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# NEWS 2024

## WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

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# 2024: WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

With a number of new and exciting openings, exhibitions, sustainable tourism initiatives, major anniversaries (including Impressionism and D-Day) and the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games, it is without doubt that 2024 is the year to travel to France! Read on to find out more about the exciting new things coming to France next year.

France continues to experience a surge in tourism levels since Covid-19. Cumulative international tourism receipts to the end of August 2023 stood at €44.3 billion, up 13% on 2019 (*source: Banque de France*). The UK remains in the top three outbound markets for France. Forecasts for international air arrivals in the final quarter of 2023 are positive, indicating an increase in European customers, particularly Spanish (+20%), British (+18%) and Austrian (+20%).

The 2023 Rugby World Cup (8 September – 28 October) saw international arrivals of nationalities with participating teams rise sharply on 2019 (+19% on 2022). The tournament was responsible for 600,000 foreign visitors to France, representing 45% of ticket buyers from 115 countries, including around 45% English and around 8% Irish visitors. With the Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games taking place in Paris and other French destinations in 2024, it is set to be a promising year for France, with a surge in visitor numbers expected versus 2019.

All information contained here is correct at the time of publication, but we do recommend that you check with the individual destinations or venues for the latest updates going forward, as dates may remain subject to change and events may still need to be cancelled or postponed.



# ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

## 2023

- MAY 2023 - NEW IMMERSIVE VISITOR TOUR OF MAISON HENNESSY, Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- AUTUMN 2023 - PASSERELLE DE LA VIARHONA, Avignon, Région Sud
- AUTUMN 2023 - OPENING OF MONDRIAN HOTEL, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- AUTUMN 2023 - OPENING OF LA NAUVE, A NEW RELAIS & CHATEAUX HOTEL, Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- AUTUMN 2023 - OPENINGS OF HOTEL DOMAINE DE CHALAMON & HOTEL LA BASTIDE DU MOURRE, Région Sud
- 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 - OPENING OF HOTEL TRIBE LYON CROIX-ROUSSE, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 - RELEASE OF FILM 'THE INVENTOR', Centre-Val de Loire
- 20 SEPTEMBER 2023-7 APRIL 2024 - SPORT & FASHION EXHIBITION AT MUSÉE DES ARTS DECORATIFS, Paris Île-de-France
- 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 - OPENING OF MAISON GAINSBORG, Paris Île-de-France
- 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 - LAUNCH OF PRIX DE L'ENTENTE LITTÉRAIRE, AN ANNUAL UK-FRANCE BOOK PRIZE, across France
- SEPTEMBER 2023 - TWO NEW UNESCO SITES: MAISON CARRÉE & MONT PELÉE, Nîmes, Occitanie & Martinique
- SEPTEMBER 2023 - OPENING OF NEW FOODIE SPOT LES HALLES DE LA CARTOUCHERIE, Toulouse, Occitanie
- 11 OCTOBER 2023-23 FEBRUARY 2024 - TOUTANKHAMON EXHIBITION AT THE PARC DES EXPOSITIONS, Strasbourg, Grand-Est
- 19 OCTOBER 2023-21 JANUARY 2024 - 'LE TRESOR DE NOTRE-DAME' EXHIBITION AT THE LOUVRE, Paris Île-de-France
- 24 OCTOBER 2023-31 DECEMBER 2024 - SPOT24: A NEW URBAN SPORT AND CULTURE HUB, Paris Île-de-France
- OCTOBER 2023 - OPENING OF LA CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE, Villers-Cotterêts, Hauts-de-France
- OCTOBER 2023 - THE FIRST EVER FRENCH FRIES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Arras, Hauts-de-France
- OCTOBER 2023 - OPENING OF RESTAURANT LE DEAUVILLE, Deauville, Normandy
- OCTOBER 2023 - RELEASE OF FRANCE MONTAGNES' NEW RAIL SKI MAP, French Mountains
- OCTOBER 2023 - BORDEAUX AS 9TH DESTINATION WORLDWIDE IN GDS INDEX, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 22 NOVEMBER 2023 - RELEASE OF RIDLEY SCOTT FILM 'NAPOLEON', Corsica & Paris Île-de-France
- 1 DECEMBER 2023 - OPENING OF PULLMAN HOTEL LYON, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 17 DECEMBER 2023 - NEW TOURIST RESIDENCE AT THE COL DE LA CROIS FRY, Manigod, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- LATE 2023 - REOPENING OF THE SAINT HUBERT CHAPEL AT THE ROYAL CHÂTEAU OF AMBOISE, Centre-Val de Loire
- 2023 - AIR FRANCE CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY
- 2023 - OPENING OF NEW RESTAURANT COCO LYON, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2023 - LAUNCH OF THE OCCITANIE RAIL TOUR, Occitanie
- 2023 - LAUNCH OF THE SUD AZUR EXPLORE PASS, Région Sud
- 2023/2024 - JAPAN'S MASTER OF ANIMATION, HAYAO MIYAZAKI, IN AUBUSSON TAPESTRIES, Limoges, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2023/2024 - NEW EXHIBITS AT BORDEAUX'S BASSINS DES LUMIÈRES, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2023/2024 - QUAD CITY TOUR LYON: TOURS OF LYON BY ELECTRIC QUAD BIKE, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2023/2024 - NEW ATTRACTIONS AT THE GROTTA DE LA PIERRE DE VOLVIC, Volvic, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



# ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

## 2024

- 13-25 JANUARY 2024 - 20TH GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF DOG SLED COMPETITION, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 25-28 JANUARY 2024 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMICS FESTIVAL, Angoulême, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 27-28 JANUARY 2024 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT-VINCENT TOURNANTE, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
- 2-4 FEBRUARY 2024 - PARIS GRAND SLAM JUDO 2024, Paris Île-de-France
- 16 FEBRUARY 2024 - UK RELEASE OF FILM 'THE TASTE OF THINGS', Loire Valley **RECENTLY ADDED**
- 8 MARCH 2024 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INAUGURATION OF CHARLES-DE-GAULLE AIRPORT, Paris Île-de-France
- 26 MARCH-1 APRIL 2024 - ESCALE À SÈTE (FESTIVAL OF MARITIME TRADITIONS), Sète, Occitanie
- 31 MARCH 2024 - 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE EIFFEL TOWER, Paris Île-de-France
- EARLY 2024 - OPENING OF HOTEL H4 PARIS PLEYEL, Paris Île-de-France
- 5-7 APRIL 2024 - 20TH INTERNATIONAL QUAI DU POLAR CRIME FICTION FESTIVAL, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes **RECENTLY ADDED**
- 10 APRIL 2024 - THE RENOVATED THERMES DE FUMADES THERMAL SPA HOTEL, Alès, Occitanie
- APRIL 2024 - RYANAIR LAUNCHING NEW EDINBURGH-BERGERAC ROUTE, Bergerac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine **RECENTLY ADDED**
- APRIL 2024 - NORMANDY-MAINE REGIONAL PARK BECOMES UNESCO WORLD GEOPARK, Normandy & Pays de la Loire
- APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2024 - 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF IMPRESSIONISM, Paris Île-de-France & Normandy
- SPRING 2024 - OSCAR, SECOND RESTAURANT BY *TOP CHEF'S* DAVID GALLIENNE OPENING AT GIVERNY'S IMPRESSIONISM MUSEUM, Giverny, Normandy **RECENTLY ADDED**
- SPRING 2024 - OPENING OF HOTEL AREV, St Tropez, Région Sud
- SPRING 2024 - OPENING OF LA RÉGALANTE CYCLE ROUTE, Pays de la Loire, Brittany & Normandy
- SPRING/SUMMER 2024 - OPENING OF LE COUVENT HOTEL, Nice, Région Sud
- MAY-AUGUST 2024 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY, Normandy
- 1 JUNE 2024 - 1 JULY 2024 - CHOPIN FESTIVAL, Paris Île-de-France
- 10 JUNE 2024 - A CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN FOR ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 14-16 JUNE 2024 - 20TH LILLE PIANO FESTIVAL, Lille, Hauts-de-France
- 16-18 JUNE 2024 - 4TH 'NATURE IS BIKE': GRAVEL AND ADVENTURE CYCLING FESTIVAL, Angers, Pays de la Loire
- 27-30 JUNE 2024 - BORDEAUX WINE FESTIVAL, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- JUNE 2024 - OPENING OF CHÂTEAU DU PARC PÉZENAS, Pézenas, Occitanie
- JUNE 2024 - REOPENING OF HAUTS-DE-FRANCE'S MATISSE MUSEUM, Le Cateau-Cambresis, Hauts-de-France **RECENTLY ADDED**
- JUNE/JULY 2024 - REOPENING OF MAISON VERMOREL, Beaujolais, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 4 JULY 2024 - 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF MARIE CURIE, Paris Île-de-France
- 21 JULY 2024 - A NEW FINISH FOR THE TOUR DE FRANCE 2024, Nice, Région Sud
- 26 JULY 2024 - 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAEGHT FOUNDATION, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Région Sud
- AUGUST 2024 - LES NUIITS BULLEUSES, Massingy, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
- SUMMER 2024 - OPENING OF MUSÉE FERMAT IN BEAUMONT-DE-LOMAGNE, Tarn-et-Garonne, Occitanie
- SUMMER 2024 - REOPENING OF ÎLE SAINT-HONORAT'S FORTIFIED TOWER-MONASTERY, Cannes, Région Sud
- SUMMER 2024 - PARIS 2024 SUMMER OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES, Paris Île-de-France & Marseille, Région Sud
- SUMMER 2024 - LAUNCH OF 49-EURO SUMMER RAIL PASS, across France
- SUMMER 2024 - D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN VAR, Région Sud
- 18-24 SEPTEMBER 2024 - IRONMAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, Nice, Région Sud
- SEPTEMBER 2024 - 50TH DEAUVILLE AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL, Deauville, Normandy
- 3 NOVEMBER 2024 - 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF HENRI MATISSE & REOPENING OF MUSÉE MATISSE, Nice, Région Sud & Cateau-Cambresis, Hauts-de-France
- 10 NOVEMBER 2024 - 10TH VENDÉE GLOBE SOLO SAILING RACE, Les Sables-d'Olonne, Pays de la Loire
- 8 DECEMBER 2024 - REOPENING OF NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL TOWERS, Paris Île-de-France
- SECOND SEMESTER 2024 - OPENING OF FRANCE'S FIRST LOCKE APARTHOTEL BY EDEN, Paris Île-de-France **RECENTLY ADDED**
- 2024 - LAUNCH OF DRAKKAR VIKING SHIP, Vendée, Pays de la Loire
- 2024 - OPENING OF CIRCUS ANIMATION STUDIO, Avignon, Région Sud
- 2024 - STRASBOURG AS UNESCO WORLD BOOK CAPITAL FOR 2024, Strasbourg, Grand-Est
- 2024 - 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAISON RÉMY MARTIN, Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2024 - HOTEL BARRIERE LE WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY, Le Touquet, Hauts-de-France **RECENTLY ADDED**



# ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

- 2024 - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLAU VIADUCT, Millau, Occitanie
- 2024 - NEWLY RENOVATED RESTAURANT PAUL BOCUSE CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY, Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2024 - 35TH BIRTHDAY OF PARC ASTERIX AND 65TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARACTER ASTERIX, Plailly, Hauts-de-France
- 2024 - 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSÉE SOULAGES, Rodez, Occitanie
- 2024 - 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEUDIS DE NÎMES, Nîmes, Occitanie
- 2024 - 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2024 - CAUTERETS SKI RESORT LAUNCHES ECO ACCOMMODATION LABEL, Cauterets, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2024 - 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ART AT THE SUMMIT EXHIBITION, Courchevel, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2024 - HOT AIR BALLOON EUROPEAN CUP, Sud Charentes, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2024 - OPENING OF BARON AMEDÉE ARMAND HOTEL & SPA, Marseille, Région Sud
- 2024 - OPENING OF FIVE-STAR MAISON ALBAR HOTEL 'LE VICTORIA', Nice, Région Sud
- 2024 - OPENING OF HOTEL CURIO BY HILTON, Dijon, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
- 2024 - SINGLE TICKETS FOR RAIL AND SEA JOURNEYS BETWEEN IRELAND AND FRANCE, across France
- 2024/2025 - LAUNCH OF MIDNIGHT TRAINS' SLEEPER TRAINS, Paris Île-de-France

RECENTLY  
ADDEDRECENTLY  
ADDED

## 2025

- EARLY 2025 - REOPENING OF MUSÉE DES BEAUX ARTS DE TOULOUSE, Toulouse, Occitanie
- JUNE 2025 - THIRD UN OCEANS CONFERENCE, Nice, Région Sud
- 2025 - REOPENING OF BASTIDE DU JAS DE BOUFFAN, CÉZANNE'S FAMILY HOME, Aix-en-Provence, Région Sud
- 2025 - LAUNCH OF BRITANNY FERRIES' TWO NEW LNG-ELECTRIC HYBRID VESSELS, UK-France
- 2025 - LAUNCH OF TGV M, across France
- 2025 - REOPENING OF THE ACCOR ORIENT EXPRESS, Paris Île-de-France
- 2025 - LAUNCH OF PUY DU FOU'S GRAND TOUR TRAIN, France

RECENTLY  
ADDED

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# CULTURE & HERITAGE

## THE PRIX DE L'ENTENTE LITTÉRAIRE A NEW ANNUAL BOOK PRIZE

Across France

21 September 2023

Queen Camilla and the French President's wife Brigitte Macron have launched a [UK-France literary prize](#) for young adult fiction, which will allow "UK and French citizens to share joint literary experiences, reinforcing cultural ties while celebrating the joys of reading", Buckingham Palace said in a statement. The prize is inspired by the Entente Cordiale, the 1904 agreement between the UK and French governments that significantly improved bilateral relations. The launch ceremony was held at the French National Library (BnF) in central Paris, which reopened in 2022 after 12 years of renovations.

## TWO NEW UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Maison Carrée (Nîmes)

and Martinique's Pitons and Mount Pelée

19 September 2023

Two French sites have been newly added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. At a World Heritage Committee meeting in September, it was decided unanimously that the Maison Carrée in Nîmes, a Roman temple built in the 1st century AD, should become the 51st French site entered on the prestigious list. The site reopened in 2022 following renovation. The volcanic, forested area of Mount Pelée and the Pitons du Carbet in northern Martinique has also been added to the list, bringing the total number of UNESCO sites in France to 52. and reveal a backstage peek inside a glassmaker's workshop.

[Link](#)

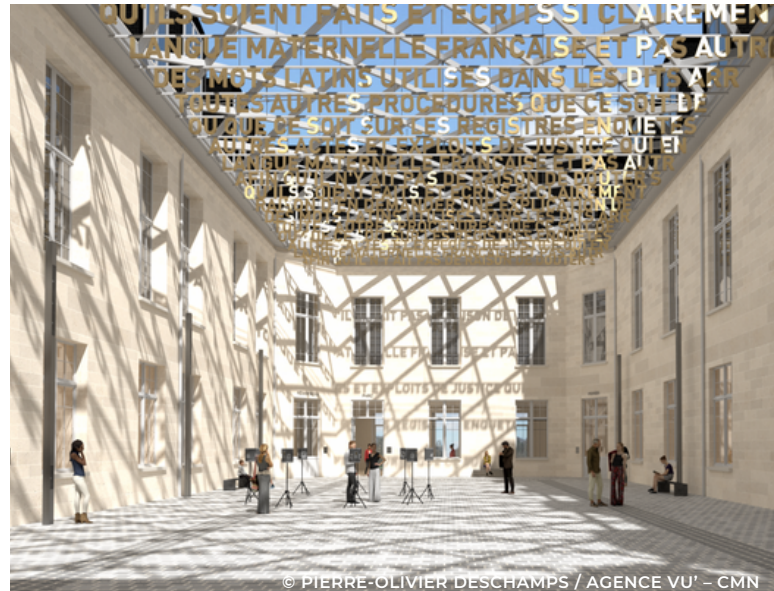
## OPENING OF MAISON GAINSBOURG

Paris Île-de-France

20 September 2023

Serge Gainsbourg's legendary house at 5 bis rue de Verneuil is accompanied across the street by a museum, a book and gift shop, and Le Gainsbarre, a café and piano-bar. Together they form Maison Gainsbourg, the first cultural institution dedicated to the French singer-songwriter. Tours of the house are narrated by Charlotte Gainsbourg, Serge's daughter. The museum displays almost 450 original objects: manuscripts, artworks, jewellery and clothes, plus a selection of rare and sometimes unpublished television, film, radio and photographic archives.

