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PLACES

10 OF THE BEST HOTELS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE FOR EVERY TRAVEL NEED

Riviera local Rebecca McVeigh tours the best hotels in Provence and along the Côte d’Azur, finding restaurants on the rocks, fairy-tale villages and a spa sanctuary for all the family



BY REBECCA MCVEIGH | 25 JULY 2025

The South of France is impossible to resist, especially in high summer — so we recommend you give in to temptation. From secret hilltop hamlets and private peninsula hideaways to Riviera retreats with serious design credentials, we’ve found the places that bottle the region’s *je ne sais quoi* in hotel form.

Whether you’re in it for Michelin-starred menus, beachfront glamour or just a perfectly chilled *pastis*, these stays capture the [Côte d’Azur](#) and [Provence](#) at their most seductive. Read on to discover 10 of the best hotels in the South of France...

FOR AN ARTFUL STAY

Toile Blanche, Saint-Paul de Vence

One of the best boutique hotels in the South of France for those seeking serenity, Toile Blanche is an artistic retreat just outside the hilltop village of Saint-Paul de Vence. This family-run sanctuary — part art hotel, part bucolic hideaway — is a sensory feast come June, when the lavender blooms and jasmine perfumes the air. Your only problem here will be choosing which of the three idyllic pools to lounge by.

Disconnect, lock the phone away and embrace deep, restorative rest. Open year-round (and well after the summer crowds have dispersed), this is a place you'll return to — and dream of — long after check-out.

Best room for private-paradise seekers All 22 suites have been thoughtfully designed to feel like your own secluded haven, but for something extra special, opt for Suite du Bon-Vivant or Villa du Pénéquet (whose name rather charmingly nods to the Provençal for 'power nap'), each with a private pool set in a fragrant garden.

Design details The Leroy brothers, artists and hoteliers in equal measure, have created something special. Some of the buildings date back more than 250 years, now restored in contemporary style with neutral hues, soft finishes and natural textures. Sculptures are scattered throughout the grounds; the gallery space, Toile Blanche Contemporary, showcases the brothers' work and that of their creative community.

Something to eat Toile Blanche's signature restaurant celebrates seasonal 'bistronomic' cuisine. Try the classic bouillabaisse or *petits farcis Niçois* (stuffed vegetables), crafted with ingredients from the on-site gardens or sourced from trusted local producers — best enjoyed *en terrasse*. At lunchtime, La Guinguette invites you to enjoy its relaxed outdoor setting with tapas-style sharing plates.

See the sights Beyond the vines and olive trees, you're moments from Saint-Paul de Vence, the historic mediaeval hilltop village and sanctuary for artists including Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall (who chose it as his final resting place). Spend a lazy afternoon discovering its art galleries, playing pétanque or venturing further afield into the Côte d'Azur for more Mediterranean magic.