

PRENEZ VOTRE TEMPS À MONTPELLIER

**2022
PRESS KIT**



Montpellier
Méditerranée
Tourisme & Congrès

TIME OUT IN MONTPELLIER



A unique city experience in a place where nature reigns supreme and you can breathe.

TIME FOR A DAY

History buffs will love the city's relaxed vibe and art bursting from every corner. With 70 palatial manors, an Arc de Triomphe, Place Royale du Peyrou built in honour of Louis XIV, medieval lanes, the world's oldest medical school and more, grand designs are a thing of the past, present and future here! It's home to a whole host of fountains including the famous Trois Grâces, the pedestrianised Écusson district in the heart of the city, colourful trams that are both modern and eco-friendly, street art at every turn, contemporary architectural masterpieces that Montpellier has set the benchmark in and so much more. It's an open-air museum made by everyone, for everyone.

TIME FOR A WEEKEND

Up the stakes and experience the very best the city has to offer. Whether it be the trail-blazing Soulages collection, Fabre Museum, exclusive temporary exhibitions at MO.CO Montpellier Contemporain, the magical Richer de Belleval tucked inside a historical building with views of the cathedral or the countless gourmet bistro restaurants that have popped up in the city, this is your chance to see another side to Montpellier as you explore sites that have come into their own.

TIME FOR A HOLIDAY

Visitors are in for a riot of colours, aromas and experiences. Cycle along bike paths running by vineyards and lakes to the sea, unearth archaeological gems outside the city, charming fishing huts around the lagoons, traditional Languedoc villages, countless parks and outstanding nature sites, winemaking heritage with real history and the wonder of 7 UNESCO World Heritage sites within 2 hours of Montpellier...

TIME FOR A MAGICAL BREAK

Live it up and connect with the city. Go with the flow and soak up its electric energy with festivals and experiences galore...

Whether you have time for a day here or every day.

Montpellier

CONTENTS *FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE!*

4. UNMISSABLE EVENTS

6. TIME FOR A FEAST

11. MONTPELLIER'S THIRD PLACES

12. TIME FOR ONE NIGHT OR MORE

14. TIME FOR A TASTING

16. TIME FOR AN EXHIBITION

21. TIME FOR A STROLL

23. TIME FOR A FILM SHOOT

24. TIME FOR A FESTIVAL

27. TIME FOR ART & HISTORY

32. HEALTHCARE IN MONTPELLIER

33. TIME FOR CRAFTSMANSHIP

35. TIME FOR A WINE TOUR

36. TIME FOR TRADITION

37. TIME FOR A FAMILY HOLIDAY

38. TIME FOR A SPORTY EXPERIENCE

39. TIME FOR A NATURE EXPERIENCE

40. TIME FOR ECO-FRIENDLY SHOPS

42. TIME FOR A BUSINESS EVENT

43. A LAND OF TOLERANCE

44. 31 TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE AREA

49. INSTAGRAMMABLE MONTPELLIER SPOTS

50. MONTPELLIER AND TOURIST INFORMATION LABELS

52. HOW TO GET TO MONTPELLIER



APPLICATION TO BE THE 2028 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

MONTPELLIER'S APPLICATION

With Sète, Occitanie Region, Hérault Département, Sète Agglopôle Council, Pays de Lunel Council, Grand Pic-Saint-Loup Council, Pays de l'Hérault Council, Hérault Méditerranée Board and everyone who wants to get on board, **Montpellier and Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole are venturing into uncharted territory on an exciting adventure to become the 2028 European Capital of Culture.**

A LAND COMMITTED TO CULTURE

Our land is full to bursting with resources to support its application. It's a young, dynamic, welcoming and inclusive place to live where community and solidarity matter and knowledge has always taken pride of place.

What sets us apart is the special combination of being a future-forward city with incredible heritage surrounded by unique natural landscapes from the coast to the valleys. There's no denying the assets of our artistic, cultural and historical land that artists and creatives have always flocked to.

Our application will encourage new community-led projects that bring places and people together. It will give our cultural campaign a new lease of life with a long-term joint strategy based on the belief that we share a community of common destiny.

THE EUROPEAN APPLICATION IN FRANCE

In 1985, the actress Melina Mercouri, then the Greek Minister of Culture, established the annual institution of the European City of Culture. Two years later and Athens was the first in a long line of what would be called the European Capitals of Culture from 1999 onwards.

The idea behind the campaign is to protect and promote the diversity of European cultures and celebrate their similarities by giving citizens a sense of belonging to the same cultural space.

It also aims to improve how culture contributes long-term to cities in terms of the economy, society and urban living based on local strategies and priorities.

One city is awarded the title every year in two European Union countries based on a predetermined chronological list up to 2033.

It's France and the Czech Republic's turn in 2028.

APPLICATION STAGES

December 1st 2022: Selection questionnaire

1st quarter 2023: Selection of 4 applicant cities

December 2023: Application bid

2024-2028: Designation as 2028 European Capital of Culture

January 2028: Start of the capital year

UNMISSABLE MONTPELLIER events



WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Montpellier and the Sud de France Arena will host the World Figure Skating Championships on March 21st-27th 2022. 15 nations will take part including China, America and Canada.

6 days of competition:

- 150 official judges
- 200 figure skaters
- 300 coaches, team leaders, medical team
- 50 Nations
- 300 volunteers

The French Federation of Ice Sports has unveiled the event's special mascot: LOULOU the otter. The mascot is designed by Nell Méjean, a student at ESMA Montpellier



MOLIÈRE'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY (1622 - 2022)

Artist Poquelin alias Molière (1622-1673), France's greatest actor and playwright, was born 400 years ago in Paris in January 1622. Molière spent two holidays in Montpellier in 1654 and 1655. The author left his mark on the city. Now it's time to follow in his footsteps. The first time Molière stayed in Montpellier was in winter 1653-1654 in the Prince de Conti's suite. The prince was overseeing the Estates of Languedoc assembly held in the city. Conti arrived in Montpellier to the sound of the Citadel's cannon fire on November 10th 1653. Molière had his second break in Montpellier during the Estates of Languedoc assembly from December 1654 to March 1655.

Montpellier Métropole Tourist Board will stage plays at the Medical School over the course of the year.

HIGHLIGHTS:

May 4th and June 18th: Molière in Languedoc parade.

July 19th & 26th/August 2nd & 9th: Summer theatre at the Medical School.

May 25th-June 25th: The Printemps des Comédiens festival has put together an action-packed schedule with one of the highlights celebrating the 400th birthday of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, Molière.



ESCALE À SÈTE

Sète: an incredible place to celebrate Mediterranean maritime heritage. Since it first launched in 2010, the bi-annual Escale à Sète festival plays host to the maritime world and celebrates traditions at Sète port during holy week.

The international event has become the first festival devoted to Mediterranean maritime heritage with over 300,000 visitors, 120 traditional boats, over 1000 experts and Navies from different countries.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Tuesday April 12th: Escale Parade: the boats set sail!

Wednesday April 13th: Escale Moussaillon: All aboard kids!

Thursday April 14th: Escale au Pays Bas: Dutch guests on deck!

Friday April 15th: Escale Solidaire: the call of the sea and community!

Saturday April 16th: Escale des Gens de mer: flotilla procession!

The 2022 Escale à Sète schedule is based on 3 core values in the maritime world: "heritage and culture", "community" and "environment".

<https://escaleasete.com/>

MONTPELLIER CELEBRATES THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE OF MONTPELLIER

Montpellier was a protestant stronghold in 1622, making it a political and religious challenge to Louis XIII who wanted to assert his authority.

The city was attacked by 14,000 soldiers and ended up broken but unbeaten after two months of battle. This historical event led to the construction of the citadel (now home to Lycée Joffre college) and will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2022.

Anniversary events to be confirmed



HERITAGE



CULTURE



FOOD & DRINK



CONTEMPORARY



STREET ART



NATURE



VINEYARDS



BEACH



SQUARES

TIME FOR A FEAST



Our chefs and ambassadors put their passion for the region into tantalising our tastebuds and dazzling us with local produce.

NEWCOMERS LET'S MEET THEM!

LA TABLE DES POÈTES

Thomas Réa's La Table des Poètes has just turned 2 and been awarded the **3* Ecotable award** for the standard of its commitment to sustainable food. Thomas Réa has worked with Joël Robuchon and the Pourcel brothers. Join Thomas and his team between Monday and Friday lunchtime in a warm and relaxed eatery. The restaurant hosts gourmet evenings, exhibitions and 3 hour cookery classes with the chef every Wednesday.

<https://la-table-des-poetes.com>

O PETIT TRINQUE FOUGASSE

Mathieu Baudet, the brains behind the Trinqué Fougasse eateries, has joined forces with Paul Courraux, the chef at Le Saint Georges in Palavas, to open the brand new O Petit Trinqué Fougasse.

Open Monday-Saturday: 11am-9pm

<https://www.trinquéfougasse.com>

LA TABLE DE LA LYRE

Join Pierre Olivier and Capucine Prouhèze at La Table de la Lyre for some quality time enjoying bistronomy dishes. The restaurant puts local producers in the spotlight and hand-picks the ingredients that go into their dishes.

<https://www.tabledelalyre.fr/>

LE VR A VIN

Lozère chef Pierre-Olivier Prouhèze has started a new venture. He and his partner Clément Gely opened Le VR à Vin in the Euromédecine district in Montpellier back in September. The bistronomy restaurant is open for lunch Monday to Friday.

<http://www.restaurantlevravain.fr>

LA CASA PICAFLOR

The hottest new eatery in the Beaux-Arts district is an exotic cantina-come-cocktail bar serving a whole host of South American-inspired dishes with a Japanese take on Peruvian food.

<https://casa-picaflor.fr>

MICHELIN-STARRED SINCE 2009



LA RÉSERVE RIMBAUD

and chef Charles Fontès -

<https://reserve-rimbaud.com>

The restaurant is undergoing a full renovation this year.

THE NEW 2022 STAR



LE JARDIN DES SENS

and chefs Jacques and Laurent Pourcel

www.hotel-richerdebelleval.com/jardin-des-sens/

It's only been open for 9 months but they've already been awarded a star by the 2022 Michelin Guide. Their La Canourgue brasserie and Terminal#1 have also been awarded a "plate".

2021 STARS



RESTAURANT PASTIS

and chef Daniel Lutrand -

<https://pastis-restaurant.com>



RESTAURANT LECLERE

and chef Guillaume Leclerc - www.restaurantleclerc.com

Recently honoured by Gault & Millau in the "Occitanie Seafood" category



REFLET D'OBIONE

and chef Laurent Cherchi - www.reflet-obione.com

The restaurant has also earned a green star, a distinction awarded since 2020 to eateries with a sustainable restaurant policy.



THE POURCEL BROTHERS *OPEN 2 RESTAURANTS AND 1 BAR*



GAULT & MILLAU D'OR OCCITANIE 2021 AWARDS
- WINNER: JACQUES & LAURENT POURCEL – LE JARDIN DES SENS

BISTRO DE LA CANOURGUE

BISTRONOMY

Good local specialities, casual chic dishes, simple, fuss-free, hearty, delicious and indulgent cookery in a relaxed restaurant. Jacques & Laurent Pourcel work their magic on honest ingredients, put their own spin on fresh, classic or original flavours and bring us textures that are full of body or light as air. 3 dining areas to experience the Pourcel brothers' colourful and fragrant cookery with a dash of opulence.



L'ÉLYTRE

BAR

Chic and understated. The place to be. Snuggle up in a stunning setting beneath the jaw-dropping and dazzling rooflight: the glitter of scarab beetle wings (élytre or elytron) in every shade of green. The cosy atmosphere of a private club or cabinet of curiosities. A special place for unique experiences.



LE JARDIN DES SENS

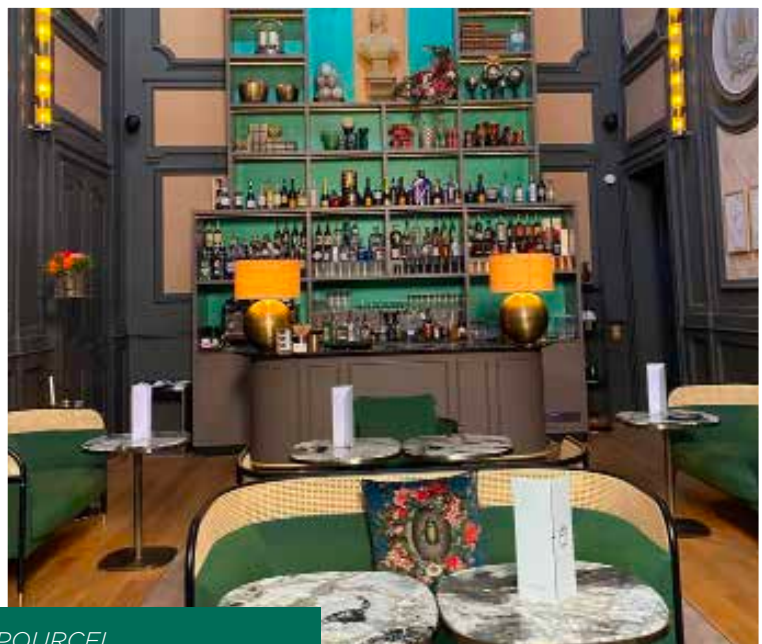
GASTRONOMY



The ultimate culinary experience: expect a feast for all the senses. They're back and on top of their game.

Their new challenge is to get their stars back with a "conversation with our Mediterranean" in ten or fifteen awe-inspiring courses.

To be continued!



NEW: COOKERY CLASSES *WITH JACQUES OR LAURENT POURCEL*



COOKERY CLASSES

Experiences for small groups.

Step into the magical world of Jacques and Laurent Pourcel's kitchen and learn the chef twins' recipes, tricks and tips on a course.

For further information:

<https://www.hotel-richerdebelleval.com/>

SOULENQ

Everyone knows Arthur Lahmy and Camille Rigal. Arthur is the brains behind the fantastic Anga restaurant in Montpellier which foodies flocked to and earned him our Young Talent award in 2017.

The project was awarded a grant from Gault & Millau and its two founders are once again pushing the boundaries with passion and zest for life.

<https://www.soulenqrestaurant.fr>

Gault & Millau Éloquence Occitanie 2021
- Winner: Pierre Quatrefages (Soulenq – Montpellier)

Gault & Millau



DOMAINE DU GRAND PUY

Domaine du Grand Puy, a.k.a. Mas Nouguier, is now run by the Compagnons de Maguelone in the new Grisettes eco-district west of Montpellier. The quirky, honest and mouth-watering Mediterranean bistro showcases local produce and ingredients made by the Compagnons de Maguelone.