[Link](#)



© PIERRE-OLIVIER DESCHAMPS / AGENCE VU' - CMN

## OPENING OF CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Villers-Cotterêts, Hauts-de-France

19 October 2023

The much-anticipated [Cité Internationale de la Langue Française](#) is a cultural leisure site dedicated entirely to the French language and the French-speaking world. The site is a multidisciplinary institute and has been made accessible to all, bringing together varied and complementary activities including a visitor route, temporary exhibitions, one-off performances and residency workshops for artists. It is housed within the Château de Villers-Cotterêts, a member of France's Centre des Monuments Nationaux.



MAISON GAINSBOURG © ALEXIS RAIMBAULT



# CULTURE & HERITAGE

**REOPENING OF THE SAINT HUBERT CHAPEL AT THE ROYAL CHÂTEAU OF AMBOISE**  
Amboise, Centre-Val de Loire  
End 2023

After just over two and a half years of work involving craftsmen from a dozen different trades, the Saint Hubert Chapel will be fully reopened to visitors to the Royal Château of Amboise at the end of 2023. This architectural jewel, built by the kings of France during the Renaissance and which houses the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci, has undergone a major restoration: the sculpted stone decorations, lead ornaments, roof, frame and stained glass windows have all been given a new lease of life.



SAINT HUBERT CHAPEL © B-MOR CHATEAU-ROYAL-DAMBOISE

**ESCALE À SÈTE: FESTIVAL OF MARITIME TRADITIONS**  
Sète, Occitanie  
26 March – 1 April 2024

Comprising music and sea shanties, costumed parades and tours of traditional boats, this biennial festival is the largest celebration of maritime traditions in the south of France and attracts 250,000 visitors to Sète every two years. Over 100 boats are welcomed to the town's harbour for the celebration, from France and across the world. Sète is a Mediterranean seaport that was founded under Louis XIV, sitting today at the crossroads of the Canal du Midi, Canal du Rhône and Gulf of Lion.

[Link](#)

**20TH INTERNATIONAL QUAIS DU POLAR  
CRIME FICTION FESTIVAL**  
Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
5-7 April 2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

In 2024, Quais du Polar will be celebrating its 20th birthday under the theme of '20 Years of noir'. This anniversary edition will reflect on two decades of a genre that has continuously evolved and reinvented itself, welcoming hundreds of authors from diverse backgrounds. It's been two decades of engaging, inspiring and occasionally moving encounters, with thousands of passionate and enthusiastic festival goers. The festival will commemorate 20 years of valuable book recommendations from librarians, film noir, games, investigations, discoveries, professional exchanges, and mediation activities centred around books.



MATISSE MUSEUM © DÉPARTEMENT DU NORD - PHILIPPE HOUZÉ

**REOPENING OF HAUTS-DE-FRANCE'S  
MATISSE MUSEUM**  
Le Cateau-Cambresis, Hauts-de-France  
June 2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

This museum, where the artist was born in 1862, will reopen this year following a multi-million-euro investment. The refurbishment will see additional gallery space added as well as a new reception, shop and workshop areas. Home to the third-largest collection of Matisse artworks in France and just two hours from Calais, not far from Cambrai, it is a museum that has evolved several times since first opening in November 1952. It now contains almost 400 works by Matisse, Herbin and Claisse as well as artists who worked alongside Matisse. Until the current renovation it wasn't possible to display all these artworks, but the additional space will enable this, as well as further expansion of the collection. [Link](#)

**REOPENING OF MAISON VERMOREL**  
Beaujolais, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
June/July 2024

The Maison Vermorel, one of Villefranche-sur-Saône's outstanding heritage buildings, is set to open its doors in summer 2024 as a newly designed, communal place of joie de vivre. The renovation is creating three areas, the star being a culinary centre with bistronomic restaurant named Les Tables Vermorel. The other two areas are economic - offices and meeting rooms - and cultural, enabling education projects, artistic programmes, exhibitions and museographic spaces on the history of the site, the building and the Vermorel family. [Link](#) (French only)



QUAIS DU POLAR FESTIVAL © SANDRINE THESILLAT



# CULTURE & HERITAGE

## REOPENING OF ÎLE SAINT-HONORAT'S FORTIFIED TOWER-MONASTERY

Cannes, Région Sud  
Summer 2024

Off the coast of Cannes, the [island of Saint-Honorat](#) (one of the two Lérins islands, alongside Ile Sainte-Marguérite) is home to an 11th-century abbey, whose fortified tower-monastery is nearing the end of its restoration. This listed historic monument has undergone emergency and safety work on its roof and ceilings, restoration of the cloister section and restoration of the southern part and the interiors, to improve the visitor experience.

## OPENING OF MUSEUM FERMAT IN BEAUMONT-DE-LOMAGNE

Tarn-et-Garonne, Occitanie  
Summer 2024

This eagerly-awaited museum will combine history, science and fun, paying tribute to Pierre de Fermat, famous mathematician and genius of the 17th century. The building is also Fermat's birthplace and will offer visitors a new must-see attraction in Tarn-et-Garonne, showcasing his history and famous theorem. The new museum will blend the traditional and the cutting-edge, looking at mathematics through Fermat's discoveries and also featuring exhibitions linked to current issues such as artificial intelligence.

[Link](#)

## REOPENING OF NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL TOWERS

Paris Île-de-France  
8 December 2024

Following the fire that partially destroyed its upper section, the reopening of the towers and treasury of [Paris' Notre-Dame Cathedral](#) has been announced for 8 December 2024, with a Te Deum service planned for 15 April, exactly five years after the fire. The restoration has been entrusted to architect Philippe Villeneuve, with the general principle to rebuild the cathedral identically, including the spire. Final delivery of the redevelopment of the forecourt and the surroundings of Notre-Dame is scheduled for 2027.

## STRASBOURG: WORLD BOOK CAPITAL 2024

Strasbourg, Grand-Est  
2024

In July 2022, Strasbourg became the first French city to be awarded the World Book Capital title for 2024. The 'Lire Notre Monde' project will focus on five key areas of development: city of crossroads and debate; city of creativity and poetry; city of refuge; city of ecology and city of child-friendliness. From November 2022 until 2025, a range of events are taking place to explore and showcase Strasbourg's links with writers, literature and printing from a variety of angles.

[Link](#)



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## FIVE AUBUSSON TAPESTRIES DEPICTING IMAGINARY WORLDS OF JAPANESE ANIMATOR HAYAO MIYAZAKI

Aubusson, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
Completion 2024

The Cité Internationale de la Tapisserie signed an agreement with Studio Ghibli Inc. to produce a series of five monumental Aubusson tapestries based on major films by master of Japanese animation, Hayao Miyazaki. Four tapestries have so far been created, from the films *Princess Mononoké*, *The Voyage of Chihiro* and *The Moving Castle*. The entire hanging will be completed by the end of 2024. In order for a tapestry to be considered an Aubusson, it must be woven in the Creuse area of France.

[Link](#)







# ANNIVERSARIES

**20TH GRANDE ODYSSEE ANNIVERSARY VVF**  
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
13-25 January 2024

This annual dog sled race is the most demanding stage race in an Alpine setting, each year bringing together over 65 mushers and their 600 dogs from all over Europe in the stunning landscapes of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. Beginning in Megève on 13 January, the dogs and mushers will cover an average of 17km per day before finishing on 25 January in Villard-de-Lans. Around 20 Alpine resorts are celebrating, with a range of activities on offer for the 50,000 expected spectators.

