



Montpellier  
Méditerranée  
Tourisme & Congrès

## PRESS PACK 2019

THE ART OF CREATIVE, MEDITERRANEAN CITY LIFE

# Press Pack

PRESSE.MONTPELLIER-TOURISME.FR



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MONTPELLIER MÉDITERRANÉE

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CREATIVE, VIBRANT,  
*captivating*

Welcome to the very essence of Montpellier Méditerranée!

Whether you're looking for a city break, a breather, an intrepid adventure, or just want to spend quality time together, you'll be delighted by the Mediterranean feel and countless gems we have to offer.

Popular attractions like the Place de la Comédie, the Faculty of Medicine, fine mansion courtyards, contemporary heritage, the Fabre Museum, the Château de Castries, or Maguelone Cathedral will work their charms on you, but there's a lot more to Montpellier Méditerranée!

From cycle paths down to the sea front, to vineyards as far as the eye can see, take in the unique charm of Languedoc villages, or top level cultural and sporting events. But, don't forget our traditions that we're set on sharing with you.

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# GETTING TO Montpellier

Montpellier

## BY PLANE



There are direct flights to Montpellier from Paris (1 hour 10 min), London (1 hour 45 min), Frankfurt (1 hour 30 min), Amsterdam, Brussels and Madrid. Marseille Airport is also just 90 minutes from Montpellier, with flights to most international destinations. Montpellier Méditerranée Airport is just 8 km from the city centre and has a dedicated shuttle bus service.

Visit [montpellier-airport.com](http://montpellier-airport.com) for more details

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Montpellier-Saint Roch TGV railway station is in the city centre with direct trains from Paris-Gare de Lyon or Charles de Gaulle Airport (3 hours 15 min), Lille (4 hours 45 min), Barcelona or Brussels (5 hours 40 min).

For more info: [www.en.oui.sncf/en](http://www.en.oui.sncf/en)

Montpellier Sud de France railway station is 20 minutes from the city centre, 14 minutes from the airport and just 8 minutes from motorway exit 29.



## BY TRAIN

train

## BY CAR

car



2 h from Marseille  
2.5 h from Toulouse  
3 h from Lyon  
3.5 h from Barcelone  
3 h 15 min from Nice

# KEY Figures



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**31**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**282.143**  
POPULATION OF  
MONTPELLIER

**457.839**  
POPULATION OF  
MONTPELLIER AND ITS  
METROPOLIS

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole attracts 5.1 million visitors a year

Accommodation hospitality 1,552,245 nights

France's fastest-growing city

2nd most popular city for learning French as a foreign language

Montpellier is France's 7th largest city by population

9th most popular conference destination in France (2017 ICCA rankings)



MONTPELLIER MÉDITERRANÉE

# The Art City living



Since its very beginnings, Montpellier has cultivated a taste for beauty, with nearly 70 sumptuous townhouses and mansions, an Arc de Triomphe and the Place Royal du Peyrou esplanade, both erected to the glory of Louis XIV. You can also stroll along medieval streets and admire the Faculty of Medicine, steeped in over 1,000 years of history. Montpellier has plenty to indulge heritage lovers, in a city that combines aesthetics with the past, present and future! Fountains adorn the streets, such as the Trois Grâces, just one of the most popular spots, but there's also the "Écusson" historic centre which has been entirely pedestrianised, as well as the colourfully designed tramway system, with lines 3 and 4 displaying the touch of French fashion designer, Christian Lacroix. There are statues and street art installations, as well as Montpellier's contemporary architectural feats that set the standards for others. Art is all around, it lies in wait for you and rushes up on you!

As a cultural destination, Montpellier Méditerranée promises (and delivers!) culture for all, for all tastes and all budgets. There's just one watchword: boldness, backed up by all-pervading excellence! The Fabre Museum houses some 900 works of fine art, while photography takes pride of place at the Pavillon Populaire. Together with the Maison de la Photographie in Paris, the Pavillon Populaire is just one of two bastions to photographic art in France. It focuses exclusively on presenting unique exhibitions by leading figures of the "eighth art". June 2019 marks a highpoint in the contemporary art calendar with the opening of Hôtel Montcalm, officially launching the "MoCo" Centre for Contemporary Art.

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Montpellier is beautiful, but definitely full of life! It constantly changes, yet remains a focus for infatuations, encounters and sharing. The city attracts people from all four corners of the globe for its numerous festivals: extreme sports, Montpellier Danse, Architectures Vives, the performing arts and the Cœur de Ville en Lumières light festival.

