

# Aix et la Provence

During The Aix Festival  
Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence



## Day 1. Saturday, July 13th

At your arrival at the Marseille Provence airport, the Airport shuttle will take you to Aix city center.

Arrival at your **3\* hotel set within the walls of a 12th-century convent, located in the very heart of the old town of Aix-en-Provence**, next to the famous Cours Mirabeau. All rooms have en-suite bathroom, TV, minibar, air conditioning, Wi-Fi Internet access. Accommodation for 6 nights. Free time in the evening and dinner at your leisure.



## Day 2. Sunday, July 14th

After breakfast, meeting with our English-speaking guide who will be with the group all week long.

Aix-en-Provence, a **university town famous for its traditional bourgeois refinement** and birthplace of painter Paul Cézanne. Be it due to the many fountains (101) or the wonderful surroundings, Aix-en-Provence has always kept its glorious past, where it was the capital of the Provence.

After breakfast you will enjoy a **walk in the old town of Aix-en-Provence** to see the main monuments (outside views): **the St Sauveur Cathedral** and its Romanesque cloister, the Albertas square, the City hall, the 17th and 18th c. **private mansions**, café-lined **Cours Mirabeau**... The morning could end at the **typical provencal market**...



**Welcome reception at the Aix-en-Provence City Hall** organized by **the Aix Twinning Office**  
Lunch in a restaurant in the city center.



By early afternoon, visit of the **Musée Granet** and the first part of the **Grand Atelier du Midi** exhibition - **FROM CÉZANNE TO MATISSE**.

In this coming Marseille Provence 2013 exhibition, the focus will be on form, which naturally leads to Cézanne, the "father" of modern art for Braque, Matisse and Picasso. The terms "form" and "colour", which may seem to be opposites, are closely related in Cézanne's eyes: "when the colour achieves richness, the form attains its fullness also." The south of France also welcomed artists from the Dada and Surrealists movements. The exhibition concludes with a section on writing, which led to different forms of lyrical and geometrical abstraction, as seen in the work of Miro, Staël and Van Velde. The exhibition in Aix-en-Provence presents over 100 masterpieces from French and international collections – both public and private.



Free time in the late afternoon and the evening in Aix-en-Provence. Dinner at your leisure.

## Day 3. Monday, July 15th

### **A day in the company of Cézanne.**

After breakfast, we will be leaving for **the Bibémus quarries** by minibus.

Hidden in a pine forest high on a sandstone plateau, the brooding Bibémus Quarries are a majestic location in their own right - and doubly so when you realise how Paul Cézanne mined them for inspiration at the zenith of his career.

The tall, angular, oddly sculpted rocks rear steeply up out of the undergrowth, the perfect subject for an artist famously obsessed with essential shapes: spheres, cones, cylinders and cubes. And the colours - amber sandstone, green pines, blue sky - were just right for his palette.

You wouldn't expect it as you drive up to the quarries past the expensive suburban villas lining the chemin de Bibémus. But, just to the east of this city, these seven hectares (17 acres) impress you as a primitive, lonely, once-industrial landscape that nature has long since reclaimed as its own.



In the late morning, we will take **the road to Tholonet**, also called "route Cézanne" as the painter used to come frequently in the area and enjoy its wonderful views over the Sainte Victoire Mount.

Lunch in a restaurant located at the foot of the Mount Sainte Victoire.



In the afternoon, we will be back on the heights of Aix-en-Provence, where **the Lauves workshop** is located. More than a museum, the Lauves workshop is truly steeped in memory, marked with Cézanne's stamp.

It allows you to discover those articles familiar to the painter, his artistic favourites. It is here, on the Lauves hill, among the objects he treasured, the models of his last still lifes, his furniture and his work tools, that you will feel the painter's presence most intensely.

From 1902 until his death in 1906, Cézanne worked every morning in this studio of light and silence, the birthplace of dozens of paintings, including the last series of Large Bathers.

Return to your hotel. Evening and diner on your own.



