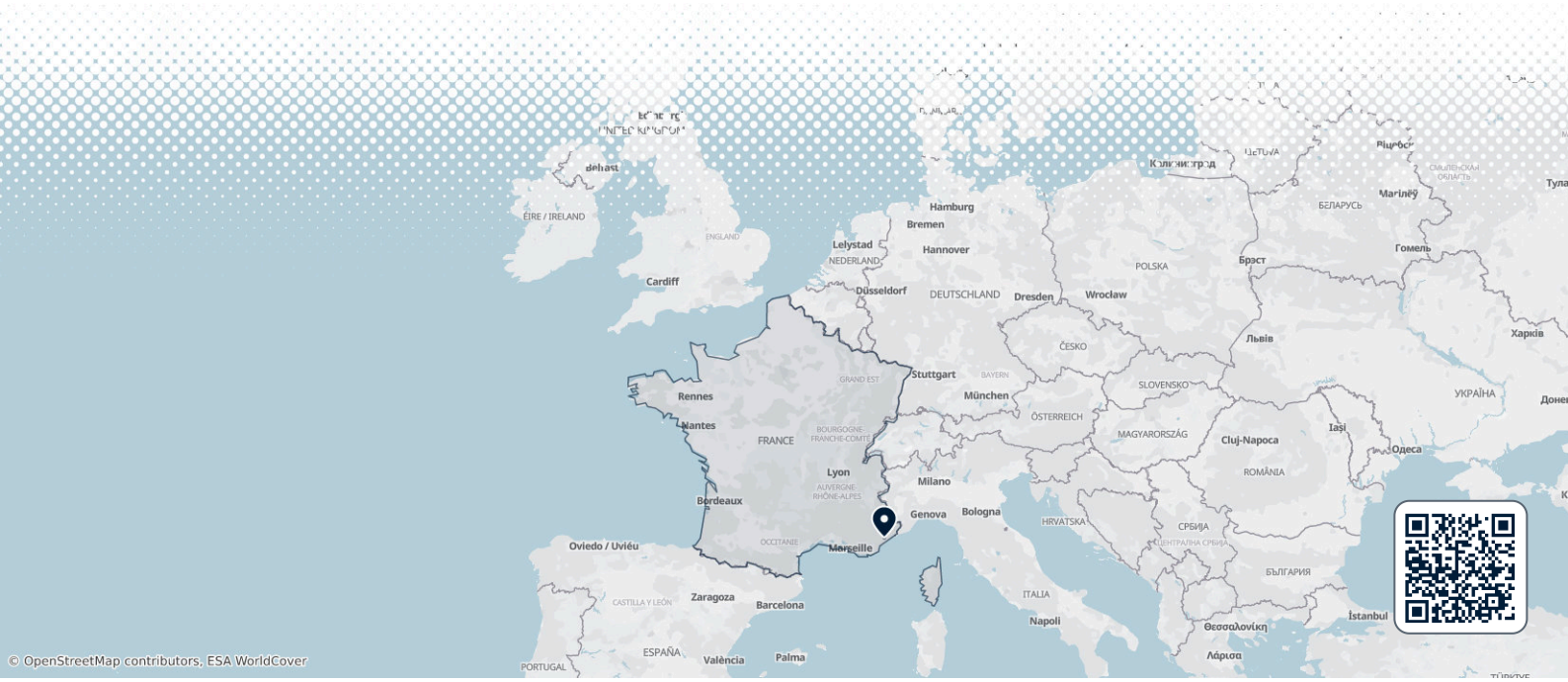


Grasse

French Riviera · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Grasse is a hill town about 20 km inland from the French Riviera coast. It is the centre of the French perfume industry. Flowers grown on the nearby slopes, especially jasmine and rose, supply the perfume houses, and the know-how of the region is on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage.

