



# CULTURE MONACO

2023

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UPDATED NOVEMBER 2023

*visit*  
**MONACO**





When you choose to stay in Monaco, you are opting for an exceptional destination where everyone can enjoy a unique and memorable experience. For more than a century, this small, friendly country, synonymous with luxury and glamour and with a reputation for safety and security, has completely reinvented itself without losing its identity.

In Monaco we celebrate the culture... of excellence. Cultural organisations of international calibre, top-class venues and events that are extraordinary and yet occur regularly... there is always something to see and do!

Offering the perfect natural setting for the finest Monegasque cultural treasures, which take place here from January to December, immerse yourself in the Principality and enjoy some very special performances and timeless moments... Whether you're visiting as a couple, or with family or friends, Monaco is Like Nowhere Else!

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NB:

All information in this communication kit is subject to sanitary decisions of the Monegasque State, and is therefore subject to change.



## Did you know?

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- After months of construction work and a colossal site, the Monte-Carlo Opera was delivered just two months behind schedule. The official opening of the Casino Theatre was planned for 25 January 1879, with the famous Sarah Bernhardt set to be the first star to perform there. An actress and writer, nicknamed the “Golden Voice” by Victor Hugo, Sarah Bernhardt was a true artist at heart, and influenced many of her peers. The French performer, who created an allegory of music that is now located in a corner of the Opera's facade, also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
- National honours are a way of affirming a country's identity. Established in 1952 to recognise and reward individuals who contribute to the development of arts, literature and science in Monaco, the Order of Cultural Merit is the symbol of intellectual influence in the Principality. Russian conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, famous for having played the cello close to the Berlin Wall, opera singer and Director of the Monte-Carlo Opera Cécilia Bartoli, the talented musicians Ibrahim Maalouf and Marcus Miller... many remarkable artists have received honours in the Principality.
- Maintaining traditions, conserving works, preserving monuments and promoting the Monegasque language: the National Committee for Monegasque Traditions, founded in 1924, has a wide remit. The Committee works throughout the year to support the local identity with a variety of actions, including publishing articles in the daily newspaper Monaco-Matin to highlight specific historical events or publishing the long-awaited calendar in the Monegasque language.
- Over the course of its long history, the Principality has hosted many brilliant minds, including Wilhelm Apollinaris de Kostrowitzky, known as Guillaume Apollinaire. The future author of *Alcools (Alcohols)* arrived in Monaco on 4 March 1887 and enrolled in Saint-Charles College (in the building that is now City Hall – Ed.) in September 1888 for his third year of primary school. The surrealist poet went on to receive numerous prizes for excellence during his education in Monaco.
- There are few artists in the world who can boast of having created works that are easily recognisable – Colombian painter and sculptor Fernando Botero is one of them. His famous round artworks are scattered throughout Monaco. One of the most popular artists with art lovers spends a large part of the year living and working in the heart of the artists' studios on Quai Antoine I in the Principality.
- Bringing together the Principality and manga culture was a pretty daring move... but it was a successful one for Cédric Biscay, creator of the manga series Blitz! This enthusiast for Japanese culture embarked on the adventure a few years ago and to say he has

found success would be an understatement. The story of a young secondary school pupil who wants to learn to play chess in order to win the heart of a girl was even exported to Expo 2020 Dubai. A total of eight volumes have been published, some of them translated into multiple languages, showcasing the Principality's most striking monuments: the Prince's Palace, the Casino de Monte-Carlo, the Oceanographic Museum... Blitz has also featured some members of the royal family at the centre of the saga's storyline: manga fans were able to spot Prince Albert II in volume 4 and Princess Charlene in volume 6 which was published at the end of February 2022.

- *"To draw a cartoon is to remember."* The words of Chris Ware, one of the greatest exponents of the "ninth art", are borne out in the Principality. A lot of graphic books have taken an interest in the history of Monaco, beginning with the *Histoire de Monaco* (History of Monaco), published in 1997 by Marc Bourgne, which traces the story of the country and its determination to maintain independence from various kingdoms. Monaco is also home to some incredible destinies, which have inspired comic book authors in recent years. *Albert I of Monaco, The Explorer Prince*, published in 2018, recounts the actions of the Sovereign Scientists, and *Devota, itinéraire d'une martyre de la Corse à Monaco* (Devota, A Martyr's Journey from Corsica to Monaco) returns to the beginning of the story of the Principality's patron saint, who is celebrated in an emotional annual ceremony on 27 January every year. Among the published comics which mention Monaco, there are also subjects which are highly representative of the Principality, such as the 47<sup>th</sup> volume of the adventures of the famous racing driver Michel Vaillant titled *Panique à Monaco* (Panic in Monaco). Finally, those who would like to get down to reading a Tintin comic in a foreign language can get hold of the Monegasque-language edition of *The Castafiore Emerald*, or more precisely, in Monegasque: *L'ori d'a Castafiore*.
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Franz Liszt, Frédéric Chopin... the list of composers whose notes are now played by a young Monegasque virtuoso is long. Barely 17 years old, Stella Almondo already boasts an impressive list of awards and has obtained the highest distinction from the Nice Conservatory. Stella gave her first public concert at the age of 10 years old, and her talent and interpretation are now mesmerising audiences around the world, from Moscow to Paris via England and Croatia, and she regularly takes part in concerts in the Principality and around the region. The virtuoso, who has been noticed by the renowned pianist and teacher Igor Lazko, can already lay claim to having shared the stage with Gautier Capuçon, performing Mendelssohn and Schumann at the Festival des Heures Musicales in Biot in June. All with the same goals she has had since she first started out: *"to become a pianist and share my passion for music, share emotions..."*
- It is 21 January 2015. On the first floor of the Valois wing of the Palais-Royal in Paris, the VIP Room at the Ministry of Culture glittered as Princess Caroline was awarded the insignia of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic for her work to promote culture in the Principality. The assembled guests drawn from a range

of different backgrounds highlighted the eclectic and vital role that the Princess of Hanover has played in the Principality: alongside fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld was shoe designer Christian Louboutin, actor Guillaume Gallienne and writer Tahar Ben Jelloun. The French Minister of Culture Fleur Pellerin described the cultural life of the Rocher: *“Generation after generation, the Grimaldis have cultivated this passion for the arts and this taste for the avant-garde. You have done a fantastic job of taking on this heritage, and have shown such talent in making your own contribution to it!”* From the creation of the Ballets de Monte-Carlo, the rise in stature of the Printemps des Arts Festival and her active involvement with the Prince Pierre Foundation, the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Opera, Princess Caroline works tirelessly to showcase the Principality’s cultural life.

