

TimeOut

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The Times

# South of France

Provence & the Côte d'Azur



Written by local experts

and stadium hosts crowd-pleasing rock and classical stars, plus sporting events.

## Palais des Sports Jean Bouin

2 rue Jean Allègre (04.97.20.20.30). **Open** varies. Closed Aug. **Admission** Pool €4.40; €3.60 reductions. **Ice rink** €4.30; €3.50 reductions (skate hire €2.70). **No credit cards.** The star attractions at this vast municipal complex are its well-kept, Olympic-sized indoor pool and impressive, good-value ice rink.

## FREE Théâtre de la Photographie et de l'Image

27 bd de Dubouchage (04.97.13.42.20/  
www.tpinice.org). **Open** 10am-6pm Tue-Sun.  
**Admission** free.

Formerly a theatre, this is now a slickly appointed photography gallery. Temporary exhibitions are usually well chosen, showcasing emerging talents as well as big-name artists.

## Théâtre National de Nice

promenade des Arts (04.93.13.90.90/www.  
tnn.fr). **Open** Box office 2-7pm Tue-Sat.  
**Tickets** Grande Salle €7.50-€30. Petite Salle  
€16-€20. **Credit** AmEx, DC, MC, V.

The Théâtre National de Nice stages high-profile productions of French and foreign classics, along with a robust programme of contemporary drama.

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## WHERE TO STAY

A luxurious alternative to staying in a hotel is to hire an apartment through the super-helpful **Nice Pebbles** (09.52.78.27.65, www.nicepebbles.com, €50-€200/night). Properties range from elegant, antique-dotted hideaways to slick, super-modern renovations with home cinema systems and immense walk-in showers. The pick of the bunch include the quirky Katja (a hip mix of modern design and flea market finds) and Vincent, an opulent Old Town pad (best feature: a magnificent Philippe Starck bath at the foot of the bed).

### ★ Hi Hôtel

3 av des Fleurs (04.97.07.26.26/www.hi-hotel.net). **Rates** €215-€435 double. **Rooms** 38. **Credit** AmEx, DC, MC, V.

With its experimental living spaces in jellybean colours, this place remains the funkiest place to stay in Nice. The tiny rooftop pool has a lovely view, interiors are by up-and-coming designer Matali Crasset and there are DJ soirées on weekends.

### Hôtel Albert 1er

4 av des Phocéens (04.93.85.74.01/www.hotel-albert-1er.fr). **Rates** €90-€145 double. **Rooms** 72. **Credit** AmEx, MC, V. **Map** p255 C3

Overlooking the gardens of the same name, this belle époque hotel exudes old-world charm. Its rooms feature oak bedsteads and antique armoires, while floor-to-ceiling windows look out on the sea or over the gardens.