The old town has steep lanes, tall ochre houses and small squares. It suits a visit of one or two days for travellers who like museums, workshops and quiet streets. Most people stay on the coast and come here by train or car, but Grasse is also a calm base for the hill villages behind Cannes.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. Days are warm and the old town is comfortable to walk. Summer is hot and dry, though the town sits higher than the coast and nights are cooler. Autumn is the wettest season, and winter is mild but quiet.

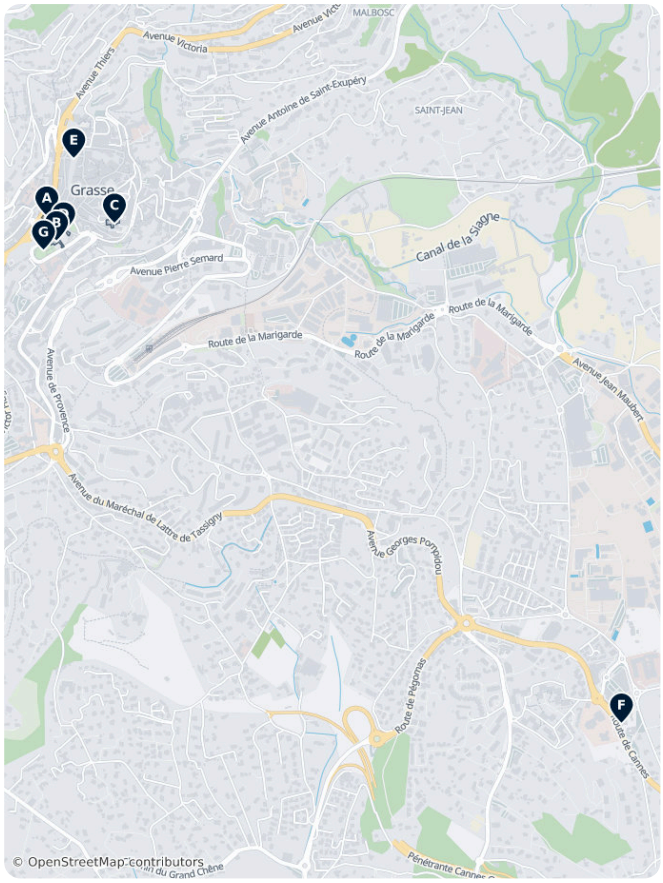
The main events are about flowers. The rose is celebrated at the Expo Rose in May. The Fête du Jasmin takes place in early August, with decorated floats, fireworks and street performers. Plan ahead for both, as hotels fill quickly.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	11° / 14° Feels like 6°	5° / 2°	Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	11° / 16° Feels like 7°	5° / 1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	14° / 18° Feels like 9°	7° / 3°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20° Feels like 13°	10° / 6°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	13° / 9°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 30°	18° / 14°	Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 32°	20° / 16°	25 sunny days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 32°	21° / 17°	23 sunny days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28°	17° / 13°	
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	14° / 9°	Dry air
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 19° Feels like 11°	9° / 4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 15° Feels like 7°	6° / 2°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Musée International de la Parfumerie tells the story of perfume. It has a garden, a greenhouse where you can smell plants and exhibits from ancient Egypt to today.
- B Parfumerie Fragonard is Fragonard's historic factory in the old town. Guided tours explain how perfume is made, and the tour is free.
- C Cathédrale Notre-Dame-du-Puy is the former cathedral of Grasse. This medieval church holds paintings by *Rubens* and *Jean-Honoré Fragonard*.
- D Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Provence de Grasse is a museum about the art, history and traditions of Provence.
- E Fontaine de la Place aux Aires is a fountain on the main old-town square, Place aux Aires. The square is surrounded by old houses, cafés and shops.
- F Parfumerie Galimard is one of the oldest perfume houses in Grasse. It is outside the centre and offers factory visits and perfume workshops.
- G Jardin des Plantes is a small garden at the edge of the old town. It is a quiet place for a short rest between museums.

