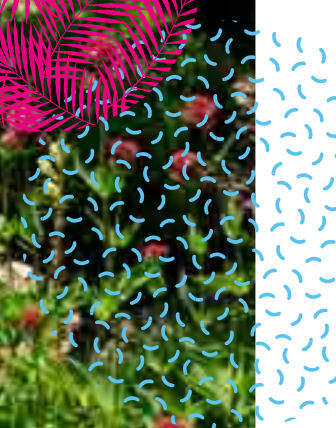


CÔTE d'AZUR
FRANCE

THE GARDENS OF THE CÔTE D'AZUR

PRESS FILE





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TAKE THE TIME TO BREATHE, CONTEMPLATE, AND STROLL!

A land of contrasts between sea and mountain, the Côte d'Azur houses parks and gardens in exceptional locations, from the coastline to the upper and middle country, overlooking the Mediterranean or perched on the most beautiful summits. The Côte d'Azur climate offers these lush green settings temperatures suitable to the growth and acclimation of rare or exotic plants, making our region a superb land of experimentation for the most famous botanists.

Whether embellishing private estates, châteaux, museums, religious sites or even historic villas, the gardens of the Côte d'Azur alone reveal all the culture, elegance and know-how of our destination. With over 80 planted sites open to the public, the Alpes-Maritimes Department boasts a unique natural heritage, a true lever for the drawing power and fame of our destination.

Gardens, flowers, trees and citrus fruits are celebrated all year round during major international events, such as the Nice Carnival with its famous Flower Battle, the Lemon Festival in Menton, the Violet Festival in Tourrettes-sur-Loup, the Mimosa Festival in Mandelieu-La Napoule, the Rose and Jasmine Festivals in Grasse and even the Orange Flower Festival in Vallauris Golfe-Juan...

The region is also dotted with plant-related stopovers, such as the Mimosa Way and its capital Mandelieu, a route not to be missed in the winter, or even the Pays de Grasse, the World Perfume Capital, the know-how of which has

been entered on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2018.

Committed to active policies to plant urban spaces, the communities of the Côte d'Azur celebrate their green space with the "Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur" (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival), an event driven by the Alpes-Maritimes Department in 2017 that has since become an emblematic cultural rendezvous serving the touristic discovery of our destination. From production to transformation, the entire beauty and history of a Côte d'Azur industry par excellence is honoured by this Festival. It is also a wonderful opportunity for all our tourism professionals to start a creative, festive season the common value for which is sharing.

Exceptional because of their botanics and their history, our gardens allow visitors to fully immerse themselves in remarkable sites, and also to meet producers, horticulturists, enthusiasts and professionals from the world of landscaping. Whether you're from the Côte d'Azur or a visitor to our beautiful destination, we invite you to discover the extraordinary natural heritage of the Alpes-Maritimes.

Welcome to our gardens !



ALEXANDRA BORCHIO FONTIMP,
President of the Regional Tourism
Committee Côte d'Azur France

COME AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE
#COTEDAZURFRANCE

CALENDAR

OF FLORAL EVENTS ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

February

Mandelieu-la Napoule: Mimosa Festival
Nice: Carnival and Flower Battle
Menton: Lemon Festival and Orchid Festival
Villefranche-sur-Mer: Naval flower battle

March

Tourrettes-sur-Loup: Violet Festival

25 March - 1 May 2023

Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival)

April

Le Bar-sur-Loup: Orange Tree Festival
Vallauris: Orange Flower Festival
Falicon: Carnation Festival
Cannes: Flore Passion

May

Grasse: Rose Exhibition
Opio: Rose Festival
Plascassier – Grasse : "Centifolia" Rose Festival
La Colle-sur-Loup: "Autour de la Rose" [About the Rose]

June

Across France: "Rendez-vous aux Jardins" [Meet in the Gardens]
Menton: Garden Month

August

Grasse: Jasmine Festival

FESTIVAL DES JARDINS DE LA CÔTE D'AZUR (CÔTE D'AZUR GARDENS FESTIVAL)

Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival), organized by the Alpes-Maritimes Department since 2017, takes place every two years, in the spring. It showcases the most beautiful pop-up gardens in the Alpes-Maritimes through an international competition and activities for the general public. In 2023, the landscape creations will be dreamt up on the theme: Surprising Perspectives.

Sources of creativity and inspiration for many artists, gardens, enhanced with plays on form and light, invite visitors to relax and contemplate. This event is aimed at nature, garden and plant lovers, at those from the Côte d'Azur and tourists from the world over, at landscaping, architecture, design or horticulture students, and at artist and professionals from the sector, as well as those who simply love to stroll in lush green settings. An event not to be missed to discover the Natural side of #CotedAzurFrance.

"SURPRISING PERSPECTIVES"

The play on perspectives has been part of the landscaping art for centuries. The greatest landscape architects have always been able to dramatize gardens in order to make them works of art in their own right. To do this, they played on optical illusions, using pathways, alignments or key points such as a tree, a plant, a water feature, a sculpture, etc. Structuring your garden by playing with the perspectives is the challenge of this 4th edition of the "Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur" (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival).

Plays of light and shade, open or intimate perspectives, unusual paths, landscape set design... The originality, layout, compliance with the theme and also the consideration of sustainable development challenges will be assessed by 3 juries.

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE FESTIVAL WITH THE “GREEN DEAL” LABEL

The Festival falls within the “GREEN Deal” approach launched in June 2018 by Charles Ange Ginesy, President of the Alpes-Maritimes Department. The aim is to become the leader in the sustainable development field. The “GREEN Deal” widens and supplements the Department’s action in terms of protecting natural species and combatting global warming.

17 COMPETING LANDSCAPE CREATIONS

Open to landscaping professionals and to architects, designers, artists, set designers, decorators and final year students from the *École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et du Paysage*, the competition involves 17 original creations each covering 200 m² and installed in Cannes, Monaco, Grasse, Nice, Antibes and Menton.

THE OFFICIAL JURY

Comprising representatives of biodiversity, landscaping and gardening, horticulture and the theme “Surprising Perspectives”. The official jury appoints the competition winner from the 17 landscape creations. It also selects the winner of the “GREEN Deal” prize, which rewards the most environmentally responsible garden. The patron of this jury is a media celebrity.

THE PROFESSIONAL JURY THE PRESS JURY

Comprising professionals and members of landscaping organizations, including the *Union Nationale des Entreprises du Paysage*.

Comprising members of the *Association des Journalistes de Jardin et d'Horticulture*, the general national press, the specialized press and the international press.



4 PRIZES AWARDED

The Jury Prize, the Landscaping Professionals’ Prize, the Press Prize and the “GREEN Deal” Prize. Each of the 3 juries also votes for their artistic favourite

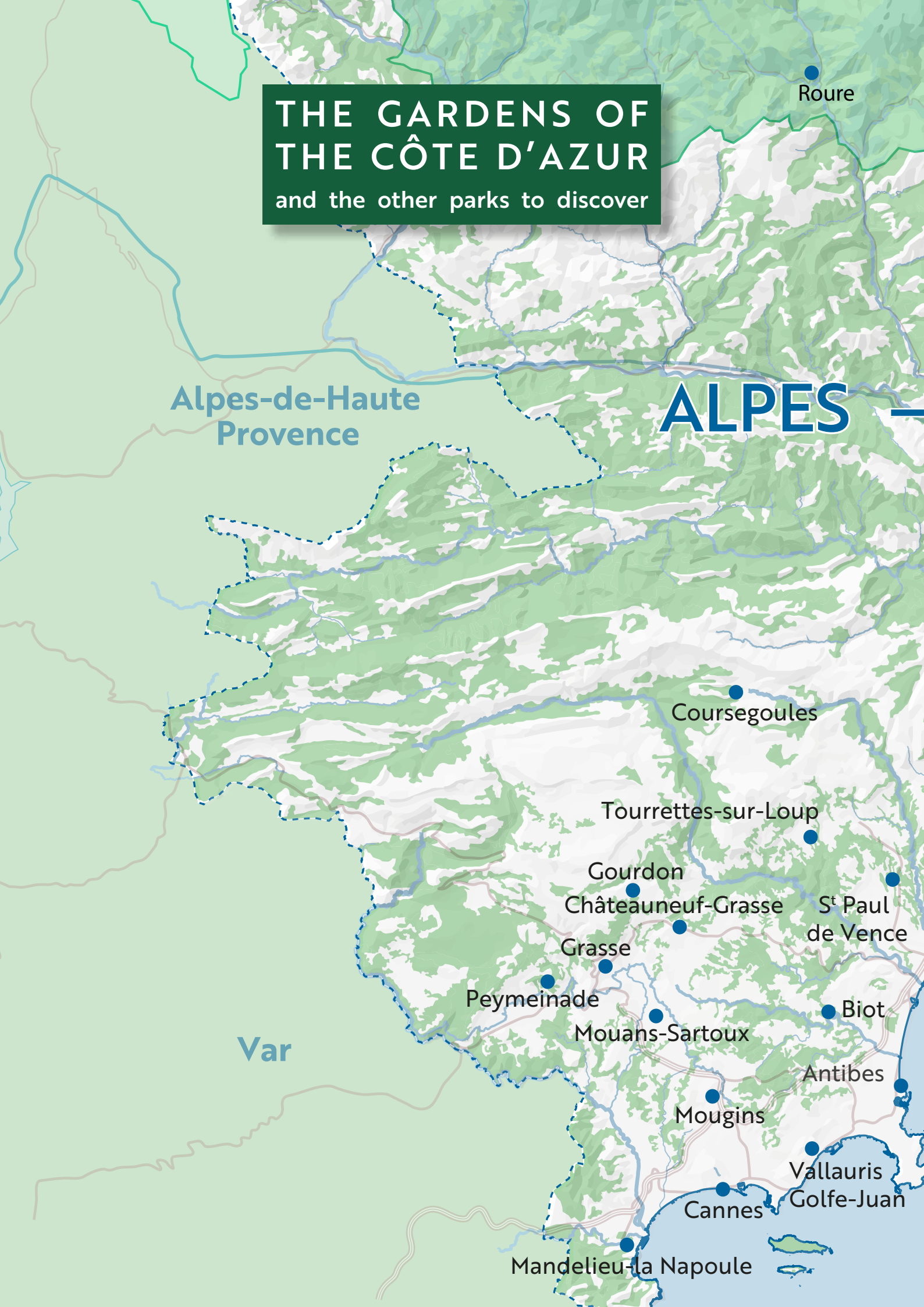
THE NON-COMPETING POP-UP GARDENS

Whether competing in the competition or not, 10 towns in the Alpes-Maritimes and the Principality of Monaco will present non-competing landscape creations on the Festival theme. These 13 pop-up gardens are created by the local parks and gardens services, and they are free to visit.

