



1 SKY MIRROR

Impressive PUBLIC ART

1 SKY MIRROR

BY: ANISH KAPOOR

IN FRONT OF:

Monte-Carlo Casino

Place du Casino

98000 Monaco

Anish Kapoor's majestic mirror sculpture sits in the square in front of Monte-Carlo's casino. The polished disc of concave steel, measuring 2,5 metres across, is an installation by British-Indian artist Anish Kapoor and was created in 1999. On the one hand, the simple sculpture contrasts strongly with the Casino's belle époque splendour; on the other hand, *Sky Mirror* turns the world upside down, giving the illusion of bringing the sky down to street level. Perhaps Kapoor wanted to add a playful albeit critical element to the chic elegance of Monaco and its casino?

2 PABLO

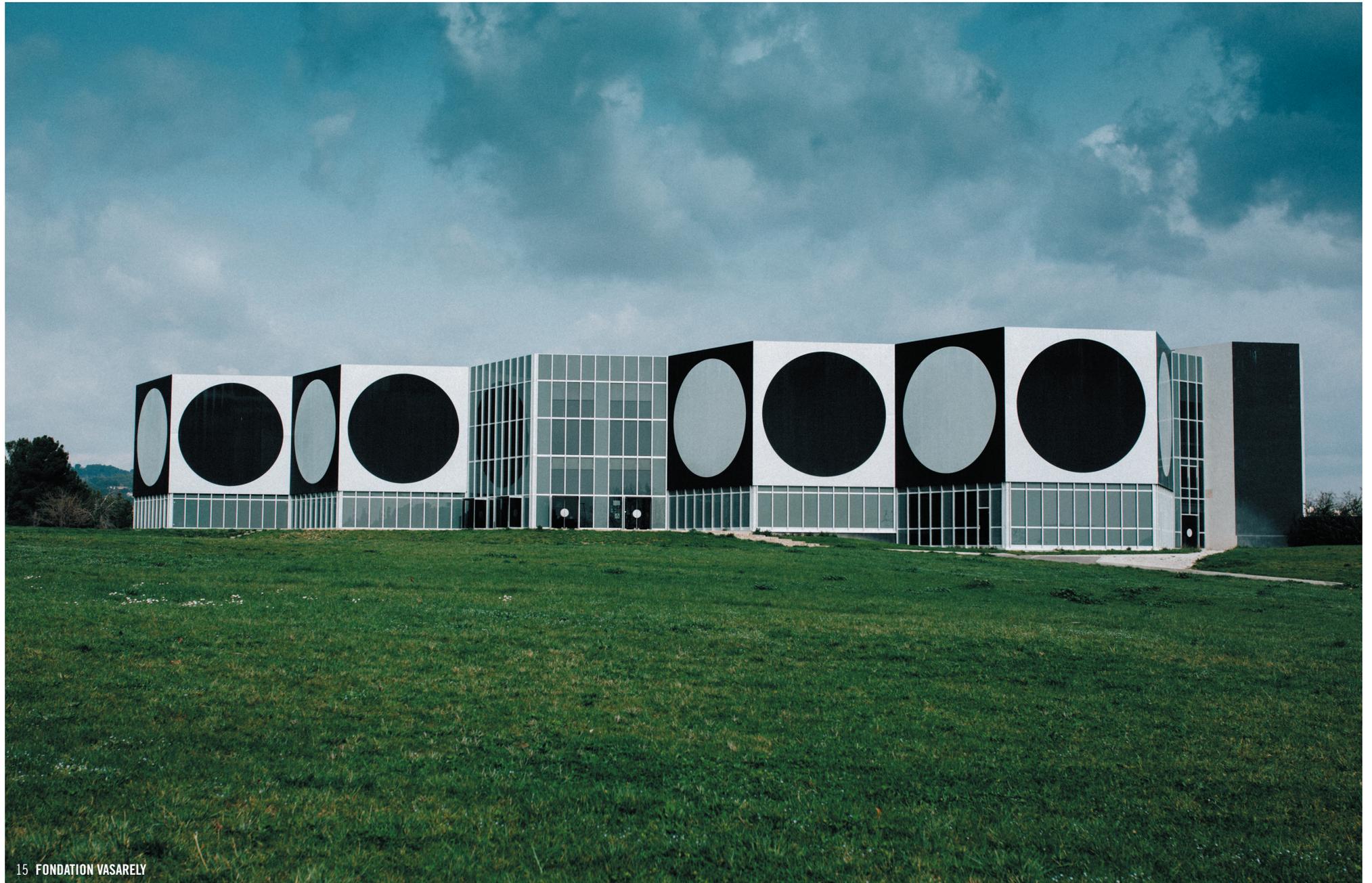
BY: GABRIËL STERK

Place des Patriotes

06250 Mougins

Alpes-Maritimes

This oversized bronze statue of Pablo Picasso's head was carved in 2008 by the Dutch artist Gabriël Sterk. You can find his statues of Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh in La Rotonde in Aix-en-Provence and in front of the asylum in Saint-Paul-de-Mausole, respectively. This one stands on a terrace with a panoramic view overlooking the countryside around the hilltop town of Mougins. The statue is hard to miss as it is 2,4 metres tall and weighs 500 kilos. The work is a tribute to Pablo Picasso, who lived and worked in Mougins from 1961 until 1973, the year he died. The famous artist's studio used to be housed in the building where the town's tourist office is now located. He and his wife Jacqueline Roque lived in Mas de Notre Dame de Vie, next to the eponymous chapel.



