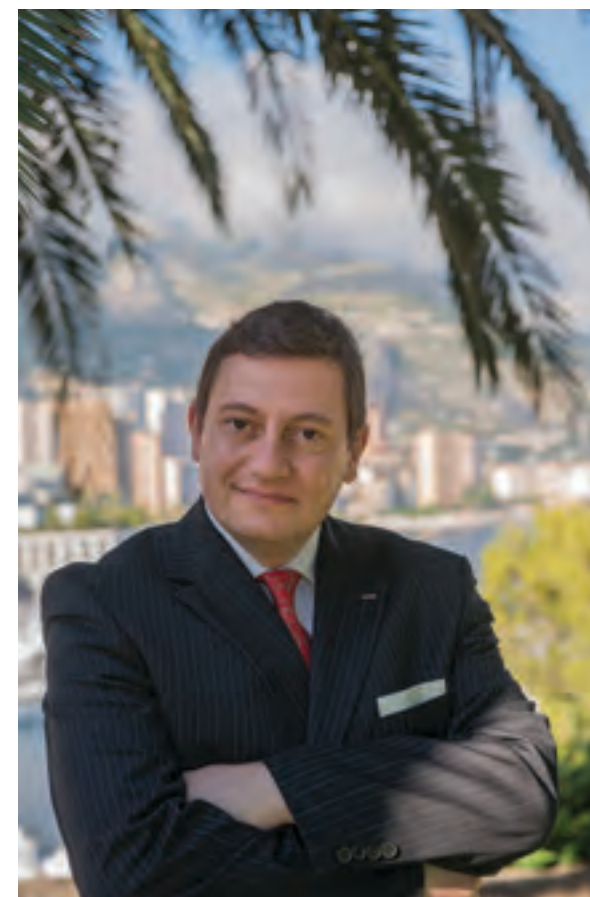


DISCOVER
Monaco



Monaco, Land of the Heart

Home to the world's elite for 150 years, the Principality of Monaco is the place where everything is possible. A country where Festivals, Gastronomy and Luxurious Hotels are reaching the highest standard and become an Art. Museums are also abundant and you will be able to discover them during your visit. Boasting an incredible calendar of events, Monaco offers daily surprises from music festivals, greatest ballet performances, orchestras, operas, sporting events, conventions and of course worldwide renowned highlights. Each season, every day, every evening, every night is bringing a special and unique experience. Colourful and with amazing diversity, the Principality of Monaco has the perfect blend of culture, heritage and splendor that will seduce any traveler. With 300 days of sunshine a year, a chic and relaxed atmosphere, we are inviting you to live the dream: a pleasant and welcoming country, where safety is very high and a warm welcoming is a way of living. Through all publications and this elegant guide to Monaco, the Principality always reveals itself as more and more attractive. I am inviting you to open the door of one of our legendary hotels to stay or eat there. The experience will be beyond comparison.



Guillaume Rose
President, Monaco Government
Tourist and Convention Authority

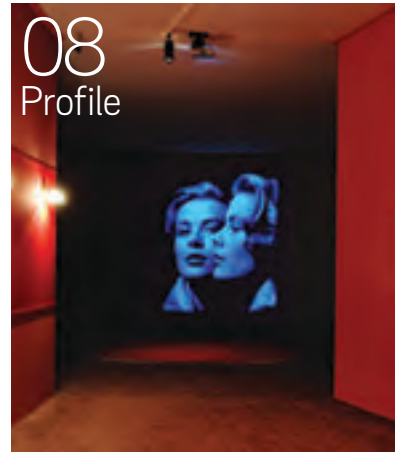


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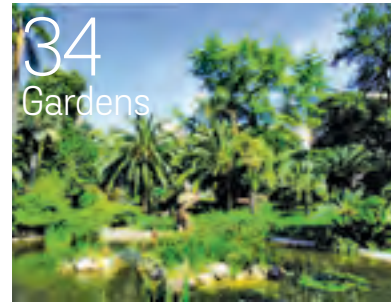
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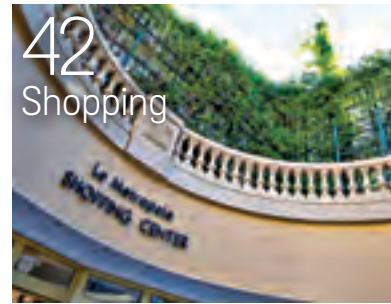
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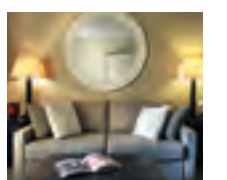
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Welcome to Monaco!

