

C A S S I S

P R O V E N C E • M É D I T E R R A N É E

LE BONHEUR HAUTE DÉFINITION



2018 Press Dossier

With its grandiose nature and colourful fishing harbour, Cassis stands out thanks to its typically Mediterranean lifestyle. You can live here all year round, following the flow of nature and the activities of mankind. Here you can hike, sail, dive, cycle, discover the flavours and an inimitable *terroir*, you can listen to a bit of jazz. Here you can meet fishermen, writers, pure Provençal folk or people who have adopted Cassis as their home and proclaim their love of this outstanding environment and their desire to protect it. Some pages to capture the elegant and so-special spirit of Cassis, far from the picture postcards.

SIX GOOD REASONS TO LINGER A WHILE IN CASSIS

- # To contemplate the majesty of Cap Canaille
- # To savour a glass of Cassis white wine
- # To sip a coffee gazing at the little *pointu* fishing boats in the harbour
- # To go out to meet the people of Cassis
- # To dive into the Calanques
- # To lounge around ...

Rudy Ricciotti, Grand Prix National d'Architecture and architect of the MUCEM (Marseille) who has adopted Cassis as his home

“For me Cassis is the most extraordinary place in the world. I’m amazed that Cassis even exists. (...) Cassis, it’s an extravagant paradise, a supernatural paradise, a metaphysical paradise.”

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Cassis in 2018 – what’s new?

Electric mountainbike outings in the Calanques National Park

Effortlessly exploring the Massif des Calanques, between *garrigue* scrubland, pines and panoramas plunging down to the Big Blue. Two new circuits will take amateur cyclists for a gentle ride. All year round, discover the Calanques Port Pin - Port Miou (2h) or En vau (3h). Another quite exceptional path, the Cap Canaille cutting through the vineyards and taking the mythical Route des Crêtes for a majestic finale as the sun sets at the peak. www.ot-cassis.com Children aged 11 and over.

Wine tourism gains ground

This year there are two estates that are opening their doors to reveal the profession of winemaker in the distinctive *terroir* of the Cassis Appellation. Le Domaine de la Dona-Tigana and le Domaine du Paternel are joining le Clos Ste Magdeleine and le Domaine du Bagnol to take you further, to help you understand the art of the vine and wines and prompt rich exchanges around the subject of Cassis wines. www.ot-cassis.com

Aperitif at Le Clos

Le Clos d’Albizzi, one of Cassis’s oldest wine estates (1523), organises gourmet aperitif evenings in its Cellar. Some tables, a wattle pergola, the spirit of a *guinguette* and a great desire for sharing are what bring “les Apéros du Clos” to life. These evenings – placed under the sign of simplicity and love of the *terroir* – are conjured up by Marie-Laure Dumon, a descendant of the Albizzi family. Every Thursday starting at 6.30pm, from May onwards.

L’hôtel de la plage Mahogany*** and its spa

The hotel overlooking Bestouan beach has acquired a Phytomer spa open to all. In a natural and elegant decor, the treatments draw their inspiration from the benefits of the sea. Sauna, hammam, massage booths and refreshing pool invite you for a moment’s relaxation in the hotel’s gardens. www.hotelmahogany.com

Play poker outdoors at Casino Barrière

Riviera atmosphere for the Casino Barrière de Cassis’s terrace. Beginners or experienced players alike can push their chips forward under the star-studded sky of the Cassis nights. Texas Hold’em or Ultimate Poker for enthralling evenings! www.casinosbarriere.com/fr/cassis

L’Eau de Cassis

The artisan-creator’s boutique, l’Eau de Cassis opened its doors and in its 190 sq.m space proposes workshops on the subject of soap-making along with olfactory ‘tasting’ sessions... 23 Avenue Agostini www.leaudecassis.com

COMING in June

The mythical Hotel Les Roches Blanches will be opening its doors again and becoming a 5***** hotel, after important works to renew the beautiful mansion in a new art-deco spirit, with a new swimming pool, a new spa, a new restaurant. www.roches-blanches-cassis.com

Cassis, a lifestyle

All year round. Some people prefer the unique light of the early mornings in January, others the coppery colours of the grape harvest in the autumn, or the first swims in May in the translucent blue of the Calanques.

Cassis spreads out its terraces all year long, the boatmen take holidaymakers out to sea every day, the shopkeepers warmly welcome the visitors seven days a week, as for nature it offers its share of surprises with each changing season.

There's an inimitable gentleness about Cassis, a light sublimated by the rugged landscapes of Cap Canaille (and vice versa!) and a lifestyle tinged with elegance and simplicity in your encounters.



SETTING THE SCENE

- ✓ A region inhabited since prehistoric times.
- ✓ Between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AC: presence of Ligurians on the Baou Redon hills. Carsicis Portus was a harbour that lived essentially from fishing and Mediterranean trade.
- ✓ From the 5th to the 10th centuries: the population took refuge in the heights (castrum) fleeing the barbarian invasions.
- ✓ In the 15th century: Cassis was attached to the Comté de Provence. It became part of France in 1486.
- ✓ The town was administered by bishops up until 1789.
- ✓ In the 18th century: the town developed around its harbour.
- ✓ In the 19th century: the number of quarries increased (Cassis stone), the vineyards expanded, and tourism developed thanks to the arrival of the train.
- ✓ In the early 20th century, Cassis attracted rich visitors from Marseille for their holidays...

