the centre of this elegant district is the Grobet-Labadie private mansion which has been converted into a museum.

Prado – Michelet

Parc Chanot, where the colonial exhibitions were held and which now hosts Marseille's International Trade Fair, the Stade Vélodrome which is perhaps as famous as the Old Port, the scene of victory or disappointment depending on the evening, and Le Corbusier's Radiant City [Cité Radieuse] are the main features of this residential avenue. These three sites, which live together despite some differences in type and function, illustrate the identity of Marseille, always a place of commerce and exchange, friendly and cultural.

Prado

Made famous by the fountain donated by the wealthy marble cutter Jules Cantini, Place Castellane marks the half-way point between the city centre and the residential district of Avenue du Prado.

In the morning this road bustles with the market, ever popular with both tourists and Marseille residents. The district, with its heavy traffic, now boasts an oasis of greenery covering 5 hectares, the 26th Centenary Park [Parc du 26^{ème} centenaire] (also called the Millennium Park), which was created in 2000.

To celebrate 26 centuries of Marseille's existence, 5,400 trees and shrubs were planted, as well as the symbolic avenue of 26 sequoias. Four theme gardens take visitors to Africa, Asia, the Orient and Provence. Palm trees, banana trees, nettle trees and other species create a landscaped world. The Tree of Hope [Arbre de l'Espérance] stands at the entrance to the park, and on the ground the names of thousands of Marseille residents are engraved. They can identify themselves by a code of letters.

Marseille International Trade Fair

This "Mediterranean showcase" is a flagship event for Marseille, with 1,200 exhibitors occupying an area of 17 hectares. It is the chance to find out what's new: robots, spas, video games and other novelties vie for attention. The "new technologies home" exhibition, the garden exhibition, the food and drink exhibition, fashion collections or the countries of the world, there's everything you could want or need ... and activities which make the fair into a really special event.

Stade Vélodrome

The stadium was built in 1938 to host the Football World Cup and has been revamped several times, notably in 1997 to meet the requirements of the 1998 Football World Cup. The number of spectator seats has risen from 45,000 to 60,000. In the autumn of 2007 it has hosted six matches of the Rugby World Cup, including two quarter-finals.

Radiant City [Cité Radieuse]

"Architecture is the skilful, accurate and magnificent interplay of volumes assembled in light ..."

These words by Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, known as Le Corbusier, underpin the design of this "Marseille Residential Unit" [Unité d'Habitation de Marseille]. The project was undertaken on the orders of Raoul Dautry, Minister of Reconstruction, who had to solve the problem of rehousing in the aftermath of the war. Construction lasted from 1947 to 1952. A concrete building stands on 38 piers and comprises 337 apartments on 18 levels. The corridors serve as streets which contain essential shops, a school and a hotel-restaurant.

The interior fittings were designed by Charlotte Perriand. The chimneys, real sculptures on the roof terrace, identify what the people of Marseille familiarly call "the Nutter's House" [Maison du Fada].

The Calanques

A calanque (*calenco*, escarp) is a deep, narrow inlet where the sea has rushed in and formed a natural little cove.

The calanques are situated on the southern coast between Marseille and Cassis. From the port of Les Goudes, an authentic little fishing village, a steep rocky landscape runs alongside the sea.

The terrain means that the stretch of 20 km can only be covered on foot or by boat, with cliffs as sheer as cathedrals plunging into the Mediterranean.

Massifs of between 400 and more than 500 metres high, such as Mont Puget, have been conquered by Raymond Rebuffat and are a challenge for rock climbing enthusiasts.

This relief of sun-drenched white limestone rock stands proudly beautiful above the deep blue of the sea, as calm as paradise or wild, expressing the boundless energy of this unique landscape.

The panorama is sublime, all the way along the coastal path where the view spreads to the horizon and to the Riou archipelago, which is surrounded by smaller islands such as Petit and Grand Congloué where many ships ran aground in ancient times.

It was here that Commandant Cousteau found more than 1,700 amphorae and 6,000 items of Greek pottery dating back to the 2nd century BC.

La Mounine, Marseilleveyre, Podestat, L'Escu and Cortiou are a series of creeks where the famous rock fish can be found. Very early in the morning, boats from Marseille take up their positions for fishing. Even for professionals this is a friendly time, the shouts of the fishermen pleasantly disturbing the tranquillity.

Sormiou and the famous cave which Cosquer discovered in 1991, Morgiou, Sugiton and L'Oule are the best known, together with En Vau whose stone architecture gives it a spectacular appearance.

Port Pin is distinguished by its mildness and its sandy beach, while Port Miou is the longest.

A great diversity of fauna and flora (a thousand species and many bird colonies) exist in this environment which is unique in France.

Last but not least, the huts, hardly bigger than pocket handkerchiefs, where fishermen used to shelter, are part of the landscape. In summer, the social life of the calanques is marked by the siesta, games of bowls, and hearty meals.

<http://www.calanques.fr>

Beaches

From Les Catalans to Callelongue, the inviting shoreline offers opportunities for bathing and water sports. The sandy, landscaped beaches extend as far as Grotte Rolland. After this, the terrain becomes more diversified with a few more unspoilt calanques and creeks where the clear water provides welcome coolness. On the various municipal beaches, sports activities are available for a fixed price of €1.50. The beaches are also equipped with first-aid stations, left luggage facilities, toilets and showers.

MARSEILLE AND ITS MUSEUMS

Marseille has rich and very diverse collections of works, pieces and objects retracing its long, flourishing and exciting history back to ancient times. **More than twenty museums** retrace the history of the city, seafaring, pottery, popular arts, Mediterranean archaeology, *santon* crib figurines and fashion.

There are establishments associated with the museums: l'Espace muséal for children – Préau des Accoules playground, artist's workshops...

In Marseille there is also a strong sense of duty in terms of remembrance: discreet presence of the Death Camps Memorial at the end of the Old Port invites contemplation. Soon, the Marseillaise Memorial, near to la Canebière (rue Thubanneau), will bear witness to the era of the French Revolution (after 2010).

Today, the city is following a policy of exhibitions throughout the year to promote a cultural trend which will encourage tourism. A few museums give an introduction to Marseille's heritage, with large-scale exhibitions also attracting large numbers of visitors.

Cultural itineraries show another side of Marseille, which expresses its intellectual and artistic sensitivity through archaeology, painting, pottery and traditions.

Museum Night

In spring the days get longer and so, for one night, the museums of France stay open so that people can discover our heritage by night. Every year most of the museums of Marseille participate in this event. This event will happen in May.

<http://www.marseille.fr/vdm/cms/pid/230>

Panier district

Vieille Charité Centre – Architectural treasure for big exhibitions

This former hospice designed by Pierre Puget, who expressed his talent and originality with the Oval Chapel, was restored between 1970 and 1986 for the museum project. The building consists of four wings with three tiers of galleries opening on to a rectangular courtyard.

The Vieille Charité comprises :

Mediterranean Archaeology Museum – the 2nd Egyptian collection in France

This museum contains the largest collection of ancient Egyptian exhibits after the Paris Louvre. Five rooms are dedicated to items dating from the Old Empire to the Coptic era. Notable items include the sumptuous sarcophagus of Ibis, some very fine stelae and many objects illustrating everyday life and religion.

The civilisations of Greece, Rome, the Near East and the Marseille hinterland are also represented in other sections.

Museum of African, Oceanic and American Indian

This museum displays masks, statues and ritual objects from the three continents.

The Vieille Charité Centre also hosts temporary exhibitions such as "Exactly under the Sun" [Sous le soleil exactement], which showed to what extent the landscapes of Provence had inspired artists. It attracted 100,000 visitors in 2005.