# Culture in Monaco through history

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## ■ From ancient times to the capture of the Palace in 1297

While it seems that the region in which Monaco is found has always been visited by humans, the Rocher did not truly make its mark on history until the establishment of the Genoese there in the late twelfth century. The territory then became the property of the Republic of Genoa in Italy. In 1215, the Republic decided to lay the foundations for a fortress, whose perimeter still defines the Prince's Palace as it is today.

It was in 1297 that the history of the Grimaldis melded with that of their residence. This period saw Genoa struggle with internecine battles between the Guelphs and Ghibellines. On the night of 8 January, the Guelph François Grimaldi, known as “*Malizia*”, disguised himself as a monk and used his cunning to seize the fortress. Ever since this attack, the Grimaldis' coat of arms has been flanked by two monks brandishing swords, and the statue on the Place du Palais recounts the story of this founding event. The fortress went on to be lost several times, and was only permanently recaptured by the Grimaldis some 30 years later. Charles I Grimaldi, who came to power in 1341, is thus considered to have been the first Lord of Monaco.

## ■ 6 Monegasque traditions

Thanks to its long history, the Principality has an abundance of historical traditions which have endured throughout the centuries.

### **St Devota**

Among these traditions is the festival of St Devota, celebrated every year on 27 January. The young saint was martyred somewhere around the year 304 in Corsica. Her body, placed in a small boat by fishermen on Corsica, is said to have reached the shore in Monaco on 27 January.

Celebrated by Monegasques ever since, her veneration, associated with Monaco and its Princes, is an official part of every church in the Principality. She is the protector of Monegasque identity and every year, the festival of St Devota is celebrated fervently, culminating in the burning of a symbolic boat in memory of the deceased saint by the Sovereign Prince and the Royal Family.

### **National Day**

Every year, the Principality celebrates its national day on 19 November, the Prince's Day. Introduced by Prince Charles III in 1857, the national day was celebrated on the date of the

Sovereign Prince's name day. When he came to the throne in 2005, Prince Albert II decided to keep the date of 19 November in memory of his father.

The Principality's national day features numerous celebrations and ceremonies, including presentations of medals, performances, the handing out of gifts to the elderly and fireworks displays. It is also an opportunity for Monegasque nationals and residents to demonstrate their attachment to the Prince and his family, and to decorate balconies and terraces with Monaco flags so that for a few days, the country is bedecked in red and white!

### **St John's Day**

According to popular tradition, St John's Day is the festival of light. Close to the longest day of the year, a bonfire is lit to extend the sun's brightness into the middle of the night. In Monaco, this festival takes place over two days and in two districts: in Monaco-Ville on 23 June and in Moulins on 24 June.

### **U pan de Natale**

U pan de Natale est une très ancienne tradition monégasque dont le pain était récolté dans les campagnes du pays et dont la farine provenait de moulins locaux. Sur le dessus de cette boule de pain on disposait quatre à sept petites noix de manière à former une croix latine ainsi qu'un rameau d'olivier, gage de paix.

On Christmas Eve, after midnight mass, the pan de Natale was placed on the table and the oldest or youngest person would bless the bread by saying, in the Monegasque language: "*Che dame chela ram'auriva e l'agiütu de Diu, u mà se ne vaghe e u ben arrive,*" which translates to: "With this small olive branch and with God's help, may evil be banished and good let in."

### **U sciaratu**

Have you ever attended a carnival parade... in summer? The tradition of the Monegasque carnival, known as *sciaratu* from the Monegasque for "din" or "racket", has evolved over the centuries. In the past, the streets of the Rocher were roamed by people in costume during the carnival period. Young people would toss a figure made from straw and rags, *u payassu* into the air, and the figure would later be hung and burned on a terrace at the Palace.

Following several changes, the success of the event prompted the organisers to move the procession to summer so that more residents and tourists could take part. It remains a popular festival today, much enjoyed by everyone in the heart of Monaco-Ville's lanes.

### **La palladienne**

While Palladian often refers to an architectural style strongly based on the temples of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, there is also a dance in Monaco that has survived through the ages known as La Palladienne. The latter is both the name of the dance and the name of a folk group made up of instrumentalists (playing mandolins, guitars, etc.), who often play



works by Monegasque composers, as well as dancers decked out in red-and-white traditional costumes. Every – or almost every – local event features a performance of La Palladienne.

### ■ **Three great women who have left their mark on Monaco's history**

Many women have left their mark on the Principality's history in a variety of fields, from sport to science, not forgetting the arts. Here, we highlight three exceptional women who each, in their own way, had an impact on Monaco through their actions and their influence.

#### **Marie Blanc**

In April 1863, Prince Charles III signed a Sovereign Ordinance granting the gambling concession to François Blanc for 50 years: this marked the creation of the Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer and the launch of the Casino de Monte-Carlo. His wife, Marie Blanc, who was just 30 years old, would go on to play a huge role in expanding the Principality's cultural influence. Decorating the Hotel de Paris at great expense, funding the luxury hotels famous wine cellars with her own money, opening the first Café de Paris, coming up with the idea for the Opera... Marie Blanc left behind an amazing cultural heritage and made an indelible impression on Monaco. Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer recently paid a warm tribute to her on International Women's Day 2022 to showcase *"a woman without whom the Société des Bains de Mer would almost certainly not be here today."*

#### **Josephine Baker**

A singer, actress, leading showgirl and French Resistance agent, Josephine Baker was an icon of the music hall era and the Roaring Twenties. She had several loves – her country, Paris and the Principality of Monaco. This grande dame of women's rights and advocate for minorities was officially admitted to the Panthéon in Paris in November 2021, though her body remains at rest in Monaco's cemetery, where she was buried in 1975. From the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, Josephine Baker, who was then a global star, was regularly invited to perform in the Principality by Princess Grace. As she closed yet another show at the Monte-Carlo Sporting Club, where she enjoyed resounding success, she said: *"It is at the Sporting d'Été in Monte-Carlo that I come close to perfection."*