Welcome – *bienvenue, benvenuti* – to Monaco, the jewel of the French Riviera. A tiny principality with brawn, bling and *belle-époque* elegance, a microstate with a reigning monarch, Prince Albert II of the House of Grimaldi, a dynasty that came to power in the 13th century and rules with contemporary savvy

today. Situated at France's southeastern corner near the Italian border, occupying an area of just 2.8 sq. km, Monaco might be the second smallest country in the world (after the Vatican), but what it lacks in size it sure makes up for in attitude and variety. Here, in one bow-wrapped package, an ornate opera house, Michelin-starred restaurants and Casinos pulsing with history and activity. Here are palaces

and cathedrals, supercars and mega yachts, deluxe hotels and designer boutiques. Here, too, are museums and galleries, Festivals, Nightclubs, Gardens with exotic plants and sea views. Easily reached by train, boat, plane, car or helicopter – it is just seven minutes by chopper from Nice, the closest airport – Monaco awaits you. Expect hospitality as warm as the country's famous weather. Oh, and the experience of a lifetime.

From an arts and culture scene that embraces both the traditional and *avant-garde* to prestigious annual events including the Rolex Tennis Masters and the Formula 1 Grand Prix, the country is blessed with a wealth of events.



Monaco and Its People

Monegasques are fiercely proud of their country, which has its own national anthem, a red-and-white flag and seven distinct districts: Monaco-Ville, the old city balanced on the Rock of Monaco, the headland that juts into the sea. Monte-Carlo, home to the Hôtel de Paris, the Grand Casino and Casino Square. Larvotto,

with its luxury apartments sprinkled along Avenue Princesse Grace; Condamine, which is focused around the marina on Port Hercule, and nearby Moneghetti, all steep inclines and manicured gardens. La Rousse is largely residential; Fontvieille boasts waterfront entertainment and shopping; Larvotto, the beach area, is a distinguished stretch of bespoke bars and lounge chairs for rent.



©Instantané Monaco



Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo

Monaco's reputation for glamour was boosted in 1956 when Prince Rainier III married the Hollywood film star Grace Kelly – who, as Princess Grace, modernised this annual springtime arts festival. Inaugurated in 1984 under the Patronage of Princess Caroline, Printemps des Arts takes place across a range of venues, regularly attracting the great and the good from the worlds of dance, theatre, music and visual art. An education strand focuses on future generations of performers.



Monaco Yacht Show

Each September since 1991 Monaco's Port Hercule, one of the few deep-water ports of the French Riviera, hosts an unparalleled celebration of all things super yacht. This much-attended event showcases some 120 magnificent sailing boats, each a one-off, on display in the marina for the purposes of admiration and purchase. Around 40 new models make their world premiere to dropping of jaws and popping of champagne corks.



Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival

As a young child Prince Rainier III was dazzled by the magic of the Big Top. So in 1974 he created a January festival intended to highlight the skill, beauty and mystery of the circus world, where thrills are at a premium and animals are treated with respect. Tens of thousands of performers, new and established, traditional and cutting edge, have since tumbled and swung into Monaco to wow crowds and compete for the Golden Clown, the ultimate in circus awards.



Monte-Carlo Sporting Summer Festival

It is possibly the greatest live music festival in the world. It certainly attracts its biggest celebrities. You name them, they will have played here: Peter Gabriel, the Beach Boys, Rihanna, Charles Aznavour... The list is endless. As, indeed, is the night sky when the roof of the Salle des Étoiles, a dreamlike venue inside the Sporting Club, is open.



Prince's Palace Apartments

Perched atop the Rock of Monaco is the Prince's Palace, the private residence of the ruling prince, all salmon-pink exterior, original 1215 ramparts and solemn *carabinieri* who perform the changing of the guard at 11.55am every day. Inside, entered through the dramatic Mirror Gallery, the fully restored state apartments reveal a cornucopia of delights: Venetian chandeliers, 16th century frescoes, a Blue room lined with blue and gold silk brocade and a Throne Room sporting an impressive Renaissance fireplace. Visitors are welcome, with tickets available from April to October.