The Vieille Charité Centre is currently hosting the temporary exhibitions of the Art Gallery [Musée des Beaux-Arts] which was closed in February 2005 for renovation works lasting five years.

Préau des Accoules – Unique site in France

Right in the heart of the old city, Préau des Accoules boasts a wealth of history.

Having been the Royal Marine Observatory, the headquarters of the Academy of Literature, Science and the Arts, and the School of Hydrography, in 1991 this building finally became a museum for children.

The attractive interior with its columns of pink and yellow stone offers interactive exhibitions on various themes, sometimes accompanied by different events (shows, forums).

Roman Docks Museum

The Roman Docks Museum shows the port activity of Marseille between the 6th century BC and the 4th century AD.

The museum also contains the results of underwater archaeological research, displaying a number of objects recovered from the wrecks of ships which sank off the coast of Marseille. Amphorae, ships' fittings and articles in everyday use all give a better understanding of life on board the ships, and its constraints.

Villeneuve-Bargemon Centre

A temporary exhibition area is located inside the Villeneuve-Bargemon Centre [Espace Villeneuve-Bargemon] which was inaugurated in 2006 in the basement to house the new City Council room. The project forms part of the rehabilitation of the area surrounding the City Hall. The architect Frank Hammoutène was awarded the "Equerre d'argent" prize for this project.

Diamond House – Old Marseille Museum

This house was built in 1570 and owes its name to the stones of the façade which are cut in "diamond points". It hosts temporary exhibitions organized by the Museum of Old Marseille [Musée du Vieux Marseille]. These exhibitions are always related to the traditions and popular history of Marseille.

History of Marseille Museum – 2600 years of history

It opened in 1983 in the Centre Bourse shopping centre, next to the oldest Greek site in France: the Jardin des Vestiges, which is in a way the 1st room of the museum.

The permanent collections portray the history of Marseille from when it was founded (6 BC) to the Ancient Greek and Roman periods, right up to the 19th century. They mainly come from archaeological digs in the city.

Fashion Museum

The only provincial museum in France dedicated to fashion

Founded in 1989 in la Canebière in a Haussmann building renovated by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, it offers visitors nearly 800 m² of temporary monographic or thematic exhibitions from 1945 to the present day, as well as a Documentation Centre.

All the big designer names from haute couture and prêt-à-porter are represented in the collections.

Longchamp district

Grobet-Labadie Museum

This is a 19th century private mansion which was owned by a rich family of Marseille traders, the Labadies, whose furniture, possessions and works of art testify to their refined taste as collectors.

The mansion and its contents were donated to the city of Marseille by Marie Grobet, the daughter of Alexandre Labadie, in 1919. Ten drawing rooms, bedrooms, boudoirs and a library make up the rich and comfortable home of a bourgeois family of that period. Items of gold and silverware, clocks, ceramics, carpets and splendid curtains made in the greatest factories adorn this refined interior.

The paintings confirm the eclectic taste of the Labadie family: Fragonard, Dupré, Ziem, Monticelli, Puget, Boucher, Watteau, Ingres, Millet, Delacroix and Corot are some of the painters whose works represent various artistic trends.

Art Gallery (closed for restoration) – One of the most important Art gallery in France

Installed in the left wing of Palais Longchamp since 1869, the gallery contains works confiscated during the Revolution, from churches, convents and the houses of those who fled from the revolutionaries.

Arranged on two levels, the gallery shows paintings of the French and Italian schools (Carracci and Bassetti), as well as a few Flemish paintings (Rubens and Jordaens). There are also paintings of the Provençal school (Pierre Puget and Michel Serre), from the 17th to the 19th century.

Natural History Museum

Founded in 1819, the museum was installed in the right wing of Palais Longchamp in 1869. It contains collections of fauna and flora, present or fossilised. The museum focuses on Mediterranean species, with one room specifically dedicated to Provence.

Another room is devoted to world zoology. It exhibits naturalised species, some of which are very rare, such as the great lizard of New Zealand.

The regional pre-history room is also well worth a visit. The museum allows access by appointment to the scientific library, containing books and periodicals on natural history.

Artist's workshops – An original institution for living art

(11-19, Bd Boisson – 13004 Marseille)

The aim of these workshops is to disseminate contemporary art and cater for artists and the general public.

They are an excellent source of information on everything relating to visual arts in Marseille. They specialise in supporting experimental projects by already confirmed artists and in developing the pursuits of younger ones.

City centre

Cantini Museum – A wonderful collection of Modern Art

In a private mansion dating back to the late 17th century (1694), important Fauve and Surrealist paintings have been collected since the 1960s, as well as leading works from the post-war period. Together they form one of the finest French public collections, including Bacon, Dufy, Ernst, Le Corbusier - Cité Radieuse, Léger, Matisse, Masson, Miro, Picabia, Picasso, Derain, Giacometti, Dubuffet and Tapies.

The most outstanding drawings in the museum's collection deserve a room to themselves; these are by artists such as Rothko, Hopper, Dubuffet, Pacabia and Picasso.

Provençal Painting Foundation

Housed in the former Art School building constructed by Espérandieu, this private foundation organises regular exhibitions on Provençal painting.

www.regards-de-provence.org

Beach-Bonneveine district

Modern Art Museum

Inaugurated in 1994, the Museum is installed in a 1970s building donated to the City of Marseille. 2,500 sq.m is devoted to exhibitions and to the Ernst Golschmidt Documentation Centre which comprises 25,000 contemporary works of art. The museum houses exhibits from the National Contemporary Art Collection, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Contemporary Art Collection [FRAC] and the Consignments and Loans Fund [Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations] as well as from collectors and private galleries. Since its opening, various important acquisitions have made it possible to present the various faces of contemporary art from César to the new generation of artists.

Ceramics Museum

Situated between the sea and the hills in Montredon Park, Château Pastré was built on the orders of Eugène Pastré and his wife, by the Parisian architect Jean-Charles Danjoy in 1862. Before and during World War II it was a sanctuary for the intelligentsia under the leadership of Lili Pastré who offered refuge to artists and to many Jews living under threat. Since 1995 the Ceramics Museum has been housed inside the Château and displays more than 1,500 items covering a period of 7,000 years. Marseille was a major centre for faïence pottery, where the art of ceramics reached its height in the 18th century.

The factories of Clérissy, Leroy and Fauchier (the latter may have invented the yellow which has been taken up throughout Provence) produced ceramics using underglaze decoration, especially with mythological subjects.

In the mid-18th century the rise in popularity of porcelain led to progress in faïence pottery techniques, where underglazing had only allowed a limited colour range. Painting the decoration on enamel already at a moderate temperature and then curing the metal oxides gave considerably more choice of colour. It was the workshops of Veuve Perrin which sparked the use of overglaze decoration with pictures of flowers, animals and Chinese themes.

The museum has a fine collection of Provençal ceramics from Marseille, Moustiers, Aubagne, La Tour d'Aigues, Apt, and Varages.

The 19th century was the century of industrialisation, represented by Gien and Sarreguemines. The artist potters of the early 1900s followed the stylistic Art Nouveau illustrated by a few leading names in the discipline.

Contemporary design tends towards simpler shapes and decoration. From Alvar Aalto to Pesce, and including the French artists Starck and Gagnère, the showcases will take you on an astonishing tour of Europe.

For more information on programmes of the museums: <http://www.marseille.fr/vdm/cms/pid/230>

Château Gombert

Marseille Regional Museum

Château Gombert Museum was founded in 1928 by Jean Baptiste Julien Pignol, the last descendant of a family of master masons and farmers of the Marseille region. The very warm character of the collections displayed in a specially designed area of 950 sq.m makes this museum a place where many people of Marseille come with their families. Guided tours by appointment, temporary exhibitions, conferences, Provençal lessons, traditional *boutis* quilting lessons, educational projects, and a genealogy circle are all available.