#### **Coco Chanel**

*"I don't do fashion. I am fashion."* The designer and global icon approached Sergei Diaghilev, then Director of the Ballets Russes, to ask him to produce the ballet *The Rite of Spring*. Coco Chanel began to visit Monaco increasingly frequently, and fell for the Principality's charms. From Cocteau to Dali, she frequented the local arts world and inspired Monaco's cultural scene, starting with *Le Train Bleu*, a ballet by Nijinska for which she designed the costumes. A first! In a similar vein, Coco Chanel launched the summer seasonal fashion that inspired the creation and development of the Monte-Carlo Beach in 1928. This episode marked the beginning of a long history between the brand and the

destination, which had many similarities, including sophistication, freedom and the idea of tradition rooted in modernity. It was an alignment that resulted in a cruise show being organised by Chanel at the Monte-Carlo Beach in May 2022, as the Principality occupies a special place among the French fashion house's iconic sources of inspiration.

# Culture in Monaco today

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Heraclitus said that culture was “*another sun*”: could there be a more apt description in this country on the French Riviera which is bathed in the glow of the yellow orb more than 300 days a year? True to the tradition of patronage exercised by the Princes of Monaco throughout history, the Principality continues to pursue an active cultural policy. An overview of Monaco's most important cultural organisations.

## ■ Cultural organisations of international calibre: promoting culture

### **Ballets de Monte-Carlo**

The Ballets de Monte-Carlo's performances are renowned throughout the world. The group comprises three institutions.

First, the Ballets de Monte-Carlo Company, which was founded in 1985 thanks to the efforts of H.R.H. Princess Caroline of Hanover to continue the long tradition of dance in Monaco and the Ballets Russes. The arrival of choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot in 1993 led to the company gaining prominence on the international stage. Today, the 50 dancers, who spend more than 200 days a year on tour, act as key cultural ambassadors for the Principality.

Since 2000, the Monaco Dance Forum, a multi-format international dance festival has also been held. In addition to performances by the biggest names in dance, the Monaco Dance Forum offers workshops, masterclasses, exhibitions, symposiums and conferences in the field. Established in 1975 and redefined in 2009, the Princess Grace Academy is the third of the ballet institutions. Its mission is to offer each of its pupils first-class training to help them become professionals.

Monaco's iconic Place du Casino has also been transformed into a giant dancefloor, for the second edition of the “F(ê)aites de la danse” festival on 8 and 9 July! For 24 hours each year, this popular and unique event sees the Principality host dance performances, open air shows, workshops and lots more besides, with artists from all over the world. Since dance is such an eclectic activity, F(ê)aites de la danse has something for everyone and encompasses every style you can think of, from tango to African dance, from rock to swing jazz, ballet, waltz, and salsa!

### **Monte-Carlo Opera**

The jewel in the crown of the Casino de Monte-Carlo is a reflection of the Principality's rich history. The biggest stars of opera and theatre have performed there in succession since the



Salle Garnier was built. The venue's outstanding acoustics combined with the beauty of the location make it possible to offer audiences eclectic productions, perpetuating the grand operatic tradition while supporting creativity. From Prince to Lionel Richie, via the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival and the Monte-Carlo Summer Festival, this legendary stage with its magical setting has played host to performances by some of the world's most famous artists.

### **Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra**

Since 1856 – when it was known as the “Orchestre du nouveau cercle des étrangers” – the Orchestra has occupied a special place on the international musical stage.

Puccini, Ravel, Massenet, Fauré... countless world premieres have been presented in Monte-Carlo over the last almost 150 years. The history of the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra has been marked by some extraordinary events. The Orchestra is regularly invited to perform at major international festivals. It also undertakes regular overseas tours, visiting countries from the United States to Japan.

### **Théâtre Princesse Grace**

Keen to revive theatre in the Principality, Princess Grace was behind the effort to restore the Théâtre des Beaux-Arts which, in its time, hosted some of France's greatest singers, such as Edith Piaf. The Princess completely redesigned the theatre's interior, as well as the acoustics and the facilities for actors. Today, the Théâtre Princesse Grace is a renowned and highly regarded venue which contributes to the Principality's cultural influence.

[ FOCUS on... ]

#### **Serge Diaghilev and Les Ballets Russes**

Neither a dancer nor a choreographer, Sergei Diaghilev poured his enormous passion for dance and entertainment into creating incredible productions. He surrounded himself with the best choreographers of his era and launched the Ballets Russes company in 1907. Two years later, the company gave its first performance on the international stage. A visionary, Diaghilev created a permanent structure for the company in Monaco, Paris and London. More than 50 productions were created during the prolific period from 1907 until his death in 1929, some of which left a lasting mark on the art, such as *Petrushka*, *The Rite of Spring* or *Jack in the Box*. Audiences witnessed a movement unlike anything which had gone before: artists from a variety of disciplines (dance, poetry, music, painting and so on) shared their knowledge and skills to make each ballet a unique and aesthetically perfect occurrence. Among those who contributed to the company's international popularity were: Prokofiev, Debussy, Ravel, Nijinski, Stravinski, and renowned artists such as Matisse, Picasso and Braque.

#### ■ **And not forgetting ... The Little Singers of Monaco**

Founded in 1974 as part of the Monaco Cathedral Choir and placed under the high patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, the Little Singers of Monaco contribute to the Principality's artistic and cultural influence. The first signs of a children's vocal ensemble

can be found in the eighteenth century, during the reign of Prince Antoine I. In addition to regularly providing music for services at [Monaco Cathedral](#), the Little Singers undertake frequent tours around the world. Since the group was founded, it has visited some 40 countries in Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Africa. Summer 2023 saw the company embark on a tour of the United States, performing at venues in New York and Miami, Orlando and Washington D.C.

