



3 PERFECT DAYS

♥ DAY 1 // SENSORY MARSEILLE

Engage in Marseille's frenzy of sights, sounds, smells and flavours: follow the sound of African drums, clinking masts and fishwives to the Vieux Port fish market. Grab a coffee at La Caravelle (p50) and sail to Château d'If (p51). Later get lost in Le Panier (p50) and take a seaside stroll to fairy-tale Vallon des Auffes for *bouillabaisse* (p59).

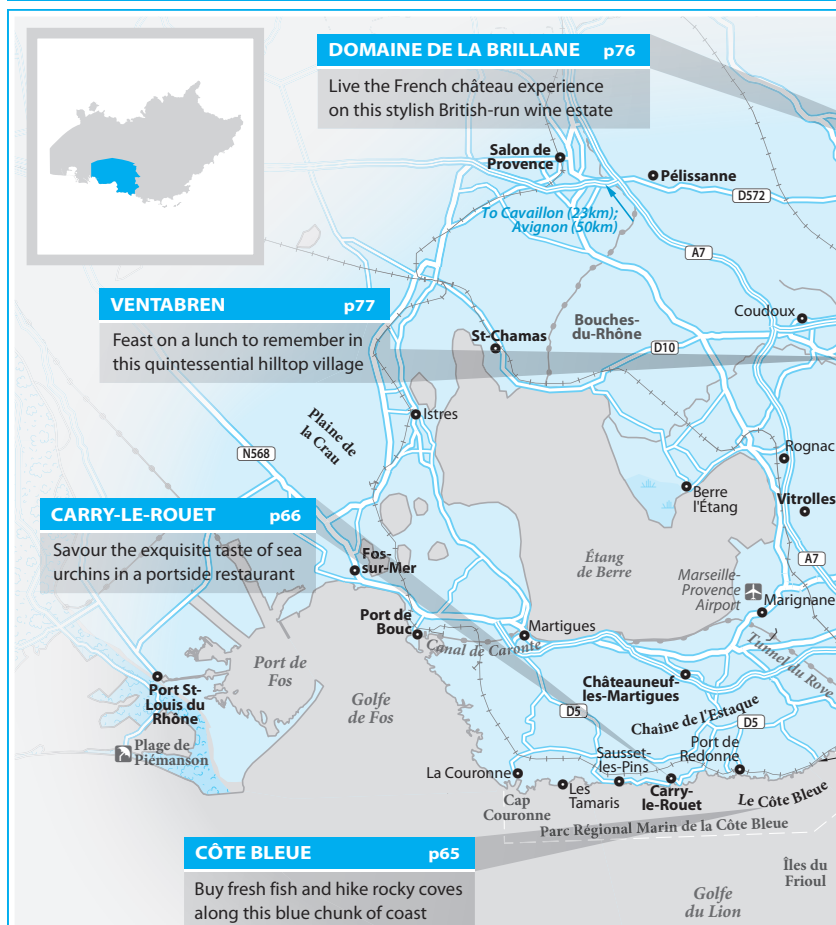
♥ DAY 2 // GORGE ON GREEN

Immerse yourself in natural grandeur: hike into Les Calanques, booking a table in advance at one of the Morgiou or Sormiou restaurants (p63). Post-lunch, revel in a flurry of clifftop vistas (p64) with a slow scenic drive around Cassis. Wine taste in the afternoon and at dusk feast on sea urchins and enjoy a glass of crisp white wine at Cassis port.

♥ DAY 3 // CÉZANNE CHIC

Be chic with local bourgeoisie in Aix-en-Provence (p69). Admire its elegant *hôtels particuliers* (private mansions; p69) and fine art (p71), and follow in the footsteps of Cézanne (p71); perhaps book a guided tour of the burnt-orange ochre quarries he loved to paint. Explore Montagne Ste-Victoire (p75), wine taste (p76), and end with a starlit dinner in best-kept secret Ventabren (p77).

MARSEILLE AREA



DOMAINE DE LA BRILLANE p76

Live the French château experience on this stylish British-run wine estate

VENTABREN p77

Feast on a lunch to remember in this quintessential hilltop village

CARRY-LE-ROUET p66

Savour the exquisite taste of sea urchins in a portside restaurant

CÔTE BLEUE p65

Buy fresh fish and hike rocky coves along this blue chunk of coast

GETTING AROUND

Urban Marseille means torturous traffic-clogged streets and too few places to park; best dump the car and get around on foot, metro and bus. West of Provence's largest city, around the airport, the coast is built-up and industrial. Looking north, the A51 motorway links Marseille with Aix-en-Provence, another devil of a place to park. Eastwards, the scenic D559 climbs across the Col de la Gineste to Cassis, from where the area's most dramatic road can be picked up – the Route des Crêtes.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CALANQUE DE SORMIOU & CALANQUE DE MORGIOU p63

Dip into these rocky coves with a scrub walk and lunch with sea view