

Monaco Press Kit

2014



monaco.

The independent and sovereign Principality of Monaco

The Principality of Monaco is a neutral state that foiled the forces of dissolution thanks to its strategic location and shrewd Princes. For 710 years, the latter have taken advantage of quarrels between their neighbours, or benefited from their protection, whilst etching out plans to foster the development of the Principality.

A natural harbour since antiquity, sheltered by a sheer cliff, Monaco was initially occupied by the Ligurians, and then by the Romans followed by the Barbarians. The Genoese Grimaldi family settled here definitively in 1297. Its descendents, Lords and princes, have been reigning for over 700 years!

After gaining its independence back in 1489, Monaco entered into a protectorate relationship with Spain in 1524, then with France in 1641, and subsequently with Sardinia from 1815 to 1860.

Once “Monte-Carlo” was founded on the plateau des Spélugues in 1860, and the railway lines were opened in 1868, the principality really took off. In 1906, Prince Albert I founded the Oceanographic Institute devoted to sciences of the sea. The prince, whose scientific explorations were ground breaking, also had the world-famous oceanographic museum constructed.

In 1949, H.S.H. Prince Rainier III acceded to the throne. He married Miss Grace Patricia Kelly in 1956, Prince Rainier then went on to change the face of the principality: whilst developing his country’s relations with the international community, he also gave a new lease of life to Monaco’s economy by instigating a policy of investments and major construction projects. This dual challenge was subsequently embraced by Prince Albert II. Today, in its unflinching commitment to sustainable development and biodiversity around the planet, Monaco has well and truly entered the 21st century.

- 1954 - Convention between neighbours with France, including mutual administrative assistance.
- 1962 - A new Constitution became the Fundamental Law of the State.
- 1976 - RA.MO.GE agreement pertaining to the protection of waters along the Mediterranean coastline signed in Monaco by France, Italy and Monaco.
- 1993 - The Principality of Monaco became a fully-fledged member of the United Nations.
- 1999 - Jubilee of H.S.H. Prince Rainier III.
- 2002 - Treaty to adapt and strengthen the relationship of friendship and cooperation between Monaco and France.
- 2004 - The Principality of Monaco became the 46th Member-State of the Council of Europe.
- 2005 - Death of Prince Rainier III. H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco succeeded his father.
- 2006 - Prince Albert II announced the creation of the Foundation bearing his name: the “Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation”.
- 2009 - Principality elected onto the UNESCO Executive Council.
- 2011 - Prince Albert II wedding.

Some key dates:

- 1215 - The Ghibellines constructed a château on the site of the current Palace.
- 1297 - The Guelph, François Grimaldi, disguised as a monk, wiled his way into Monaco.
- 1861 - The rights to Menton and Roquebrune were abandoned to the benefit of France. The Principality became totally independent once more.
- 1865 - Customs agreement with France.
- 1866 - Charles III laid the first brick of a new casino on the Plateau des Spélugues (that he went on to name “Monte-Carlo”).
- 1911 - The Principality adopted its first Constitution.
- 1918 - Treaty with France. The latter pledged to defend the independence and territorial sovereignty of the Principality.
- 1949 - Accession of Prince Rainier III to the throne.

The Principality on the international stage

The Principality’s international role takes the form of diplomatic activities, international commitments and a communications policy that opens Monaco to the world. The Principality of Monaco is represented around the globe by embassies and consulates, fostering regular cooperation with the relevant national authorities. Today, Monaco has a total of 9 embassies. They are accredited by 20 states, mainly in Europe and the United States of America. Monaco also has two “non-resident” embassies: located in Monaco, they are accredited by Australia, China, India, Japan and Portugal.

Monaco also boasts 124 consulates operating in 72 States plus 4 permanent representations with international organisations. Monaco is thus an active player in New York, within the United Nations; in Geneva, within an international organisation; in Strasbourg, at the council of Europe; and in Belgium, as part of the European community.

Furthermore, 65 States have an accredited embassy in Monaco, not to mention 75 consular representations, illustrating the principality’s commitment to international diplomacy. As the 183rd Member-State of the United Nations, the principality is very involved in projects set up by various organizations such as, for example, UNESCO, the WHO, UNEP and UNDP. On a European scale, Monaco has been a member of the council of Europe since 2004.

The Principality sets aside public Aid for Development, which it dispenses in the form of donations to cooperation projects with developing countries, to ensure that culture, development and the environment receive the necessary attention. In keeping with H.S.H. Albert II’s determination to make Monaco a model of international solidarity, such funds are devoted to development or to humanitarian aid. In terms of international cooperation, Monaco is active in the fields of health and social issues, education, combating poverty and the environment, not to mention the initiatives launched by the Albert II Foundation.

As far as communications are concerned, all of Monaco’s news is conveyed throughout the land and also abroad by the Press Centre. The Principality has radio stations and TV channels. RMC Info, a descendant of Radio Monte-Carlo, a famous Mediterranean radio station, broadcasts local information nationally and internationally on a daily basis. Radio Ethic, an independent, French-language web radio, analyses news from Monaco and around the world from an ethical angle, defending the environment, quality of life and sustainable

development. A more cultural radio station is MC One, a Monegasque music station broadcasting a varied and progressive range of programmes covering all musical currents. RMC Network, an Italian-speaking radio station, broadcasts all local and international music and news programmes. Its English language equivalent is Riviera Radio, which broadcasts local information as well as news from the BBC. TV Monte-Carlo (TMC) is a TV channel that has been broadcasting programmes in French and Italian since 1954, according to French and European standards. Monaco Info, the Press Centre's cable channel, is broadcast over the web, reporting all of the news from the Principality.

Monaco's economy: the five pillars of prosperity

In the 1860s, fortune smiled upon the Principality when it opted to focus on spas and gaming. But those days are long gone. In 2012, gaming generated only slightly under 173 million Euros, representing less than 3% of the State's revenue for a GDP of over 4.3 billion Euros. Monaco has successfully embraced modernity, diversifying its economic activities. Every day, 40,000 people travel into the Principality from neighbouring communes to work almost as many as the number of Monegasque residents.

Trade

Trade activity is divided into retail trade, which perpetuates a top-of-the-range tradition thanks to luxury brands and big shopping malls, and wholesale trade on a larger scale. The most famous haute couture, jewellery and leatherwear brands gather in Monaco's "Carré d'Or", its Golden Square, near to the Monte-Carlo Casino, continuing to fuel Monaco's sophisticated image around the globe. With growth of 23%, retail trade accounted for 8% of GDP in 2008. Wholesale trade is expanding at a rapid rate, registering an increase of over 30%. It now accounts for 8.5% of GDP.

Banks and Finance

Thanks to the efforts deployed by the prince's Government to sign fiscal transparency agreements with fifteen countries around the world, banking and financial activities in the principality are looked up to once again. Monaco now features on the OECD's white list. Its banking and financial sector is in good health, occupying a position of choice in the economy: it accounts for almost 16.5% of GDP. Monaco's financial sector comprises 36 banks and almost 50 management companies, that are responsible for nearly 96 billion Euros.