[Link](#)

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANGOULÊME INTERNATIONAL COMICS FESTIVAL**  
Angoulême, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
25-28 January 2024

Founded by French writers and editors Francis Groux, Jean Mardikian and Claude Moliterni to highlight the diversity of comic strip art and manga artists, the [Festival de la Bande Dessinée d'Angoulême](#) has now been taking place for 50 years. The four-day event attracts up to 7,000 professionals and showcases comics artist creations, for which prestigious industry prizes are awarded. The festival is the second largest in Europe and the third worldwide, attracting over 200,000 visitors.



**135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE EIFFEL TOWER**  
Paris Île-de-France  
31 March 2024

Originally conceived and built for the 1889 World Fair, the Eiffel Tower was finished in only two years and two months on 31 March 1889. The date coincided with the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. The Eiffel Tower was not meant to be permanent and at the time was criticised; however, the 300-metre-tall steel tower conceived by engineer and entrepreneur Gustave Eiffel quickly became one of the French capital's major monuments and is until today the most visited and recognisable monument of Paris

[Link](#)

**90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF MARIE CURIE**  
Paris Île-de-France  
4 July 2024

The first woman to win a Nobel Prize, Marie Curie was a Polish and French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium and for her huge contribution to finding treatments for cancer. In 1906, she became the first female professor at the University of Paris. Until 2014, Marie Curie was the first woman to be enshrined in the Panthéon in Paris on her own merits. Musée Curie is a dedicated museum to Marie Curie where visitors can follow in the footsteps of this fascinating lady.

[Link](#)



**60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAEGHT FOUNDATION**  
Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Région Sud  
26 July 2024

The [Maeght Foundation](#) on the Côte d'Azur was opened in 1964 by celebrated writer and Minister for Culture, André Malraux. At the time, it was France's very first private art institution, modelled on American institutions such as the Guggenheim Foundation and the Barnes and Phillips Collections. To coincide with the 60th anniversary, a significant expansion to its exhibition spaces is being built and a major exhibition - *Amitiés, Bonnard-Matisse pour les 60 ans de la Fondation Maeght* - will be held from 29 June 2024.

**50TH DEAUVILLE AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL**  
Deauville, Normandy  
September 2024

Arguably the biggest French film festival after Cannes, the Deauville American Film Festival takes place every year in the glamorous seaside resort of Deauville. The festival premieres over 100 films every year, from burgeoning independent producers to acclaimed Hollywood directors. Deauville will host its 50th festival in September 2024 and is the only festival in the world to offer film screenings 24 hours a day over ten days. In addition, Deauville's famous boardwalk, Les Planches, is 100 years old this year (2023).

[Link](#)



# ANNIVERSARIES

**300TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAISON RÉMY MARTIN**  
Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
2024

In 2024, the [Rémy Martin](#) cognac house will be marking 300 years of exceptional cognac-making. Led by visionaries since 1724, the Maison will connect past, present and future with a year of special events, activities and products around the theme 'We Dream Forward'. For three centuries Rémy Martin has combined craft and innovation, passing it forward to build sustainable exception for the future. A range of limited-edition bottles will be available to mark the anniversary.

**900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE**  
Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
2024

First Queen of France and then Queen of England, Eleanor of Aquitaine was born around 1124. The region of Nouvelle-Aquitaine is continuing the celebrations that it started in 2022 for her 900th anniversary. This year, workshops have been offered to volunteers by local artist Marie Sirgue and embroiderer Margot Nirod, to create an enormous embroidered representation of Eleanor's effigy housed in the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud in the Loire Valley. Entitled 'La Dame', the creation is expected to be put on display in Poitiers in January 2024.

[Link](#)

**20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLAU VIADUCT**  
Millau, Occitanie  
2024

At 343 metres high and 2,460 metres long, the [Millau Viaduct](#) is a magnificent feat of engineering and holds the world record for the tallest bridge. Conceived by French engineer Michel Virlogeux and designed by English architect Lord Norman Foster. In this anniversary year, take the opportunity to explore it in a number of ways: on foot on a 40-minute guided tour to learn the history of its construction; in a canoe or rowing boat to appreciate the majesty of the structure from below; or from above in a paraglider or hanglider.



**35TH BIRTHDAY OF PARC ASTÉRIX AND 65TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARACTER ASTÉRIX**  
Plailly, Hauts-de-France  
2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

In 2024, Astérix, the Gauls' most famous character, will be celebrating a double anniversary: his 65th birthday and the 35th anniversary of the park dedicated to him in Plailly, in the Oise department. The year will be punctuated by numerous events and the arrival of new attractions at Parc Astérix, which attracted in excess of 2.8 million visitors in 2023. This anniversary year should enable it to set a new record, with an extended calendar to include all Wednesdays and weekends in September.

[Link](#)

**10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSÉE SOULAGES**  
Rodez, Occitanie  
2024

The French artist to whom this museum is dedicated, Pierre Soulages, died in 2022 at the age of 102 - making this year an especially poignant time to visit, alongside the museum's 10th anniversary. Soulages was born in Rodez in 1919, he is known for his exploration of the medium of paint itself and for the extraordinary textures on his canvases. His creation of the stained glass windows in Conques forms the core of this museum, which also features a temporary exhibition gallery - "Les Derniers Soulages" runs until 7 January 2024 - and an ingenious gourmet bistro designed to correspond with Soulages' work.

[Link](#)

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF HENRI MATISSE**  
Nice, Région Sud  
2024

Henri Matisse was not only an illustrious painter but also a draughtsman, sculptor and printer. His artworks overflow with intense colourism and have strongly marked the Post-Impressionism, Modernism and Fauvism movements. Some of his most iconic works are *Woman with a Hat* (1905), *The Joy of Life* (1906), *Nu Bleu* (1907), *La Danse* (1909), *L'Atelier Rouge* (1911) and *The Snail* (1953). Admire his art at the Matisse Museum in Nice - alongside a visit to the Chapelle Matisse in nearby Vence.





# 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF IMPRESSIONISM



VAUCOTTES © MARIE-ANAÏS THIERRY

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF IMPRESSIONISM  
Paris Île-de-France and Normandy  
April – September 2024

In April 1874, a group of around 30 French artists opened their own exhibition having been refused to exhibit at the Paris Salon. Together the group showcased over 150 paintings, with one by Monet - *Impression, Sunrise* - giving its name to a new artistic movement. Fast forward 150 years, and Normandy and Ile-de-France will be the places to be for art and culture lovers in 2024, with a series of special Impressionist exhibitions. A core part of the anniversary celebrations will be Normandy's annual Impressionist Festival (22 March–22 September 2024). Highlights in Paris and Ile-de-France include exhibitions on Vincent van Gogh (until 4 February 2024), Paris 1874+ (26 March-14 July 2024) and Gustave Caillebotte (autumn 2024) at the Musée d'Orsay; Van Gogh (until 29 September 2024) at the Chateau d'Auvers-sur-Oise; and Berthe Morisot (until 3 March 2024) at the Musée Marmottan Monet.

[Link](#)





# REMEMBRANCE

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY  
Normandy  
May – August 2024

Normandy will forever be marked by the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy, which led to the liberation of France and Europe. The year 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary, a momentous occasion to celebrate peace, liberty and reconciliation. At the core of celebrations will be the annual D-Day Festival (1-16 June 2024), involving a rich cultural programme of parachuting, parades, concerts, exhibitions and historic reenactments along the entire Norman coastline from Pegasus Bridge to Sainte-Mère-Eglise. This will also be a good time to visit the British Normandy Memorial in Ver-Sur-Mer. The full programme of events for the anniversary will be available online at the end of 2023 and updated regularly.

