



French Riviera for Art Lovers 2018

■ April 29-May 11 • Group capped at 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all rooms with private bath
- Transportation in nine-passenger van • Chic **Cannes** and **Antibes**
- The stunning perched villages of the Côte d'Azur – **Eze**, **Gourdon**
- Perfume factory visit • Shopping opportunities • Château visits
- Principality of **Monaco** • Colorful outdoor markets • Fine wines
- Modern art – **Picasso**, **Chagall**, **Matisse**, **Renoir**, **Cocteau**
- Outstanding cuisine • Charming, walled **St. Paul de Vence**
- Swank **Villa Ephrussi-Rothschild**, with seaview gardens and manor home
- Museums known the world over – **Fondation Maeght**, **Nice Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art** • The atmospheric alleys of **Old Nice**

Tour cost – \$3,995* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550

Day 1 – Sunday, April 29

We meet in the lobby of the **Hotel Novotel** near the **Nice** airport and begin our Riviera adventure. Only a few minutes away is the former home of painter **Pierre-Auguste Renoir**, now an intimate museum featuring 14 of his works. From here we make the short drive to **Cannes**, famed for its yearly film festival, and check into our city-center hotel. In the afternoon, come along on a walking tour of the charming old city, followed by a **WELCOME COCKTAIL** and **DINNER** in town. **OVERNIGHT – CANNES**

Day 2 – Monday, April 30

This morning, after an orientation to the **French Riviera** (which locals call the *Côte d'Azur*), we depart by van for the hilltop village of **Vallauris**, with four outstanding museums housed in its renaissance-era château: **Picasso Museum**, **Museum of War and Peace**, the **Magnelli Museum** (abstract paintings) and the **Ceramics Museum**. After **LUNCH** in the nearby village of **Mougins**, we return to **Cannes** in time to visit its 19th century **Russian Orthodox Church**. **OVERNIGHT – CANNES**

Day 3 – Tuesday, May 1

We stay close to **Cannes** today, but the areas nearby are rich in sightseeing opportunities. We drive the curving coast road to swank **Pointe Bacon**, with villas scattered through the woods, and take in the view from the hilltop **Garoupe** lighthouse. Close by is pretty **Antibes**, with a vibrant old quarter and a château that houses a museum dedicated to **Pablo Picasso**. After

LUNCH and free time in **Antibes**, we pay a visit to the **Thuret Gardens**, where acres of exotic plants are to be found. **OVERNIGHT – CANNES**

Day 4 – Wednesday, May 2

Just uphill from the Riviera is the perfume town of **Grasse**, where we visit a museum that houses the collections of the **Fragonard** perfume family. Climbing out of the coastal zone, we next come to tiny **Gourdon**, a ravishing perched village high in the Maritime Alps. Later, after a stop in picturesque **Tourrettes-sur-Loup**, we come to the small town of **Vence** and check into our quaint hotel. **OVERNIGHT – VENCE**

Day 5 – Thursday, May 3

A world-renowned museum of modern art, the **Maeght**, lies just downhill from **Vence**. Here you will find works by many important 20th-century artists, including **Pierre Bonnard**, **Georges Braque**, **Alexander Calder**, **Marc Chagall**, **Alberto Giacometti**, **Fernand Léger** and **Joan Miró**. Following a visit, we make the short drive to the perched village of **St. Paul-de-Vence** and explore this utterly charming walled village. **LUNCH** today in **St. Paul**. **OVERNIGHT – VENCE**