Property

The small scale of Monaco drives innovation. In a location where verticality is the axis of growth, property has always been a major issue for the Sovereign Princes. H.S.H. Prince Rainier III, in particular, was known as the "Prince of Construction" for the policy of major building projects launched under his reign. The Principality has reclaimed almost 20% of its surface area from the sea, to house the Monegasques and accommodate private businesses. H.S.H. Prince Albert II has continued this tradition. Major construction projects are underway, including the reorganization of the harbour, Port Hercule, where a new Yacht Club is being built; placing several roads underground; and improving access to the Fontvieille neighbourhood. Other projects are on the drawing board, such as the new Princess Grace Hospital. All of these projects scrupulously respect environmental standards in order to improve the quality of urban life, in the same way as Monaco has always reserved pride of place for parks and green spaces.

Hotels

From 2 to 5 stars, Monaco totals 15 hotels that accommodate over 300,000 visitors per year. The Hôtel de Paris, the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel, the Hermitage and the Métropole, luxury hotels that have played a priceless role in the history of the Principality, contribute to making Monaco a paragon of luxury and sophistication. Further flagship hotels offer a warm welcome, as the range of hotels in Monaco grows more diversified, beyond niche tourism. Business tourism in the Principality has expanded well as events and infrastructures have been added, and cruise tourism is proving to be more dynamic than ever. The Tourism Board has also defined a new policy of responsible and sustainable tourism.

Industry

Heavy industry in the usual sense no longer has its place in the Principality; the country prefers businesses with high added value that do not pollute. This is the case of the “chemical pharmacology-cosmetology” sector that is the most prevalent, along with industries that process plastic materials and industries that manufacture electrical and electronic equipment. The Principality of Monaco is home to health and medical infrastructures renowned for quality of teams and level of equipment in many specialist fields. Given the reputation of health hub and the attractiveness of the Principality (in terms of travel, accommodation, congress centres and specialist teams of organisers), Monaco is the perfect destination for congresses and seminars on the subject of health.

Getting to the Principality

Located in the far south-east of France, the Principality of Monaco stretches along a narrow coastal band, measuring 4.4 kilometres in length, on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea and at the foot of the Southern Alps. Its particularly mild, temperate climate and outstanding score of over 300 days of sunshine a year, make Monaco a holiday destination by vocation. The entire world can get to the Principality of Monaco thanks to fast onward connections from Nice Côte d’Azur Airport - either by air or by land. The airport is located only 25 km away (7 minutes by helicopter shuttle). The Principality is on the E80 Barcelona-Milan motorway.

By plane

Nice Côte d’Azur Airport, France’s second airport, offers flights to all main cities in France, to Southern Europe, the Middle East and North America. It takes approximately half an hour to reach the airport by car on the motorway, or 7 minutes by helicopter with Hélicoptère Air operating 70 flights a day seven days a week, connecting with all national and international flights between 8.30am and 7.30pm. A scheduled bus service runs every day of the year between Nice Airport and Monaco. The journey lasts approximately 50 minutes; ten buses operate between 6am and 8pm.

By road

The European motorway network passes only 8 km from the centre of Monte-Carlo, which can be reached via the Monaco/Cap-d’Ail/ Beausoleil exit (when travelling from Nice) or the Monaco/Roquebrune-Cap-Martin exit (when travelling from Menton). It links the Principality with France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Benelux, Austria and England.

A scheduled bus service links Nice to Monaco and Menton to Nice every day of the year from 6am to 8pm, except bank holidays. On some evenings, a night bus called the “Noctambus” provides a shuttle service between Nice and Menton via Monaco until 2.30am.

By rail

All international trains stop in the Principality: - Day trains such as “The Ligurian” linking Marseille to Milan; the “Train Bleu” from Paris to Ventimiglia; and trains are travelling to Genoa and Basel.

- Night trains to Paris, Strasbourg, Nantes, Toulouse; Irun and Port-Bou for Spain; and Milan, Venice, Pisa and Rome in Italy.

- High-speed trains (TGVs) linking Monaco to Paris in less than six hours.

Regional express trains, (TER s), serving the main towns on the French Riviera. Monaco’s underground railway station is located in the very centre of the urban landscape. Travellers enjoy easy access to the different neighbourhoods of the Principality thanks to four pedestrian exits equipped with lifts, escalators and moving walkways.

By sea

Monaco boasts two deep-water harbours located on either side of the Rock. Port Hercule part of the town itself, is a mooring spot for boats up to 110 metres. Its semi-floating sea wall offers quality shelter in all weather. This harbour also hosts the many visiting cruise boats measuring up to 300 metres in length. Fontvieille Harbour can accommodate approximately 280 pleasure boats on its surface area of 5.5 ha.

Monaco: An Exceptional Destination

The Principality of Monaco symbolises fine living and the art of welcoming visitors. Its choice of hotels and congress infrastructures is unrivalled. It can offer individual tourists and groups of tourists an array of hotels spanning the entire range - from luxury hotels to two-star hotels. On top of this, Monaco can also offer large-scale, structured and secure logistics for the organisation of events.

Monaco has embarked on a policy of excellence in matters of hotels and congresses. The Principality is seen as a benchmark for the perfect hosting of visitors in the fields of individual tourism, incentive and corporate travel, international business tourism events and key regional and cultural events.

The Principality offers a particularly varied range of 15 hotels, open all year round. Since August 2010, a new hotel rating system has been put in place. The 4-star-luxury category has been abolished, now replaced by the 5-star category.

There are four establishments in this most luxurious category, offering the height of comfort: the Hôtel Hermitage, the Hôtel de Paris, the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo and the Monte-Carlo Beach Hotel.

The Fairmont Monte Carlo and the Méridien Beach Plaza are rated in the 4-star category, along with the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort and the Port Palace. Apart from these internationally reputed luxury hotels, the Principality boasts four 3-star hotels: (the Ambassador, the Columbus, the Miramar and the Novotel), and two 2-star hotels. Over 2,400 rooms and suites are thus made available to a clientele that visits from all over the globe, but mostly from Italy, France, Great Britain, the United States and Germany.

Monaco is a natural Mecca for gourmet cuisine, thanks to the talent and the international reputations of the great chefs who work in the Principality. The only 3-star establishment in the confirmation of this art of the ephemeral is Alain Ducasse's Louis XV, the most famous and the most luxurious restaurant at the Hôtel de Paris. Chef Franck Cerutti reinterprets the spirit of Mediterranean cuisine in a subtle balance of tradition, evolution and modernity.

Another landmark in the landscape of fine gastronomy is the Restaurant Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo, in the Hotel Le Metropole Monte-Carlo. Joël Robuchon and Christophe Cussac prepare their benchmark cuisine in this 2-star restaurant.

One star sparkles above other restaurants in the Michelin guide: Le Vistamar at the Hôtel Hermitage, overlooking Monte-Carlo from the height of the eighth floor; and Yoshi at the Hotel Métropole Monte-Carlo, launched by Takeo Yamazaki and Joël Robuchon as an initiation into Japanese cuisine.