DISCOVER TODAY

First the *restanque* terraced vineyards that seem to plunge down to the sea, then the Calanques with their turquoise waters and lastly the village curling around the harbour. Cassis was truly shaped by Man – fishermen, winemakers and quarrymen occupied the space, land and sea, giving the town the structure you can see today.

Two ways of discovering the village:

Wander down the narrow streets in the fishermen's district, listen to the conversations on the café terraces, or follow the recommendations of a guide...

- Guided history strolls through the village, every week in season, programme available at the Tourist Office, visit and tasting of a gourmet speciality. An opportunity to learn more about Cassis's three districts: the bourgeois district and its lovely 16th and 17th century houses, the harbour and its prud'homie tribunal, and the fisherman's district and its narrow alleys.
- Guided explorations of the village on an electric "kid's scooter" in July and August, suitable for families and accompanied children aged 12 and over. A varied route with 8 stops and a commentary given by a guide – an original way of discovering the village. www.ot-cassis.com

24 HOURS IN CASSIS

Start by taking your coffee at daybreak on the quayside, and watch the town spring back to life. As the fishing boats return, buy your fish at the fishermen's stall (every morning on the fishermen's stall on the quay – fish and sea urchins in season). And because Cassis is in Provence, you can't possibly miss out on the market. Tapenade, fougasse breads, sun-drenched vegetables (in season), goat cheeses... Even in the middle of winter the stalls are mouth-watering and richly scented. (Provençal market on Wednesday and Friday mornings, farmers' market on Saturdays). Dive into the sea, with your family on the supervised Bestouan and Grande Mer beaches, or make your way to the Calanques for a flipper-powered exploration. Picnic or a gourmet table when you get back to the village. And at siesta time you have two options: head for Square Gilbert Savon to watch the lively games of pétanque (every afternoon) or do a bit of shopping in the town centre's trendy boutiques. In the evening, the choice is vast: wine-bars, gastronomic restaurants, festive atmosphere, casino for gamblers. And then start all over again.



WHERE TO STAY?

In the heart of the village, the **Cassitel****, a pretty place at an affordable price for experiencing life in Cassis from the inside. www.cassitel.com

Overlooking Bestouan beach, **le Mahogany*****, combines chic & lounge spirit. Rooms with a view! Elegant cooking in the Calanque M restaurant and the Phytomer spa complete the picture. www.hotelmahogany.com

An otherworldly spirit at the **Jardin d'Émile**. Colours & incredible charm for this little hotel facing Bestouan beach. An address that's so highly prized you mustn't book it too late! www.lejardindemile.fr

Facing Cassis bay, at **La Rade***** you can lounge on the lovely wooden terrace and go for a swim nearly all year round in the heated pool. www.bestwestern-cassis.com/

Impeccable service and warm welcome at the **Jardins de Cassis*****, for a wonderful stay nestling in lush greenery, surrounded by bougainvillea and pines. www.hotel-lesjardinsde-cassis.com

WHERE TO EAT?

Veritable village bar, at the counter of the **XX°** or on its little terrace for the lucky ones, enjoy the fresh tapas washed down by Cassis wines.

04.42.01.70.76

At **la Stazione**, it's just like Naples with its pizzas and pasta dishes on its pretty terrace at the heart of village life. 04.42.01.16.60

Like a real local. Discover "**À Table**" in a little street and congratulate yourself for this find. A short menu, fresh and seasonal produce, very reasonable prices. www.atablecassis.com

It's all in the name. At **la Poissonnerie** Eric, a fishmonger's son, serves fresh fish, on the spot or to take-away! Family spirit, tables on the harbourside and straight talk. 04.42.01.71.56

For 45 years, coffee or a glass of white wine, whatever the time, facing the harbour, of course it's the **Bar de la Marine**. 04.42.01.76.09

Nestling among the comfortable cushions, on the harbourside, enjoy the tapas and Cassis wines, then ask for some more – "**César la suite**" 04.42.01.78.38

Impossible not to think of St Tropez, the lovely red frontage and superb seafood platters, make **Mr Brun's** terrace a classic attraction in Cassis. Music in the summer! 2 quai Calendal

Home cooking at this unmissable place for lovers of Mediterranean flavours. On the menu at **La Vieille Auberge**, fish soup, mussels 'au gratin', grilled fish... www.restaurantvieilleaubergecassis.com

WHERE TO RELAX?