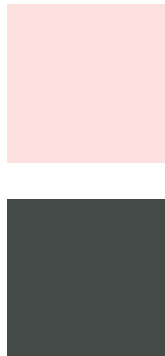
These events are organised by and for fans and admirers, constantly and cleverly combining performance with aesthetics.

Montpellier is resolutely Mediterranean, boasting a backdrop that befits its image. It has a perfect geographical position, 10 km from the sea shore, surrounded by vineyards and countryside as far as the eye can see. There's Villeneuve-Lès-Maguelone, a splendid natural haven with a backdrop of the vast Mediterranean Sea, sprawling vineyards and an outstanding Romanesque cathedral lost in the midst of a picture postcard setting. The lagoons and lakes of the nearby Camargue are the delight of nature lovers and adepts of "slow tourism". Why not take a bike ride at sunset and marvel at the flamingos taking flight.

Montpellier Méditerranée is, without a shadow of a doubt, precious, welcoming, unique and a winner in everyone's book. In 2019, more than ever, we're cultivating a taste for beauty and, as always, a taste for welcoming people from all walks of life.

# WHAT'S NEW IN MONTPELLIER for 2019

# Overview



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## FOCUS ON THE MOCO: MONTPELLIER'S CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE

**June 29, 2019** : opening of Hôtel Montcalm (3,500 m<sup>2</sup> close to Saint Roch railway station). This new contemporary art venue joins the national school of fine arts and the Panacée to form the MOCO, Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole's centre for contemporary art.

The MOCO is open in spirit, there for everyone and unapologetically innovative, adding to Montpellier's natural cultural appeal, making this Mediterranean city a leading light of contemporary art and a prized cultural destination. Stylist and business owner, Vanessa Bruno, is President. Nicolas Bourriaud, art critic, co-founder of the Tokyo Palace and former Director of Paris École des Beaux-Arts, is the Director.



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DON'T MISS :



The launch of the "100 Artists in the City – ZAT 2019" exhibition-event on 8 June 2019 and until 28 July. 100 works by artists will be on display throughout the Écusson historic centre. These pop-up installations are free to view while links will also be established with the town of Sète and its artist community.

## HALLE TROPISME, A NEW CREATIVE CLUSTER

This new 4,000m<sup>2</sup> complex is part of plans for a “Cité Créative”. It’s a showcase for creative and cultural enterprise, a sector that is set to grow over the coming years. The building dates back to 1913 when it was used by the army for its mechanical workshops. Now it has become a cultural and entrepreneurial centre, open daily to the public from 18 January 2019 for special events or simply for spending a pleasant moment in the Café Tropisme. This ecosystem brings together cultural players and more generally, creative and cultural enterprise. From January 2019, each resident will be able to work, do business and live in a smart, mutually beneficial, creative and inspiring setting.



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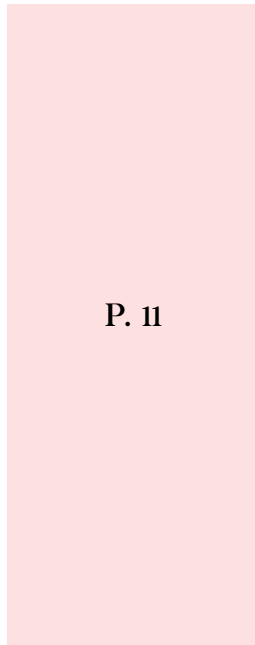
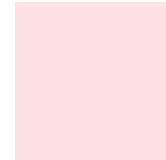
## RE-OPENING OF THE JARDIN DES SENS

June 2019: the POURCEL brother’s “Jardin des Sens” has had a makeover and will reopen in autumn 2019. Located on Place de la Canourgue, in the 17th century Hôtel Richer de Belleval (once the city hall), this high-end Relais & Châteaux-listed establishment has 18 rooms, a fine-dining restaurant, a bistro, champagne bar, reception room (in the former wedding room) and an outdoor terrace.



# THE ARBRE BLANC ARCHITECTURE AND FINE- DINING

A new plant has taken root right in the heart of the new and modern Port Marianne neighbourhood. The Arbre Blanc, is a building designed by architects, Sou Fujimoto, Nicolas Laisné and Manal Rachdi. Popular with both architecture and culinary enthusiasts it will feature a brand new restaurant on the first-floor by Charles FONTES (Michelin-starred chef from the Réserve Rimbaud) and Eric CELLIER, (Chef at the La Maison de la Lozère gourmet restaurant), which is set to open in mid-2019. There will also be a tapas bar on one of the panoramic terraces on the 17th floor!