The Top Hotels in Monaco

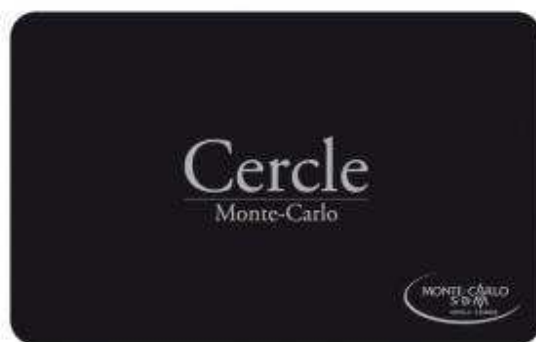
The Destination of Monaco combines luxury with modernity, quality and excellence; here is a selection of the best hotels in Monaco to demonstrate.

MONTE-CARLO SBM RESORT

MONTE-CARLO SBM celebrates its 150th anniversary - a unique celebration, on the premise of a dream. Since its creation, the group has imposed a persona of extremely high standards, audacious and inimitable, in the universe of luxury tourism.

Today, Monte-Carlo SBM group is one of the leading players in the European gaming sector and leaders in luxury tourism in Monaco, all the while collaborating with the most important sporting and cultural events in the Principality. Visiting Monaco is a unique experience, consecrating the SBM as the precursor of modern tourism, now offering a complete 'Art de vivre' package.

When staying as a guest at any Monte-Carlo SBM property, your room card key acts as an exclusive passport offering you access and advantages within the other outlets and properties within the Monte-Carlo SBM Resort.



Benefits of the Cercle Card Monte-Carlo:

- Free admission to the Casino de Monte-Carlo
- Free transportation in shuttles within the Monte-Carlo SBM Resort (shuttle services every 20 minutes)
- A 50% discount on green fees at the Monte-Carlo Golf Club
- A 50% discount on admission fees at the Monte-Carlo Country Club (23 tennis Courts)
- The possibility of having all expenditure within the Monte-Carlo SBM Resort added to hotel bills.

For guests staying at the Hotel de Paris, Hotel Hermitage or Monte-Carlo Beach:

- Free admission to the Beach Club (Olympic sized sea water pool and private beach, sun-lounger and towel included)

- Free admission to the aqua-fitness complex at the Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo with its heated sea-water pool, hamman, sauna and cardio-training center with panoramic view.

For guests staying at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort:

- Free admission to the sandy-bottomed lagoon
- Free admission to the indoor/outdoor swimming pool and fitness center at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort

Hotel de Paris



Constructed in 1864, this legendary luxury hotel is ideally located on the Place du Casino in the centre of Monte-Carlo. A member of the Leading Hotels of the World, the Hôtel de Paris perpetuates the traditional and perfect art of welcoming.

A must for an outstanding stay or top-level event, the hotel is also a high temple of gastronomy. It is reputed for its art de vivre thanks to three prestigious restaurants, including the famous Louis XV- Alain Ducasse and Le Grill.

The Hôtel de Paris is a veritable legend, offering a truly unique experience in the footsteps of the great and famous.

The Louis XV-Alain Ducasse (3 stars in the Michelin guidebook), a Mecca for gastronomy has just celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The Grill boasting has an impressive sea views from the 8th floor of the hotel.

“Côté Jardin” is serving a Mediterranean buffet and opening onto the hotel’s gardens.

“Salle Empire” a listed historical monument used to host highly prestigious events in a splendid setting throughout the year. In July and August, dinner is served on the terrace overlooking the place of the Casino.

Direct access to Monte-Carlo’s Sea Spa Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo: 6,600m2 featuring 37 treatment booths, an aqua-gym area, steam baths and saunas, a bar and the Hirondelle Restaurant.

The amazing wine cellar at the Hotel de Paris, steeped in a fabulously rich past, is the setting for exclusive tastings and dinners. The cellar houses 457,000 bottles.

The Top Room: Winston Churchill Apartment:

Sir Winston Churchill often stayed here and even today his spirit seems omnipresent. This apartment is characterised by opposition, confrontation and harmony, a place where history is combined with a resolutely modern way of life. Within this blend there remains a “memory” part with partially covered panelling, the library, chimney, objects, books and photo collections. As a counterpoint, all the interior architecture is truly contemporary, while great care has been taken to give much significance to the magnificent views over the port, the rock and the sea. This 210m² apartment located on the top floor of the Hotel de Paris with a private access, can be divided into two different suites if required.

You can receive the benefit of the Cercle Card within Resort Monte-Carlo SBM at this property.

Hotel Hermitage



A listed historical monument, the Hotel Hermitage’s instant appeal lies in the splendour of its neo-classic architecture. Charm and sophistication sum up a hotel that promises unforgettable experiences in a harmonious and intimate atmosphere.

A stone’s throw from the Place du Casino, this Belle Époque gem is the symbol of discreet elegance. Its terraces overlooking the Mediterranean offer the finest view in Monte-Carlo.

In May 2010, after several months of work, the Costa and Midi wings unveiled 140 entirely renovated rooms. The Winter Garden lobby, designed by Gustave Eiffel and used to welcome groups, was also spruced up. Le Vistamar Restaurant and a new bar have opened to offer a unique culinary experience.

From January 2011, the Hotel Hermitage added a new meeting and banqueting room called Salon Eiffel, suitable for up to 340 people “theatre style” or 260 guests at a sit down lunch or dinner. This room was designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon to be in perfect harmony with the charm of the hotel.

Thanks to this, plus the sumptuous Salle Belle Époque and other meeting rooms, the Hotel Hermitage is more than ever the ideal venue Le Vistamar (one star) a restaurant with a panoramic view of the port, serving seafood and fish specialities inspired by the catch of the

day, - two reception desks and concierges for easy check-in for “business” clients - direct access to the Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo: 6,600m² featuring 37 treatment booths, an aqua-gym area, steam baths and saunas, plus a bar and the Hironnelle restaurant.

The Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo also constitutes an unusual environment for a reception.

The Top Room: The Apartments

With a duplex in the Beaumarchais wing “The Apartments” are treated as an exceptional place, even within the Hotel Hermitage.

Every apartment has a lounge, two bedrooms and two bathrooms with a dressing room and boudoir. The whole effect is a balanced harmony between the classic styles which define the existing standards at the hotel and elegant contemporary restraint. The duplex apartment overlooks Port Hercule opposite the rock and on the roof is the dining terrace where you can look out over the Riviera which, come night fall unveils its collar of lights travelling far off into the distance. To the back of the terrace, in the shade of a second pergola, the Jacuzzi allows you to experience the joys of the hot tub.

You can receive the benefit of the Cercle Card within Resort Monte-Carlo SBM at this property.

Monte Carlo Beach



Completely revamped by famous architect India Mahvadi, it offers a resolutely modern life experience that combines the spirit of the roaring twenties on the Riviera with the protected privacy of a luxury holiday destination.

At the end of 2009, resplendent in its new finery, the Monte-Carlo Beach joined the very exclusive “Relais et Châteaux Club”, a prestigious collection of the most beautiful hotels in the world with character.

In a sophisticated atmosphere, cradled between the sky and the sea, the Monte-Carlo Beach’s seaside complex features a heated Olympic-size seawater pool and a private beach. This small seaside palace on the water’s edge nestles in luxuriant vegetation. The Monte-Carlo Beach’s intimate and sophisticated atmosphere is conducive to relaxation and concentration, making it a key venue for events requiring up to 40 rooms.

