

# LE VAR

A LAND OF CULTURE

VISITVAR.FR

ART, MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

# AN UNEXPECTED VAR...

**AS YOU LOOK THROUGH THESE PAGES, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT LE VAR CAN BE BOTH UNEXPECTED AND CONTRASTING. ITS CULTURAL WEALTH WILL TAKE YOU TO SOME OUTSTANDING PLACES, FROM ITS ABBEYS WITH THEIR WALLS STEEPED IN HISTORY TO ITS DECIDEDLY CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRES.**

Le Var has always attracted renowned artists and architects. Matisse, Dufy, Man Ray, Salvador Dali, Louis Jouve and Jean Cocteau have all been inspired by its **unique landscapes or its gentle way of life**. Some of the greatest builders have played with its shadows and light. Others have constructed the ports and forts which have played their part in its history.

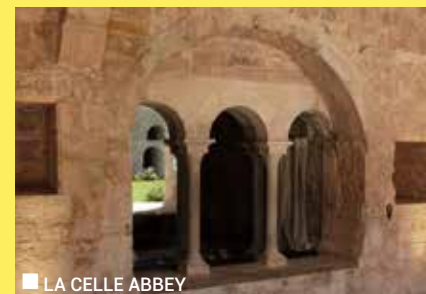


## LE VAR, A LAND OF SHARING AND A KEY CULTURAL PLAYER

**LE VAR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN OFFERING ITS INHABITANTS AND VISITORS A RICH AND VARIED APPROACH TO THE REGION'S HERITAGE FOR TWENTY YEARS. THE OLDEST BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN MODERNISED, WHILST OTHERS HAVE BEEN NEWLY CREATED, RESULTING IN A UNIQUE AND AMBITIOUS CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

### ■ LA CELLE ABBEY – *La Celle*

This Benedictine monastery, founded in 1011 by monks from the Abbey of Saint-Victor in Marseille, is an iconic building in the history of Provence. The medieval section of the building has been fully restored so that this jewel of Provençal Romanesque art can be returned to its original state.



■ LA CELLE ABBEY

### ■ HÔTEL DÉPARTEMENTAL DES EXPOSITIONS – *Draguignan*

This is a key cultural facility! The site of the former departmental archives has been completely renovated to become a unique exhibition space dedicated to history and civilisations.



■ HÔTEL DÉPARTEMENTAL DES EXPOSITIONS

### ■ LE MUSÉUM DÉPARTEMENTAL DU VAR – *Toulon*

Set in a garden of exotic plants created in the 19th century, the Natural History Museum can be visited by the whole family, where they can learn about the local plants, wildlife and geology. This visit is a must!



■ MUSÉUM DÉPARTEMENTAL DU VAR

# CULTURE

## A FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY ART

### VILLA NOAILLES



Villa Noailles in Hyères, a prime example of our modern architectural heritage, celebrates its centenary in 2023.

Commissioned in 1923 and built up to 1932, based on the plans of architect Robert Mallet-Stevens, Villa Noailles is now a place of experimentation for established artists and a discerning showcase for the talents of tomorrow.

A leading centre for art, fashion, photography, architecture and design, the Centre d'art contemporain d'intérêt national organises annual festivals, exhibitions, workshops and residencies. Throughout the year, this iconic landmark on Le Var coast is home to permanent exhibitions on the history of the site and its avant-garde patrons, Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles. The entire programme is free.

## THE CENTENARY IN A FEW DATES

Discover or rediscover this unusual and unclassifiable holiday home, where Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles received friends, artists and intellectuals from all walks of life and where an extraordinary part of the cultural history of the 20th century was written.

From 30 March 2023 and throughout the year, talks, concerts, readings, workshops and tours will be organised in the villa and off-site (Toulon, Paris, Saint-Paul de Vence, Marseille).



## KEY EVENTS TO REMEMBER

**30 March to 28 May 2023**

Fragments d'architectures, the Villa Noailles. Robert Mallet-Stevens, 1923-2023 - Exhibition - Villa Noailles

**22 June to 25 June 2023**

17th international Design Parade Festival Hyères and Toulon.  
From 23 June 2023 to 14 January 2024: The flat of Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles' apartment Interior design by Pierre Yovanovitch .  
And the Reconstitution of the furniture of the guest bedroom designed by Sybold Van Ravesteyn, in partnership with the Mobilier national

**16, 17, 18 September 2023**

'Ressusciter la Rose' - Musical performance - Villa Noailles

**12 October 2023 to 15 October 2023**

38th International Festival of Fashion, Photography and Accessories - Hyères  
And until 14 January 2024 : Exhibition of Marie-Laure de Noailles' wardrobe reinvented by major fashion Houses and young designers in the 21st century