Domaine du Grand Puy is an inclusive employer with at least 75% of its FOH and kitchen staff disabled.

<https://domainedugrandpuy.fr>

LE MAZERAND

Le Mazerand lies in a chic and sleek manor deep in fabulous leafy grounds. Chef Jacques Mazerand serves indulgent, hearty and delicious dishes celebrating Southern French ingredients. The menu celebrates biodiversity and changes with the seasons to get the best from the produce from land and sea.

Gault & Millau

**3 FORKS IN THE MICHELIN GUIDE AND
2 CHEF'S HATS IN THE MILLAU GUIDE**

LATTES

<http://www.le-mazerand.com>

MAHÉ

Chef Richard Juste is all about being true to flavours. He and his partner Sabrina Deltros are beginning a new adventure. It does what it says on the tin: they respect the producer, the work they put into the produce and seasonality with good honest cookery to delight diners. The Mahé chef is shaking up the Montpellier dining scene.

<https://www.mahe-restaurant.fr>

L'ARBRE

L'Arbre is a 2-storey restaurant in Montpellier at the top and bottom of the Arbre Blanc (White Tree). The bar on the 17th floor of the Arbre has unobstructed 360° views of the sea and Cévennes peaks.

Eric Cellier, Charles and François Fontes's restaurant brings diners a striking contrast to the future-forward Montpellier masterpiece L'Arbre Blanc with a focus on reviving classic French fine dining.

<https://larbre-restaurant.fr/>



R RESTAURANT

Frédéric Husser has launched his own restaurant and museum concept: Bespoke furniture, mood lighting and a cosy setting to spend quality time together in the bar and dining area... In the restaurant you're spoilt for choice with hand-picked fresh ingredients in seasonal dishes: an express set menu, à la carte lunch, business function or get-together.

MAUGUIO

<https://www.r-restaurant.fr>



THE ULTIMATE COCKTAIL BAR *LET'S TRY IT!*

APERTURE

Julien Escot has brought his two passions together, photography and cocktails, to make Aperture his most personal project: a cocktail bar-come-art gallery. The team concoct exciting and inspired cocktails with a radically modern twist. Enjoy high-end creative dishes from the comfort of the bar or in the dining area.

Listed as one of the world's best bars and restaurants: 50 Best Discovery

<https://aperturemontpellier.com>

MON CAVISTE A UN GRAIN AND ITS TWO FESTIVALS

They have a passion for top tipples whether it be the best-known or game-changing wine and spirits. Geoffrey and Samih opened their shop in La Pompignane.

THE SOFT FESTIVAL JULY 2ND & 3RD 2022 AT LEZ MARKET

This is a first in France: an event devoted to the alcohol-free world! The pioneering festival will be the first to showcase expertise in virgin drinks. It's a family-friendly event that brings people together to explore, experience and drink smarter. It also has a more serious message as French consumers have realised that what they put in their bodies affects their health and wellbeing.

Further information coming soon on:

www.softfestival.com

THE MONTPELLIER COCKTAIL TOUR SEPTEMBER 20TH-23RD 2022

Geoffrey designed the festival to encourage "slow drinking." It's about taking your time to enjoy the experience of a drink made by professionals using quality ingredients. The Cocktail Tour takes in 8 bars celebrating cocktail culture. A week devoted to mixology and creative bartenders. With 8 special pop-up cocktail menus. The event will be held in the area's 6 biggest cities (Montpellier, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Marseille, Lyon, Nantes) to celebrate the local cocktail scene. Download a free pass on the following website for discounted cocktail creations: www.cocktail-tour.com



©GuilhemCanal

COCKTAIL BARS *LET'S GO!*

LE NECTAR COCKTAIL CLUB

THE TRAIL-BLAZER

This is more than a cocktail bar, this is more than a custom-made cocktail; every last detail has been pored over from the choice of glasses to the music and interior!

<https://www.belaroia.fr/>

LA PLAGE BY VERCHANT

Fancy matching your cocktail to your favourite song? You can with the Verchant experience: "Purple Rain" Beefeater gin, beetroot shrub and elderflower tonic or "La Bamba" house mezcal infused with cocoa nibs, Noilly Prat Ambré, house coffee liquor. If music be the food of love, drink on.

CASTELNAU-LE-LEZ

<https://www.domainedeverchant.com/fr/restaurant-la-plage.html>

L'ARBRE LE ROOFTOP

The rooftop bar stands on top of the "tree" overlooking Montpellier and its region. The 17th floor terrace has incredible views and a selection of the best spirits for creative cocktails.

<https://larbre-restaurant.fr/>





ALTER EGO GOES GOURMET *LET'S EAT!*

Alter Ego Bistro brings local seasonal ingredients together with cherry-picked wine. Romain and Angélique Salamone have joined forces with rugby's Benoit Paillaugue to run Alter Ego. The foodie trio bring diners high-end dishes that are affordable, honest and discerning.

Alter Ego has been serving game-changing fine dining dishes upstairs in the restaurant since mid-October. Romain Salamone has gone back to his first love deep in his leafy and luxurious haven: fine dining. The chef's carefully designed menu is a 7 course experience packed with exciting and inventive cookery. The dining room seats up to 30.

www.restaurant-alterego.fr

THE CLASSICS *IN THE AREA*

marcelle
©GuilhemCanalPhotographer



TEMPS D'AIMÉ

Temps d'aimé is a family affair. Bader has over 10 years of experience and works FOH whilst his son Tankrède runs the kitchen and has worked for Jean-Luc Rabanel at L'Atelier (Arles). They serve market dishes using regional produce. The menu changes every week based on what's seasonal and available at the market. It's all about fresh, quality and homemade dishes.

LATTES

<https://www.restaurant-tempsdaime.com/>

DOMAINE DE BIAR

Chef Jodie Wadeh serves honest dishes using ingredients from the region or garden. The slow food eatery brings diners a culinary experience true to nature and the seasons. It works with passionate producers so you can explore local Mediterranean dishes celebrating flavour, pleasure and togetherness.

LAVÉRUNE

<https://domainedebiar.com>

RESTAURANT MARCELLE

Executive chef Mathieu Gourreau puts his expertise and creativity into showcasing the region's seasonal produce and elevating it in a cosy setting.

DOMAINE DE VERCHANT IN CASTELNAU LE LEZ

<https://www.domaineverchant.com/>

Outside the city

RESTAURANT DU DOMAINE

It's a family affair. Experience seasonal dishes made using fresh produce lovingly-prepared by Chef Sophie. A magical moment that brings your senses to life with a selection of local producers.

ST-CLÉMENT-DE-RIVIÈRE

<https://www.restaurant-du-domaine.fr/>

MONTPELLIER'S THIRD PLACES



MARCHÉ DU LEZ - LEZ MARKET, THE ULTIMATE MUST-SEE!

With 4 locations, Lez Market, foodcourt, Lez indoor market with its food stands and rooftop are the place to be in Montpellier.

The concept: a creative hotspot home to shops, second-hand stores, farmer's markets, restaurants, food trucks, start-ups, activities, events, exhibitions etc. Lez Market stands in former factories and farm buildings.

Montpellier's trendy new neighbourhood!

www.marchedulez.com



HALLE TROPISME CULTURE AND ART LET'S EXPLORE!

Halle Tropisme is a 10,000m2 village home to over 200 creatives; a village that opens its doors to professionals, families, visitors, students, neighbours and more.

Tropisme brings you an art and culture schedule for all ages which pairs music and experimental food, contemporary art and clubbing, debates and after-work parties.

Don't miss the market on Tuesday night!

www.tropisme.coop

HALLES PLAZA GRISETTES DISTRICT THE NEWBIE

Halles Plaza is an indoor market and a hive of life celebrating good food and local produce in all its glory. It's an honest concept with passionate artisans in a modern French high-end market. Halles Plaza, the new temple of good food to stock up on fresh produce.

www.hallesplaza.fr





TIME FOR ONE NIGHT OR MORE

ACCOMMODATION NEWS *HOT OFF THE PRESS*

HOTEL RICHER DE BELLEVAL RELAIS CHÂTEAU 5*

This 17th century manor was Montpellier's first town hall and stands on the oldest and most romantic square in the city: Place de Montpellier. The Pourcel brothers have moved in here. Leading heritage restoration specialists have painstakingly renovated 20 classic luxury rooms with the interior designer Christian Collot's dash of boho glamour.

www.hotel-richerdebellevall.com



DOMAINE DE BIAR 4*

New 4* rating! Experience a magical place on the edge of Montpellier where you can soak up soothing nature, relax and unwind. The property brings us the best of nourishing nature and human inspiration in a charming residence, sleek function rooms and stables for horses to stay in. Domaine de Biar is the epitome of a successful eco-friendly project. The estate has made nature the focus of everything it does.

<https://domainedebiar.com/biar/>

MAISON BAYARD

Everything about the 7 stylish rooms at Maison Bayard conjures a unique and eclectic atmosphere a stone's throw from Montpellier Saint Roch station. Guests can download the app to tailor-make their stay. The hotel is also home to a restaurant.

www.maison-bayard.com

OPENING IN 2023

SIX SENS in LATTES

Next-generation hotel resort with 170 rooms, a rooftop with pool, bar, gym, meeting room, coworking space, concierge and valet service

ACCOMMODATION NEWS *YOUTH HOSTELS*

RÉSIDENCE KABANE *OPENING IN APRIL*

Kabane is a brand new student residence on the banks of the Lez in a peaceful and leafy spot in Montpellier. The residence lies within a 10 minute drive of the buzzing Port Marianne area and provides 179 fully-furnished and tastefully-decorated lodgings from cosy studios to shared rooms.

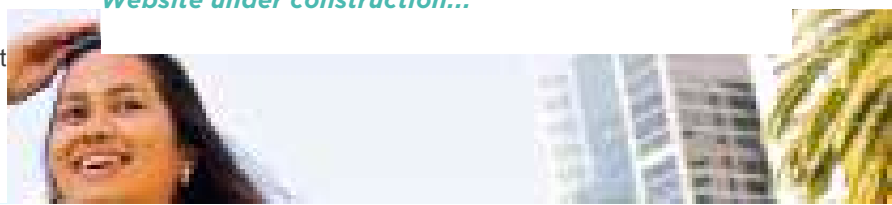
The entire residence is designed to meet student requirements today.

<https://www.uxco-kabane.com/>

NEXT-GENERATION YOUTH HOSTEL *OPENING LATE 2022*

JBMB is a Montpellier company that has recently launched with 20 rooms sleeping 100 with private bathrooms and a bar/restaurant with a hundred covers near the station and Place de la Comédie.

Website under construction...



ACCOMMODATION NEWS *REFURBISHMENT*

LE ROYAL HÔTEL 3*

The hotel's new design blends post-industrial style with deep warm colours next door to the train station. The hotel has been around since 1910. 46 rooms have been updated and turned into homes from home.

www.royalhotelmontpellier.com/fr

**REOPENED IN FEBRUARY 2022
AFTER 13 MONTHS OF RENOVATION**

DOMAINE DE BIAR 4*

Renovation work in January 2022 and refurbishment in 2023.

<https://domainedebiar.com/biar/>

DOMAINE DE VERCHANT 5*

Project to open 24 suites with private loggias that melt into the natural environment and are true to the site's biodiversity (sunshine, plant cover etc.) www.domainedeverchant.com/fr/

DOMAINE DE MASSANE 5*

3 years of renovation for Domaine de Massane in Baillargues to upgrade from a 3* to 5*.

www.massane.com

HÔTEL CAMPANILE 4*

Work on the 4* Kyriad Prestige to become a 4* Campanile.

<http://kyriad-prestige-montpellier-ouest-croix-dargent.montpellier.hotels-fr.net/fr/>



le royal hôtel



domaine de massane

ONE LAST THING *A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!*



AWARDED THE GREEN LABEL IN 2021

- APPART CITY MONTPELLIER CONFORT MILLÉNAIRE

THE GREEN KEY LABEL

Green Key International is an international eco-label awarded to accommodations and other hospitality facilities that commit to sustainable business practices.

ODD NEWS *DOG-FRIENDLY!*

DOG-FRIENDLY MONTPELLIER

When you bring your dog to stay at **Hôtel Richer de Belleval** and **Domaine de Verchant**, you get a welcome basket especially for your four-legged friend with dog biscuits.

DID YOU KNOW?

Montpellier won the 30 Millions d'Amis magazine's "most dog-friendly city in France" award for the second year in a row in 2020. That means it's the best urban living area in France for dog owners and their four-legged friends.



TIME FOR A TASTING

Whether you're in central Montpellier or the city's neighbourhoods, there's always a market selling Southern French produce! Stroll among the stalls at 4 market halls (3 in the city centre), daily markets and make a beeline for Marché des Arceaux, under the Aqueduct down from Place Royale du Peyrou for local flavours. Regulars flock to stalls laden with farm produce every Tuesday and Saturday morning!

LOCAL FESTIVALS *UNMISSABLE!*



LA FÊTE DE LA TRUFFE

de St Genies des Mourgues
IN JANUARY

LA FÊTE DE L'OLIVE

de Pignan
IN OCTOBER

LES ESTIVALES

The area's "estivales" summer festivals put local produce in the spotlight
IN JULY AND AUGUST

LA FÊTE DE LA TOMATE

de Clapiers
IN SEPTEMBER

LES RENCONTRES VIGNERONNES

de Montpellier
IN NOVEMBER

TOURIST INFORMATION GIFT SHOP *EXPLORE THE LAND!*



DOMAINE DE L'OLIVIE

OLIVES

A long-standing family affair. The grove covers 30 hectares with 10,000 olive trees. Local values are dear to the family's hearts and they are committed to organic farming. Their produce is grown free of pesticides and true to nature! Horses graze in the olive grove: they keep it trim and provide manure. The children took the reins and gradually updated farming methods. They switched from sustainable to organic farming. A permaculture vegetable garden and herb and medicinal garden have been planted in the shade of the olive trees. **Signature specialties! tapenade, olive paste and oil in all their glory.**

<https://oulivie.com/>



LA VINAIGRERIE

MONTPELLIERAINE

VINEGAR

Nicolas Robinson is a former rugby player tackling vinegar. **La Vinaigrerie Montpelliéraine** has been patiently making organic wine vinegar using a responsible and sustainable farming process since 2017. The idea is to restore this traditional age-old Languedoc product to its former glory.

ORGANIC - SELECTION

They select the wine and organic blends from Hérault winemakers to make natural local vinegar and sell it locally. The company's entire business plan is eco-friendly.

