



# Cassis

and its  
artists

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**Cassis**  
OFFICE DE TOURISME

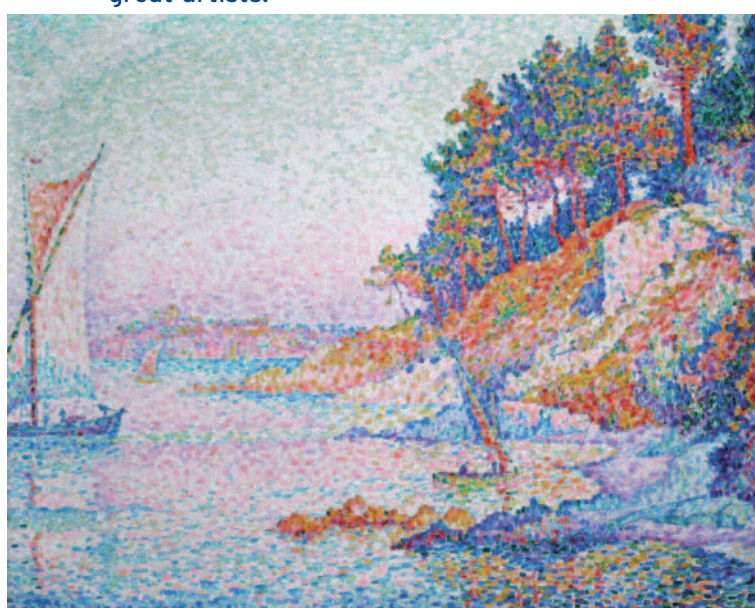
[www.ot-cassis.com](http://www.ot-cassis.com)

# Artists in Cassis

Cassis has long attracted artists, especially painters. In fact, they cannot all be listed as there are no documentary descriptions of their visits here.

The Municipal Museum in Cassis has no works by the Fauvists for example but it has a fairly extensive collection of works by their contemporaries. Locals from Marseille and elsewhere in Provence such as Marius and Eugénie GUINDON, René SEYSSAUD, Mathieu VERDILHAN, RAVAISSON and Charles CAMOIN were all regular visitors. There was also MANGUIN, who stayed at the Villecroze Estate on several occasions. Paul SIGNAC discovered Cassis and Cape Canaille while sailing his yacht and painted them in 1889 on a canvas that is now famous, before continuing eastwards to Saint-Tropez.

The others, Francis PICABIA, Georges BRAQUE, Othon FRIESZ, André DERAÏN, Maurice VLAMINCK, KISLING, Raoul DUFY and VARDA came to Cassis but we have no details about their stay here. However, their names should be enough to underline the undeniable attraction of Cassis for these great artists.



*La Calanque (1906)  
seen by Paul SIGNAC.*

## Here are just a few paintings linked to Cassis:

- **André DERAÏN**, Les Cyprès, Paysage à Cassis, Pinède à Cassis, 1907
- **Paul SIGNAC**, Pointe des Lombards, 1889, *Museum in the Haye*
- **Edouard CREMIEUX**, Cassis vu de l'ancien chemin des Lombards, 1936
- **Joseph GARIBALDI**, Vue de Cassis, 1897, *Museum & Art Gallery in Marseille*
- **Jean-Baptiste OLIVE**, La calanque d'En Vau, 1936
- **Charles-Henri PERSON**, La Calanque, 1912
- **Luc Raphaël PONSON**, La Calanque de Port-Miou, *Museum in Narbonne*  
La Calanque de Port-Pin, 1873, *Museum & Art Gallery in Béziers*
- **Paul GUIGOU**, Route de la Gineste, 1859, *Orsay Museum*
- **Louis AUDIBERT**, Le pas de la Colle, 1935; L'entrée du Port de Cassis, *Museum in Cassis*
- **Adolphe MONTICELLI**, Vue de Cassis, 1874, *Stedelijke Museum, Amsterdam*
- **Emile LOUBON**, Col de la Gineste, 1855
- **Pierre MARSEILLE**, Route de l'Arène, *Museum in Cassis*
- **Vincent COURDOUAN**, Port de Cassis, *private collection*
- **SEYSSAUD**, Le Port de Cassis, *private collection*
- **Pierre AMBROGIANI**, drawings, lithographs, landscapes, portraits and sculptures, early 20th century.

# Biographical notes



## ANDRE DERAÏN (1880-1954)

The quality of the light here played an important part in the stylistic changes of the early 20th century and in the emergence of Fauvism and Cubism.

DERAÏN, like so many others, came down to be dazzled by the light in Southern France. Although Collioure was the first place to attract the Fauvists, Provence was the region in which they settled and to which they returned. It became their meeting place and a place for discussion. DERAÏN often came south to refresh his inspiration.

In 1900, he met VLAMINCK and it was the start of a long friendship.

In 1905, he met up with MATISSE in Collioure and was amazed by the light and the pale colours in the shades. He abandoned his Pointillist techniques but continued to build up his paintings in small layers. That same year, he exhibited at the Salon d'automne with VLAMINCK, MATISSE and MANGUIN. They were called the "Fauves" (Wild Beasts) by art critic VAUXCELLES, hence the name of Fauvism given to their style. Fauvism was seen by the public as a provocation at that time. In 1907, DERAÏN joined MATISSE in Cassis (Pinède à Cassis, 1907). Over the next few years, he often stayed in Martigues where he painted large works.

DERAÏN also worked in decoration, sculpture and photography. In 1919, he designed the costumes and stage sets for Diaghilev's ballet. After the First World War, he returned to a more classical style of painting and displayed his work in numerous exhibitions.