[Link](#)



A CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN FOR ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE'S 80TH  
Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
10 June 2024

The year 2024 also marks the 80th anniversary of the Nazi massacre of 643 innocent victims in the martyred village of Oradour-sur-Glane on 10 June 1944. The Ministry of Culture has so far maintained the village and its remains, but the passage of time and bad weather have led to erosion of the ruins, which now require more extensive conservation work. The Ministry and the Heritage Foundation therefore launched a campaign for conservation donations this year.

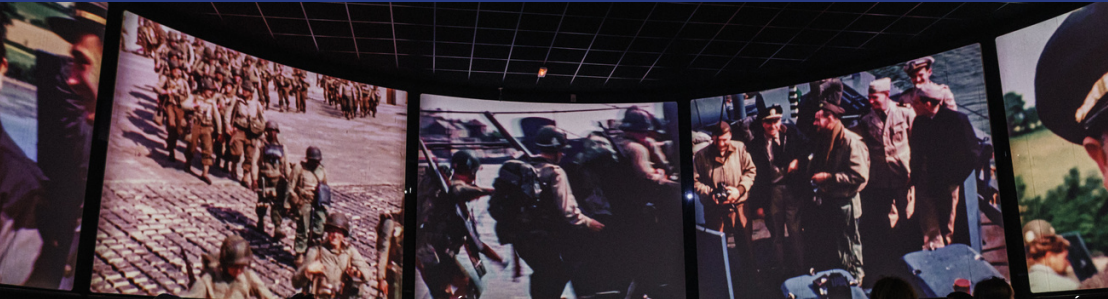
Press release: [Link](#)

Campaign: [Link](#)

D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN VAR  
Région Sud  
Summer 2024

In the Provencal department of Var, where the Second World War landing is lesser known worldwide, 94,000 soldiers disembarked on 15 August 1944 during Operation Dragoon, successfully liberating the ports of Toulon and Marseille. Excursions on cruise liners will also be organised.

[Link](#)



CINÉMA CIRCULAIRE 360° ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS © CORALINE ET LÉO



MONUMENT LES BRAVES OMAHA BEACH © MARIE-ANAI'S THIERRY



# ENTERTAINMENT

## FILM: *THE INVENTOR*

Loire Valley

15 September 2023

Directed by Jim Capobianco (*Ratatouille*, *The Lion King*) and Pierre-Luc Granjon, this film humorously retraces the last three years of Leonardo da Vinci's life, from his departure from Italy until his last days in Amboise in the Loire Valley. Supported by an exceptional cast of voices (Daisy Riley, Stephen Fry, Marion Cotillard, Vincent Lindon plus singer Louane for the French version), the film also highlights the exceptional work of French studios and animation specialists Foliascope.

Official trailer: [Link](#)

## FILM: *NAPOLEON*

Corsica & Paris Île-de-France

22 November 2023

With Joaquin Phoenix in the title role, Ridley Scott's epic historical drama film takes a personal look at Napoleon Bonaparte's origins in Corsica and his swift, ruthless climb to emperor. This is viewed through the prism of his addictive, and often volatile, relationship with his wife Josephine, played by Vanessa Kirby. Filming took place in Lincoln in March 2022. The crew reportedly spent a week to prepare Lincoln Cathedral, which stood in for Notre-Dame de Paris. Fort Ricasoli in Kalkara, Malta was transformed into the site of 1793's siege of Toulon, where Napoleon had his first victory.

Official trailer: [Link](#)

## FILM: *THE TASTE OF THINGS*

Loire Valley

16 February 2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

New from acclaimed director Tran Anh Hung and starring Juliette Binoche, *The Taste of Things* is a stunningly beautiful romance that simmers with emotion. Peerless cook Eugenie (Binoche) has worked for the famous gourmet Dodin (Benoît Magimel) for the last 20 years. Bonding over a passion for gastronomy and mutual admiration, their relationship develops into romance and gives rise to delicious dishes that impress even the world's most illustrious chefs. But Eugenie is fond of her freedom and has never wanted to marry Dodin. So, he decides to do something he has never done before: cook for her.

Official trailer: [Link](#)





# PARIS 2024: SUMMER OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

## OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES 2024

Paris Île-de-France

26 July – 11 August 2024

Set to take place exactly 100 years after France's last summer Games, Paris 2024 will be the largest event ever organised in the country and unlike any other Games in history in its eco-conscious approach, encouraging energy conservation, innovation and creativity. The event will use 100% renewable energy, track its carbon footprint and make use of 95% of existing venues, such as Versailles for equestrian events and the Champ de Mars (beneath the Eiffel Tower) for beach volleyball. It promises to be an inclusive, interactive and sustainable celebration of sport: the first fully gender-balanced and carbon-neutral Games.

[Link](#)



OLYMPIC FLAME TO ARRIVE IN MARSEILLE © PARIS 2024

## PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC FLAME TO ARRIVE IN MARSEILLE

8 May 2024

The Olympic Flame will first be lit in Olympia on 16 April 2024, in accordance with ancient tradition. After a 12-day relay through Greece and a crossing of the Mediterranean aboard the famous three-masted ship, the Belem, it will officially arrive into the port of Marseille on 8 May, heralding the return of the Games to France after a 100-year wait.

In Marseille, the Flame will pass through two emblematic sites: the new Roucas Blanc's Marina - starting point for the solo dinghies, windsurfers and formula kites - and the Vélodrome Stadium.

[Link](#)



SPORT IN THE CITY – © PARIS 2024 FLORIAN HULLEU

## EXHIBITIONS & CULTURAL EVENTS

### THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD:

A FESTIVAL OF ART AND CULTURE  
2020-2024

The Cultural Olympiad is a multidisciplinary artistic and cultural programme that unfolds from the end of the previous Games to the end of the following Paralympic Games - so Paris2024 has three seasons to add artistic creation to sports thrills and spills. Hundreds of events will be free to access, from concerts, exhibitions and dance shows to films, workshops for all ages and celebratory parades - all sitting at the crossroads between art, sport and the Olympic and Paralympic values.

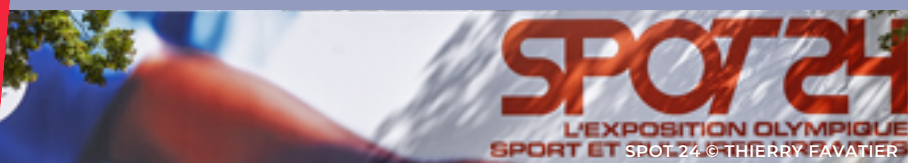
### SPOT24: A NEW URBAN SPORT AND CULTURE HUB, WITH OLYMPIC EXHIBITION

Paris Île-de-France

24 October 2023 – 31 December 2024

Paris je t'aime (the Paris Tourist Office) has set up a new hybrid venue showcasing urban sport, culture and Olympism. Serving as a tourist information point, Olympics ticket office and official shop, alongside a café dedicated to Parisian products, SPOT24 also comprises an immersive Olympic exhibition. Co-presented by the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, it highlights the six newest Olympic disciplines: skateboarding, sport climbing, BMX freestyle, surfing, 3X3 basketball and breaking. A full programme of cultural activities and introductory sports sessions accompanies the exhibition, running throughout 2024.

[Link](#)





BOARDING OF THE ATHLETES - © PARIS 2024 - FLORIAN HULLEU

MORE CULTURAL EVENTS:

“MODE ET SPORT, D’UN PODIUM À L’AUTRE”:  
SPORT AND FASHION EXHIBITION AT THE  
MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS  
Paris Île-de-France  
20 September 2023 – 7 April 2024

Through a selection of clothes, accessories, photographs, paintings, posters and videos, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs is inviting visitors to discover the links between the two worlds of sport and fashion. From the cumbersome tennis dresses of the 19th century to the iconic Lacoste polo shirt and the yellow jersey of the Tour de France, the exhibition explains how sport has adapted to the codes of fashion and how sportswear has inspired fashion, to become part of our everyday lives.