AN AGENDA PUNCTUATED BY ACTIVITIES

Conferences, guided tours and workshops set the pattern for the 2023 Festival des Jardins de la Côte d’Azur (Côte d’Azur Gardens Festival), providing an educational dimension to the event.

**THE GARDENS OF
THE CÔTE D'AZUR**
and the other parks to discover



Alpes-de-Haute
Provence

ALPES

Var

Roure

Coursegoules

Tourrettes-sur-Loup

Gourdon

Châteauneuf-Grasse

St Paul
de Vence

Grasse

Peymeinade

Mouans-Sartoux

Biot

Mougins

Antibes

Cannes

Vallauris
Golfe-Juan

Mandelieu-la Napoule



Saint-Martin
Vésubie

MERCANTOUR NATIONAL PARK

Saorge

MARITIMES

ITALY

Liguria

Sainte-Agnès

Menton

Gattières

La Gaude

Éze

Beausoleil

Monaco

Cap d'Ail

Beaulieu-sur-Mer

Nice

Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat

Cagnes-sur-Mer



TGV



80 GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ANTIBES

VILLA THURET BOTANICAL GARDEN
VILLA EILEN ROC GARDEN
FORT CARRÉ GARDEN
PARC EXFLORA

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

VILLA KÉRYLOS GARDEN

BEAUSOLEIL

RIVIERA PALACE WINTER GARDEN

BIOT

FERNAND LÉGER NATIONAL MUSEUM GARDEN

CAGNES-SUR-MER

DOMAINE RENOIR
MARRO ESTATE GARDEN

CANNES

LÉRINS ISLANDS
VILLA DOMERGUE GARDEN
VILLA ROTHSCHILD GARDEN
LÉRINS ABBEY GARDENS
CROIX-DES-GARDES PARK

COURSEGOULES

BREC VALLEY GARDEN

CAP D'AIL

CHÂTEAU DES TERRASSES GARDEN
DOUANIERS GARDEN
SACHA GUITRY PARK

CHÂTEAUNEUF-GRASSE

VILLA LA BOUSCARELLA GARDEN

ÈZE

EXOTIC GARDEN

GOURDON

CHÂTEAU GARDENS
LAVANDERAIE DE MARIE [MARIE'S LAVENDER GARDEN]

GRASSE

BASTIDE ISNARD
DOMAINE DE LA MOUISSONE
DOMAINE DE MANON
DOMAINE SAINT-JACQUES DU COULOUBRIER
FLEURS FRAGONARD FACTORY GARDEN
PRINCESSE PAULINE'S GARDEN
VILLA FORT FRANCE GARDEN
BOTANICAL GARDEN
MAS DE PIVOINES

LA GAUDE

VILLA DE L'ARGELIÈRE GARDEN

MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE

CHÂTEAU DE LA NAPOULE GARDENS
L'ARGENTIÈRE PARK
LES OLIVIERS PARK
EMMANUEL DE MARANDE PARK - MIMOSA ARBORETUM

MENTON

THE CITRONNERAIE
BIOVÈS GARDENS
VAL RAHMEH BOTANICAL GARDEN
L'ESQUINADE GARDEN
VILLA MARIA SERENA GARDEN
DOMAINE DES COLOMBIÈRES
CLOS DU PEYRONNET GARDEN
PALAIS DE CARNOLÈS GARDEN
FONTANA ROSA GARDEN
SERRE DE LA MADONE GARDEN
IMPERIAL GARDEN
RIVIERA PALACE GARDEN
WINTER PALACE GARDEN

...ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

MONACO

EXOTIC GARDEN BOTANICAL CENTRE
UNESCO GARDEN
JAPANESE GARDEN
PETITE AFRIQUE [LITTLE AFRICA] GARDENS
LA SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER GARDENS
SAINT-MARTIN GARDENS
FONTVIEILLE PARK
PRINCESSE ANTOINETTE PARK
PRINCESSE GRACE ROSE GARDEN

MOUANS-SARTOUX

CHÂTEAU GARDEN
INTERNATIONAL PERFUME MUSEUM GARDENS

MOUGINS

FONTMERLE LAKE

NICE

BOTANICAL GARDEN
OBSERVATORY GARDEN
VILLA ARSON GARDENS
VILLA MASSÉNA GARDEN
VILLA (IL) PARADISIO GARDEN
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM HANGING GARDEN
ANATOLE JAKOVSKY MUSEUM OF NAIVE ART GARDEN
CHAGALL MUSEUM GARDEN
JULES-CHÉRET MUSEUM OF FINE ART GARDEN
CIMIEZ MONASTERY GARDENS
ARBORAS PARK
CHAMBRUN PARK
ESTIENNE D'ORVES PARK
LA CLUA – DR JEAN GUILLAUD PARK
LA COLLINE DU CHÂTEAU PARK
L'AIRE SAINT-MICHEL PARK
CASTEL DES DEUX ROIS PARK
LE VINAIGRIER PARK
MONT BORON FOREST PARK
PHOENIX PARK
VALROSE PARK
VIGIER PARK
PROMENADE DU PAILLON

PEYMEINADE

DOMAINE DU MAS DE L'OLIVINE

ROURE

ARBORETUM MARCEL KROENLEIN

SAINTE-AGNÈS

MEDIEVAL GARDEN

SAINT-CÉZAIRE-SUR-SIAGNE

DOMAINE DES TILLEULS D'OR

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT

VILLA EPHRUSSI DE ROTHCHILD GARDENS

SAINT-PAUL DE VENCE

MAEGHT FOUNDATION GARDENS

SAORGE

MONASTERY GARDEN

TOURRETTES-SUR-LOUP

BASTIDE AUX VIOLETTES
JARDIN D'AGRUMES DE LA CONFISERIE FLORIAN

VALLAURIS GOLFE-JUAN

NÉROLIUM

GARDENS AND THE CÔTE D'AZUR

1546

The Franciscan Brotherhood established itself on Cimiez hill in Nice and created a chessboard pattern garden at their monastery, an identical copy of which can be seen today.

1763-1764

The Scottish novelist Tobias Smollett became one of the destination's ambassadors, thanks to the publication of his work: "Travels Through France and Italy"

1801

Joséphine de Beauharnais is the reason that "remarkable foreign plants" were first introduced to Nice, in the Alpes-Maritimes. An important correspondence with the Prefect Dubouchage would result.

1830

The first flowery procession (the predecessor of the Carnival) takes place in Nice.

1850

The botanist Gustave Thuret plants the first palm trees and mimosas on the Côte d'Azur.

1867

Start of the creation of Valrose Park in Nice. Palm trees, greenhouses, Italian varieties and rose gardens enhance this 10-hectare estate.

1873

Creation of the Festival Committee and the first Nice Carnival.

1876

First Flower Battle.

1887

Serge Liegeard publishes his work "La Côte d'Azur". It describes the towns and sites he has visited, from Marseilles to Gênes. The term "Côte d'Azur" endured.

1890

Creation of the Horticultural School in Antibes.

1895

In Vallauris, the owners of the bitter orange trees grouped together in an agricultural union: the Coopérative Nérolium was born.

1906

French law sees gardens enter the category of historic monuments.

1907

Start of works on the gardens at the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat.

1908

Renoir falls under the spell of the Domaine des Collettes in Cagnes-sur-Mer and sets up home there.

1912

The Waterfield family purchase the Clos du Peyronnet in Menton, the last garden to have remained the property of a single family for over a century.

1919

Henry Clews purchases the Château de la Napoule in Mandelieu. A lover of history, art and landscape design, the Clews restored the château and gardens.

1921

Creation of Chanel No. 5 by Ernest Baux, director and "nose" at the Rallet perfume factory in Cannes-la-Bocca.

1922

The Spanish writer Blasco Ibanez creates the Villa Fontana Rosa garden in Montan, with its Andalucian and Arabic-Persian inspirations.

1924

Lawrence Johnston, the creator of the gardens at Hidcote Manor, starts work to acclimate plants in the Serre de la Madone gardens in Menton.

1925

Ferdinand Bac completes the Domaine des Colombières and publishes his eponymous book.

1927

The first test gardens for perfume plants are created in the Pays de Grasse.

1931

First Mimosa Festival in Mandelieu.

...A LONG HISTORY

1933

Inauguration of the Exotic Garden in Monaco.

1936

Installation of the Villa Fiesole and its gardens in Cannes. The painter Jean-Gabriel Domergue created the first Cannes Festival poster there.

1946

The Thuret Garden in Antibes becomes *the Institute national de Recherche Agronomique* [National Institute of Agricultural Research]

1949

Start of works on the Exotic Garden in Eze.

1950

Russell Page creates the garden at the Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier in Grasse.

1964

Joan Miró collaborates in the creation of the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence.

1966

The Natural History Museum buys the Val Rahmeh Garden in Menton.

1994

An inventory lists 300 gardens in the Alpes-Maritimes Department

1998

Birth of the *Confrérie du Mimosa* [Mimosa Brotherhood] in Pégomas.
Aim: promote this flower through events for the general public.

2001

Creation of the route: "The Mimosa Way" between the Var and the Alpes-Maritimes.

2003

Creation of "Rendez-vous aux Jardins" by the [French] Ministry of Culture.
Creation of the International Perfume Museum Gardens in Mouans-Sartoux

2004

The "Remarkable Gardens" label is created.

2006

Creation of the "Fleurs d'exception du Pays de Grasse" [Exceptional Flowers of the Pays de Grasse] Association..

2016

Inauguration of the "Perfumed Fountains" - Dior- Vuitton - LVMH

2017

First edition of the Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival) on the theme "Awakening the Senses".

2018

"The perfume-related know-how in the Pays de Grasse" is entered on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

2023

4th edition of the Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival) on the theme "Surprising Perspectives".

THE PERFUME FLOWERS



Flowers have given Grasse, the World's Perfume Capital, its letters of mark. The town was once decorated on both a visual and olfactory level by gardens and fields of jasmine, rose and tuberose flowers, the three main flowers in the art of perfume making. Farmers still grow them today, and the gardens retain this heritage that brings together all the scents of the Côte d'Azur. The large perfume houses source the raw materials for their fragrances from here, thus acknowledging the know-how of Grasse and the quality of its flowers.

THE BIGGEST FRENCH BRANDS IN THE PAYS DE GRASSE

CHANEL

A partner of Maison Chanel since 1987, the Mul family farms 20 hectares of land near Pégomas where the cabbage rose (*Rosa centifolia*), *Jasminum grandiflorum*, rose geranium, tuberose and sweet iris grow. This is where Chanel procures some of its perfume plant supplies. In 2021, Chanel invested in an additional 10 hectares in order to see the continued production of jasmine, an ingredient in the composition of Chanel No. 5. Created in 1921 by Ernest Beaux, a French perfumier who worked for the Russian Court, the most famous perfume in the world celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021.