Below Cap Canaille, straight from the Grande Mer beach, you can count on the sun-mattresses at the **Grand Large** for a luxury moment of idleness. www.cassis-grand-large.com

Sun-mattresses, fresh fruit cocktails, burgers and an unrestricted view of Cap Canaille. **Same Same Beach** seems to plunge directly into the sea at Bestouan beach. www.hotelmahogany.com

At the **Presqu'île**, **la Plage Bleue** proposes a private solarium with sun-mattresses and a children's pool. Laid-back cooking for another wonderful experience over the water. www.restaurant-la-presquile.fr/restaurant-la-plage-bleue-cassis

THE GO-TO PLACES FOR SHOPPING

Objects made of Cassis stone, but not only: **Bazarette** is the Aladdin's Cave for interior decoration in Cassis. You're sure to love it. 2 Rue du Jeune Anacharsis

Varnished earthenware crockery in summer colours. Delphine "**La Sardine**" will welcome you in her workshop by appointment. "L'Atelier de la Sardine" 06.26.48.88.73

The Perfumer-Creator's Museum-Boutique, where the visitors will hear all about L'Eau de Cassis, or how Lorenzo Salvaire created this unique fragrance in 1851 for a bourgeois lady from Marseille on holiday in Cassis. www.leaudecassis-shop.com

Soaps and cosmetics created at the foot of Cap Canaille, at the **Savonnerie de Cassis!** Citrus fruit, monoi, honeysuckle, all the scents of summer on the spot. www.lasavonneriedecassis.fr

Old and professional furniture, contemporary art gallery, Stéphane Masson shares his passions in an astonishing vaulted former stable in old Cassis. **L'Art du Temps**. www.art-du-temps.com

Fashion and hand-picked accessories. Chez Lulli in Cassis, you will find a lovely collection of articles made by well-known leading designers. www.lulli-sur-la-toile.com

A brilliant idea: Cassis's great market on the last week-end of September or the first of October, ready-to-wear, accessories, interior design... Great end-of-season deals.

Kids' Special

Take a break from the beach between two dips, so your children can climb the trees at Cassis Forest treetop trails, and on a rainy day (even if they are few and far between!) the CAP Provence pool will allow you to perfect your crawl and offer the parents a break at the spa.



Forks & wineglasses



PROVENÇAL CUISINE

Colourful, aromatic and traditional, it is based on the freshness and quality of the raw materials, and does credit to the produce from a rich land and a sea well-stocked with fish.

Just take a look at the markets in Cassis and you'll see all the wealth and variety of the produce: strawberries, peaches, melons, figs, tomatoes, courgettes, peppers, aubergines, violet artichokes... Thyme, rosemary, myrtle, garlic, basil and also olive oil from Provence, goat cheeses, fish, anchovies and sardines, sea urchins (in season) ... The scene is set, all the ingredients are there for simple, family cooking, slow-cooked everyday dishes, not to mention new, refined recipes thought up by creative chefs.

Cassis by the Sea!

There are still about ten fishermen working in Cassis, where they have their own prud'homie* on the harbourside, quite a challenge in this day and age! Some stalls set up every morning on the quay, where you'll find sea bream, red mullet, John Dory, red scorpionfish, tub gurnard, conger eels, scorpionfish, comber fish, monkfish... and from November to March do not miss out on the sea urchins with their orangey-red coral to be eaten on a slice of bread and butter, washed down with a glass of Cassis white wine.

**fishermen's tribunal*

FOR GOURMETS

La Villa Madie ** (Michelin), signed Dimitri Droisneau

In this gastronomic restaurant where you can hear the murmur of the sea, the chef Dimitri Droisneau proposes authentic, spontaneous, generous and intelligible cooking, ever-changing driven by the perpetual motion of the seasons. Since February 2014 his work has been rewarded by a second star in the Guide Michelin. You will appreciate the full sea-view in winter and summer alike.

<http://lavillamadie.com/>

La Brasserie du Corton, for a lunch formula from Monday to Friday (and Saturday in Summer). Situated on the floor above the gastronomic restaurant, you can savour traditional specialities and recipes there, sometimes reinvented, in a simple, laid-back atmosphere. On the menu: local fish, salads and dishes of the day to liven up the privileged moment of a sunny lunchtime. The terrace overlooks the sea
<http://lavillamadie.com/brasserieducorton-information/>

Chez Angelina, inspired cooking

Open kitchen where you can admire the talent of Jean Marchal who proposes exceptional Mediterranean cooking here. Everything is there: quality of the produce, precision of the cooking, harmony of the flavours. It's the market that sets the tone allowing you to discover with the passing seasons: slow-cooked shoulder of lamb, braised knuckle of veal, "perfect" egg with red mullet roe... Great classics revisited, to be savoured in a pretty courtyard in complete intimacy.

www.restaurant-angelina-cassis.com

Chez Gilbert, an institution

This establishment is a veritable institution and belongs to the closed circle of the "Charte de la Bouillabaisse Marseillaise". Here the bouillabaisse is made with at least six different fish (John Dory, red scorpion fish, tub gurnard, conger eels, monk fish and rock fish) accompanied with *favouilles* (green crabs). The tasting session follows a precise ritual, the broth is served with the *rouille*, a spicy and saffron-flavoured aioli and croutons rubbed with garlic. Then come the

fish, delicately sliced up in front of the guests.

www.chezgilbert.net

A la Goccia d'Olio

The Italian chef cooks to order with quality fresh, seasonal produce. With a special mention for his truffle-flavoured dishes.