THE PISTE CYCLABLE: A CYCLE ROUTE LINKING ALL  
PARIS 2024 VENUES

Cycling will be in the spotlight for the Olympic and Paralympic Games: in 2024, all the competition venues will be accessible on two wheels, via a 60km network of cycle paths. A staggering 10,000 cycle parking spaces will be installed and 3,000 additional Vélib' bikes will be put into service. If you dream of cycling from the centre of Paris to the Parc des Princes, or pedalling to the new Arena at Porte de la Chapelle - it can be done! These new paths will then remain part of the Games' legacy for all Parisians.  
[View the route map](#)



55KM OF CYCLING LANE TO BE ADDED BY JULY 2024 - © CITY OF PARIS



PARIS 2024 MASS PARTICIPATION MARATHON - © PARIS 2024

GAMES WIDE OPEN: INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY  
AT THE HEART OF PARIS 2024

For the first time in the history of the Games, the public will have the opportunity to take part in the 'Paris 2024 Mass Participation Marathon', under the same conditions as those experienced by Olympic athletes.

SURFING COMPETITION TO TAKE PLACE  
IN TEAHUPO'O  
Tahiti, French Overseas Territories

Paris 2024 will reach new heights and treat audiences to breathtaking sports. The surfing competition will take place at Teahupo'o in Tahiti, whose waves will offer an Olympic-class challenge for the athletes.

FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT PARIS 2024  
[HERE](#)



# SPORTING EVENTS

**50TH PARIS JUDO GRAND SLAM**  
Paris Île-de-France  
2-4 February 2024

The [Paris Grand Slam](#) is the most important international tournament for professional judokas, who fight it out on the tatami mats of Paris' Accor Arena in front of over 24,000 spectators. Held just a few months before the Paris 2024 Games, this 50th edition of the tournament will be an opportunity for the judokas to score the final points in their bids to secure a place in the Games.

**4TH 'NATURE IS BIKE':  
GRAVEL AND ADVENTURE CYCLING FESTIVAL**  
Angers, Pays de la Loire  
16-18 June 2024

France's first nature-focused gravel bike festival returns to Angers in 2024 for its fourth year. [Nature is Bike](#) was born from the desire to promote the practice of gravel biking around a festival dedicated to the outdoors and living well. The next event will see new routes and rides, a Bike Show featuring leading brands and hottest cycling destinations, and a gravel forum. Enjoy food and drink, live music and activities in and around Angers, which sits at the crossroads of three major cycle routes that are enjoyed by 200,000 cyclists and cycle tourists every year.



**A NEW FINISH FOR THE TOUR DE FRANCE 2024**  
Nice, Région Sud  
21 July 2024

For the first time in the Tour's history, the Grand Boucle will finish outside of Paris in order to avoid the preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games a week later. After a race through Burgundy, the Massif Central, the Pyrenees and the Alps, a mountainous course from Nice to Col de la Couillole has been designed for the 20th stage (20 July). The 21st and final stage will be contested in a 35km time trial on 21 July between Monaco and Place Masséna in Nice.

[Link](#)

**IRONMAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Nice, Région Sud  
18-24 September 2024

In autumn 2024, the global stage will be set for the pinnacle of women's professional and age group triathlon racing. Elite athletes from around the world will be united for a 140.6-mile journey that spans an ocean swim, a technical hinterland bike course and a vibrant coastal run in Nice. Entry is by qualification only - and athletes will have France's most iconic triathlon community fuelling their spirits towards the Championship finish line.

[Link](#)



© YVAN ZEDDA/ALEA

**10TH VENDÉE GLOBE SOLO SAILING RACE**  
Les Sables-d'Olonne, Pays de la Loire  
10 November 2024

Nicknamed the 'Everest of the Seas', the Vendée Globe is the toughest solo sailing race in the world - a 24,000-mile circumnavigation of the world, without stops or assistance. It takes place every four years - the 2020 race was won by Frenchman Yannick Bestaven. Five British skippers are campaigning to be on the 2024 start line on 10 November, with the fleet expected to return to Les Sables-d'Olonne in January 2025. The new Hotel Vertime will be opening in Les Sables in 2024, in time to accommodate race-going visitors.

[Link](#)





# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

## BORDEAUX IS 9TH DESTINATION WORLDWIDE IN GDS INDEX

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
4 October 2023

The Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS Index), a benchmark international barometer that analyses the responsible performance of destinations, unveiled its 2023 rankings on 4 October. With an overall score of 87.1%, Bordeaux continues to progress for the fifth consecutive year, confirming its position as a responsible destination. With a score of 87.1%, Bordeaux scores two points higher than in 2022, when it was in 5th place with 85.1%. This year, over 104 destinations took part in the barometer, compared with 65 in 2022.

[Link](#)

## FRANCE'S STRATEGY TO REGULATE TOURIST FLOWS

Across France  
2023-2024

France's tourism minister Olivia Grégoire has unveiled a plan to regulate visitor flows at the most popular sites and in terms of seasonality. The government acknowledges that 80% of annual tourism activity is concentrated on just 20% of the country, hence the push to encourage visitors to discover less well known parts of France. For now, the government is setting up an industry monitoring group to identify the most at-risk sites and craft strategies to encourage off-season visits. Limits are already being set, with officials capping day visits to the Breton island of Brehat at 4,700 during the peak summer months.

## NEW ATTRACTIONS AT THE GROTTES DE LA PIERRE DE VOLVIC

Volvic, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
2023-2024

This former Volvic stone quarry, in operation since the end of the 13th century, offers a daytime exploration of the Volvic of yesteryear and traces the intertwined history of the region's two riches: stone and natural mineral water. From the beginning of December 2023, it will be staging a series of new tours that take advantage of the special atmosphere of the site, with visual effects, mapping and sound effects: the Grotte du Père Noël (Father Christmas Grotto) and the Grotte des Lumières (Cave of Lights).

[Link](#)

## CAUTERETS SKI RESORT LAUNCHES ECO ACCOMMODATION LABEL

Cauterets, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
2023-2024

Cauterets is launching its new '[Label Cauterets](#)' to promote energy-efficient accommodation. This label allows owners in the resort to benefit from professional advice, particularly when it comes to renovating their property. From this winter, the resort will showcase accommodation that combines comfort and energy savings, using new criteria based on the DPE (Energy Performance Diagnosis) of its partner accommodation.



PETITE CASCADE DE MORTAIN © CORALINE ET LÉO

## NORMANDIE-MAINE REGIONAL NATURAL PARK TO BECOME UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Normandy & Pays de la Loire  
April 2024

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The [Parc naturel régional Normandie-Maine](#) is a protected area of forest and bocage stretching across the regions of Normandy and Pays de la Loire incorporating the Alpes Mancelles in Sarthe. Its UNESCO label will help to boost the attractiveness of the area for both residents and tourists and bolster resilience in the face of climate change and the threat to biodiversity.

## LA RÉGALANTE, A NEW CYCLE ROUTE FROM NANTES TO THE MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

Pays de la Loire, Brittany & Normandy  
Spring 2024

This new 275km cycle route runs through the historic and gastronomic region of the Marches de Bretagne, its name a subtle blend of the words 'galette' (the local pancake) and 'galante' (gallant or chivalrous). La Régalante is all about conviviality and shared moments, inviting families and friends to discover new areas while having fun. The project unites three départements (Manche, Ille-et-Vilaine and Loire-Atlantique), which are working together to make the route safe, signpost it and develop a consistent range of tourist facilities and services along its length.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
FRANCE GOING GREEN [HERE](#)



# GASTRONOMY & WINE

**RESTAURANT COCO IN LYON**  
Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
17 July 2023

Following the success of CoCo Paris at Opéra Garnier, CoCo has taken over the Gare des Brotteaux in Lyon, offering a refined culinary experience in another sumptuous historic setting. Designed by architect Corinne Sachot, who was also behind the Paris project, the architecture and decor of Coco Lyon are captivating. As in Paris, we find palm carpeting, shimmering velvets, dark woods with mahogany highlights and Napoleon III lacquers.