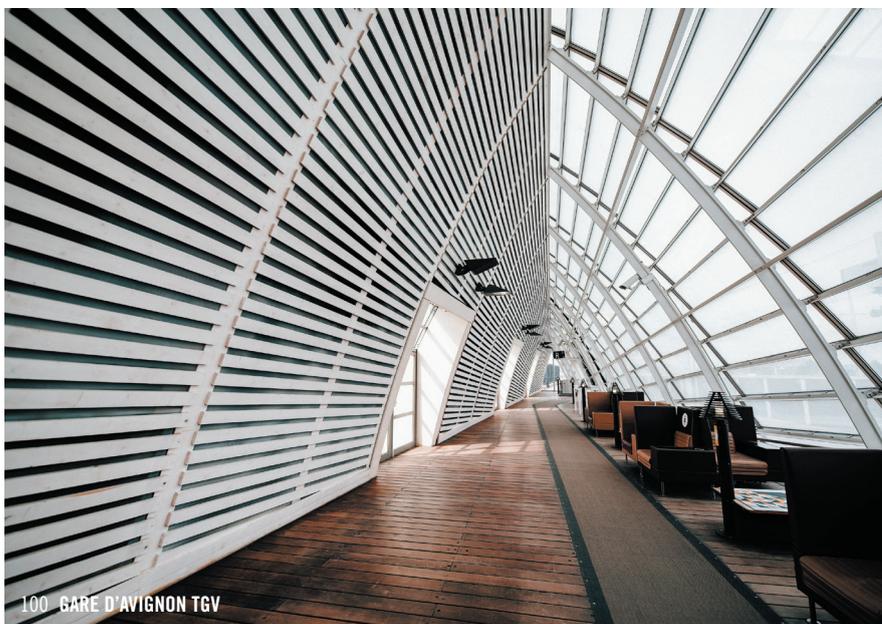


Unique RAILWAY STATIONS

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99 **GARE SAINT-CHARLES**
Square Narvik
13232 Marseille
Bouches-du-Rhône

As you walk out of the railway station at Marseille-Saint-Charles, you will be amazed by the sweeping views over the city. The station is situated on a hill on the fringe of the city centre. In the old days, the station was an important stop for intercontinental travellers from European cities, who arrived here to take the boat to Africa, the Middle East or the Far East. These days are long behind us and we mostly rely on airplanes for this nowadays. But the monumental, baroque staircase that you have to walk down to get into the city is still there. It was officially inaugurated in 1925 and is decorated with sculptures of lions, children and allegorical figures that refer to the history of Marseille and its port, agriculture and fisheries, and the former French colonies in Africa and Asia.



100 **GARE D'AVIGNON TGV**
Place de l'Europe
84000 Avignon
Vaucluse

The TGV station of Avignon, which is situated 5 kilometres to the south-west of the city centre, resembles a huge, upturned canoe, made from concrete, glass and steel. Its elongated interior – 350 metres long and 14,5 metres tall – is reminiscent of a modern cathedral. The railway station was built in 2001 to a design by Jean-Marie Duthilleul and Jean-François Blassel. The platforms are located above the station hall because the high-speed line runs across the River Rhône on a viaduct. Moreover, the architects also took the potential of flooding in the area into account.



