

# 21. WHERE TO GET A CLASSIC TASTE OF NICE

## LOCAL DISH

Fresh bread slathered with Ô Jardin Sucré apricot and almond jam for breakfast at La Femme du Boulanger is, ahem, 'pain-tastic'.



Retro glamour is bang on-trend for summer, so channel - or Chanel, even - the Fitzgeralds with a stroll through the city's somewhat ironically named New Town



### > SUMMER ON THE RIVIERA

has been a classic holiday choice since the days of The Grand Tour. Yet tourists tend to

flock to the labyrinth of Old Nice, shunning the symmetrical streets of New Town, near the iconic Negresco Hotel. Too bad. With a little inquisitiveness, you'll discover shops and restaurants here that pay homage to an era when sophistication was more Kelly than Kardashian.



### ▲ HÔTEL LE NEGRESCO 37 Promenade des Anglais

Sinatra, Hemingway, Piaf... They've all checked into this seaside landmark, which opened its doors in 1913. Its 6,000 artworks make it as much museum as place to stay. Pop in for a drink at its decadent Belle Époque bar, Le Relais, or its Royal Lounge.  
[hotel-negresco-nice.com](http://hotel-negresco-nice.com)

### ▲ LA FEMME DU BOULANGER 3 Rue du Commandant Raffalli

There are *petit déjeuner* scribbles on café chalkboards across the city, but the best breakfast is found here at 'The Baker's Wife'. Owners Bernard and Fanfan serve incredible breads, Alain Milliat vineyard juices and café crèmes. Yum.  
[tinyurl.com/ovf79yn](http://tinyurl.com/ovf79yn)

WORDS NANCY HESLIN PHOTOS TIM E WHITE



## WHO'S BEHIND THE COUNTER?

### MADEMOISELLE

41 Rue de France

Spoiler alert: leave it to the French to make second-hand clothing shops to die for. But this *dépôt-vente de luxe* isn't trying to pawn off last season's castaways. Owner Sephora Louis has a great eye for original designs from France's luxury fashion houses. "Chanel understood women better than the men behind Hermès or Vuitton," says the style enthusiast. In tribute to her icon, the charming Sephora has an extensive collection of vintage Chanel jackets, bags, shoes and jewellery for sale, along with other designer clothing, sunglasses and vintage Vuitton trunks for stylish souvenir hunters.

[mademoiselle-nice.fr](http://mademoiselle-nice.fr)

### ABSALON

8 Rue Meyerbeer

Annick Laborde claims to have sculpted more than 50,000 beards during her 25 years working as one of France's rare professionally trained barbers. Even if that's an exaggeration, one fact is certain, she is *la pionnière* – the go-to person – for all things whiskered. Sink into an authentic barber chair for a 30-minute wet shave (€25) and you'll see just how Annick is reviving this dying art in the area.

+33 (0)4 9388 5305



### THE SHELFIE

Absalon's array of grooming products can make great gifts or souvenirs for the discerning gentleman

Try a spritz of eau de toilette, such as Crabtree & Evelyn's lemony scent: Nomad, €36

Edwin Jagger brushes (€90) are all the rage, while leather *pochettes* (razor cases) can be snapped up for €24

THE  
MANUAL

**DON'T MISS...**

The courtyard garden at the Hôtel Windsor is a tropical oasis in a city where many café terraces are swamped by pedestrian traffic. A secluded spot for an impromptu gathering of the minds over cocktails or dinner. [hotelwindsornice.com](http://hotelwindsornice.com)



**PÂTISSERIE CANET**

**25 Boulevard Gambetta**

Third-generation pâtissier Christophe Canet prepares his masterpieces on site, offering desserts so exquisite, macarons so light and chocolates so pure we reckon (hyperbole alert!) it's worth coming to Nice for a mouthful. [patisseriecanet.com](http://patisseriecanet.com)



**TREAT YOURSELF**

It's hard to choose from Canet's 30 scrumptious *mignardises* (mini desserts), so be warned: you may come away with one of each.



**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE**

**RUBY SOAMES**

Writer and lecturer

"After five years here, I'm still mesmerised by the palm-tree lined seafront and I can't think of anywhere else you could shop in funky boutiques, have a seafood lunch, bathe in the sea and be skiing that afternoon. I haven't done all that, but it's nice to know I could!"

**MARIE-CHRISTINE SPRIGNOLI**

48 Rue de France

While most antique hunters head to La Promenade des 100 Antiquaires around the port, fourth-generation antique dealer Marie-Christine's shop has an equally eclectic and authentic collection that's ripe for a good rummage. [antiquites-sprignoli-mariechristine.com](http://antiquites-sprignoli-mariechristine.com)



## INSIDE OUT

Don't be intimidated – everyone is welcome to come in and browse...

The shop specialises in precious stones, Russian paintings, gilded mirrors and *poupées* (dolls)

There are lots of cheaper curiosities and bric-a-brac alongside the €7,500 antique crystal bracelets

Be sure to check out the 19th-century furniture – even if it won't fit in your suitcase



## LE CANON

23 Rue Meyerbeer

Named after the midday cannon that sounds across Nice, this hip bistro is open on weekdays only. Dishes change twice daily and owner Sébastien Perinetti can poetically recount the pedigree of each local ingredient on the menu board, almost to the exact minute it was picked.

+33 (0)4 9379 0924

## RENT A CLASSIC CAR

Promenade des Anglais

Supplying Brangelina with a 1967 Citroën DC Cabriolet Chapron is just one claim to fame of CEO Fabrice Le Roy, who has southern Europe's largest private collection of classic cars. Rent one – this 1971 Jaguar E-Type, perhaps? – for a classic Riviera road trip.

[rentaclassiccar.com](http://rentaclassiccar.com)

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