

10 Buy lavender honey

Provençal lavender honey is almost white and incredibly floral and sweet. There's always a local seller at one of the many markets, so stock up.

11 Try pistou

Veggie soup made with pesto and seasonal vegetables/beans. Incredible. If you see it on a menu, just order it.

12 Schweppes Agrumes

Not unique to Provence – maybe more of a French thing – but this fizzy, slightly fruity soft drink is the one thing we bring home every year. Track it down in the local supermarket.

13 A new “stop” on the Riviera

Everyone knows Cannes. Most people have an opinion on St Tropez (too flash in the summer, too quiet in the winter, bliss in the spring); while Nice, Antibes and Cap-Ferrat are all well-worn stops on the Riviera tour. But Hyères is the new place to rest your head. Once famous with the British aristocracy – and the Twenties literary crowd (Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald famously partied here) – this seaside town is now having a moment. Last year Lilou Hotel opened its stylish doors – 37 cool rooms across 4 floors. There's also the magical island of Porquerolles, which is a few minutes away by boat and perfect for an afternoon of cycling. The beautiful Villa Noailles is a short cab ride away, and as well as having one of the best gardens in all of France, it was where everyone from Picasso to Salvador Dalí partied the night away. *Lilou Hotel*, 7 Boulevard Pasteur; lilouhotel.fr. *Villa Noailles*, 47 Montée Noailles; villanoailles.com

14 La Boutique de Francine

The best place in the south of France to buy vintage sheets, pillow cases, quilts and fabric, some dating back to the 18th century, which the owners have been collecting for more than 50 years. You'll find it in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue and it's only open Saturday/Sunday. (Although forget lunchtime, which is usually 1pm–3pm. In fact, this is the case for almost everywhere in Provence.) *20 Avenue Julien Guigue, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue*; laboutiquedefrancine.fr

15 La Maison Jouvaud

Such a good shop, with a few different locations in Provence overseen by three generations of the Jouvaud family. It sells great homewares, linen napkins, lovely teacups, but also beautiful chocolates to take back home, especially the little *muettes*, which come in multiple flavours. *5 Avenue des Quatre Otages, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue*; patisserie-jouvaud.com



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16 Maison Dora Maar

It's easy to miss the beautiful home of the surrealist photographer and Picasso muse, who spent every summer here before her death in 1997. It is now a residential centre for artists and writers, but on Tuesdays and Saturdays you can tour the interior and garden. *58 Rue du Portail Neuf, Ménerbes*; maisondoramaar.org

17 La Louve

Quite possibly the best garden in the world. I go almost every year for a private tour with the head gardener. You will be smitten. *Le Jardin de la Louve, Chemin de Saint-Gervais, Bonnieux*

18 Ridley Scott's vineyard

A slightly surreal experience where, as well as a tour of the Hollywood director's vineyard (and a lovely tasting session afterwards), you get to see dozens of the original costumes and props from his many films, including *Gladiator* and *Alien*. One for the movie nerd in your life. *1575 Route du Four Neuf, Oppède*; masdesinfirmieres.com

19 Auberge de la Môle

High in the hills above St Tropez, this rustic restaurant (it does big portions) was the favourite of the late, great AA Gill. You will need to book. *2 Place de l'Église, La Môle*

20 La Colombe d'Or

This hotel-restaurant needs no introduction. There are Picassos on the wall, lanterns in the fig trees and probably a Hollywood director lurking at one of the tables. *Place du Général de Gaulle, Saint-Paul-de-Vence*; la-colombe-dor.com

21 La Bastide du Jas de Bouffan

The former childhood home of Paul Cézanne just opened this summer and is an absolute treat, with the remains of Cézanne's paintings on some of the walls. It's quite possibly better than his studio in nearby Laues (see no 33) – but if you are in Aix, why not see both? *4 Rue de Valcros, Aix-en-Provence*; aixenprovencetourism.com

22 La Chassagnette

Out in the wilds of the Camargue you'll find this superchic restaurant that has a green Michelin star. Almost all the produce comes from the organic garden. A perfect way to spend a long, lazy Sunday lunch. *Mas de la Chassagnette, D36 Route Sambuc, near Arles*; chassagnette.fr

23 La Bastide de Moustiers

Alain Ducasse bought this place in the Nineties from a local potter and it still feels like a little country house not far from the green Verdon Gorge for which

this part of Provence is famous. We spent the most beautiful couple of nights here many years ago. *511 Chemin de Quinson, Moustiers-Sainte-Marie; bastide-moustiers.com*

24 Épi Baie de Pampelonne

Sort of like Soho House but smaller and with a storied past (everyone from Brigitte Bardot to Jackie O used to hang here). It was renovated a couple of years ago and is now one of the chicest places to stay just outside St Tropez. *Route de l'Épi, Ramatuelle; epi1959.com*