Its superb Deck and its terrace facing the mirror pool make the Monte-Carlo Beach a dream location for a product launch. It can be taken over completely for a private event out of season.

4 restaurants in high season:

New Chef des Cuisines at the Monte-Carlo Beach, Paolo Sari is a young, talented and spirited Italian chef. Trained in Italy, at Cambridge University and in Los Angeles, Paolo Sari is revealing through his cuisine its typically Latin passion.

- La Vigie is located at the heart of a pine grove. Open in high season, it serves a buffet lunch and gourmet dinner.
- In high season, the Sea Lounge proposes incredible evenings.
- The Deck serves sophisticated, contemporary cuisine. Overlooking the pool,
- The cuisine at Elsa (one star in Guide Michelin since march 2014), the hotel's latest restaurant, combines modern cuisine with gastronomy.

The Top Room: The Sunshine Suite

An ambiance, gentle and luxurious, classic and contemporary. The height of the ceilings provide a feeling of space, while in the lounge, the oak flooring is brightened by pine woodwork. The black and white photos of the mythical Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy bring a touch of glamour.

The corner desk blends in with the library. The two bedrooms emanate calm and serenity. The total 100 m² space is made up of a lounge, a master bedroom with its dressing room and bathroom, a second bedroom with wet room, a dining room/library area and a terrace on the second floor overlooking the swimming pool and the beach.

You can receive the benefit of the Cercle Card within Resort Monte-Carlo SBM at this property.

Monte-Carlo Bay and Resort



The Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort has four hectares of gardens set on water rooms and spacious suites, a spa, four restaurants, a lagoon of fine sand and a casino.

Previously employed at the Epicerie restaurant in the Brussels Méri dien where his talent resulted in a score of 16/20 in the Guide Gault-Millau, the young Martinician chef Marcel Ravin (35) has been at the helm of the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort kitchens since its inauguration. A new talent has been added to the tradition of gastronomic excellence prevalent in the Société des Bains de Mer establishments.

Nestling next to the Salle des Etoiles (the room of the stars- concert and entertainment venue) it constitutes an authentic downtown resort. Chic and casual, it continues the legend of Monte-Carlo - with an added twist of modernity.

The Top Room: The Duplexes

Inspired by the Mediterranean palaces, the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort, latest of the Société des Bains de Mer hotels, opened its doors during October 2005.

Regional ceramists from the “Maison des Arts de Carcès”, which was created by the colourist Christophe Cadu-Larquet, worked on the decoration of the suites. They were inspired by a range of colours based on those used in the southern villages which tended to be shades of beige white or ocean blue. Overlooking the sea the magnificent duplex suites provide relaxation and welcome you into the discrete luxury of contemporary style with the Wengé furniture, the softest colours blending beiges and brown and clean lines for a minimalist style.

You can receive the benefit of the Cercle Card within Resort Monte-Carlo SBM at this property.

HOTEL FAIRMONT MONTE-CARLO



Part of a bold building complex constructed on seven storeys running all the way down to the water, the Fairmont Monte Carlo is perfectly located between the Mediterranean Sea and Monte-Carlo's famous Casino.

The architectural design of this luxury hotel is outstanding. It contains 602 rooms, suites and residences and its splendid entrance lobby gives onto an immense bay window offering a plunging view of the Mediterranean.

The interior design of the hotel has been completely revamped by Wilson & associates in the spirit of a luxury Mediterranean cruise.

The utmost attention has been paid to every detail, drawing out the very best in a wide range of services and attractions: The Argentin Grill restaurant, the Horizon Deck, a Restaurant & Champagne bar offering: - 2 terraces usable 365 days a year. Guests can enjoy a lounge-bar with a VIP lounge (top Deck) for private events or enjoying a cocktail against a stunning backdrop of the Riviera.

Executive Chef Maryan Gandon favours local produce, going so far as to grow fruit and vegetables in a garden in the hinterland. In the same vein, the entire production chain (from packaging, kitchen utensils and the waiting staff's uniforms, down to the menus) adopts a responsible attitude to the environment.

The Saphir 24, lounge-bar, open 24/7 and since December 2013, Nobu ! Nobuyuki "Nobu" Matsuhisa, the acclaimed and highly influential celebrity Chef and owner of Nobu restaurants has settled down in the Principality of Monaco at the Fairmont Monte Carlo. In a new elegant and cosy atmosphere featuring a magnificent bar, 2 exclusive private lounges and a unique terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

On 900 m² the Willow Stream Spa features 8 private areas with 3 suites. One is reserved for couples: the spa experience offers the luxury of a range of specialist treatments (virtues of natural light, manicure/pedicure, spa lounge, steam bath, and sauna) and grants access to a fitness centre equipped with the latest techno-gym facilities.

In the fitness centre, wide bay windows allow daylight to filter in whilst reducing energy consumption. The Spa also boasts a solarium and a heated open-air pool with a view of the sea and the famous bend in the F1 Grand Prix circuit.

Inside the hotel there is an elegant shopping gallery, a hair salon and a casino featuring American games.

The Top Room: Grand Prix and Riviera Suites

All Grand Prix Suites are spacious and elegantly decorated, featuring a separate bedroom and living room with a sofa, coffee table, armchairs and a working desk. These suites offer three private terraces, one facing the Fairmont Grand Prix Hairpin and the two others, each of them with deck chairs and a breakfast sitting area, facing the Mediterranean Sea. Two marble bathrooms provide a bathtub/shower combo and a separate bidet and water closet. The suites also feature two Interactive televisions with integrated Internet system, a radio-CD player and all the latest modern amenities for a comfortable stay in Monte Carlo.

All Riviera Suites are spacious and elegantly decorated, featuring a separate bedroom and living room with a sofa, coffee table, armchairs and a working desk. Two private terraces provide deck chairs and a breakfast sitting area. The suites offer a marble bathroom with bathtub/shower combo and separate bidet and water closet, as well as one guest toilette. The suites also feature two Interactive televisions with integrated Internet system, a radio-CD player and all the latest modern amenities for a comfortable stay in Monte Carlo.

Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo



The decor at the hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo is a concept designed by Jacques Garcia. It has become a contemporary hotel stands out because of its warm and sophisticated Mediterranean interior, combining the classic with a spirit of innovation the rooms and suites are perfectly conducive to relaxing. They all offer incomparable comfort for a wonderful break. The modern and spacious bathrooms are in perfect harmony with the “at home” style of decoration in the bedrooms.

The Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo offers:

The Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo's Restaurant is a 2 Michelin stars with a capacity of 80 settings. Chef Christophe Cussac serves modern and inventive cuisine with Mediterranean savours. Yoshi, Joël Robuchon's first Japanese restaurant in the world, recently graced with a Michelin star. Healthy, modern cooking dreamt up by Chef Takeo Yamazaki, served around a sushi bar and teppan-yaki. The bar, with a vast selection of cocktails, its own musical concept, and food served all day long.