## FELIX ZIEM (1821-1911)

Félix ZIEM was born in Beaune in 1821. His father was a Polish tailor and his mother was born in Burgundy. He took an architecture course at the Art School in Dijon then went to Marseille where his work was noticed by the Duc d'Orléans who commissioned 6 watercolours from him. Encouraged by this success, he then devoted himself entirely to art.

He began selling his drawings in Marseille in 1839 then moved to Nice. That was the start of a long series of journeys to Italy, Russia, England, Holland and the South of France where he was the first to reveal the quality of the light. After this, he travelled to the Orient, Egypt, Algeria and, most importantly, Venice to which he returned almost every year after 1847.

Influenced by COROT then by the painters of the Barbizon School, ZIEM turned to a more evanescent art with a vibrant touch that was a forerunner of Impressionism. After his painting was virulently criticised, he turned his back on the traditional art world and continued his tireless quest for light on his own. ZIEM was also known as the painter of Venice. He had a profound understanding of Venetian culture and increased it further by studying the works of the Old Masters while he was there. He was also a very productive Orientalist.

There is a museum of his work in Martigues, the "Provençal Venice" where he had his first studio.

### **LOUIS AUDIBERT (1880-1983)**

*Le pas de la Colle, 1935 (Paysage de Cassis fixant les lumières de la Provence).*

# Cassis and its artists

**Louis AUDIBERT** was born on 11th June 1880 in Marseille. He began painting while very young and attended the Art School in Marseille. In 1900, he visited the Louvre in Paris and saw classical paintings. He moved to Allauch and painted outdoors in Marseille and Provence. He had a studio in Marseille near the Old Harbour. When he returned from the First World War in 1919, he met the best artists of the 1920s in Cassis. He also met Winston CHURCHILL, who was staying at the Hôtel du Panorama (in Cassis, overlooking Le Bestouan Beach), and gave him some advice about painting. This was the start of a friendship between the two men. During the last part of his career, he continued to paint and display his work in numerous exhibitions. Artistically, he wanted to create a local tone that matched the light, using a smooth varied palette. His greatest pleasure was to translate the vibrations in light by a stream of bluish hues. His work reflects the enjoyment of life that he continued to express until his final days.

### **MARIUS GUINDON (1831-1918)**

Sculptor, designer and painter Marius GUINDON was born in Marseille in 1831. He studied under AUBERT in 1844 then became one of Loubon's students. He had a career as a teacher. His friends included ZIEM, CRÉMIEUX, CORNELLIER, PONSON, MAGLIONE, DURANGEL, COSTE, GARIBALDI, AUZENDRE etc. He set up the Museum in Cassis in 1910 by donating 47 works to the town, mainly his own but also some by other artists with whom he exchanged canvases. The Museum in Cassis contains *Le Cours à Marseille en 1790*, *Langoureuse*, *L'espiègle*, *La fuite en Egypte*, *Les lutins*, *La nymphe* and *La poursuite*. Works by his wife, Eugénie GUINDON, a painter who was less well-known than her husband, include a still life, *Vase de Fleurs*, and *L'entrée du port de Cassis en 1879*.

Source: Musée de Cassis and Musée Ziem Newsletter - MARTIGUES.



### **CASSIS BROUGHT THEM INSPIRATION...**

Cassis has been attracting artists for many years and works by painters such André DRAIN or Paul SIGNAC are known all over the world. Cassis, though, also attracts professionals of the "7th art". A telefilm called "Les Toqués" was shot here, starring the beautiful Ingrid CHAUVIN. Other films include "MR73", a crime drama with Daniel AUTEUIL; the famous "Taxi 2", which was partly filmed on the magnificent Hilltop Route to Cape Canaille; "Transporter" with Jason STATHAM and the fabulous "Bienvenue chez les ch'tis" with Dany BOON. Cassis also welcomed the film crew for several episodes of the French TV serial "Plus belle la vie". Yes, there is no doubt that the charms of the town and its surrounding area are a source of inspiration for many artists and artistes.

# the Musée Municipal Méditerranéen d'Art et Traditions Populaires

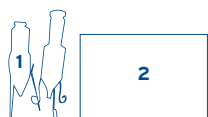
Cassis and its artists

It was in 1910 that Marius GUINDON, a painter (1843-1918), and his wife Eugénie, who was also a painter, donated 47 canvasses to the town of Cassis. They were initially displayed in the old Town Hall.

Transferred to the "Maison de Cassis", the Museum occupies a former priest's house built in 1703-1704. The building is austere but the charmingly well-balanced interior delights visitors as soon as they enter.

It is classified as a "Musée de France" staffed by a volunteer (and enthusiastic!) curator, M. Jean-Claude Cayol, and a head of collections Marie-Claude Laval, assisted by members of the Association of Friends of the Mediterranean Municipal Museum, a not-for-profit organisation.

The museum plays host to permanent displays and numerous temporary exhibitions (always of a very high quality and focussing on very well-chosen themes). Christmas is celebrated in a very special way here. The museum has extensive collections, with the oldest canvas dating from 1601. Roman remains, amphorae and paintings provide enough diversity to ensure that there is something of interest to all visitors.



1. Amphorae  
2. General view of the Museum

The Museum is open throughout the year, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:

- from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (October to May)
- from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. (June to September)
- Rue Xavier d'Authier 13260 CASSIS - Tel. 04 42 01 88 66
- No admission charge
- Free entrance
- Guided visit : 3 €
- Regular talks with a reputation for excellence