The "La Table Marseillaise" restaurant occupies one wing and, with Provençal furniture, recreates the atmosphere of a country dining room. Everything is cooked using Provençal and Marseille recipes.

www.museeprovençal.fr

MARSEILLE AND CULTURE

*Aware of all it has to offer, the city of Marseille will be the
European Capital of Culture in 2013*

Marseille has become an attractive metropolis whose cultural life includes all forms of artistic expression. Significant benefits are expected in cultural and social terms if Marseille is awarded this label, as well as in terms of economy, tourism and town planning. From music to dance, from theatre and film to fashion, without forgetting its generous and tasty food, Marseille is open to everything that will boost its culture.

Musical notes ...

Music-Hall

Marseille has a musical history which has broken the Paris sound barrier.

The operettas of Vincent Scotto, performed by Alibert, left a popular repertory including the famous *Un de la Canebière* which set a whole generation singing and dancing with *Le plus beau tango du monde*, *Cane Canebière* and *Un petit cabanon*, all of them recalling a bygone age.

In this musical landscape the legendary Alcazar, which was inaugurated in 1857, reached its moments of glory in the 1930s. The theatre became an essential stepping-stone for artistes who hoped to have their careers confirmed by the verdict of the demanding Marseille audiences.

Reda Caire, Tino Rossi, Yves Montand, local celebrities and many others later, performed on this music-hall stage and wrote their names in the stars.

Today the Alcazar has become the major regional library for the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region.

Opera House

Marseille is also a place of pilgrimage for lyric art and the Opera House has resounded to the voices of the greatest tenors. Marseille was also the second French city, after Bordeaux, to build a Grand Theatre in 1787 exclusively for opera.

The Opera House, in Rue Beauvau near La Canebière and the Old Port, was rebuilt on the ruins of the 17th-century building after this was destroyed in the fire of 1919.

Come and listen to emotion in *La Traviata*, *The Force of Destiny*, *Madame Butterfly* or *Don Giovanni* and of course *Carmen* who could be "a child of Marseille".

The Opera House has a varied repertoire, blending classical and contemporary, and special events, such as the World Premiere of 'Marius and Fanny by Vladimir Cosma in September 2007. Some of the great names of the lyrical arts are associated with it: June Anderson, Roberto Alagna, Angela Gheorghiu, Jérôme Savary, Jean-Claude Casadesus, Christian Lacroix...

<http://www.marseille.fr/vdm/cms/pid/153>

Voices and groups

Jean Guidoni could represent a new trend in light music after the age of the music-hall, and also takes the name of Marseille to more unusual, remote and humanistic places.

Less intimistic, and especially more popular since *Notre-Dame de Paris*, Patrick Fiori shows his love for Marseille which he shares with Corsica. He never misses an opportunity to speak affectionately of his city.

But Marseille is also the city of IAM, Massilia Sound System, Fonky Family, Faf la rage, Anais, whose rap beats always cause a stir. Their repertory has "taste", the taste of the Mediterranean – modern version!

The range of music is broad and Marseille enjoys all types and tempos.

Arabesques and entrechats!

Is rhythm in Marseille's genes?

Although Marius Petipa, who contributed to the classical repertory, grew up in Marseille, he learnt his first dance steps in Paris...Maurice Bédart, who was also from Marseille, made his career in Lausanne and always returned to his home city with great emotion.

But it was Roland Petit who wrote a page of dance history for Marseille. As a dancer and choreographer, "Monsieur Petit", as Zizi Jeanmaire calls him in public, is in the spotlight in Europe and his reputation has spread as far as the United States.

He brings the greatest stars to dance for him and brings others to fame: in Marseille, in 1972, he formed the ballet company named after the city which became Marseille National Ballet in 1981.

He wrote *Pink Floyd ballet*, *Coppelia*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Puss in Boots* and many others for his company, which were performed by Rudy Brian, Denis Ganio, Dominique Kalfouni, Lucia

Laccara and others.

It was also with Petit that the National Dance School, a professional training institute, took its first steps in the building created by Roland Simounet.

26 years of artistic residence ended in 1998, when Marie-Claude Pietragalla succeeded him and took over as director of the school and the company. Pietragalla is both a dancer and choreographer, and made her mark with *Romeo and Juliet*, but especially with *Vita* and *Sakountala*.

Frédéric Flamant made his entry in Marseille in 2005 with the first performance of *La Cité Radieuse* in collaboration with the architect Dominique Perrault. In his words, "*Marseille National Ballet will work on memory and innovation*".

The company's dance card is already full and involves several national and international tours. As for Marseille, Marseille National Ballet, with its 32 male and female dancers, gives three performances per season at the Municipal Opera House and La Criée National Theatre and in the Marseille Festival.

Since 2007, the "Overture" concept has allowed the public, for the modest sum of €5 or €8, to watch a dance show in the main studio of Marseille National Ballet, which is converted into a 300-seat auditorium for the occasion (used by the Marseille Festival in summertime). This gives the public a very close view of the dancers, and the chance to meet them after the show for a drink in the Ballet's cafeteria.

www.ballet-de-marseille.com

Le Merlan – National Dance Theatre

Built in 1976, in the district of the same name in the North of the city, the theatre became a National Theatre in 1993. Now run by Nathalie Marteau, the theatre now gives dance pride of place, focused around the question of the body and movement.

To the theatre tonight!

Venues which have made the history of theatre in Marseille, and other more recent ones, are used for artistic projects and illustrate Marseille's vibrant cultural life.

Audiences go to more than 40 large or small theatres to enjoy the classical, contemporary or multidisciplinary repertory. Each year, more than 40,000 people go to the theatre.

The most famous include:

La Criée now declaims instead of shouting!

This former fish market, "anchored" on the Old Port, changed frequency and became a national theatre in 1981. Marcel Maréchal, who was already well known in Marseille as director of the Gymnase Theatre, inaugurated the theatre with the first performance. La Criée has put on more than 400 shows since its opening.

Today Jean-Louis Benoît, actor, script writer, producer and director who won the Molière prize two years running with Molière's *Les Fourberies de Scapin* in 1998 and Gogol's *Le Revizor* in 1999, is the director of La Criée.

Capacity: 2 auditoriums seating 800 and 200

<http://www.theatre-lacriee.com>

Gymnase Theatre

This theatre, located near La Canebière, is where French light music had its hour of glory. It was built in the Italian style, renovated in 1985 and celebrated its bicentenary in 2004.

Dominique Bluzet is its director, and also directs the Jeu de Paume Theatre in Aix-en-Provence, thus creating a dynamic drama hub where some 30 shows are produced every season.

Dominique Bluzet's initiatives are numerous and his suggestions are interesting and attractive, such as the programming of *Les Arts Sauts* out of doors, on the esplanade of the "J4" pier, after the showing of *Bartabas* at the Pastré Riding Centre in previous years.

Capacity: 600 seats - <http://spectacle.lestheatres.net/>

Toursky Theatre

Richard Martin and his company started their dramatic adventure in 1970 and named an auditorium in the Belle de Mai district after the poet Axel Toursky.

30 years of work have followed, to share the love of the stage with the public. The Toursky is open to contemporary creation, and art is expressed in the form of drama, dance, music and light music which have filled the programme for the past ten years.

Contemporary authors share the stage alternately with Molière, Racine, or Sénèque...The new generation of choreographers such as Découflé, Mathilde Mounier and Georges Appaix are regular guests.

Diversity is the name of the game at the Toursky which aims to make Eastern Europe better known, for example with the Russian Festival which has been an annual event since 1996.

Capacity: 750 seats <http://www.toursky.org>

The Municipal Odéon Theatre

A former stable, the Odéon (thus named in reference to the Greek origins of Marseille) was built as a cinema in 1923, to satisfy the passion of the people of Marseille for film.