The Spa experience at the Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo is essential. The Metropole ESPA Monte-Carlo dispenses a range of personalised treatments that combine modern techniques with ancestral therapies. On a total of 2,000 m² it features 10 treatment rooms, two of which are private suites. The highlight of the Spa is the Heat Experience, an initiation into a play of "temperatures for sensations" featuring a steam bath, sauna, caldarium (combining dry and moist heat), ice fountain and fragrant showers. There is a relaxation room and an 85-m² Fitness Studio round off the Spa's facilities. Outside, "Odyssey" is the new space designed by Karl Lagerfeld in 2013. Exclusive to hotel residents and to the 'Odyssey' members of the Métropole ESPA Monte-Carlo, "Odyssey" is a true haven of peace featuring a "beach area" with a stunning fresco-style installation made up of 15 glass panels portraying Ulysses' journey, gardens and Joël Robuchon's third restaurant within the hotel.

The Top Room: The "Carré d'Or" Suite. The exclusive 150m² "Carré d'Or" suite decorated by the famous interior designer Jacques Garcia is located on the 7th floor of the Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo. The Louis XVI furniture blends perfectly with the lavish fabrics from Pierre Frey and Lelièvre (in shades of ivory and pearl) as well as the luxurious lamps from Asiatide, creating a chic and elegant atmosphere. Its 100m² private terrace offers an uninterrupted view of the Mediterranean and the famous Golden Square of the casinos and its gardens. This floor is now entirely made up of suites which can be combined to become fabulous 420m² apartments.

In 2013, Karl Lagerfeld has been invited by Hotel Métropole Monte-Carlo, to redesign its outside premises, ODYSSEY, featuring the new swimming pool with a stunning fresco-style installation made up of 15 glass panels portraying Ulysses' journey, gardens and Joël Robuchon's third restaurant within the hotel.

More info on our website : www.visitmonaco.com

Port Palace Hotel



The elegant and contemporary Port Palace stands on Port Hercule, just a short stroll from the Casino. From this wonderful location, it enjoys a breathtaking view of the Rock of Monaco. Thanks to its clean-cut design constructed in steel and blue-tinted glass, this hotel benefits from unparalleled luminosity.

The sleek walls of the Port Palace harbour a muted and refined universe that lets space speak. Purity of design is accentuated both in the architecture and in the décor, thanks to furnishings designed by Poltrona Frau.

The lifts, lined with shagreen, afford glimpses of rock through transparent walls in a reminder of the omnipresence of stone in this mineral setting. The 5 storeys of the hotel are inspired by 5 themes (air, rock, sea, sun and sand), reflected in the colour of the marble in the bathrooms, the shade of leather and the choice of Rubelli fabrics in the rooms.

The 50 rooms and suites are huge (from 30 to 80m²). The décor favours uncluttered lines and restful colours. Natural materials reflect the care that has been taken with the details in a search for perfection: Carrara marble, polished stone from Spain, granite from Cashmere, Austrian iron.

The suites are fitted with the latest technologies: 3 direct phone lines, plasma TV, broadband connection, etc. All of the suites boast a spacious bathroom with Jacuzzi bathtub and separate shower.

Its restaurant “La Marée” on the top floor of the Port Palace Hotel. La Marée restaurants concept is based on fish cuisine with the widest assortment of fresh and live fish and seafood in Russia.

The Top Room: Executive Suite

There is more than 90m² with a view over the port through the bay windows. This suite is composed of a lounge, bedroom, dressing room and a large bathroom and shower and also has a private hammam shower where the marble, laid out like an open book invites you into its heart. The Poltrona Frau furniture adds to the discreet luxury together with the plasma screens and shell mirror. In these suites, clients are welcomed with a particular care allowing them to enjoy a personalised service every day where the hotel keeps the surprise.

Each floor of the hotel has a theme that is reflected in the design and colourings:
Sand - Shell - Sun or AIR

More info on our website : www.visitmonaco.com

MERIDIEN BEACH PLAZA



A short stroll from the Grimaldi Forum and the Monte-Carlo Country Club, the Méridien Beach Plaza embraces the Mediterranean along the only private beach in Monte-Carlo.

It also has two seawater swimming pools. For nature lovers and fans of the great outdoors, it is the starting point for magnificent walks along Larvotto's beaches or towards Cap Martin along a picturesque path edging the sea.

Decorated and designed in an elegant contemporary style, the rooms at the Méridien Beach Plaza bask in a totally unique ambiance. Their natural colours, combined with the softness of the lighting, create an elegant atmosphere and stylish décor.

The suites offer 180° panoramic views in a unique and markedly modern setting. The roof top also reserves several privileges for its guests.

The hotel also offers:

L'Intempo is a restaurant open 24/7. This unique concept in Monaco plays on savours, the senses and different ambiances.

Muse is a live Cooking lounge-Bar. Open in high season for live cooking, it serves a variety of delicate dishes, including grilled meat and fish.

Intempo Bar is also open 24/7. It's a new sampling universe featuring a range of creative cocktails and appetizers.

Sea Club Relax, fitness centre, equipped with cardio-training equipment and a heated indoor pool.

The Sea Club, an ultra-modern congress centre, is known for its 3,000 m² of meeting rooms with terrace and sea view. A business centre is open 24/7, providing immediate secretarial services, a multilingual and highly competent team, and Wi-Fi Internet access.

The terrace, located on the 5th floor on top of the Sea Club, can be set up to host a reception or cocktail party.

The Top Room: Penthouse Suites, La Gaïa and La Theïa

Each 250 m² over 2 floors, these two Penthouse Suites are made up of two beautiful suites and a 'Cristal' bedroom. With a lounge offering a 180° view over the Mediterranean, these suites combine modernity of privacy doors and plasma screen with the great comfort of the ultra designed furniture. Clients who have the joy of staying at the Meridien Beach Plaza can enjoy private access, helicopter transfers, open bar and much more.

COLUMBUS MONTE-CARLO



Opposite the Princess Grace Rose Garden and just 200 metres from the heliport, the Columbus Monte-Carlo is the only hotel located in the centre of Fontvieille. Its clean lines, fine materials such as dark wood, leather, marble, slate and sandy-coloured stone, make it the obvious choice for lovers of stylish establishments with a relaxing atmosphere.

The Top Room: suite 904

Ideal for lovers of establishments with style and relaxed atmospheres, the suites at the Columbus Monaco have been designed around those who not only want to enjoy life and have a break but also want to feel in harmony with them.

NOVOTEL MONTE-CARLO



Ideally located at the very heart of the Principality, the Novotel Monte-Carlo stands on the former historical site of Radio Monte-Carlo. Just a short stroll from the Place du Casino, the Grimaldi Forum, prestigious boutiques and Monaco railway station, the hotel enjoys a breathtaking view of the sea and the famous Rock.

At any time of the day or night, it's always possible to enjoy good meal.

The Novotel Café by Fred Ramos glances into the past of this mythical place which was home to Radio Monte-Carlo before it became a contemporary restaurant. The cuisine oozes southern flair, reflecting the sunshine, flavors and aromas of the Midi region.

Whatever the time of day or night, room service provides simple and tasty cuisine.

The epitome of design, a mirror of its day, the Novotel Monte-Carlo is open-plan, fostering freedom of movement and an atmosphere that is conducive to relaxation. An outdoor heated pool in the midst of a landscaped garden, two steam baths and a fitness room are at the overnight clientele's disposal, free of charge.

