

Antibes

The Mediterranean's paradise on the beach

Even on the French Riviera, where luxury is king, Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc stands unrivaled; the property earns its reputation as one of the world's premier exclusive hotels. Inset: From ship to shore, glamour remains unparalleled.

ANTIBES

WHERE TO STAY

Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

This legendary palace, the most elegant address on the Riviera, is a delicate combination of sophistication and cool. Order lunch at Eden-Roc Grill, followed by a swim in the Mediterranean, before choosing either one of the two in-house restaurants for dinner. —*SBH*

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Eden-Roc Restaurant

Eat elegantly at the Eden-Roc Restaurant, where tables on the seafront veranda offer sweeping views of the lush Lérins Islands in the distance. (A 15-minute ferry ride will get you there if you feel like exploring; boats leave from the dock in Cannes and Juan-les-Pins.) The timeless menu includes Steak Diane, flambéed tableside (58 euros), roasted blue lobster (86 euros), and 50 grams of fresh Beluga caviar, served with buckwheat blini (540 euros). Or let executive chef Arnaud Poëtte decide (tasting menu, 190 euros). The dress code is listed as “formal,” which, in practice, means long sleeves, long pants, and no sandals.

Piano Bar Fitzgerald

After dinner, head to this 1930s-style bar at the Hôtel Belles Rives for a nightcap. The Black Nail—Glenmorangie, Drambuie, Macallan, and honey—is the head barman’s specialty (20 euros), and the eclectic playlist could include everything from Dizzy Gillespie’s “A Night in Tunisia” to “Chan Chan” by Compay Segundo and a cover of the Police’s “Walking on the Moon” by Roseaux featuring Laguna Hills, California’s own Aloe Blacc. —*JR*

Jazz Festival

If the name Jazz à Juan, or as it’s known to most of the world, the International Jazz Festival at Antibes Juan-les-Pins, sounds familiar, check your music collection. Among the legendary albums recorded here are *Mingus at Antibes*, Miles Davis’ *Miles at Antibes*, and John Coltrane’s *Live in Antibes, 1965*.

The festival, which began in 1960, now includes popular music as well, with acts ranging from Carlos Santana to Norah Jones and this year’s headliner, Lenny Kravitz. Hard-core jazz fans can still get their fix from the world-renowned acts that perform each year.

The festival’s real magic is found in the spontaneous moments that occur throughout the city during the concurrent fringe festival. Musicians organize impromptu jam sessions; talented amateurs might play with their idols; and the streets of Antibes are captured by the festival’s unique energy. —*KG*



Monte Carlo

Luxury by the sea



PREVIOUS SPREAD: FROM LEFT: TONY BARSON/GETTY IMAGES; NORBERT SCAMPELLA/ARND BRONKHORST; HANDBLING
THIS PAGE: ©THIERRY AMELLER/MONACO YACHT SHOW



MONACO YACHT SHOW

The world's premier showcase of luxury superyachting, the annual Monaco Yacht Show last year drew some 34,000 participants to marvel at 125 of the vessels on display, including a 360-foot marvel. In total, the merchandise was worth more than \$4 billion. Since its inception in 1991, the event has grown from a showcase of around 30 yachts into a celebration that includes VIP parties, yachting industry gatherings, and an automotive showcase featuring brands like Bentley and Lamborghini. Helicopters and tender boats are also available for sale. —*KG*

WHERE TO STAY

Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo

Steps away from the Casino de Monte-Carlo, this gem will be totally renovated starting in early 2019. (The hotel will remain open during the renovation.) The hotel is a Monaco institution, with its historic facade, wine cellar, and the restaurant Le Louis XV—Alain Ducasse à l'Hôtel de Paris, where chef de cuisine Dominique Lory and chef Alain Ducasse take inspiration from the flavors of the Riviera.

Hôtel Hermitage

Hôtel Hermitage has all the old-fashioned charm for which the principality is famous. The dome and the winter garden veranda were designed by Gustave Eiffel. Côte d'Azur specialties, such as barbajuan and socca, are served at cocktail hour.

Monte-Carlo Beach

A fixture of Monaco high society since the 1930s, the Monte-Carlo Beach is located in spectacular Roquebrune-Cap-Martin. Dine fabulously at the Michelin-starred Elsa, which is now 100 percent organic, and work it off tomorrow in the Olympic-size pool.

