

CURRENT POPULATION: 350,000
% POP GROWTH: 0.901 %
CITY AREA: 72 KM²

CITY DENSITY: 4,766 INH/KM²
GDP PER CAPITA: €24,100
DIALLING CODE: +33



HOTEL WINDSOR

NICE

RESTAURANTS

WITH FRIENDS LA VOGLIA

2 RUE SAINT FRANÇOIS DE PAULE
TEL. 04 93 80 99 16

A no-reservations policy keeps La Voglia buzzing outside. Then the action starts once inside the New York loft-style interior of this modern Italian restaurant: an overflowing antipasti selection and good service. Portions are huge: the *spaghetтата ai frutti di mare* is a seafood feast.

ENTERTAINING A CLIENT CAFE DE TURIN

5 PLACE GARIBALDI
TEL. 04 93 62 29 52

Your local contacts will know why you've booked this century-old *fruits des mer* temple. Options range from the unctuous to the crunchy, from Oléron oysters to Alaskan King Crab pincers and the Turin's own-bottled house white makes the perfect accompaniment.

CLOSING THE DEAL CHANTECLER

37 PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS
TEL. 04 93 16 64 00

An experimental air has been woven into the Hotel Negresco's restaurant courtesy of new chef Jean-Denis Rieubland though dinner and lunch is still a two-hour display of liveried staff and silver salvers. For daytime gastronomy-lite try the €45 (£40) Menu Plaisir. Michelin-starred cuisine doesn't come much better value than this.

BARS

STYLE LE BEFORE

18 RUE DE CONGRÉS
TEL. 04 93 87 85 59

With a nod to Nice's former overlords, Le Before is cloaked in Italian elegance. *Crudités* are dished out after work, chairs are both cool and comfy, and the action gets going around 7.30pm, making this a hot pre-dinner spot.

RELAX BAR L'F

6 RUE CHARLES FÉLIX
TEL. 04 93 85 74 10

Bar L'F nestles underneath Henri Matisse's old yellow stone house at the end of the main strip. The staff can mix a decent negroni and the kitchen is open from noon to midnight, perfect for those eating between functions. The terrace is a suntrap from mid-morning to early evening.

MUSIC SHAPKO BAR

5 RUE ROSSETTI
TEL. 09 54 94 68 31

Nightly jazz is performed under the auspices of highly acclaimed Dimitri Shapko, who honed his skills while listening to Voice of America radio in Soviet Russia. Barring boisterous Thursday nights, the crowd is unhurried, mixed and here for the tunes, with Shapko himself taking the stage most Friday and Saturday evenings.

HOTELS

VALUE NOVOTEL NICE CENTRE

10 PARVIS DE L'EUROPE
TEL. 04 93 13 30 93

Close to the Voie Rapide elevated motorway for hops to the airport and along the coast, the Acropolis convention centre next door, and a rooftop pool, the Novotel boasts business class rooms for €100 (£90) and under.

BUSINESS BEAU RIVAGE

24 RUE SAINT FRANÇOIS DE PAULE
TEL. 04 92 47 82 82
WWW.NICEBEAURIVAGE.COM

Once the residence of Matisse, the Beau Rivage is now the design-led home of hip holidaymakers and smart businesspeople alike. The ground floor features a cute little bar (the wallpaper is Nice beach), sunny breakfast room (a help-yourself blowout), superb concierge services and access to the hotel's private beach.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL WINDSOR

11 RUE DALPOZZO
TEL. 04 93 88 59 35

With a hotel parrot by the tree-dappled swimming pool in the tropical garden, this hotel is a quirky designer heaven. It's best to pick one of the more low-key guestrooms (the far out can feature gold walls and straw-strewn floors). Meet in the chic bar if you don't fancy holding your meeting while reclining on an Ottoman.

KNOWLEDGE

The Musée Massena (www.nicetourism.com) is celebrating its first anniversary since reopening after extensive renovations. On show is the chequered history of Nice demonstrated by fine art, photography and roaring 1920s *objets d'art*. Weekday mornings are the best time to visit, when spring sunlight streams into the gardens of this former royal palace.

Barring Mondays, the morning Marché de la Libération is a locals-only affair, with colours, drama and prices unseen at its touristy sister market on the Cours Saleya. Vendors are happy to see the odd foreigner queuing up for Niçois olives, strawberries and hunks of brie for the plane trip home.

Just 90 minutes from Nice, the snowy slopes of Isola 2000 (www.isola2000.com) beckon until late April. Hiring skiing and snowboarding equipment is cheap and easy, and even non-skiers can still enjoy watching the European Cup Final from 27-28 March.

SECRET

The artsy zone around rue Delfy (just north of the MAMAC Modern Art gallery) is seldom visited yet it's enchanting. It's also the place to look for highbrow souvenirs from vintage cartography and first edition books (try Librairie Rabelais) to period and post-war antiques (check out Line Lischa).