Monaco Cathedral

Built in Roman-Byzantine style in 1875, from white stone taken from La Turbie, a village overlooking Monaco, and situated on the site of a 13th century church, the Cathedral is an imposing monument whose peaceful interior includes side-chapels decorated with statues and paintings. Prince Rainier III (1923 - 2005) and Princess Grace (1929 - 1982) were married and are buried here, along with several former sovereigns. Sung mass takes place each Sunday, by the stained glass windows and under a soaring dome.





Port Hercule

A natural marina at the foot of Le Rocher – that iconic ancestral Rock – the enormous Port Hercule is Monaco’s only port with deep water. Once used as a trading centre by the Greeks and Romans, it was modernised by Prince Rainier and redeveloped again by Prince Albert II. It now offers mooring possibilities for up to 500 vessels; a modern extension welcomes yachts of up to 100m. Take time out at any of the bars and lounges surrounding the harbour for people (and people-on-yacht) watching, and for crimson sunsets on shimmering horizons.



A Luxury Spin

Aston Martin, Bugatti, Ferrari? Maserati, Porsche, Rolls-Royce? With a valid driving licence you could be cruising Monaco’s panoramic ring road, the cliff-top Grande Corniche, in a luxury vehicle hired from any number of specialists – delivered, at your command, to your hotel. No licence? No problem: professional chauffeurs with peaked caps and local knowledge will show you the sights, letting you enjoy the spectacular views with or without the top down.





Le Méridien Beach Plaza

Tucked away on a private beach, a serene kilometre from the action, this chic hotel boasts rooms with everything from sea and mountain views to rainfall showers, hot tubs, private balconies and – for those in an upgraded suite – private elevators. Add friendly staff, outdoor dining and activities including water sports and master cooking classes and, well, what's not to like?





Monte-Carlo
Casino

Monte-Carlo Casino

Inaugurated in 1863 by Prince Charles III – who was frankly in need of a money spinner – and redesigned in 1879 by the famous French architect Charles Garnier after he completed the Paris Opera, this famous Monaco landmark is a rococo vision with onion-shaped domes and a constant stream of visitors eager to gaze at the stupendous interior and/or try their luck. A series of magnificent rooms feature marble pillars, gilded mirrors and ten-tonne chandeliers. Roulette tables, slot machines and the finery of the over-18 clientele (jackets for the men, please) adding a devilish decadence. Not that the Casino is just about high rolling. Charles III also commissioned the adjoining Salle Garnier, a bijou theatre and opera house that seats

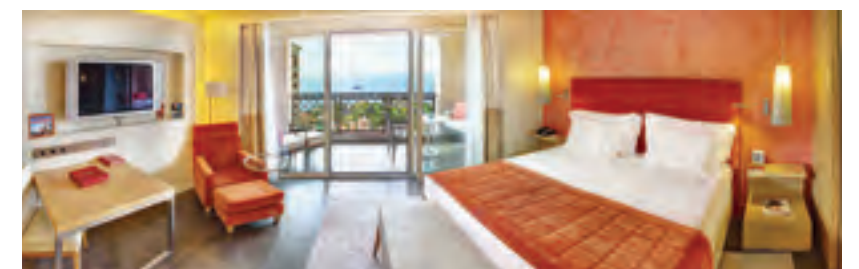
524 and opened in 1879 with a performance by the great Sarah Bernhardt dressed as a nymph. Now home to the Monte-Carlo Opéra, the official national company of Monaco, the house's restored gilt-and-red-velvet décor has played host to artists the calibre of Bryn Terfel, Herbie Hancock and the late great Prince.





Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort

This high-end neo-classical beachfront establishment has it all: an ideal location near the 5.5ha Sporting Monte-Carlo complex. Spacious rooms with sea views. Three restaurants including the acclaimed, Michelin-starred Blue Bay. A lounge with seaside terrace, a children's club, wellness spa, indoor pool and unique private lagoon pool with beach-like sandy bottom. Oh, and a lavish casino kitted out with 150 slot machines just waiting for you.





