INSIDER'S GUIDE · MONTE-CARLO · PORT HERCULE · LARVOTTO

Monaco, *without the waiting list.*

Monaco is two square kilometres with two seasons, a dress code and no airport. This guide covers how to arrive, where to stay, where to eat and dance, the Grand Prix and the Casino, with every address marked as arranged by us or simply walked into.

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE

Monaco

MONTE-CARLO · PORT HERCULE · LARVOTTO

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

OUR PICK · ON REQUEST

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS

Every address is marked: what we arrange, and what you simply walk into.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Monaco works differently.

Two square kilometres, three levels

The Rock, the harbour and Monte-Carlo are stacked on a cliff, linked by public lifts and escalators.

Monaco has two seasons

Jimmy'z, COYA, Twiga and the beach clubs close for winter. Plan the trip around what is open.

The dress code is real

In the evening the Casino turns away shorts and T-shirts. Clubs expect a collared shirt and closed shoes.

There is no airport

You land in Nice. The helicopter takes about seven minutes; the road can take over an hour.

Some of Monaco is in France

Monte-Carlo Beach and the Monte-Carlo Country Club sit just over the border, in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.

SUMMER · WINTER

Two Monacos.

All year

Sass Café, Buddha-Bar, Amazónico, Cipriani and the Casino.

Mainly summer

Twiga, Maona, La Vigie and the full beach-club scene.

Spring to early autumn

Jimmy'z, COYA at the Sporting, Nikki Beach on the Fairmont roof and Monte-Carlo Beach.

Winter

Live music nights, Christmas on Port Hercule and the Rallye in January.

INSIDER TIP

Many restaurants take an annual break. Always check a restaurant's closing weeks before you build a dinner around it.

ARRIVAL

Arrive privately.

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Nice Côte d'Azur

The private jet lands here: Monaco has no runway.

Helicopter

From Nice to the Monaco Heliport in Fontvieille, along the coast.

Chauffeur

At the aircraft steps or waiting at the heliport, on call for the whole stay.

By sea

In high season a shuttle boat runs from Port Hercule to Monte-Carlo Beach.

INSIDER TIP

During Grand Prix week the motorway and the coast road jam for hours. The helicopter takes the same few minutes.

WHERE YOU STAY

Your suite, ready.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Every address is a short walk from Casino Square.

Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo

The grand palace on Casino Square, with Le Louis XV and Le Grill inside.

Hôtel Hermitage

Belle Époque, above the harbour.

Hôtel Métropole

Jacques Garcia rooms, Les Ambassadeurs and a Guerlain spa.

Monte-Carlo Bay

A sand-bottom lagoon on the Larvotto peninsula, with Blue Bay inside.

Monte-Carlo Beach

Forty rooms, open in season, and the pool everyone wants.

Fairmont Monte Carlo

The Grand Prix hairpin below and Nikki Beach on the roof.

Port Palace

On Port Hercule: watch the race from your room.

The Maybourne Riviera

Just outside Monaco, high above the sea, with a longevity spa.

A private villa

Off-market villas in Beausoleil and Cap-d'Ail, direct from the owners. See the Riviera Villa Guide.

FINE DINING

The great tables.

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Monaco holds one of the highest concentrations of Michelin-starred restaurants in the world.

Le Louis XV

Alain Ducasse at the Hôtel de Paris.

Blue Bay Marcel Ravin

Caribbean meets Mediterranean, at the Monte-Carlo Bay. Ask for La Table de Marcel, the chef's table.

Le Grill

The rooftop of the Hôtel de Paris. The roof opens.

Beyond the border

Mirazur in Menton, La Chèvre d'Or and Château Eza in Èze, Le Restaurant des Rois in Beaulieu and Le Cap in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, twenty minutes either way.

Les Ambassadeurs

Christophe Cussac at the Métropole.

L'Abysse & Pavyllon

Yannick Alléno's Japanese counter and his open-kitchen counter at the Hermitage.

Elsa

Organic and seaside, at Monte-Carlo Beach.

INSIDER TIP

Èze sits halfway between Monaco and Nice. Go up before sunset, walk the village, then dine.

PARTY DINING

Dinner becomes the party.

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Twiga

The summer dinner show at the Sporting, then the club.

Amazónico

Place du Casino: rooftop, lounge, then the club.

COYA Monte-Carlo

Peruvian at the Sporting, in season.

La Rascasse

On the Rascasse corner: the Grand Prix bar.

Sass Café

Dinner, piano bar, then dancing, every night of the year.

Buddha-Bar Monte-Carlo

Inside the Casino complex, with a winter terrace.