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## MARCHÉ DU LEZ

The Marché du Lez is a creative hot-spot that opened in 2016 on the banks of the River Lez and continues to grow!

After the addition of a food truck village in 2018, plans are afoot for the Halles Gourmandes food hall, scheduled for spring 2019. This is definitely the new place to be in Montpellier!



## HÔTEL PLAGE PALACE

Hôtel Plage Palace lies between Palavas and Carnon, close to the Camargue, just 5 minutes from Montpellier-Méditerranée Airport and the new TGV railway station. This venture by the Costes brothers has been designed by Imaad Rahmouni and François-Joseph Graf from the Buttazzoni Agency. It opened in July 2018 and has 70 rooms and suites, a restaurant, a 27-metre heated pool, a spa with its own pool and the hotel beach just behind. Phase 2 of the development is underway and is scheduled to open in January 2019.



5★

GOOD TO KNOW



Once the Jardin des Sens and the Hôtel Plage Palace open in 2019, Montpellier will have no fewer than three 5-star rated hotels, together with Domaine de Verchant, set deep in the vineyards and just 5 km from the city centre.

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## LAISSAC: A NEW, STYLISH CITY CENTRE FOOD HALL OPENS

The new Halles Laissac (food hall) opened on 1st December 2018, right in the centre of Montpellier. The building has been designed as the fulcrum of a shopping experience that includes the Grand'Rue Jean Moulin (currently being renovated), ongoing improvements to the Rue du Faubourg du Coureau, the Rue du Faubourg de la Saunerie and the Boulevard du Jeu de Paume, in conjunction with a pedestrianised square and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Taste and beauty is the hallmark of the Halles, with the introduction of an art installation on the underside of the rooflight and external glazing. It depicts a fruit, a melon, which refers to the building's architecture, the Mediterranean heat and connects with the 24 market stalls in the building.



*Montpellier  
Méditerranée  
is precious,  
welcoming  
and unique*

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IMPORTANT  
Highlights for 2019



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EXHIBITION  
«ANDY SUMMERS»

6 FEBRUARY TO 14 APRIL

The Police guitarist is exhibiting for the first time in France and prior to Maastricht (Netherlands), with an unprecedented retrospective dedicated to the musician and photographer (free entry).

“100 ARTISTS IN THE CITY – ZAT 2019”  
EXHIBITION-EVENT

JUNE/JULY 2019

A major free cultural event in public areas that will also involve cafés and shops. 100 artists have signed-up for the event in June and July 2019!

## THE 2019 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

### FRANCE 2019

The 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France will be the eighth edition of this competition!

24 teams, including France (which qualifies as host) together with 23 other countries having made it through their confederations' qualifying stages, will be competing from 7 June to 7 July 2019.

Montpellier will host 5 World Cup matches at the Mosson Stadium, including a last-sixteen match.

#### THE MATCHES AT MONTPELLIER :

Pool matches :

- Monday 10 June, 9pm: Canada v Cameroon
- Thursday 13 June, 6pm: Australia v Brazil
- Monday 17 June, 6pm: South Africa v Germany
- Thursday 20 June, 6pm: Cameroon v New Zealand

Date of last-sixteen match in Montpellier:

- Tuesday 25 June, 6pm: Winner of Group C v Best third-ranked team from Groups A,B and F



*Capitale of sport!*



**BOUTOGRAPHIES**

[BOUTOGRAPHIES.COM](http://BOUTOGRAPHIES.COM)

The 19th edition of the European Photography Festival takes place on 4 to 26 May 2019.

The Boutographies festival provides an opportunity for photographers to meet, display their work and wow visitors from Montpellier, as well as the chance to share their ideas on photography with their French and European counterparts.



**LIVE ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL**

[FESTIVALDESARCHITECTURESVIVES.COM](http://FESTIVALDESARCHITECTURESVIVES.COM)

The «Festival des Architectures Vives» takes visitors on an architectural journey to discover and revisit some of the city’s iconic sites since 2006. The event provides visitors with a first-hand experience of this wealth of heritage through a selection of installations scattered about the city. In Montpellier, the focus will be on the historic centre with routes linking up different townhouse mansions and courtyards that are mostly privately-owned and not usually open to the public. June 2019

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**FESTIVAL MONTPELLIER DANSE**

[MONTPELLIERDANSE.COM](http://MONTPELLIERDANSE.COM)

Montpellier Danse takes place in July and is the place where all types of dance and cultures around the world meet up. Each year, it attracts leading international choreographers who come to perform their unforgettable creations.