<http://vinaigrerie-montpellieraine.fr/>



AUZIER CHABERNAC

LIQUORICE

AUZIER was founded in 1923 by Léon Auzier and is now run by Magali Auzier. The sweets are all made in keeping with traditional recipes kept under wraps by 3 generations of the family. They have been awarded the ecocert label and living heritage company certification recognising French businesses with first class artisan expertise. **The classic or organic vanilla liquorice and honey liquorice are their bestsellers.**

www.auzier-chabernac.com



LA BELLE ÉPOQUE

ZÉZETTES DE SÈTE

Another great family affair!

Gaston Bentata has been making traditional biscuits since 1978 and introduces foodies to little biscuits from old family recipes that have been loved for decades at **La Belle Époque**. La Belle Époque has regularly won awards at the Hérault Gourmand food and drink competition since it opened. The Zézette de Sète ® won the prize for its inimitable flavour in 2012. La Belle Époque brings you a whole host of culinary delights from zézettes to kémias (savory biscuits).

www.belleepoque.fr



AMANDEOUS

CLAPAS CHOCOLATE

Clapas is a crunchy melt-in-the-mouth speciality in Montpellier. The chocolate praline is crispy with rice pieces and touron nougat cream. The white or dark chocolate is adorned by the statue of the 3 Graces in Montpellier.

www.amandeous.fr

LES ESCALETTES

ESCALETTES

Escalettes are new improved Languedoc wafers. The sweetly-scented biscuit is baked in a special cast iron mould to give it its unique design. **Escalettes are a Montpellier speciality** and traditional Southern French wafer. An original classic that you can't get enough of!

<https://lesescalettes.fr/>



CHEZ INFUSE

HERBAL TEA

Géraldine and Nathalie are a pair of pharmacists who studied together before opening their own pharmacy. After years in the dispensary they were ready for a challenge and opened an infusion bar. Introducing Infuse, **a herbal tea bar and herbalist's shop!** They have a passion for plants and work with local organic producers. They provide advice to make herbal tea to drink on-site or take away. Have a chat with them and they will concoct a custom infusion to suit your mood, needs and mindset.

Bonus: The therapists host events upstairs:

<https://infusemontpellier.fr/therapeutes-animation/>

Downstairs you can tuck into homemade treats all day long.





THE FABRE MUSEUM *AN ICONIC MUSEUM!*

The Fabre Museum in Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole was founded by the artist François-Xavier Fabre in 1828. It was fully renovated in 2007, is an iconic cultural landmark in the region and among the leading museums in Europe. The museum plays host to some of the best public collections in France which are constantly updated by

donations from collectors and artists: Fabre, Valedau, Bruyas, Bonnet-Mel, Cabanel, Bazille and more. In the same vein, Pierre Soulages proved his love for the museum and Montpellier with a generous donation from his own collection to give an overview of his career.

Le Jeu de la palette and La Bascule (circa 1760-1765, oil on canvas, 75 x 99cm canvases) are two never-before-seen pieces by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (Grasse, 1732 – Paris, 1806) listed as "National Treasures" that have joined the public collections and are part of an outstanding donation to the Fabre Museum in Montpellier.

The Fabre Museum's temporary exhibitions and constantly updated permanent collections celebrate an incredibly diverse artistic legacy with paintings, sculptures, drawings and pieces that introduce visitors to the history of art and design in Europe from the Renaissance to the present day.

CURRENT EXHIBITION

LOUIS GAUFFIER'S VOYAGE IN ITALY MAY 7TH-SEPTEMBER 4TH

The Fabre Museum pays tribute to Louis Gauffier (Poitiers, 1762- Florence, 1801), an artist whose heart was in Italy. He was friends with François-Xavier Fabre and their careers were intrinsically linked, taking them to Rome and Florence and explaining why the artist is so prominent in the Fabre Museum collections.

THE NEXT EXHIBITION

BRUYAS APRIL 9TH-SEPTEMBER 2022

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

DOMINIQUE GAUTHIER EARLY JUNE-LATE AUGUST

COSTUMES SUMMER 2022

CONTEMPORARY ART BIENNIAL - PRESS ART AUTUMN 2022

SLEEP AUTUMN-WINTER 2022

<https://museefabre.montpellier3m.fr/>



From education and production to exhibition, coordination and collection, Montpellier Contemporain (MO.CO.) is an artistic ecosystem home to an art school and two galleries: MO.CO. Esba (Montpellier Fine

Arts School), MO.CO. Panacée (contemporary art centre) and MO.CO. Hôtel des Collections is a gallery exhibiting collections from all over the world. **Panacée is a free art gallery.**

<https://www.moco.art/fr/page-daccueil>

MO.CO HÔTEL DES COLLECTIONS MUST-VISIT!



CURRENT EXHIBITION

BERLINDE DE BRUYCKERE
JUNE 18TH-OCTOBER 2ND

A one-off solo exhibition for the artist Berlinde De Bruyckere throughout MO.CO's galleries. Hôtel des collections.

The exhibition has been designed in partnership with the artist to display fifty pieces completed between 1999 and 2022 alongside six new pieces made especially for the Montpellier event. Every gallery explores her favourite media (sculptures, installations, sketches, watercolours and collages).

Whilst Berlinde De Bruyckere's signature themes of martyrdom, redemption and metamorphosis may be at the forefront of the exhibition, it will also delve into lesser-known aspects of the artist's work such as eroticism, work, exploitation, relationships and hybridisations of man, plant and animal.

THE NEXT EXHIBITION

MUSÉE EN EXIL (CHILE, SARAJA, PALESTINE)
NOVEMBER 5TH-FEBRUARY 12TH 2023

MO.CO PANACÉE MUST-SEE!

CURRENT EXHIBITION

AGAINST NATURE
MAY 21ST-SEPTEMBER 4TH

An exhibition teeming with monsters and incredible hybrid shapes: these grotesque enamel and clay creatures create a leafy, original, mysterious, troubling or hallucinatory world.

Nature plays tricks with the mind to break down barriers and values and shake up ideas and stereotypes about sculpture and ceramics. The pieces on show are less about ceramic as folklore and more about clay and alchemy as technique and magic.

Water, earth and fire are essential ingredients in these new worlds: "What we call against nature is in fact against custom." (Montaigne).



THE NEXT EXHIBITION

AFTER SCHOOL, THE YOUNG ARTIST PRESS ART BIENNIAL
OCTOBER 1ST-JANUARY 8TH 2022

Panacée Thursdays

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LE MIDI LIBRE NEWSPAPER.

Every Thursday at 9pm at MO.CO. Panacée, brand new art events and conferences.

A SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION
IN BOTH THE MUSÉE CONTEMPORAIN
GALLERIES IN 2023

IMMORTAL EXHIBITION

First exhibition held simultaneously in both MO.CO art galleries MO.CO. Hôtel des collections (Gen X: 1970s-early 80s) and MO.CO. Panacée. (Gen Y: mid-80s).

PAVILLON POPULAIRE *A SNAPSHOT OF ART!*



Pavillon Populaire *is a free photography gallery open to the general public.* It has a high-flying schedule with pieces by artists famous nationwide and worldwide. There are an average of three exhibitions per year.

CURRENT EXHIBITION - NOT TO BE MISSED!

PETER LINDBERGH
JUNE 22ND-SEPTEMBER 18TH 2022

The world's first retrospective devoted to Peter Lindberg in partnership with the Peter Lindberg Foundation. German photographer Peter Lindberg (1944-2019) is world famous for his black and white shots of stars and models and considered a pioneer in his field. He redefined contemporary fashion photography and its beauty standards by celebrating women of all ages.

Peter Lindbergh made photography an art form, liberated women from oppressive and unrealistic concepts of beauty and presented images that focused on the person rather than belongings and appearances, flying in the face of standards at the time.



THE NEXT EXHIBITION

FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHY
A METAMORPHOSIS, 1970-80S
OCTOBER 18TH-JANUARY 8TH 2023

Photography made its first foray into contemporary art in the 1970-80s: it was nothing short of a cultural revolution. The exhibition presents 150-200 pieces to explore the history of a generation that made photography a key part of French cultural history.

www.montpellier.fr/506-les-expos-du-pavillon-populaire-a-montpellier.htm

ESPACE DOMINIQUE BAGOUET *EXPERIENCE REGIONAL ARTISTS!*



Espace Dominique Bagouet is a free art and heritage centre open to the general public. It showcases regional 19th and 20th century artists and has gone from strength to strength since reopening in 2012.

DREAMS AND LITERATURE - SUZANNE BALLIVET JULY 7TH-SEPTEMBER 11TH

...

www.montpellier.fr/3945-espace-dominique-bagouet.htm

ART BRUT MUSEUM *EXPLORE THE COLLECTION!*

Visitors are treated to a sprawling collection covering 800m2 with a Mediterranean garden. The collection of 2000 pieces provides a snapshot of unique, outsider artists, visionaries and surrealists from all backgrounds ranging from the early 20th century "art brut" roots to the worldwide outsider art we know today. There are 3 temporary exhibitions a year on top of the permanent exhibition. Each one is presented by a renowned art curator and sponsored by a patron.

CURRENT EXHIBITION

**ISABELLE JAROUSSE
MAY 4TH-AUGUST 28TH**

"As an adult, I bought tiny carved wood anthropomorphic charms to protect the wearer from evil spirits. I was fascinated by the delicacy and care of these little fanged characters and set them up at my work station. I watched, drew and transformed them for years. I brought out new sides to them with the tip of my paintbrush. My graphic language is now enhanced by animals, plants, human beings and more abstract shapes such as lines, dots and curves."

www.musee-artbrut-montpellier.com



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CURRENT CIVILISATIONS?

Travel back in time and experience the history of our ancestors at the Lattara archaeological site – Musée Henri Prades in Lattes in Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole. An exciting adventure awaits!

LATTARA, AN ANCIENT 6TH CENTURY BC PORT

The archaeology museum lies near ancient Lattara, a major western Mediterranean port. It stood on the bygone delta of the Lez coastal river, Ledum Flumen, and was occupied from the 6th century BC to 300 AD.

A PORT OCCUPIED BY DIFFERENT ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Lattara port was operational for over 800 years and was a major economic and cultural meeting point for civilisations living around the Mediterranean's western basin (the Etruscans, Greeks from Marseille, Iberians, Romans etc.) and local Gallic tribes. Lattes became Montpellier's port in the Middle Ages after a break that lasted hundreds of years.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

GAULOIS? GAULOIS! UNTIL JULY 4TH

The exhibition takes visitors through 350 items on a unique journey back to the late Iron Age (300-100 BC). This period of change saw Gallic tribes establish themselves and new forms of communication with the Mediterranean world that had been shaken up by the Roman expansion. Find out more about similar items being found in the lands of the Arecomici (Languedoc), Aedui (Burgundy), Lingones (Franche-Comté) and Arverni (Auvergne). Do they mean cultural interaction, economic trade, political contact or national strategy? Archaeology has the answers.

<https://museearcheo.montpellier3m.fr/>



A WHOLE HOST OF ART GALLERIES ARE OPENING IN MONTPELLIER INCLUDING LA SERRE, GALERIE MARC DE-VAUX, GALERIE D'ART DE SAINT GUILHEM, LES MÉTIERS D'ART AND CAPI FRANCE.



AUDIO GUIDE the city at your own pace

Ideal for a leisurely tour of the old town:

- > Standard: 11€
- Concession & 12-18 year olds: 9€/6-12 year olds: 6€
- > 70€ deposit

CITY CARD visit more, spend less

Get freebies and discounts at selected sites and activities in and around Montpellier with your 24 hr, 48 hr or 72 hr City Card. From 15 €. **> 50% off for under 18s**

SNAP IT UP!
Your free guided tour with the City Card!

NEW

MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain, Fabre Museum and Art Brut Museum admission included in the City Card since the start of the year!



Available to buy from Tourist Information
and
on www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/Preparer-Reserver/Visites/City-Card-Montpellier



TIME FOR A STROLL

Bikes built into buildings, a flurry of hearts on the walls, bugs instead of rocks, illuminated bins... Art is everywhere you look in Montpellier whether it be legal or not, abstract or figurative, permanent or temporary.

Montpellier is one of few cities in France where street art trends mingle on every street corner. Retro or modern, amateur or professional, street art is all over town.

AN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM *LET'S FEAST OUR EYES ON A STROLL!*

GRAFFITI GALORE QUAI DU VERDANSON

One of Montpellier's quirkier spots is a sort of outdoor graffiti gallery. If you're feeling inquisitive then park your car, venture deep into the entrails and unearth its hidden treasures on a walk. The canal walls are covered in graffiti, tags and incredible murals. It really does feel like you're in a museum. It's an ever-changing creative venue with new designs often appearing on top of older ones. Graffiti artists come here to practise and unleash their talent!

RONDELET DISTRICT

Larger-than-life pieces by MIST and ZEST make their mark on the landscape next to the post office. MIST brings passersby an explosion of colours and letters whilst ZEST uses geometric shapes to capture a mysterious female figure just a few steps away.

OUTSIDE MONTPELLIER *WELL WORTH THE TRIP!*

Street art can't be contained in one place, much less one city. Graffiti artists are constantly on the lookout for new canvases. To celebrate the opening of the new Languedoc motorway, artists in Lattes got the chance to put their stamp on the bridge pillars holding up the road on Avenue Georges Frêche. You can still see the artworks.

Pérois Town Hall gives artists the chance to unleash their creative side on "Le M.U.R", a huge mural visible from Route des Plages.

Juvignac and its "34" artistic trail around town with 5 artists and 5 murals.

Then there's **Baillargues** which has delved deeper into street art after hosting the L'Art du Graffiti group exhibition showcasing 3 local artists: ZEST, SMOLE and GUM.

ÉCUSSON DISTRICT

The Écusson district is a favourite among street artists in Montpellier. There's something for everyone: murals, stencils, graffiti, collage, trompe l'oeil etc. Street art culture is splashed all over the ground, walls and even hangs in the air with graffiti, installations, stencils, collages, mosaics and more. Look up and follow the breadcrumb trail laid out by Monsieur BMX's bike in the wall, snarky Space Invader tiles or optical illusions in St Roch or Place Édouard Adam.

MÉDITERRANÉE DISTRICT

The Méditerranée district is bursting with murals, stencils and graffiti by Montpellier artists. Moke, Ose, Sunra, Arkane, Nubian and other artists have left their mark here (and people out and about here love them for it).

Baillargues is a medieval town that's proud of its heritage and brought in the artist Claire Aton to elevate the centre. Baillargues sous la Révolution, Une fresque dédiée à la tradition oléicole, Une fresque d'envergure sur l'ère Napoléonienne

Saint-Jean-de-Védas is designing a street art trail through the town's streets and districts with murals.