[ FOCUS on... ]

### **Grimaldi Forum Monaco**

#### **The culture... of excellence**

Recognisable for its unique glass and steel design, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco is the Principality's convention and cultural centre. Officially opened in 2000, it has constantly positioned itself as one of the leading business tourism destinations in Europe and a cultural hotspot. As proof, its modular space covering 75,000 m<sup>2</sup> reclaimed from the sea in an exceptional location has enabled it to host an average of a hundred or so events per year. A total of nearly 250,000 people visits the Grimaldi Forum every year to attend congresses, shows, conventions, exhibitions, performances and concerts. With the creation of the new Mareterra waterfront district, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco's exhibition space will be expanded by 50%, gaining an additional 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The Salle des Princes (1,900 seats and a 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> stage, the equivalent of the Opéra Bastille in Paris), the Salle Prince Pierre (800 seats) and the Salle Camille Blanc can handle any type of production. Grimaldi Forum is also a place where visitors can get excited about exhibitions, some of which have toured the world, such as "Grace Kelly, From Hollywood to Monaco" or "Dali, A History of Painting" or "The Golden Treasures of the Pharaohs". And while the summer of 2023 featured a tribute to the paintings of impressionist master Claude Monet, the flagship summer exhibition in 2024 will showcase the work of William Turner, with "Turner, the Sublime Heritage".

It's also possible to get hooked on the venue's eclectic musical performances: from Elton John to Black Eyed Peas, as well as musical theatre productions such as Grease, Mamma Mia and West Side Story.

The [Grimaldi Forum](#) also offers a natural backdrop for Monaco's finest cultural treasures, which perform in residence throughout the year: the [Ballets de Monte-Carlo](#), the [Philharmonic Orchestra](#) and the [Opera](#), the [Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo](#) and the [Théâtre Princesse Grace](#).

#### ■ **First-class local institutions: preserving and showcasing culture**

Flying the flag for dreams and glamour throughout the work, the Principality is above all a destination that can boast some first-class venues. Monaco has an enormously rich and varied selection of museums and monuments.

These include: the [Classic Cars Collection of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco](#), comprising nearly a hundred vehicles from the biggest international manufacturers, the [Oceanographic](#)

Museum which has been keeping watch over the oceans for more than a century thanks to its world-renowned expertise, the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology, which features the history of the Principality and neighbouring regions, or the Museum of Philately and Coinage, which is home to some rare stamps and exclusive documents.

#### Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (NMNM)

The mission of the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (NMNM) is to showcase the heritage of the Principality of Monaco and promote contemporary works of art through temporary exhibitions at its two stunning locations: Villa Paloma and Villa Sauber. The latter is one of the last Belle Époque villas in Monaco. With its rich history dating back to the beginning of the twentieth century, the villa now hosts temporary exhibitions, as does Villa Paloma, built during the same period and nicknamed “La Coquette” by its former owner thanks to its charm. One of the most beautiful patrician houses in the Principality, it has a fantastic view and features nearly 900 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space over three levels. The gardens of these two magnificent villas have not been neglected either – the outdoor spaces are peaceful and full of flowers, perfect for relaxing after a visit to the museum!

#### Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology

A short stroll from Villa Paloma is the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology, founded by Prince Albert I in 1902. Its purpose is to “*conserve traces of early humankind exhumed in the Principality and neighbouring regions.*” The collections on display enable visitors to trace the major steps in the evolution of humanity in this area on the shores of the Mediterranean. In partnership with the late Professor Emeritus Yves Coppens and the International Scientific Committee, the museum's highly active team also carries out preventive digs and laboratory studies, and publishes scientific articles. The museum regularly hosts primary and secondary school children to teach them about the subject, which never fails to arouse everyone's curiosity!

#### Audiovisual Institute of Monaco

Established in 1997, the Audiovisual Institute of Monaco has a remit to collect, preserve, archive and showcase the Principality's audiovisual heritage. As part of this remit, it regularly organises exhibitions, such as the one which has been put together as part of the commemorations of the centenary of Albert I's death. “The Pathé-Baby and 9.5 mm Films” shows the Principality as it was last century, using images from the Institute's archives in partnership with the Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé Foundation. While connoisseurs familiar with the Principality's history will recognise some now forgotten places such as the old Place du Casino, Port Hercule as it looked in the mid-20th century, or perhaps the Monte-Carlo Beach built just a few years earlier, casual visitors can try to spot Monaco's most iconic sites. The fascinating, previously unseen fragments of life and history are on display until 29 December 2023!

#### Archives of the Prince's Palace

The Archives of the Prince's Palace hold a large number of early texts relating to the Principality's historical and intangible heritage. Since 1977, the work that has been done has



made it possible to publish the annual *Annales Monégasques*, a periodical that revives the tradition of academic publications during the reigns of nineteenth and twentieth-century sovereigns. It has a mission, entrusted by Albert I to Léon-Honoré Labande, the head archivist of the time: *“There are still some legends in the history of Monaco. Show them no mercy. Always and everywhere, tell the truth, whatever it is.”*

[ FOCUS on... ]

### **The Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation**

Renowned for his triptychs which can be seen around the world, Francis Bacon remains one of the top-rated artists on the international art market. Thanks to the sale of one of his paintings in 1946, the British artist left to settle in Monaco. Captivated by the ambiance and lifestyle of the Principality, as well as the benefits of the sea air, Bacon drew his inspiration from the beauty of the Mediterranean landscapes and the sophistication of the Casino de Monte-Carlo. It was here that the artist refined his work: *“Monaco offers fertile ground for images that come to my mind ready-formed.”* The trace he left in the Principality made its mark on Majid Boustany. Having fallen in love with the work of Francis Bacon, the businessman and co-owner of the Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo decided to dedicate a unique location to him: the Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation opened its doors on 28 October 2014, the anniversary of the painter’s birth, in the heart of the Principality.

Established in an 1897 Belle Époque villa, the foundation seeks to offer an intimate location with a hushed ambiance, reflecting Francis Bacon’s apparent preference for small spaces that made his paintings seem more intense. Today, the foundation created by Majid Boustany, who has been made an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, promotes the artist’s tormented portraits, encourages artistic creativity, is developing an acquisitions policy and offers tours throughout the year.

## ■ **Monaco through European and international cultural programmes**

In addition to being home to nationals from 140 countries, Monaco maintains a diverse range of international relations. The Principality has been a member of the United Nations since 1993 and joined the Council of Europe in 2004. The Sovereigns of Monaco have always represented the State within the international community and their ambitious stances have given the Principality a strong voice in the concert of nations as it faces key challenges.