Saltwater Delights

The sparkling Mediterranean informs daily life in Monaco, nestled as it is on that stretch of coastline known as the Côte d'Azur or for English speakers, the French Riviera, with its rocky cliffs, pristine beaches and aqua waters. Naturally enough, watersports abound; for the adventurous, there is jet skiing, para-sailing, banana boating and fly-boarding, best described as a combination of jet skiing and hoverboarding with power boots. Those who prefer more laid-back pursuits might like to explore the surrounding coves on a small hire boat, or splash out on a private luxury yacht cruise.



Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel

Just outside Monaco, on a listed site with an Olympic-sized swimming pool built a few metres from the sea, lies the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel. Designed in 1929 by architect Roger Seassal in the style of palatial Florida hotels, its formation ushering in a whole new era of prestige, parasols and fancy-dress parties. Despite a contemporary luxury makeover the spirit of the Roaring Twenties prevails – expect elegant furnishings, an air of mystery and complimentary champagne on arrival. Open from March to October.





Monaco, lap by lap

The four day Monaco Formula One Grand Prix is one of the most important and prestigious automobile races in the world, an event that has achieved almost mythical status in the years since its inauguration in 1929. Held each May on city streets transformed with grandstands, pit garages and barriers – the so-called Circuit de Monaco – its 3.4 kilometre lap includes tight corners, elevation changes and a tunnel. Despite its relatively low speeds the Monaco circuit is considered the most difficult of Formula One races, the ultimate test of the harmony of man, team and machine. Tickets must be bought in advance but spectators watch from wherever they can, which often includes balconies, rooftops and yachts.



Vroom, vroom: each year the roar of racing car engines gives the principality a collective shot of adrenalin.

Fairmont Monte-Carlo

Spectacularly refurbished at a cost of 45 million euros, this luxury resort hotel on the coastline doesn't just have its own shopping arcade, in-house casino, rooftop pool and wellness centre with views over the Mediterranean and seven floors' worth of guests rooms, residences and suites. It also offers an unobstructed Formula One view over the famous stretch of road known as the Fairmont Hairpin bend, should you reserve a place in a Fairmont VIP Suite.





The beautiful gardens of Monaco

As small and urban as Monaco is, it is also remarkably verdant – a testament to the ways in which landscape and architecture can interact to ease and support high-density living. Vertical green walls and planted terrace roofs are commonplace, while charming parks and open green spaces invite relaxation and offer respite. Protecting biodiversity is an important part of the Monegasque Government's sustainable development policy; the Principality has more than 23,000 carefully tended plants, belonging to thousands of different species.



Casino Gardens and Terraces

All French-style lawns, paved walkways and spouting fountains that light up at night, the Casino Gardens are a world away from the action of Casino Square, with its chatter, camera phones and slow-cruising Ferraris. A sanctuary, just five minutes up the hill.



The Japanese Garden

The perfect Japanese garden is all about using form and structure to create a serene environment, and this Zen-like oasis next to the Grimaldi Forum does precisely that. Featuring pagodas, bonsai trees and koi carp ponds along with waterfalls, streams and gentle hills, it is a little Japan next to the beach.



Exotic Garden of Monaco

Founded in 1933, this extraordinary botanical garden clings to the steep stone cliffside in Moneghetti. Thousands of succulent plants have been planted here, some of them flowering, all of them hardy, and can be gazed upon from footbridges and pathways, or while reclining by a small still pool. A prehistoric cave, deep below, with stalagmites and stalactites can be visited with a ticket.



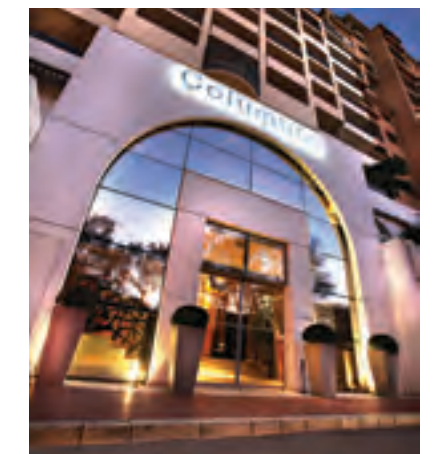
Princess Grace Rose Garden

Inside Fontvieille Park - four hectares of trees, flowers, contemporary sculptures and serenity – lies the Rose Garden, a homage to Princess Grace, who died in 1982, by her grieving widower Prince Rainier. Smaller when it opened in 1984 it now contains over 8,000 rose bushes in 300 different varieties. It remains a place of peace, beauty and love.