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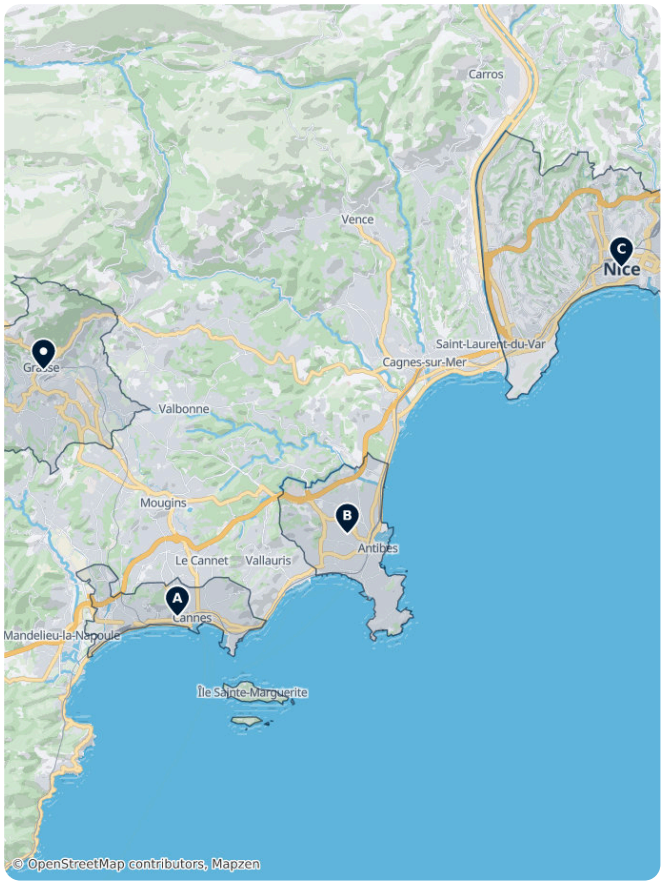
What to experience

Grasse offers hands-on activities, especially perfume workshops.

- **Make your own perfume**: Several perfume houses run short workshops. You smell raw materials, choose your own blend and take a bottle home. Book ahead in high season. Molinard Fragrances is one house that offers this.
- **Rose season in May**: Roses are picked in the fields around Grasse in spring. The Expo Rose fills the town with flower displays and events.
- **Fête du Jasmin in early August**: This is a street festival with decorated floats, fireworks and performers. It is one of the town's biggest events.
- **Evening on Place aux Aires**: In summer, tables fill the old-town square and life moves outside after the heat of the day.

Day trips

Grasse is close to many Riviera towns and hill villages.



- Mouans-Sartoux: about 10 minutes by car. It has a small château with a contemporary art centre, the Espace de l'Art Concret.
- Gourdon: about 25 minutes by car. This is a hill village on a rocky ridge above the Gorges du Loup, with long views to the sea. Public transport is limited.
- A Cannes: about 30 minutes by train. It has a seafront, a hilltop old quarter and beaches.
- Mougins: about 20 minutes by car. It is a pretty hill village known for its restaurants and art galleries.
- B Antibes: about 45 minutes by train via Cannes. It has a walled old town, a harbour and a Picasso museum.
- Saint-Paul-de-Vence: about 40 minutes by car. This is a walled hill village with art galleries and views.
- C Nice: about 1 hour by train. It is the largest city on the coast, with a long promenade and a lively old town.

Where to explore

Grasse is part of the French Riviera. Nearby towns and villages are easy to reach.

- Coast and nearby towns: Cannes, Antibes and Nice.
- Hill villages and art: Saint-Paul-de-Vence.
- Farther along the coast: Menton to the east and Saint-Tropez to the west.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Nice Côte d'Azur Airport. Travellers usually continue by train or bus via the coast, or by taxi or rental car.
- **By train**: Grasse station has regional trains to Cannes, which take about 30 minutes. Trains also link Grasse with Nice and Ventimiglia in Italy. The station is below the old town, so expect a steep walk or a short bus or taxi ride. Book through SNCF Connect.
- **By bus**: Regional buses connect Grasse with Cannes and other towns on the coast. Check times and stops with Pays de Grasse Tourisme.