Cit'Art brings visitors a footpath in **Fabrègues** in the Massif de la Gardiole mountains, exploring water tanks decorated by artists chosen by the LineUp association (Eackone, Honk, Maye, Momies, Vania, Zest) and Reda du collectif FU

Tourist Information Wall!

We've given street artists a wall to express themselves in the grounds of Montpellier Tourist Information.

Enaert is in the current star and the local street artist's piece is on show until summer 2022!

Street Art in their veins!

LINE UP

The association has been on the street and contemporary art scene since 2015 to help bring your ideas to life. They provide support decorating sites and renovating street furniture. LineUp's artistic support provision also hosts artists in one-off residencies.



FOCUS ON OUR STREET ARTISTS *LET'S MEET THEM!*

SALAMECH

Born in 1985 in Montpellier. Salamech grew up surrounded by street culture, has done graffiti like it's going out of fashion and whisks us away to a world that the city's buzzing energy brings to life. The street art expert puts a caring and quirky spin on his surroundings.

ZEST ALIAS FRANCK NOTO

The Montpellier-born artist produces boldly abstract pieces without losing sight of graffiti's roots and the figurative styles that brought it into its own. Zest blends colours like they were words and beautifully presents a structured, multi-layered and zesty visual language.

SUNRA

Street art's poet floods the city with love and draws inspiration from artists including Banksy, the street art pioneer, Basquiat and his colourful, naive and expressive world and Picasso for his modern style.

MONSIEUR BMX

Monsieur BMX finds and restores bikes every day before putting them on display all over Montpellier. Take a walk and look up!

OUPS

Everybody has seen his painted rocks around Montpellier. He's been painting "ladybird" COX rocks for ten years or so. The painter and sculptor sometimes collaborates with fellow artists, including Sunra, on collages celebrating love, togetherness, the environment and music. Montpellier may be Oups' favourite playground but his Cox pieces take fans on a scavenger hunt all over France.

TIME FOR A FILM SHOOT



MONTPELLIER - AN OPEN-AIR FILM SET

Montpellier is a magnetic city destination deep in outstanding natural surroundings. It has nailed the combination of relaxed Mediterranean lifestyle with the ease of a contemporary, youthful, connected and innovative big city.

Montpellier has become an open-air film set. The France Télévision group built their own studios in Vendargues to produce the popular series

Un Si Grand Soleil which has been beating audience ratings on France 2 every day for 2 years. The Tandem series has been shot by France 3 at its studios in the former EAI Infantry School mess since 2016.

2 other TF1 series are filmed nearby: Demain Nous Appartient in Sète and Ici Tout Commence in Saint Laurent d'Aigouze



Explore Montpellier as you visit filming locations from the Un Si Grand Soleil TV series - Let's visit the neighbourhoods setting the stage for France 2's biggest soap broadcast Monday to Friday and set in the Montpellier region.

Fans of the series can pick up **branded goodies** at Tourist Information and at the gift shop. A Un Si Grand Soleil **flyer** is available with full information about filming locations.

July 2021 saw the launch of a tour with the series' costume designer as your guide to visit film sets, learn everything about filming and the history of the city. You may run into film shoots or meet the actors as you explore the city.



LA CITÉ CRÉATIVE

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole has founded the Halle Tropisme and Cultural and Creative Industries centre on the former EAI Infantry School site: La Cité Créative. 600m2 of film sets, studios and schools forming a campus that opened in October 2020. The site is devoted to training and will host art exhibitions and events showcasing digital art, music and performance. The Campus Créatif at La Cité Créative is home to 4 schools: ESMA, ETPA, CinéCréatis and IPESAA. They provide courses in countless image and art subjects from 3D animation and design to cinema and video games.

The training campus hosts art exhibitions and events showcasing digital art, music and performance. The idea is to provide a welcoming space where people can get together and feel at home to live, work and enjoy.

A Ubisoft exhibition on show until May 7th at the Campus Créatif. A Montpellier adventure puts the spotlight on the work and personality of the Ubisoft Montpellier video games studio celebrating 27 years of creativity.

<https://www.entreprendre-montpellier.com/fr/la-cite-creative>

TIME FOR A FESTIVAL

A hotbed of festivals with something for everyone (list for reference only, dates may change)

MARCH 2022

1ST FOIRE DE PRINTEMPS PARC EXPO MONTPELLIER

This annual event has "a festival feeling": exhibitors for the home, garden, leisure, sport, shopping, food & drink, everyday essential, society etc. All with a VERY musical social vibe!

MARCH 17TH-22ND 2022

<https://www.foiredeprintemps-montpellier.com>

MARATHON DE MONTPELLIER

A challenging 42.195km run for French champions to explore in and around Montpellier. The loop takes runners around Montpellier city centre then into Castelnau le lez, Lattes, Pérols, Carnon and Palavas les flots with a slice of the seaside.

MARCH 20TH 2022

<https://www.marathonmontpellier.fr/>

LA COMEDIE DU RIRE

12 shows for a month of comedy. After 2 years of cancellations we need a good laugh and the team at Cocotte-minute have put together a great line-up with the likes of Nicole Ferroni, Emeric Lompret and Benjamin Tranie.

MARCH 11TH-APRIL 22ND 2022

<http://compagniecocotteminute.com/comedie-du-rire>

MAY 2022

LES BOUTOGRAPHIES

The Grain d'Image association was founded in 2002 to turn the original group exhibition into a festival. It still provides an outlet for the many and sometimes contradictory functions of photography today.

MAY 7TH-29TH 2022

www.boutographies.com

LA COMEDIE DU LIVRE

Montpellier's epic literature festival takes place on Place de la Comédie and Esplanade Charles de Gaulle. The 37th event has had a bit of a makeover: there are still meet & greets but also more hybrid creations with other media (music, dance, cinema, video games), musical readings, drawing concerts, translation workshops, philosophy teatimes, songs, literary ball and siestas with storytelling for children and adults.

MAY 13-22ND 2022

<https://comediedulivre.fr/>

BATTLE OF THE YEAR

BOTY France is back. After a two year absence, the best of French children and adult breakdance crews are back at the Zénith Sud in Montpellier to secure their place in the international final in Japan in December 2022. **NEW**

FORMAT!

SUNDAY MAY 15TH 2022

<https://www.battleoftheyear.net/>

FISE FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DES SPORTS EXTRÊMES

Free event for all ages. FISE Montpellier needs no introduction, it's become the ultimate unmissable festival in France. Athletes, freestyle fans and sports lovers look forward to it and over 600,000 of them flock here every year! Famous for its sporting feats.

MAY 26TH-29TH 2022

<https://www.fise.fr>

LE PRINTEMPS DES COMEDIENS

is a performance festival held at Domaine d'O in Montpellier. This year's schedule celebrates Molière's 400th birthday.

MAY 25TH-JUNE 25TH

<https://www.printempsdescomediens.com>



APRIL 2022

I LOVE TECHNO

Montpellier - Domaine D'O sets the stage for the I Love Techno Europe 2022 Festival from Friday December 9th to Sunday 11th. Watch a whole host of artists and bands perform in Montpellier at the I Love Techno Europe 2022 Festival

APRIL 9TH-13TH 2022

<https://ilovetechnoeurope.com/>



JUNE 2022

FESTIVAL DES FANFARES

Brass band festival in the Beaux-Arts and Boutonnet districts. The festival is run by volunteers.

JUNE 3RD AND 4TH 2022

<http://festivalfanfare.free.fr/>

LA MONTPELLIER REINE

La Montpellier Reine association has put on a 4.5km race in Ecusson in Montpellier since 2009. This family event is more and more popular every year and has become a must in Montpellier.

JUNE 19TH 2022

<https://www.montpellier-reine.org>

MONTPELLIER DANSE

The world-renowned contemporary dance festival brings thousands of spectators to Montpellier every year. This is the event for the biggest choreographers in the world and show-stopping performances.

JUNE 17TH-JULY 3RD 2022

<https://www.montpellierdanse.com/>

FESTIVAL ABRACADABRA

The festival for 1-14 year olds (grown-ups allowed) is back for its fifth outing at Château d'Ô park with even more things to do and surprises in store!

JULY 2ND-3RD 2022

<https://festivalabracadabra.com>

FESTIVAL RADIO FRANCE

The annual Radio France Occitanie Montpellier Festival has staged symphony orchestras, operas, chamber music, young solo performers, jazz concerts, world music and electro since it first came to Montpellier in 2015. The event is an institution among techno fans and has won countless prizes at the Elektropedia Awards. That says it all.

JULY 14TH-29TH 2022

<https://lefestival.eu>

LES FOLIES D'O

Musical festival, the ultimate summer get-together. They took us to Broadway last year and this year we're going back to Broadway!

JULY 1ST-9TH 2022

<https://www.domainedo.fr/spectacles/folies-do>



MONTPELLIER DANSE

SWINGING MONTPELLIER - 4TH FESTIVAL

This festival on the Montpellier culture scene takes place on Esplanade Charles de Gaulle to celebrate the city's swing skills and jazz legacy with music and dance.

The popular cultural event takes place "outside the city" to attract more people and boost the community vibe. The festival brings jazz and swing fans together whether they be novices, professionals or keen enthusiasts, young or old.

Last but not least, the festival has gone eco-friendly and strives to keep its production's carbon footprint to a minimum.

JULY 15TH-17TH 2022

www.swingingmontpellier.fr



SWINGING MONTPELLIER



FESTIVAL ARABESQUES 2022

The biggest festival in Europe devoted to Arabic art forms. Arabesques has become a game-changer hosting up-and-coming artists alongside living legends.

NB: change of date.

SEPTEMBER 6TH 2022-SEPTEMBER 18TH 2022

www.festivalarabesques.fr

WHAT A TRIP HEYME FESTIVAL!

The 6th international travel and adventure festival brings you screenings, concerts, exhibitions, conferences, round tables, travel village, world bookshop and introductory classes at an event where you can visit and revisit our amazing planet and fellow Earthlings!

NB: change of location.

SEPTEMBER 19TH-25TH 2022

<https://watmontpellier.fr>

LES INTERNATIONALES DE LA GUITARE

Watch the big names in music with concerts and get-togethers in and around Montpellier.

SEPTEMBER 10TH-OCTOBER 8TH 2022

<https://www.les-ig.com/>

FESTIKITE

The ultimate event for kitesurf fans at its regular Prévost Beach in Villeneuve-les-Maguelone.

DATES TBC

<http://www.festikite.net/>

JAPAN MATSURI - ASIAN CULTURE FESTIVAL

Visit a sprawling venue to explore different aspects of modern and traditional Japanese culture with a wide range of things to do. Concerts, cosplay shows, drawing contests, classes, martial arts and conferences.

OCTOBER 22ND & 23RD 2022

<http://japanmatsuri.fr>

CINEMED

The 44th International du Cinéma Méditerranéen Festival. The biggest Mediterranean film festival with over 200 screenings and countless official guests every year!

OCTOBER 21ST-29TH 2022

<https://www.cinemed.tm.fr>



CORÉE D'ICI

Multi-disciplinary festival celebrating French-Korean ties.

NOVEMBER 10TH-27TH 2022

<https://www.festivalcoreedici.com/>

LE FESTIVAL LES GRANDS YEUX - TROPISME

The documentary festival for children and adults. A real festival with a panel of kiddie judges, a red carpet, jury prize and audience prize, a VIP event and meet & greets with professionals. The festival is for children aged 5 and over and their parents.

DATES TBC

https://www.tropisme.coop/agenda/concours_dans_vos_grands_yeux



TIME FOR ART & **HISTORY**



Key dates

- 985** The Count of Melgueil gifted Mons Pestellarium to Count Bernard of Melgueil Montpellier was born
- 1196** The Commune Clôture city walls were built and quadrupled the size of the city
- 1220** The Medical School was founded. 1593: the Jardin de Plantes, the oldest botanical garden in France was founded by Pierre Richer de Belleval
- 1753** The first Place Royale or Promenade du Peyrou was designed and built by Étienne Giral
- 1799** The first stone of the Antigone district was laid
- 1998** The first businesses opened in the Odysseum shopping centre
- 2000** The tram service launched.
- 2011** The new town hall designed by Jean Nouvel and François Fontès was inaugurated in the Port Marianne district
- 2015** Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole was founded

Medieval Montpellier

Medieval Montpellier was a hotbed of cultures, expertise and goods. With pilgrimages on the rise, the city became a key stage on the Camin Roumieu, one of the four Ways of St James (the south path). Pilgrims had bed and board, the protection of Notre-Dame des Tables and places where they could exchange currency and get treatment. You can see reminders of the city's glory days on the façades or former "hostal" courtyards. One example is the Gayon room whose paintings tell the story of Saint Eustace's life, the patron saint of drapers, in the 13th-14th century Ostal des Carcassonne.





Montpellier's medieval 13th century mikveh, a bath used for the purpose of ritual immersion in Judaism, demonstrates the importance of the Jewish community and its key role in Montpellier's expansion and influence. Montpellier has one of the best mikvehs in Europe and the Jewish ritual bath is still in excellent condition. The mikveh's water supply comes from an underground reservoir that is constantly refreshed; the water comes out of a hole or gargoyle to symbolise its passage. The entrance has 15 ritual steps leading to the cloakroom and you can see the bath at the bottom through the twin arched window. It was found by chance under the floorboards in someone's cellar in 1985.