With 1600 seats on 3 levels, the Odéon played host to audiences of theatre, film and operetta lovers, and Revues Marseillaises.

The Odéon was bought and entirely renovated by the City in 1996, in order to develop light theatre and operettas, thus linking with the initial purpose of the establishment.

It is the only theatre in France with a regular annual programme of operettas: authentic productions for which the Odéon has an orchestra, a choir, soloists brought in for the occasion, scenery built here and there, etc...

Marseille and reading

Albert Cohen, André Roussin, André Suarès, Antonin Artaud, Marcel Pagnol...and later, Patrick Cauvin, Jean-Claude Izzo, Philippe Carreze, Raymond Jean and many other writers have given pleasure to readers in Marseille and, now that they are more widely known, to readers throughout France.

Lire en Fête [Festival of Reading]

A nationwide event, Lire en Fête is also held in Marseille to focus on books of every kind. Entertainment, exhibitions and forums with book professionals mark this event on the theme of knowledge. For three days words walk the streets, pages are displayed on cinema screens, theatres declaim and authors make their names in libraries such as the Alcazar.

Regional Municipal Library (Alcazar - BMVR)

With more than 250,000 printed volumes, 1,000,000 documents of which 350 are freely accessible, 200,000 antiquarian books and 8,000 visitors a day in an area of 110,000 sq.m, the Alcazar demonstrates the importance of reading in Marseille. The famous old music-hall has now been converted to a more serious function as the Regional Municipal Library, the largest library in France outside Paris. The Alcazar officially adopted its new identity in 2004 and opened to the public after six years of building works. An immense façade and an extended canopy, designed by the architects Adrien Fainsilber, Jean-Romain Girodet and Didier Rogeon, identify this important place of reading, exhibitions and conferences.

As the city's central library, the Alcazar networks with the seven local libraries, and offers a program of cultural events such as symposiums, exhibitions and writing workshops organised in partnership with the city's associations. It has a computer network enabling users to search on the Internet, consult the library catalogue and monitor loans.

<http://www.bmvr.mairie-marseille.fr>

Marseille on Screen

Location and light

Before the advent of film, the "7th art", many artists set up their easels facing the scenery of Marseille. Hazy light over the contours of L'Estaque, a landscape full of contrasts, a palette of changing colours and a picturesque atmosphere ... all these characteristics, assembled like a puzzle, provide an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the camera.

The first clap was given by the Lumière brothers in 1896, who paved the way for cinema. Since then more than 200 films, some of which have become cult, have made Marseille known on the wide screen.

Films and quotes

"If you can't cheat with your friends, there's no point in playing cards."

The voice of Raimu can still be heard in Bar de la Marine where **Marius** was shot. The work of Pagnol

is an anthology piece which is still popular every time it is televised.

Borsalino brought fame to the Panier district where Delon and Belmondo caused panic.

Henri Verneuil paid tribute to his host city and put it in the spotlight in **588 rue Paradis** and in **Mayrig** where Zakarian looked back on the time when he settled in Marseille after the Armenian genocide. Carpita used the movement of the 1950 dockers' strike to make **Le Rendez-Vous des Quais**.

Marseille parades confidently on screen, and after a sudden decline again tops the bill for film locations today.

Blier focused on the Marseille suburbs in **1, 2, 3 Soleil** which brought Anouk Grinberg to stardom, as a teenager captured by an ideal in a rough housing estate.

Marius et Jeannette is a cheerful story set in L'Estaque and shot by Guediguian which shows the city in a better light.

In another register, **Taxi** is the high-speed story of adventure and friendship between a cop and a driver, with breathtaking views of the city.

Everyone shows Marseille in a different way and in an endless variety of roles.

And TV series are popular too: **Fabio Montale** follows Delon between the city and the Calanques; **Le Proc** and **Le Tuteur** have been successful with viewers, as well as the daily sitcom **Plus Belle la Vie** which is watched by an audience of 5 million every night.

Marseille and the cinema

In 1996, to develop the film sector, the city created the **Film Bureau** which monitors the growth of the film business and assists with projects.

The **Belle de Mai Media Centre** created for cultural development, is also aimed at film with its high-tech equipment. The site comprises the producers' and distributors' offices and the audiovisual studios. The sitcom **Plus Belle la Vie**, which has actually been shot on the premises, confirms the significance of the city's project.

Between 2002 and 2006, Marseille recorded a total of **576 films shot, that is to say 4300 days of films shot** and ranked as the **second city** in France for this industry.

Significant figures in 2008 :

- **27,000 sq.m** surface area in the Belle de Mai Media Centre.

- **224 films shot (+30% more than 2006)**

- 1364 days of films shot

- **63% of the days** of filming are generated by **feature film and TV fiction productions**

- **14 feature films (partly or fully) including:** 'Le deuxième soufflé', 'Bienvenue chez les ch'tis', 'MR73'...

'**Plus belle la vie**': **400** people all year round, **200** intermittently, a budget of **30 million euros** and **5.4 million** viewers per day.

Marseille and Fashion

"Fashion doesn't exist unless it's seen in the street"

Coco Chanel

The pioneers of the Fashion and Clothing industry are revisiting trends and creating style in Marseille.

Garella, Sugar, Blanc Bleu, Pain de Sucre, Kulte, Poivre Blanc, Olly Gan, Banana Moon and Sessun are a few groups which illustrate the reputation and growth of the fashion industry. In 2003 the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, of which Marseille is the capital, ranked third in the fashion and clothing sector. Marseille brands have stimulated healthy competition and generated a market.

Max Mara, Christian Lacroix, Kenzo, Ventilo, Marithé and François Girbaud, Diesel, and other independent distributors (Vanessa Bruno, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Céline, etc) make for a trendy itinerary and prove that the street is a stylish place to be.

Rue de la Mode (Fashion Street)

This was the first theme street inaugurated in 1997.

It is on Rue de la Tour which leads from the Opera to Place du Général de Gaulle. The road contains some ten boutiques, local designers and distributors whose shop windows display truly original fashions.

Hats by Manon, tops by Diable Noir and shoes by Empreinte du Sud, to name a few, all arouse shopping fever.

Mediterranean Fashion Centre

This is a Haussmann building of 3,000 sq.m renovated by Jean-Michel Wilmotte in 1993 which houses the **Mediterranean Fashion Institute [Institut Mode Méditerranée]** founded by Maryline Bellieud-Vigouroux in 1988 and the **Fashion Museum [Musée de la Mode]**.

6,000 garments and accessories make up the permanent collections of the museum which regularly holds temporary exhibitions.

Chanel, St Laurent, Paco Rabanne and Christian Lacroix drew everyone's attention and, above all, marked our memories with the famous little black dress, the magnificent ballet costumes, the sumptuous metal garments and glittering impressions worthy of the Arlésiennes.

The collections of Mouna Ayoub have also dressed the museum in ballroom clothes and given a taste for parties and nights out.

A documentary area specialising in fashion and costume is available for research to designers, students and professionals.

The Mediterranean Fashion Institute supports regional designers and accompanies them in their projects and promotions.

Fashion industry figures

Marseille is the major centre for clothing textiles in the PACA and Bouches du Rhône region.

The Communauté Urbaine de Marseille is home to a quarter of the total workers in the fashion and clothing textiles sector in the PACA region, with an overrepresentation of the clothing industry.

The city is also highly specialised in wholesaling: around half of workers in the PACA region.

Around sixty student stylists are trained every year thanks to the Institut Mode Méditerranée.

www.institutmode.org

Marseille and Street Arts

The street a 360° stage!

Street arts have always existed. They are fragile because they are exposed to the vagaries of the weather, and can disappear and then suddenly reappear, like a game of hide and seek...