Getting around

- **On foot**: Most museums and the main perfume house are within a short walk of each other.
- **Public transport**: The Sillages bus network serves Grasse and nearby villages. Ask at the tourist office for lines and tickets: Pays de Grasse Tourisme.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are useful for the station, outlying perfume houses and late evenings.
- **Cycling**: Cycling is hard because of the hills and heavy road traffic. It suits only experienced riders.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is compact but steep, with stairs and narrow lanes.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Cycling is hard because of the hills and heavy road traffic.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town alone, which is best on foot. A car helps for outlying perfume houses, flower fields and hill villages such as Gourdon, where buses are limited.
- **Parking**: Use the paid car parks at the edge of the old town and walk in. Streets in the centre are narrow, steep and often one-way.
- **Restrictions**: Parts of the old town are pedestrian zones. Follow the signs and avoid driving into the historic centre.

Food & drink

The cooking is Provençal and close to the Nice area. Look for socca (a chickpea pancake), pissaladière (onion tart) and stuffed vegetables. Flower flavours such as rose, violet and orange blossom appear in sweets, ice cream and drinks.

For a meal, walk the lanes around Place aux Aires and the streets near the old town hall, where small restaurants and cafés cluster. A Saturday-morning market on Place aux Aires is a good place for local produce. Outside the centre, the hill villages nearby have good restaurants with views.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Croissant
Buttery, flaky laminated pastry and a classic French breakfast staple.

LUNCH

Ratatouille
A Provençal stewed vegetable dish of eggplant, zucchini, peppers, and tomatoes.

DINNER

Coq au Vin
Chicken braised slowly in red wine with mushrooms, onions, and lardons.

Beef Bourguignon · Bœuf Bourguignon
Beef stewed in red Burgundy wine with carrots, onions, and mushrooms.

Escargot · Escargots de Bourgogne
Snails cooked in garlic and parsley butter, a classic starter.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Baguette
Long, crusty white bread loaf bought fresh daily from the local boulangerie.

Cheese · Fromage
France produces hundreds of cheese varieties, often served as a course before dessert.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Crepes · Crêpes
Thin pancakes served sweet with sugar or jam, or savory as galettes.

Macarons
Delicate almond meringue sandwich cookies in a range of flavors and colors.

DRINKS

Wine · Vin
France's wine regions, including Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne, are among the world's most renowned.

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Safety & health

Grasse is a safe town for visitors. Petty theft such as pickpocketing can happen in crowded places and on trains and buses. Keep bags closed in busy streets and at festivals.

The old town is steep, with uneven stone steps. Wear good shoes, and take your time in the heat of summer. In dry summers, hill paths around the town may be closed because of fire risk. Follow local signs.

History

Grasse first grew rich from leather. Tanners worked along a small canal in the old town and exported hides to Italian cities. The leather smelled unpleasant, so makers began to scent gloves. This led to the trade of glover-perfumers, and the king recognised their guild in 1614.

Over time, perfume became more important than leather. Flowers such as jasmine and rose were grown on the slopes, and perfume houses opened in town. One of the oldest, Parfumerie Galimard, dates from the 18th century. Today about 60 perfume companies work in the area, and the skills of the Pays de Grasse were added to the UNESCO list of intangible heritage in 2018.

