



Grand Théâtre de Provence (photo by Tomasso Macchi Cassia © Gregotti Associati)



The Fontaine de la Rotonde, Aix-en-Provence (courtesy ww.marriott.com)



Théâtre de l'Archevêché (courtesy www.academie.festival-aix.com)

A TASTE OF PROVENCE

Festival d'Aix-en-Provence

July 17-23, 2022

The summer season in Europe is the time for exceptional music and opera festivals and it is a pleasure to invite you to participate in a trip that will take us to one of the very best, with world-class operatic content and the delights of Provence, a region of France that is absolutely enchanting, especially in its glorious summertime.

Its capital, Aix-en-Provence, has more than its fair share of attractions, drawing discerning visitors to revel in its history, art and architecture and gastronomy, in the form of locally sourced fine food, wines and other products of its distinctive agriculture. The Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, headed by the French-Lebanese theatre director Pierre Audi since 2018, stages operas with the highest caliber artistic content and a broad variety of concerts and recitals. The 2022 program during the time we have selected includes three fully staged operas, Strauss' *Salome*, Mozart's great choral opera *Idomeneo* and *Moses and Pharaoh* by Rossini and these will all be included in the musical program. In addition we will attend a concert performance of Bellini's *Norma* and offer Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* as an option.



Atmosph'R lounge terrace at the Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (courtesy marriott.com)

HOTEL

Renaissance Aix-en-Provence, Ave Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 320. A luxury hotel with impeccable contemporary style and comfort, located in the city's burgeoning arts quarter, steps from the Grand Théâtre de Provence.

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mrsbr-renaissance-aix-en-provence-hotel

ITINERARY

Sunday, July 17

Departures for Aix-en-Provence

Independent air departures for Marseille (MRS).

Note that flights to MRS from North America are by connections via several European hubs, with most daily arrivals/departures from Paris CDG (Air France/Delta). Other possibilities are through LHR (BA), Frankfurt and Munich (Lufthansa/United), Amsterdam (KLM/Air France/Delta), Lisbon (TAP) and Zurich (Swiss). If you are already in Europe, another possibility is by high speed train (TGV) and the TGV station is located mid-way between MRS airport and Aix-en-Provence, with a cab ride from there in to Aix.

Monday, July 18

Arrivals, Welcome Reception and *Norma*

Independent arrivals at Marseille airport (MRS) and transfers to the hotel.

Gather early evening for a reception cocktail dînatoire before leaving for the nearby Grand Théâtre de Provence and the 8:00pm start of ***Norma*** (c. Riccardo Minasi, Karine Deshayes, Michael Spyres, Nina Minasyan).



Atelier Cézanne at Les Lauves (courtesy Mpapava)

Tuesday, July 19

Aix-en-Provence and *Salome*

Breakfast in the hotel.

Leave with our local guide for a visit to the Atelier Cézanne (Les Lauves) and then transfer to the historic center for a short walking tour that will bring us to the Musée Granet XXe for a curated private tour of the unique Jean Planque Collection, followed by a relaxed lunch and independent afternoon.

We gather in the evening to walk the short distance to the Grand Théâtre de Provence and 8:00pm start of ***Salome*** (c. Ingo Metzmacher, d. Andrea Breth, Angela Denoke, Elsa Dreisig, Gábor Bretz, John Daszak). Meet back at the hotel for post-performance drinks and light supper food.



Musée Granet XXe (courtesy Mpapava)

Wednesday, July 20

Arles and *Moses and Pharaoh*

Departure for Arles. Visit the Musée de la Arles Antique, then a short transfer to Arles city center. Guided walking tour of Arles city center. Lunch at *Le Galoubet*.

We complete our time in Arles with a visit to the excellent Van Gogh Foundation.

Late afternoon arrival back at the hotel for relaxation and independent dining. This evening we transfer to the open-air Théâtre de l'Archevêché for a performance of ***Moses and Pharaoh*** (c. Michele Mariotti, d. Tobias Kretzer, Michele Pertusi, Adrian Sâmpetreau, Pene Pati, Jeanine De Bique, Vasilisa Berzhanskaya). Late return to the hotel.

Thursday, July 21

Day for Relaxation and *Orpheus and Eurydice* Option

A full day to relax on your own in Aix-en-Provence.

For the performance this evening there is the option to return to the nearby Grand Théâtre de Provence and concert performance of Gluck's ***Orpheus and Eurydice***, led by Maestro Raphaël Pichon.



Arles (courtesy arlestourisme.com)



Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde, Marseille

Friday, July 22

Marseille and *Idomeneo*

Today we head for the historic port city of Marseille and a curated visit of the Musée Regards de Provence, a fine collection of Provençal regional artists. Lunch, with classic Marseillaise local cuisine follows at *Le Rhul*, with views over the islands of Friuli. We complete our time in Marseille with a visit to the city's most prominent landmark, the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde, boasting impressive views over the city and some fine art and architectural features.

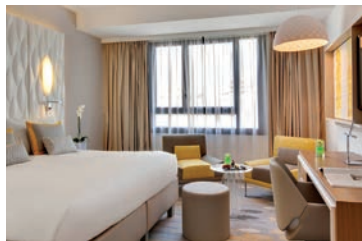
Late afternoon arrival back at the hotel. This evening we celebrate the conclusion of the program with dinner before transferring again to the Théâtre de l'Archevêché for the 9:30pm start of *Idomeneo* (c. Raphaël Pichon, d. Satoshi Miyagi, Michael Spyres, Anna Stéphany, Sabine Devieille, Siobhan Stagg). Late return to the hotel.

Saturday, July 23

Independent assisted departures to the airport or train.

INCLUSIONS

- Five nights hotel
- Breakfast daily
- Four operas
- Five lunches/dinners/receptions
- Morning guided sightseeing in Aix-en-Provence
- Full day guided excursion to Arles
- Full day guided excursion to Marseille
- Coach transfers as required by the itinerary
- Program managed by Act 1 Tours' partner



King Guest Room, Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (courtesy marriott.com)

RATE

- \$5,750 per person, with shared hotel accommodation
- \$6,550 per person, with single hotel accommodation

Option:

Orpheus and Eurydice \$160

Room upgrades rates on request

PAYMENT

A deposit of \$2,250 per person is requested to confirm a place, of which \$1,500 is non-refundable to cover advance payments for tickets and hotels. The balance is payable by May 17, 2022, and at that time the full amount becomes non-refundable



Cours Mirabeau, Aix-en-Provence (courtesy Ian Sale)

INSURANCE

Act 1 Tours strongly advises the purchase of trip insurance to avoid financial loss if the need to cancel arises for insurable reasons. We recommend you contact insurance specialists AIG Travel Guard at **800-826-5248**, or your preferred provider, and an adviser will present the range of coverage options to suit your specific needs and budget. It is important to note that certain policies will waive pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 15 days of the date of completing your trip registration.

Safety is our highest priority. During your trip you will find a number of measures in place in the hotel, at the opera and other venues to protect audiences, guests and staff. Thank you for your support in these extraordinary circumstances. Note that full vaccination against Covid 19 is required to participate in this program.

ACT1TOURS
DESTINATION OPERA

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