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TRAVEL

## The ultimate hotel guide to Saint-Tropez

High-end hideaways, chic townhouses and plush hotels hidden in the pines – it's all here in the Côte d'Azur's ritziest resort.

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With exquisite design, gourmet cuisine and jaw-dropping settings, Saint-Tropez's hotels are well worth the splurge.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AWL IMAGES

Saint-Tropez is known for being the showy playground of jet-setting fashionistas, but dig a little deeper and you'll discover plenty of Provençal character. From the Place des Lices, the central square where traders tout local produce, it's a short stroll up to the 17th-century Citadel. From here, gaze out over the terracotta roofs of pretty yellow townhouses and admire the coast as it curls around the Gulf of Saint-Tropez to nearby Sainte-Maxime. Indeed, the best beaches are a little further out of town, including Plage de Pampelonne where a bikini-clad Brigitte Bardot put Saint-Tropez on the map in the 1956 film *And God Created Woman*. When it comes to accommodation, the town's glamorous reputation inevitably pushes prices up, but with exquisite design, gourmet cuisine and jaw-dropping settings, they're well worth the splurge. More reasonable rates can be found if you hunt a little harder, though be prepared to forego the same level of luxury.

**For gastronomes: Cheval Blanc St-Tropez**

From the sun-infused vegetables to the morning-fresh fish, chef Arnaud Donckele is spoiled by the local larder for La Vague d'Or, his three-Michelin-starred restaurant that looks out over [Cheval Blanc St-Tropez's](#) cypress-shaded terrace. The acclaimed restaurant is the highlight of this hotel, but with a sublime Guerlain spa, an infinity pool and a private beach where therapists apply your sun cream with a facial massage, there are even more reasons to stay. With just 30 rooms, the interior design draws on cobalt-blue, white and neutral tones, while also celebrating the work of local ceramist Roger Capron, a contemporary of Cocteau and Picasso. The service, meanwhile, is impeccable.

**Rooms:** From €600 (£508), room only.

**For wellness warriors: Lily of the Valley**

Interior designer Philippe Starck has brought his signature eclectic style to the Cote d'Azur with this high-end hideaway, set above the beach at La Croix-Valmer, just over the peninsula from Saint-Tropez. With collections of bold modernist prints and an African vibe, the decor is striking, but the [Lily of the Valley's](#) real raison d'être is its wellbeing space, set in a 21,500sq ft space around and beneath one of its swimming pools. Whether it's fitness, detox, weight loss or simply some R&R, there's a programme and a team of trainers and therapists on hand to make it happen. Don't forget to call in at the restaurant and its terrace for views of the wooded coastline towards Cavalaire-sur-Mer.

**Rooms:** From €383 (£324), room only.

**For fitness fans: La Reserve Ramatuelle**

Set high above a hidden cove near the medieval village of Ramatuelle, six miles from Saint-Tropez, [La Reserve](#) makes an ideal bolthole for those who want to both switch off and tone up. As well as a state-of-the-art gym and indoor and outdoor pools, personal training sessions include such as activities as cardio, yoga, Pilates and aquabiking, while lovers of the great outdoors can get their hearts pumping with Nordic walking and jogging. Sustenance either comes from the two-Michelin-starred La Voile, or a more casual rooftop Japanese restaurant. The hotel's Philippe Starck-designed beach club on the Plage de Pampelonne is a must, too.

**Rooms:** From €850 (£785), room only.



Opened in June 2019, Lou Pinet has 34 rooms set in several mansions surrounding its outdoor pool, which is shaded by two elegant stone pines ('Lou Pinet' means 'pine' in Provençal).

PHOTOGRAPH BY LOU PINET

**For a secret escape: Lou Pinet**

Squirrelled away on the edge of town, [Lou Pinet](#) is the new kid on the luxury hotel block. Opened in June 2019, the hotel has 34 rooms set in several mansions surrounding its outdoor pool, which is shaded by two elegant stone pines ('Lou Pinet' means 'pine' in Provençal). Interiors celebrate the colour, vibrancy and creativity of the Cote d'Azur. There's a small spa, while the relaxing restaurant has a menu featuring premium meat and seafood.

**Rooms:** From €430 (£362), B&B.

**For shopaholics: White 1921**

With chic outlets galore, Saint-Tropez is shopping heaven, and the boutique [White 1921](#) is perfectly situated for it on the central square, Place des Lices. With the best shopping streets in town on your doorstep, it's easy to drop off your purchases before heading out to buy some more. With just eight rooms and suites designed, as the name suggests, in breezy white hues, there's also a sophisticated Champagne bar in which to wind down after a hard day of shopping.

**Rooms:** From €330 (£277) room-only.

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