Street Arts are not ephemeral: like the 'Massalia' (Massalia 1999, Marscéleste 2000, l'Odyssée de la Canebière 2002, Aux quais du large 2005) and the Carnival, they bring meaning to the city, leave a lasting mark, and lay the foundations for the future history of the contemporary city.

Public space is for playing, meeting, traffic, dividing the urban community or mixing it together: it is a place of inspiration for artists. In public space the message is sent out to everyone, without limitations.

In Marseille street arts have always had the key to the city.

They are structured, assisted and financially supported (numerous companies, Cité des arts de la rue, Karwan regional programmes...)

Their programme is still tentative in the city and its districts: 'Sirènes et midinet' is the most regular appointment for the people of Marseilles in the opera house square.

Marseille at Table

Daily meals are eaten in a relaxed atmosphere, with olive oil and garlic forming part of the most typical dishes.

Marseille is unpretentious when it comes to food, and "the knack" is part of the popular culinary repertory, yet it has inspired some of the biggest names in gastronomy.

At the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Marseille has explored the food of other countries and has adopted some preparations which are now part of its regional menus.

The result? To call them spicy dishes with a sunny accent would be a rather simplistic definition, when the fish, shellfish and other seafood make beautiful music and play complex melodies ...

Marseille loves variety, along with traditional dishes such as the famous bouillabaisse which enjoys a charter, Provençal beef stew, *pistou* soup, Marseille-style *pieds et paquets* (lambs' feet and tripe parcels in a savoury sauce), and other recipes confirm that here too, cooking is changing. Produce is king, its flavours unveiled by the chef's talent to delight the palate.

Bon Appétit !

A few suggestions to satisfy gourmet tastes, borrowed from the South, from Languedoc to the Côte d'Azur: pasta with *pistou* sauce, pasta with seafood, rice with *favouilles* (small green crabs), rice with mussels, "headless larks" (beef cushions), *aïoli* garlic mayonnaise, *tapenade* (olive and anchovy paste), anchovy sauce, stuffed vegetables (courgettes, aubergines and tomatoes), stuffed courgette flowers, stuffed squid, rock fish soup and of course grilled sea bass or sea bream with *rouille* garlic and red pepper sauce, are some examples illustrating the menu of a good restaurant.

Local specialities which recall the taste of a bygone age include *panisses* (fried slices of chickpea flour polenta) and *chichi fregi* (long sugared doughnuts) from L'Estaque.

Since May 2005 the Tourist Office and Convention Bureau has offered *bouillabaisse* lessons in partnership with the Miramar restaurant, whose chef Christian Buffa shares his secrets of cooking a real Marseille bouillabaisse. www.bouillabaisse.com

MARSEILLE UNDER A STARRY SKY IN 2008

The second city of France, long considered to be the poor relation in terms of cuisine, has just entered the major league. For the first time in its history, the city has the huge joy of seeing one of its chefs receive the 3 stars that are so highly coveted and are distributed parsimoniously by the Michelin guide.

Gérald Passédat, the chef at the Petit Nice Passédat was awarded 3 stars in the 2008 edition of the famous guide, which is a global reference for food lovers. He has therefore entered the very closed circle of the 26 holders of 3 stars in France.

Here the dishes seem to have come straight from the Mediterranean, which in the chef's words is 'his kitchen garden'. Violets, dentex, anemones and sea urchins form a selection to delight our palates. '*Bouille abaisse*', a traditional local dish, is reinterpreted, but the ancestral recipe is nevertheless respected. Wolf "as Lucie Passédat liked it" remains a great house classic, in honour of the chef's grandmother, as we should not forget that the Passédat family has been reigning on its for 3 generations, since 1917 when Petit Nice was still just an open-air café of the Corniche ...

Le Petit Nice- Passédat, anse de Maldormé, corniche Kennedy 13007 Marseille
Tel: 04-91-59-25-92. www.passe-dat.fr

Another establishment that has been awarded a Michelin star is **le Péron**, a newcomer as it received it for the first time this year. It made its début among the 435 one-star restaurants listed in the 2008 edition. A real institution in Marseille, this restaurant had dozed off before being taken

over and entirely renovated in 2001. It was one of the first 'trendy' restaurants in the city, combining inventive cuisine and decor, all against the backdrop of the Mediterranean.

At the controls, the young chef **Yannis Liseron**, and **Denis Barral**, one of the owners, form an impeccable team for creating the magic alchemy of a unique location and constantly evolving cuisine.

Le Peron, 52 corniche Kennedy 13007 Marseille. Tel: 04 91 52 15 22 www.restaurant-peron.com

The tourist and conference office is delighted at these nominations, as thanks to these virtuosos of the kitchen it is the image of a dynamic and successful Marseille that is once again being put forward. Marseille therefore has 4 Michelin star restaurants: Guillaume Sourrieu at l'Epuisette, Lionel Levy at Une Table au sud, and our two nominees for 2008.

Marseille and festivals

All year round, but with a busier programme in summer, Marseille is proud to host a large number of festivals.

Festival of Sacred Music (May)

Since 1995 Marseille has honoured great lyric voices in this classical music festival which is held, as regards the official programme, in the Church of St-Michel. Mozart, Saint Saëns, Beethoven and Rachmaninov are a few of the regular composers in this musical event. The Regional Conservatoire also participates in this initiative and performs in the city's churches, giving eight free concerts.

In just over ten years this has become a major festival, because of the quality of the repertory and performers.

Marseille Festival (June/July)

Begun in 1996, the Marseille Festival already has a national reputation. Drama, dance and contemporary music are on the programme of this year's festival and include prestigious performers. Formerly held in the Vieille Charité, the festival now takes place in Parc Henri Fabre adjoining the Marseille Ballet building.

www.festivaldemarseille.com

International Folklore Festival (July)

In 43 years, this festival has hosted more than 110 countries and as many different groups. Every year more than 3,000 artistes come from all over the world to present their cultural heritage and the traditions of their native countries. www.reudelet.felibren.com

5 Continents Jazz Festival (July)

Jazz evenings in the pastoral setting of the Palais Longchamp water tower. Europe, Africa, North and South America are represented and take the public on a journey to the rhythms of jazz funk, acid, folk, and even *manouche* gypsy music. Summer concerts with a cross-cultural tempo warm up the night. www.festival-jazz-cinq-continents.com

Open-Air Cinema (June/July)

What a great idea, watching films under the stars!

This has been offered free of charge by Ciné Plein-Air since 1996, transforming Cours Belsunce, Cours Julien, the Panier district and Palais Longchamp into cinemas every summer. From shorts to cult films, and including kids' films and arthouse cinema, the public is spoilt for choice.

Southern Fiesta [Fiesta des Suds] (October)

Marseille loves festivals...such as the Southern Fiesta which has kept Marseille moving to the music and rhythms of the South for the last 15 years.

The Fiesta is a real musical melting pot, a time of discovery and references acknowledged by a broad cross-section of the public, as well as young or established performers who come together to create a superb firework display of sound. Amadou and Mariam, Massilia Sound System and

Sinsemilia are a few examples of this cosmopolitan event. Concerts that go on until dawn mark the calendar in October. The programme also includes exhibitions and virtual animations.
www.fiesta-des-sud.org

Marseille and Sport

Marseille and OM

Football is a fundamental part of life in Marseille, and its team must win every match if it is not to disappoint the whole city!

The Olympique de Marseille team and the legendary Stade Vélodrome are as important as the rain and the wind to some people in Marseille. The Olympique de Marseille, formed in 1899, quickly won many victories and were three times champions of the amateur France Cup. In 1937 the Stade Vélodrome was inaugurated and its new conditions for training aroused great ambitions, including that of entering the professional arena.

