



# South of France Tour From the Riviera to Provence.

29 MAY TO 11 JUNE 2019



## Our Travel Philosophy

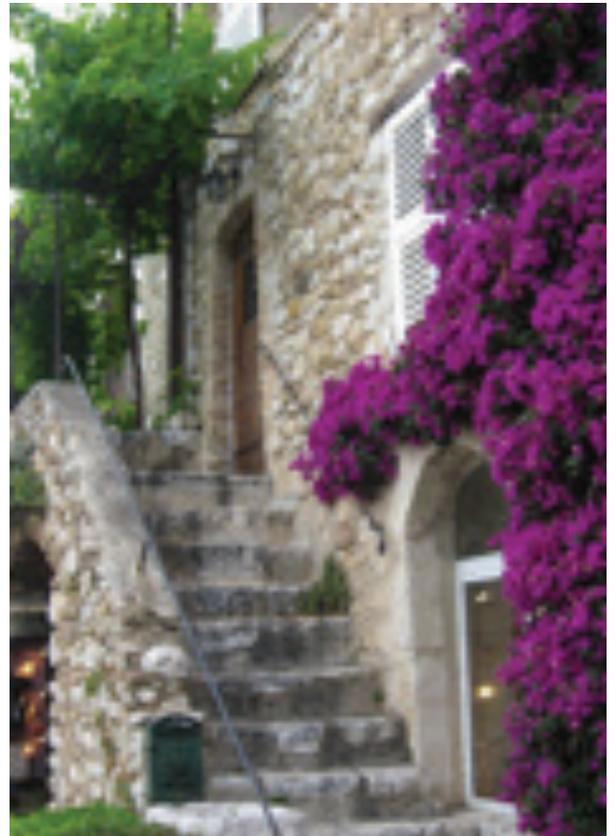
I have never been a great fan of the classic group tour mentality, and as a result have put together a programme which is very personable, and most of all fun! I think it is important that people see less, but see it better. I want people to meet locals and experience their lifestyles, as well as experiencing their history. I also want people to have time out, and the opportunity to relax as well - there's no point if you need a holiday at the end of the trip!! Don't be surprised if I get you out walking in the hills, swimming in the sea, or tasting food in a chef's kitchen. With over 25 years of leading small groups through France I am well positioned to enthuse, motivate and inspire you!!

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## French Riviera

**29 May to 2 June**

Our tour will begin by spending four glorious nights in the fabulous four star Hotel Welcome right on the waterfront in the fishing village of Villefranche sur Mer, not far out of Nice. We will start our tour with wonderful drinks on the waterfront followed by a "Welcome to France" dinner. During the days we will explore nearby Cap Ferrat visiting the private home of Jean Cocteau and one of the most beautiful gardens on the Riviera at the Ephrussi de Rothschild garden. We will also visit the perched village of Eze once the tourists have gone home as well as exploring the rabbit warren of streets in the Old Town of Nice. You will be treated to a special dinner out at a friend's restaurant that has a Michelin star! One day I am going to drive you through to Italy to visit a local food market in Ventimiglia before lunch at the breath-takingly beautiful perched village of Apricale (you will be amazed!). Our days will start at a pace which will allow an early morning swim in the sea (temps of 26 degrees!) and at the end of your short stay here you will definitely want to stay here for the rest of the month, but sadly we have to move on to see equally beautiful places!



## Riviera Hinterland

**2 to 6 June**

From the coast we will proceed to our charming hotel overlooking the appealing village of St Paul de Vence, less than an hour's drive from the busy-ness of the Cote d'Azur. For the next four full days I will introduce you to a world that most tourists would never know existed. We will spend one day dedicated to the Grasse perfume industry and have timed our visit especially for the rose harvest (dependant on the season) harvested exclusively for Dior – we will end this day by making our own batch of "eau de toilette"! We will also visit the impressive Maeght Foundation, one of the greatest galleries of modern art, and the home of Pierre-August Renoir. You

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will experience as well the opposite of the “Riviera” life by visiting remote hill towns seldom seen by tourists, and take in some of the most attractive markets in France. As well we will visit beautiful towns such as Mougins and Tourettes sur Loup. One day we are going to take a detour along the coast to visit St Tropez with its brand-name boutiques and impressively priced boats! As well we will dine in a very special restaurant surrounded by some of the greatest works of 20th century art in the world; Picasso, Calder, Leger, Matisse, Miro - just a few of the paintings that will surround us! This week in the south of France will offer you the most exciting clash of colours and experiences, from the mountains to the sea, and leave you breathless for more! There will also be plenty of time to just enjoy the peaceful surrounds of our pool, with breath-taking views over St Paul and the countryside.