The town was also the seat of a bishop until the diocese ended in 1801. Cathédrale Notre-Dame-du-Puy recalls that period. The painter *Jean-Honoré Fragonard* was born in Grasse in 1732, and his name is now used by a perfume house and a museum.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



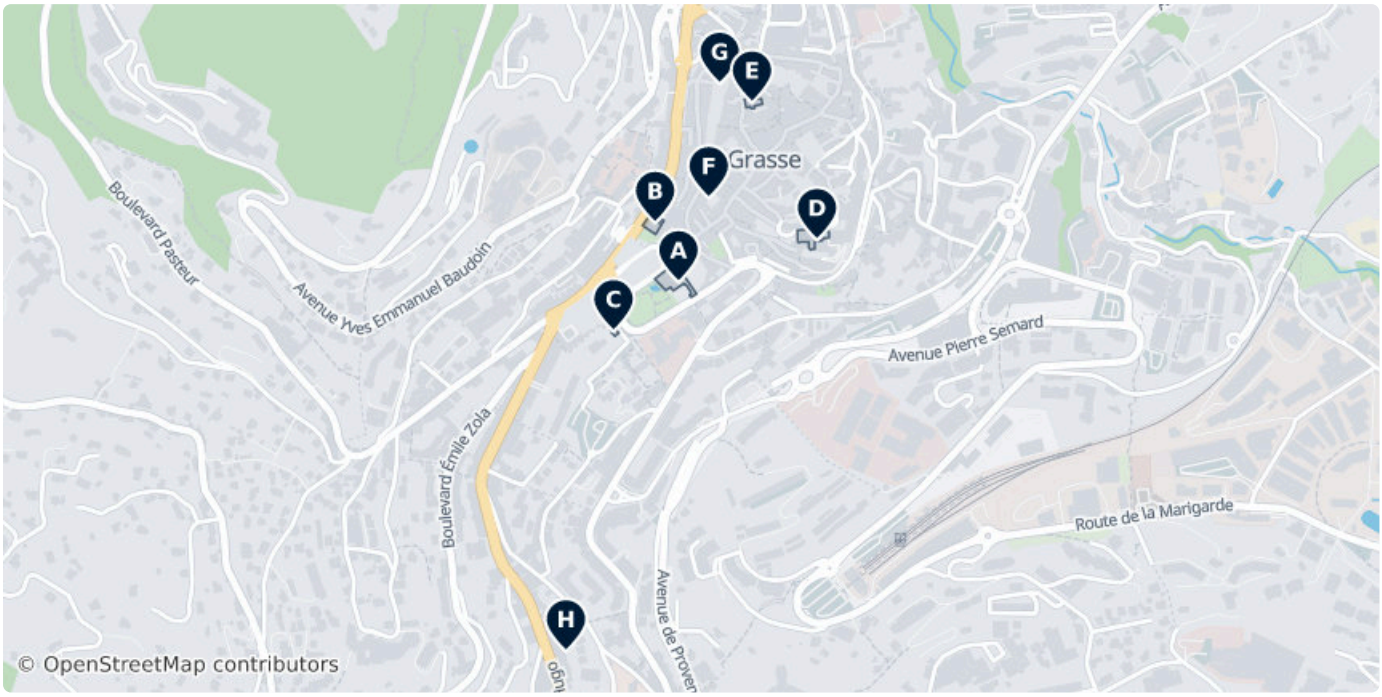
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LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Grasse: The Perfume Capital's Essentials

Grasse's legacy as the global perfume capital is showcased through historic houses like Fragonard and Molinard, where traditional distillation techniques are still practiced. The town's heritage extends to the 12th-century Notre-Dame-du-Puy Cathedral, which houses rare Rubens paintings, and the Villa-Musée Fragonard, dedicated to the Rococo master. Central landmarks like the Place aux Aires and its tiered fountain reflect the Provençal charm of this historic hilltop locality.





A Fragonard Perfume Factory

A historic 19th-century factory offering guided tours of traditional perfume distillation and bottling processes.

20 Boulevard Fragonard, 06130 Grasse, France (43.65728, 6.92233)

fragonard.com/parfums_grasse/GB/fra..., +33 4 93 36 44 65



B International Perfume Museum

Grasse is the place where the perfume industry originated. Learn about the intriguing history of fragrances here!