OM immediately fulfilled its dream, with the first title of professional French champions. Building on its successes the team has evolved over time, structured its game, developed its tactics and so achieved the status of European champions in 1963.

Many victories, a few defeats, and the players' talent illustrate the team's saga.

Victories and players: 10 times champions of France, 10 times winners of the France Cup and once the Europe Cup, the Olympique de Marseille is unquestionably one of France's most successful teams.

Goals scored by the greatest international players such as Mario Zatelli and Drogba, and of course the great Papin, Deschamps and Boli, have made the club's history.

Free kicks, corners, nutmegs and penalties make supporters ecstatic and their shouts still echo in the grandstands.

The team's success is of course the result of practice, which takes place at the Commanderie, their purpose-built training venue covering 40,000 sq.m, with a grass stadium, a stabilized stadium, and an athletics track.

Supporters: With nearly **4 million supporters in France**, the OM knows how to unite the public around a sport and a team.

Ten supporters' clubs make sure that match evenings are lively in the North and South grandstands. Commandos Ultras, South Winners, Yankee Nord, Dodger's, MTP, Fanatics, CCS (Central Supporters' Club), OM Friends Club [Club des Amis de l'OM], Disabled Supporters' Club [Club de Supporters Handicapés], and Puissance Ganay, are all fervent fans of the team.

"Straight to the Goal" is Olympique de Marseille's slogan which confirms its determination to win every time, giving its supporters a really exciting event.

18 League 1 matches are played at home every season. www.om.net

The Tourist Office organises guided tours of the Stade Vélodrome. www.marseille-tourisme.com

A few events ...

World Bowls Championship (July)

Founded by Paul Ricard in 1962, this has become "the Roland Garros of bowls". More than 12,480 players, or 4,160 teams, shoot and point to avoid losing and "kissing Fanny", which would confirm their defeat. After the teams have competed in Parc Borély, the always spectacular finals are held at the Old Port. www.lamarseillaise.fr

World Series 13 (July)

This Beach Volley competition, started in 1994, is the oldest of the world circuit, bringing together the best top-level players and more than 120,000 fans on the Prado beaches. More than 200 matches with a view to the Olympic qualifiers and 40 countries represented by 250 athletes make up the men's and women's tournaments. A contest marked by the fast reactions of the players!

Beach Soccer Professionals' Tournament– 9th edition (August)

Every summer the Prado and Corbière beaches are taken over by the Beach Soccer Tournament. This has become an important event of the summer, attracting 80,000 spectators every year and giving a few lively matches. The teams of professionals compete for the title of European

champion. This tournament, which usually takes place in August, will be held on 17 to 27 July this year because Marseille is hosting the World Beach Soccer Championship for the first time.

September at Sea

From the middle of August onwards, the roadstead of Marseille hoists its sails and invites water sports enthusiasts.

The most daring participate in the regattas, while the more serious perfect their big game fishing technique or browse the exhibitions up and down the Old Port to improve their maritime knowledge. Sport and the sea go well together in Marseille!

www.officedelamer.com

Marseille - Cassis half-marathon (last Sunday in October)

Since 1979, this event has grown in numbers of participants and demands all their courage and endurance. The autumn trial, registered with the French Federation and the International Athletics Federation, has become an international running classic, with 15,000 people taking part. Coming from every corner of the world, established athletes and amateurs "climb" the daunting Gineste. The departure from the Stade Vélodrome, where it is relatively flat, allows runners to find their rhythm and get their breath after just over 20 kilometres ... phew, we've made it!

www.marseille-cassis.com

Open 13 (February)

Considered as a major milestone of the **ATP circuit**, Open 13 brings together the best tennis players of the day in a theme decor which changes every year. Clément, winner of the 2006 tournament, Nadal, Enqvist, Federer and Kafelnikov, as well as Noah and Kuerten, have demonstrated the power of their forehand and backhand strokes on the Green Set of Marseille Palais des Sports. The Open 13 village is also a meeting place that celebrates sport and fun.

www.open13.com

Gaz de France Women's Tennis Open (June)

For 16 years this has been the flagship trial of the WTA circuit. This Marseille tournament stimulates the ambition of the best women players who are determined to be among the winners.

Tatiana Golovin, Elena Dementieva, Kim Clijsters, Amélie Mauresmo and Nathalie Dechy are a few champions who testify to the prestige of this contest.

www.perso.orange.fr/tennis-club-marseille

Sails of the Old Port (June)

For a long weekend, Marseille explores its history with the sea. Some 40 traditional sailing ships, some of them a hundred years old or more, are shown in the Old Port on the "stage" of the Lacydon. The most recent take people for sea trips, while the oldest, genuine floating museums, offer guided tours. Organised by La Nautique society in partnership with the City of Marseille.

www.lesvoilesduvieuxport.com

ADDRESS BOOK

These celebrities have made Marseille their adoptive home and represent the Neo-Marseillais who have settled in the city for personal or professional reasons. They have successfully integrated here and tell us about their favourite places for outings, food or shopping.

Frédéric Flamand

Director of Marseille National Ballet and the School of Dance

He enjoys Marseille's proximity to Cassis, the Calanques and L'Estaque.

Lunch at Aldo's and dinner at La Part des Anges.

Tea at Les Arcenaulx and cocktails at Bar de La Marine.

He likes Mandonatto's *galette des rois* (3 Kings Cake), cheeses from Le Normandy, and shellfish from Pierrot.

Christian Rauth

Actor and scriptwriter, Inspector Auquelin in "Navarro", and his wife Cécile Auclert who is also an actress in "Les Filles d'à Côté"

Sunday in the Calanques and lunch at Chez Le Belge in Marseillevéyre, Le Nautic in Morgiou, and Le Château in Sormiou for a well-deserved break.

Christian and Cécile like seaside places with a feel of adventure, such as Baie des Singes where they were married in 2005. They also enjoy sea trips with Fred Ogeret who created Cassimer.

And of course, the theatre: they regularly go to the Gymnase, Jeu de Paume and Antidote theatres. Evenings after shows at Le Mas, an illustrious address. A garden and a corner of Paradise, or not far off, La Villa is THE address of the 8th district. "Nesting" evenings with orders from "Sushi Resto". They love good wine and good food. The Wine Road [Route des Vins] is their place for tasting and buying.

Decoration: Furniture and lighting from Iman Déco.

Nathalie Simon

Former windsurfing champion and now CEO of Sport-Away, a sports travel company

She enjoys running and walking in the Calanques.

A fast round trip: the Belvédère with the Morgiou panorama.

Lunch with the family at La Brasserie at Cercle des Nageurs.

For business appointments: Chez Peron, Le Crystal or Bar de la Marine on the Old Port.

In the evening, several favourite places: Le Lunch in Sormiou, Le Tropicana at Pointe Rouge and Chez Dédé in La Verrerie for the atmosphere.

Gourmet stop: A tarte tatin from Amandine.

Flowers: compositions from "A la Campagne".

Decoration: La Maison Marseillaise and its Tsé Tsé collection, Lighting from Mise en Scène.

A tip: the *Grand Voyageur* railcard, if only for a break in the *Salon Grand Voyageur* (Frequent Travellers' Lounge) at St Charles station, decorated by Starck.

MARSEILLE PLANS ITS FUTURE

Euroméditerranée

Marseille's outstanding geographic situation makes it justifiably the emblematic crossroads of southern Europe.

Today, under the impetus of the **Euroméditerranée** Organisation for Euro-Mediterranean Development, Marseille is undergoing a metamorphosis to leave the stereotypes behind and become an attractive major metropolis.

At the beginning of 2008, a Ministerial Decree approved a 170 hectare extension to the North of Euroméditerranée.