Maona

Greek lunch at Monte-Carlo Beach. The DJ starts mid-afternoon.

INSIDER TIP

Book dinner at 9.30 or 10pm. Monaco starts late, and the clubs don't fill before midnight.

BY THE WATER

Sand & champagne.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Most open in spring. Book 48 to 72 hours ahead in season.

Monte-Carlo Beach Club

Heated Olympic seawater pool and cabanas.

La Note Bleue

Larvotto, live jazz, and the longest season on the beach.

Loulou Pirate · Anjuna

Roquebrune-Cap-Martin and Èze-sur-Mer, for a lunch along the coast.

Nikki Beach Monte-Carlo

A pool club on the Fairmont roof.

La Vigie

The Italian table at the tip of the peninsula, in summer. Arrive by boat.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> In July and August the cabanas go days ahead.

LATE NIGHT

Every night.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Jimmy'z Monte-Carlo

The legend at the Sporting, open in season.

Amazónico & Selva

The club behind the restaurant, and the Casino square's best-kept secret.

Sass Café

The all-year answer, every night.

La Rascasse

Port Hercule, loud and late.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> At Jimmy'z, 11pm means a queue; after 1am you walk in. Tables work on minimum spend, and the door decides.

THE MONACO GRAND PRIX

The race of the year.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Late May or early June. Exact dates change every year: contact us for this year's dates.

Grandstand K

The harbour: Tabac, the pool and the yachts.

Grandstand B

Casino Square, the most famous backdrop in racing.

A yacht in Port Hercule

The track runs around two sides of the harbour.

A terrace above the track

Hotel rooftops and private balconies.

The race-week nights

Pop-up venues and after-parties that exist for four nights a year, plus the biggest names at Jimmy'z and Twiga.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Yachts, terraces and villas for race week go months ahead. Race-week tables work on fixed packages: lock the dinner first, the club table second. Formula 1 hospitality.

PLACE DU CASINO

The Casino, properly.

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

Visit in the morning

The salons open for visits in the morning, without gaming.

Bring your passport

The gaming rooms are 18+, with photo ID.

In the evening

No shorts, T-shirts or sweatshirts.

Monegasques can't play

Citizens are not allowed in the gaming rooms.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Start with a drink at the Bar Américain of the Hôtel de Paris, then cross the square. The Casino is at its best after dinner.

NO BOOKING · NO DRESS CODE

Laid-back Monaco.

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

Socca at Chez Roger

The chickpea pancake, at the Condamine market.

Barbagiuan

Monaco's national snack: chard and ricotta, fried.

La Reginella

Monaco's favourite pizza, rue Grimaldi.

Tip Top

The late-night pizza that has fed Monaco's night owls for decades.

The changing of the guard

Just before noon every day, outside the Prince's Palace.

Jardin Exotique & Èze at sunset

Cacti on a cliff above the principality, then the perched village at golden hour.

THE SEASON

The dates that fill Monaco.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Exact dates change every year: contact us for this year's dates.

January · Rallye Monte-Carlo & Sainte-Dévote

The rally, then the boat set alight on Port Hercule on the evening of 26 January.

Spring · Monaco E-Prix

Formula E on the street circuit.

September · Monaco Yacht Show

Superyacht week on Port Hercule.

December · Christmas on Port Hercule

The Christmas village on the harbour.

April · Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters

Tennis at the Monte-Carlo Country Club.

Late May or June · Monaco Grand Prix

The race of the year.

November · National Day & Jazz Festival

Fireworks over Port Hercule on the evening of 18 November, the eve of National Day.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> The Grand Prix comes only a few weeks after the Cannes Film Festival. Combine both, and book the villa first.

Platinum Agency Group is an independent concierge, not affiliated with the hotels, restaurants, clubs or events named in this guide. "Arranged by Platinum": access we arrange directly. "Our picks": recommendations, with reservations on request and subject to availability. Venues, opening periods and event dates change: contact us for current details before you travel.

Questions

How do you get to Monaco by private jet?

Monaco has no airport. Private jets land at Nice Côte d'Azur, and the helicopter to the Monaco Heliport takes about seven minutes. We arrange the jet, helicopter and chauffeur as one transfer.

When are Monaco's clubs and beach clubs open?

Most beach clubs and summer venues open from spring to early autumn. Sass Café, Buddha-Bar and Amazónico are open all year.

What is the dress code at the Monte-Carlo Casino?

In the evening, no shorts, T-shirts or sweatshirts. The gaming rooms are for over-18s with photo ID.

When should I book for the Monaco Grand Prix?

Months ahead. Yachts, terraces, villas and race-week tables are the first to go.