These include: protecting the world’s marine heritage through scientific research, a struggle that has been important to H.S.H. Prince Albert II since his accession to the throne in 2005. Monaco has been working in partnership with UNESCO since 2017 to improve conservation and scientific understanding of the marine sites on the World Heritage List. This is an effort that involves sharing information on an ongoing basis and engaging in strategic collaboration on the expeditions undertaken by Monaco Explorations.

In addition, European Heritage Day has been held in the Principality for nearly 25 years. Launched by the Council of Europe, this event allows visitors to access some extraordinary

locations which, in some cases, are closed to the public during the rest of the year. Organised by the Heritage Institute under the aegis of the Department of Cultural Affairs, this day generally enables visitors to discover at least 40 sites spread throughout the two square kilometres of Monaco. Three major monuments and museums are overwhelmingly popular: the Oceanographic Museum, H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco's Classic Car Collection and the Cathedral often top the list of attractions. In addition, some sites ordinarily closed to the public but opened up for the event often arouse curiosity, such as City Hall and the National Council, the country's parliamentary chamber.

In parallel with all these actions, the Principality works to promote the French-speaking world through the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF), of which it has been a long-standing member since 1970. The Prince's Government supports the IOF's commitments on issues such as French-language teaching, education, protecting the environment and the energy transition. In October 2019, the Principality hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie the theme of which was: "Reconciling Humanity and the Planet: Prospects within the French-Speaking World as the IOF Turns 50".

### ■ **Philosophy and art: two disciplines that are increasingly visible in the Principality**

In addition to the national and international cultural programmes, two particular disciplines have enjoyed momentum in the Principality in recent years.

The first is philosophy, on the back of the success of the Philosophical Encounters of Monaco, co-founded by Charlotte Casiraghi, the daughter of Princess Caroline of Monaco. The Philosophical Encounters have led to growth in the practice of philosophy in the Principality. The organisation has held lectures and monthly workshops, inviting prominent personalities to the country and getting schools involved. Charlotte Casiraghi's dream is "to engage all of Monaco in this passion for philosophy and to make this felt for a week".

Another discipline that is enjoying something of a boom in the Principality is the art market. Annual shows dedicated to contemporary art and design, such as art3f and art-montecarlo during the summer, the international art galleries deciding to establish themselves in Monaco, the return of auction houses and its image as a cosmopolitan nation make the Principality an important destination in many ways. Nancy Dotta, the Director of the Monaco office of the famous Christie's auction house, emphasises the dynamism which has returned to the Principality's art market: "Monaco is an excellent catalyst for what's happening in the world, and art is no exception. It is a microcosm that is perfect for fostering a flourishing arts and cultural scene throughout the French Riviera with its many museums."

### ■ **The Principality: a hub for festivals...**

Monaco is one long festival from January to December!

It all begins with a well-known and popular circus event, the Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival. And 2024 will be a milestone year, as the famous circus festival celebrates its 50th anniversary! It's been half a century since the creation of one of the Principality's most emblematic events, which will also close the commemorations marking the centenary of the festival's founder, Prince Rainier III.

As the warmer days arrive, it is the turn of the Printemps des Arts Festival to take centre stage! First a summer event, then a winter occasion, the festival now takes place over four to five weeks in spring, in venues that are as spectacular as they are unusual. The Printemps des Arts Monte-Carlo Festival is above all a large-scale musical event that brings together musicians from all over the world, bringing new vibrancy to Monaco's cultural life by revisiting the great classics and showcasing exclusive new contemporary works.

A sixty-year-old festival that lights up the screen... for 61 years, studios, television channels, digital platforms and stars have gathered every June in an idyllic setting for the Monte-Carlo Television Festival. Aimed at a wide audience, including the media, industry professionals and the general public, the event features world premieres, lectures that delve behind the scenes of TV series and signing sessions.

Summer in Monte-Carlo is also a chance to enjoy music in some truly beautiful settings. The Monte-Carlo Summer Festival takes over the Principality's iconic locations to host major international stars.

The year draws to a wonderful close with jazz in all of its diversity. Launched in 2006, the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival shines a spotlight on both legendary musicians and rising stars, all in the breathtaking setting of the Opera. Herbie Hancock, Diana Krall, Marcus Miller, Manu Katché, Melody Gardot... the biggest artists have already dazzled music lovers and those keen to learn more during this event traditionally held in the two weeks at the end of November and beginning of December.



# Suggested itineraries

## 48 hours in Monaco: Winter

### DAY 1

Welcome to the Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo! In the heart of Monaco, the hotel for connoisseurs of Belle Époque architecture cultivates a sense of elegance, peace and discretion.

#### 9 am

What better way to start your stay than with breakfast at your hotel? From the morning onwards, the question is whether to enjoy your meal in the winter garden, bathed in the soft light diffused by the Eiffel cupola, on your terrace so that you can take in the views, or at the Limùn, a restaurant that regularly changes its décor and offers a brand-new healthy breakfast option.

#### 10 am

Monaco-Ville, the Rocher, the old town... this district has several different names and just as many ways to impress visitors! Allow yourself to be transported by the unique atmosphere of the St Barbara and St Martin gardens overlooking the sea, the picturesque alleys and the breathtaking panoramas.

In the middle of these two peaceful oases stands the Oceanographic Museum, officially opened in 1910 by Prince Albert I, where visitors can discover thousands of species of tropical and Mediterranean fish. With its turtle rehabilitation pools opposite the sea, temporary informative exhibitions and fun events, this is a place which will both fascinate and educate.

Also not to be missed is the Changing of the Guard on the Place du Palais. At 11.55 am every day, the Palace Guards perform this solemn ritual, a wonderful insight into the Principality of Monaco's history.

#### 12.30 pm

A well-deserved lunch break! Head down the Rocher using the Fort Antoine stairs and you will come out on the Esplanade des Pêcheurs. From there, a short but pleasant trip on the electric water bus will take you to the opposite side of the port. On the roof of the Hotel Port Palace, the restaurant La Môme Monte-Carlo reveals a stunning view over Port Hercule and

offers sunny Mediterranean cuisine with décor inspired by the iconic Grace Kelly, who played an undeniable role in developing culture in the Principality.