<http://www.lagocciadollocassis.fr/>

Chez Nino

Freshly caught fish, "home" cooking since 1962, at Cassis harbour the sea is given the place of honour on your plate chez Nino. <http://nino-cassis.com>

La Presqu'île

The view of Cap Canaille is so attractive you could almost forget why you came. Here, with unrivalled warmth, Ringo Schulz welcomes the gourmets who come to taste his inventive cooking, with the flavours of Provence, the Mediterranean and far-away. Ceviche of prawns in a Thai broth, sea bass Rossini with lemongrass, kiwi mascarpone, *œuf berlinois*...

www.restaurant-la-presquile.fr

SHELLFISH & CRUSTACEANS

With its lovely red frontage, you'd almost think you're in St Tropez. You can enjoy **Mr Brun's** superb seafood platters facing the harbour. 2 quai Calendal The go-to place for family Sunday lunches, with an open view of the sea from the beach, **le Grand Large** serves fish, bouillabaisse, bourride fish stew, crustaceans and shellfish every day of the year.

www.cassis-grand-large.com

The **Mistral** proposes an **oyster bar** for gourmet tastings at the end of the day. 04.42.84.99.62

FOR NIGHT OWLS

At le **Cendrillon**, animated discussions on the terrace until all hours! Lively evenings, card games, a musical atmosphere and the last glass of white, it's here that it all happens!

Whether they're on a winning streak or not, gamblers can try their luck into the small hours at **Casino Barrière**, fruit machines, gaming tables, electronic games, poker!

Outdoor gaming space. Lounge bar and terrace with view of the castle for a dinner under the stars.

www.casinosbarriere.com/fr/cassis

THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD VINEYARDS



The Cassis *Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée* which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2016, is the oldest *appellation* in France. But you have to go back nearly 2,600 years to the time of the Greek colonies to tell the long story of winemaking in Cassis. With the passing centuries, the winemakers have learnt from this special *terroir* and adapted their grape varieties and practices to produce a wine that is unique today.

Jonathan Sack-Zafiropulo, President of the Cassis Appellation

“The deep-rooted identity of our wines can be explained in just a few words: the minerality provided by the limestone all round us, the subtle saltiness that the sea winds regularly deposit here. Yes the Mediterranean is close by, at the gateway to the vineyards, and its influence could never belie the origin of our wines.”

ID card

- # AOC since 1936
- # 215 ha of vineyards
- # Just 7 hectares for the smallest estate
- # 7,500 hectolitres produced a year
- # 1 million bottles sold
- # 71% whites, 26% rosés, 3% reds
- # 1 vine = 1 bottle
- # Vineyards in a national Park
- # 70% of the vineyards are organic

CASSIS, LAND OF WHITES

Jewel of the Cassis AOC, the whites represent the major part of the wines produced and contribute greatly to its reputation. The Cassis whites have a brightly glinting light yellow colour. They give off a sweet scent of citrus fruit and white flowers, enhanced by a mineral touch and the tang of the sea, marked by their *terroir*. After a few years, the aromas grow more complex with a general hint of honey. On the palate, the full and lively taste allows a well-balanced yet intense freshness to develop, that is typical of Cassis wines. Mineral and iodised, the white wines of Cassis are above all *vins de terroir*.

As for the grape varieties, La Marsanne brings elegance and a hint of white flowers, Clairette the freshness, Ugni the acidity, Sauvignon the scents of grapefruit and apricot...

ESTATES, MEN AND WOMEN

There are twelve estates, spread around a veritable amphitheatre that opens up on to the sea, and rises up to altitudes of between 10 and 200 metres. Some gently sloping, others on *restanques* (planted on terraces), all benefit from the sea breeze, the 3,000 hours of sunshine and low rainfall, mainly concentrated in the spring and autumn. Overview.

It must be admitted that the Cassis winemakers have a certain strength of character and you have to admire their commitment. It takes a certain amount of courage to resist the call of the property developers. Passion, to watch each day over the quality of their wine, respect the traditions and open up to new techniques. Although we often talk about winemakers as men, it must be remembered that in Cassis, this profession includes several women... Let's mention Jérôme Paret, at the head of the Domaine de la Ferme Blanche working at the side of Philippe Garnier, oenologist and cellar master and Sophie Cerciello-Simonini, at the head of Clos Val Bruyère, with her oenologist husband.

Clos d'Albizzi

The Albizzis, a noble and powerful Florentine family, founded the Estate in the 16th century. In 1730, it was passed on to the Dumon family by marriage.

- Whites and rosés
- 14 hectares
- Organic

The White has a brilliant, limpid colour, a scent of fennel and quince, with a lovely minerality on the palate. It is full-bodied with a hint of honey, a touch of iodine, all enlivened by a discreet acidity.

www.albizzi.fr/

Domaine du Bagnol

The Estate – founded in 1867 by the Marquis de Fesque – is hidden away sheltered by Cap Canaille.

- About 17 hectares
- White and rosé
- Organic

The Blanc de Blancs has a refined, honey-tinged scent, and a fruity aroma on the palate (pear, lemon). A distinguished and elegant wine.