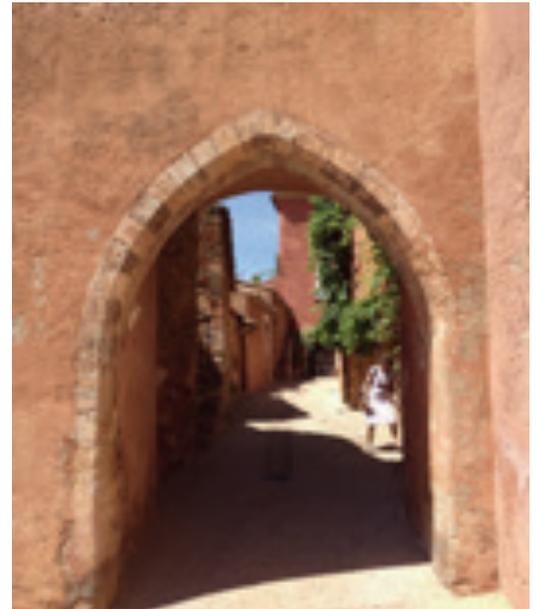
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## Provence Perfection

6 to 9 June

We are going to travel today to the heart of “perfect” Provence in the Luberon Valley, only a couple of hours away. Our Gordes hotel is picture perfect and will give us a special spot for exploring the pleasures and treasures of this rich region. In this “Peter Mayle” territory I especially have a glorious private garden I would like to introduce you to, as well as seeing the large lavender fields in the hills (not quite in full flower however!). I have lots of special places around here I’d like to show you, in particular the nearby villages of Gordes, Bonnieux and Roussillon. One day we will visit one of my favourite villages, St Remy de Provence to explore this gem of a village as well as share the life and the sadness of Vincent Van Gogh. While here I must take you also to Les Baux de Provence for a most special artistic experience at the Carrière de Lumière.



## Cassis

9 to 11 June

Today we are going to leave for the fishing port of Cassis a short drive out of Marseille on the Mediterranean Coast. But before heading there we are going to drive to the nearby Isle sur la Sorgue for their famous weekly antique and bric à brac market. Once we’ve filled the vehicle up with all your purchases (!! ) we’ll head off to our beachfront hotel, situated ten minutes’ walk out of this port village. This is one of the most picturesque port towns on the French coast, and is certainly one of the most local. For our full day here I will encourage you to explore the village and to take one of the coastline cruises which explore the magnificent bays (known as calanques) with their crystal blue water. You could even join me for my favourite Cassis lunch – moules frites (mussels and chips) with a chilled Rosé wine!! This will be an exceptional way to end our tour of the best that the Riviera coast has to offer. Sun, blue sky and turquoise water will make your leaving harder than ever!



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## End of Tour

11 June 2019

Today our tour ends, and I will drop you off at a nearby train station or the Marseille airport.

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### Pricing:

Please note that the price for this tour is approximately 5,300€ per person. This tour cost cannot be confirmed until late-October this year. At that stage a final price will be set and deposit will be asked for to confirm your place.

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### Included:

The following is included in your tour:

- Charming boutique three star accommodation and breakfasts throughout.
  - Guiding and Transportation. End of tour transport to airport or station (if this coincides with rest of the group).
  - Four special dinners included (wine and water included), 1 Lunch.
  - Visits (referred to above)
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### Not Included:

Comprehensive Travel Insurance. This is compulsory and payment assumes that you have this in place.

Single Supplement – if you require a single occupancy room then there will be a supplement to pay for a balcony and port view. If you prefer a larger superior room there will be a per person supplement of 200€.