Hôtel Metropole Monte-Carlo

Mere steps from the casino and the Boulingrins Gardens, this sumptuous belle époque property in Monte Carlo has the obligatory ultra-luxury spa and two Michelin-starred restaurants. But the Metropole's "GoldenEye Experience" may be the pièce de résistance: a chopper flight over the principality; a ride along the Riviera in an Aston Martin; a couples massage in your room; a private dinner by world-renowned chef Joël Robuchon; and a private butler who will provide you with everything you need for your excursion to the casino, including a cigar and gaming chips at the end of dinner. A tuxedo will be provided for the gentleman; an evening gown for his date.

Port Palace

Right on Port Hercule, the Port Palace boasts spectacular views and some of the biggest yachts you've ever seen. The glass-and-steel design is a more contemporary take on



luxury than Monaco's grandes dames, but equally refined, with rooms by Leïla Menchari, the window design director of Hermès. The bar looks out over, among other things, the port-side stretch of the Formula 1 circuit. —JR

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Yacht Club de Monaco

Yacht Club de Monaco's newest building, designed by renowned architect Lord Norman Foster, opened its doors in 2014 and has become a must-visit for lunches and dinners. For prime access, consider becoming a member

(which requires two existing members to sponsor your application). Don't forget to follow the extremely specific dress code. —SBH

Don't miss...

The Royal Red Berries Mojito is a house specialty at Hôtel Metropole's elegant lobby bar; try one of head bartender Khalid El Hajraoui's Malaysian Jupels at the timeless Le Bar Américain, at the Hôtel de Paris. Brasserie de Monaco is known for its Bière de Monaco; don't miss the pissaladière, a sort of Provençal pizza topped with caramelized onions, anchovies, and black olives. Boldface names including Lionel Richie and Pink have been spotted at



From top: Football player Cristiano Ronaldo and model Cara Delevingne before the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix. Supercars are right at home in front of the iconic Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo.

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: MARK THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES; PETER HORVEE/ALAMY



über-trendy Jimmy's Monte-Carlo; the jet set can also be found in their natural habitat at Flavio Briatore's Twiga Monte Carlo, which offers Italo-Japanese fare and transforms into a proper nightclub after 1 A.M. For a "normal" hangout spot, head to the Monte Carlo Bar—its moderately priced brasserie fare, with a handful of beers on tap, is a good option for mingling with locals, who know this place as MCB. —JR

MONACO GRAND PRIX

This race is unlike any other on the Formula 1 calendar. Public roads are shut down, and a racetrack is carved into the narrowest of streets. The

claustrophobic-tight turns are better suited to a small hatchback than a racecar. Overtaking is nearly impossible on the circuit, and drivers could theoretically reach out and touch the guard rails.

The Grand Prix is a gathering place for the global elite, who arrive on their enormous yachts for days of exclusive partying. It's the pinnacle of luxury in a city known as...the pinnacle of luxury. As for the racing itself, the added emphasis on a good qualifying result means that the excitement is spread over Saturday and Sunday. For drivers, the race is equal parts trying to win and trying to get your car across the line in one piece. For a chance to behold the rare skill of a Lewis Hamilton or Daniel Ricciardo, there's no better place. —KG



FROM TOP: AFP/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF DAIMLER

From top: Fun in the sun, track-side; Albert II, Prince of Monaco, with former Formula 1 champion Nico Rosberg, who grew up in, and still lives in, Monaco.