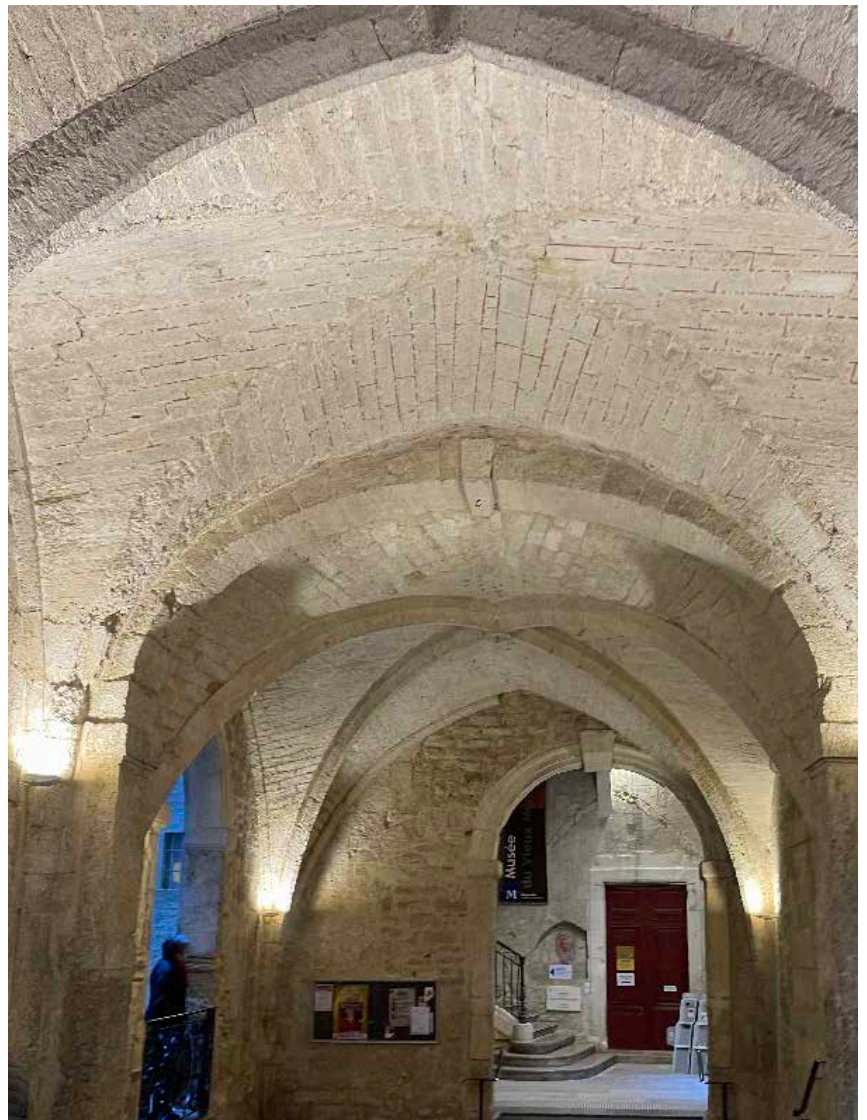
You can visit it on "Montpellier Historical Centre" tours or special opening days!

MANOR COURTYARDS

Huge gates, bright sprawling courtyards, sweeping wrought iron staircases, Montpellier is home to 80 manors built during the classical period. The manor courtyards are hidden gems that you can only visit on Tourist Information guided tours... but keep your eyes peeled just in case! It's not unusual to go for a stroll and see the gates open for a few magical moments. Then a walk through the town takes a new turn.

FOLIES... IN THE COUNTRY!

Folies are "country piles" that appeared on the outskirts of 18th century Montpellier and noble families used them as their summer residences. They may all have fabulous grounds but there's a difference between country folies, such as Château de Flaugergues, Château de la Mogère or Château de l'Engarran and city folies such as Hôtel Haguenot in the Peyrou foothills.



A BLEND OF ART AND HISTORY



PLACE ROYALE DU PEYROU

What makes Place du Peyrou such an iconic landmark in Montpellier is its prime location and fantastic views. Louis XIV chose Montpellier to play host to a statue in his likeness on horseback in 1685. Building a royal square was the finest example of the power of the monarchy and meant designing a place worthy of the king's statue. Landscaping and expansion work began in 1689. The decorative work didn't begin until 75 years later in 1766, during the reign of Louis XVI. Place Royale du Peyrou was completed in 1775 and ranked among the best squares in the kingdom given its prime location and fantastic views. The story continues...



A STREETCAR NAMED DESIGN

The city's tram service covers 7 towns and villages, 4 tram lines, 84 stops and 56km of track. It's the perfect way to get around the sights and explore the local area. Travel in style on trams designed by Garouste and Bonetti (lines 1 and 2) and Christian Lacroix (lines 3 and 4)!



FROM GREAT SQUARES TO LITTLE SQUARES

Montpellier is the perfect place for a wander from the iconic Place de la Comédie and Place Royale du Peyrou, for anyone who loves history and open spaces, to Place de la Canourgue and its views of Saint Pierre rooftops. No matter their size, the squares all have a story to tell.



MONTPELLIER CONTEMPORARY DISTRICT

Antigone is the chalk to the old town's cheese. It feels "Greco-Roman" with its tall white stone buildings, mouldings, statues and fountains celebrating mythology. However, Antigone didn't actually appear until the late 80s when the mayor Georges Frêche campaigned for a large-scale project: Port Marianne (1992 to the present day). Les Consuls de Mer, Richter, Blaise Pascal, Jardins de la Lironde and Jacques Coeur: The Port Marianne is made up of 5 neighbourhoods with their own personalities.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

It has been a Benedictine monastery founded in the 14th century, bishop's palace then medicine faculty. The Medical School opened in 1220. It is the oldest working medical school in the western world. It celebrated its 800th anniversary in 2020. The Anatomy Conservatory has almost 5600 anatomical parts and wax models for teaching purposes.

The Anatomy Conservatory and Atger Museum are currently closed for renovation.

Montpellier is the home of medical education and owes its fame to its faculty, the oldest medical school in the western world that has never closed. It's such a historical gem that the city plans to have it made a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Exclusive tour with Tourist Information.

HEALTHCARE, AN EXCITING HISTORY

Medicine has always been the beating heart of Montpellier's growth, as proven by the medical school, the oldest in the western world. This age-old tradition has never been so integral to the present and future of our society.

Hippocrates may hail from Kos but Montpellier is his spiritual home. The cradle of medical education for eight hundred years. Famous students here include François Rabelais and Nostradamus whilst teachers included Arnaud de Villeneuve or Gui de Chauliac, both of whom have hospitals named after them. The area has built on its legacy to set the benchmark in the field.



Did you know?

AN INCREDIBLE EDICT

Montpellier had only existed for two hundred years when its Lord Guilhem VIII signed a surprising edict in 1180. He stated that anyone, no matter their background or religion, had the right to teach medicine in Montpellier. So the medical school was born and sealed the fate of the city.

THE ANATOMY CONSERVATORY

The conservatory was originally intended to teach anatomy and was an incredible resource for generations of students before current techniques to explore the human body existed. The collection of 5600 anatomical parts and wax models has been listed as a Monument Historique since 2004.

*Exclusive tour with Tourist Information.
Closed for renovation until June 2022.*

JARDIN DES PLANTES

The garden was founded by royal decree in 1593. It is the oldest of its kind in France and opened to the general public in 1841. It's still very popular among botanists, physicians, pharmacists, students, plant lovers and tourists. The park has been updated with features from the 16th century to the present day including a pond (full of frogs) and English landscaped garden from the Second Empire.

PHARMACIE AND CHAPELLE DE LA MISÉRICORDE

The Chapelle de la Miséricorde houses the last existing apothecary in Montpellier. The Montpellier Council-run site is listed as a Monument Historique and was home to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent De Paul until 2001. The apothecary has two rooms (the 18th century and 19th century dispensaries) containing an incredibly rare collection of medicinal jars, albarello pots, jugs and ewers capturing hundreds of years of Montpellier earthenware.

It all began with medicine!



LIQUORICE AND PERFUME THEY STARTED OUT IN MONTPELLIER

LIQUORICE

There were five confectioners in Montpellier all making liquorice, gumballs, marshmallow and sugared almonds in 1923. They were the last of a medieval corporation where confectionery dabbled in pharmacy, in a city where Jacques Cœur had introduced eastern products.

Jacques Cœur brought the legend to life. He was a merchant based in Montpellier who made his fortune in the city. Jacques Cœur had a fleet of ships that traded in the Mediterranean basin. He travelled as far as the Sudan where he collected gum arabic, the core ingredient for any liquorice sweet. He brought liquorice root to grow in the Mediterranean basin and Sudanese gum arabic to Montpellier.

Montpellier was then famous for its pharmacy and medical school and the spices Jacques Cœur brought back were used to make medicine. During Rabelais' time in Montpellier, apothecaries were constantly inventing new things and students gave out sugared almonds to celebrate their theses. AUZIER CHABERNAC keeps the legacy alive in Montpellier today with its expertise and classic vanilla paste, liquorice paste, honey liquorice, marshmallow and, of course, sugared almonds. *(Please see "time for a tasting" for further information about the shop)*

The medicinal virtues of liquorice have been famous since Antiquity. The Babylonians used it to cure the plague whilst the Romans used it to aid digestion. The European Commission today has recognised that liquorice can help digestion. Liquorice grew wild outside Montpellier in the Middle Ages. The city's apothecaries used it to make their medicine. Gum arabic is also calorie-free.

<http://auzier-chabernac.com/>

PERFUME

You may not realise that Montpellier was the perfume capital long before Grasse. The garrigue was bursting with aroma and Mediterranean markets were packed with spices from all over the world, so apothecaries began making remedies and elixirs in the Middle Ages.

The chemist and scholar Arnaud de Villeneuve perfected the distillation of alcohol and floral water. Then came the Medical School and Jardin des Plantes, the creation of Hungary Water and the famous Montpellier theriac. Montpellier was home to a hundred perfumers in the 17th century and the city's very own Jean-Louis Fargeon became the darling among Marie-Antoinette and the king's children.

The most famous perfume makers include Sébastien Matte La Faveur who reformulated Hungary Water, a.k.a. Eau de Montpellier, a favourite among Louis XIV and Madame de Sévigné, and Jean Fargeon, Mademoiselle d'Orléans' perfumer. Arthur Dupuy and Caroline Redon tell the story in their book *"Montpellier, capitale ancestrale du parfum"* (EdiSens).

Arthur Dupuy has been scenting Montpellier Town Hall with Balsamium for a while now. Picture a drop of incense that brings to mind the yellowing pages of old manuscripts, the cold wax of candles, the smell of deep black liquorice blended with damp wood and the sweetness of dried fruit. A cascade of confectionery joins forces with strong spicy and balsamic notes in this fragrant formula.

Notes: Incense – Black liquorice – Woody – Spicy – Balsamic – Myrrh – Patchouli

<https://arthurdupuy.com/fr/>



HEALTHCARE IN MONTPELLIER

Montpellier's commitment to the Metropolitan Innovation Agreement reflects its drive to make health a priority. Countless resources have been allocated to medical technology to make leaps and bounds in the field.

MEDTECH PROFILE

Founded by Bertin Nahum in 2002 and specialising in the design and sale of robots for neurosurgery and spine procedures (ROSA™). Bertin floated Medtech SA on the stock market in 2013 (Euronext). He and his three partners founded Quantum Surgical in 2017 which designed Epione®, a mini-invasive robotic solution to treat liver tumours.

Quantum Surgical is an innovative medical robotics company fuelling future healthcare. It aims to improve cancer treatment by enabling more patients to have targeted and pioneering and less invasive treatment. Epione is designed to help doctors to plan, target, deliver and confirm tumor ablation in minimally invasive liver cancer treatment. All it involves is inserting a needle through the skin into the tumour to destroy it.

MEDICAL TOURISM 2022

GNOSIS SANTÉ "7 HOURS, 7 SPECIALISTS" BUSINESS LEADER SPECIAL

Gnosis Santé has spent over a decade designing a complete bespoke check-up centre and specialising in business leaders. The check-up takes place at a unique medical platform at Clinique du Millénaire, the biggest private hospital in the Montpellier area. Gnosis Santé brings every skillset together in one place with cutting edge technology to provide a next-generation medical check-up. A variety of specialist doctors help tailor-make the medical check-up.

THE CAP SANTE GROUP'S CLINIQUE SAINT JEAN WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS

Clinique St Jean has been expanding medical tourism since April 2021 and targetting countries including Russia, Austria, Ukraine, Germany, Spain, America and the United Arab Emirates. It is also an objective for the group run by Lamine Gharbi.

MED VALLÉE

Med Vallée is a project combining three areas of expertise: environment, agroecology, diet and healthcare. Montpellier is a land of research and innovation with a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, deep roots in healthcare and a focus on future medicine with the new Medical School that opened in 2017.

It is home to a leading hospital, major companies (Bausch+Lomb, HORIBA Médical, Sanofi), innovative SMEs and VSBs, first class research centres and the Eurobiomed collaboration platform (number 1 healthcare network in France and number 1 diagnostics network in Europe).

The area's strengths include: medical diagnostics, eHealth, cancer research and treatment, genetics, regenerative medicine, innovative therapy, silver economy and research into rare diseases.

MAKING MONTPELLIER A WORLD-CLASS CENTRE FOR GENERAL HEALTH

Montpellier's incredible grey matter has been sculpting the identity of the area for a long time and played a significant role in its appeal and economic growth.

<https://www.entreprendre-montpellier.com/fr/med-vallee>

Medical start-ups

NANOMEDSYN: designs new treatments to cure lysosomal storage diseases.

MEDTRUCKS: mapping and eHealth for hospitals, clinics and associations combating medical deserts.

DIADOM: urology and stoma specialists.

NATURELPAD: an online telemedicine and game platform based on movement for appropriate exercise.

HISTALIM Sarl: Histalim histology service provider.

CAYCEO: the first all-round turnkey solution for virtual reality medical hypnosis to manage anxiety and pain throughout the patient's care pathway.

TIME FOR EXPERTISE



AUSTRAL HOMME MEN'S SKINCARE

AUSTRAL Homme is Montpellier's new eco-friendly skincare brand founded by two childhood friends who share a love for travel, the great outdoors, new experiences and wanderlust. They went to Australia when they were 17 and both worked in their area of expertise. When they turned 50, they decided to go into business together and take their friendship to the next level.

Austral Homme products:

- Contain at least 99% natural ingredients and are 100% vegan
- Premium organic products (AUSTRAL skincare belongs to the leading international association specialising in natural and organic cosmetics: COSMEBIO)
- Minimal packaging and 100% recyclable
- Eco-friendly local network (supply, production, storage and logistics in the Occitanie region)

<https://austral-homme.com/>

ATELIERS ST ROCH OR CRAFT WORKSHOPS

MONTPELLIER ARTISANS The city of culture celebrates its artisans with craft workshops for locals to attend. These artist residencies explore creation and talent and are the perfect place for people who appreciate beauty. Head to the old town to visit the artisan designers at their studios and shops in Montpellier. Experience creativity and expertise in limited series and unique pieces.

www.ateliers-st-roch.com

MONTPELLIER, THE LAND OF STRINGS

There's been a sharp rise in stringed instruments being made in the last 25 years. Ten stringed instrument workshops in a city of 270,000 make Montpellier one of the biggest cities in the field and one of the world capitals.

<https://www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/Preparer-Reserver/Decouvertes/Zoom-sur/La-lutherie>

LA NEF

The Ateliers d'Art de France centre was founded in Montpellier old town in 2015 inside the beautifully restored Chapelle de la Visitation. The 300m² crafts centre worships contemporary crafts and has been named La Nef in a nod to the chapel's nave.

www.ateliersdart.com



MONTPELLIER EARTHENWARE

Earthenware is a long-standing trade in Montpellier. It appeared in the late 16th century and soared as medicine made its mark in Montpellier. A Manufacture Royale (royal factory) opened in Montpellier in 1725 and has left earthenware's mark on the city. Explore the tradition at the Pharmacy Museum, Chapelle de la Miséricorde (300 18th-19th century earthenware pieces) and Hôtel de Cabrières-Sabatier d'Espeyran (Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole Fabre Museum decorative art collection). The only place to buy them is the Tourist Information gift shop.