LVMH (DIOR and VUITTON)

In 1951, Christian Dior purchased the Château de la Colle Noire, a property located in Montauroux, near Grasse, where he cultivated his passion for horticulture, creating a sublime garden in which he planted thousands of perfume flowers. For over 10 years, Dior created exclusive partnerships with young farmers in the Grasse region. The "Domaine de Manon" and the "Clos de Callian" thus reserve their entire harvest of cabbage roses and jasmine for Dior perfumes. In the summer of 2016, the LVMH Group set up in the "Fontaines Parfumées" [Perfumed Fountains] in the heart of Grasse, opening the creation workshops to two perfumiers from Grasse, Jacques Cavalier-Belletrud and François Demachy, the noses for Vuitton and Dior, respectively.

LANCÔME

In 2022, the global leading luxury beauty brand purchased a 4-hectare estate to grow perfume plants organically. With the purchase of this new estate, with Ecocert certification and known as the Domaine de la Rose, Lancôme confirmed its ambition to contribute to preserving and protecting the know-how for growing perfume plants in Grasse. Various historic species will be grown there: roses, iris, jasmine, bitter orange, tuberose, osmanthus, helichrysum, verbena, Madonna lilies, etc.



...IN THE PAYS DE GRASSE



THE PERFUMIERS OF GRASSE OPEN THEIR DOORS

The perfume factories open their doors to the public and offer free guided tours so that tourists can discover the history and know-how of perfume in the Pays de Grasse. Picking flowers, distillation, extraction, creation of essences and even workshops to create your own eau de toilette, they offer a true immersion in the art of perfume making. Among the most well-known:



FRAGONARD

Founded in 1926 by Eugène Fuchs, Maison Fragonard has always shared a great bond with the scents of the Côte d'Azur.

From the sea spray on the shores of the Mediterranean to the flower-covered hills of the upper and middle country, everything is a source of inspiration for creating these scents in the greatest French tradition.

Today, the Maison has developed a collection under the "Côte d'Azur France" brand colours.

GALIMARD

This family-run house was created in 1747 by Jean de Galimard, the founder of the glove maker-perfumiers guild that supplied the Court of King Louis XV with olive oils, pomades and perfumes.

A perfumier and creator of perfumes in the purest of French traditions, Galimard has been able to remain a wholly family-run house and makes arts and crafts a source of modern creativity.

MOLINARD

Created in 1849, Maison Molinard is recognized by the "Entreprise du patrimoine Vivant" [Living Heritage Company] distinction, in homage to its rare and ancestral know-how.

In 1921, Maison Molinard created Habanita, the first feminine oriental perfume to glorify vetiver, until then an essence reserved for men. A true revolution that made this Maison famous.



"The perfume-related know-how of the Pays de Grasse" has been entered on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2018. This distinction concerns the

cultivation of perfume plants, the knowledge of both natural raw materials and their transformation, and the art of composing the perfumes that have been created by the craftspeople of the Pays de Grasse.

THE PERFUME FLOWERS



THE PERFUME PLANT GARDENS

Created by Carole Biancalana and Sébastien Rodriguez, perfume plant growers, this association aims to communicate with all stakeholders in the floral industry, regarding the rarity and richness of perfume flowers. It therefore wants to develop, perpetuate and expand an activity that plays an integral role in the history of the Pays de Grasse and also plays a role in the establishment of new perfume plant growers.

GOURDON

The Lavanderaie de Marie [Marie's Lavender Garden]

The Lavanderaie de Marie de la Source Parfumée in Gourdon has a floral site where aromatic and medicinal plants rub shoulders (140 species of different varieties). Located on the Gorges du Loup trail, the site offers panoramic viewpoints over the sea and the mountains, inspiring painters and writers. On site, it is possible to picnic and have a floral tasting (on booking). In the heart of the village, head for the "Distillerie de la Source Parfumée" to visit the eco-museum and top up on candles, soaps, etc.

GRASSE

The Domaine de Manon

For 4 generations, the Biancalana family has grown perfume plants and perpetuated a secular know-how in a land conducive to their growth and their quality. Today, Carole and Hubert Biancalana, the daughter and father, produce and hand pick cabbage roses, jasmine and tuberose.

They love to introduce visitors to their trade as a perfume flower producer, through guided tours conducted with enthusiasm. Their harvests are reserved exclusively for the Maison Christian Dior.

Fleurs Fragonard Factory Garden

In this garden is a collection of the most beautiful perfume plants that represent the olfactory heritage of the Pays de Grasse, as well as other perfumed species, the growth and production of which is carried out in various countries across the globe. The olfactory trail allows you to discover the plants and trees used in perfume making, aromatherapy and even cooking. Over the course of the visit, the visitor will discover the plants emblematic of perfume making in Grasse, and will also be won over by the passionate story of flowers, plants, their growth and the techniques for extracting essences.

MOUANS-SARTOUX

The International Perfume Museum Gardens

Laid out around an old canal and agricultural basin, this old farmhouse and its gardens extend over 3.5 hectares, where traditional perfume making species rub shoulders with landscaped areas in which to stroll. Designed in 2003 as a Pays de Grasse perfume plant conservatory, in 2010 these gardens became a fun tool for raising awareness of the International Perfume Museum. You have the pleasure of discovering the plants, laid out according to their olfactory notes: hesperidic, floral, woody, spicy, fruity, musky, etc





TOURRETTES-SUR-LOUP

The Bastide aux Violettes

This little village in the Pays de Grasse is the only place in France where the violet is grown as a sole or main crop. Around 1880, the town's agricultural activity was mainly focused on this flower and numbered up to 40 farmers. The violet grown in Tourrettes-sur-Loup is the Victoria. It is celebrated every March by the Violet Festival and is shown in all its states in the Bastide aux Violettes. More than a museum, this space is a place to discover the traditions of yesteryear and the cultivation of this little local queen, the aptly named Victoria!

The Confiserie Florian garden

This a Mediterranean garden between river and mountain, at the entrance to the Gorges du Loup. In this colourful and scented refuge grow bitter orange, citron, clementine, grapefruit, orange, lemon, mandarin and kumquat trees, and also aromatic flowers and plants used in the manufacture of the famous confectionary and chocolates of Maison Florian. On the edges of the garden are two panoramic terraces offering an exceptional view over the Gorges and the hilltop village of Gourdon.



VALLAURIS GOLFE-JUAN

Nérolium

The Nérolium Cooperative was created in 1904 under the name "Société Coopérative Agricole des Propriétaires d'Orangers des Alpes-Maritimes" [Alpes-Maritimes Orange Tree Owners Agricultural Cooperative Society] and at that time grouped together almost all the growers in the Alpes-Maritimes.

The cultivation of the bitter orange tree is the fruit of an exceptional history and heritage that can be discovered in the eco-museum, rich with installations more than one hundred years old. The oranges and other fruit harvested at the beginning of the year are turned into jams in the factory in Golfe-Juan.

The orange flower, harvested in May, is distilled by the cooperative and transformed into essential oil (for the perfume industry) or into orange flower water (for patisserie).

PEYMEINADE

The Domaine du Mas de l'Olivine

Two lovers of the land and scents, Audrey (from a family of pickers spanning 4 generations) and Thierry Bortolini (a gardener, having created beautiful private Mediterranean gardens), welcome you to their 18th century family estate. Lovers of good foods, their transform their flowers into confectionary: chocolate, sweets, candied flowers, etc. The owners offer guided tours and flower-based workshops with many olfactory and tasty surprises.

THE REMARKABLE GARDENS



The "Jardin remarquable" [Remarkable Garden] label bears witness to the quality of certain gardens and the efforts made for their presentation and to welcome the public. It can be awarded to gardens whether or not they are listed Historic Monuments. Established in 2004, this State label is awarded for a period of 5 years to parks and gardens open to the public that present a major interest on a historic, aesthetic or botanical level. On the Côte d'Azur, 14 gardens are classified as "Remarkable Gardens".

ANTIBES

Villa Thuret Botanical Garden

COURSEGOULES

Brec Valley Garden

ÈZE

Exotic garden

GRASSE

Villa Fort France Garden

LA GAUDE

Argelière Garden

MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE

Château Gardens

MENTON

La Citronneraie

Jardin du Val Rameh

Jardin Serre de la Madonne

MOUANS-SARTOUX

International Perfume Museum Gardens
(see The perfume plants in the Pays de Grasse)

NICE

Botanical Garden

Phoenix Park

ROURE

Arboretum Marcel Kroenlein

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

...OF THE CÔTE D'AZUR



ANTIBES

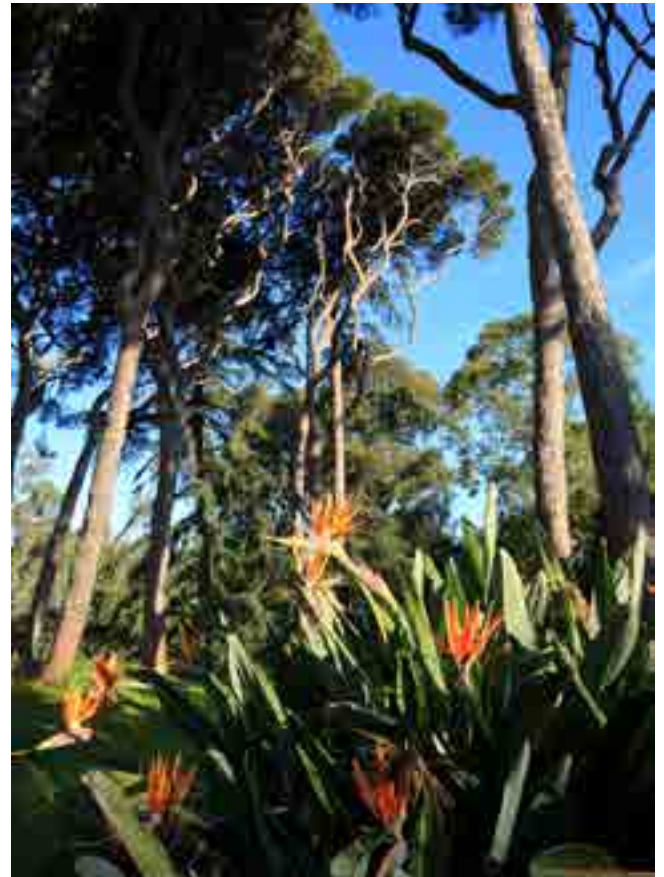
Villa Thuret Botanical Garden

Won over by the climate and wild nature of the Cap d'Antibes, Gustave Thuret, a 19th century algologist and botanist, decided to set up home there. In 1857, he purchased land on which he created his botanical garden and imported several exotic plants that he undertook to acclimate. In addition to producing scientific results, the introduction of exotic species contributed to creating the Côte d'Azur landscape and to the rise of Mediterranean horticulture. In particular, we owe to Thuret the superb Mimosa that today marks the Côte d'Azur landscape. Since 1946, the garden has been managed by *the Institute National de Recherche Agronomique*.