The best of MONTE CARLO

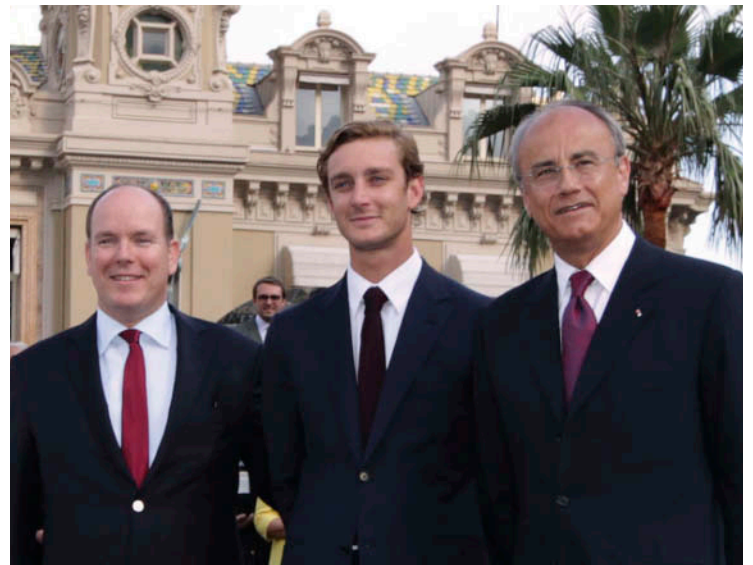
Where the elite eat

Inside one of the world's most iconic hotels, l'Hôtel de Paris, resides one of the world's top restaurants: Louis XV, from renowned chef Alain Ducasse. Now entering its fourth decade, this Monaco landmark still holds its own on the global culinary stage, earning Ducasse three Michelin stars once again in 2018.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VALÉRY HACHE/GETTY IMAGES; AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MAURICE ROUGE/MONT. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ANDIA/ALAMY; ANDIA/ALAMY; IMAGEBROKER/ALAMY

Clockwise from top: Chef Alain Ducasse; Albert II, Prince of Monaco, with his nephews Pierre Casiraghi and Jean-Luc Biamonti, chairman of the board and CEO of Société des Bains de Mer (SBM); ornate gold, marble columns, chandeliers, and impeccable service define the experience at Le Louis XV-Alain Ducasse à l'Hôtel de Paris.

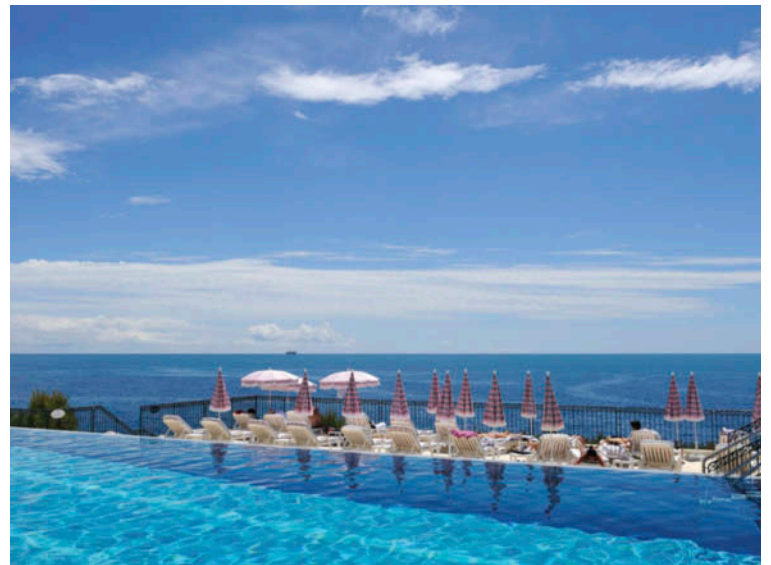


Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat

The ultimate escape



Since opening more than a century ago, the Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat, a Four Seasons Hotel, remains the epitome of palatial luxury on the French Riviera. Located on 17 acres of lush gardens and finely manicured lawns, the property offers stunning views of the Mediterranean in addition to one of the most beautiful pools on the Côte d'Azur.



Cannes

Gathering place of the stars



WHERE TO STAY

InterContinental Carlton Cannes

With a century-plus history, the 343-room Carlton is where American actress Grace Kelly was staying when she first met her future husband, Prince Rainier III. Oscar-winning actors celebrate their Palme d'Or victories on the seventh floor, where the elite suites are found. Some of the most famous jewel heists in recent history have taken place at this storied property—close to a combined \$200 million of jewels stolen in two separate heists. World-class dining is available at two in-house restaurants, and the Carlton Bar is the best place to people-watch in the city. —*KG*