25 L'Arlatan

This hotel has fabulous interiors and it's right next door to a really cool bakery. The same company also owns the Nord-Pinus round the corner, which is very romantic, especially if you can get the room with the balcony on the corner. *20 Rue du Sauvage, Arles; arlatan.com*

26 Sandals Tropéziennes Rondini

I've been buying simple, good-quality leather sandals from this place in St Tropez for years. The Sahariennes design is a dead ringer for The Row, but will last longer. *18 Rue Georges Clemenceau, St Tropez; rondini.fr*

27 La Réserve

If money is no object, this super-swanky medi-spa in Ramatuelle is heaven. *736 Chemin des Crêtes, Ramatuelle; lareserve-ramatuelle.com*

28 Van Gogh's psychiatric hospital

It was here that poor Vincent van Gogh was carted off after severing his ear in Arles. While in residence he completed 150 paintings. You can visit the room where he lived and see the big skies and olives trees that he painted each day. Part of the hospital is still in use. *Saint Paul de Mausole, Place Saint-Paul, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence*

29 Tuba Club

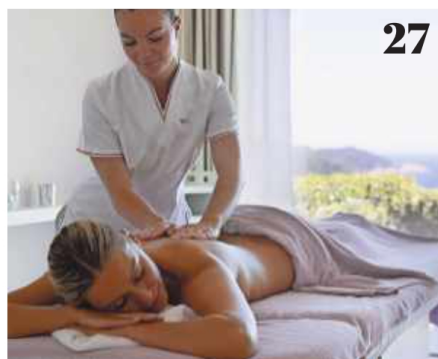
Chic waterfront hotspot in Les Goudes, outside Marseille. Hard to get a reservation, so book early. Oh, and some new rooms have just opened if you'd like to stay the night. *2 Boulevard Alexandre Delabre, Marseille; tuba-club.com*

30 Bar des Amis

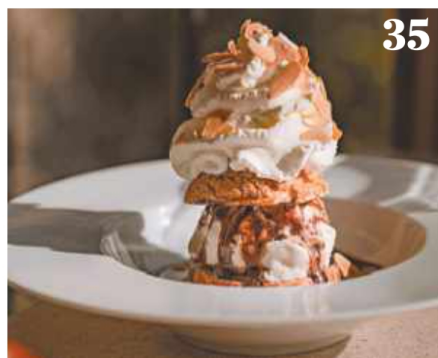
In the teeny village of Villars, just outside Apt, you will find this buzzy bar/restaurant. Closed Monday and Tuesday and booking is essential. *Place de la Fontaine, Villars; bardesamisvillars.fr*

31 Pop by Atelier Vime

Every summer, the stylish couple behind the French wicker company Atelier Vime open up their incredible home



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in the Camargue as part of La Maison Vime boutique. Here they sell ceramics and 18th-century plates as well as the wicker products they are famous for. *24 Quai du Rhône, Vallabrègues; ateliervime.com*

32 Get a picnic from Cécile Food Club

This café and deli is very much a vibe. Get a takeout picnic to eat on the beach. Gorgeous sandwiches and pastries. *116 Corniche Kennedy, Marseille; ceciledeli.com*

33 The hot gallery ticket

Aix-en-Provence celebrates its most famous resident, Paul Cézanne, with a major retrospective of his work at the Musée Granet as well as the much anticipated opening of his family home La Bastide du Jas de Bouffan (see no 21). His studio at Lauves, just outside Aix, has also undergone a major renovation. This is one of the biggest Cézanne celebrations, so book tickets in advance where possible. *Musée Granet, Place Saint-Jean de Malte, Aix-en-Provence; museegranet-aixenprovence.fr. Atelier des Lauves, 13 Avenue Paul Cézanne, Aix-en-Provence; cezanne-en-provence.com*

34 Les Terres du Luberon

Charming little flower farm not far from Goult. *Route de Vaugines, Lourmarin; terre-du-luberon.com*

35 Le Saint Hubert

My new favourite restaurant in Provence. Smart, hip, with a small but perfect menu. I shall dream of the gazpacho with fresh goat's cheese for many months. *1 Place de la Fraternité, Saint-Saturnin-lès-Apt; lesainthubert.co*

36 Château Unang

Pretty vineyard at the tail end of the Nesque Valley, under papal control for 800 years, offering excellent wines and lively tours. *Route de Methamis, Malemort-du-Comtat; chateau-unang.com*

37 Beaumier Hotel Group

I'd never heard of this hotel group until recently but it specialises in chic boutique hotels, many of which are in Provence including Le Moulin in Lourmarin and Les Roches Rouges in Saint-Raphaël. *beaumier.com*

38 Librairie Le Bleu

One of the largest bookstores outside Paris, located in several Provençal houses in the gorgeous town of Banon. Get lost here for an afternoon, then go for coffee in Café Union. *Rue Saint-Just, Banon; lebleuet.fr* ■

Farrah Storr's newsletter, Things Worth Knowing, is on Substack