

# WORLD TRAVEL

May/June 2016

MAGAZINE

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Spots

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2016*

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**CANNES**  
*Chilling with  
the Stars*

Unexplored  
**Tuscany**



Singapore S\$8  
Malaysia RM 20  
Thailand THB 200  
Indonesia IDR 70,000  
Vietnam VND 130,000  
Hong Kong HK\$ 48



See pink flamingoes in the Camargue wetlands with a 4x4



# *Luxurious Sights of* **PROVENCE AND RIVIERA**

BY TRISTAN RUTHERFORD

Luxurious volleys of new activities are on offer from Menton on the Italian border westwards to the silken sands of St Tropez. Here's how to unlock a superyacht with an app in Monaco, or scoot around like Steve McQueen for a day.



**Clockwise from top left**, The Restaurant Louis XV in Monaco, the French Riviera's finest; Make like Bardot with a vintage Solex scooter Burn rubber at Monaco's historic Grand Prix



### YACHTSTER IN MONACO

It's the yachting industry's answer to Airbnb. A smartphone app – brand-new for summer 2016 – that allows you to charter one of dozens of speedboats, sailboats and superyachts in the harbours of Monaco, Nice and Cannes. Simply sign up with a credit card then wander along the quay. Spot a boat and it could be yours (complete with chef, crew and stewards) for the day.

It helps that the company is backed by Camper and Nicholsons, the global leader in luxury yachting since 1782. This means that yachts like Riva boat Mic Max and party vessel Tsarista are instantly bookable. [Yachtster.mc](http://Yachtster.mc), [itunes.com](https://itunes.com)

### SOLEX TOUR OF FRENCH RIVIERA

Solex scooters were the chariots of choice for South of France fans Audrey Hepburn and Steve McQueen. Invented in post-War France, they achieved cult status along with Citroen's 2CV. Seventy years after their invention, they've returned to the French Riviera with a blast.

So-Solex rents these classic French scooters from its new bureaux in Nice and Juan-les-Pins. To add to the experience, each driver is given a 'Roadbook' detailing the best café, bar and picnic spots on the coast, plus a Polaroid snap of themselves astride the bike. Drivers can then motor past the traffic jams of Ferraris and Maseratis as they explore from the Italian border at Menton to the beach clubs of St Tropez. [So-solex.com](http://So-solex.com)

### MONACO HISTORIC GRAND PRIX

It's the event that lures refined petrolheads from across the planet. Forget Lewis, Nico and today's sanitised Formula One. The 10th edition of The Grand Prix de Monaco Historique will be an engine-searing, piston-popping fiesta of thrills, spills and seriously fast cars. The sprint races take place on Monaco's Grand Prix circuit a week before the 2016 F1 cars line the grid. Eight classic races will spit oil and break dust onto the track. The first tournament is a face-off between vintage Bugattis from the 1930s. The penultimate race of 1970s F1 race cars will be another treat. Best of all, visitors may inspect the Ferraris of Niki Lauda and McClarens of James Hunt as they wander through the paddock, Champagne in hand. Fancy a spin? Call the experts as Rivera Classic Car ([rentaclassicar.com](http://rentaclassicar.com)). An Aston Martin DBS V8 Volante – a type driven by secret agent James Bond – will set you back €549 per day. [Acm.mclen/grand-prix-de-monaco-historique/](http://Acm.mclen/grand-prix-de-monaco-historique/)

### GUIDED TALKING CAR IN NICE

It's been the hit of 2016. An open-top car that drives like a motorbike and follows a GPS course all of its own. The blue buggies of Nice Car have a final bonus under the hood: an audioguide speaker system

that explains every sight en-route.