* Visits for individuals (please book on www.ot-cassis.com).

www.domainedubagnol.fr

Clos Val Bruyère

Sophie is Émile Bodin's great granddaughter (see Cassis Bodin).

- About 7 hectares
- Organic

The Cuvée Val Bruyère with its aniseed notes, scents of camomile, lime and pineapple, develops a silky structure and a mineral tang. The Cuvée Kalahari is a long-fermentation white with honey, vanilla and exotic fruit aromas. www.closvalbruyere.com

Domaine de La Dona- Tigana

Founded in 1999 by Jean Tigana, the famous footballer and wine connoisseur.

- 19 hectares
- White and rosé

The white is mineral, with a flinty touch.

* New Visits for individuals along the winemakers' path

www.ladonatigana.com

Domaine de la Ferme Blanche

Founded in 1714 by a famous fleet owner in Marseille, Comte François de Garnier, and then handed down from one generation to the next until the present day. The Paret family defends a new grape variety and cutting edge vinification technologies to present ever-more refined wines.

- 30 hectares
- The Estate produces two different whites, one of which is the Cuvée Excellence, as well as reds and rosés.
- Organic

The White has citrus fruit and white flower scents. The Cuvée Excellence pippin apple, quince and dried fruit aromas; on the palate, it offers honey and almond flavours.

Domaine Cassis Bodin

Emile Bodin, the grandfather of the current owner, was a Félibre, a friend of Mistral and an ardent defender of Provençal culture. He was one of the first vine-growers to replant after the phylloxera epidemic.

- About 35 hectares
- It proposes three whites, a rosé and a red.

The Blanc de Blancs is dry, mineral, characterised by its flinty taste. The white, pure free-run juice, is fruitier. It develops white flower, honey and almond

aromas. The Cuvée Prestige Notre Dame des Lumières develops minerality and elegance.

www.vins-cassis-bodin.fr



Château de Fontcreuse

Built in 1687, it was only in 1922, with Colonel Teed, that the estate devoted itself totally to winemaking, previously having been a mixed farm. The estate is close to the "cabanon" where Virginia Woolf stayed between 1925 and 1929.

- About 25 hectares
- Whites and rosés
- Organic

The white is "fatty", voluptuous. On the palate, it develops fruit notes of grapefruit, bitter almonds, peaches and Golden Delicious.

<http://fontcreuse.com>

Domaine du Paternel

Three generations have run this estate in succession, which stretches out over the hillsides. The fermenting cellar is superb.

- 45 hectares
- White, rosé and red
- Organic

The Blanc de Blancs is an expressive wine, with citrus fruit and white flower aromas. It is balanced, mineral, fresh, evolving towards honey.

New Visits for individuals for the spring 2018

www.domainedupaternel.com

Domaine Couronne de Charlemagne

Founded in 1988 by Bernard Piche, a passionate Cassis winegrower, the estate rises up the terraces at the foot of the Couronne de Charlemagne. On sale at the Domaine du Paternel.

- 15 hectares
- White and rosé
- Organic

The white – dry and frank – has floral scents. Round in the mouth. It develops quince and ripe fruit aromas.

Domaine des Quatre Vents

The estate has belonged to the same family since the end of the 19th century.

- 9 hectares
- White, rosé

The white has a crystalline colour, a complex scent elegantly marrying citrus fruit, white flower and garrigue aromas. On the palate, it is full and well-balanced.

Domaine Saint Louis

The estate has belonged to the Jayne family since 1893 and has been taken over by Laurent, the grandson. Graduating from the Ecole d'Avignon in 1996, he decided to use a very broad range of grape varieties including the Pascal Blanc in the Cuvée Fonfon.

- About 8 hectares
- White, rosé and red

The Blanc de Blancs, Cuvée Fonfon (the grandfather's nickname) has pear, apricot, toast and aniseed aromas, and on the palate, peach and tea finishing on a long, silky note.

www.domainesaintlouis-jayne.e-monsite.com

Clos Sainte Magdeleine

The estate, founded in the 19th century by Joseph Savon was taken over as a farm in 1920. It was in 1976 that it was developed and reorganised with passion by Mr and Mrs Sack, who gave it its current "structure". It stretches out above the sea, below Cap Canaille.

- 12 hectares
- White and rosé
- Organic

The white has white flower, citrus fruit aromas, and on the palate it is a mellow, unctuous wine with honey and almond aromas. Taken from a selection of old vineyard plots, the Cuvée Bel-Arme offers a lovely complexity and a very marked minerality.