## 2 pm

Stroll along the port via Quai Albert I and you will find yourself outside the Cars Collection of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco, an incredible journey through time by means of car culture, from a 1903 Dion-Bouton to a 2013 Lotus F1! An invaluable collection begun in the late 1950s by Prince Rainier III who was passionate about cars.

## 3.30 pm

The Principality is also characterised by the eclectic nature of its museums and monuments. Offering several exhibitions a year at each location, the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (NMNM) showcases a little-known heritage and collection while promoting the discovery of the contemporary scene. The NMNM has two locations situated on either side of Monaco. In Larvotto, Villa Sauber is one of the Principality's last Belle Époque villas. Having passed through the hands of several owners, it has since 2009 hosted temporary exhibitions on the general theme of "art and performance" and organises exciting contemporary exhibitions.

## 4.30 pm

Tea time! Relax at the Cova, the iconic Italian pâtisserie, which opened its first café in Milan in... 1817! The menu at this traditional tea shop on the elegant Boulevard des Moulins with its famous shops features a selection of teas accompanied by hand-crafted pastries and scones. To prolong your treat in this elegant and timeless setting, go for the option which includes a glass of champagne...

When you leave this Italian tea shop and before returning to the Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, take some time to admire the architecture on Boulevard des Moulins and the way it contrasts with One Monte-Carlo next to the Place du Casino and its gardens. Enjoy this exclusive and fully pedestrianised spot, which brings together the leading luxury brands in a green oasis.

## 7.30 pm

After taking a welcome break to relax in your hotel, it's time for an aperitif in an iconic bar... With its unique décor and cosy atmosphere, the Bar Américain at the Hotel de Paris Monte-Carlo invites guests into its 1920s world. Before an evening at the Opera, why not opt for a ballet-themed drink, such as a Pulcinella cocktail with fresh mandarin or a Nutcracker with hazelnut syrup?

## 8.30 pm

The Principality plays host to some of the most prestigious events in stunning locations... one of which is the famous Opéra Garnier, the jewel in the crown of the Casino de Monte-Carlo. An experience not to be missed in order to fully take in this red-and-gold Italian theatre, where some of the biggest stars have performed, from Sarah Bernhardt to Prince, not forgetting the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo.

## 11 pm

To continue the feast for your senses, head to Le Train Bleu to dine in an exclusive setting within the Casino de Monte-Carlo itself. In a restaurant car that recreates the atmosphere of the Belle Époque, enjoy a journey at the very heart of Monaco and enjoy a gourmet take on Italian cuisine with a view of the Place du Casino. Mix up your evening with a visit to the gaming tables in the James Bond-inspired Salle Renaissance, Salle Europe and Salle des Amériques. Entertainment, surprises and emotion are guaranteed!

## DAY 2

## 10 pm

Coin and stamp collectors – it's your turn to have some fun! A first-class cultural institution, the Museum of Philately and Coinage displays the special collections of the Princes of Monaco. At the heart of this museum located on the Fontvieille terraces, history is traced through the items exhibited, which include the first Monegasque stamps created by Prince Charles III in 1885, and the first coins produced by Prince Honoré II in 1640. The museum also holds exclusive temporary sales. The sale held in autumn 2021, for example, featured two-euro coins minted to celebrate the tenth wedding anniversary of Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene, available to purchase for €120. The result was a long queue of collectors waiting to get their hands on the 15,000 coins that were sold throughout the day!

## 11 pm

Continue your discovery of the Fontvieille district by taking a pleasant stroll along a pedestrian path dotted with sculptures. Created by reclaiming 23 hectares from the sea in the 1970s and 1980s, Fontvieille allows pedestrians the chance to discover artists within a large, landscaped park and several planted areas. Enjoy a lovely stroll through the works of Botero, Rodin and Fernand Léger between the green of the gardens and the blue of the sky over the French Riviera.



## 12 pm

Another way to understand the culture of a city, region or country is through the local food, so head to Place d'Armes, also known as Market Square. As the morning draws to a close and locals are thinking about what they might cook up, La Condamine Market reveals its characteristic colours and aromas. It is impossible to leave without tasting \*the\* star of Monegasque cooking, the barbagnuan. Stroll through the indoor market, known as "La Halle Gourmande", to enjoy local dishes, wander past the colourful outdoor market stands to take in the smell of the flowers, fruits and vegetables and linger at one of the café terraces dotted everywhere. This is truly the place to be to soak up local life. Over a selection of traditional dishes – we'd recommend socca, pissaladière and fougasse – take some time to appreciate the beautiful facades around the square, or look up to see the Prince's Palace nestling on the Rocher.

## 2.30 pm

Head upwards and visit the Exotic Garden district. If you want to combine a quick break with a tour, the Exotic Garden Botanic Centre is home to the most significant collections of cacti and succulent plants in the world – it has more than 10,000 in total! Take a wander through the three-storey glass and iron structure, which is an idyllic peaceful oasis, featuring a panoramic view over the Principality. Lovers of escapism take note...

Just opposite is a neighbour that focuses on our long and impressive shared history: the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology. Founded in 1902 by Prince Albert I, this is the oldest museum in Monaco. Its collections transport visitors through the ages, helping to trace the major steps in the evolution of humanity. A voyage through time which is worth making!

## 6.30 pm

Head to the Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo for an elegant aperitif. With its glamour, elegance and warmth, the lobby bar is the answer to a food lover's dreams. Sample delicious cocktails amid the ephemeral atmosphere, floral touches, and ancient and collectible works of art. The décor by Jacques Garcia, who has designed numerous architectural projects all over the world, will leave you feeling at ease in this hushed ambiance. Pay attention to the different profiles displayed on the walls, you may just recognise some of the personalities...

## 8 pm

Continue your evening with some more culture. From January to December, the Principality offers you the opportunity to marvel at a whole host of eclectic performances. Just pick something to suit your tastes! Jazz fan? The Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival welcomes music fans and those keen to learn more about the style to the Opera Garnier for some spectacular concerts. Classical music more your thing? Discover the talented musicians of the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra, voted orchestra of the year in 2021, and enjoy a timeless

evening. And if you are visiting in January, take advantage of the opportunity to appreciate the internationally renowned performances of the Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival!

Before or after this visual enchantment – depending on the event schedule – it's time to treat your tastebuds... Head over to the Pavillon Monte-Carlo, a restaurant by triple-Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alléno at the Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, where light, flavourful cuisine with a decidedly local identity awaits!