**24 November 2023 to 14 January 2024**

Paul Rousteau - Photography exhibition - Villa Noailles



## MUSEUMS AND ART CENTRES



■ CARMIGNAC FOUNDATION

**CHÂTEAUVERT ART CENTRE** - Châteauevert

**LA FALAISE ART CENTRE** - Cotignac

**SÉBASTIEN ART CENTRE** - Saint-Cyr-sur-Mer

**CARMIGNAC FOUNDATION** - Hyères (Porquerolles island)

**HÔTEL DÉPARTEMENTAL DES EXPOSITIONS DU VAR** - Draguignan

**HÔTEL DES ARTS** - Toulon

**LA BANQUE** - Musée des cultures et du Paysage - Hyères

**MAISON WALDBERG DONATIONS MAX ERNST** - Dorothea Tanning et Stan Appenzeller - Seillans

**MUSÉE DU NIEL** - Hyères

**VILLA TAMARIS** - La Seyne-sur-Mer

**VILLA THÉO** - Art Centre - Le Lavandou

### + INFO

Discover our

« Looking at contemporary art » at

[www.visitvar.fr/circuit-touristique-art-contemporain](http://www.visitvar.fr/circuit-touristique-art-contemporain)

■ DOMAINE DU RAYOL,  
THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN



## THE ART OF LANDSCAPING

■ **DOMAINE DU RAYOL,  
THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN** - Rayol-Canadel-sur-Mer

Le Jardin du Rayol is much more than just an open-air museum. It is above all a space for the living which gives free rein to plants. It is also a place where the two worlds of humans and plants can meet or come together in a self-contained and fragile, enclosed setting.

Designed by the gardener, botanist and landscape architect Gilles Clément, co-designer of the Citroën gardens in Paris, this garden was built according to three major concepts: the garden in movement, the third landscape and the planetary garden.

## ■ VILLA RAYOLET AT DOMAINE OF RAYOL

Recently restored to its original condition, Villa Rayolet is a rare example of a bourgeois holiday home from the 1940s. A permanent exhibition describes the development of the fabulous Mediterranean garden designed by Gilles Clément.



■ VILLA RAYOLET

A FOCUS ON



# CULTURE

## CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE OPEN AIR

REMARKABLE GARDENS, WINE ESTATES OR MEDITERRANEAN GARDENS... WHEN CONTEMPORARY ART REVEALS ITSELF WHERE IT IS NOT EXPECTED...

### WHEN CONTEMPORARY ART BECOMES MONUMENTAL

■ **CHÂTEAU VIGNELAURE** – Rians

■ **CHÂTEAU SAINTE-ROSELIN** –

Les Arcs-sur-Argens

■ **COMMANDERIE DE PEYRASSOL** –

Flassans-sur-Issole



■ **SCULPTURE GARDEN – CARMIGNAC**

**FOUNDATION** – Hyères (Porquerolles island)



■ **MAISON DU CYGNE** –

Six-Fours-les-Plages

■ **MUSÉE DE FAYKOD** – Aups



### TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

■ **DOMAINE DU MUY**



Le Muy

■ **VENET FOUNDATION**



Le Muy

■ **CHÂTEAU DE FABRÈGUES**



Aups



■ VENET FOUNDATION

### UNIQUE

■ **GRAFFITI AND STREET ART TRAIL** –

La Seyne-sur-Mer

A well-known spot for nationally and internationally renowned graffiti artists, La Seyne-sur-Mer can also be discovered through these urban frescoes.

■ **URBAN ART TRAIL** – Saint-Raphaël

An open-air museum! In addition, at the beginning of June, the Résonances Urbaines Festival reveals the creative genius of renowned urban artists.



■ GRAFFITI AND STREET ART TRAIL

# CULTURE

## CONTEMPORARY ART

### OUTSTANDING CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

THE OUTSTANDING CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE ACCREDITATION AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE (INCLUDING THE VERY LATEST DESIGNS), TO RAISE AWARENESS OF ITS VALUE AND TO CHANGE THE WAY DIFFERENT AUDIENCES VIEW IT.