### **Optional attendance to Aix Festival's opera:**

#### **Don Giovanni • Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Musical direction • Marc Minkowski

Stage direction • Dmitri Tcherniakov

Archevêché Theater - Cat 1 : 190€ / Cat 2 : 110€

Don Giovanni, Mozart's and Da Ponte's masterpiece, has regularly been performed in Aix since 1948, allowing the debut of such lyrical arts stars as Tessa Berganza, singing the part of Zerlina. It is, this time, the object of an astounding and controversial production. The Russian Dimitri Tcherniakov tightens the dramatical interplays around the same family table, that of the *Comandatore*, which he has reconstructed: Zerlina is the daughter of Donna Anna and Leporello, her nephew: the effect of this deliberate reshuffling underlines even more the revolt of Don Giovanni, enhancing his 'No' to conventions.

## Day 4. Tuesday, July 16th

**Marseilles** combines a unique patrimony, an intense cultural life and an exceptional natural site between hills and the Mediterranean sea: its roadstead, its islands and its famous "Calanques".



After breakfast, **coach trip to Marseilles to discover the coastal part of Provence**. The tour will start with Marseille's most ancient district **Le Panier**, whose name comes from the district's tradition of bread making. We will then reach **la Vieille Charité**, a former 17th Century hospice and an architectural masterpiece by Pierre Puget.

Going down to the "**Vieux-Port**" harbour, we will go through the Lenche square, former Greek agora and Roman forum, then take the "montée des Accoules" dominated by its clock tower, to reach the Daviel square, where is located **la "maison diamantée"**. We will pass in front of the **City Hall** before arriving at the wharf.

We will take the ferry boat to cross over **the Vieux Port** and climb to **the Basilique St Victor**. Fortified late Roman church, the Abbey of St. Victor is a former monastic foundation, named after the local soldier saint and martyr, Victor of Marseilles. From the 11th century until the 18th century, Saint Victor has total hegemony over the Christians of the Mediterranean area, from Catalonia to Italy. We will also visit its impressive crypt dating back to the 5th century.



After attending a "**navettes**" **tasting** (half bread, half cake loaves that stay fresh for months. Famous speciality of Marseilles) in a remarkable 200 year-old-bakery, we will be driven to the 19th hilltop **Basilica Notre-Dame de la Garde**, landmark of Marseilles also known as "la Bonne Mère", where you will enjoy an outstanding view over the city and the sea...

Lunch in a local restaurant.

By early afternoon, transfer by coach to the **Palais Longchamp**.

Built in the 19th c., the Palais Longchamp is a creation of Henry Espérandieu, the architect of Notre-Dame de la Garde. This historic building, inaugurated in 1869, commemorates the arrival of the water in Marseilles. Its rich decoration evokes the abundance and fertility brought by the water.



Visit of the second part of the **Grand Atelier du Midi exhibition – FROM VAN GOGH TO BONNARD** located in the renovated Musée des Beaux-Arts, on the northern wing of Palais Longchamp.



The exhibition looks into the vivid, arbitrary colours applied by artists including Van Gogh, Bonnard, and the Fauves. It also touches on imaginary realms, the pursuit of hedonist dreams and the quest of a new Golden Age. The south of France – a new Arcadia with ties to the classical era, a dreamlike elsewhere where the landscapes and light bring myths back to life – became home to fauns and dryads. Some 100 masterpieces from the greatest painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> et 20<sup>th</sup> centuries will be on display in Marseille.

Return to Aix in the late afternoon and free time in the evening.  
Dinner at your leisure.



## Day 5. Wednesday, July 17th

After breakfast, we will head to the **Pavillon de Vendôme**.

Surrounded by a French park, the Vendôme Pavilion offers the public the setting and the interior decor of an 18th Century Aixoise residence.

Temporary exhibitions of modern works, namely in the field of numerical image and new technologies, are organised on a regular basis



Then we will head to the **Chapelle des Pénitents-Blancs**, which houses **LA COLLECTION PLANQUE**.