Drivers can choose between three set courses or commission a custom tour (options include art, history or culture) all of their own. Our favourite is the three-hour tour between Nice and Villefranche. It calls at Matisse's mansion, Jean Cocteau's chapel and the secret beach where Rolling Stone Keith Richards moored his yacht. [Nice-car.fr](http://Nice-car.fr)

### REOPENING OF RESTAURANT LOUIS XV IN MONACO

It's far and away the most fabulous restaurant on the French Riviera. The region's only Michelin three-star celebrates its 25th anniversary under superchef Alain Ducasse with a grand reopening this summer. Louis XV has been secret about its stylish renovation. The new tone is said to be lighter and more experimental. Although the €310 set dinner and ceiling frescoes of King Louis's eight mistresses will remain. Our advice is to leave your wine pairing in the safe hands of the restaurant's sommelier Noël Bajor. With 400,000 vintages to choose from (all housed in the cellars under the adjoining Hotel de Paris) you'll be spoilt choice.

### SNOWSHOEING IN VALBERG

The best kept secret in the South of France are the three world-class ski resorts of Auron, Isola and Valberg, a 90-minute drive from the coast. Each is also linked by a helicopter shuttle from Nice Airport. Travel time? A tidy 12 minutes flat.

The most innovative of these three resorts is Valberg. New for 2016 is its Planetary Snowshoe Trail. Hikers don crampons, download an app, then follow a scale model of our solar system across 10km of snowy waymarked trails. Even up at 1,700m, the French Riviera's microclimate promises 300 sunny days per year. Sunshades are a must. Also new are Valberg's app-accessible fleet of 12 Twizy electric cars. Unplug one, then drive for dinner at Pub La Branche Neige. [Valberg.com](http://Valberg.com)

### PADDLEBOARDING ON CAP FERRAT

The sport of paddle boarding has hit the South of France like a tidal wave. Every top hotel now hosts a fleet of boards, allowing guests to glide atop the surf in silence. The most luxurious place to paddle is undoubtedly Cap Ferrat. The world's most expensive peninsula is where the planet's priciest property sold for a cool half billion dollars. Land prices top €400,000 m2.

A paddleboard allows access to the cap's six secret beaches. Our favourite is Plages des Fossettes near the former home of writer Somerset Maugham. It boasts a new undersea snorkel trail that stretches for 200m across a villa-lined bay. Cap Ferrat Watersports rents paddleboards, boats and jetskis for guests driving in for the day. [Capferratwatersports.com](http://Capferratwatersports.com)



PROVENCE & RIVIERA



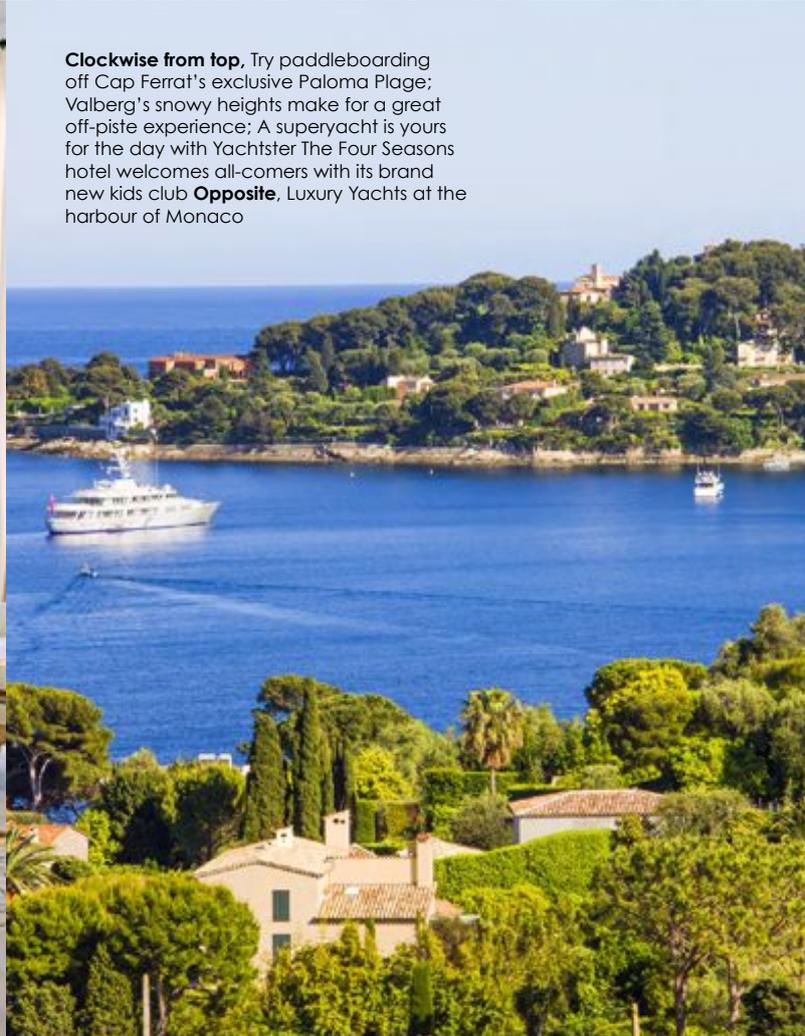
**Clockwise from top left**, Preparing a starter at Restaurant Le Louis XV; Final touches at the three Michelin star dining table in Monaco; Snowshoeing in Valberg: back to nature **Opposite**, Restaurant Le Louis XV has brand new tableware for its grand reopening in 2016