■ **CHÂTEAUVALLOIN ART AND CULTURAL CENTRE**

– Ollioules

■ **THE NOTRE-DAME DE CONSOLATION CHAPEL** –

Hyères

■ **THE HAMLET OF LES SABLETTES** –

La Seyne-sur-Mer

■ **PALAIS DES SIRÈNES** – Sainte-Maxime

■ **PORT MARCHAND SWIMMING POOL** – Toulon

■ **PONT DE L'ARTUBY** – Aiguines

■ **THE COASTAL TOWN OF PORT GRIMAUD** –

Grimaud

### DISCOVER...

■ **THE CONTEMPORARY LANDMARK BUILDINGS TOURIST TRAIL:**

[www.visitvar.fr/circuit-touristique-edifices-contemporains-emblematisques](http://www.visitvar.fr/circuit-touristique-edifices-contemporains-emblematisques)

■ **THE COASTAL CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE TRAIL:**

[www.var.fr/parcours-littoral-d-architecture-contemporaine](http://www.var.fr/parcours-littoral-d-architecture-contemporaine)



### THE PLEIN SUD NETWORK

Created in Spring 2020 with the aim of promoting the outstanding wealth of contemporary art on offer in the South of France, the Plein Sud network reflects the united spirit of more than 70 contemporary art venues, 17 of which are present in Le Var and accessible throughout the year.



LE VAR HAS OVER 100 MUSEUMS, RANGING FROM ROMAN ANTIQUITY TO CONTEMPORARY ART AND SHOWCASING LOCAL CULTURES AND HERITAGE.

## MUST-SEES

- **LA CITADELLE - MARITIME HISTORY MUSEUM** – Saint-Tropez
- **THE GENDARMERIE AND FILM MUSEUM** – Saint-Tropez
- **MUSEUM OF THE 'GUEULES ROUGES'** – Tourves
- **THE LOUIS DE FUNÈS MUSEUM** – Saint-Raphaël
- **NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM** – Toulon
- **TERRA ROSSA, the Architectural Ceramics Centre** – Salernes



■ THE LOUIS DE FUNÈS MUSEUM

## ■ MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART



## UNUSUAL PLACES

- **HERITAGE CENTRE** – Ollioules
- **MUSÉE BIEN JOUET (TOY MUSEUM)** – Puget-sur-Argens
- **MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART** – Toulon
- **THE CAP GARONNE MINING MUSEUM** – Le Pradet
- **MUSEUM OF RURAL WARDENS AND MUSEUM OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT** – Bargemon



■ NIEL MUSEUM

## NEW

- **MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS AND TRADITIONS** – Puget-sur-Argens
- **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS** – Draguignan
- **MHAB- BORMES MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART** – Bormes-les-Mimosas
- **NIEL MUSEUM** – Hyères

## ART MUSEUMS



■ TOULON ART MUSEUM

- **MAT - TOULON ART MUSEUM** – Toulon  
Labelled «Musée de France», the MAT has a collection of ancient and modern, contemporary, Asian and photographic art.

- **MUSEUM OF THE ANNUNCIATION** – Saint-Tropez  
Remarkable collections of paintings reminding us that Saint-Tropez was an active centre of the pictorial avant-garde at the beginning of the 20th century.



■ MUSEUM OF THE ANNUNCIATION

- **MUSEUM OF SACRED ART** – Lorgues  
In the chapel of Saint Ferréol, a magnificent museum of Sacred Arts with ex-voto, reliquaries and hand-embroidered liturgical vestments.

## MUSEUMS OF HISTORY AND LOCAL TRADITION

- **MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY** – Fréjus
- **MUSEUM OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL** – Ollioules
- **MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS AND TRADITIONS** – Draguignan
- **MUSEUM OF THE COUNTS OF PROVENCE** – Brignoles
- **MUSEUM OF WOODTURNING** – Aiguines
- **MUSEUM OF HISTORY, PREHISTORY AND UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY** – Saint-Raphaël
- **MUSEUM OF PROVENÇAL CLOTHING** – Solliès-Ville



■ MUSEUM OF HISTORY, PREHISTORY AND UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY



■ MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY



■ MUSEUM OF PROVENÇAL CLOTHING



# CULTURE

## SITES AND BUILDINGS

THE HISTORY OF LE VAR CAN BE DISCOVERED BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ITS BUILDINGS, FROM ITS ANCIENT HERITAGE TO ITS DECIDEDLY CONTEMPORARY CONSTRUCTIONS WITH THEIR EQUALLY CLEAN LINES, AS WELL AS ITS MORE UNUSUAL ARCHITECTURE.