Columbus Hotel Monte-Carlo

This affordable boutique hotel in the newish Fontvieille district has rooms with views over the Princess Grace Rose Garden, with the ever-present Mediterranean as the backdrop. Favoured by Formula One drivers – David Coulthard is a previous owner – it offers contemporary style, friendly service and a hip cocktail bar.

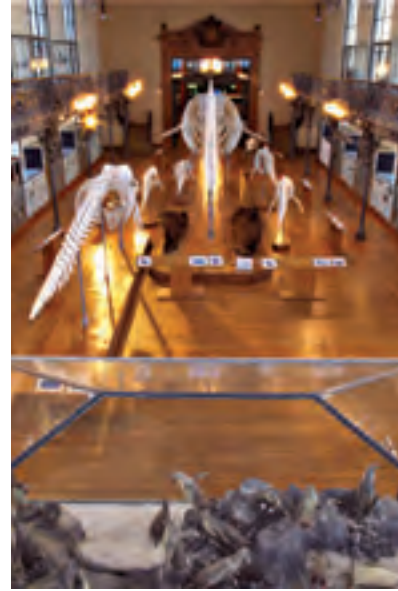




Oceanographic Museum

Monaco's museum of marine sciences rises, a palatial monolith, from the side of the Rock in Monaco-Ville. Founded in 1910 by Prince Albert I, the great-great-grandfather of Prince Albert II, and a sea captain given to expeditions, this Monegasque landmark offers visitors a unique opportunity to understand and protect the oceans – a good idea,

especially since oceans cover 71 per cent of the Earth. A whale skeleton is on display in the zoology room, while the aquarium has 90 tanks including a shark lagoon. In keeping with the first Prince Albert's belief that art and science should work together, contemporary art exhibitions showcase some of the international art world's biggest hitters.



Monaco Top Cars Collection

If proof were needed that Prince Rainier loved classic cars, it is this automobile museum (officially, the Exhibition of HSH The Prince of Monaco's Vintage Car Collection) in Fontvieille. Over 100 shiny, lovingly restored vehicles – including a 1903 De Dion-Bouton, 1929 Bugatti and 1952 Rolls-Royce – occupy this specially tailored exhibit space.





Shopping in Monaco

If you like to shop until you drop, or at least window shop until you have to sit down, there is nowhere like Monaco. Independent boutiques, high street brands, souvenir shops, old-fashioned Mediterranean markets... The principality has it all. Luxury is at a premium inside Monte-Carlo's so-called Golden Circle, the name given to three major streets (and smaller side streets) forming a chic circuit of posh boutiques and designer labels. Christian Dior and Gucci have stores here, as do high-end jewellers Bulgari and Cartier. Down in Le Métropole Shopping Centre, an air-conditioned mall opposite the Casino Gardens, 80 shops offer choice goods for sale amid marble columns and under a huge period chandelier.

Hôtel de Paris

Cary Grant stayed here. So did Rita Hayworth, and Nelson Mandela. Winston Churchill loved it so much that he moved in every winter. With its low-relief sculptures, marble colonnades and crystal chandeliers, its ceiling paintings, gilded terraces and nothing-is-too-good-for-the-client attitude, the Hôtel de Paris is globally recognised as one of the best luxury hotels in the world. Opened in 1863 under the auspices of Charles III, the hotel sits right by the Casino de Monte-Carlo in the heart of Monaco, its monumental façade captivating guests and passers-by, its balconies offering views of sea, sunsets and depending on the time of year, the Formula One Grand Prix. Rooms – 187 of them – are furnished with tradi-modern elegance; bathrooms have under floor heating and in some suites, hot tubs. Sip a welcome cocktail at the hotel's Bar Américain before a meal at their lauded Le Louis XV-Alain Ducasse restaurant.