COURSEGOULES

Brec Valley Garden

Partly planted with botanical varieties originally from China, Japan, and North America, plus a rose garden, and partly with local plant species, the Brec Valley is extended by another, wilder garden measuring one hectare, comprising several restanques [Provencal walled terraces] transformed in grasslands. Perched at a height of 100 m above sea level, and at the side of the rocks, the garden is dotted with several painted wooden structures. Some are walkways between two gardens, a "tea house", as well as buildings open on the sides sheltering large cacti and aloes.



ÈZE

Exotic garden

George Sand described it as "a fairyland on the cliff". This vertiginous garden, laid out between 1949 and 2005, required the effort of men and donkeys to bring the materials and plants up to almost 429 m above the Mediterranean Sea. Created by Jean Gastaud, an agricultural engineer, its southern part houses several dozen species of succulents and xerophytes from every continent. The northern part is home to plants from the Mediterranean or humid regions, with grottos and a waterfall. The zen garden offers a soothing atmosphere with a resting point opposite the Mediterranean. From there, the view over the Côte d'Azur is exceptional!

THE REMARKABLE GARDENS



GRASSE

Villa Fort France Garden

Coming into the hands of a successful English author, Lady Fortescue, a collector of rare plants and author of the bestseller "Perfume from Provence", and lastly the Courcel family, the Villa Fort France garden is the refuge of different and rare plants, including the famous sequoia from China, one of the oldest trees on the planet.

Designed around a charming villa from the 1930s, installed on restanques, the garden reserves plant curiosities on every terrace. Throughout the visit, you discover the Grasse landscape with its hills and its cypress trees down to the sea. It is worked on every day with all the creativity of its owner, a painter.



LA GAUDE

Argelière Garden

Nestled 1,000 metres above sea level in a private estate on the edge of a forest of oak and pine trees, the Argelière garden is home to nearly 1,200 species over 3,000 m². Organized in terraces, it houses a collection of ancient and botanical roses: from the Provence rose to Mermaid, via Buff Beauty.

A greenhouse and a glass roof are home to the most fragile tropical plants. Lysiane Offerhaus, the owner, doesn't use pesticides or chemical fertilizers, allowing the wild plants to cohabit with her protected ones, in order to maintain a balance favourable to biodiversity. Small ponds, with their aquatic flora and fauna, complete this beautiful garden.

MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE

Château Gardens

Laid out as of 1919 by Marie Clews, here you find classic references, and also a great freedom and heterogeneity characteristic of the art of Henry and Marie Clews. The main park opens with a large French-style drive that opens onto the park in all its glory.

On either side of this central axis, you discover small green tooms, perspectives, ponds, and panoramic views where the gaze escapes towards the sea.

The Château grounds house distinct spaces: the main garden and 3 other small gardens: the La Mancha garden, the terraces over the sea and the secret garden.

...OF THE CÔTE D'AZUR



MENTON

The Citronneraie

As of the 1950s, this old farm located on the Annonciade hill, has been dedicated to agrumiculture and to preserving the variety of lemons, the emblem of the town of Menton. It was purchased by François Mazet and is still home to 450 lemon trees, famed with the greatest Michelin-star chefs, as well as several other citrus trees. The olive trees complete this tableau rich in scents, while 800 tropical plants give it a definitively exotic touch. This terraced garden is the precious witness to the lemon-related customs of the town of Menton.



Val Rameh Garden - MNHN

Laif out on land purchased by Lord Radcliffe, the former governor of Malta, the Val Rahmeh garden was purchased in 1966 by the [French] National Natural History Museum to become an ethnobotanical garden.

1,400 different species currently enhance the garden, organized into themed and "biogeographic" zones: humid tropical, dry tropical and Mediterranean regions; medicinal and cultural, and magical and toxic plants; tropical fruits and a citrus orchard.

These are completed by a small collection of aromatics and surrounded by vast ornamental flower beds, especially around the water feature and the terrace.

Serre de la Madone Garden

The Serre de la Madone garden was listed as a Historic Monument in 1990, then purchased by the Conservatoire du Littoral in 1999. These distinctions bear witness to the importance of this garden, a place where rare plants have been acclimated since Lawrence Johnston established here the plants he brought back from his travels. A great gardener, creator of the garden at Hidcote Manor in England, he was able to acclimate unexpected plants, such as these Chinese Mahonia and discover rare varieties, such as this Sycamore Fig, a biblical tree. This 7-hectare garden, a site for botanical and artistic discovery, houses 3 national plant collections, including a remarkable collection of Proteas.

THE REMARKABLE GARDENS

NICE

Botanical Garden

A park in the town of Nice, the botanical garden is established on a Var hillside and offers a vast panoramic view over the Mercantour, up to the Estérel. Created in 1983, it allows visitors to familiarize themselves with the plant world and has a mission to maintain biodiversity and pass on the natural heritage. Considered as an open-air museum, it groups together 3,000 plant species spread over 40 zones, recreating natural environments from the 5 continents and playing a role as a conservatory for specialized plant collections. A wonderful immersion into the Mediterranean plant life awaits the visitor here, with blooms all year round.



Phoenix Park

This park extends over 7 hectares in a Mediterranean landscape with some twenty themed gardens.

Its pyramid-shaped greenhouse, known as the "green diamond" is one of the highest in Europe: over 7,000 m² and 25 m high, it recreates 6 different tropical and sub-tropical climates, from the equatorial forest to the African savannas.

Over 2,500 plant species are listed here, including some remarkable ones, protected in a Mediterranean landscape setting.

Awarded the "Family Plus" label and a member of the French association of zoological parks, it is currently home to over 2,000 animals represented by 70 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.



ROURE

Arboretum Marcel Kroenlein

Created by a director of the Monaco exotic garden, Marcel Kroenlein, the eponymous arboretum is the only arboretum at altitude in Europe. Between 1,280 and 1,600 metres above sea level, it benefits from the Alpine influence and thus houses the deciduous and coniferous trees of the world's mountains. Qualified as a "green cathedral", over 6 hectares it houses more than 2,300 species of flowers, plants, shrubs, and trees (spruce, larch, Scots pine, junipers, dog roses, etc.), and also has an ornithological trail. Every year, artists install their works in the Arboretum; these will disappear with the passing of time and the seasons.

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

Decorated with columns, waterfalls, ponds, flower beds, shady pathways and rare varieties of tree, the 9 gardens that surround the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild have visitors travel from one continent to the next: Florentine, Spanish, French-style, exotic, stone, Japanese, and Provençal gardens, a rose garden and lastly the Sèvres garden. The Baroness Béatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild called on famous celebrities, such as Harold Peto, to create these gardens. A highly prized landscaper, he built his reputation by creating gardens with a classical inspiration. Those at the Ville Ephrussi needed five years of work, from 1907 to 1912, and today offer a journey round the world.



THE PRIVATE GARDENS



Botany enthusiasts, garden lovers and some private property owners have been able to make their gardens into veritable treasures. They agree to open the doors of their properties or estates to the public, some for several weeks a year and others for just a few days, in order to share their passion, their knowledge and their experience. Make the most of it!

CAGNES-SUR-MER

Marro Estate

CHÂTEAUNEUF-GRASSE

Bouscarella Garden

GRASSE

Bastide Isnard
Domaine de la Mouissone
Domaine Saint-Jacques de Coloubrier
Mas des Pivoines
Villa Fort France (see Remarkable Gardens)

SAINT-CEZAIRE-SUR-SIAGNE

Domaine des Tilleuls d'Or

LA GAUDE

L'Argelière (see Remarkable Gardens)

MENTON

The Clos du Peyronnet
The Domaine des Colombières
The Citronneraie (see The Remarkable Gardens)
L'Esquinade

CAGNES-SUR-MER

Marro Estate

The garden at the Marro estate is a family story. The Italian great-grandfather of the current owner set up in Cagnes-sur-Mer as a market gardener and purchased a plot of land there in 1928. It was the grandfather who partially replaced the kitchen garden with an agapanthus plantation and the vines by a fruit and decorative tree garden. The garden currently comprises some twenty topiaries, around forty trees (citrus, olive, pomegranate, carob, etc.), some thirty ornamental plants and a rose garden boasting over 100 varieties. Some of the wine-making and agricultural tools of yesteryear are still used. A garden full of history!

CHÂTEAUNEUF-GRASSE

La Bouscarella Garden

A former olive grove, La Bouscarella is cut into the rocky bars of the Saint-Jaume hill, not far from Châteauneuf. While the property became an ornamental garden as of the end of the First World War, the remains of its agricultural past still guide the appearance and architecture. Great travellers and garden enthusiasts, Nicole and Jean-François de Chambrun imagined a countryside created of paths and contrasts, where rare species sit alongside local plants (over 2,500 varieties!). They have ensured to maintain the spirit of a Grasse farm from the last century, offering visitors a timeless visit.

GRASSE

Bastide Isnard

Several families of perfume makers have held these lands, one after the other. Today, it is the Isnards, a family inseparable from the Pays de Grasse for at least 1,000 years, who are preserving this exceptional heritage and showcasing it in their Provençal perfumes. The guided tour of the garden, in the heart of century-old olive trees and dry stone restanques, revisits local history.

Through a sensory trail, the visitor discovers the flowers emblematic of the perfume industry of the 18th century (rose, jasmine, lavender, tuberose, etc.), the Mediterranean fruit trees (bitter orange, fig, lemon, etc.) and the vines originally from Grasse. A panoramic view as far as the sea!



Domaine de la Mouissone

Clinging to the hillside, 400 metres above sea level, the Domaine de la Mouissone extends over 3 hectares and offers a breath-taking panoramic view over the surrounding countryside and the Mediterranean.

15 years of work were needed to recreate the terraced olive grove, now dotted with themed gardens. A bamboo grove, with cool shade, contrasts with the arid zones populated with grasses.

Lastly, two kitchen gardens, the first covering in the shade and the second in full sun, provide the estate with fruit and vegetables. The estate also produces its own olive oil, organic and AOP.

THE PRIVATE GARDENS



Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier

This vast 8-hectare space, originally created by the landscaper Russel Page in 1950 for a grand patron of the press, was long abandoned. Taken over in 2005 by Stephen Butt and his wife, the garden has now recovered its splendour. Wisteria, citronella, jasmine, olive trees, holm oaks and citrus trees dot this garden, created by Pierre Jeanjean, formerly responsible for the Elysée gardens. The Couloubrier garden is constantly being enriched with new plant varieties. A greenhouse devoted to bulb plants harks back to the perfume traditions of Grasse, whereas a fountain and a vast lake close out a walk full of surprises.