### MUST-SEES

- LA CELLE ABBEY – *La Celle*
- LE THORONET ABBEY – *Le Thoronet*
- BASILICA OF ST MARY MAGDALENE – *Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume*
- VERNE CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY – *Collobrières*
- FRÉJUS CATHEDRAL CLOISTER – *Fréjus*
- VILLA NOAILLES – *Hyères*



■ LE THORONET ABBEY

### DISCOVER...

#### ■ THE 'MONASTERY ROUTE' TOURIST TRAIL

Find the religious sites not to be missed on the Monasteries Route as well as : the cave of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine in Plan-d'Aups-Sainte-Baume, the Sanctuary of Notre-Dame de Grâces in Cotignac, the Chartreuse of Montrieux in Méounes-lès-Montrieux...



■ AIR WELL

### UNUSUAL PLACES

- THE NOTRE-DAME-DE-JÉRUSALEM CHAPEL, KNOWN AS «THE COCTEAU CHAPEL» – *Fréjus*
- THE MISSIRI MOSQUE – *Fréjus*
- HÔNG HIÊN TU PAGODA – *Fréjus*
- AIR WELL – *Trans-en-Provence*

# CULTURE

## SITES AND BUILDINGS

### CASTLES

FOR CENTURIES THEY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKING THE VILLAGES FROM THEIR HILLTOPS, OR KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE IN THE VALLEYS. MAJESTIC FROM THE OUTSIDE, SOME ARE ALSO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR EVEN OFFER FESTIVALS AND ACCOMMODATION!

■ CHÂTEAU DE VINS-SUR-CARAMY



- CHÂTEAU DE LA VERDIÈRE – *La Verdière*
- CHÂTEAU D'ENTRECASTEAUX – *Entrecasteaux*
- CHÂTEAU DE SAINT-MARTIN-DE-PALLIÈRES – *Saint-Martin-de-Pallières*
- CHÂTEAU DE SOLLIÈS-PONT – *Solliès-Pont*
- CHÂTEAU DE TRIGANCE – *Trigance*
- CHÂTEAU DE VINS-SUR-CARAMY – *Vins-sur-Carmy*

■ THE NOTRE-DAME DE PÉPIOLE CHAPEL



■ THE NOTRE-DAME DU MAI

### OUR FAVOURITES

- THE NOTRE-DAME DE PÉPIOLE CHAPEL – *Six-Fours-les-Plages*
- THE NOTRE-DAME DU MAI CHAPEL – *Six-Fours-les-Plages* et *NOTRE-DAME DES ANGES* – *Pignans* for their panoramic views
- THE SAINTE-ROSELINE CHAPEL – *Les Arcs-sur-Argens*
- FONCIN HOUSE – *Cavalaire-sur-Mer*
- VILLA MAGDALA (under reservation) – *Hyères*



■ FONCIN HOUSE

# CULTURE

## MILITARY HERITAGE

### WHEN FORTS OPEN THEIR DOORS...

FORTS AND BATTERIES WERE PART OF THE DEFENCE OF OUR COASTLINE FROM THE 14TH CENTURY TO THE EARLY 1960S. TODAY, THEIR ACTIVITY IS MAINLY FOCUSED ON HIGHLIGHTING THEIR HISTORY AND, FOR SOME, THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

#### ■ BRÉGANÇON FORT –

Bormes-les-Mimosas

#### ■ LE PRADEAU FORT – Hyères

#### ■ THE BALAGUIER MUSEUM –

La Seyne-sur-Mer



### THE MUSEUMS

#### ■ THE ARTILLERY MUSEUM – Draguignan

#### ■ THE MUSEUM OF NAVY TROOPS – Fréjus (total reopening during 2023)

#### ■ NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM – Toulon



### PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE

#### ■ LE FARON MEMORIAL – Toulon

#### ■ THE RHONE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL – Draguignan



# CULTURE

## LE VAR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN LE VAR. ECLECTIC PROGRAMMES ARE OFFERED IN MAJESTIC AND HISTORIC LOCATIONS OR IN MORE DISCREET AND INTIMATE VENUES.

## “ LE VAR, FRANCE’S SECOND NATIONAL THEATRE ”



Châteauvallon, in its green setting in Ollioules, and the Liberté theatre in the heart of the bustling city of Toulon have joined forces to form the Châteauvallon-Liberté National Theatre. This status implies recognition at a national level of the importance and quality of the artistic work, encouraging the greatest artists from both France and abroad to come and perform here.

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### TOULON OPERA

Initially called the Grand Théâtre de Toulon, this neo-classical building with its Byzantine-inspired details, which were very popular at the time, was built between 1860 and 1862. It is said that it inspired Charles Garnier to create the Paris Opera. The Toulon Opera, which is one of the largest provincial opera houses, is renowned for its acoustics and is now one of the great operatic institutions in Europe.