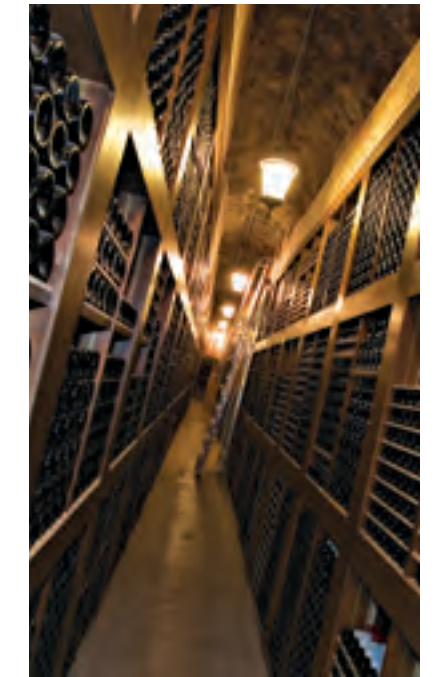


The Wine Cellars of the Hôtel de Paris

13 metres below the Hôtel de Paris and the nearby Hôtel Hermitage, in temperature-controlled chambers that were carved out of rock over an 18-month period by 100 workers, lies the largest hotel wine cellar in the world. Modelled on the

great cellars of Bordeaux, inaugurated in 1874 by Marie Blanc, this treasure trove contains around 500,000 bottles of the finest reds, whites and champagnes, including collectors' items from previous centuries. All arranged

according to year, labelled to indicate if 'on rotation' in local hotels and restaurants and resting on a kilometre of racks in an area of 1,500m². A wine aficionado's dream, visited by appointment, with entrance fee around EU4,000.





Above, lobster served at the Monte-Carlo restaurant of Frenchman Joël Robuchon, and right the cuisine of Alain Ducasse two of the icons of French gastronomy.

Dining in Monaco

With over 170 restaurants serving all types of food – from raw food and seafood to fast food and Michelin-starred – finding somewhere to eat is never a problem. Fine dining is the norm in a place where getting dressed up for dinner is *de rigueur* and an out-of-this-world meal can be followed by a flutter in the Casino or a moonlit walk through lush

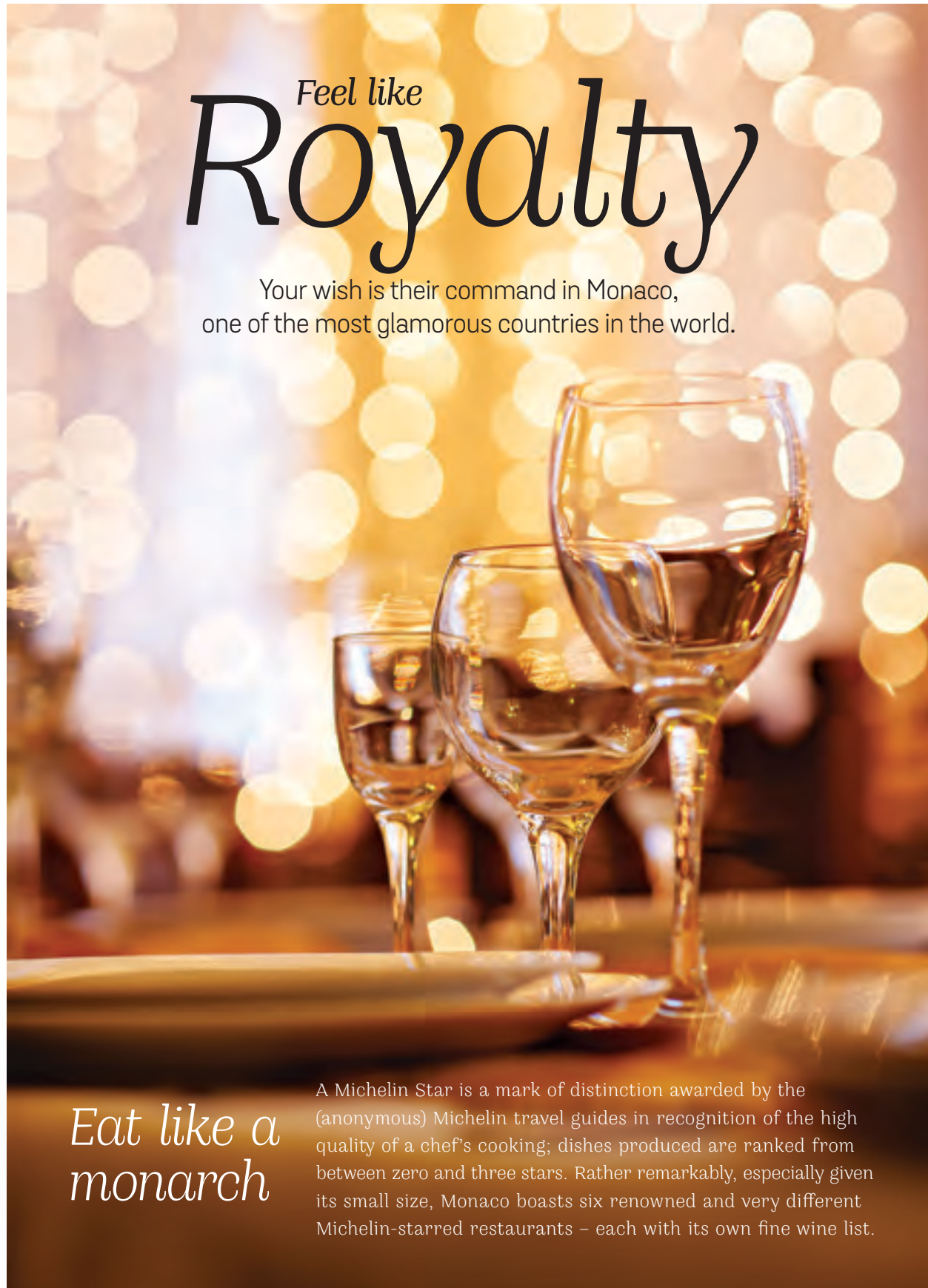
gardens or alongside the sea. The region's own dishes are worth seeking out: stocafi, a codfish with tomato sauce and local spices, is one of the most famous items in the country. As is the barbajuan ('Uncle John' in local dialect), a ravioli-like dough stuffed with vegetables and spices. Fancy a light lunch on the run, grab a pan-bagnat, a salad nicoise in a bun.