Mas de Pivoines

The Mas de Pivoines offers 1.5 hectares of Provencal walled terraced gardens, around a restored farmhouse dating from the start of the 19th century. The owners have created a simple garden, with a country atmosphere, which is translated by the lack of hedges, so you can enjoy the Grasse landscape all along the restanques bordered by iris and rockery plants. Several gardens lead on from each other, each separated by gazebos sculpted from climbing roses and vines. Further on, a landscaped park plays with essences, bark, flowers and autumn foliage. In this garden, the peonies are queen. The venerable "Duchesse de Morny" opens the flowering season as of April.



SAINT-CEZAIRE-SUR-SIAGNE

Domaine des Tilleuls d'Or

The Domaine des Tilleuls d'Or is first and foremost the charm of an authentic 18th century sheepfold in the heart of a centuries-old olive grove created by the monks of Lérins. The building and its pathways are protected by a magnificent oak tree and ancient linden trees that invite contemplation. Above all, the owners want to share their life's project, focused on the ecological transition and the relationship with nature. With the "Garden seen as a human body" educational trail, they guide visitors to the heart of the olive grove, fruit trees, perfumed plants and beehives to present their approach, from growing living things to the homeopathic concept.

Flowerly jams, honeys, olive oil and other craft productions sold on site.

...OF THE CÔTE D'AZUR



MENTON

Clos du Peyronnet

The Clos du Peyronnet is the work of the Waterfield family. In 1912, Derick and Barbara Waterfield purchased 5,000 m² already planted with olive trees and a few exotic plants.

Around 1950, their son Humphrey, gave the garden its Italian soul. Since 1971, it is William Waterfield, Humphrey's nephew, who is continuing this family dream, enriching the collections with respect for the site and its historic structures. He has therefore created the national collection of bulbs from South Africa.

His wife, Judith Pillsbury-Waterfield, accompanied by the *Association pour la Sauvegarde des Jardins d'Exception du Mentonnais* [Association to Protect the Exceptional Gardens of Menton], is now continuing the family heritage by bringing this garden to life.



Domaine des Colombières

Overlooking the Bay of Garavan, the Colombières garden is the work of Ferdinand Bac (1859-1952). Boasting a truly artistic soul, he was a painter, sketcher, portrait artist and also excelled in landscape gardening. His friends, Émile and Caroline Landan-Bockairy, purchased the Domaine des Colombières in 1918 and gave him carte blanche to develop the villa and its gardens. The project was only completed in 1927.

Loaded with symbols, the garden calls for a journey around the Mediterranean via its statues and its plant life.

A listed Historic Monument, it was fully restored on the initiative of its owner, Michael Likierman.

L'Esquinade garden

In 1972, Simone and Edouard Mazzola purchased a valley of a little less than one hectare during the works to create the motorway.

They rapidly filled this valley to create a new garden. Benefiting from a gentle slope and fed by a local spring, the Esquinade Garden allows for discovering a quality plantation grouping together 160 citrus species (especially lemon trees... including the so-called "Menton" variety), 130 species of palm tree and a range of fruit trees and spice plants.

Not forgetting a rich collection of hibiscus, mimosa and multiple ornamental species and exceptional plants from the Caribbean.

THE BEAUTIFUL



Dreams of grandeur, pontoons over the sea, historic villas, some homes on the Côte d'Azur are stunning by their remarkable architecture, their privileged location or their exceptional panoramic view. To perfect this picture postcard, their parks and gardens form true lush green backdrops. A wonderful opportunity to combine a historic visit with strolling outdoors.

ANTIBES

Villa Eilenroc

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

Villa Kerylos

BEAUSOLEIL

Riviera Palace Winter Garden

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild (see Remarkable Gardens)

CANNES

Villa Domergue

Villa Rothschild

NICE

Villa Masséna

MENTON

Villa Maria Serena

ANTIBES

Villa Eilenroc

Built between 1860 and 1867, Villa Eilenroc was sold in 1873 to the Scot James Wyllie, who had an exceptional plant decor laid out by gardeners as famous as Ringuisen. After changing hands several times, the villa was purchased by the Beaumonts, who called on the architect-landscaper Jacques Greber, a consultant for the New York World Fair in 1939, to restructure the immense 11-hectare grounds and give them back all their splendour. In the heart of this authentic plant conservatory overlooking the sea, the rose garden offers the public the fragrances and essences of its hundreds of varieties, mostly created in Antibes Juan-les-Pins.

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

Villa Kerylos

Théodore Reinach, a French archaeologist and politician, ordered the villa in 1902 from Emmanuel Pontremoli, an architect passionate about the Greek civilisation. Kérylos, or "sea swallow" in Greek, is the reconstruction of a ship-owners home located on the island of Delos. Built on a headland overlooking

the sea, it offers a unique and timeless setting.

The Mediterranean garden that surrounds it follows the same philosophy and offers a Côte d'Azur voyage between olive trees, vines, pomegranate trees, cypress, palm trees and papyrus. The ensemble is coloured by pink laurels, iris and myrtles, as could be found on the banks of the Aegean Sea in antiquity.

BEAUSOLEIL

Riviera Palace Winter Garden

A garden in winter. Built in 1898 by the architect Georges Chedane on behalf of the Société Internationale des Grands Hôtels et Wagons-Lits, which owned the legendary Orient Express, this imposing building was a luxury hotel. Located 180 m above sea level, the panoramic view extends from Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat to the Italian capes.

The greenhouse, designed by Gustave Eiffel, hosted the hotel residents' winter festivities. Measuring some 900 m², it currently houses tropical plants and a large collection of rare flowers. A wonderful contrast between the luxurious exotic vegetation and its Mediterranean twin outside.

...MANSION GARDENS



CANNES

Villa Domergue

The artist Jean-Gabriel Domergue set up home in 1936 in the heart of a pine forest and had the Villa Fiesole built, where he created the first poster for the Cannes Festival. A great festival organizer, he said: "I wanted to be Le Nôtre, and create a living architecture of lawns, rare trees and trimmed bushes... and in such gardens that I would have imagined, I would stage magnificent shows and extraordinary fireworks displays."

The garden with its Florentine inspiration, the masterpiece of which is a grand staircase bordered by columns, is laid out in terraces planted with cypress, pines and Mediterranean plants, and enhanced by ponds and waterfalls.

Villa Rothschild

Bettina de Rothschild (1858-1892) had this villa built, where she hosted politicians, artists and friends. The building now houses the Cannes media library. Levelled and planted with ornamental species (palm trees, date palms, monkey puzzle trees and magnolias in particular), the grounds were not to the taste of Alphonse de Rothschild who had them entirely redone. The landscape garden now houses precious specimens, several varieties of species and a small waterfall fed by the Siagne. A therapeutic garden with an olfactory and sensory trail was created to implement work on scent memory, intended for people suffering from Alzheimer's.

NICE

Villa Masséna

In 1898, Victor Masséna appointed the architect Aaron Messiah to build him a palace nestled in an 8,000 m² estate on the Promenade des Anglais. The palace now houses the Masséna Museum. The estate was created by Edouard André, who profoundly changed the landscaping art at the end of the 19th century with his writings and creations. The garden combines vast beds of flowers and evergreens with more luxurious vegetation, palm trees, Cycas and orange trees.

He designed it in three parts; the main courtyard in the north, the French garden on the eastern side and the grand flowerbed to the south of the villa.

MENTON

Villa Maria Serena

In the 19th century, the Cuses district comprised small plots growing lemon trees, olive trees and traditional vegetables. As of 1882, Comte Louis Alexandre Foucher de Careil purchased some of these plots in order to build a holiday home, the future Villa Maria Serena. It was left to the town of Menton in 1947.

On grounds of over one hectare, its majestic palm trees from the whole world over, its giant birds of paradise, its alley of exuberant Cycas and its remarkable dracaena transport the visitor to the atmosphere of the Belle Epoque.

Plants that are normally intended for growing under glass can be found here in the open air!

THE MUSEUM AND ART



The Côte d'Azur is particularly renowned as a region for hosting the greatest artists of the 20th century. Several museums are dedicated to them and a route around the Painters' Côte d'Azur pays homage to their talent through works inspired by the landscapes from the coast to the middle country. At the exhibition sites, some gardens appear inseparable from the museology inside, others are sufficient in themselves to understand the artists' world.

BIOT

Fernand Léger National Museum

CAGNES-SUR-MER

Domaine Renoir

NICE

Marc Chagall National Museum
Villa Arson

SAINT- PAUL DE VENCE

Maeght Foundation

MENTON

Palais Carnolès Garden

BIOT

Fernand Léger National Museum

The garden was designed and created by Henri Fish, in close collaboration with the architect André Svetchine. It comprises a vast undulating prairie, raised up by cypress trees, bordered by a pine forest and a row of olive trees.

The walk in the gardens offers multiple viewpoints from which to admire the mosaics that cover the walls of the building.

Monumental works created after the works of Léger are dotted throughout the garden. Henri Fish also worked with André Hermant for the Marc Chagall National Museum, with José Luis Sert for the Maeght Foundation, and in 1984 he created the sculpture and scents garden at the Picasso Museum in Antibes.

CAGNES-SUR-MER

Domaine Renoir

The Renoir family moved to this cosy mansion on the Collettes estate, built in the autumn of 1908 by Fevre, an architect from Biot.

Visited by many friends of the painter and his family, the villa was purchased by the town in 1960 and its gardens opened to the public. Today, the estate boasts several century-old olive trees, a kitchen garden and the Venus Victrix, a statue that Renoir

and Guino created at the beginning of the 20th century here in Cagnes-sur-Mer and exhibited in the orange grove.

Awarded the "Bird Sanctuary" label by the [French] Birds Protection League, the garden is also a remarkable natural space, maintained without the use of pesticides, where outstanding wildlife grow and thrive.

MENTON

Palais de Carnolès Garden

Built by the architects Cotte and Gabriel in the 18th century, the former summer palace of the Princes of Monaco was surrounded by gardens of orange and lemon trees, and also flower and kitchen gardens. The current collection of citrus trees was planted as of 1970, thanks to the *Institut National de Recherche Agronomique of Corsica*, thus giving it back its past splendour. Today, it boasts 137 citrus varieties on a single site, among which 24 sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), 6 bitter oranges (*Citrus aurantium*), some kumquats, 6 lemon trees (*Citrus limon*) and a few grapefruit trees (*Citrus maxima*).

The citrus collection is a National Collection approved by the *Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées*.

Since 1977, the Palais de Carnolès houses the town's Museum of Fine Arts.