Boulevard du Jeu de Ballon 2 (43.65807, 6.92190)

Sep-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–19:00

museesdegrasse.com, +33 4 97 05 58 00

C Villa-Musée Jean-Honoré Fragonard

17th-century villa housing works by Rococo painter Jean-Honoré Fragonard, featuring period furniture and decorative murals.

23 Boulevard Fragonard, Grasse 06130, France (43.65663, 6.92114)

Tu Closed

museesdegrasse.com, +33 4 97 05 50 49



D Grasse Cathedral

12th-century Romanesque cathedral containing three Rubens paintings and Jean-Honoré Fragonard's only religious work.

06130 Grasse (43.65784, 6.92488)



E Oratoire du Louvre

The Église réformée de l'Oratoire du Louvre, is an historic Protestant church located at 145 rue Saint-Honoré – 160 rue de Rivoli in the...

22 Rue de l'Oratoire, Grasse 06130, France (43.65967, 6.92369)



F Hôtel Court de Fontmichel

18th-century private mansion designated as a historical monument, showcasing traditional Provençal aristocratic architecture.

Rue des Soeurs, 06130 Grasse, France (43.65840, 6.92289)

G Fontaine de la Place aux Aires

Tiered fountain located in a central square known for its daily flower and herb markets and surrounding arcades.

(43.65992, 6.92309)

H Molinard Fragrances

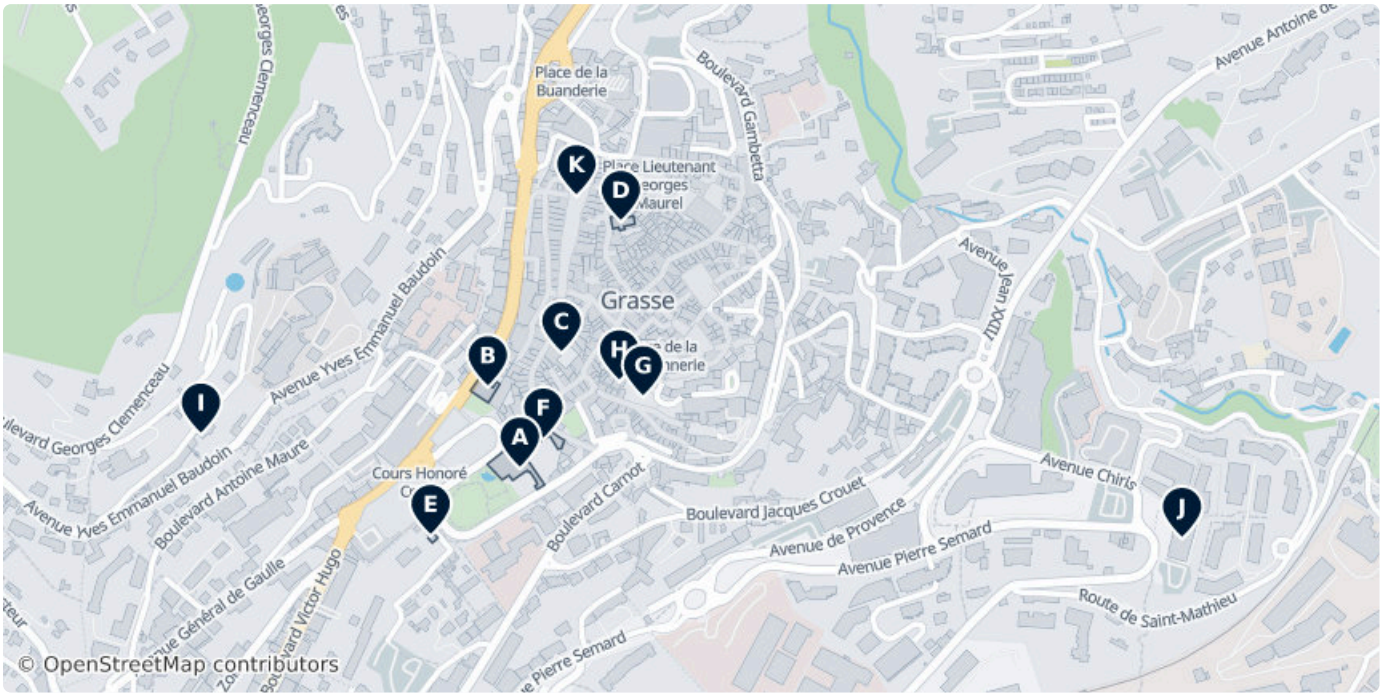
Established in 1849, this family-run perfumery offers workshops and tours of its 19th-century distillery and copper stills.