©Pierre Monetta

Feel like
Royalty

Your wish is their command in Monaco,
one of the most glamorous countries in the world.



Eat like a monarch

A Michelin Star is a mark of distinction awarded by the (anonymous) Michelin travel guides in recognition of the high quality of a chef's cooking; dishes produced are ranked from between zero and three stars. Rather remarkably, especially given its small size, Monaco boasts six renowned and very different Michelin-starred restaurants – each with its own fine wine list.

*Le Louis XV -
Alain Ducasse*

Boasting not one but three Michelin stars, this world-class restaurant at the Hôtel de Paris is a feast for the eyes as well as the belly. The otherworldly dining room is done up in gold, gilt and dappled light, with chandeliers, busts and ceiling paintings lending a Versailles-like magnificence. Chef Dominique Lory helms a menu inspired by French and Italian cuisine and delivered with Swiss timing and balletic grace.



Le Vistamar

With one Michelin star under its simple yet elegant belt, the restaurant at the Hôtel Hermitage champions the maxim, “take a fish, a vegetable and cook it to perfection”. It is a gastronomic philosophy beautifully orchestrated by head of house Benoît Witz. Summertime? Reserve a table on the terrace for stunning views of the harbour and that iconic Le Rocher.

Yoshi

Located in the grounds of the Hôtel Métropole, the one-starred Yoshi is the first Japanese restaurant of French über chef Joël Robuchon and is run with cool grace by chef Takeo Yamazaki. Stripped-back décor combines bright colours, wood and a sushi bar and opens into a small Japanese garden, all to zen-like effect. Lunch comes in a Bento box; à la carte dishes and set menus alike are created with delicacy, creativity and perfectionism.



Le Blue Bay

The reputation of the modern and elegant Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel and Resort was further enhanced when its Blue Bay restaurant and French/West Indian chef, Marcel Ravin, was awarded a Michelin star. A 250-seat establishment with panoramic views of the seaside and, especially for gastronomes, tables positioned opposite the open kitchen, it has a menu inspired by Mediterranean and Caribbean flavours, with dishes that feel like art.



Elsa

It was thanks to the vision and culinary talents of Italian chef Paolo Sari that the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel joined the world's gastronomic elite in 2014, when its Elsa Restaurant was awarded a Michelin star. This 40-seat eatery declares itself the only certified 100 per cent bio establishment in the world, and its authentic organic menu is sourced from local and near-local farmers and fishermen.



Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo

The main restaurant of the sumptuous Hôtel Métropole is in the hands of Joël Robuchon, one of France's best-known chefs, who has focused his prodigious imagination on Mediterranean fare and fresh seasonal produce and was duly awarded two Michelin stars as a result. Head Chef Christophe Cussac, a Robuchon protégé, runs the open plan kitchen to perfection, overseeing the likes of an adventurous 10-course 'discovery' menu.





Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo

Rock stars and royalty alike stay at this newly refurbished *belle-époque* hotel, a 19th century establishment reached down a driveway lined with classical statues and cypress trees, serenely hidden despite its central location opposite the Casino Gardens. The lobby's huge

central skylight highlights the colours of the wall tapestries; a large bar area has armchairs, couches and wall-to-wall books; Karl Lagerfeld has designed a fresco-style installation by the pool. Classical and modern, comfort and elegance, all blended to timeless effect.



Relax and Pamper

As the epitome of luxury, Monaco knows about wellbeing. No wonder, really, that the spas and wellness centres in this little but mighty micro-state are second to none. Whether you want relaxation or rejuvenation, massage or mud wrap, day packages or – for couples – double tubs, a spa-experience in the principality will have you sitting smack bang in luxury's lap.

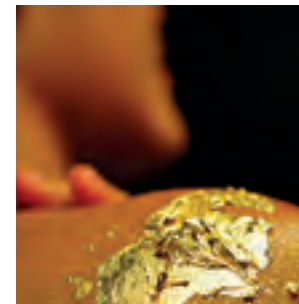


Monte-Carlo Bay Spa Cinq Mondes

Tradition, beauty, quality and authenticity are the four pillars supporting this most unique of spas, which stretches languorously across 900m² and offers treatments that combine new innovations and ancestral traditions including holistic-type rituals from Japan, Morocco and Polynesia.

Métropole Monte-Carlo – Spa

Housed in an annexe adjacent to the main hotel, the Métropole spa is the model of discrete professionalism, with knowledgeable therapists ready to help you cherry-pick from an extensive menu of treatments including massages and facials for men and a range of detoxifying treatments. Why not also book into the Pedi:Mani:Cure studio by Bastien Gonzalez, internationally renowned podiatrist to the stars.



Spa Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo

This spa of spas boasts a heated seawater pool, a panoramic cardio training room overlooking the sea, signature massages including foot cocooning (reflexology using circulation stimulating oils) and cryotherapy, which uses freezing temperatures to reduce stress and jet lag. Down on the water near the Hôtel de Paris and Hôtel Hermitage, Thermes Marin can also be reached by underground passages from each.





Hôtel Hermitage

An elegant, cream-coloured palace with a renowned Gustave Eiffel-designed dome, a stone's throw from the Casino, the Hôtel de Paris and surrounding boutiques, this luxury hotel manages to be both imposing and intimate. Hushed lounges and elegant terraces with potted palms lend a romantic, carefree air.



General Information

If you're travelling to Europe, why not include a stay in Monaco? The country is one of the chicest, and most surprising and rewarding, destinations anywhere.

HOW TO GET THERE

It's just seven minutes by helicopter from Nice Côte d'Azur International airport to Monaco, and the views along the Mediterranean coast, with

its rocky cliffs and hairpin bends, are breathtaking. And while landing on a helipad by the sea is a fitting way to arrive, most people fly to Nice and take the 30-minute road trip by car, bus or taxi. You can also travel by Eurostar to Paris, with onward tickets to the South of France and Monaco.

Number of inhabitants: 38,000 of which just 9,000 are Monegasque (nationals of Monaco).

Official language: French

Currency: Euro

Climate: Monaco enjoys over 300 days of sunshine a year and a temperate climate. In winter, temperatures vary from 8–14°C. In summer temperatures reach an average 26°C, though like everywhere on the French Riviera some days are scorchers.

Distance to other cities:

Nice: 21 km, Cannes: 53 km, Marseille: 227 km, Genova: 184 km, Paris: 954 km

Other hotel options: Port Palace, Novotel Monte-Carlo, Hôtel Ambassador Monaco, Hôtel Miramar, Hôtel de France, Hôtel Le Versailles



MONACO.

LIVE YOUR DREAM



THINGS
TO DO



GET THE
FEELING



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