*Visits for individuals (please book on www.ot-cassis.com).

www.clossaintemagdeleine.fr

ONCE A UPON A TIME THERE WAS THE VINE

This year there are two estates that are opening their doors to reveal the profession of winemaker in the distinctive *terroir* of the Cassis Appellation. Le Domaine de la Dona-Tigana and le Domaine du Paternel are joining le Clos Ste Magdeleine and le Domaine du Bagnol to take you further, to help you understand the art of the vine and wines and prompt rich exchanges around the subject of Cassis's wines.

www.ot-cassis.com

FIVE FAVOURITES

1 - Le chai cassidain, a passion for wine

Every day at aperitif time, Pascale and his son Nicolas propose a selection of whites, rosés, reds and champagnes. Antipasti, salads, special bowls, to nibble or comfortably settled in a leather armchair listening to some jazz, or on the terrace. The cellar places the emphasis on the wines of Cassis, also proposing a selection from all the French *terroirs* with a predilection for the great wines of Bordeaux. www.le-chai-cassidain.com

2- On your bike

Following your guide, ride through the rolling hills of the Cassis vineyard on an electric bike to admire the exceptional panoramas. Along the way you'll stop off at a Cassis Appellation estate to taste, with moderation, their famous dry and fruity white wines... www.cassisavelo.fr / www.ot-cassis.com

3- Les Apéros du Clos

Le Clos d'Albizzi, one of the oldest wine estates in Cassis, organises gourmet aperitif evenings in its Cellar. Some tables, a wattle pergola, the spirit of a *ginguette* and a great desire for sharing are what bring "les Apéros du Clos" to life. These evenings – placed under the sign of simplicity and love of the *terroir* – are conjured up by Marie-Laure Dumon, a descendant of the Albizzi family. Every Thursday starting at 6.30pm, from May onwards. Find out more on the Clos d'Albizzi Facebook page.

4- Le Divino

Seated around the casks of this excellent wine bar or on the terrace, the customers of **Le Divino** talk late into the night, tasting the cellarman's nuggets, accompanied by his wise words of advice. Tapas and gourmet dishes are also on the menu. www.divino-cassis.com

5- La Maison des vins

Discover the wines, their *terroirs*, learn to know them, understand them... In its catalogue, La Maison des Vins de Cassis proposes an incredible selection of wines, the promise of great moments with your family or friends. Route de Marseille. www.maisondesvinscassis.com

ROOMS WITH A VIEW (SEA OR VINEYARDS)

La Bastidaine, the first guestrooms to open in Cassis, just a stone's throw from the vineyards, cultivate a warm welcome, an absolute must for their breakfasts! www.labastidaine.com.

La Villa Mandine, just five minutes' walk from Cassis, enjoy two cool and pleasant rooms in a contemporary villa with a southern atmosphere. www.villa-mandine.fr

THE CLINK OF GLASSES

13 May

Cassis celebrates its wine. The Grape Harvesters Mass, blessing of the vine shoots, traditional dances, meeting with the winegrowers and tasting to celebrate the oldest of the appellations.

21 – 23 September

9th edition of the "Les Vendanges Etoilées". The meeting place for gastronomes and good food lovers where they celebrate the alliance between dishes and wines. Workshops, cooking shows, cooking classes, farmers' markets... This event has become the quality go-to celebration **for gourmets and epicureans**.

Portfolio



Nature, life size!

From the ochre and golden Cap Canaille to the famous white limestone Calanques, the Cassis coastline is unique, and unmistakable. Nature here is grandiose, wherever you look the colours explode, the relief amazes, vegetation rules and the superlatives rain down: Cap Canaille, the highest sea cliff in Europe; the Calanques national Park, the No. 1 peri-urban park in Europe; Cassis stone, used for the quays of Alexandria; the Route des Crêtes linking Cassis to La Ciotat, startling; and as Frédéric Mistral said “Anyone who has seen Paris but hasn’t seen Cassis, hasn’t seen anything”. Cassis has a good nature and strives to protect it. Here, protection of the environment are no idle words, this is part of the area’s DNA.



SECOND NATURE

The Calanques national Park

158,000 hectares, 90% maritime

Created in 2012, it is the 10th largest park in France. Close to a city with nearly one million inhabitants, it is the No. 1 terrestrial, maritime and peri-urban park in Europe. Regarding the sea, the natural heritage is exceptional. Sixty heritage species live there. This protected wild paradise conceals rare species such as ‘Gouffé’ grass (*Arenaria provincialis*), the Noble Pen Shell, the Hat Pin Urchin and further out to sea you will be able to see bottlenose dolphins and loggerhead turtles. And regarding the land, the biodiversity is remarkable, 138 protected plant and animal species live there: Bonelli’s eagle, yellow-legged gull, and the

European free-tailed bat. The succession of Calanques, creeks, and cliffs amongst the highest in Europe offer breath-taking views. The 15,000-hectare Calanques and Cap Canaille Park is a special place, known worldwide for the hiking, rock-climbing, diving and sea kayak opportunities it provides. www.calanques-parcnational.fr

When all is said and done, what is a Calanque?

The Calanques were formed 120 million years ago. To the west of Cassis, the Massif des Calanques consists of white limestone more than 400 m thick. Marine valleys were hollowed out, creating veritable miniature fjords, sometimes sheltering magnificent coves.

Although the Calanque de Port Miou is the only one really in the Cassis district, the visitors extend their exploration to the other nearby Calanques. Port Pin and its Aleppo pines, or En Vau the “pearl of the Calanques” with its exceptional rock-climbing routes. (Regulated access, see page 23)

OR SIMPLY THE BEACH



Sometimes, the sublime Calanques de Cassis are overshadowed by Grande Mer beach at the foot of the castle, where you can make the most of an astounding view of the cliffs and Cap Canaille, and go for a swim just a stone’s throw from the harbour and town centre. Ideal for meeting all the needs of families, with supervised swimming, ice-creams and walks along the pedestrian quays and down the village’s alleys.