...CENTRE GARDENS

NICE

Villa Arson

Today, Villa Arson houses the *École nationale supérieure d'art* and a national contemporary art centre. The villa owes its name to Pierre-Joseph Arson, who purchased the villa and its 6-hectare estate at the beginning of the 19th century. He transformed the farm into an Italian-inspired ornamental garden. A mineral fortress, the villa now combines contemporary art, architecture and garden arts. While the original period only endures in the alignments of the pine trees and the famous cypress alley, the contemporary period has not skimped on treasures. Works are integrated as well as plant life. Hanging gardens that cover 4,500 m² with roof terraces were created by the architect Michel Marot and planted with flower beds. Outdoor patios punctuate the greenery inside the building, creating a continuous original "indoors, outdoors" impression.

Marc Chagall National Museum

In the beginning, God created the Garden of Eden... It was therefore completely natural that the garden welcomes the visitor before they enter the museum with a biblical message. Mediterranean flora clearly plays a predominant role here: olive trees, cypress, pines and holm oaks. Henri Fish, who created this garden, in conjunction with Marc Chagall, chose cold tones and white and blue flowers surrounded by this green backdrop. Consequently, agapanthus bloom every year in July, the month in which Chagall was born. Against the building, a pond reflects the mosaic created by the artist. A large lawn welcomes the visitor, who can sit there peacefully, in accordance with the artist's wishes.

In Nice, we can also cite the Anatole Jakovsky Museum of Naive Art Garden, the Jules Chéret Museum of Fine Arts Garden and the Hanging Garden at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

SAINT-PAUL DE VENCE

Maeght Foundation (reopens summer 2023)

Painters and sculptors worked with Sert, the Catalan architect, creating works integrated into the building and the countryside. The ensemble combines indoor and outdoor spaces with the sculpture garden, the courtyards, terraces and patios, the exhibition rooms, the chapel, the library and the bookshop. The garden was designed to showcase modern and contemporary art in all its forms.

By chance along the walk, the visitor can admire works by Fernand Léger, Pol Bury, Alexander Calder Takis, and also sculptures by Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Damien Cabanes, Eduardo Chillida, Erik Dietman, Barbara Hepworth, Fabrice Hyber, Joan Miró, etc., exhibited in line with the seasons. Other works are integrated directly into the buildings: the mosaic by Pierre Tal-Coat and the one by Marc Chagall, including the *Lovers*, are installed on the bookshop wall, the stained-glass windows by Braque and Ubac, Miró's labyrinth, etc



THE MONASTIC GARDENS AND PARKS



SAORGE

Monastery Garden

In a highly important spot on the road linking Nice to Turin via the Col de Tende (the salt road), Saorge was a highly frequented crossing point. It was there, above the village and the gorges of the Roya, that the Franciscan brothers founded a convent in 1633, where they established a 3-hectare garden boasting a magnificent viewpoint over the Bendola valley. The monastery gardens are laid out in restanques on a steep slope and are mainly used as a kitchen garden. The microclimate in Saorge allows for growing a wide range of vegetables there, along with herbs, condiments and medicinal plants.



NICE

Cimiez Monastery Gardens

In 1546, the Franciscans of the Observance settled in Cimiez. There, they established a garden in a chessboard pattern, following the rules of Albert the Great (1193-1280) for monastic gardens. Furthermore, the layout of these 9,550 m² of kitchen garden and orchard has not changed since its creation. The three traditional delimitations: medicinal, ornamental and kitchen garden, are still visible. Orange, lemon and mandarin trees dot the lawn and the flowerbed along the pathways, and rub shoulders with Mediterranean species.

A small, more intimate garden opens out further down, decorated by a fountain and ponds, and a terrace with a pergola offers an exceptional panoramic view over the Paillon Valley and, further away, the Colline du Château and the sea.

CANNES

Lérins Abbey

Located on Saint-Honorat Island, Lérins Abbey has been part of a long monastic tradition for over 16 centuries. Several trails cross the island, allowing for discovering the protected countryside and the jagged cliffs, conducive to meditation. Covered by discreet underbrush, the little island is overflowing with scented plants typical of the Mediterranean, such as thyme, rosemary, rockrose and broom. The island is populated with Aleppo pines, eucalyptus and cypress, the only varieties able to resist the sea breezes. Some twenty rare or protected plants find refuge in the island's wooded border and its coastal bar. The monks also grow lavender, olives and grapes here.



THE LÉRINS ISLANDS

This archipelago has formed the subject of a request for entry on the UNESCO World Heritage list. For Cannes Town Hall, this means placing value on this natural, cultural and spiritual heritage and definitively protecting this environmental jewel. The exceptional value of the place resides as much in these environmental characteristics as it does in the heritage and cultural ones, retracing 2,300 years of history.

Sainte-Marguerite Island

Sainte-Marguerite, the largest of the two islands, covers 210 hectares and measures 3.5 km in length, and 1 km in width. It is safeguarded thanks to the joint action of Cannes Town Hall, which owns most of the buildings, and the [French] National Forestry Office, which ensures the public forest (140 hectares) is protected. A listed biological reserve, this maritime forest populated with pines and eucalyptus is crossed by marked trails and paths laid out geometrically in the 19th century, which allow for discovering the richness and diversity of these landscapes along 12 km of coast.

Batéguier Lake, on the west of the island, is home to specific flora and is an important bird sanctuary.

Saint-Honorat Island

The smallest of the two islands, Saint-Honorat covers a flat area measuring 1.5 km long by 400 m wide. Except for the coastline, it belongs to Lérins Abbey, the monastic complex of which borders the island's south coast. Saint-Honorat has been shaped by agriculture, the current crop mainly being grapes. Its 8-hectare vineyard, put back into use in the 1990s, produces great wines of global renown. The coasts and woodlands are less wild than those on the large sister island, but the works in the fields, the tranquil atmosphere and the presence of remarkable architecture, fully integrated into the life of the monks, give it a unique charm.



THE HOTEL GARDENS



The inside is as important as the outside: the hotel owners of the Côte d'Azur have clearly understood this, and this is why the most beautiful establishments on the Côte d'Azur surrounded themselves by talented landscape gardeners to enhance their gardens. Structuring, integrating remarkable collections, exhibiting artists' sculptures, etc. These gardens have become places for their clients to recharge their batteries.

NICE

Hotel Windsor

When writing about Hotel Windsor and its artist's rooms, Philippe Couderc said "the garden could have been signed by Trénet". This hotel, located in the town centre, houses a luxurious garden with multiple species: hundred-year-old Ficus, privet, fig tree, medlar tree, palm trees, etc. and also a variety of giant bamboo with black trunks. In the spring, the wisteria, datura and bougainvillea add their colour to this haven of peace in the heart of Nice.

MOUGINS

Le Mas Candille (reopening summer 2023)

Olive trees and vines were already being cultivated in the ancient farm at Le Mas Candille in the 18th century. The hotel is located on a property that has been able to maintain the richness of its original flora, enriched over time, today offering over 200 varieties of Mediterranean plants. Le Mas Candille owes its name to the Provençal word "candelou", which means candle. It evokes the characteristic shape of the cypress trees that, in Provence, symbolize hospitality. This tree typical of Mediterranean gardens is one of 200 plant species that cover the 5-hectare grounds dotted with olive and carob trees, hibiscus, palm trees, papyrus, bamboo, bougainvillea, pine trees, etc.





ÈZE

La Chèvre d'Or

The gardens at the Château de la Chèvre d'Or are in restanques and literally circle the hilltop rock of Eze. While strolling along the pathways, you benefit from a panoramic view of over 180°. To the east, cooler and thus greener, the experience is more olfactory, thanks to the rose bushes, bougainvillea and a large wall of jasmine along the stone fortifications. On the west side, the vegetation is more arid and rocky, with cacti and olive trees (one of which is over 800 years old!)

Along the private paths and stone staircases joining the various sun terraces, the view is breath-taking, 429 m above the Mediterranean.

Le Cap Estel

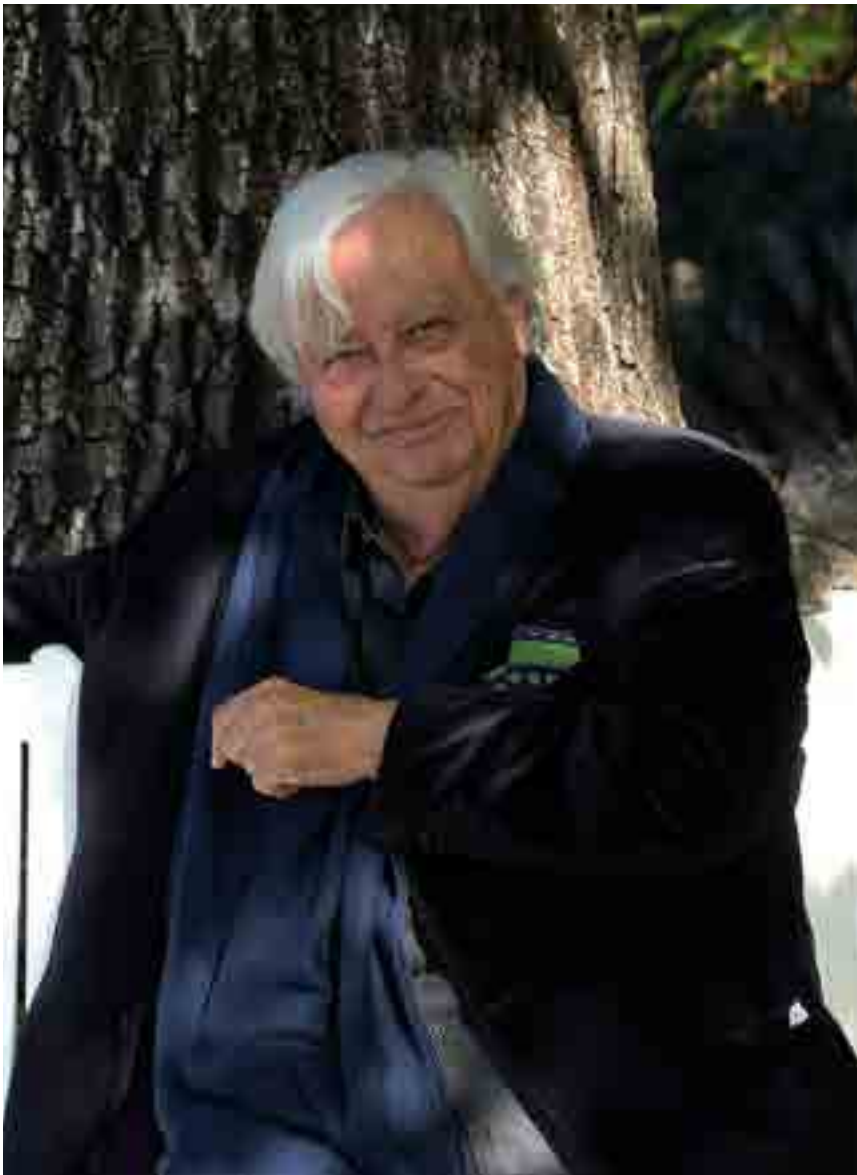
The idea is a walk around the ponds, fountains or waterfalls, in staged gardens with Mediterranean varieties, nestled in a 2-hectare estate.