# Suggested itineraries

## 48 hours in Monaco: Summer

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### DAY 1

The [Meridien Beach Plaza](#) welcomes you for your stay in the Principality! The only hotel in Monaco to boast its own private sandy beach, the Meridien Beach Plaza is resolutely focused on art and is a fully fledged exhibition space. Artists represented by local or internationally galleries are regularly invited to exhibit their work in the hotel's lobby or gardens.

#### 9 am

A great day starts with breakfast for two facing the sea or on the terrace by the Meridien Beach Plaza's swimming pool. Savour a special moment over great food and fresh produce to fill you with energy before you head out to discover the Principality.

#### 10 am

Discover Monaco by taking a morning stroll through the heart of the Larvotto district, whose beach and promenade have recently been redeveloped. As you wander past the beaches along a pleasant, shaded promenade, the [Grimaldi Forum Monaco](#) unveils its great glass roof. Where incidentally, visitors can discover the work of the British painter William Turner, with the summer exhibition entitled "Turner, the Sublime Heritage".

#### 12.30 pm

Take a break for lunch in Larvotto, with your toes in the sand and your eyes drifting out to the horizon! Founded by Monaco's own Tigrane Seydoux, the restaurant Giacomo, part of the [Big Mamma group](#), welcomes guests with its open kitchen in the centre of the restaurant and its fresh produce prepared to order. Specialising in Italian cuisine, Big Mamma is one of Europe's top ten pizza chains.

And a quick tip: a post-lunch walk to the Japanese Garden is well worth the detour! Relax amid the pond, the waterfall and the carefully maintained plants in this stylised imitation of Japanese nature.

## 2.30 pm

Time to head to the heliport in Fontvieille! Monaco can also be discovered from the air, so climb into the shuttle provided with private chauffeur, allow yourself to be guided and take to the skies, where you can admire the Principality from above during a panoramic helicopter flight. A timeless opportunity to enjoy sweeping views that cannot be seen from anywhere else, thanks to the expertise of [Monacair](#) and [Héli Air Monaco](#).

Cultural aficionados and others with an interest may also be tempted by a guided tour that highlights some of the French Riviera's best-kept secrets from St Tropez to the Nice hinterland – including a stop for a glass of champagne!

## 4 pm

With your feet back on solid ground, head to the Exotic Garden and the Villa Paloma, an integral part of the [Nouveau Musée National de Monaco](#). Built in the early twentieth century, this part of the museum focuses on the theme of “art and territory”.

The villa, nicknamed “La Coquette” due to its attractive charm, is a cultural highlight that should not be missed. Then enjoy a debrief in the villa's gardens, which have fantastic views over the Principality!

## 5.30 pm

Time for a break! Head back to the [Meridien Beach Plaza](#) to take advantage of your hotel's facilities, especially its sandy beach. Take a peaceful timeout to look back over your time in the Principality so far – and don't forget to enjoy a tropical fruit cocktail or two at the Alang Bar. Under the shade of the thatched roof (it is thatched in alang-alang, a natural grass) in the style of a traditional Balinese bar, the Meridien Beach Plaza venue is a direct invitation to relax and recuperate.

Just next door, the summer restaurant Muse in the perfect place to relax and savour a taste of the dolce vita, in a tranquil spot between the pine trees and private beach.

## 7.30 pm

Dine by the Mediterranean! Nestled on the roof of the [Hotel Fairmont Monte-Carlo](#), the [Horizon Rooftop](#) offer the chance to decompress as you look out over the Mediterranean. Fans of fusion cuisine should note that the Fairmont Monte-Carlo is also home to [Nobu](#): the perfect blend of a Japanese dinner with South American touches, all served in a cosy atmosphere facing the sea.

## 9.30 pm

Every summer, the famous [Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra](#) relocates its prowess to the heart of the [Royal Courtyard at the Prince's Palace](#), where it stages performances unlike any other. The idea was first born in 1959 and revives an age-old Grimaldi family tradition. The Orchestra gathers between the two flights of the seventeenth-century staircase, and



the magic is instant. Classical music and the Prince's Palace come together, each enhancing the magnificence of the other...

## DAY 2

### 10 am

To start your day, nothing beats a trip to [La Condamine Market](#), which is held every morning at the distinctive and colourful Place d'Armes. Located just below the Prince's Palace, this is the place to be to get a real feel for local life and it's a great place to relax for a few minutes over a coffee before taking the Rampe Major stairs up to Monaco-Ville.

Once on the Rock, allow yourself to be transported by its beauty: the shady St Barbara and St Martin gardens overlooking the sea, the picturesque alleys and the breathtaking panoramas. Discover the majestic [Oceanographic Museum](#), which holds a multitude of surprises, and head up to the Place du Palais. At 11.55 am every day, the Palace Guards perform the Changing of the Guard: a wonderful insight into the Principality's centuries-old history.

### 12.30 pm

It's summer, so a light lunch on the terrace is the way to go: the [Tavolo](#) restaurant at the [Hotel Columbus Monte-Carlo](#) welcomes guests to enjoy Mediterranean flavours prepared using fresh produce. Taste the best seasonal ingredients, produced responsibly, as you take in the view of the [Princess Grace Rose Garden](#) with the Exotic Garden extending behind. There's no doubt about it: you really are in Monaco!

### 2.30 pm

Take some time to admire the beds of roses in the [Princess Grace Rose Garden](#). Here, some of the flowers have been named in honour of some of the biggest names in culture: "Maria Callas", "President Léopold Senghor" and "York and Lancaster", the famous rose created in 1551 to celebrate the peace that marked the end of the Wars of the Roses.

As you head over to Monte-Carlo, make sure to wander through the shady terraces of the Casino, which are perfect for a stroll. The terraces lead to "Hexa Grace", an amazing, multicoloured work of art by the master of Op art, Victor Vasarely.

## 4 pm

Return to Place du Casino to take the obligatory stroll through the heart of the Principality. Anish Kapoor's mirror, a vital embellishment of the old square, retains its place at the centre of the esplanade and blends in perfectly with the surrounding Bell Époque architecture.