FONDATION MAEGHT

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Beautiful PAINTED INTERIORS

218 FONDATION CARZOU

7-9 boulevard
Elémir Bourges
04100 Manosque
Alpes-de-Haute-
Provence
+33 (0)4 92 87 40 49
fondationcarzou.fr

You may blink at the sight that meets your eyes when you enter the neoclassical chapel in Manosque, whose walls are painted with a contemporary Apocalypse. It took the French-Armenian painter Jean Carzou (1907-2000), born Karnik Zouloumian in Aleppo, six years to complete his life's work. He has painted the fall of mankind against a vivid blue-green backdrop, including references to the two World Wars, genocides and dictators, environmental pollution, nuclear plants and industrialised society. But there is a glimmer of hope, nonetheless: Carzou also painted the tree of life and the renaissance of earth.

219 CHAPELLE FOLON

Place de l'Église
06570 Saint-Paul-
de-Vence
Alpes-Maritimes
+33 (0)4 93 32 41 13
[saint-pauldevence.com/
en/fiches/musees-
et-lieux-de-visites/
the-folon-chapel-2](http://saint-pauldevence.com/en/fiches/musees-et-lieux-de-visites/the-folon-chapel-2)

The Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon created eight paintings, a monumental mosaic, four stained-glass windows and two sculptures for the Chapelle des Pénitents Blancs in Saint-Paul-de-Vence. He completed the designs shortly before his death in October 2005, after which they were carefully executed by craftsmen. The Chapelle Folon, which opened in 2008, is a *Gesamtkunstwerk* that showcases what a versatile artist Folon was. Here you step into his poetic, colourful and light-filled world. Folon's work is a tribute to mankind and to humanity. In all these works, he emphasises giving and sharing, and the importance of dreams and poetry.



219 CHAPELLE FOLON

304 **LIBRAIRIE
LA BASSE FONTAINE**
2 place Antony Mars
06140 Vence
Alpes-Maritimes
+33 (0)4 93 58 30 82
bassefontaine.com

The perfect spot to snap up antiquarian books, bibliophile editions and prints. La Basse Fontaine is situated on the fringe of the old centre of Vence, next to the fountain that Raoul Dufy painted so many times. The shop opened in 1988 and has been selling rare art books ever since, as well as artist's books in which graphic design is paired with poetry or prose. You can also find some gorgeous exhibition posters here. They mainly focus on artists who have lived and worked in Vence for a short or longer time, such as Matisse, Chagall, Dufy, Dubuffet, Soutine ... Recently the bookshop expanded, adding an exhibition space for books and prints. A truly wonderful place.



305 **LIBRAIRIE LE HAUT
QUARTIER**
8 rue des Orfèvres
34120 Pézenas
Hérault
+33 (0)4 67 98 27 41

A small, cosy bookshop on the corner of a shopping street in the old, car-free town centre of Pézenas, which was founded in the 1960s by Albert Camus's Algerian publisher. The shop moved to its current location in 2011 and is now run by Fabrice Andrivon. The books are displayed in plain wooden bookcases. Fiction, for the most part, including a children and young adults section. Unsurprisingly, Le Haut Quartier is an active participant in the Festival du livre de jeunesse (an annual children's book festival). There's a table with some chairs, where you can take some time to browse in more detail.

306 **OMBRES BLANCHES**
50 rue Léon
Gambetta
31000 Toulouse
Haute-Garonne
+33 (0)5 34 45 53 33
ombres-blanches.fr

Ombres Blanches is Toulouse's largest bookshop and is located near Place du Capitole. The shop occupies several historic dwellings and has a number of beautiful rooms with tall windows. This university bookshop stocks a wide range of foreign literature in addition to books on history, psychology, travel, food and comics. There are chairs in most of the rooms so you can take your time to browse the books. Ombres Blanches has a longstanding tradition of interviews and panel discussions with writers. All of these talks are recorded and made available as podcasts. There's also a cafeteria.