The Top Room: The Suites

The vast designer Suite comprises two bedrooms and a bathroom with a welcome and services that are second to none: two flat-screen TVs, iPod docking station, mineral water, Espresso coffee, bathrobe, unlimited access to the fitness centre and Wi-Fi.

More info on our website : www.visitmonaco.com

Gastronomy

Monaco is a choice destination for the discerning palate. Not only have the world's most talented - and for some, most famous - chefs elected to demonstrate their genius in the Principality, but the best restaurants offering international cuisine are also to be found here.

For a small territory, the Principality is packed with talent as well as Michelin stars! Monaco has no fewer than 7 star-rated restaurants, including Alain Ducasse's prestigious Louis XV (3 stars), the very sophisticated Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo (2 stars) and Yoshi (1 star), the Vistamar in Hermitage (1 star). Elsa Restaurant and its Chef Paolo Sari has just received its first star in 2014. They are all housed in luxury hotels.

Monaco's restaurants are inspiring and elevating. In delightful settings, they serve delicate and inventive cuisine based on Mediterranean produce and French and Italian traditions. Le Grill, a panoramic restaurant overlooking Monaco and embracing the sky, serves outstanding cuisine.

The exotic Yoshi restaurant serves sushi and other Japanese specialities in a calm and contemplative setting. The Maya Bay an equally exotic address specialises in subtle sweet & savoury combinations.

Song Qi is the brand new Gastronomic Chinese restaurant in Monaco. Situated in the Princess Grace Avenue, Song Qi was born from the gastronomic union of Chef Alan Yau (Wagamama, Yakasan in London ...), Samuel Treves and Riccardo Giraudi (Giraudi's Group, Beefbar, Mozza, Bouchon).

If fish-lovers prefer cooked to raw dishes, they will be perfectly happy at "Quai des Artistes" highly reputed for its seafood; or at the Vistamar (1 star), where the menu is directly inspired by the catch of the day; or on the sunny terrace of the Saint-Benoît, serving fragrant sea dishes. Another terrace overlooking the sea is to be found at the Blue Bay welcoming you to a revitalising atmosphere for subtle and original - some might say out of the ordinary - cuisine.

Fans of good meat also have plenty of choice. They can enjoy specialities from the grill at the Argentin, a top-class restaurant with a hushed atmosphere offering a breathtaking view of the bay, or at the Beef Bar, by the port in Fontvieille, which serves meat from the best regions in the world.

Geographical proximity to Italy ensures very generous fare. Southern cooking sings out at La Trattoria, a seasonal restaurant dreamt up by Alain Ducasse, where tradition and good food capture the flavour of Tuscany.

Finally, for those who intend to make the most of every minute in the Principality, Intempo, at the Meridien Beach Plaza is a contemporary restaurant that serves 24/7 and is known for its Live Cooking.

Monaco really is a gourmet destination that caters for all tastes and all budgets!

After dark

Most major hotels in the Principality have a bar that is reputed for its cocktails and a hushed, elegant ambiance that is conducive to relaxation. This is the case of the American Bar at the Hotel de Paris, the Bar at the Columbus Monte-Carlo, the Bar at the Hôtel Métropole and Saphir at the Fairmont.

The Port Hercule is a new area of restaurants, bars and nightclub.

The before is a bar aperitif and food.

The Explorer is a Gastro-Pub. Menu explores culinary traditions from elsewhere, sometimes influenced by a particular spice, sometimes a vegetable, sometimes a cooking method. It's not so much fusion cooking, more an inspired, inventive cuisine. This gastro pub is a nice concept in the Principality, combining the friendliness of a pub with the chance to discover a creative, gourmet menu.

Following the successful rebirth of beer making in the Principality - 300,000 litres of organic beer brewed in two-and-a-half years - the Port of Monaco is now also the place for a new "Made in Monaco" activity, with an artisanal coffee roasting unit within the Explorers Pub. Lattes, cappuccinos, Viennese coffee... Guests can enjoy a whole range of coffee-based products is prepared on site using freshly roasted green coffee - a response to widely expressed requests in the Principality.

The Rascasse is one of the hot spots in Port Hercule, whether for a happy hour after work or after a great day of your holiday. Every day, from 5 pm to 11 pm, the Rascasse offers accompaniments to your drink based on a finger food formula, with a particularly attractive assortment that includes mini-burgers, soup presented in test tubes, mini risotto, shrimp tempura, mini-doughnuts, cupcakes and brownies. Not forgetting the chance to try your luck on the slot machines on the upper floor ...

The Zest restaurant offers true gourmet pleasures. Discover a refined and creative cuisine, with a quality seasonal accent at excellent value for money. Following dinner you can enjoy an after dinner drink amongst friends, in the lounge.

The Black Legend to dance the night away on Motown classics is situated near the Red Restaurant, a stylish modern bistro. For a more English atmosphere there is Gerhard's, a friendly pub in the Fontvieille neighbourhood. Another pub, but this time Irish, is Mc Carthy's, serving authentic Guinness.

There is a family atmosphere at Stars'n Bars an American-style restaurant; it has an impressive photo gallery featuring famous people and exhibits items that belonged to artists or to international sports stars. Star Deck is upstairs. It is a bar overlooking Monaco harbour where guests can enjoy in a cozy "patchwork" setting with panoramic, floor to ceiling views of the port. The Buddha Bar lounge concept moved into the Principality, providing an opportunity for enjoyable times before heading on to Monaco's nightclubs, such as the highly reputed Jimmy'z, the Sass.

Leisure time in the Principality is particularly accentuated because the possibilities are so varied - above and beyond the major events organised throughout the year!

A host of wonderful leisure activities

Highly prized as a well-being destination, the Principality is unrivalled for getting away from it all. It offers a huge choice of spas, beauty institutes and indoor and outdoor sporting activities.

Monaco's sea spa, the Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo, is one of the ten most beautiful spas in Europe. It offers 6,600m² of luxury and serenity: Spa, oriental wisdom, sea treatments and cutting-edge technology. At Monte-Carlo Bay Hôtel & resort's Cinq Mondes (Five World) Spa 900m² are devoted to treatments combining ancestral traditions with an unrivalled sense of ceremony.

At the Monte-Carlo Beach, the Spa Beach provides draining massages and an outdoor gym.

The Willow Stream Spa and Fitness occupies 900m² at the Fairmont Monte-Carlo. It offers 8 private areas and all the comfort and sophistication of specialist treatments.

At the Metropole, the Metropole ESPA Monte-Carlo dispenses a range of personalised consultations in its numerous treatment rooms and VIP suites.

For fans of outdoor sporting activities, the Monte-Carlo Country Club is one of the most prestigious tennis clubs in the world. It stands a stone's throw from the Monte-Carlo Bay and the Meridien Beach Plaza.

One of the most attractive golf courses in the world is to be found twenty or so minutes by car from the centre of Monaco. Located on Mount Agel at an altitude of 810m, it offers an eighteen hole golf course floating between the sky and the sea.

Many beach and water sports are to be enjoyed in the Principality, such as swimming, sailing, Jet Ski and beach volley. In winter, there are facilities at the Louis II Stadium: for squash, fencing, athletics and every other type of sport imaginable. Within a two-hour drive, there are the most attractive ski resorts and the best slopes in France (Auron, Valberg and Isola 2000) not to mention Limone in Italy.

