

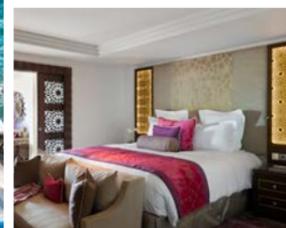
Mini-moons

French

Hop across the Channel to one of these romantic

FANCIES

love nests for fine food, fabulous wine and chic sights



TIARA MIRAMAR BEACH HOTEL & SPA Côte d'Azur

The vibe Private paradise. The Miramar sits in a secluded cove, with pine-covered hills behind and the water lapping at its own beach. With vast terraces from each of the sea-facing rooms, it's every bit the luxury hideaway. The chic, spacious suites feature Moroccan-inspired décor, and the huge beds will give you the best night's sleep.

Best for Just-the-two-of-you time in beautiful surroundings – think long, sun-soaked days by the pool, tailor-made spa treatments and romantic evenings watching the sun set. It's the perfect spot for mountain walks, cycling and watersports, while Cannes is about 30 minutes away by car. The Miramar's sister hotel, Tiara Yaktsa, is nearby along the coast. Guests are encouraged to share the facilities, and its lush gardens are an incredible place to recharge.

What to do We loved long lunches with divine local rosé at The MoYa. For dinner, we took the five-minute buggy ride to L'Or Bleu at Yaktsa, where an evening of gastronomic heaven was rounded off with delicate desserts made with honey from the hotel's apiary. For stunning Riviera views, take a morning stroll in the Estérel hills, finishing with a brunch of fresh seafood with lashings of aioli at La Marine. And if you're making the trip to Cannes or historic Antibes, stop for lunch on the decked seaside terrace at Cap d'Antibes Beach Hotel.

Pièce de résistance The hotel's position – cut into the hillside – is idyllic, with natural beauty in every direction. We never tired of the sight of the bright blue Med a few metres away, and even slept with the terrace door ajar, nodding off to the sounds of the sea rippling below. Bliss.

Bon voyage From £390 per night for a Junior Suite on a B&B basis, miramar-beachspa.tiara-hotels.com

CHÂTEAU ST PIERRE DE SERJAC Languedoc

The vibe Laid-back luxury surrounded by 200 acres of lush vineyards. This 19th century estate was spectacularly renovated in 2016 to include everything you could wish for from a mini-moon – there's a gourmet restaurant, speakeasy-style bar, a state-of-the-art winery, spa with aromatic gardens, infinity pool, tennis courts and bikes to explore the grounds.

Best for Food, wine and downtime in the sun. You can start your day with an al fresco breakfast buffet overlooking Serjac's beautiful heated swimming pool and then spend the afternoon at its on-site spa. There's no need to leave the estate come evening either: after a few cocktails at the bar, locally sourced French cuisine awaits at The Restaurant.

What to do If you do fancy venturing beyond the idyllic borders of the estate, then the small town of Pézenas makes an excellent day trip. On Saturday mornings, a delicious food market takes over the whole town centre. Make sure to take a stroll through Pézenas' back streets, where you will find quirky little artisan shops.

If you're a fan of dry martinis, take a trip to Marseillan, where you can have a tour of La Maison Noilly Prat and see for yourself how France's famous vermouth is made – virtually unchanged since the 1850s.

Pièce de résistance Newlyweds should book themselves into the La Chapelle suite, which is a show-stopping one-of-a-kind former chapel-turned-hotel room covered in Art-Deco paintings and hand-painted wallpaper. It also has an in-room bateau bath – *très romantique!*



Bon voyage The estate offers both hotel rooms and luxury self-catering properties. From €220 per night in a Château hotel room including breakfast, serjac.com



LES MANOIRS DE TOURGÉVILLE Normandy

The vibe Rustic charm meets luxury for a romantic and relaxing getaway that feels like a home away from home. Built in 1978 for a film that never came to fruition, there's a fun movie theme throughout – the room names pay homage to French actors, and the private cinema plays films on request.

Best for Fabulous food. From the variety of breakfast options at the morning buffet to the delicious lunch menu at the lounge bar (we recommend the fantastic croque monsieur), we can assure you that no one leaves this hotel hungry. The panoramic 1899 restaurant is a grand setting for a special dinner, with a seasonal menu featuring foie gras, Normandy sole and a delicious array of cheeses. Make sure to try a shot of Calvados – a local double-distilled apple spirit.

What to do A morning swim in the indoor heated pool is the perfect way to start the day, and a facial in the Esthederm spa is a must for couples who wish to unwind totally after the big day. Nearby Deauville – a popular destination for Parisians during summer months – has a delightful sandy beach, designer boutiques, and charming markets ideal for leisurely browsing. A little further afield you'll find Honfleur, a picturesque harbour town, home to galleries and medieval architecture.

Pièce de résistance The central terrace is the heart of the hotel. Whether indulging in an aperitif on the patio or unwinding in the sun after a game of tennis, the terrace captures the chilled and peaceful country vibe. There are no formalities here, just friendly, helpful staff, serene surroundings and a feeling of a blissful escape.



Bon voyage Manoir Rooms start from €175 per night, excluding breakfast. Buffet breakfasts start from €23, lesmanoirstourgeville.com



HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE MONTE-CARLO Monaco

The vibe Refined opulence. In this principality on the Riviera, Monte Carlo has long been a favourite destination of the jet set, and some hotels here do overdo the glitz. Not so the glorious Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo, which manages to combine luxury with an elegant sense of style. The lobby alone is a work of art, while the rooms and suites have beautiful furnishings and huge bathrooms.

Best for A weekend of indulgence. Everything is perfectly designed for pleasure, whether you're relaxing by the heated seawater pool or enjoying gourmet dining at one of the four fabulous Joël Robuchon restaurants.

What to do Obviously, casinos are one of the big draws. If this isn't your scene, get an idea of the history of Monaco with a guided daytime tour (fairandfairy.com). The Changing of the Guard at the Prince's Palace is worth a look. The hotel also offers a range of 'Just For You' experiences, including the chance to drive a Formula One car – perfect for speed merchants!

Pièce de résistance The Spa Métropole by Givenchy is simply divine. Stepping into each beautifully designed space creates a feeling of serene wellbeing – and that's before you've even experienced one of the sublime treatments. The Le Soir Noir facial we had was easily among the most enjoyable and effective we've tried. Ninety minutes of massage and Givenchy products left us with glowing, smooth skin, which colleagues were still commenting on a week later. We heartily recommend a visit.

Bon voyage From €340 per night for a Superior room, metropole.com



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