Since 1995 the government and local authorities have invested more than 600 million euros which has generated 3 billion in private investment.

This is one of the largest urban development programs in Europe. Five districts of Marseille between the Old Port and the city centre are involved in these emblematic projects which are already completed or under way.

La Joliette with the Docks district, Cité de la Méditerranée, Rue de la République, Saint Charles and the Aix Gate are getting a facelift and promise new prospects for tomorrow's European capital.

The transport system is adapting to this configuration, with in particular the arrival of the tramway at the end of June 2007, which is now easing traffic in the city centre.

This rehabilitation policy, combined with the development of cultural structures and facilities, is revitalising the city and already creating the potential for projecting Marseille's image into the future.

La Joliette

With the Docks, renovated by Eric Castaldi, as the epicentre of this business district, La Joliette is host to leading national companies in buildings which are just as spectacular and beginning to look like the City of London: Compass Group, Telecom Italia, France Telecom, LD Com, BNP Paribas and UBIFrance are a few groups representing the renewal of the tertiary sector.

CMA-CGM is by no means the least of these, as the leading French container shipping company and the 3rd in the world, it will be the figurehead of this economic environment, with the building that is under construction, a 29-floor tower in glass and concrete designed by Zaha Hadid, a world famous architect, responsible for the future Guggenheim Museum in Taiwan and the first woman to win the Prix Pritzker.

Other buildings designed by the best international architects: Jean Nouvel, Massimiliano Fuksas, Rudy Ricciotti... are also going to be redesigning the new face of Marseille.

Cité de la Méditerranée

110 hectares on the coast extending from Arenç to Fort St Jean will be the site of three major projects under the direction of urban architect Yves Lion.

St Jean Centre [Pôle St Jean]: The J4 pier, redeveloped around a new dock with an esplanade, will accommodate cultural buildings: the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations [Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée], Villa de la Méditerranée and the Sea Centre [Centre de la Mer]. Private structures such as an IMAX, an aquarium, shops and restaurants will further enhance the life of the area.

The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations will be dedicated to the cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean world. The collections of the "Europe" department of the Museum of Mankind [Musée de l'Homme] will be added to those of the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions [Musée des Arts et des Traditions Populaires]. This will be a truly national museum installed in Marseille, which will open to the public in 2011 - 12.

Rudy Ricciotti, winner of the National Architecture Prize, who has been selected for this project, has designed a volume enclosed inside a high-performance fibrous concrete mesh. Its purpose will be to form a sun screen and play with the concept of "seeing without being seen", and to celebrate both hardness and fragility... With views of the Fort, the sea and the port in sequence, the architect believes that the Museum will be a "vertical casbah".

The Museum's conservation centre will be built on the site of the Muy barracks in the Belle de Mai district. This project is designed by Corinne Vezzoni, who also designed the Departmental Archives on the Euroméditerranée site.

Les Terrasses du Port

Located opposite the Joliette quay and the docks, the roofs of the port sheds will be developed to house shopping malls for transit passengers and tourists.

This hub is aimed at customers from among the port's cruise passengers, who will find it an attractive and cultural stopping place with the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations [MUCEM] built by Rudy Ricciotti. But also 40 000 m² of business space, an open air summer stadium and a fitness centre.

Zone d'Arenc

This area, to the north, will be a new residential district, with many housing programmes, the Arenc public gardens, the Silo converted into an auditorium, and the new Departmental Archives.

Euromed Centre

This is the new international trade platform of Southern Europe in the centre of the Mediterranean. The heart of this district, to the north of the Docks building, will cover a surface area of 69,000 sq.m and include a 4-star Marriott group hotel complex, a conference centre, offices and a 16-screen multiplex cinema managed by Europa Corp whose president is Luc Besson, as well as shops and a huge urban park. This project has been awarded to Massimiliano Fuksas whose ambition is to produce "emotional" architecture for this district "generating refined urban life". The first section of Euromed Centre is scheduled for delivery in 2009.

Rue de la République

The former Imperial Street lined with its Napoleon III buildings and its shops is set to recover its prestige.

This is the Marseille République project, initiated by government bodies and private operators whose ambition is to restore this 1.3-km long Haussmann-designed avenue. Its pavements will be widened, 200 trees will be planted on either side of the road, and its frontages will be renovated.

With more than 60,000 sq.m commercial surface area designed to accommodate new brand names, Rue de la République is one of Marseille's major urban roads.

The first deliveries of buildings by the operator of Marseille République (35% living space) are planned between autumn 2006 and 2009. A public car park with 2,000 spaces, and the arrival of the tramway have started to change the district.

Saint Charles/Aix Gate [Porte d'Aix]

This window on the centre of Marseille, where visitors arrive by car from the motorway or at the train station, is also undergoing urban redevelopment to make this first sight of the city as fine it used to be.

The TGV high-speed train is a response to today's needs and encourages short visits, such as a weekend. Visitor numbers have multiplied and Marseille has become a destination in its own right. For all these reasons this district deserves to be renovated and the traffic needs to be reconfigured to serve the area, notably with the construction of the St Charles tunnel.

The Marseille St Charles Transport Centre is an ambitious project to match the development of rail travel. Its most spectacular aspect is the future Honnorat Passenger Lobby [Halle des voyageurs Honnorat]. It will triple the width of the present station frontage and form a huge construction to match the grandeur of the famous staircase overlooking the city. www.euromediterranee.fr

The railway station has been inaugurated in December 2007.

The Tramway

Since June 2007 trams run over 11.2 kilometres. 27 stations mark the route of the tramway which starts at Euroméditerranée and goes as far as Les Caillols, serving the city centre on its way.

The aim is to reduce the use of the car and restore the city's original shape and elegance. Marseille's beauty will again be apparent, hitherto hidden under the city's unbridled development.

The pavements take precedence over the roadway, which is finally be given back to the pedestrians. The ground will be splendid, paved in grey or white granite and edged with limestone or porphyry, with red stone for the slabs. The city centre will be freed of traffic pollution, and ginkgo and Mediterranean trees will improve the quality of the air.

Hotel accommodation

The city's development also involves significant hotel facilities. The growth of the conference industry boosted by Palais du Pharo and Parc Chanot Conference Centre, as well as the growth in business tourism, encourages the installation of first-class hotels.

In 2006, New Hôtel Le Pharo**** was added to the accommodation offered by New Hôtel Vieux Port ***, New Hôtel Bompard*** and New Hôtel Select*** belonging to the same group.

The Radisson has opened in the spring 2007 on the Old Port, and the Concorde Hotels group "Villa Massalia" hotel in the summer 2007, on the site of the Borély hippodrome, promising an increase in facilities for accommodation in Marseille.

Finally, the Mariott****, Suithôtel*** and Ibis*** hotels will be opening on the Euroméditerranée perimeter as part of the opening of the Euromed Centre.

The project to transform Hôtel Dieu, a superb historical building dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries and overlooking the Old Port, into the Intercontinental****L, will fit into Marseille's prestigious design.

In 2011, the Euromediterranean capital will boast 1,656 additional hotel rooms as well as the 5,512 available at present.

Grand Longchamp (2008/2014)

A national-scale project, Grand Longchamp is a huge architectural and landscaping programme intended to revitalise the city's museum facilities through the concept of "art, science and nature". Water will naturally be the structuring element of the project.

www.marseille.fr

Other large-scale projects are on the drawing board. You can see them on the City of Marseille website at www.marseille.fr

CHRISTMAS TIME

Santons figurine Fair

In 1803, three sellers of clay *santon* figurines set up their stalls on Cours St-Louis, and the *Santons* Fair was born... Could these women have guessed that this initiative would become a tradition perpetuated by generations of *santon* makers? The fair heralds the start of the festivities and contributes to the excitement of Christmas preparations.