Creating magnificent gardens featuring plants from distant lands, or, more recently, to adding rich greenery, rose gardens and flowered squares.

The Exotic Gardens offer a home to thousands of species of succulent plants. They also contain the Observatory Cave and the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology.

The Japanese Gardens are a more recent addition, providing a haven of peace in a harmonious combination of stone, water and vegetation.

In Fontvieille Landscaped Gardens composed of a multitude of plant species from all over the globe, 150 varieties of rose bloom in the Princess Grace Rose Garden Nearby, a Sculpture Trail has been laid out for visitors to admire a large number of monumental works.

Finally, the pleasure and excitement of a shopping trip can round off a tour with commentary on the “Monaco Tours” sightseeing train. Driving away from the typical narrow streets of the Old Town, shopping malls and galleries, prestigious boutiques and restaurants all file by on the streets of the Principality...

There are many tourist attractions for visitors to explore:

The Prince’s Palace is the guardian of centuries of tradition and is a private residence. Some of its splendours can be admired, such as the State Apartments, the Italian Gallery, the Main Courtyard, Salon Louis XV and the Throne Room. The Old Town is full of picturesque spots and houses glued closely together. On the “Place du Palais”, every day, the Prince’s Carabiniers execute the traditional Changing of the Guard.

The Monaco’s Cathedral was built with stones from La Turbie in 1875. This Roman-Byzantine style construction shelters the tombs of the deceased Princes. As for the interior decoration you can admire a piece painted in 1500 by Louis Brea, a native of Nice, as well as the high altar and the Episcopal throne made of white marble from Carrara. Pontifical Services are held during the main liturgical celebrations, accompanied by a four keyboards Gran Organ, inaugurated in 1976.

Monte-Carlo Casino is an architectural jewel. It epitomises the arts of the “Belle Époque”. Highlights of a tour of the casino include the magnificent atrium leading into Salle Garnier named after the famous architect, and a series of marvellously decorated gaming rooms.

Monaco also boasts a wealth of museums.

The most famous one is without contest the Oceanographic Museum with its imposing aquarium and spectacular shark lagoon. Founded in 1910 by Prince Albert I, holds, other than equipment used for the Prince’s oceanographic researches and zoological collections brought back from scientific voyages, objects linked to the sea, a scientific library ; and the aquarium, renowned for the variety and the rarity of the species that it contains, which are representative of Mediterranean and tropical fauna.

The Museum of Napoleonic Souvenirs and the Collection of Historical Archives from the Prince’s Palace harbour thousands of First Empire memorabilia and documents.

The New National Museum of Monaco (NMNM) - Villa Sauber & Villa Paloma presents temporary themed exhibitions. The NMNM is housed in two separate buildings: Villa Paloma has 600 sq meters of exhibition spaces dedicated to “Art and territory” and Villa Sauber provides 500 sq m for Art and Shows. These two premises house the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco’s Exhibitions. Some focus on, and feature, its collections and contributions by artist, designers and thinkers; other is monographic or themed exhibitions, often in partnership with international Monegasque institutions.

The Stamp and Coin Museum exhibits the stamp and coin collections of the Sovereign Princes. H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco’s Collection of Vintage Cars features cars of varying ages.

The Naval Museum showcases 250 models and items related to the navy.

The Animal Park is home to specimens of tropical and African fauna.

Pride of place for sport, all year round

Sport has always been a major part of Monegasque life.

A tradition since 1929, Monaco's Formula 1 Grand Prix is undisputedly one of the oldest and most prestigious car racing events in the world.

The best drivers compete for a highly coveted trophy right in the city centre. Every two years since 1997, the Grand Prix has been preceded by a Vintage Grand Prix, vintage cars and the earliest F1 vehicles are exhibited and put back on the road for a vintage race.

Older still, the Monte-Carlo Rally was founded in 1911. Every January it attracts sixty or more teams for a high-level sports competition.

The first clay court tennis tournament of the year is the Monte Carlo Rolex Masters in 2010; it celebrated a centenary of tennis in Monaco! 124,000 spectators saw 9 of the 10 best players in the world in action on the courts of the prestigious Monte Carlo Country Club.

Monaco's year is studded with further sporting events of a very high level, such as the final of the UEFA Super Cup, the Monaco International Show Jumping, event, the International Swim Meet, the IAAF world athletics finals, and professional football matches, not to mention, for lovers of old schooners, Monaco Classic Week.

Artistic excellence

Since the 19th century, the Principality has been a devoted patron of the arts. 1878 saw the birth of the Monte-Carlo Opera House, designed by Charles Garnier. It very quickly became a major player in new operatic performances, and so it remains. The Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra and its great conductors perform concert after concert in Monaco and on world tours. The same applies to the "Ballets de Monte-Carlo"; choreographer and artistic director Jean-Christophe Maillot is to thank for the quality of the ballet company, recognised all over the world. In parallel, every year the Monaco Dance Forum harnesses the talents of the best choreographers.

The Spring Arts Festival celebrates art in all its forms. The Rose Ball, and Red Cross Gala, by invitation only, are favourites among the jet set. Finally, the spectacular International Firework Festival is always a resounding success.

Festivals and trade shows

The Principality has always known how to keep its traditions alive. Proof thereof is the International Circus Festival, created in 1974 by Prince Rainier III. Each year, it continues to reveal extraordinary artists.

The International Film and Literature Forum is an international event focusing on literary adaptations. For over 50 years, the Principality has also held its TV Festival, awarding a Golden Nymph to the best television programmes. Television is also the focus during Sportel, devoted to the best sports images broadcast during the year.

Grimaldi Forum Monaco

Inaugurated in July 2000, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco is a perfect demonstration of the Principality's policy for becoming the undisputed reference in matters of responsible tourism.

Although all public buildings in Monaco are now constructed according to high environmental Quality standards (in the wake of a government decree in 2007), the Grimaldi Forum was one of the first congress and cultural centres in Europe to be awarded the ISO 14001/2004 environment certificate. (October 2008).

Boosted by this extra competitive edge in a MICE industry that is increasingly conscious of respecting the environment, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco decided to surge further along the path towards eco-responsibility. It now offers its clients ready-to-roll solutions for organising "green events" under the banner "Act Green".

Regular productions include ballet and opera performances, concerts, together with numerous exhibitions held indoors or outdoors. The Grimaldi Forum is a perpetual art gallery with recent features including the summer exhibitions (Grace Kelly exhibition in summer 2007, Kyoto-Tokyo in 2010 ...).

There is also a trade show in Monaco dedicated to digital imagery. Imagina is an international forum for showcasing the latest CGI innovations.

The Grimaldi Forum remains a key centre for culture. Its glass pyramid, an amazing architectural achievement, celebrated its 10th birthday in 2010.

A further purveyor of culture is the Princess Grace Theatre. Every 4 years it stages the World Festival of Amateur Dramatics.

There are countless other events that generate occasions for professionals and the general public to come together. The Monte-Carlo Travel Market, the "Foire Internationale de Monaco", Batilux, Top Marques and the Monaco Yacht Show are just some of the events that have become synonymous with the Principality.