**LES HALLES DE LA CARTOUCHERIE: A NEW FOODIE SPOT**  
Toulouse, Occitanie  
8 September 2023

The former Halles de la Cartoucherie has been transformed into a combined catering, coworking, sports and cultural centre, and opened its doors on 8 September 2023. This successful conversion of an emblematic 19th-century industrial building is bringing new life to an emerging sector of Toulouse, showcasing its architectural heritage and promoting local produce. It's set to become the new go-to place for people who love the atmosphere and flavours of the Occitanie region.

**THE FIRST EVER FRENCH FRIES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Arras, Hauts-de-France  
7 October 2023 (to become annual)

On 7 October 2023, the historic city of Arras hosted the first ever French Fries World Championships. This public one-day event included contests in various categories ('Authentic', 'Creative', 'Best Sauce') between catering professionals and amateur experts, alongside fries tastings, local craft beer and entertainment – all in the beautiful setting of Arras' Grand-Place. Arras is situated in Hauts-de-France, which was voted European Capital of Gastronomy for 2023. There are some 1,400 French fry stalls throughout France, 55% of which can be found in this region.



**RESTAURANT LE DEAUVILLE**  
Deauville, Normandy  
1 November 2023

The Beaumarly group, whose Parisian restaurants are well known (Café Beaubourg, Café Français, Le Georges, Le Café Marly, Café Ruc, Maison du Caviar), is expanding its collection of establishments dedicated to French art de vivre by opening 'Le Deauville' in Deauville at the end of October, with a breathtaking view over the marina. The colourful, relaxed restaurant has been designed by internationally renowned interior architect and designer Martin Brudnizki in the glamorous spirit of the 1950s. The menu will feature Normandy produce and Costes signature dishes.

[Link](#)





# GASTRONOMY & WINE

**BORDEAUX WINE FESTIVAL**  
Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
27-30 June 2024

Each year, the Bordeaux Wine Festival recreates the mythical Wine Route, a journey through the vineyards where no less than 80 appellations are represented. Along the quays of the Garonne, winegrowers and sellers welcome you to their pavilions for tastings of white, red, rosé, claret and crémant. The weekend prior to the festival (20-23 June 2024) sees the 'Avant-Première' events, acting as tasters and showing visitors a different way to taste wine while discovering interesting places.



BORDEAUX WINE FESTIVAL © GUILLAUME BONNAUD

**OSCAR, SECOND RESTAURANT BY TOP CHEF'S DAVID GALLIENNE OPENING AT GIVERNY'S IMPRESSIONISM MUSEUM**  
Giverny, Normandy  
Spring 2024

Just in time for this year's 150th anniversary of the birth of Impressionism, chef David Gallienne - who starred in Season 11 of *Top Chef* and already has one restaurant in Giverny - is due to open another, named Oscar, at the Musée des Impressionismes. Very little has been revealed about this new bucolic restaurant, except that we can already assume that it will feature the finest seasonal produce, as locavore as possible, as the chef is accustomed to using and showcasing. Gallienne's other restaurant in Giverny is the Michelin-starred Jardin des Plumes, inherited from chef Eric Guérin.

**RECENTLY  
ADDED**



PAUL BOCUSE © M. KIRCHGESSNER

**NEWLY RENOVATED RESTAURANT PAUL BOCUSE CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
2024

On the northern outskirts of Lyon, two-Michelin-star Restaurant Paul Bocuse underwent its first renovation in 30 years between September and December 2023, just in time for its 100th birthday in 2024. The work involved repairing the paintwork, renovating the masonry and restoring the frescoes, while the facade of the restaurant - a listed monument - remained unchanged and has been redone identically. Work was overseen by Roche & Cie, who specialise in the renovation of Lyon's heritage, alongside Cité Création and Ateliers Meyer. The restaurant continued to operate as normal during the renovation.

[Link](#)

**RECENTLY  
ADDED**



GIVERNY MUSEUM © THOMAS LE FLOCH



# HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

## MAISON 1896

Beaune, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
Autumn 2023

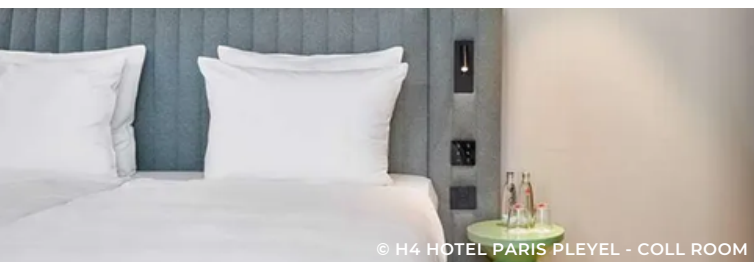
In partnership with famed Burgundian wine family Maison Joseph Drouhin, Mirabel Hotel & Restaurant Group is lovingly restoring the historic 1896 building to house a luxury 16-room boutique hotel and restaurant located in ancient Beaune's historic centre. The Slanted Door, Beaune will debut in tandem with the hotel, showcasing the Vietnamese cuisine of iconic San Francisco Chef Charles Phan with the wine acumen of Saison Hospitality's Mark Bright.

[Link](#)

## TWO NEW DOMAINES DE FONTENILLE HOTELS IN PROVENCE

Four-star hotels  
Région Sud  
2023

Domaine de Chalamon, just outside Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, has been restored by architects Lafourcade and marks [Domaines de Fontenille's](#) fourth family venture in Provence. Guests can enjoy yoga classes in the 15-acre gardens and guided walks through the Alpilles. The hotel group's newest addition is La Bastide du Mourre, nestled in 17th-century hamlet Oppède-le-Vieux, which goes further to combine wellness with hospitality, offering personalised programmes for each guest. The group prides itself on creating luxury hotels with a home-from-home feel and now has 11 in its collection.



© H4 HOTEL PARIS PLEVEL - COLL ROOM

H4 HOTEL PARIS PLEVEL  
Paris Île-de-France  
Early 2024

The [Plevel Tower](#) is one of the symbols of the city of Saint-Denis and its statistics are impressive: 140 metres high, with 40 floors and 697 rooms and suites. On the top floor will be the 'Skybar' alongside France's highest swimming pool, and elsewhere two restaurants and a further bar. There will be 200 underground parking spaces while direct metro connections to central Paris are available from Saint-Denis. The hotel will also offer a separate conference centre.



FUMADES SPA HOTEL © 2023 ALES.FR

THE RENOVATED THERMES DE FUMADES SPA HOTEL  
Alès, Occitanie  
10 April 2024

Bathed in light and set in superb gardens of aromatic and medicinal plants, the renovated health and wellbeing spa complex at [Les Fumades](#) will open its doors in April 2024. It is at the foot of the Cévennes mountains an hour's drive from the Mediterranean, on the borders of the Gard and Ardèche departments. Guests can look forward to a wellness area with a 200-square-metre thermal pool featuring bubble benches, a counter-current river and waterfalls, plus a steam room, sauna and sensory showers.

AREV  
St Tropez, Région Sud  
Spring 2024

Defined by old-school luxury, craftsmanship and authentic glamour, [AREV](#) is a new kind of people-based, luxury hotel brand. A five-minute walk from the centre of St Tropez village and set in fragrant gardens, AREV St Tropez offers a discreet oasis, surprising with thoughtful details and lavish with luxurious touches. Consisting of 50 individually designed rooms and suites, many with private gardens, it will be the perfect place to experience the authentic Riviera lifestyle.



© 2023 AREV



# HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

## HOTEL DU COUVENT

Nice, Région Sud  
Spring/Summer 2024

Situated in the heart of Nice, this project sees the restoration and redevelopment of one of the oldest convents in Alpes-Maritimes, in collaboration with hotel creators Perseus and architects Studio Mumbai. The design works with the historic fabric within the terraced convent garden, which overlooks the city and the sea, creating new terraces and courtyards. The project is currently under construction.