Day 6 – Friday, May 4

In the morning we make the short drive to the **Chapelle du Rosaire**, designed and decorated by **Henri Matisse** in 1951. Its simple beauty will move you. There will also be time to explore **Vence's** weekly regional market, where you can shop for souvenirs or just people-watch. Walking the tiny streets of old **Vence**, a market town long

avored by artists and art galleries, is a delight. **OVERNIGHT – VENCE**

Day 7 – Saturday, May 5

It's time to leave hilltop Vence and travel to the sea at Menton, near the border with Italy. Along the way we stop at the magnificent **Trophée des Alpes**, a Roman monument built at the direction of **Augustus Caesar** after Roman troops conquered no fewer than 45 **Celtic** tribes around the year 7 BC., thus cementing Roman rule in Provence. Soon thereafter we come to the tiny, pedestrian-only village of **Peillon**, an artist colony well worth an hour's exploration. Finally, we arrive in **Menton**, whose mild climate makes it a center of citrus production in France. We discover old Menton on foot, and visit the museum dedicated to writer-filmmaker **Jean Cocteau**. **DINNER** and **OVERNIGHT – MENTON**

Day 8 – Sunday, May 6

Menton's mild climate creates ideal conditions for exotic plants. We visit the botanical gardens of **Jardin Val Rahmeh**, exploring its 2.5 acres of flowers and plants. Val Rahmeh was created by a British army general, **Sir Percy Radcliffe**, and took shape between 1922 and 1966. At mid-day we have a special treat – **LUNCH** at **Mirazur Restaurant**, proud holder of two **Michelin** stars. If there is time late in the day, come along as we hop over the border to visit **Ventimiglia**, Italy. **OVERNIGHT – MENTON**

Day 9 – Monday, May 7

Ste. Agnès is an amazing perched village high above Menton. We explore its twisting lanes lined with stone buildings, then move on to the **Villa Ephrussi-Rothschild**, a lovely, antique-filled manor home and garden dating from the early 20th century. Late in the day, enjoy free time back in **Menton** to explore its twisting, medieval streets of its old town, or come along on a visit to the town's amazing old cemetery, rising in tiers above the town. Here are buried **Russian** princes, the inventor of rugby football and the aunt and uncle of **Franklin D. Roosevelt**. **DINNER** and **OVERNIGHT – MENTON**

Day 10 – Tuesday, May 8

We leave **Menton** today and experience one of the high points of our tour – literally. The soaring village of **Eze** (fancy boutiques and breathtaking vistas) is perched 2,000 feet above the Riviera. Then, descending to sea level, we take in the old port and stairstep streets of **Villefranche-sur-Mer**. Later we come to the independent principality of **Monaco** (old town, cathedral, exterior of the

Prince's Palace, Monte Carlo Casino) for free time. At day's end we arrive in chic **Nice** and settle into our centrally located hotel. **OVERNIGHT – NICE**

Day 11 – Wednesday, May 9

There are loads of things to do in pretty **Nice**, many of them associated with art. Two major museums are on offer today – one dedicated to **Marc Chagall**, who created works in painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints; the other to **Henri Matisse**, known for his striking use of color and regarded one of the artists who helped define the visual arts in the early 20th century. There will be time between these two visits for a delicious **LUNCH**. **OVERNIGHT – NICE**

Day 12 – Thursday, May 10

On this, our final day of the tour, we enjoy a leisurely start before taking in the atmospheric streets of Old Nice and Nice's **Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art**. After that, the city is at your disposal: stroll along the **Promenade des Anglais**, overlooking Nice's pebbly beach, and window shop around toney **Place Masséna**. Ride the little tourist train for an overview of the city. **OVERNIGHT – NICE**

Getaway Day – Friday, May 11

After breakfast today we fly home from the **Nice-Côte d'Azur** airport.

Notes

PRICE – \$3,995* per person sharing a room. Single supplement of \$550.

MEALS – All tours include breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** in the itinerary.

OUR LODGINGS

Hotel Cavendish, Cannes
Auberge des Seigneurs, Vence
Hotel Chambord, Menton
Hôtel Vendôme, Nice

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to availability.

* **TOUR PRICE** – Price is based on a U.S. dollar/euro exchange rate that existed pre-tour and could change in the event of significant exchange rate fluctuations. Call us for details - (800) 676-1247. Price quoted is for land arrangements only and does not include airfare.