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Shop

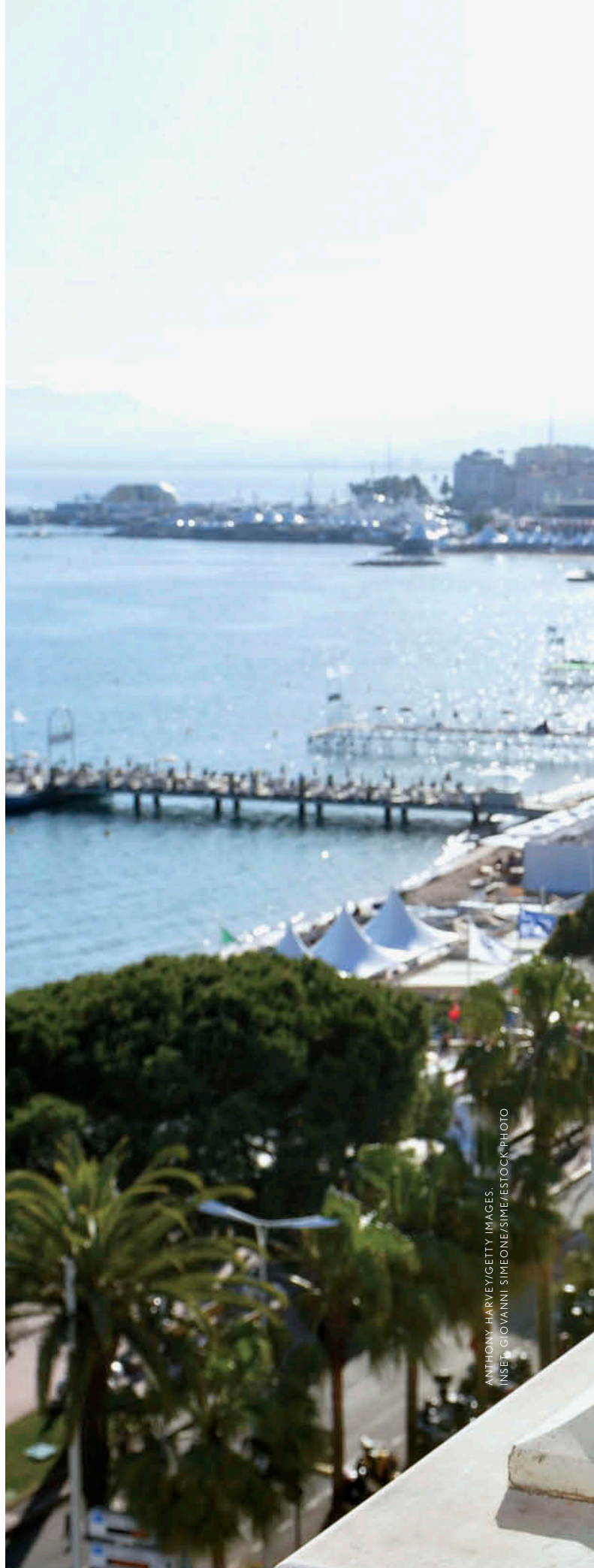
Ultra-luxe high-end shopping—Chanel, Gucci, Prada, and the like—can be found along La Croisette. For a more local experience, check out Rue Meynadier. Or do as the locals do and stock up on pâté, fresh seafood, and artisanal charcuterie at the airy Marché Forville.

Eat

Table 22 features Provençal favorites, perfectly prepared by Alain Ducasse-trained chef Noël Mantel. Aux Bons Enfants has been turning out homey yet sophisticated fare since 1967. And for the best small plates you've ever had in a former garage, check out Au Pot de Vin. The famed Michelin guide calls the dining room "lovely retro," and points out its "fair prices." Which, in Cannes, usually means something a little bit different than it might elsewhere (meals run \$45 to \$65).

Drink

During the Cannes film festival, the stars hang out at the Carlton Bar. But you can get a Red Carpet Martini any time of the year. You'll find Côte d'Azur institution La Chunga right across the street from the famed Hôtel Martinez, which is home to its own legendary watering hole, the Gatsby-esque (and aptly named) Martinez Bar. Grab one last cocktail at Le 72 Croisette, which always seems to stay open later than everyone else. —*JR*



ANTHONY HARVEY/GETTY IMAGES
INSET: GIOVANNI SIMEONE/SIME/ISTOCK PHOTO





The Napoleonic ROAD

*The historic route starting near the Riviera
is a driver's dream*

When Napoléon escaped from exile on Elba and returned to France in 1815, he arrived on the coast of the French Riviera before heading north into the countryside. While this route led Napoléon back to a short-lived second reign as emperor, today the same route can be conquered with horsepower instead of on horseback.

The Route Napoléon boasts some of the finest driving roads in all of France, not to mention the nearby high-altitude mountain passes. The über-wealthy who flock to Saint-Tropez, Cannes, and Monte Carlo head up to the beautiful scenic roads to put their supercars and grand tourers to the test. Other sections of road near the coast include stages from the Monte Carlo Rally, including the infamous Col de Turini, perhaps rallying's most celebrated stage.