**Clockwise from top**, Try paddleboarding off Cap Ferrat's exclusive Paloma Plage; Valberg's snowy heights make for a great off-piste experience; A superyacht is yours for the day with Yachtster The Four Seasons hotel welcomes all-comers with its brand new kids club **Opposite**, Luxury Yachts at the harbour of Monaco





#### 4X4 TOUR OF THE CAMARGUE WETLANDS

The Camargue wetlands near Marseille are otherworldly. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve where pink flamingos glide over 270 other species of birds and where wild white horses roam 13,000 hectares of virgin coast.

From the regional capital of Arles (the city when Van Gogh lopped off his ear), you can enter the natural reserve by bike, boat or kayak. However, the most luxurious exploration is undoubtedly via a 4x4 Land Rover Safari. Each all-terrain vehicle is fitted with an aerial exhaust, allowing them to fearlessly plunge through the wetlands. These Land Rovers also have fold-back roofs, permitting passengers to snap a Camargue horse from the comfort of the cab.

*Camargue.com*

#### NEW KIDS CLUB AT NEW FOUR SEASONS HOTELS

The Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat has a guest list that includes Winston Churchill and The Beatles. But in March 2016 the French Riviera's greatest hotel welcomed Four Seasons as its new owner.

Protecting such heritage is no easy task. Even the Grand Hotel's swimming instructor, Pierre Gruneberg (who taught both Pablo Picasso and Paul McCartney's daughter Stella how to swim), is an institution. But Four Seasons have promised to keep traditions intact – these include the cellar that hold every vintage of Château d'Yquem since the 1880s – with a few innovations thrown in.

Most fun is the Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat's new Kids Club. While parents relax in the Club Dauphin (the beach club reached by funicular railway that featured in a 007 film), little ones can bake cakes with pastry chef Chef Gaëtan Fiard. Currently the World Sugar Art Champion, Fiard's creations include a multi-coloured chocolate and icing carousel. *Fourseasons.com/capferrat*

#### FREEDIVING SCHOOL IN MONACO

Fifty years ago Plage Larvotto was the favoured beach of Princess Grace. Now Monaco's premier plage is the playground for the royal family's favourite activity: freediving. Prince Albert is such a fan of the sport – which involves undersea swimming without scuba tanks – that he conducted an underwater marriage between two freedivers in 2015.

The Principality's latest offering involves the World Freedive Champion, Pierre Frolla. The Monegasque ace teaches children under 14 in his barefoot classroom on the beach. After instruction on yogic breathing and sub-aqua swimming, the party dives in to explore the fish-rich shallows on the France-Monaco border.

*Pierrefrolla.com* ♣