[Link](#)

## OPENING OF FRANCE'S FIRST LOCKE APARTHOTEL BY EDYN

Paris Île-de-France  
Second semester 2024

For its first entry into France, edyn is taking its lifestyle aparthotel brand Locke to Paris, continuing its rapid expansion across European gateway cities. In what is currently an 18th-century mansion in the Latin Quarter, a stone's throw from the Sorbonne University and the Panthéon, edyn will integrate Locke's unique hybrid concept, resulting in 1000sqm of activated social spaces comprising a winter garden, restaurant and bar set under a restored glass atrium, co-working, coffee shop, gym and laundry facilities. Accommodation will feature 145 studio apartments spread over seven storeys, in a new building to the rear of the site.

[Link](#)

RECENTLY  
ADDED



## SAINTE-ANNE HOTEL DIJON - CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON

Dijon, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
2024

Hilton's debut in the Burgundy region, [Sainte-Anne Hotel Dijon](#) will be set in the Cité Internationale de la Gastronomie et du Vin, on the site of the former 17th-century Hospice Sainte-Anne. The hotel will offer outdoor terraces, a pool, fitness centre and Nhoraé spa, as well as a fine-dining French restaurant. The project follows a franchise agreement with Naos Hotel Group.



## HOTEL BARRIERE LE WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY

Le Touquet, Hauts-de-France  
2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

In 2024, the glamorous [Hotel Barriere Le Westminster](#) celebrates 100 years since it first opened its doors. A former Palace, this iconic hotel was named after the then Duchess of Westminster, who set up and sponsored a hospital during the Great War. During the Second World War it served as a hospital and then an encampment - but when it reopened as a hotel in 1946, it once more became a retreat for a more glamorous clientele. High-profile guests have included Edith Piaf, Gloria Swanson, King Farouk, Jeanne Moreau, Winston Churchill and Jacques Chirac. In 2021 the hotel reopened after an extensive renovation, with a redesign of the hotel's rooms, bar and two restaurants, including Michelin-starred Le Pavillon.

## BARON AMEDÉE ARMAND HOTEL & SPA MARSEILLE - MGALLERY

Marseille, Région Sud  
2024

In 1793, Napoleon beat the English back to Toulon, for which his family was given six years' use of the Marquis Chevalier de Cipieres mansion. Now [Baron Amedée Armand](#) has revitalised this noble piece of history for guests. This forthcoming hotel is situated in central Marseille, near the préfecture and harbour, and offers fine dining, prestigious lounges, a ballroom, pool and spa, bar.

## MAISON ALBAR HOTELS - LE VICTORIA

Five-star hotel  
Nice, Région Sud  
2024

Maison Albar Hotels will shortly be opening the doors of its new Nice address, [Le Victoria](#). Ideally situated between the Promenade des Anglais and Place Masséna, and close to the old town, the hotel offers a prime location in the Côte d'Azur capital. Offering spectacular views over the Baie des Anges, the hotel boasts an exceptional 600-square-metre spa, a state-of-the-art fitness area and a rooftop with restaurant, bar and pool.



# TRANSPORT

## RELEASE OF FRANCE MONTAGNES' NEW RAIL SKI MAP French Mountains September 2023

Produced by France Montagnes and Atout France in conjunction with Snowcarbon, a new Rail Ski map illustrates all the rail routes to the French mountains from London St-Pancras via Paris and Lille, pairing groups of resorts in each ski domain with their nearest train station. In a bid to capitalise on the growing traveller intent to travel to the mountains by train, the map also includes connecting underground information for Paris. No other map of its kind is currently available. Available to download in multiple JPG, PNG and PDF formats. [Download the Rail Ski press kit](#)

## AIR FRANCE CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY October 2023

Officially inaugurated on 7 October 1933, Air France has celebrated a big birthday this year, today offering almost 1,000 daily flights to 200 destinations. Customers can fly to Paris from London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Edinburgh, as well as from Southampton, Cardiff and East Midlands to Paris-Orly with partner Eastern Airways. Connecting cities include Bordeaux, Nantes and Marseille – or you can fly to Corsica or further afield to the French Caribbean. In September 2023, Air France was awarded five stars in the official APEX 2024 global ranking of the best airlines.

[Link](#)

## THE SUD AZUR EXPLORE PASS Région Sud 2023

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council has just launched the Sud Azur Explore Pass: a smart way to get around on the public transport network while exploring the Côte d'Azur and Monaco, the coast from Cannes to Menton via Nice, Mercantour National Park or the Préalpes d'Azur Regional Nature Reserve. Users can opt for a three-, seven- or 14-day pass for trains, buses and trams at very reasonable prices.

[Link](#)



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## OCCITANIE RAIL TOUR Occitanie 2023

The Occitanie Rail Tour is a chance to save money, limit your impact on the environment and travel in slow mode through this enormous region, while meeting new people at every stop. It unites major cities with the Canal du Midi, the mountains and the Mediterranean coast. In partnership with the SNCF (French Railways) and liO Train (regional trains), The Occitanie Rail Tour Pass is available at a special low rate: €10 a day for unlimited travel, for two to six consecutive days.

[Link](#)

## RYANAIR LAUNCHING NEW EDINBURGH-BERGERAC ROUTE Bergerac, Nouvelle Aquitaine April 2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

Bergerac Dordogne Périgord Airport has announced a new route to it from Edinburgh, set to be launched by Ryanair in April. The 2h10m flights will commence on 2 April and run twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Tickets are already available on the airline's website. The new route reconnects Scotland with Dordogne for the first time since Flybe's liquidation in March 2020.

[Link](#)

## FRANCE'S €49 RAIL PASS Across France Summer 2024

Following the success of Germany's 'Deutschlandticket', France is set to launch its own 49-euro public transport ticket next summer, offering unlimited travel on TER regional services and intercity trains. TER trains connect local destinations within French regions and serve around 1.1 million passengers per day. Popular TER routes include Bordeaux to Arcachon (which costs around €15) and Marseille to Toulon (€17). Popular intercity routes include Paris to Toulouse (€94 if booked on the day) and Bordeaux to Nice. Please note that the exact plans of this rail pass are still to be confirmed.



# TRANSPORT

## SINGLE TICKETS FOR RAIL AND SEA JOURNEYS BETWEEN IRELAND AND FRANCE

France  
2024

Travel between France and Ireland will be simplified in 2024 with the introduction of a single ticket combining train and ferry for the entire rail and sea journey. These simplified tickets at attractive prices will encourage environmentally-friendly modes of transport - for the same distance travelled, the ferry emits 1% of what the plane emits in terms of CO2 per tonne-km, and the train 8%. Bookings will be possible via Brittany Ferries, Irish Ferries, Rail Europe and Trainline.

[Link](#)

## LAUNCH OF MIDNIGHT TRAINS' SLEEPER TRAINS

Paris Île-de-France  
Late 2024 / early 2025

French start-up Midnight Trains plans to connect 12 European cities with its central hub in Paris via sleeper train. By 2024, it aims to provide a service that functions like a hotel on wheels, with private rooms and on-demand films.

[Link](#)

# LOOKING AHEAD: 2025

- Launch of the TGV M, across France  
[alstom.com/press-releases-news/2023/10/tgv-m-tests-accelerate-french-national-railway-network](https://alstom.com/press-releases-news/2023/10/tgv-m-tests-accelerate-french-national-railway-network)
- Reopening of the Accor Orient Express, Paris Île-de-France  
[orient-express.com](https://orient-express.com)
- Launch of Brittany Ferries' two new LNG-electric hybrid vessels  
[brittany-ferries.co.uk](https://brittany-ferries.co.uk)
- Reopening of the Bastide du Jas de Bouffan, Cézanne's family home in Aix-en-Provence, Région Sud  
[aixenprovencetourism.com/en/aix-en-provence-en/paul-cezanne/](https://aixenprovencetourism.com/en/aix-en-provence-en/paul-cezanne/)
- Reopening of the Musée des Beaux Arts de Toulouse, Occitanie  
[augustins.org/fr/musee-ferme](https://augustins.org/fr/musee-ferme) (French only)
- Launch of Puy du Fou's Grand Tour Train, France  
<https://www.legrandtour.com/en>
- The third UN Oceans Conference, Nice, Région Sud  
[sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025)

RECENTLY  
ADDED

Explore France™ 