According to supercar tour operator Mark Heather, owner of Ultimate Drives, just as important as choosing the right car (a Porsche 911 GT3 Cab for comfort, performance, and four-wheel-drive security or a Lamborghini Huracán Spyder just to show off in the best possible way, Heather suggests) is choosing the right time to visit. "Rule number one is to avoid July and August; the coast roads are packed, so it's more of a supercar crawl," Heather says. "Plan the trip for late April or early October and you will have the roads almost entirely to yourself."

While Heather's company offers trips of varying length, three to four days of driving is ideal. And always try to end your trip in Monte Carlo on a Friday, because "there is always a party—or two dozen—going on in Monte Carlo when you finish your drive," he says. A few laps around the F1 road course in Monaco is an appropriate climax to your drive as well.

From Cannes, check out Parc Naturel Régional du Verdon, where it's possible to drive along an epic gorge dubbed the "French Grand Canyon." The mountain roads and tight turns are a great platform to show off in a supercar or grand tourer. Ultimate Drives offers an organized trip incorporating all of these routes—prices range from around \$5,000 for a Porsche Boxster S to \$14,000 for the top-end Lamborghini Huracán or Ferrari 488.

Text by KEITH GORDON

Pure ADRENALINE

With ice, snow, cliffs, and chaos, the World Rally Championship is the most exciting auto race on the planet

Text by KEITH GORDON



The Monte Carlo Rally dates back to 1911, when drivers from across Europe raced to reach Monaco first. Today, the rally begins from the center of town, near iconic buildings like the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo and the Casino de Monte-Carlo; Albert II, Prince of Monaco awards Sébastien Ogier the trophy for winning the Monte Carlo Rally, now part of the World Rally Championship.



Q&A: FIVE-TIME WRC CHAMPION SÉBASTIEN OGIER

For the epitome of extreme auto racing, forget the circuits and head out into the big, dirty real world. The World Rally Championship (WRC), a 13-race tour that spans five continents and nearly 10 months, is where the most fearless drivers test their mettle. French driver Sébastien Ogier, in his Red Bull-sponsored Ford Fiesta WRC rally car, has been champion since 2013.

What makes rally driving so challenging?

It's the accumulation of everything, considering the length of the race and the technicality of the roads. We can't know them by heart, so we have the specific resource of a codriver in the car who gives pace notes that we have to follow, and there is also a strong parameter of adaptation to conditions and unexpected difficulties we might face during the stages.

The evolution of conditions often plays an important part in our sport.

We tackle the road one car after the other, and there is a strong evolution of the road conditions with each car, so the results of the stages can sometimes be weird and not show the quality of the driving or the performance. Sometimes you have been at the limit everywhere and this is not reflected in your time or position compared to a car that had more favorable conditions.

Why is the Monte Carlo Rally so special?

Every other rally of the season has proper gravel, tarmac, or snow conditions, while Rallye Monte-Carlo is more of a question mark. Depending on the weather, we can face snow, ice, or clean tarmac, and conditions and grip can change from one stage to another, or even from place to place during a stage. For this reason, this is the toughest rally of the season but also the most fascinating one. It's no coincidence that it's such a legendary rally.

How have you maintained your dominance of the sport for so long? Is it difficult to stay focused and motivated after experiencing so much success?

What I can say is that together with my codriver, Julien Ingrassia, we are always 100 percent committed to getting better and better whenever we can and to delivering at our best. And while we are the two in the car, we couldn't get any good results without a competitive car and a strong team. As for the motivation, for me it comes from the pleasure. I love driving those cars; I love the adrenaline.



The Thrill of **THE RACE**

The World Rally Championship travels the globe, testing competitors on some of the planet's most forbidding terrain: deserts, mountain passes, forest trails. At the series' annual opening event, the Monte Carlo Rally, the conditions are an amalgam of hellish conditions. The narrow, winding roads in the hills and mountainsides outside town are often covered in water, ice, and snow, or a mix of all three—not ideal when navigating a hairpin turn around a drop of several hundred feet. Next can come grippy asphalt or slippery gravel. It's a maddeningly fickle course, with navigators having to keep constant tabs on the conditions. While the course is unforgiving, for spectators the location is ideal: It's a short drive from the five-star hotels and Michelin-starred restaurants back in the city. As Albert II, Prince of Monaco, once said, "The mythical routes and nostalgic cars still draw large crowds and remind us of beautiful times in the world of sports."