<https://atelier-artus-siffre.fr/>

Did you know?

Beaulieu lies 25km north east of Montpellier and is a village renowned for its stone quarries. Beaulieu limestone appears in countless local buildings: in Montpellier, Sète and outside the Mediterranean. Work as a quarrier was hard but well-paid and attracted labourers from Aveyron and Lozère as well as local farmhands. Two quarries are still open today. Village studios use the premium material to make fountains, door frames and more. The former quarries deep in the garrigue are now home to an outdoor theatre (summer performances), footpaths and MTB trails.





L'ESPRIT MONTPEUL. A BRAND FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE MAD ABOUT MONTPELLIER

The L'Esprit Montpeul brand brings you a showcase of designs blending homeware and lifestyle with a Montpellier vibe... or Montpeul to friends!

L'Esprit Montpeul products are designed to elevate indoor and outdoor spaces, give as gifts or bring home after a city break. There's a whole host of screen-printed items blending premium materials, linen, cotton, wood, organic ink and Southern French flavour. The brand puts the spotlight on local specialists, artisans, printers, illustrators and designers.

Karine Cauvy-Allemand's creations also tell the story of the city's roots. Just like her "Ninon soap" made from grapes in a nod to the vine-growing region and famous doctor.

<https://www.lespritmontpeul.com/>

REPUBLIC OF

Olivier and Sylvain have been friends since they were 10 and know everything about each other. They've had so many adventures, made so many memories and tackled so many of life's challenges together that they've formed an unbreakable duo. When one of them is being creative, the other one is being logical, when one of them is thinking, the other one is acting to make their plans happen.

They each have their own style and live in the same world: which is what gives the Republik Of collection soul. Republik Of wants to make its mark on the land but not the planet. That's why they've gone for comfortable, sustainable, 100% organic and eco-friendly clothing.

The first collection of course celebrates where it all began: Montpellier!

<https://republikof.fr>



OUR MONTPELLIER ARTISTS

STEPHANIE TITUS - CERAMICIST

Stéphanie Titus returned to France and her passion for pottery after years working all over the world. She graduated from Vallauris Fine Arts School in 2007 and went straight into making her art dreams happen: injecting light into clay. Her designs are experiences bound to the real world. Stéphanie uses the board sculpting technique to mould porcelain and bring out its personality through light. Jacques and Laurent Pourcel run a fine dining restaurant and support contemporary design. The brothers asked Stéphanie Titus to join them. She created a white porcelain plant frieze in one of the restaurant's vaulted dining rooms alongside a series of white porcelain serving platters.

<https://stephanietitus.fr>

LAURA GASSIN - ILLUSTRATOR

From the shore to the hinterland and Montpellier's winding lanes, every iconic place is depicted after walks in the Jardin des Plantes, Boulevard Henri IV, Lez riverbanks and surrounding area: ponds, beach and Cirque de Mourèze, famous for hiking. These modern posters have a fresh and bright feel and suit any interior.

www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/offre/fiche/laura-gassin-creations/COMMLAR034V51XL57

XAVIER LLONGUERAS-PROTIEFORM ARTIST

Xavier Llongueras is a French artist who mainly works with mosaics and sustainable design. He was born in the South of France and was fascinated by Spanish mosaics from an early age. He brought art and the environment together to give his work a natural flavour with no aesthetic aspirations. He has been making the Open Sud de France tennis tournament trophy for years.

www.xavierllongueras.com/vision

SANDRINE ROZIER - TEXTILE DESIGNER

Sandrine Rozier is a textile designer specialising in natural dyes and is committed to reviving plant-based dyes with different structures for performance arts. She works with a network of specialist dyers and has explored every nook and cranny of the archipelago to showcase the bond between using plants and the sensory nature of colour, namely different indigo dyes in fermenting vats.

<https://www.sandrinerozier.com/>

MATHILDE MONNIER - CHOREOGRAPHER AND DANCER

Mathilde Monnier has set a benchmark on the contemporary dance scene both in France and abroad. She was made the director of the Centre Chorégraphique de Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon in 1994 and launched a series of collaborations with figures from every artistic field (Jean-Luc Nancy, Katerine, Christine Angot, La Ribot, Heiner Goebbels etc.). After running the CN D Centre National de la Danse, Mathilde Monnier returned to her creative work in 2019 joined by the Illusion & Macadam cooperative. She is now a resident artist with her dance company at Halle Tropisme.

www.mathildemonnier.com



TIME FOR A WINE TOUR



Languedoc wine, Grés de Montpellier, wineries, wine courses, wine bars, wine cellars, vineyard tours, local produce... Montpellier Méditerranée is a feast for the senses

MONTPELLIER MÉDITERRANÉE MÉTROPOLE "WINE CENTRE" LAUNCH TO MAKE MONTPELLIER A WINE CAPITAL

With 200 winemakers covering 3000 hectares, the vineyard outside Montpellier forms an unbreakable bond between the city and countryside. Montpellier is the second biggest agronomy research centre in the world with over half devoted to international vine research. The city is also home to a unique vine and wine research centre in Europe (250 researchers and engineers in oenology, vine growing and wine social economics). The Domaine de Vassal collection at the Montpellier INRA public research institute is the biggest in the world for *Vitis vinifera* L., the common grape vine native to Europe. It is also home to 3000 grape varieties you won't find anywhere else in the world.

PROFILE... A POTTED HISTORY

Whether it be triumphant after the Great French Wine Blight or dramatic with the Winegrowers' Revolt of 1907, the history of wine in our land is intrinsic to all these people who, despite not being involved in the wine industry, have definitely left their mark on it: Arnaud de Villeneuve, Rabelais and his divine bottle, Jacques Cœur, Edouard Adam who updated the still in the 17th century, Planchon who discovered phylloxera on 15/07/1868 and many more.

A FOODIE EXPERIENCE IN THE VINEYARDS

Deep in France's biggest vineyards, Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole provides vineyard excursions, local wine tastings at outstanding wineries such as Domaine de Verchant, châteaux and Montpellier "folies" including Flaugergues and l'Engarran. Pic Saint Loup, du Grès de Montpellier and AOC Languedoc designations... your tastebuds are in for a treat! **Each winery has its own USP:**

DOMAINE DE MAGUELONE

Les Compagnons de Maguelone is an association with three focuses: healthcare, heritage and culture. It supports disabled people, promotes built heritage and the environment and runs music festivals and exhibitions. **Maguelone wine has been approved as organic** since 2014 and the vines are grown using eco-friendly techniques to protect the island environment. Vine growing is ESA's oldest field of expertise. <http://www.compagnons-de-maguelone.org/index.php/Accueil>

DOMAINE ST JEAN DE L'ARBOUSIER

Organic winery with a 40ha vineyard surrounded by shrubs and umbrella pine trees. Nicolas and his family bring you a whole host of things to do such as treasure hunts, mountain bike rides through the vines, local product tastings in tree houses with views of Pic Saint Loup and the Mediterranean. www.domaine-arbousier.fr

DOMAINE DE DÉCALAGE

Nathalie gave everything up to buy her own winery and make her organic wine with passion. She reshaped her 22ha vineyard and introduced varieties she didn't have such as Mourvèdre. That doesn't mean she doesn't take care of the existing vines though: she has Carignans dating back to 1947. <http://www.domaine-decalage.fr/>

CHÂTEAU DE L'ENGARRAN

The winery is fuelled by over 380 years of love and winemaking tradition with 3 generations of passionate women, including Diane Losfelt, the female winemaker of the year. L'Engarran keeps its carbon footprint to a minimum and has been applying sustainable farming methods as part of the Terra Vitis for over 15 years. The label combines organic techniques with sustainable methods to reduce inputs. They provide blending workshops, yoga & wine classes, chic dinners, winemaker meet & greets, pairings in 5 stages, wine & harp and even treasure hunts. **NEW: BLEND YOUR PERFECT WINE!** <https://chateau-engarran.com/>

CHÂTEAU DE FLAUGERGUES

Flaugergues was built in the late 17th century and is one of the so-called "folies" in the Montpellier countryside. The grounds are south-west of the château. They are home to an English-style garden, botanical garden designed in 1850 with a focus on flowers, tropical plants and large trees covering three hectares. A new area: the Oasis de Flaugergues is a community vegetable garden that opened in 2006. www.flaugergues.com

DOMAINE DE VERCHANT

A plush 17th century "folie" deep in the vineyard where the good life reigns supreme. The first vintage was bottled in 2002 when Pierre and Chantal Mestre bought the winery. The range includes 7 vintages. The Verchant experience is one to remember. There are over 1600 bottles in the cellar. www.domainedeverchant.com/fr/



TIME FOR TRADITION



Join the manadiers (cowboys) and soak up the Camargue in all its glory with bulls, horses and landscapes...

DOMAINE DE FANGOUSE MANADE EXPERIENCE *MAGICAL!*

The manade or herd includes 180 animals including thirty-odd calves per year.

The bulls appear at Courses Camarguaises. The manade has fifty-odd horses raised in a semi-wild state in the Camargue breed's homeland. It also has a dozen brood mares and as many foals per year.

It regularly hosts Camargue parties with gypsy music and horse riding entertainment.

<https://domainedefangouse.fr/>

GLOSSARY

The Course Camarguaise is a traditional bull event. It's a thrilling dance between the animal and razeteur who tries to grab the ribbons between the bull's horns.

The Encierro is an event when a street is closed at both ends and bulls are released onto it. The village youngsters taunt and challenge the beasts.

The Abrivados is when bulls from the fields are escorted to the arenas by horsemen in a V-shape.



TIME FOR A FAMILY HOLIDAY



We do everything we can to make a family holiday unforgettable for children and adults alike in Montpellier... Take time out with your family to experience something special!

PARKS AND PLAY AREAS ALL OVER THE CITY

Children will love letting off steam in the countless city parks and play areas between visits.



A FREE WILDLIFE PARK

Montpellier Zoological Park: lions, giraffes, zebras, brown bears, birds in every colours, they're all here! Free for everyone!
<http://zoo.montpellier.fr/>

A CUDDLY ACTIVITY? ATELIER DE LA PELUCHE MONTPELLIER

Would your little one like to build a bear? Conjure up magic and put a smile on your child's face with a soft toy at the Atelier de la Peluche. This is a unique fun-filled experience bringing a soft toy to life.
www.paraty-peluche.fr

A LEISURE CENTRE? MAD MONKEY

Mad Monkey is a quirky and safe place to get your first taste of climbing.

Children aged 4 and over, teenagers and adults can try the Fun Climb space with 24 exciting walls fitted with an automatic belay system. Giant punch ball, see-through walls, speed runs, lofty pillars, Tetris... there's something for everyone!

FAMILY TRANSPORT ALL OVER THE CITY

With the tourist train running through the old town, the open-top mini bus for some air, bike taxis for tired little legs and self-service bikes, getting around with the family is child's play!

A "PLANET OCEAN" PLATENARIUM AND AQUARIUM MONTPELLIER

Planet Ocean Montpellier is constantly being updated with new features and brings visitors of all ages 2.5 hours of wonder. Over 400 species, 30,000 marine animals, a giant pool containing 1.8 million litres of water plus spectacular cultural and educational activities that everyone loves, including training penguins! An unforgettable family outing.

Cross the aquastellar border and say goodbye to Earth as you dive into the endless cosmos! Experience the cosmic void, gaze at Planet Earth as you've never seen it before and be dazzled by the asteroid belt... Get stars in your eyes and a head full of wonder after your unique adventure!
www.planetocceanworld.fr



Quality time for all the family!



TIME FOR A SPORTY EXPERIENCE

Montpellier Méditerranée is a kaleidoscope of colours and flavours with the Lez River, the city's green lung where you can go canoeing, kayaking, hiking or cycling. Try your hand at the Polynesian pirogue, SUP, sea kayaking or kitesurfing a few miles away on the Mediterranean coast!

SPORT IN MONTPELLIER WITH WISUD

Wisud runs nature and regional-themed stays, day trips and excursions around Montpellier. They work with prime partners to bring you original activities to suit everyone: extreme sports, longboarding, climbing, hiking, yoga, fishing, wine tourism etc.

www.wisud.com/fr/

Did you know?

An extremely challenging climbing route. The trail in the Pic Saint Loup area is graded 9b/+. The route is one of the toughest in France if not the world. It lies on Pic St Loup a few miles from Montpellier in the Hérault region. The region's cliffs are heaven for climbers with over 700 routes.

Did you know?

TOURIST INFORMATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AS BIKE-FRIENDLY

by accueil vélo and has a bike repairs stand for visitors. The label ensures cyclists get a warm welcome and specialist advice.

<https://www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/Preparer-Reserver/Decouvertes/Montpellier-a-velo/Label-Accueil-Velo>

MONTPELLIER THE SPORTY CITY

Montpellier has been the only French city outside Paris to rank in the elite in team sports for years: football, handball, rugby, volleyball, water polo and ice hockey. Watch your favourite sport at matches at the weekend.

SPORTY TRAILS

THE MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

This EuroVelo bike path (Cadiz-Izmir) covers 850km in France on bike paths and quiet little roads from the Pyrenees to the Alps, Perthus to Menton.

Montpellier is a stage along the way with other historical sites that have made the Mediterranean basin what it is. Go green and explore its medieval lanes and bustling markets from the comfort of your bike! Put pedal to the metal! The Mediterranean Route starts in Palavas then runs along the Lez into Montpellier

<https://www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/Preparer-Reserver/Decouvertes/Montpellier-a-velo/La-Mediterranee-a-velo>

THE VIARHÔNA

This 815km bike path along the Rhône takes cyclists from Lake Geneva in Switzerland to the Mediterranean shores. This long-haul ride switches between secure greenways and shared roads exploring incredible views: from the Alps to the Camargue via the Côtes du Rhône and Provence vineyards. The ViaRhône goes past Montpellier between Aigues Mortes la Grande Motte, Palavas and Sète via Villeneuve les Maguelone.

www.viarhona.com

THE WAYS OF ST JAMES

The Way of St James connects the Mediterranean and Atlantic shores, the Way of Arles, or Via Tolosana, links Arles to Puente-la-Reina in Spain where it hooks up to the Camino Francès within 1000km. The southern route runs through Montpellier, Castres, Toulouse, Auch, Oloron-Sainte-Marie and Jaca.