307 **LE PASSEUR
DE L'ISLE**
7 place de la Liberté
84800 L'Isle-sur-la-
Sorgue
Vaucluse
+33 (0)4 90 20 85 84

Although L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue can get quite touristy in summer, you'll be happy to know that it is also home to a surprising bookshop. The books are displayed on the ground floor; on the first floor, there is a shop with the most beautiful fabrics from around the world. So what do these two have in common, you might wonder? The answer: a taste for the exotic. The books and the fabrics are an invitation to roam around the world, whether you prefer a real-life adventure or choose to do so from the comfort of your own sofa.

337 **LE CHARITÉ CAFÉ**

2 rue de la Charité
13002 Marseille
Bouches-du-Rhône
+33 (0)4 91 91 08 41
**[vieille-charite-
marseille.com](http://vieille-charite-marseille.com)**

Le Panier, a hillside neighbourhood of Marseille, is always a great place for a walk. Marseille's oldest neighbourhood has long been home to the city's fishermen, with tiny houses lining the narrow, steep streets. Since then, many artists and designers have made it their home. This picturesque neighbourhood, with its many terraces, has plenty of places where you can eat or drink something. One of the quietest spots is tucked away behind the tall walls of La Vieille Charité, a former almshouse, which has since been converted into several museums and cultural institutions. Find the tranquil courtyard terrace, which is a lovely place to sit. Order a simple lunch – a salad or a sandwich – or a drink. The courtyard is freely accessible.

338 **LA COMMANDERIE DE PEYRASSOL**

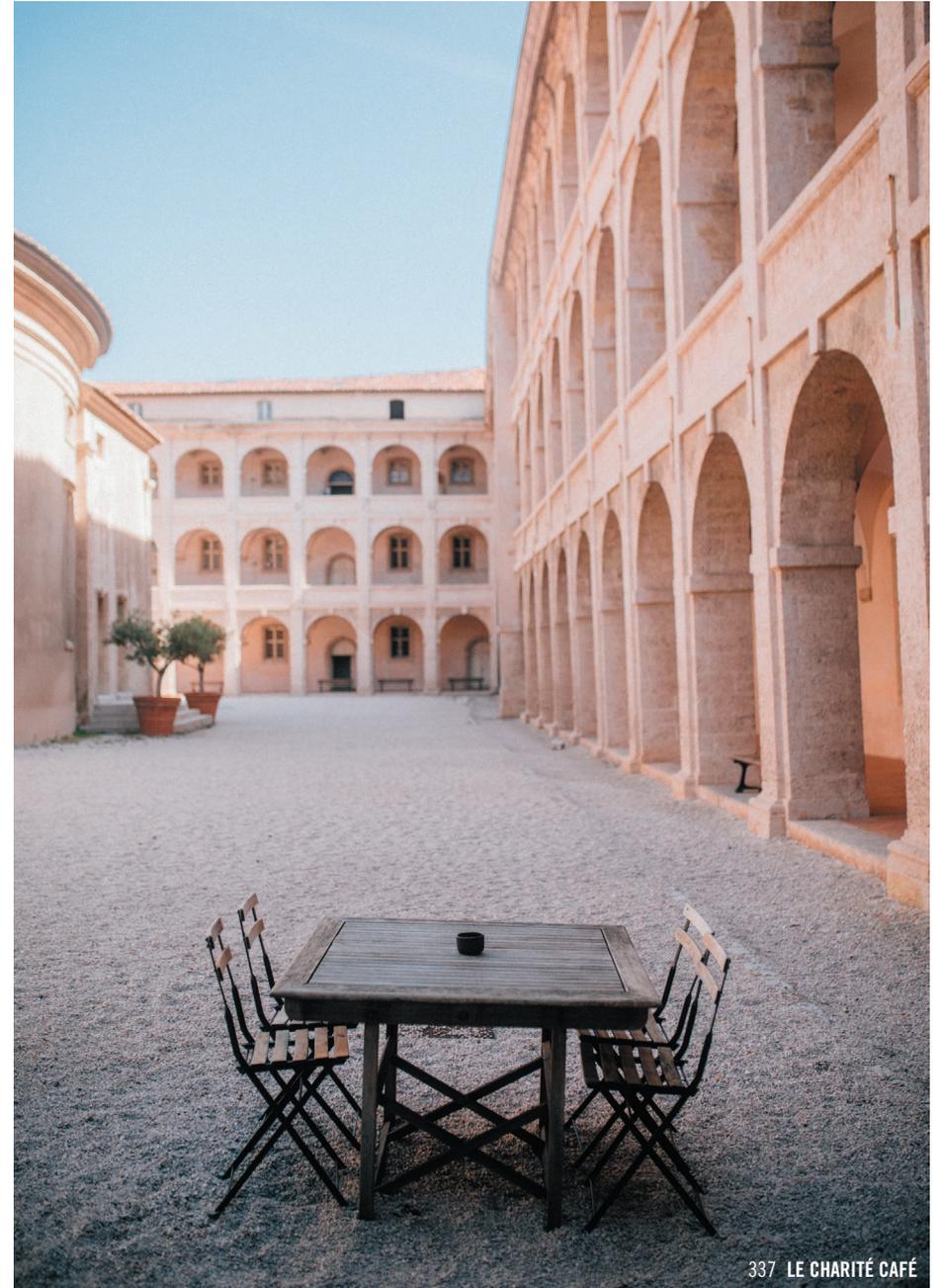
RN7
**83340 Flassans-
sur-Issole**
Var
+33 (0)4 94 69 71 02
peyrassol.com