The gardens, paths and fountains were restored or recreated by two landscape architects, Catherine Houssin and Alain Goudot. However, it is to the gardener Strocki, a master in the art of plantation, that we owe the acclimation on the property of a multitude of plants despite the disadvantages of the salty sea spray.

In particular, he planted two large *Ficus macrophylla*, for which each of the pots weighted 1,800 kg, and they remain the guardians of time a century later.



THE HOTEL GARDENS



THE JEAN MUS & CIE SIGNATURE

Born in Grasse, the perfume capital, and raised by a father who was the chief gardener at Villa Croisset, Jean Mus was marked by the creative genius of artists, architects, decorators and landscape gardeners, such as Ferdinand Bac, who designed gardens as if they were theatre sets.

Initiated into the art of gardens, he entered the *École Nationale Supérieure du Paysage* in Versailles and opened his first garden architecture company in 1967, amid the jasmine and roses of Grasse. His gardens bring nature to the level of the most beautiful architectural productions that have made the Côte d'Azur famous. An ambassador for "Côte d'Azur France", Jean Mus follows a sustainable development approach and his desire to always pass on knowledge leads him to sponsor and support several events, in particular the "Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur" (Côte d'Azur Gardens Festival).

In addition to the Monte Carlo Bay and the Domaine de Terre Blanche in the Var, Jean Mus has signed the gardens of some of the hotel jewels on the Côte d'Azur.





GRASSE

La Bastide Saint-Antoine

The Bastide Saint-Antoine is one of the estates in Grasse built in the medieval town in the 18th century while the perfume industry was growing rapidly. Over 6 hectares, the garden ensemble remains as it was at the end of the 19th century, when this property belonged to John Taylor, a famous gardener on the Côte d'Azur. The gardens have kept their characteristic layout from the old farms of Grasse, modelled by large paths that wind down amid the olive trees.

SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT



The Grand Hôtel du Cap

With seven hectares and almost 400 different species, this Mediterranean-inspired garden allows for discovering terraces, ponds with waterfalls, pottery and ornamental pools in the calm of the Saint-Jean Cap-Ferrat pine forest.

The Royal Riviera

Jean Mus has reworked both the design and the composition of the Royal Riviera gardens, taking inspiration from the famous saying by Oscar Wilde:

"I can resist anything except temptation." The very elegant deck, in the heart of the herb garden, is a haven of peace for taking tea, enjoying a cocktail or simply letting yourself relax, enveloped by the scents from the bougainvillea and the Mediterranean plants.

SAINT-PAUL DE VENCE

Domaine du Mas de Pierre

In strolling along the pathways bordered by olive trees, fruit trees and Provençal plants, you discover fountains in channels, works of art, the scent garden and the kitchen garden, from where the chef draws the essential products... An old greenhouse shelters hundreds of orchids and further on, an aviary enchants the garden.

VENCE

Château Saint-Martin & Spa

The Château Saint-Martin & Spa combines the soul of Provence with the prestige of the Côte d'Azur. Its 14 hectares of grounds boast 300 century-old olive trees and a poetic garden created by Jean Mus. Ronsard roses, olive trees and magnificent lavender bouquets offer a dance of aromatic colours.



THE CHATEAUX GARDENS



GOURDON

Château de Gourdon

Perched nearly 500 metres above the Gorges du Loup, opposite the Mediterranean, Gourdon offers a spectacular appearance, overlooked by a château, the foundations of which go back to the 12th century. The design for the château gardens was created by Le Nôtre, the gardener of Louis XIV. Box trees, century-old linden trees and Judas-trees decorate the main terrace, dotted with pools. The Italian-style terrace deploys the green tones of its lawn and box trees whereas the walls are covered by snapdragons and valerians. In the apothecary's garden, aromatic plants and medicinal herbs grow around the sundial. Juniper, rosemary, dog roses, rosemary (sic), sage, rockrose and lavender form a sun-filled Provencal garden.

MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE

Château de La Napoule (see Remarkable Gardens)



MOUANS-SARTOUX

Château Garden

The vast 3-hectare estate was entrusted to Gilles Clément (to whom we also owe the gardens at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris and the Serre de la Madone garden in Menton) and to the landscaper from Grasse, François Navarro. Espousing the location's topography, the grounds offer a permanent flowering cycle, to incite visitors wanting to walk, rest or meditate to come time and again.

A beautiful stage for the summer festivals, it is the starting point for visitors, whereas the "7 colours garden" has grassland rubbing shoulders with fig and olive trees.

A restanque with wisteria and flowering plum trees, to the north of the château, leads on to other spaces.



THE OTHER PARKS AND GARDENS TO DISCOVER



Some Côte d'Azur gardens remain uncategorizable, and yet it is impossible to resign yourself to not describing them. Municipal parks, rose gardens or themed gardens dot an already luxuriant Côte d'Azur. It would be a shame to skip these lush green settings!

ANTIBES JUAN-LES-PINS

Fort Carré Garden

Surrounding the fortress and bordering the sea, Fort Carré offers an exceptional walk amid Mediterranean varieties. Long closed to the public, the hill is now home to a true ecosystem, containing several animal and plant species. There are several "levels" of vegetation: the copse (trees and shrubs), the shrubbery or border (underbrush), the garrigue (grasses and orchids), and lastly the "rupicolous" plants that grow in the rocks. Among the species we can mention: olive trees, carob trees, mastic trees, a "holm oak grove", hackberries, strawberry trees, pittosporum and jasmine. And then there are the flowers: asphodel, knapweed, common mallow, bindweed and other campanula.



Parc Exflora

This park, opened in 1994, covers 5 hectares of land between Juan-les-Pins and Antibes. Created by the landscape architect Alain Goudot, the garden draws its organization from the evocation of Mediterranean gardens over the centuries. Alternating areas of Provencal, Florentine, Greek, Roman or Moorish inspiration, the seaside garden imagines plays on light that invite relaxation. You therefore move from the shade to the full sunshine within the olive, orange and palm groves before reaching the lake of white water lilies opening onto a labyrinth of yews, box trees and laurels.

CANNES

Croix-des-Gardes Park

The veritable green lung of Cannes, the Croix-des-Gardes natural forest park is classified as a sensitive natural area and boasts 20 km of trails. Its 6 viewpoints offer a 360° panorama.

THE OTHER PARKS AND GARDENS

CAP D'AIL

Jardin du Château des Terrasses

Surrounded by a vast estate planted with exotic varieties, palm trees and conifers, the villa was built around 1890 for the British banker, William Mendel. In 2001, the son of the last owner sold it to the town of Cap d'Ail, which undertook to restore it as it was. The "Château" des Terrasses is now a place for walking along the shaded pathways, planted with palm trees and decorated by elegant flowers. The entire property offers an exceptional view over the sea and the Bay of Cap d'Ail.



Douaniers Garden

Opened in 2014, this garden allows for discovering varieties and species that are rare, or even non-existent, in the region. Consequently, over fifty new varieties have been specially introduced into this garden that is both ecological and educational in nature: strawberry tree, tea tree, Arabica coffee, camphor tree, caper, lemon, bergamot, cedar, pink grapefruit, Tahitian lime, ginger, jacaranda, and tamarix.

Sacha Guitry Park

Named in honour of the dramatist who owned the villa "Les Funambules", this garden houses several tree species of Mediterranean flora, succulents and cacti.

Created in 1990, it overlooks the coastal path that leads to the Principality of Monaco.

GRASSE

Botanical Garden

As of 1861, the Botanical Garden became a place for a healthy walk for the people of Grasse and foreign winter visitors. You can still find traditional plantations here, several palm trees, and also the Ginkgo Biloba, Aleppo pine, Atlas cedar and even the camphor tree.

Princesse Pauline's Garden

A pastoral location, with narrow pathways shaded by local varieties, the Italian-inspired garden comprises several settings; holm oak copse, terraces of olive trees, flowerbeds, etc. The garden bears the name of Pauline Borghese, the younger sister of Napoleon I.



MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE

Emmanuel de Marande Park - Mimosa Arboretum

The park houses a mimosa arboretum and is considered as the Mimosa Museum. It actually hosts an open-air exhibition on the history of Mandelieu and the mimosa, entitled "The Mimosa Story".

The green lung of the Capitou district, this park extends over nearly 10,000 m². More than one hundred different varieties of mimosa have been planted along a promenade, dotted with signs detailing the main characteristics of each species.

In Mandelieu, you can also see Les Oliviers Park and L'Argentière Park.



MOUGINS

Fontmerle Lake

Fontmerle Lake, located on the edge of the Valmasque Departmental Park, is a remarkable site both for its fauna and its flora. In particular, it is home to the largest sacred lotus colony in Europe. These marvellous specimens bloom every year in July and August, unfurling large leaves that can measure up to 1 m in diameter, as well as tall, large pale pink flowers that can reach 30 cm in width. Another special feature not to miss: the 36 swamp cypress trees that surround the lake. What's more, depending on the period, up to 70 species of birds can be seen on Fontmerle lake!

SAINTE-AGNÈS

Medieval Garden

A pretty medieval garden hidden in the heart of the village of Sainte-Agnès, overlooking the bay of Menton and the Mediterranean from an altitude of 800 m. Here, visitors meander through the virtue, vice, scent and taste gardens, plus the princess garden and the dye plant garden that allowed for dyeing fabrics during this period. Heaven and Hell rub shoulders, as do the sight and simples gardens, or even the Fountain of life... Hidden in the small spaces surrounded by box trees or santolina, these gardens are comprised of kitchen garden, medicinal, aromatic or ornamental plants, such as could be found in medieval monasteries and gardens.



THE OTHER PARKS AND GARDENS



MENTON

The gardens are the signature of the town of Menton. In the 19th century, graced by the Menton microclimate, botanists, and in particular English ones, introduced tropical and sub-tropical species and created original plant harmonies that today make Menton an open-air greenhouse. Maria Serena, Val Rahmeh, Fontana Rosa, and Serre de la Madone are just some of the dream locations where the landscape is king, where dozens of species of palm tree dominate the olive trees that are several centuries old, where the plants from the southern hemisphere rub shoulders with those from the Mediterranean.

