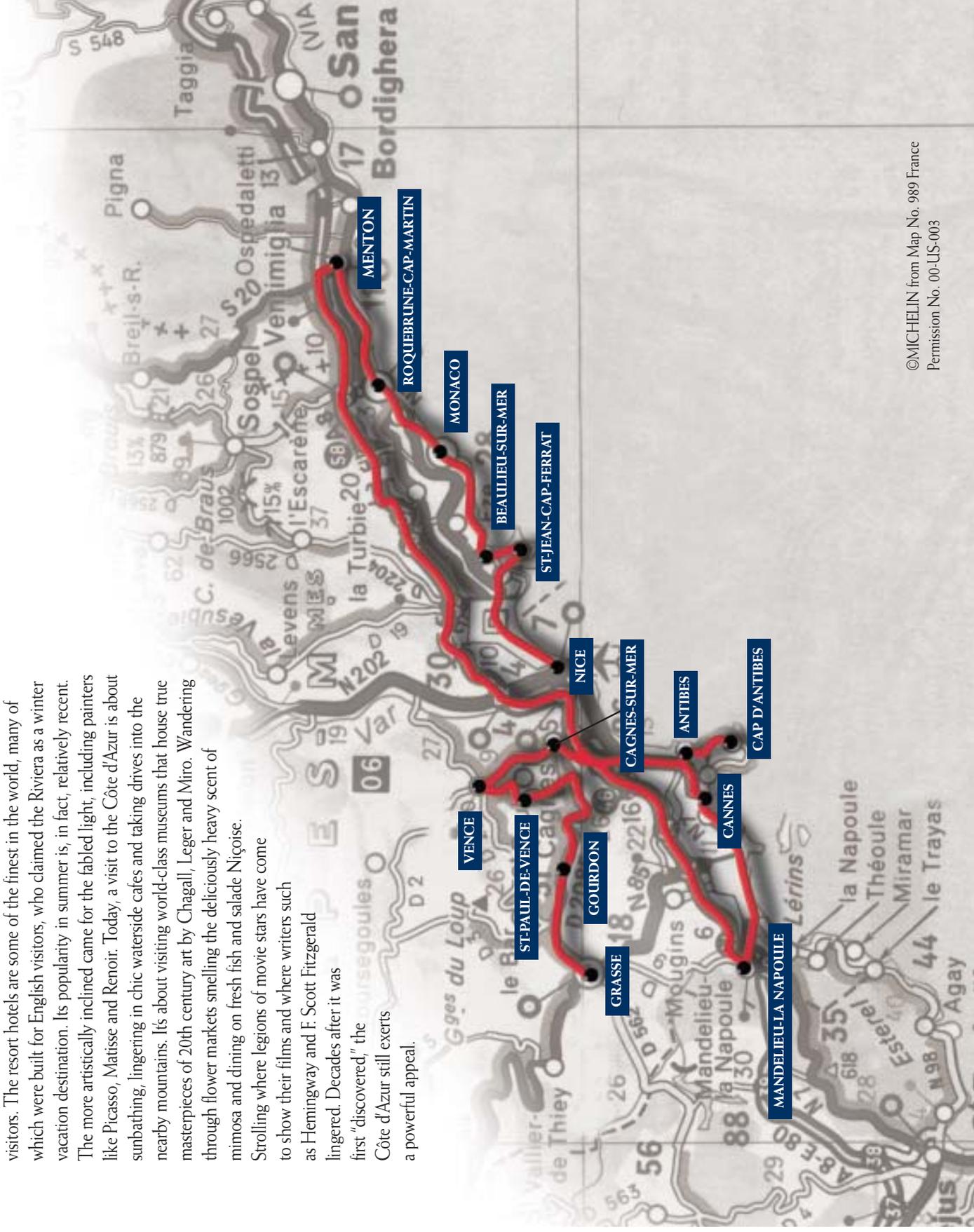


CÔTE D'AZUR

THE CÔTE D'AZUR IS THE NAME for the most magical stretch of French coastline along the Mediterranean. Its perfectly proportioned towns, with their rows of palm trees and blue water views, have long attracted visitors. The resort hotels are some of the finest in the world, many of which were built for English visitors, who claimed the Riviera as a winter vacation destination. Its popularity in summer is, in fact, relatively recent. The more artistically inclined came for the fabled light, including painters like Picasso, Matisse and Renoir. Today, a visit to the Côte d'Azur is about sunbathing, lingering in chic waterside cafes and taking drives into the nearby mountains. It's about visiting world-class museums that house true masterpieces of 20th century art by Chagall, Leger and Miro. Wandering through flower markets smelling the deliciously heavy scent of mimosa and dining on fresh fish and salade Niçoise. Strolling where legions of movie stars have come to show their films and where writers such as Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald lingered. Decades after it was first "discovered," the Côte d'Azur still exerts a powerful appeal.



C Ô T E D ' A Z U R

(*Mileage is estimated from each preceding city or site. Before you begin your trip, please note: For space reasons, we could not provide the most detailed map with this brochure.*)

No. 245 Provence / Côte d'Azur
in conjunction with this guide.) To order Michelin maps call: 1-800-223-0987

NICE AIRPORT

The fastest way to access the Riviera is to come here on a direct flight from the U.S. From Nice, the center of the Riviera, you can head off in whatever direction you choose.