Bestouan beach, also supervised, is a more confidential, pebble beach. Half way between the town centre and the Calanques, it is sheltered from the *Mistral* wind and the water here is incredibly clear.

The intimate Anse du Corton and Anse de l'Arène, natural pebble creeks, hidden away at the foot of Cap Canaille.

Find out all about the beaches, their services and how to access them: www.ot-cassis.com/fr/les-plages.html

IN PRAISE OF LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

Slowness or contemplation, the paths invite you to a peaceful discovery, respectful of the Massif des Calanques.

Two walks:

“Les Découvertes des Calanques” and “Cap Canaille” are organised in partnership with the Bureau des Guides in July and August. The guides will take ramblers along the Port Miou, Port Pin and Pointe Cacaou paths, explaining the local flora and fauna with passion, revealing the superb viewpoints over the village, between land and sea... www.ot-cassis.com

Le Sentier du Petit prince is a wondrous ramble, a one-hour loop around the

Peninsula. Overlooking the Calanque de Port Miou and its hundreds of sailing boats, with an exceptional view of the majestic Cap Canaille, the path offers an educational walk with 11 information boards explaining the history of the old stone quarries, the flora and fauna of the Calanques... Ideal for families. Open all year round. Access on the little tourist train, whose guided circuit starts 50m away from the Tourist Office.

Athletic, but not too much so, the route takes you from the Plateau de Soubeyran

to Cassis. Dotted with belvederes, the famous “Route des Crêtes” climbs, winds, flirts with the sea, swirls around in the wind. Between the road and paths, it allows the not-so-brave to experience these superb viewpoints.

And now for the more athletic version. En Vau, the most spectacular of the Calanques reveals itself after a steady two-hour walk, with a miniature creek encased between dizzy limestone cliffs as your reward.

Electric mountainbike outings in the Calanques national Park

Cycling more or less effortlessly along the paths, between the *garrigue* scrublands, pines and plunging views over the Great Blue. Two new guided tours will take amateur cyclists for a gentle ramble. All year round, discover the Calanques of Port Pin, Port Miou (2h) and En Vau(3h). Another quite exceptional path, the Cap Canaille cutting through the vineyards and taking the mythical Route des Crêtes for a majestic finale as the sun sets at the peak. www.ot-cassis.com Children aged 11 and over.

1,001 ACTIVITIES, some classics!

Boat tours through the Calanques, boat hire with or without a license, all sorts of sails ... The opportunities are numerous for making headway. And for lovers of silence who want to make the effort, there are always more strenuous sea outings in a sea kayak or on a Stand-Up Paddle, gliding over the waves at your own pace, with just the splash of the paddles. A must, an outing at the end of the day to appreciate the changing light on the rocks of the Calanques.

Discover the world of silence and make astonishing encounters, diving with or without tanks for some lovely moments in Cassis.

- # The Cassis Guides' Office organises a number of themed outings for the general public. From family walks to abseiling down Cap Canaille, because the panorama's well worth a few heady sensations! www.ot-cassis.com
- # The essential Cassis boatmen for outings with commentary in the Calanques. www.calanques-cassis.com
– A great idea: the three-Calanque outing on board the Canaille. This hybrid drive boat allows you to go into the Calanques under electric power. A concept that makes it possible to minimise the pollution, with a certain beneficial impact for the environment and the authentic pleasure of “listening to nature”. www.calanques-cassis-canaille.fr
- # New: Boat tours with a stop for swimming in the Calanques national Park, from June to September. Booking in advance
- # And for an exceptional evening in July and August, embark on the biggest catamaran in Europe, the Levantin, for a sunset dinner. www.ot-cassis.com
- # Paddle boards, the latest craze, have now been added to the wealth of kayak outings already proposed in Cassis, to glide noiselessly into the heart of the Calanques in perfect simplicity. CSLN



<http://centreculturelcassis.com/activites/sports-loisirs-nautique>

- # Scuba diving in the best company with the experts from Cassis Calanques Plongée: www.cassis-calanques-plongee.com or Narval www.narval-plongee.com

#Night in the stars

Cassis castle, dominating the village in all its majesty, opens its rooms to a few privileged guests. Authentic luxury and an absolutely unique panorama www.chateaudecassis.com

Jazz or regattas, Cassis is a lively place to be!



CULTURE & MUSIC

19-21 May

Le Printemps du Livre, on the programme: literature & music/art/film/photo, at the Camargo foundation. www.printempsdulivre.fr

July and August

Les Nuits Vagabondes. Variety shows, present-day music and Literary evenings (in the harbour).

16 July to 12 August

Jazz sur le toit, on Monday the 16th, than every Sunday. Jazz evening between sea and vineyards.

SPORTS

April

Duo Cup regatta from Marseille to Cassis

5 May

Cooking cup

11-13 May

Les Voiles de Cassis. 20 old sailing boats, amongst the most prestigious in the world, brought together for a series of regattas.