The Citronneraie (see The Remarkable Gardens)
Clos du Peyronnet (See The Private Gardens)
Fontana Rosa
Biovès Gardens
Domaine des Colombières (see The Private Gardens)
L'Esquinade Garden (see The Private Gardens)

Maria Serena Garden (see The Beautiful Mansion Gardens)
Serre de la Madone Garden (see The Remarkable Gardens)
Palais Carnolès Garden (see The Museum and Art Centre Gardens)
Val Rahmeh Botanical Garden (see The Remarkable Gardens)

Fontana Rosa

The villa and its gardens, which take their name from a local spring, were built in 1875 and purchased in 1922 by Vincente Blasco Ibanez, a Spanish film director and novelist.

Left in escheat after the death of its owner in 1928, the villa was offered to the town of Menton in 1970. Since 1990, the garden has been a listed Historic Monument. Above all, Vincente Blasco Ibanez wanted this space to be a site for his childhood memories.

The Arabic-Andalucian atmosphere, symbolized by the multicoloured mosaics from Valencia is a witness to this. The omnipresence of fountains, shaded arbours of Mediterranean varieties, Ficus, palm trees and majestic monkey puzzle trees create an ambience that is one of a kind.





Biovès Gardens

Located in the heart of the town, these gardens bear the name of Emile Biovès, mayor of Menton at the end of the 19th century. Laid out on the ground cover of the Careï [river], this 800 m walk shelters flowering lawns, exotic species, sculptures and fountains all year round. They wear a floral decoration for the Christmas festivities and citrus fruits during the Fête de Citron® [Lemon Festival]

In Menton, you can also see the Imperial, Riviera Palace and Winter Palace gardens.

"The "Menton Lemon" holds the *Indication Géographique Protégée* (IGP: Protected Geographical Indication) label. This acknowledgement hails the quality of the product, linked to its geographical origin. The "Menton Lemon" is grown in the heart of the Alpes-Maritimes Department, in the towns of Castellar, Gorbio, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, Saint-Agnès and Menton.

Boasting a calibre between 53 and 90 mm, the "Menton Lemon" is also characterized by the intense aroma of its peel, based on the scents of fresh citronella and its juice with sharp yet bitterless flavour. It is also recognized by its light yellow to greenish-yellow colour when it is "early produce", intense and bright light yellow at optimum maturity and vivid, almost fluorescent yellow at the height of winter. Picked by hand and in several cycles, the "Menton Lemon" is not waxed and undergoes no chemical treatment after harvest.

It is celebrated every year during the Fête du Citron® [Lemon Festival], which livens up the town in February, an event unique in the world!



THE OTHER PARKS AND GARDENS



MONACO

Exotic Garden Botanical Centre
Japanese Garden
Petite Afrique [Little Africa] Gardens

Saint-Martin Gardens
Fontvieille Park
Princesse Grace Rose Garden

Exotic Garden Botanical Centre

Located just opposite the Exotic Garden (which will reopen its doors in 2023 following security works), the Exotic Garden Botanical Centre contains important heritage and includes the largest collections of cacti and succulents in the world. These greenhouses meet two aims: conserve a collection of cacti and other plants and breed some of the plants, intended to take their spot in the Exotic Garden, or to be exhibited during flower shows. In total, over 10,000 plants were transferred into these greenhouses and 85% of them are protected.

Japanese Garden

An authentic work of art. This one-of-a-kind garden was designed in the strictest compliance with zen principles by landscape architect Yasuo Beppu, Grand Prize Winner of the Osaka Flower Expo in 1990. It harmoniously combines stone, water and plants around a three-hundred-year-old olive tree, which anchors this Asian garden into the Mediterranean basin. While the rocks are local, the wood that served to build the tea house and the pavilion were cut and trimmed in Japan before being assembled on site.



Petite Afrique [Little Africa] Gardens

In 1879, Marie Blanc tackled the creation of a one-of-a-kind garden. To do this, the wife of the builder of the Monte-Carlo Casino, François Blanc, appointed two landscape architects to design a Mediterranean garden. The "Petite Afrique" was born of this collaboration; located in the Carré d'Or, in front of the Casino, the green space has exuberant varieties with tropical plants adapted to the Mediterranean climate.



Saint-Martin Gardens

The first public gardens to be opened in the Principality, in 1816, these gardens house species typical of the wild Mediterranean flora, completed by exotic varieties. Here, under the Aleppo pines, you can also find classical works of art, a lake with tree ferns and beds of ericaceous plants (azalea, rhododendron, camelia, etc.). The gardens offer a splendid view over the Mediterranean Sea, or quite simply over Fontvieille Port and the famous Louis II Stadium.

Fontvieille Park

A lake bordered by palm and olive trees amidst Mediterranean plants, tropical flowers, stunning contemporary sculptures... This is Fontvieille Park. This haven of peace has 4 hectares of winding and shady paths, sheltered from the sea breeze by an elegant hedge, where everyone is invited for a calm stroll.

Here, you will come across stunning trees from across the globe, such as the Korean maple or the phlomis from Asia Minor, and also great classics from the Côte d'Azur: olive trees, pines and cypress.



Princesse Grace Rose Garden

Created in 1984 and renovated in 2014, this garden brings together nearly 10,000 rose bushes for the visitor to view over more than 5,000 m². Consequently, 315 varieties, representing 4,000 rose bushes, divided into 7 themes: the roses of the Princely Family of Monaco, perfume roses, Celebrity roses, collection roses, country rose bushes, country rambling roses, and the "Hall of Fame" roses, not forgetting the new additions that have won medals during the Monaco International Rose Competition.

The other gardens to see in Monaco: Princesse Antoinette Park; the Société des Bains de Mer Gardens; the Unesco garden, etc.

THE OTHER PARKS AND GARDENS

NICE

Over 300 hectares of parks and gardens offer the opportunity to introduce greenery into the town centre. The gentle climate has allowed the acclimation of several plant species from around the world. In the 19th century, the European aristocracy spent its winters in this town with its pleasant temperatures. Lovers of the exotic, they imported numerous plants and trees, creating stunning landscapes in line with their whims, enhanced by statues and rocks. Then, towards the end of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th, beautiful public gardens were laid out, which also house collections of rare species.

Botanical Garden (see The Remarkable Gardens)
Nice Observatory Garden
Villa Arson Gardens (see The Museum and Art Centre Gardens)
Cimiez Monastery Gardens (See The Monastic Gardens and Parks)
Chagall Museum Garden (see The Museum and Art Centre Gardens)

Palais Masséna Garden (see The Beautiful Mansion Gardens)
Chambrun Park
Colline du Château Park
Mont Boron Forest Park
Phoenix Park (see The Remarkable Gardens)
Valrose Park (closed to the public, with some exceptions)
Promenade du Paillon and Albert I Garden

Nice Observatory Garden

The Nice Astronomical Observatory, located on the summit of Mont Gros, the cupolas were designed by Charles Garnier, and Gustave Eiffel for the Grand Cupola, is installed on the site of a former exotic garden, on the Route de la Grande Corniche. This vast 40-hectare estate offers a spectacular view over the Côte d'Azur. It was the banker Bischoffsheim who had the Observatory built in this vast wooded estate, where the visitor can hide from the sun under the Aleppo pines and the Mediterranean varieties that populate this great space. Rockrose and other odiferous plants give this place an extremely Provençal feel, away from the hustle and bustle of the town. A unique endemic orchid is protected here.

Chambrun Park

At the end of the 19th century, Count Aldebert de Chambrun purchased the 11-hectare estate located in the hills of Nice. A château dating from the start of the 19th century reigns over this former market gardening property. With the architect Philippe Randon, the count took care to make this location a magnificent ornamental park dedicated to his love of music. Palm trees, cypress, cedars, maritime pines, a waterfall and ponds enhance the odeon. This very romantic little round temple, inspired by Greco-Roman antiquity, was thus built on a natural headland accessible by a flight of 72 steps.

Colline du Château Park

Ideally located beside the sea, between the port and the old town, the 19.3-hectare Colline du Château offers a wooded garden in which the plants are mostly from the Mediterranean. Its shaded pathways and multiple viewpoints allow for discovering exceptional panoramic views over the Bay of Angels, the town, the hills and the Alpine foothills. Its observation point, located 92 m high, and this green space in the heart of the town make it a true living and meeting space for the people of Nice. See the Cathedral excavations and the remarkable cemeteries.



Mont Boron Forest Park

Perched above the town, Mont Boron separates Nice from Villefranche-sur-Mer. The area doubtless constitutes the hunting ground of the region's first inhabitants, coming from the Terra-Amata cave 400,000 years ago. After having been razed in the Middle Ages in order to prevent the Saracens hiding there, Mont Boron was rewooded in the 1860s. The park now covers 57 hectares, with 11 km of walking trails laid out across it. Overlooking the bay, the walk is enjoyed in a typically Mediterranean environment. The park houses Mont Alban Fort and part of the 1st Pays des Alpes-Martimes GR (footpath), the Lou Camin Nissart, accompanied by commentaries on the flora.

Valrose Park

This is one of the most grandiose properties of the Belle Epoque. Today the main site of the University Nice Sophia Antipolis and the Faculty of Sciences, Valrose Park was created between 1867 and 1870, at the request of Baron Von Derwies, a Russian railway magnate. It took 800 workers under the orders of 4 architects to build the château, and all the talent of the Nice gardener Joseph Carlès to lay out the 10 hectares that still make up Valrose Park today. The wooded valley and its lake constitute an ecological entity allowing 35 bird species to be observed, including some twenty that nest in Valrose.

Promenade du Paillon

The Mediterranean is widely present in this garden with holm oaks, majestic stone pines and even Provence cypress. The central green belt is planted with olive trees, grape vines, carob, pomegranate and fig trees, and other plants from southern Europe. This promenade, designed by Michel Pena, is also an introduction to travel with a detour via Asia (camphors and its giant bamboo), Africa (Phoenix Reclinata and Erythrina), Oceania with the eucalyptus or even the Americas: South (coconut palms from Chile) and North (American walnuts and maples). A getaway to the 5 continents awaits you!



The other parks and gardens to see in Nice: The Department Natural Parks of Estienne d'Orves and Le Vinaigrier, Clua Park – Dr Jean Guillaud, Castel des Deux Rois Park, Vigier Park, Arboras Park, Villa (II) Paradisio Garden, etc.

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PRESS & INFLUENCER CONTACT

INTERNATIONAL – Florence LECOINTRE – f.lecoindre@cotedazurfrance.fr

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CÔTE D'AZUR FRANCE REGIONAL TOURISM COMMITTEE

455, Promenade des Anglais
Bâtiment Horizon - CS 53126
06 203 NICE Cedex 3
Tel : 33 (0)4 93 37 78 78

COMITÉ RÉGIONAL DU TOURISME
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