Excursions

Lodged between the sea and the mountains, the Principality enjoys all the leisure activities that a seaside resort and a mountain landscape have to offer. The sporty and the curious will never tire of such exceptional resources.

Be dazzled by the Mediterranean Sea, on board a helicopter for a sightseeing trip. Admire breathtaking panoramas of the French Riviera and the mountains in the hinterland from a completely different angle.

On foot from Fontvieille, take picturesque coastal paths.

The customs path edging the sea and heading towards Èze is lined with outstanding villas. The "Le Corbusier" trail offers an extremely agreeable stroll from the Principality to Cap-Martin and Menton.

Each itinerary is peppered with interesting features: the Jean Cocteau Museum in Menton, home to many of the artist's creations; "Kerylos", in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, a unique replica of an ancient Greek villa; Saint Elme Citadel in Villefranche-sur-Mer with its amazing fortifications; the Ephrussi de Rothschild Museum, its prestigious villa and magnificent gardens in Cap Ferrat; the Chagall Museum and famous flower market in Nice; Fondation Maeght in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a showcase for modern and contemporary art; the magnificent arched ramparts designed by Vauban in Old Antibes and the show at Marine land; glass studios in Biot and ceramics in Vallauris; the most sophisticated perfume companies in Grasse, the world's perfume capital, plus the elegant Fragonard Villa & Museum, containing works by the artist.

Those who wish to delve into the region's history can also visit the 10th-century Carolingian château in Roquebrune-Village, former Monegasque territory; or the village of La Turbie with its Trophy of the Alps, over two thousand years old!

ACTUALITY

Nobu in Monte-Carlo

The famous chef and owner of the Nobu restaurants has just moved to the Fairmont Monte-Carlo.

Chef Nobuyuki Matsuhisa, who is renowned all over the world for combining Japanese culture and cuisine with the flavours of South America in his own special way, has moved to the Fairmont Monte-Carlo, with a brand-new decorative scheme and a chic, cosy atmosphere with a bar, two private areas and a terrace overlooking the sea.

Nobu was born and grew up in Saitama in Japan. He undertook a particularly rigorous apprenticeship in a well respected sushi bar in Tokyo, before opening a sushi bar in Peru. In 1987, he opened his own restaurant, "Matsuhisa," in Beverley Hills, which rapidly became fashionable. It was frequented by Hollywood stars such as Robert de Niro, who invited Nobu to open a restaurant on Manhattan Island in New York.

In August 1993, they opened NOBU in partnership. Other Nobu restaurants were opened in Tokyo, Milan, London and Honolulu, and also in Peking, Moscow, Dubai and Budapest. His signature dishes include *Black cod yuzu miso*, *Beef Tartare Wagyu* and *Snow Crab in a spicy sauce*.

More info on: <http://www.fairmont.com/monte-carlo/>

Etoile Elsa

A New Star for Gastronomy in Monaco

The Michelin Guide has recognised Paolo Sari, the Italian chef at the Monte Carlo Beach

A Michelin star for Elsa, the first 100% organic gastronomic restaurant. The Monte-Carlo Beach has been part of the Relais & Châteaux group since its renovation by interior designer India Madhavi in 2009.

This five-star hotel has 26 rooms and 14 suites with an uninterrupted view over the Mediterranean and a vintage style. It is now offering a bespoke, 100% organic approach, which is unique in the world.

From now on, it is part of the elite of great French and Monegasque restaurants, thanks to the talent and creativity of executive chef Paolo Sari. In his two years as head of the kitchen, 45-year-old Venetian chef Paolo Sari has followed an unusual and path, with the launch of the "Beach Goes Bio" concept in 2012 and being awarded the ECOCERT level 3 label - while busily managing 75 cooks in the Monte Carlo Beach's five restaurants (the Elsa, Le Deck, La Vigie, Las Cabanas and the Sea Lounge). This award is also shared by the Chef and his team, as well as the dining room staff, not forgetting the personnel of the Monte-Carlo Beach Relais & Châteaux.

More info : www.montecarlosbm.com

The Monaco New Yacht club

In the beginning there was the Société des Régates de Monaco, formed in 1888 by a group who were passionate about sailing and rowing, which in the late 19th century attracted sailors from across the region to race here. Then in 1953, Prince Rainier III, a true visionary in every respect thought it was not enough just to race. He decided the port of Monaco needed a structure capable of attracting and retaining the loyalty of the yachting fraternity worldwide. He recognized the

significance of the port to the Principality's future development – “*The future of Monaco lies with the sea,*” he said. With this founding act, the Yacht Club de Monaco became a tool for development and promotion, which for 60 years has been striving and has now reached its goal, to make Monaco the world capital of yachting.

Sixty years on and the story continues with delivery on 20 June 2014 of a new building, in accordance with the wish expressed by its President HSH Prince Albert II and designed by Lord Norman Foster's studio and Monaco-born architect Alexandre Giraldi, supervised by the Public Works Department.

As slender as the liners which used to cruise between England and America in the early 20th century, this new building with a private Clubhouse reserved exclusively for the 1300 international YCM members from 66 nationalities, will offer owners and yachting professionals a friendly meeting place.

Along with its 1953 statutes, the aim of this new building is to play a key role as a platform of communication for all professionals involved in the yachting sector so many of which are based in the Principality, and to contribute to the vitality of Port Hercule and promoting Monaco as a yachting hub.

The new building is an architectural marvel that combines beautiful, light, luxurious and modern aesthetics inside and out with highly technological achievements, especially with regard to its environmental quality, one of the key requirements from the initial brief. Built to HQE® (*Haute Qualité Environnementale*) standards, the building will have significantly low environmental impact thanks to efficient water, waste and energy management using the latest technologies, from solar panels to a hydro-cooling system recycling water from the port.

Next to the Société Nautique and the YCM's Sailing Division, this nautical hub will host the Yacht Club's new Clubhouse, with an atrium. This monumental spiral staircase, signature of Lord Foster, will occupy a vital space at the heart of the building in terms of its architectural originality and strategic location. New services will be developed such as few marina slips managed by the YCM that are bound to become a premier berthing area — with an aim to provide exclusive and highly sought after services to visiting charter superyachts. An ambitious and symbolic project, it promises to be a superb showcase for Monaco, reinforcing Monaco's position as a 'capital of yachting'.

<http://www.yacht-club-monaco.mc/>

The Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo embarks on its re-creation

6 October 2014 will be one of the outstanding dates in the 150-year history of the l'Hôtel de Paris, star hotel of the Monte-Carlo SBM group, with the launch of a vast program of renovation and restructuring that is scheduled to last for 4 years and will, when completed, add a new dimension to the dream of François Blanc, of "a hotel that transcends anything so far created".

This is an enormous challenge for all concerned, since the hotel will continue to operate throughout this period on a reduced scale. Nevertheless, in order to enable guests to be welcomed in the best possible conditions, a short two-month phase of preparatory work will be necessary, leading to a total closure from 6 October to mid-December 2014.

The hotel will reopen in mid-December for the Christmas period, until 18 January 2015, when the first main phase of work will begin.

Complete reopening of the Hôtel de Paris is scheduled for September 2018.

An exhibition presenting images of the renovation program is set in the “Sporting d’Hiver”.

More information on: www.visitmonaco.com

[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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