For 15 days, the Agora, Cité Internationale de la Danse, the Berlioz and Comédie Opera Houses and multimedia libraries in the city’s municipalities are completely thronged by artists and festival-goers!

Montpellier Danse is also a festival that deliberately takes dance out from the theatres to offer specially-designed, free street performances staged in the squares of Montpellier’s municipalities.



**FESTIVAL RADIO FRANCE  
OCCITANIE MONTPELLIER**

[LEFESTIVALEU](http://LEFESTIVALEU)

The Radio France Occitanie Montpellier Festival has built its success on the originality and diversity of its programme, with the chance to rediscover forgotten pieces, promoting young artists and, more generally, the desire to offer excellence to as wide an audience as possible. The 2019 edition will be its 34th year and Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole will be hosting free concerts in all its municipalities. July 2019.





**FISE**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL EXTREME**  
**SPORTS FESTIVAL**

[FISE.FR](http://FISE.FR)

(29 May to 2 June 2019). The extreme sports festival, or FISE, is an annual competition showcasing several so-called extreme urban sports (rollerblading, BMX, skateboarding, mountain biking, wakeboarding and scooters). It is held each year on Ascension Day weekend, with competitions open to amateur and professional athletes.



**THE INTERNATIONALE DU BOTY**

[BOTYFRANCE.COM](http://BOTYFRANCE.COM)

The "Battle Of The Year" is a hip hop extravaganza focusing on breakdancing (international competition), held in November 2019.

The "Battle" Final marks the culmination of the event, where the two best groups take to the stage for a dance-off, with only one winner.

There's  
just one  
watchword:  
boldness

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## AND AS ALWAYS...

### OPEN SUD DE FRANCE 3 TO 10 FEBRUARY

The annual Open Sud de France tennis tournament takes place at the Sud de France Arena, in Montpellier and has all the makings of a great spectacle for tennis fans!

### THE 9TH MONTPELLIER MARATHON

24 MARCH

It features a challenging 42.195 km course showcasing central and greater Montpellier. After a loop around the city centre, the runners will make for Castelnau le lez, Lattes, Pérols, Carnon, Palavas les flots, with a section heading towards open water!



### LA COMEDIE DU LIVRE DE MONTPELLIER

17, 18, 19 MAY 2019

The Comédie du Livre book festival began in 1986 with support from the City Council based on an idea by the then Mayor, Georges Frêche. The aim was to encourage booksellers to get out an about and run a cultural street festival about books. The Comédie du Livre has been organised by Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole since January 2017 and continues to explore foreign literature as well as supporting independent contemporary literature and young writers. Indeed a large part of the event schedule is dedicated to young people, with comic books and literature in all shapes and sizes !

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### FESTIKITE

26 TO 29 SEPTEMBER

This unmissable event for all kiteboarders is held each year at Prévost Beach, in Villeneuve-les-Maguelone.

### FESTIVAL ARABESQUES

SEPTEMBRE 2019

This event gives you the chance to discover Arabic culture through the arts, music, theatre, storytelling, screenings, dance and calligraphy.

### LES INTERNATIONALES DE LA GUITARE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

The «Internationales De La Guitares» is a music festival celebrating the guitar. It features concerts and musical encounters held throughout the city and greater Montpellier area.

# Events

*a city full  
of life!*

### WHAT A TRIP

27 TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2019

Montpellier's international travel and adventure film festival enters its third year and among this year's highlights are screenings and meetings with film makers, pop-up exhibitions, free concerts, conferences and workshops and a "slow tourism" village.

### CINEMED

OCTOBER 2019

This annual event celebrates the best of Mediterranean cinema, with many film screenings and guests from the film industry. The festival shines a spotlight on young talent, with a film festival for high school students and promotes films shot in the region, with an official regional selection.