3-9 September

Challenge Open ennis

30 September

Cassis Rowing Race. The biggest French regatta.

28 October

Marseille-Cassis half-marathon

www.marseille-cassis.com

GOOD FOOD

13 May

Cassis celebrates its wine. The Grape Harvesters Mass, blessing of the vine shoots, traditional dances, meeting with the winegrowers and tasting to celebrate the oldest of the appellations.

21 to 23 September

9th edition of the “Les Vendanges Etoilées”. The meeting place for gastronomes and good food lovers where they celebrate the alliance between dishes and wines. More than 30 chefs expected, 16 of them starred. Workshops, cooking shows, cooking classes, farmers’ markets... This event has become the quality go-to celebration **for gourmets and epicureans**. In 2017: “Chefs enfants” photo exhibition by the photographer Aline Gérard – Cook and shoot.

1 to 11 November

The Italian Village, Portofino & Cassis. Baci di Cuneo, Piedmont wines, vespa, musica and dolce vita enliven Cassis for one week.

TRADITION

June & July

The Sea Festivals
Sardines and then anchovies take the place of honour, for gourmet moments accompanied by the wines of Cassis.

St John’s day, marks the start of the festivities with a blessing of the bonfire and dancing. St Peter, patron saint of fishermen, sets off on a procession through the town on July. Ending on a high note about the 21 July with the Soirée en Provence: processions and dances by the artists from the Festival des Cultures du Monde.

14 July and 15 August

Classic and as extraordinary as ever, the fireworks illuminate Cassis bay every summer.

30 November – 15 December

Christmas Market

NOT TO MENTION

14 and 15 April

Cassis au Jardin, flower market, horticultural meetings and chats, initiation to gardening for all ages... every plant species will be there!

July and August

Artists’ Quay and nocturnal market every evening to celebrate the work of local and regional artists.

First week-end of October

La Grande Braderie, the great end-of-season sale.

TO FIND OUT MORE www.ot-cassis.com

Cassis, an eco-responsible ambition

Sustainable tourism respectful of nature and mankind.

Welcoming our tourists in the best possible conditions, means offering them an unspoilt environment.

Calanques national Park & protected massifs

The creation of the Calanques national Park in 2012 was the outcome of the work undertaken by the GIP des Calanques since 1999. The goal is to mobilise all the players around the protection of the Calanques site, through the value of its landscape, its remarkable biodiversity and its cultural heritage. It is also an incredible tool to be used to enhance the site.

From 1st June to 30 September access to the massifs is regulated to limit the fire hazard. The www.myprovence.fr/enviedebalade website indicates the authorised visiting times each day during the periods of greatest vigilance.

Blue & green

Since 2009 the Blue Flag has floated over the beaches of Cassis. The waters of the four swimming sites are classified as being of “excellent” quality by Regional Health Agency (Grande Mer, Bestouan, Arène, Corton). The Calanque de Port Miou has the ‘Port Bleu’ label.

Giving way to electricity

Electric transport systems take pride of place in Cassis. Twizy electric car hire, charging station at the Mimosas car park and on Savon square, bicycle hire, outings organised on electric scooters, mountainbikes and e-bikes in the village, the Park and the vineyards, hybrid boat excursions in the Calanques ... to fully appreciate these places in peace and quiet.

Convenient parking

The creation of a relief car park in 2016 outside the village has considerably fluidified the arrival in Cassis and makes it easier to access the harbour, even at the highest part of the season. The Gorguettes free car park has space for 220 cars and there’s a regular shuttle service (€1.60) to take visitors to the entrance to the Calanques or close to the harbour. A word to the wise!

Organic!

Today 70% of the “Vin de Cassis appellation” vineyards are organic. This approach requiring strong convictions continues with the goal of 100% organic in the coming years.

In a few figures

158,100 ha, that's the surface area of the Calanques national Park

2 million visitors a year

7,500 inhabitants

No. 1 Peri-urban National Park in Europe

12 wine estates

More than 80 gourmet addresses

40% foreign tourists

1.5 million overnight stays in hotels

16,000 cruise passengers welcomed

124 million economic benefits (excluding day trippers) a year

2 million pebbles on the beach

1 million bottles of Cassis wine produced every year

Practical

Cassis Tourist Office

Quai des Moulins, 13260 Cassis

A second tourist information point is opened at Gorguettes at weekends starting from April and every day in July and August.

www.ot-cassis.com with booking centre

Phone: 00 33 0892 39 01 04 (€0.40/min + cost of a call)

Easy access

Airport: Marseille Provence or Toulon Méditerranée

TGV High-Speed Train to Marseille St Charles then TER regional express train to Cassis

By car, A50 motorway, exit No. 6 Carnoux-en-Provence or No. 8 Cassis.

Seven car parks in Cassis with real-time display of the number of spaces available. The Gorguettes car park is free, with 220 parking spaces. At weekends and in season, a shuttle service leaves every 15 minutes approximately for the village centre and the Calanques Park (Peninsula).

By sea - Harbour master's office 04 42 01 70 40 and Port Miou Harbour master's office 04.42.01.96.24

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On-line media space <http://www.ot-cassis.com/presse/>

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