NICE Nice is the hub of the Côte d'Azur, both a summer and winter resort, that's bathed in the gorgeous light of the

Mediterranean. Start your exploration with a walk along the splendid Promenade des Anglais, the main boulevard which overlooks the Baie des Anges, passing by such classic Belle Époque hotels as the Hotel Negresco. Then dip into the back streets of the old town, to Cours Saleya, with its lively flower and vegetable market. Check out the shops selling fragrant olive oils and pastries, and pause at the cafes that spill out onto the pavement. There is much to do in Nice, including a visit to Cimiez, the grand residential neighborhood. It's here you'll find the Musée Marc-Chagall, which houses a permanent collection of the artist's most significant work. The Musée Matisse is also

worth-while, an opportunity to see the painter's works in the landscape in which it was painted. For those who can make it here in February, the Nice Carnival is fantastically colorful and delightfully old-fashioned. That's especially true of the "batailles des fleurs," a brilliant procession of floral floats.

8 Miles

EAST OF NICE

ST-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT The Villa Ile de France, located in this quiet resort town, was built at the turn of the century by the Baroness Euphuss de Rothschild to house her art and furniture collection. Bequeathed to the Institut de France in 1934, it's a dazzling trip into the life of a collector and a grand tour of the 18th century. That particular century was the Baroness' favorite period, and it accounts for a collection of furniture that once belonged to Marie Antoinette, as well as paintings and tapestries. The 17 acres of gardens surrounding the villa include Japanese, Spanish and Florentine gardens, as well as a Temple of Love modeled on the original at Versailles.

0.5 Miles

BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

Stylish, peaceful and quiet, Beaulieu is a relaxing place to stay or simply to spend a few hours.

There are two especially lovely walks, one up to the views from the Sentier du Plateau St-Michel, the other along the Promenade Maurice-Rouvier, with magnificent villas on one side, and the glorious sea and coast views along the other. The Villa Kerylos is a delightful oddity, a reconstruction of a Greek villa by the archeologist Theodore Remach that is open to visitors.

6 Miles

MONACO Very chic yet decidedly old-fashioned as well, the Principality of Monaco and the Grimaldi family have earned a special place in the eyes of the world. Prince Rainier still holds sway in this fairytale kingdom, with its incredibly beautiful harbor, its discrete hotels and multi-million dollar condos overlooking the sea. Both Monaco, the old town, and Monte Carlo, the new town, are worth exploring. In the latter, it's the famed Casino that must be seen, preferably at night. The oldest part, dating from 1878, was built by Charles Garnier, whose best-known work was as the designer of the Paris Opera House. The Casino is a grand space

42 Miles

WEST OF NICE

MANDELIEU-LA NAPOULE It's the smell of mimosas that are most distinctive about this small coastal town. It's most prevalent in February, during the mimosa festival, which is an excuse to dress up floats and stage a charming small-town parade in honor of the distinctive yellow flower. But anytime you find yourself here, the decidedly eccentric mansion overlooking the water that Henry and Marie Clews lived in is worth a visit. This whimsical structure, known as the Château de La Napoule, was a run-down château that was transformed by the pair in 1918, a classic example of what money and creativity could do on this precious coast.

5 Miles

CANNES Cannes is forever identified with the most famous film festival in the world, which is held every May. But the cinematic glamour manages to stay around town year-round. You can feel it by walking on the Boulevard de la Croisette, a palm tree-lined promenade that overlooks Cannes' famous beach and La Napoule Bay. Then continue on to Pointe de la Croisette for the most splendid views. For more workaday Cannes, visit the morning flower market at Allées de la Liberté to see the colors of the Riviera at their best. And then wander through Le Suquet, which is what the old town of Cannes is called. For those who don't have a friend with a yacht in the harbor, the next best thing is a boat trip out to the Isle de Lérins, especially Ile Ste-Marguerite, where "The Man in the Iron Mask" was held prisoner. The panoramic views of the Côte d'Azur are worth making the trip for. And then return for an apéritif at sunset at one of the seaside hotels.

0.6 Miles

ANTIBES Flowers grow so well in Antibes that commercial growers have long found the combination of light and heat to be just about perfect. You'll see greenhouses galore, but two other hothouse species have been cultivated in this precious town: artists and writers. The late British novelist Graham Greene lived here for years, as did the painter Nicolas de Staël. It was a young

and a grand spectacle in the evening, suggesting all of the glamour one associates with the name "Monte Carlo." In Monaco, explore the old town by daylight and go to the area known as the Rock, where you can visit the Musée Oceanographique. The aquarium, the zoology hall and artifacts of years of sea-born exploration are well-presented. For royalty lovers, the changing of the guard occurs daily outside of the Palais du Prince, a spectacle worthy of the comic-opera stage.

6 Miles

ROQUEBRUNE-CAP-MARTIN

The old hill town of Roquebrune is still a place of tradition, no matter that new shops and galleries join the older shops along its pretty historical streets. It can be a steep climb but the walking is rewarding. Go along Rue Moncollet, with its medieval houses, and be sure to visit Donjon, which lays claim to being the oldest feudal castle in France. The views from the top are delightful indeed. In Cap Martin, there's a famous coastal path that takes in the sea, local villas and what remains of a wilder Mediterranean coast.

2 Miles

MENTON Menton's claim to be the warmest resort on the Riviera is underlined by the fact that its famous lemons grow even in winter. The terraced slopes with carefully tended trees that produce those marvelous lemons provide a dramatic backdrop for the coastal town. Even if you're unable to make the annual February lemon festival, with giant floats festooned with the ripe yellow spheres, Menton is a delightful place to stroll, especially along the waterfront Promenade du Soleil. Not to be missed is the Musée Jean Cocteau, housed in a 17th century building. The artist and writer worked there starting in 1957. Stop in at the Hôtel de Ville, the town hall, where Cocteau decorated the marriage hall.