### THE «ESTIVALES»

JULY & AUGUST

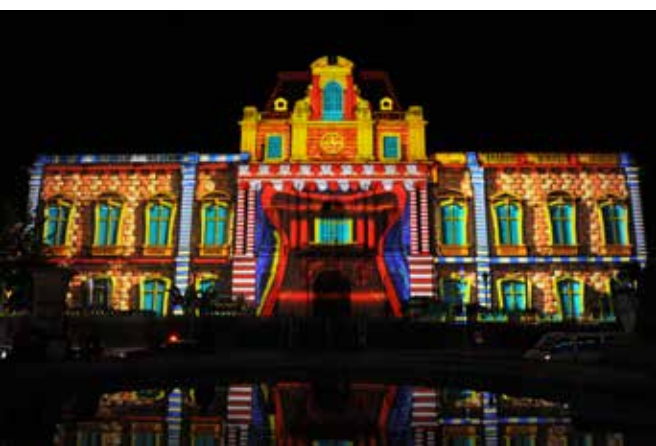
THE summer meeting waited for by everyone, Montpelliérains and tourists alike, and continually praised. Every Friday night from early July till the start of September, open air evenings which focus on wine and local produce. Winemakers and producers will present their work all through these evenings. Vouchers enable people to taste different wines and to accompany them with local produce: oysters from the Etang de Thau, 'pélardons' (local goat's cheese), Lucque Olives, 'charenterie', etc...



### «CŒUR DE VILLE EN LUMIÈRES» THE HEART OF THE CITY LIT UP

1ST WEEKEND OF DECEMBER

A dreamlike journey, a sound-and-light experience, on the facades of some of the most beautiful monuments of the city centre. Three days of performances, sound-and-light shows, another way to discover Montpellier's heritage. A free celebration open to all.



# MONTPELLIER MEDITERRANEE

*is...*

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## A CITY OF CONTEMPORARY HERITAGE AND ARCHITECTURE

Boasting the largest pedestrianised area in Europe, walks in Montpellier have become something of an art form! There are medieval lanes, Haussmann-designed buildings, neo-classical architecture and stridently modern neighbourhoods, as well as the design-inspired tramway system. It all gives you the impression of strolling around a gigantic open-air architecture museum!

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## A MULTI-FACETED DESTINATION WITH ALWAYS MORE TO DISCOVER

Montpellier Méditerranée offers a mixture colours and impressions. You can hike in the Cevennes, experience traditions and landscapes of the Camargue, be blown away by the Pic Saint-Loup, visit Sète with its unique island feel, visit picturesque Pézenas, or feel the sacred touch of Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert. There's the Mediterranean Sea and its endless fine sandy beaches to explore by bike along dedicated cycle paths. It's all right on your doorstep!

A CULTURAL  
AND CREATIVE  
LABORATORY

*artistic breath  
of fresh air!*

Montpellier is certainly a haven for culture, with renowned festivals, nationally-important facilities, emerging new talent and the development of art in all its forms, such as street art.

Don't miss: exhibitions at the Fabre Museum, the MOCO (opens in June 2019), the Pavillon Populaire, and Lattara - Musée Henri Prades archaeological site, as well as all the major festivals.

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THE MEDITERRANEAN IS  
YOUR PLAYGROUND

With the Mediterranean Sea stretching out to the horizon, the sea shore is part of the Montpellier lifestyle. Whether you're looking for a pleasant spot with the family, working up a sweat or enjoying unspoilt nature, the sheer diversity of our coastline suits all your needs!

DON'T MISS :



Don't miss the enchanting setting of Maguelone Cathedral, a Romanesque treasure nestling between the sea and vineyards. Other top attractions include the private beaches that open up from April to September, where you can sip a glass of something nice or enjoy an evening with the sand between your toes. If you're after more daring deeds, why not take to the sea on a paddle board or kitesurf at one of the many beaches along the coast!





## A LAND OF PASSIONS!

We have extreme sports, like the renowned FISE festival which attracts almost 500,000 sensation-seekers each year, or the Nocturne night-time city run, as well as water sports like kitesurfing and sailing. But, our arts, craft and stringed-instrument makers, wine growers, researchers and many, many artists are also full of passion and only just begin to describe a city that really has its finger on the pulse! Discovering Montpellier Méditerranée, is about meeting men and women with heart and soul, the heartbeat of our city! #montpelliernow, experience and share it!

# A cultural destination

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## A FEAST FOR THE EYES AND TASTE BUDS

Did you know you can also discover Montpellier Méditerranée with your taste-buds? Take vineyard break and taste local wines at top estates like Le Verchant as well as in some of Montpellier's manors and follies. Why not sample the oysters at the Bassin de Thau or try some olives and other local products direct from the producer?

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FOR ALL INFORMATION, VISIT  
[MONTPELLIER-FRANCE.COM](http://MONTPELLIER-FRANCE.COM)

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