<https://www.cdrp64.com/sentiers-et-topoguides/les-grandes-voies-jacquaires/>





TIME FOR A NATURE EXPERIENCE

LOCABOAT A BARGE EXPERIENCE UP CLOSE WITH NATURE

Set sail from Lattes on an electric barge and venture into the wild Camargue. Soak up breathtaking scenery and take your pick from a beach day or trip to Villeneuve les Maguelone to visit its cathedral, culture and fabulous seaside heritage among the vineyards.
www.locaboat.com



MÉJEAN NATURE RESERVE

Think you've spotted white storks outside Montpellier? You may well have! Lattes Nature House lies between the lagoons and wetland on the banks of Méjean Lake. Signposted trails guide visitors through this outstanding site with a 2.5km wheelchair-friendly path. The site has been protected since 1985 by the Coastal Protection Agency and Lattes Council, its manager. It plays host to a variety of fabulous flora and fauna: flamingos, black-winged stilts, European pond turtles, summer snowflakes, bunch-flowered daffodils and the white storks you traditionally associate with Alsace.
www.ville-lattes.fr/maison-de-la-nature/

AN OUTING IN THE SHADE OF THE CASTRIES AQUEDUCT

This is the perfect place to have a walk or bike ride and soak up the heritage. The Castries Aqueduct winds through the garrigue and bring you fantastic outings in the hinterland. Pierre Paul Riquet built the 6822m structure in 1676, just after the Canal du Midi.
<https://www.montpellier-tourisme.fr/Preparer-Reserver/Decouvertes/Experiences-a-vivre/Une-rando-a-l-ombre-de-l-aqueduc-de-Castries>



SAILING ON THE LEZ AND LAKES

Set sail on a sea kayak, Polynesian pirogue or SUP at dusk or dawn to explore the setting and soak up the flora and fauna. Make magical memories in the unspoilt great outdoors between the sea and city.

TIME FOR ECO-FRIENDLY SHOPS



Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole Tourist Information is committed to sustainable and eco-friendly tourism. It celebrates the efforts our local tourism professionals go to and their accreditations in terms of the environment, sustainable development or CSR.

Montpellier is the 7th biggest city in France and has a focus on long-term sustainable development that involves the environment, society and economy in its urban strategy.

- 50,000 tree goal: 10,000 planted for the autumn/winter planting season.
2022 is simple: another 10,000 trees will be planted!

2022 will also see Place de la Comédie given plant cover. Montpellier is home to 185 public parks and gardens run by the Council's DPB department (Landscaping and Biodiversity) with the figure rising to 195 if we include the ones not managed by the DPB department (i.e. Département-managed Domaine d'O and the wildlife park) The cycling in the city project is 160km of bike facilities and a non-stop cycling network in the pipeline.

FOCUS: DIMANCHES DE RESPIRATION

Sundays are all about having a breather and this event is part of the council's drive to promote a breathable city with a focus on energy transition. Locals flock to the streets closed to traffic for an entertaining and active day. Last Sunday of every month.

PROFILE

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole Tourist Information has begun the #ISO20121 certification process for all its services. We are committed to hosting sustainable events in Montpellier through Tourist Information's conference department. This standard establishes a set of procedures to identify key sustainable development areas that apply to its activities and uses an all-encompassing assessment to design and implement a structured CSR action plan based on the following sustainable development principles: duty of care, inclusion, integrity and transparency. We are committed to a CSR policy with a continual improvement and risk prevention process.

Montpellier Events and Occitanie Events apply the same procedure to large facilities.

Some local restaurants, hotels, activities and shops involved in this eco-friendly vision:

OUR ECO-FRIENDLY ADDRESS *NATURALLY!*

DOMAINE DE BIAR

The Domaine has 50 hectares of organically-farmed pasture, a kitchen garden where chef grows vegetables and herbs, a chicken coop where some families of hens live with 2 little goats, a fantastic orchard on the edge of the meadows plus hives whose nectar is collected and eaten at the Domaine. The water from the deep table is drawn, filtered, checked, bottled and supplied as drinking water to the château.

<https://domainedebiar.com/biar/>

REFLET D'OBIONE

Seasonal products cherry-picked from local producers using sustainable or organic farming methods. We care about our planet's future and everyone's wellbeing so we serve creative, delicious dishes that are also conscious and eco-friendly. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free dishes available on request.

www.reflet-obione.com

DOMAINE DE L'OULIVIE

Our family history has laid our path. We use a biodiversity report by the Euzière Ecologists as our building block to move towards agroecology. A permaculture vegetable garden, horses, a chicken coop and hive have sprung up in the shade of the olive trees. The vibe, family values and dynamic attract big personalities and new friends. Every team member's talent is celebrated. Mylène, salesperson and artist, is involved in design work. Karim, engineer and handyman, made the models of the mill and confectioners. Four of them have completed the Occitanie Destination gourmet guide course. The chefs and artists provide their input to create recipes and labels. A real ecosystem has come to life at Domaine de l'Oulivie. Farming fuelled by kindness.

<https://oulivie.com/>



PHLOÈME

Phloème is an eco-friendly concept store in central Montpellier near Place de la Comédie. The conscious, ethical and mainly vegan brands are cherry-picked for the skincare, food and accessory range in this great two-storey 110m2 store.

<https://phloeme.eco/>

LES DEMOISELLES DE MONTPELLIER

A buzzing tearoom for people with food allergies and intolerances, vegans, anyone who loves fresh and healthy ingredients, new experiences and foodies of all kind! the menu at Les Demoiselles de Montpellier is all made in-house by the pastry chef free of gluten (AFDIAG-approved flour) and dairy. Most of the treats don't contain any eggs so are suitable for vegans. And 70% of the ingredients are organic.

www.lesdemoisellesdemontpellier.fr

CO-AVENTURE

Tourist Information is committed to eco-friendly sustainable tourism and has set up a partnership with CoAdventure, a platform specialising in eco-friendly activities in small groups. CoAdventure helps us put together a supplier list among tourism and leisure businesses with an eco-friendly vision: wineries, outdoor activities, sports, culture, water sports etc. Do your bit for the environment and have a unique experience!

www.coaventure.fr



DOMAINE DE L'ARBOUSIER

We switched from sustainable farming to organic farming in 2010 and our wine has been approved as organic since 2013. Respect for nature is a priority for us. The AB label recognises how we grow our vines and we are proud of it. Close pruning and selecting quality clones helps cap yields at 35hl/ha. Tillage helps avoid chemical weeding.

Huts are tucked away in a vibrant winery surrounded by shrubs and umbrella pines with views of Pic St Loup and the Mediterranean amongst the vines.

Animals live on the land all year round. Horses, cows and goats help keep the land clear and tidy.

www.domaine-arbousier.fr

DOMAINE D'ANGLAS

Not only is the campsite committed to the environment and **approved by the European Ecolabel**, but Camping Domaine d'Anglas encourages sustainable production and shopping. The lovely campsite lies in a listed and protected site: Les Gorges de l'Hérault deep in 115ha of unspoilt nature! The campsite is a haven of peace that melts into its incredible surroundings: organic vineyard, river, forests and garrigue... the perfect place to switch off and connect with a sensory world of wine and nature.

<http://www.camping-anglas.com/>



TIME FOR A BUSINESS EVENT

BUSINESS IN MONTPELLIER

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole has made its mark as one of Europe's top business tourism destinations. It's a unique destination for events planners with modern flair and lifestyle. As a medicine city on the cutting-edge of research and digital technology, Montpellier's leading facilities can host major national and international events as well as any high-flying corporate function. A smart blend of appropriate reception spaces, unique venues, fantastic food & drink and premium services make any business trip unforgettable.

WITHIN EASY REACH

Montpellier is a gateway to Southern Europe halfway between Provence and Catalonia in a prime location in the middle of the Mediterranean coastline. It's home to the Montpellier Saint Roch high-speed railway station in the city centre, Montpellier Méditerranée Airport 10 mins from the centre and motorways (A9 to Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Spain and Italy and A75 to Paris).

WORK, REST AND PLAY

Not only does Montpellier have facilities designed especially for business tourism, but it also provides the perfect setting to balance work, rest and play. Luxury hospitality, some of the best restaurants in France, an exciting and diverse cultural schedule plus an amazing place to live that turns visitors green with envy: a peaceful pedestrianised city, countless parks and gardens in the city centre, warm weather and amazing surroundings.

MONTPELLIER CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole Tourist Information's conference department opened in September 2012. It provides a range of free services for conference, meeting, convention and corporate events planners.

www.bureaudescongres-montpellier.fr

PROFILE

BUSINESS RANKINGS:

MONTPELLIER MÉDITERRANÉE MÉTROPOLE IS:

- NUMBER 1 IN RESEARCH: INRA, CNRS, CIRAD, INSERM, IRD
- NUMBER 1 EUROPEAN DESTINATION

- 4TH BEST START-UP INCUBATOR IN THE WORLD

5 Business, Health & Agronomy, Environment, Water and New Technologies clusters

MAJOR EVENTS IN 2022

March 23rd-25th: EMPR CONFERENCE – 50TH PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION TALKS.

May 29th-June 3rd: SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL OF HYDROLOGICAL SCIENCES – IAHS

June 10th-11th: UNAPEI conference

August 28th-September 1st: World Congress of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy



A LAND OF **TOLERANCE**



Montpellier is going to keep flying the flag for diversity!

The **first gay wedding in France** took place in **Montpellier** on May 29th 2013 after same-sex marriages became legal. It was the first city to fly the rainbow flag from the Town Hall in 2016. Yet another example of the trail-blazing open mind of an area where everyone is free to be different and themselves! With its gay-friendly shops, bars, clubs and all kinds of outings, Montpellier attracts visitors from all over Europe to live life to the full and enjoy the electro scene! A slice of paradise for everyone. Be proud and feel free!

PRIDE PARADE JUNE 24TH 2022 *UNMISSABLE!*

<https://www.fiertemontpellierpride.com/restaurants/>

We sell promotional pride parade items (bottles, badges, flags) at the Tourist Information gift shop. The city is wrapped up in the rainbow flag too!



Good to know!

Tourist Information is part of the IGLTA, the world's leading network of LGBTQ+ tourism businesses founded in 1983. They provide free resources and travel information whilst working around the clock to promote equality and safety in LGBTQ+ tourism worldwide.

SOME GAY-FRIENDLY *ADDRESSES!*

LE COXX
GAY BAR TERRACE
LGBT+ bar in the St Roch district!

LA VILLA D'OC - GAY ONLY
TEAROOM - CAKE SHOP
The idea was to "create a place for the gay community" in the South of France

CAFÉ DE LA MER
GAY BAR
On a lovely and quiet square.

Scandal Party
by Pourcelet

Cabaret nights at Le Terminal restaurant

Beach

Villeneuve Les Maguelone
– A nudist/gay beach in Montpellier (10km from the centre).

THE REX CRUISING
GAY CLUB
Men only in Montpellier!

LE MOOM CLUB
GAY CLUB
A holiday vibe with banging beats.

LE MARVELOUS
GAY RESTAURANT
The bar and restaurant for gay diners serves a bistro menu in a superhero-inspired interior.

Other gay-friendly addresses: Les 4 Etoiles/La Canourgue bistro/Jardin des Sens/Le P'ti Taureau/Hôtel Pullman Montpellier/Hôtel Océania Métropole/Hôtel Mercure Montpellier and more.

For further information: <https://www.fiertemontpellierpride.com/>

31 TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE AREA

Experience everything the area has to offer, there's so much to see and do in the Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole towns and villages!



BAILLARGUES

The Bérange runs through the village of Baillargues and its beautiful church (12th century), 15km west of Montpellier amongst the vines and garrigues. Keen golfers flock here. Soak up the village with a round of golf (18 holes) or a wellness break at the Montpellier Massane Hotel home to a spa and golf course.

-GOLF-MURAL-CATTLE



CASTELNAU-LE-LEZ

Castelnau-le-Lez is a leafy town east of Montpellier. The Lez riverbanks and dozen parks and woods are a joy for a stroll or run in the town centre.

-ICE HOUSE-VIA DOMITIA-RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX



BEAULIEU

Beaulieu lies 25km north east of Montpellier and is a village renowned for its stone quarries. Beaulieu limestone appears in countless local buildings: in Montpellier, Sète and outside the Mediterranean.

-CHÂTEAU-QUARRIES-CHAPEL-



CASTRIES

Castries stands 15km east of Montpellier and is named after a Roman castrum that once stood here on the Via Domitia. The village is now home to a château, fantastic aqueduct and hiking trail taking you past the local landmarks between the vines and pines.

-CHÂTEAU-AQUEDUCT-VINEYARD-



CLAPIERS

Clapiers has blossomed from being a little winemaking village north of Montpellier. Its forest is one of the village's biggest assets. It covers 170 hectares and is popular among walkers, hikers and cyclists. Visit in September for the Tomato Festival when you can sample 250 varieties of the summer fruit.

-FOREST-VINEYARD-FITNESS TRAIL-



COURNONSEC

The village of Cournonsec is surrounded by the Mediterranean's signature garrigue 20km west of Montpellier. The holm oak and kermes oak are the stars of the show with vineyards and olive groves in supporting roles. Visit the local wineries.

**-CHÂTEAU-DRYSTONE HUTS AND WALLS
-CLAPAS-**



COURNONTERRAL

The Coulazou runs through the winemaking village of Cournonterral and has carved out a canyon between the vineyard and garrigue 18km west of Montpellier. Explore the village on its footpaths or at its iconic carnival!

-LES PAILHASSES CARNIVAL- ESCALETES BISCUITS- THE HOLE-



GRABELS

Grabels lies north west of Montpellier on the Way of St James between the garrigue and Mosson Plain. Visit the Avy spring, nicknamed "Madame's bottom" because of the cheeky shape of the rocks.

-AVY SPRING - RAMPARTS - GARRIGUE -



JUVIGNAC

Juignac is Montpellier's next door neighbour. The local history is bound to water and now home to a spa centre and international golf course.

-YARN BOMBING: TREE DISPLAYS- STREET ART - RIVER-



FABRÈGUES

Fabrègues is a circular village or "circulade" at the bottom of the Gardiole mountain range 15km south west of Montpellier. The classic Languedoc village layout dates back to the 11th or 12th century.

-GARDIOLE- FABREGOISE RUN- GOLF-



JACOU

Jacou is packed with wonderful places to walk and have fun 10km north east of Montpellier. Visit Château de Bocaud and its French gardens listed as historical heritage.

-DOMAINE DE BOCAUD - CASTLE GROUNDS - ROMANTIC LAKE-



LATTES

Lattes is a town with ancient roots south of Montpellier. The Lattara archaeological site – Musée Henri Prades explores the local history. Don't miss the Nature House, Méjean Lake, Lez riverbanks, Port Ariane, marina, restaurants and their terraces.

