

TOWN&COUNTRY

The 8 Most Underrated Destinations in France

Because there's more to the country than just Paris.

by SARAH FIRSHEIN JUL 5, 2017

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EZE

Eze, about 30 minutes north of Nice on the Cote d'Azur, has charmed everyone from the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who once lived here, to filmmaker [Alfred Hitchcock](#), who used the location for a scene in 1955's "To Catch a Thief." Spend even two days in this village, which was founded in 400 B.C., and it's easy to see what the fuss was about, from the cobblestoned streets lined with Medieval houses to a manicured garden of succulents that's perched some 1,400 feet above sea level.

But the crown jewel of Eze is the [Chateau de la Chevre d'Or](#), a Relais & Chateaux property that feels as if it's been carved into the mountain. Marked on the exterior by cascading terraces, gardens, and greenery, the boutique hotel has 40 rooms and suites, some with private hot tubs—and one with a white Yamaha piano that matches the creams and neutrals of the decor.

Nurse a Campari on the rocks while gazing out over the Mediterranean—when the weather is clear, you can see cruise ships and yachts dawdling near Cap Ferrat and points south—then retire for dinner at the hotel's eponymous two-Michelin star restaurant. Executive chef Arnauld Faye puts thoughtful, at times avant-garde, twists on traditional Nicois dishes, and offers up a lemon dessert so mind-numbingly good that it's earned a cult following among globetrotting gastronomes.