After visiting the marvelous sculpture park and vineyard at La Commanderie de Peyrassol you can enjoy an aperitif (and the sunset) at Le Bistrot de Lou. Book beforehand to be assured of a table. You can also have lunch or dinner on the terrace of Chez Jeannette among the vines, where they serve Provençal-style cuisine. The Commanderie also has guest rooms if you want to make your experience even more enjoyable.

339 **BRASSERIE DES ARTS**

**148 rue François
Desnoyer**
34200 Sète
Hérault
+33 (0)4 99 02 36 92
**[www.brasserie-des-arts-
sete.fr](http://www.brasserie-des-arts-sete.fr)**

The cafe-restaurant of the Musée Paul Valéry in Sète. An idyllic place, in a nice garden and some small water features, away from the tourists and the busy city centre. This hillside restaurant overlooks the Mediterranean and the fishermen's cemetery from the flanks of the Mont Saint-Clair to which Paul Valéry dedicated a long poem. They serve coffee and lunch or dinner. The restaurant is primarily known for its fish dishes. Sète is a fishing port, after all.



337 LE CHARITÉ CAFÉ



375 HÔTEL CHALET DE L'ISÈRE

374 HÔTEL SPLENDID

4-6 rue Félix Faure
06400 Cannes
Alpes-Maritimes
+33 (0)4 97 06 22 22
splendid-hotel-cannes.com

The writer Guy de Maupassant was a restless soul, never staying in the same place for long. After Antibes he moved on to Cannes. He first rented a flat in the Villa Continentale in 1888-1889: the building is still there, at number 6 of what has since been renamed Rue Guy de Maupassant. Here he wrote his novel *Fort comme la Mort*. He spent the first three months of 1890 at the Hôtel Splendid, an even more upscale hotel on the Croisette. While he enjoyed the sea view, he hated the princes and duchesses, finding that their presence 'marred' the resort's famous seafront. Many of them travelled to Cannes for health reasons. The sea air and warm, dry climate were deemed beneficial for patients suffering tuberculosis. De Maupassant's health declined rapidly: the syphilis aggravated his nerve root pain and worsened his depression.

375 HÔTEL CHALET DE L'ISÈRE

42 avenue de Grasse
06400 Cannes
Alpes-Maritimes
+33 (0)4 93 38 50 80
hotel-chalet-isere-cannes.com

Guy de Maupassant's last stop on the French Riviera was at the Hôtel Châlet de l'Isère in Cannes. He checked in in November 1891. He enjoyed the peace and quiet and the sunny garden. The hotel had no neighbours. From his window he could see the sea, the peaks of the Esterel mountains and the lighthouse. Since then, this neighbourhood has been built up, but the Chalet is still a family-owned bed and breakfast. A plaque on the façade commemorates De Maupassant. He wrote a number of wonderful short stories here including *Le champ d'oliviers*, which takes place on the French Riviera, but the end was near: the syphilis attacked his spinal cord, the writer became increasingly confused, began to suffer from hallucinations and was in excruciating pain. After he attempted to shoot himself, he was taken to Paris in a strait-jacket and committed to an asylum where he would die one-and-a-half years later, aged 42.