In the summer of 2013, the Musée Granet's new extension will open to the public in the Chapelle des Pénitents-Blancs, an excellent example of 17th century architecture. The Chapelle previously served as an extension to the Museum from 1865 to 1878, welcoming pieces from a donated collection. According to one of Cézanne's letters to his friend Emile Zola, the artist visited this exhibition in 1866. This new section will focus on the modernity movement, as initiated by Cézanne. It will house 20th century masterpieces of Jean and Suzanne Planques's remarkable collection, on loan for the next 15 years.



Lunch and dinner on your own. Free time in the afternoon.

### Optional attendance to Aix Festival's opera:



#### **Elena • Francesco Cavalli**

Musical direction • Leonardo Garcia Alarcon

Stage direction • Jean-Yves Ruf

Jeu de Paume Theater – Cat 1: 120€ / Cat 2: 90€

The Aix en Provence Festival and Marseille Provence 2013 show ELENA, an opera by Francesco Cavalli (1602-1676), first scenic play since the creation in 17th century. It's the story of Helen of the Illiade.

This opéra was written for carnival period, so the fancy dresse's scenes adjoin some of beautiful "lamenti" of baroque période. The conductor Léonardo Garcia Alarcon and the producer Jean Yves Ruf conduct the singers of Festival Academy.

**OR**



#### **La Casa Tomada (The House Taken Over) • Vasco Mendonça**

World Premiere - Adapted from Julio Cortazar's la Casa Tomada

Musical direction • Etienne Siebens

Grand Saint Jean Estate - Cat 1: 70€ / Cat 2: 50€

Every season, The Lyric Festival offers a creation: it's a contemporary opera, but, at this time, the details aren't yet unveiled...

## Day 6. Thursday, July 18th

After breakfast, day trip to **the Alpilles** and **Beaux de Provence**

Drive to the amazing area called ALPILLES, the perfect provencal landscape composed of vineyards, olive trees, pines, charming farms and luxury houses, which seduced Van Gogh and Cezanne.

Visit of **Les Baux de Provence**, impressive medieval village built on top of a hill like an eagle nest, in the Alpilles.

In the late morning, you will be invited to **a private organic vineyard**.

Visit of a 300 hectare domain divided into a 57 hectare vineyard and a 28 hectare olive trees field.

**Guided tour of the domain with the owner and tasting session** of wine, olive oil and other provencal specialities such as "fougasse" bread, "tapenade"...



In the afternoon, coach tour in the **St Rémy de Provence area** to get an overview of its typical landscape and get the opportunity to evoke Vincent van Gogh's work.

Back to Aix and your hotel in the late afternoon. Free time in the evening

**Dinner with the members of the Aix Twinning Office and the Aix Festival Friends (courtesy of the Aix Twinning Office).**

## Day 7. Friday, July 19th

After breakfast, return to the airport by airport shuttle

For those willing to anticipate or extend their stay in Aix-en-Provence, please get in touch with us before DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> in order for us to make the relevant accommodation arrangements:

[contact@ailleurs-culture.com](mailto:contact@ailleurs-culture.com)

**Price per person in double room accommodation based on 20 participants\*: 1140 €**  
**Single room supplement : 470 €**

Including :

- Airport shuttle fees
- Accommodation in a 3\* hotel in Aix city center in B&B
- Meals mentioned in the program including refreshments
- Admission fees and visits mentioned in the program
- English-speaking guide for all visits
- Wine and olive oil tasting session
- Taxes

Not including :

- Meals on your own
- Insurance coverage
- Attendance to Aix Festival's performances
- Everything not mentioned in the program
- Personal expenses

**\*Should the number of participants not reach 20, prices would be subject to change:**

Price per person in double room accommodation based on 15 participants: 1270 €

Price per person in double room accommodation based on 10 participants: 1540 €

**MARSEILLE - PROVENCE 2013**



EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE

*Marseille-Provence has been selected to be the European Capital of Culture in 2013. All year long, hundreds of cultural and artistic events will take place throughout the Provence region.*

*In 2013, Marseille-Provence will open its doors to the world. It's going to be a Capital year.*