# CULTURE

## ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

THEY REPRESENT THE LIVING HERITAGE OF OUR REGION AND EMBODY UNIQUE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE. THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE THE GUARANTORS OF OUR TRADITIONS, BUT THEY ALSO KNOW HOW TO ADAPT TO TODAY'S WORLD THROUGH THEIR GREAT CREATIVITY. COME AND MEET THEM!

■ K. JACQUES, SAINT-TROPEZ SANDALS



### KNOW-HOW AND «ENTREPRISES DU PATRIMOINE VIVANT» OF LE VAR

- THE ART OF CERAMICS – ALAIN VAGH CÉRAMIQUE in Salernes
- TURNED WOOD – YANN MAROT in Aups
- REEDS – ETS RIGOTTI in Cogolin and MARCA in Ollioules
- PIPES – COURRIEU ET FILS in Cogolin
- SAINT-TROPEZ SANDALS – K. JACQUES in Saint-Tropez
- ARTISTIC RUGS AT LA MANUFACTURE COGOLIN in Cogolin
- POLISHED PEWTER – CRÉATIONS SERGE LEBOVITZ in Seillans

### LE VAR IS THEIR RAW MATERIAL

#### ■ YANN MAROT IN AUPS

Trained in woodturning by Jean-François Escoulen, and now a teacher in the school bearing the same name, Yann Marot has a special relationship with his raw material. The woodturner favours simple forms and taut lines in his designs, which he combines with pieces of wood marked by the scars of passing time. His sculptures, bowls and vases reflect this quest.



■ BOL FIGUIER - YANN MAROT

#### ■ ATELIERS SERREMORIZOT IN CALLIAN

Virginie Serre works with porcelain, stoneware and enamel, which she mixes with more surprising materials such as balls of posidonia collected on the beaches or achenes from beneath the plane trees in Seillans. Virginie is an unclassifiable artist and the world she creates is as equally organic as it is sensual.



■ UN BRIN C'EST TOUT

#### ■ UN BRIN C'EST TOUT IN HYÈRES

Trained at the National School of Wickerwork and Basketry in Haute Marne, Kim anh Le Thi, focuses on decidedly modern basketry while preserving the traditional techniques she was taught at the school.



### DISCOVERING ARTS AND CRAFTS

Their talent transforms clay, wood, textile and stone... They imagine, shape and restore objects to create unique items. Come on in, they want to share their enthusiasm with you.

# CULTURE

## COMMUNITIES OF ART AND CULTURE

### VILLE ET MÉTIERS D'ART



THREE TOWNS IN LE VAR REGION HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE 'VILLES ET MÉTIERS D'ART' ACCREDITATION. FRÉJUS, OLLIOULES AND SEILLANS SHOWCASE THE ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE WHO LINE THEIR PRETTY STREETS AND NARROW LANES.



■ SEILLANS

### TOWNS AND REGIONS OF ART AND HISTORY

Fréjus has retained a large number of buildings from its past. With its 2,000 years of history, this town of Art and History in Le Var has an important historical and architectural heritage, including the Roman amphitheatre and aqueduct.



■ ARENA OF FREJUS

THE PROVENCE VERTE ET VERDON REGION VALUES ITS RICH CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE, WHICH IS TESTIMONY TO THE INTERMINGLING OF DIFFERENT CIVILISATIONS AND OF SKILLS AND EXPERTISE. BRIGNOLES, SAINT-MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME, BARJOLS, COTIGNAC AND THE 39 SURROUNDING VILLAGES SHARE THE SAME PROMISE OF A GENTLE PACE OF LIFE, AUTHENTICITY AND SURPRISING CULTURAL WEALTH.



■ HYÈRES

Known as the town of palm trees, Hyères has retained all its charm of yesteryear. To explore it, stroll through the picturesque streets of the old medieval town perched on the hill of Castéou.



# LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

ADDRESSES, OPENING TIMES AND CONTACT  
DETAILS OF CULTURAL VENUES  
TOURIST TRAILS  
EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES



IT ALL HAPPENS HERE!

## THE DESTINATION VAR NETWORK

### VISIT LE VAR'S AMBASSADORS!

THESE ARE RESTAURANT OWNERS, ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS, CRAFTSPEOPLE AND PRODUCERS, ETC.

**WHAT DO THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON?** THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE TOURISM.

*Find out more here*



VAR TOURISME

LE DÉPARTEMENT