A few yards away is the Metropole Shopping Monte-Carlo mall with its luxurious atmosphere against a backdrop of precious materials. The centre is home to around 80 shops, nestled among the Carrara marble and Bohemian crystal chandeliers made by Faustig. Then head back to the Meridien Beach Plaza Hotel to relax for a moment before beginning your evening...

## 7 pm

The Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel and Resort is home to the Blue Gin, where you can enjoy a relaxed aperitif and designer cocktails facing the Mediterranean. Open to the outdoors, the Blue Gin offers a selection of creative drinks and live music with disco funk influences.

## 8 pm

Now it's time to discover the best of Latin American culture! Enjoy stunning views of the Mediterranean as you immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the Coya Monte-Carlo. This venue at the water's edge offers Peruvian fusion cuisine, plunging guests into a multi-sensory experience from the moment they arrive with contemporary art hanging on the walls, music featuring sounds from the brand's own label and unique décor designed by Peruvian craftspeople. Guaranteed to be a full-on experience!

## 10 pm

In Monaco, the stars are not only to be found on restaurants or in the sky. Every summer, they align in the Principality to offer entertainment and excitement with the unforgettable concerts of the Monte-Carlo Sporting Summer Festival. John Legend, Sting, Enrique Iglesias... the world's biggest stars have been performing at the Salle des Etoiles for years. With the sky on the horizon and the Principality for a backdrop, get ready for a star-studded evening.

# The season 2023-2024 of Monaco's main cultural institutions

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Monaco celebrates culture... the culture of excellence!

With world-class cultural institutions and an array of huge events throughout the year, some special one-offs and others regular fixtures on a packed calendar, there is always something to see and do in the Principality!

A natural setting that plays host to some of the finest cultural offerings there are to offer from January to December, the Principality is the perfect destination for extraordinary events, gatherings, and performances of all kinds, like nowhere else.

Starting with the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, which embarked on a new adventure on 1 January 2023 when world famous singer Cécilia Bartoli took over the reins from Jean-Louis Grinda. The 2023-2024 season will get open with Verdi's "Messa da requiem". The highlight of the season will see Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical The Phantom of the Opera make its Monegasque debut with a fortnight of special performances from 16 to 31 December 2023 at one of the Principality's most beautiful venues.

The Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra has also unveiled its calendar for 2023-2024 with a programme of concerts specially chosen to please loyal fans and attract new audiences. Founded in 1856, the Orchestra will dedicate five concerts in tribute to Rachmaninoff, and promises others grand symphonic concerts dedicated to essential composers including Mozart in January & February 2024. There is also plenty to enjoy for children and teenagers, and those less familiar with classical music, with cine-concerts, concerts for a young audience, and musical happy hours!

The Théâtre Princesse Grace will be making its own priceless contribution to the Principality's cultural year by staging 31 performances, including an eclectic mix of classic and popular, comedy and drama. Treading the boards will be a succession of leading actors, alongside young up-and-coming talents, with special shows designed to introduce the theatre to a new audience, including one based on the famous novel "1984", plus Paul Taylor and his bilingual stand-up show, and Maupassant's "The Horla".. A season full of surprises is in store.

"There is no age for philosophising". So says Charlotte Casiraghi, President and founder of the Rencontres philosophiques. This series of philosophy events returns in October with an eclectic selection of themes ranging from love to gender, dreams and, justice... all at a single venue. The workshops of the Rencontres Philosophiques are taking up a permanent home at the Théâtre Princesse Grace with the aim of attracting a loyal audience. These fascinating discussions and debates, which began seven years ago, have proved a popular addition to Monaco's rich cultural landscape!

# What are the main cultural activities and experiences offered by the hotels?

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The Principality's hotels vie with each other to demonstrate their imagination and creativity and offer unique cultural experiences and activities.

Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer offers a voyage through history... thanks to a timeless experience in the biggest wine cellars belonging to a hotel anywhere in the world. There, visitors can discover the incredible history of this unique location, created in 1874, which transports you through the centuries. The experience continues with a four-course dinner paired with wines.

For its part, Metropole Monte-Carlo offers a unique cultural adventure for young and old alike: the chance to spend at night at a museum. The intimate secrets of the Oceanographic Museum are brought to light by the simple magic of a flashlight in this exclusive tour of the Temple of the Sea.

The Belle Epoque establishment also offers guests the chance to step back in time, with a visit to Villa E-1027, the first building designed by celebrated architect Eileen Gray, and Le Corbusier's Cabanon de Vacances. The exclusive guided tour provides insights into the inspirations of two visionaries, and the indelible impression they made on the development of modern architecture.



# To what extent does the Principality of Monaco intend to promote its actions throughout the world?

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In December 2021, the Principality officially joined the international French-language television network, TV5 Monde. After France, Switzerland, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Canada and Quebec, Monaco is the sixth French-speaking region to join this network, which is broadcast in 211 states and picked up by nearly 400 million households. This partnership makes it possible to share numerous aspects of the country such as culture, sport and the environment... To help with this, the Principality has established a new national television channel: TVMonaco will officially go live on 1 September 2023, and will be available in France and around the world via satellite, with broadcasts in Asia and the United States.

## Which major twentieth-century cultural figures from the French-speaking world have close ties to the Principality?

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Famous explorer, filmmaker and inventor Jacques-Yves Cousteau led Monaco's Oceanographic Museum for 30 years, from 1957 to 1988. The former minesweeper began exploring the seas on board the Calypso and continued his work by making films and writing books. His film *The Silent World* was awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1956, and left an indelible mark on culture. Throughout his career, Commander Cousteau helped to raise public awareness about the beauty of the oceans, and the threats they faced.

Considered to be one of the great poets of the twentieth century, his work and the scope of his influence have continued to expand beyond the French-speaking world. Léo Ferré, a poet who was also a musician, composer and conductor, was born in the Principality in 1916, during the First World War. The son of a croupier at the Société des Bains de Mer, the man who sang *Avec le temps* gradually expanded his reputation beyond the country's borders thanks to the many artists who were keen to add one of Ferré's compositions to their repertoire – the list included the famous folk singer Joan Baez, who created a classic known across American college campuses. Today, music fans and the curious flock to the Espace Léo Ferré throughout the year and serve as important disseminators of culture by offering an eclectic range of events, particularly musical ones.

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