Boulevard Victor Hugo 60 (43.65237, 6.92026)

molinard.com/fr/magasins

Grasse Perfume Heritage

Grasse serves as the world's perfume capital, housing an array of historical sites and museums dedicated to the art of scent. This collection features the International Perfume Museum and the Fragonard factory, where visitors can learn about traditional distillation methods. Beyond perfumery, the list includes architectural landmarks like the 18th-century Hôtel Court de Fontmichel, the Villa-Musée Jean-Honoré Fragonard showcasing Rococo art, and the historic fountains of Place aux Aires, reflecting the town's Provencal heritage.





A Fragonard Perfume Factory

Historic factory showcasing the manufacturing process of perfume and soap. It includes a museum collection covering 3,000 years of fragrance history.

20 Boulevard Fragonard, 06130 Grasse, France (43.65728, 6.92233)

fragonard.com/parfums_grasse/GB/fra..., +33 4 93 36 44 65



B International Perfume Museum

Grasse is the place where the perfume industry originated. Learn about the intriguing history of fragrances here!

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Sep-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–19:00

museesdegrasse.com, +33 4 97 05 58 00



C Hôtel Court de Fontmichel

An 18th-century private mansion and historic monument recognized for its architectural significance in the mid-1960s.

Rue des Soeurs, 06130 Grasse, France (43.65840, 6.92289)



D Oratoire du Louvre

The Église réformée de l'Oratoire du Louvre, is an historic Protestant church located at 145 rue Saint-Honoré – 160 rue de Rivoli in the...

22 Rue de l'Oratoire, Grasse 06130, France (43.65967, 6.92369)

E Villa-Musée Jean-Honoré Fragonard

A 17th-century villa housing works by the famous Rococo painter Jean-Honoré Fragonard, including replicas of his panels painted for Madame du Barry.

23 Boulevard Fragonard, Grasse 06130, France (43.65663, 6.92114)

Tu Closed

museesdegrasse.com, +33 4 97 05 50 49

F Museum of Art and History of Provence

Discover what the life was like in Provence in the past! You can see the amazing collection of both everyday items and artworks.

2 Rue Mirabeau, 06130 Grasse, France (43.65756, 6.92265)

museesdegrasse.com, +33 4 93 36 80 20

G Monument aux Morts

A commemorative war memorial honoring the citizens of Grasse who died during the World Wars.

(43.65797, 6.92399)

H Hôtel Fanton d'Andon

An 18th-century private mansion and listed historical monument characteristic of the town's noble architecture.

(43.65813, 6.92367)

I Villa Santa Clara

A historic villa and heritage site located on the hills of Grasse.

(43.65761, 6.91806)

J Communauté d'agglomération Pays de Grasse

Administrative headquarters housed in a historic building representing the regional heritage of the Pays de Grasse.

(43.65660, 6.93121)

Fontaine de la Place aux Aires

A multi-tiered fountain located in the historic Place aux Aires, formerly the center of the town's tanning and perfume industries.

(43.65992, 6.92309)

DATA SOURCES

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