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PLACES OF INTEREST

HISTORY (continued)

The region enjoyed a golden age of agriculture and commerce in the 18th century while industrialization and modernization dominated the 19th and 20th centuries.

Places of Interest

- 1 Vieux Port** is the old harbor and heart of Marseille. Lined with yachts, fishing boats and restaurants, most streets lead to this historic center. Vieux is also the location of Marseille's famous fish market held on Monday through Saturday mornings.
- 2 Notre-Dame de la Garde**, a beautiful cathedral set atop a hill, bears resemblance to the Sacre-Coeur in Paris and the Fourviere in Lyon. From this area you will have splendid panoramic views of the city, harbor and surrounding mountains. The interior of the cathedral is faced with multicolored marble, mosaics, and mural paintings by the Dusseldorf School.
- 3 Abbey of Saint-Victor** was founded in the early 5th century by St. John Cassian, a monk from the Far East, in honor of St. Victor, a patron of sailors and millers who suffered martyrdom in the 3rd century. The sanctuary was destroyed in a Saracen raid and rebuilt in 1040 A.D. Highlights include the Crypt erected by St Cassian, the cave of St Victor, the catacombs, and a number of sarcophagi.
- 4 Vieille Charité (Old Charity Cultural Center)** – consists of four wings that open on a rectangular courtyard with galleries on three levels, and an Italian Baroque chapel with an oval dome in the center. In the past it has served as a technical training center for the poor, a home for children and old people, and a low-cost housing area. Today it has become a science and arts center and houses the Museum of Mediterranean Archeology and the Museum of African, South Sea, and American Indian Arts, as well as various other exhibits.

Beyond Marseille

- 5 Cassis**, an old Provencal fishing port, is a popular summer resort that has drawn many famous painters to its sunny bay including Vlaminck, Matisse, and Dufy. Cafes, restaurants and seafood shops cluster around its harbor and three beaches. Famous for its high white cliffs, Cassis lies at the foot of Europe's highest cliff, the 1,300-foot Cap Canaille.
- 6 Les Baux**, one of the most charming villages in all of Provence, is perched high atop the Alpilles Mountain Range. Surrounded by landscapes of rice plantations, wheat fields, dark cypress trees, olive groves and sunflowers, it is hard to distinguish the village from the rocky plateau it was carved from. Half of Les Baux is composed of tiny climbing streets and ancient stone houses, inhabited for the most part by local craftsmen selling pottery, carvings, and assorted knick knacks. The other half is medieval ruins. Although the population is less than 500 people, this beautiful little village sees over 1.5 million visitors each year.

7 Aix en Provence is the former capital of Provence from the 12th century to the French Revolution. Retaining a great deal of character imparted to it in the 17th and 18th centuries, it is a stunningly beautiful place, rich in culture and atmosphere. A university town famous for its music and literature, it is also the birthplace of the famous Impressionist, Paul Cezanne (1839-1906), many of whose paintings feature the nearby countryside.

8 Arles, known for its Roman ruins, was once a thriving port before the Mediterranean receded over what is now Camargue. Founded in the days of Ancient Rome, it was a commercial crossroad for trade with merchants arriving from as far away as Arabia, Assyria, and Africa. The city reached its zenith during the "Pax Romana", at which time Arles provided wheat and grain to most of the Western Empire. Traces of its Roman past can be seen in the well preserved Roman arena built in the 1st century A.D. for circuses and gladiator combat. Arles remains a central market for agricultural production as well as light diversified industry, administrative and cultural functions.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Marseille and the region of Provence we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Not a way of life in France.

Tippling: Generally service will be included in the bill, however, it is customary to leave a few coins. For taxis, a 10% gratuity is normal.

Local Cuisine: Wining and dining is a major occupation for the French, and the region of Provence offers its own unique tastes. Olives, introduced by the ancient Greeks over 2500 years ago accompany many traditional dishes including tapenade, a paste of capers, anchovies, olive oil, and lemon juice. Aioli, a garlicky mayonnaise served with salt, cod and vegetables is also a famous dish as well as the traditional Bouillabaisse (fish stew). For dessert, try Les Marseillotes, a local sweet with chocolate, almonds and honey.

Drink Specialties: The traditional Provencal aperitif is pastis, a pale-green, anise-based drink usually accompanied by black olives. The region of Provence produces a number of good quality red, white, and rose wines.

Shops are generally open from 9:00 am – Noon and 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday. U.S. Dollars are not accepted in France, however, most stores accept major credit cards.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The main shopping area is located around "Vieux Port" (Old Port). Centre Bourse is a small mall where you will find many local products (open 9:30 am – 7:00 pm). There is also plenty of shopping along "Canebiere" and the popular side streets of Rue St Ferreol, Rue de Rome, and Rue Paradis. Here you will find many luxurious shops such as Vuitton, Hermes and Dior.

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