-NATURE HOUSE - ARCHAEOLOGY- MÉJEAN LAKE-



LAVÉRUNE

Lavérune is bursting with beautiful residences and Montpellier "folies" on the south-western edge of Montpellier. Visit the Château des Évêques and its contemporary art museum, Château de l'Engarran and a winery.

**-CHÂTEAU DE LAVÉRUNE- DOMAINE DE BIAR-
CHÂTEAU ENGARRAN - VINEYARDS-
- MONTPELLIER FOLIES-**



MONTAUD

The Château de Montlaur ruins (11th century) tower above Montaud, a winemaking village in the north east of the area and 20km north of Montpellier. Twenty winemakers have joined forces and share 300 hectares of vines as part of the cooperative winery.

**-ÉGLISE DE LA NATIVITÉ - DE - NOTRE - DAME DE
MONTAUD - VINEYARDS-**



MURVIEL-LES-MONTPELLIER

The town plays host to the ruins of an ancient city, among the biggest in the region, 20km west of Montpellier. Archaeologists have been excavating the site since the 19th century. The Paul Soyris archaeology museum displays some of the treasures found here: sculptures, amphoras, pottery etc.

**-ALTIMURIUM OPPIDUM RUINS- PAUL SOYRIS
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM- NATURA 2000 SITE-**



LE CRÈS

Le Crès is home to a lake that locals love and lies north east of Montpellier. A leafy site with footpaths, a lake where you can have a swim and countless facilities: playground, picnic area, orienteering course, city stadium, skate park, BMX track and more.

-VIA DOMITIA-LE CRÈS LAKE- AGORA VENUE-



MONTFERRIER-SUR-LEZ

The hilltop village of Montferrier-sur-Lez stands at an altitude of 100m on an extinct volcano north of Montpellier. Volcanic activity here and in Grabels is among the oldest in the Hérault area: 30-25 million years old.

-NATURA 2000 SITE - MAISON MASRI - AQUEDUCT-



PÉROLS

Pérols lies a stone's throw from the Mediterranean, 8km south of Montpellier and stretches along two lakes: the Or to the east and Méjean to the west. Its unique location has given the village an exciting history and fabulous views.

**-PÉROLS LAKE- PETITE CAMARGUE- ARENAS-
PÉROLS M.U.R.: STREET ART-**



PIGNAN

Pignan is a treasure trove 10km west of Montpellier. The château-turned-town hall has a garden open to the general public; Vignogoul Abbey's church is open to visitors and hosts concerts, choirs and religious dances; the vineyard (of course); olive groves and the traditional Olive Festival held every October.

- NOTRE-DAME-DE-L'ASSOMPTION CHURCH - OIL MAKERS AND WINERIES - PIGNAN TOWERS-



PRADES-LE-LEZ

Prades-le-Lez is home to Domaine de Restinclières 8km north of Montpellier. The village is devoted to nature and plays host to the Département's Environmental Centre. Visit the château, park, footpaths and whole host of events.

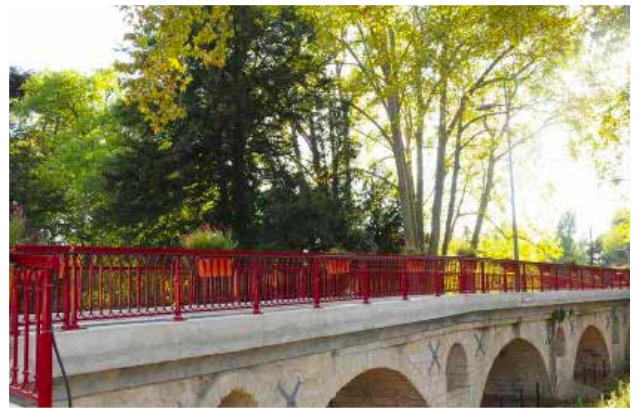
- SAINT-JACQUES-LE-MAJEUR CHURCH - DOMAINE DE RESTINCLIÈRES - NATURA 2000 NETWORK-



RESTINCLIÈRES

Restinclières is named after a pistachio tree and the village lies 20km from Montpellier on the road to Sommières between the garrigue and farmland. The landscape has been sculpted by vines and brings you 360 degree views encompassing the Cévennes and Salins du Midi.

- SAINT-CÉSAIRE CHURCH - MARKET - VINE GROWING-



SAINT-BRÈS

Just take a look at the winemaker's houses and storerooms on Rue de la Cascade and Rue de Fontmagne and you'll see that Saint-Brès was once a vine growing village. It's now a hive of life 15km east of Montpellier.

- VIEUX PONT BRIDGE - SAINT-BRICE CHURCH - ST BRÈS CARNIVAL-



SAINT-DRÉZÉRY

Saint-Drézéry has sprung up around its 14th century château and 12th century church 20km north east of Montpellier. The little village is a vine growing hotspot that you can explore on the council's footpaths.

- CHÂTEAU GRUONDS- FOOTPATHS - CHÂTEAU DE ST DRÉZÉRY - VINEYARDS-



SAINT-GENIÈS-DES-MOURGUES

Saint-Geniès-des-Mourgues lies 16km north east of Montpellier on one of the first folds of the Cévennes, surrounded by vines, woods and fruit orchards. Don't miss the truffle festival (January) and Saint-Louis courses camarguaises (late August).

- ST GENIÈS QUARRIES - ARENAS- SAINT-GENIÈS ABBEY CHURCH



SAINT-JEAN-DE-VÉDAS

Saint-Jean-de-Védas has expanded at lightning speed but held onto its age-old charm. The village's old district and leafy spots make it a joy to visit west of Montpellier.

- DOMAINE DU TERRAL - MOULIN SAINT-JOSEPH
MILL- LAUZE WINERY-
-LES VERGERS DE ST JEAN-



SAUSSAN

Saussan is a hilltop village surrounded by vines, garrigue and water 12km west of Montpellier. The Brue and Vertoublanc are two tributaries of the Mosson that run through the east of the village. Ancient roads cut through the beautiful natural setting: the Via Domitia and Via Salaria.

- NATIVITÉ-DE-SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHURCH
- FORMER PENITENTS CHAPEL - ROMAN RUINS-
GARENNE WOODS-



VENDARGUES

Vendargues stands between two Mediterranean rivers, the Cadoule and Salaison, 10km north east of Montpellier. Don't be surprised if you bump into a graceful Comtois or Camargue horses any day of the week in the village.

- LES CHEVALIERS CHAPEL - MEYRARGUES
HAMLET - VENDARGUES ARENAS-



SAINT-GEORGES-D'ORQUES

Saint-Georges-d'Orques stands on the western edge of Montpellier and is famous for its vineyard and hiking trails. The soil type and sun exposure makes fantastic wine for you to experience alongside tambourin, a traditional racquet and ball game.

- SAINT-GEORGES CHURCH- BULLS - TAMBOURIN -
VINEYARDS-



SUSSARGUES

The village of Sussargues stands 15km east of Montpellier and is bursting with footpaths to explore its leafy landscapes, former stone quarries, drystone huts and 11th/12th century church.

- ST MARTIN CHURCH - STONE QUARRIES - LA FONT
D'ARMAND-



VILLENEUVE-LÈS-MAGUELONE

Villeneuve-lès- Maguelone is a coastal town 10km south of Montpellier with outstanding natural heritage and unspoilt nature. Saint-Pierre de Maguelone Cathedral is a historical and magical place. Pay it a visit!

- MAGUELONE CATHEDRAL - NATURE RESERVE -
BEACH AND BEACH HUTS-

INSTAGRAMMABLE Montpellier spots

Follow our two Instagram accounts: @montpelliernow @vivez_montpellier and don't forget to tag us!



LA RUE DU BRAS DE FER



PLACE DE LA CANOURGUE



ARC DE TRIOMPHE



LEZ MARKET



CHÂTEAU D'O



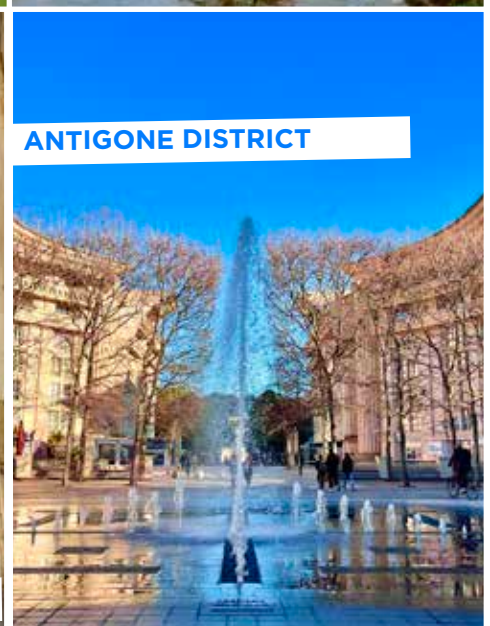
ARBRE BLANC



STREET ART



ECUSSON LANES



ANTIGONE DISTRICT



MONTPELLIER LABELS



41ST GRAND SITE D'OCCITANIE

The label was created by the Occitanie Region to promote outstanding and iconic tourist attractions with architectural heritage, remarkable nature or international reach

<https://www.grands-sites-occitanie.fr/>



OFFICIAL BASE CAMP FOR THE 2023 RUGBY WORLD CUP

to host teams involved in the final stage of the competition, teams eliminated during the group stage and quarter finals, invited to stay in France until the last day of the tournament, match officials

DESIGN ART CITY

To give art pride of place in the city and community projects: bold architecture, original communal areas, unique street furniture, street art etc.

MONTPELLIER IS THE 1ST CITY TO EARN THE LABEL



TERRES DE JEUX

Paris 2024 - Olympic and Paralympic Games
Montpellier has been awarded the label for 2022-2024 for teams from different countries to train in their field in Montpellier



PAYS ET VILLE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

The 1st city to be awarded the label and join the network of 190 towns. The label promotes the city's heritage nationwide and worldwide to make our area a popular destination.



FRENCH TECH MONTPELLIER

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole was one of the first in its category to have its ecosystem approved by Métropole French Tech. The French campaign launched in 2013 to help French start-ups thrive and go global. The label has been awarded because of Montpellier's incredible innovation ecosystem and its ability to come together to fulfil a major project for the local area.



UNESCO LEARNING CITY

Montpellier is part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. 200 cities in 46 countries are part of the network (Beijing, Mexico, Tunis, Nairobi, Okinawa, Turin, Melbourne, Chengdu etc.). 4 French cities are in the network: Montpellier, Evry-Courcouronnes, Clermont-Ferrand and Mantes-la-Jolie.

SINCE 2022: VIGNOLE ET DÉCOUVERTE

Montpellier has been awarded the Vignoble et Découverte label in partnership with Atout France. The label is awarded for 3 years and recognises areas with a wine tourism vision.



TOURIST INFORMATION LABELS



CATÉGORIE 1

Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole Tourist Information is ranked as a category 1 visitor centre. The rating enables a destination to be ranked as a tourist destination and a category 1 rating ranks it as a tourist resort in recognition of outstanding hospitality.



TOURISME & HANDICAP

Tourisme & Handicap-approved since 2009 after an upgrade including tactile warning strips for visually-impaired visitors, 2 additional drop counters for wheelchair users, a travel consultant who can use sign language, our Tourist Information has held onto its accreditation for 4 disabilities (hearing, learning, motor and visual).



ACCUEIL VÉLO

The bike-friendly label guarantees cycling tourists a warm welcome and quality facilities throughout the cycling routes. Tourist Information has had it since June 2019. There is a bike repairs stand in the garden with tools provided and we help our partners to achieve the label.



QUALITÉ TOURISME

After a secret inspection in September 2021, the right to use the Qualité Tourisme brand has been secured until June 2023.

IN PROCESS: ISO 20121 LABEL

Tourist Information is aiming to be ISO 20121 certified by 2023 to recognise its sustainable management in terms of events: reduced carbon footprint, water and energy consumption, choice of suppliers etc. It is vital to our destination achieving the Destination Innovantes Durables (France Congrès) sustainable innovative destination label.

KEY FIGURES FOR MONTPELLIER

481,276

Residents

in the area

Source INSEE

TOP 5

public incubators

IN THE WORLD

Source UBI Global 2019

7th

Biggest French city up 1 place in 2018

300

NEW ARRIVALS
monthly

470,985

Tourist Information visitors

in Montpellier in 2019

59%*

overnight stays for business

5,100,000

Average annual visitors

Orange Flux Vision Tourisme data

Number 1

Vine Growing Region

IN THE WORLD

in terms of farmed area

31 TOWNS AND VILLAGES

in the area **51**

65.6%*

Occupancy rate

75,000

Students

1,624,876*

Overnight hotel stays

4648

Hotel rooms

Source IN EXTENSO

4 tram

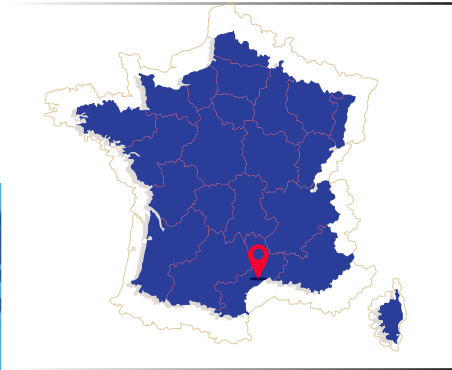
lines

and a 5th under construction

A leading destination for French as a Foreign Language Schools

*Source INSEE, for the year before Covid (2019)

MONTPELLIER HOW TO GET HERE



BY PLANE

Montpellier has direct flights from Paris (1 hr 10), London (1 hr 45), Berlin (1.5 hr), Amsterdam, Bristol and Dublin. Marseille Airport welcomes arrivals from most international destinations and is 1.5 hr from Montpellier. Montpellier Méditerranée Airport is 8km from the city centre. It has a shuttle service. New routes are in the pipeline with Transavia.

www.montpellier.aeroport.fr



BY TRAIN

MONTPELLIER ST ROCH HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY STATION

In the city centre, direct connections from Paris-Gare de Lyon or Charles de Gaulle Airport (3 hr 15); Lille (4 hr 45), Barcelona or Brussels (5 hr 40).

MONTPELLIER SUD DE FRANCE TRAIN STATION

20 minutes from the city centre and 14 minutes from the airport - 8 minutes on the motorway junction 29

Further information on www.sncf.com



BY CAR

1.5 hr from Marseille
2.5 hr from Toulouse
3 hr from Lyon
3.5 hr from Barcelona
3 hr 15 from Nice

PRESS CONTACT:

Valérie PADUANO

valerie.paduano@ot-montpellier.fr