Master *santon*-makers interpret the theme of the Nativity and stage it in Provence.

L'enfantoun (the child) is born and everyone runs to see him ...

"Everyone" means the Simpleton, Margarido, the Miller, the Tramp, the garlic-seller and other characters of this Provençal legend who meet in the *santon*-makers stalls. From miniature *santons* to ones 15 cm high, each has its place in the nativity scene and helps to bring alive the village created by subtle perspective, the art of the nativity scene or *creche*. Despite the repetition of characters, the Fair offers a great diversity of production which demonstrates each craftsman's skill and style. A tradition located each year on Allées de Meilhan.

Saint Barbe

The roots of this Provençal tradition are very old and go back to the beautiful Barbe, who had many suitors, but decided to consecrate her life to God and refused the marriage arranged by her father. She was baptised in the 3rd Century, against the wishes of her authoritarian father who handed her over to be executed. When Barbe had been tortured and was about to die, a storm broke out and her executioners were struck by lightning.

Sainte Barbe is commemorated throughout Provence on 4 December and everyone sows wheat in a saucer, as a symbol of the first fruits of the harvest.

These saucers are placed on the table at High Supper, on 24 December. If the wheat is green, the year will be "granado" (prosperous)! Decorative versions of these saucers are often seen in the Christmas window displays of the city's shops. Sainte Barbe is also the patron saint of firefighters.

"Les Pastorales" play

Les Pastorales was first produced in 1844 by Antoine Maurel, the author who created this successful play. Other interpretations have been added to the repertory, but Maurel's version remains the reference. The shepherds are the main characters in this living depiction of the Nativity which tells the story of the annunciation of the child ...The waking of the shepherd by the angel, and the waking of the whole population alerts the village...Music, song and dance contribute to illustrate a lively and colourful play of the Biblical story.

La Pastorale Maurel, in Provençal – La Pastorale Audibert, in French – La Pastorale du Groupe de la Rue Nau.

Candlemas

On 2 February, the St Victor basilica hosts the solemn mass to celebrate the purification of the Virgin and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The narrative, half-way between history and legend, gave rise to a custom which has been perpetuated since the 18th century.

It is the procession of Our Lady of Confession, more familiarly called "the Black Virgin", which inaugurates the festivities. In the glow of this winter morning, a procession of lighted green candles moves towards St Victor to honour the ceremony. After the mass, the people of Marseille hurry to the "Four aux Navettes" bakery to bring home the famous biscuits which are said to represent the boat which was grounded with the Black Virgin. These biscuits have stood the test of time and are eaten all year round.

MARSEILLE TOURIST OFFICE & CONVENTION BUREAU

Besides its role of welcoming the public in its premises at 4 La Canebière, Marseille Tourist Office and Convention Bureau exists to promote the city's influence in France and abroad by means of two complementary sections: the Leisure Promotion department and the Convention Bureau.

Leisure Promotion department:

Divided into three departments (Tourist Promotion, Cultural and Urban Tourism, and Multimedia), this department is the interface between the institutions of the city and the various categories of visitors.

Tourist Promotion department:

This department designs and coordinates 30 promotional activities a year for professionals and the general public, particularly by participating in trade fairs. It accompanies projects of organisations wishing to discover the city, providing services suited to each request.

Cultural and Urban Tourism department:

This department welcomes the public and organises guided tours of Marseille. It prepares tailor-made and/or theme visits for individuals (culture, sport, gastronomy, etc) according to the tourist opportunities at the time, and answers queries from professionals to the Tourist Promotion department.

Multimedia department:

This department manages online tourist information on the website, keeps the home page updated and maintains the Tourist Office and Convention Bureau's Intranet network.

The website was entirely redesigned in Autumn 2007 including the creation of a press area.

The service has also been improved by an online hotel reservation system.

Convention Bureau:

This association was formed in 1998 to develop and promote business and conference tourism in France and abroad, by accompanying professional events and projects. This enables it to strengthen the link between institutions in Marseille and the local authorities, which it advises and accompanies in their projects. Professional guide available on request. www.marseille-congrès.com

Press department:

The press officer's tasks are as follows:

□ Contact with journalists: In 2008, 162 meetings with French and foreign journalists were held on such varied themes as heritage, the Calanques, Cézanne and Euroméditerranée.

□ Technical assistances: requests by email or telephone to provide factual or practical information for help with writing an article or report.

□ Relations with the local press: Regularly sending press releases to inform on the activities of the Tourist Office and Convention Bureau.

PRODUCTS of the TOURIST OFFICE & CONVENTION BUREAU in 2009

Weekend offer

THE GREAT ESCAPE

"Discover France's oldest city with the all-inclusive Great Escape"

From €58* get away for two days in Marseille and take advantage of this all-inclusive offer. Museums, little tourist trains and sea trips will help you enter into the life of the 111 villages that make up Marseille.

And for sports and food enthusiasts, enjoy a walk in the Calanques creeks, a diving baptism, an introduction to golf, wine-tasting or a cookery lesson on bouillabaisse.

The price includes:

- 2 days and 1 night, Friday
- Breakfast
- Tourist tax
- A 1-day City Pass: free entry to the city's 14 museums, the boat trip and entry to the Château d'If, the little tourist trains, and access to the entire public transport network, plus many other advantages.

*€58 per person based on a shared room in a 2-star hotel.

All the other offers are available on : www.resamarseille.com

Introductory offer

CITY PASS

A tourist and culture pass means you can discover the city for an all-inclusive price. The City Pass gives you entry to the museums, the "little tourist trains", the Château d'If, etc, and the public transport network.

1 day: €20

2 days: €27

ACTIVITIES

OPEN AIR

WALKING IN THE CALANQUES

Discover or rediscover the massifs around Marseille during a walk in the *Calanques*.

Throughout these walks your guide will discuss the characteristics of Mediterranean vegetation, the flora and the history of these massifs.

Price: €15. Children must be at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult. Every Friday, 14.00-17.00 and Saturday 09.00-12.00.

WALKING IN THE HILLS OF PAGNOL

Discover or rediscover the Garlaban massif during a walk to see the landscapes familiar to Marcel Pagnol when he was young and that inspired his books.

Price: €15. Children must be at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult. One Saturday a month, 14.00-17.00.

SEA

DIVING BAPTISM

Discover the fauna and flora of the *Calanques* or the islands scattered around the bay.

Price: €52. Every day, 14.00-18.00 (June to September)

SEA KAYAKING

Take off for a day or half day to discover the Calanques in a sea kayak.

Price: 60 € per day, 35 € per half day. Minimum age 16 accompanied by an adult. Every Wednesday morning and Sunday daytime from June to October.

SNORKELLING TOUR

A qualified State guide will give you a snorkelling tour of the Riou archipelago to discover the beauty of the under water environment of Marseille.

Price: 20 €. Minimum age 8 accompanied by an adult. June to September, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 14:00 to 18:00.

FOOD AND DRINK

BOUILLABAISSE LESSON

Be guided around the Old Port for a history of the city and follow the chef through the fish market, before preparing and tasting a genuine Marseille bouillabaisse.

Price: €120. Once a month depending on schedule, 09.30-14.00.

CHEF FOR A DAY IN A GOURMET RESTAURANT

For novices as well as cookery enthusiasts, a leading chef invites you to work with him and discover all his secrets.

Price: €120. Second Tuesday of every month, 09.00-12.00.

WINE APPRECIATION COURSE

The Marseille Tourist Office and Convention Bureau is delighted to propose a wine tasting introduction by a Wine expert for vintage wines.

Price: €45. First Saturday of every month at 6.30 pm

All Marseille in a single clic : www.marseille-tourisme.com
ww.resamarseille.com

SA le 5/03/09