

THE VILLAGE

MOUSTIERS



Sainte-Marie



2023

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1981, Moustiers-Sainte-Marie is listed among the **Most Beautiful Villages of France**. Its lively architectural ensemble is created by a combination of water and stones, church, ramparts, chapels, aqueduct, fountains, the pastel tones of tiles and limestone. The gentle way of life that emanates from it naturally encourages respect and appreciation of this place, to discover and protect it. The work of the earth, perpetuated for centuries, is the link between the history and the future of the village. Today, Moustiers has about 700 inhabitants.

Moustiers-Sainte-Marie is part of the **Verdon Regional Natural Park**, which straddles the two departments of the Var and the Alpes de Haute Provence. The park extends over 46 municipalities and includes seven major landscapes. This diversity of ecosystems gives the park a rich and varied natural heritage: vultures, bats, chamois, roe deer and endemic flora. The head office of the Verdon Regional Natural Park is located in the commune of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie.

Moustiers-Sainte-Marie is also located on the territory of the **UNESCO Geopark of Haute-Provence**. This natural reserve, classified by Unesco, extends over 60 municipalities in the Alpes de Haute-Provence department. Numerous natural and geological sites allow you to discover the last 300 million years of Earth's history.

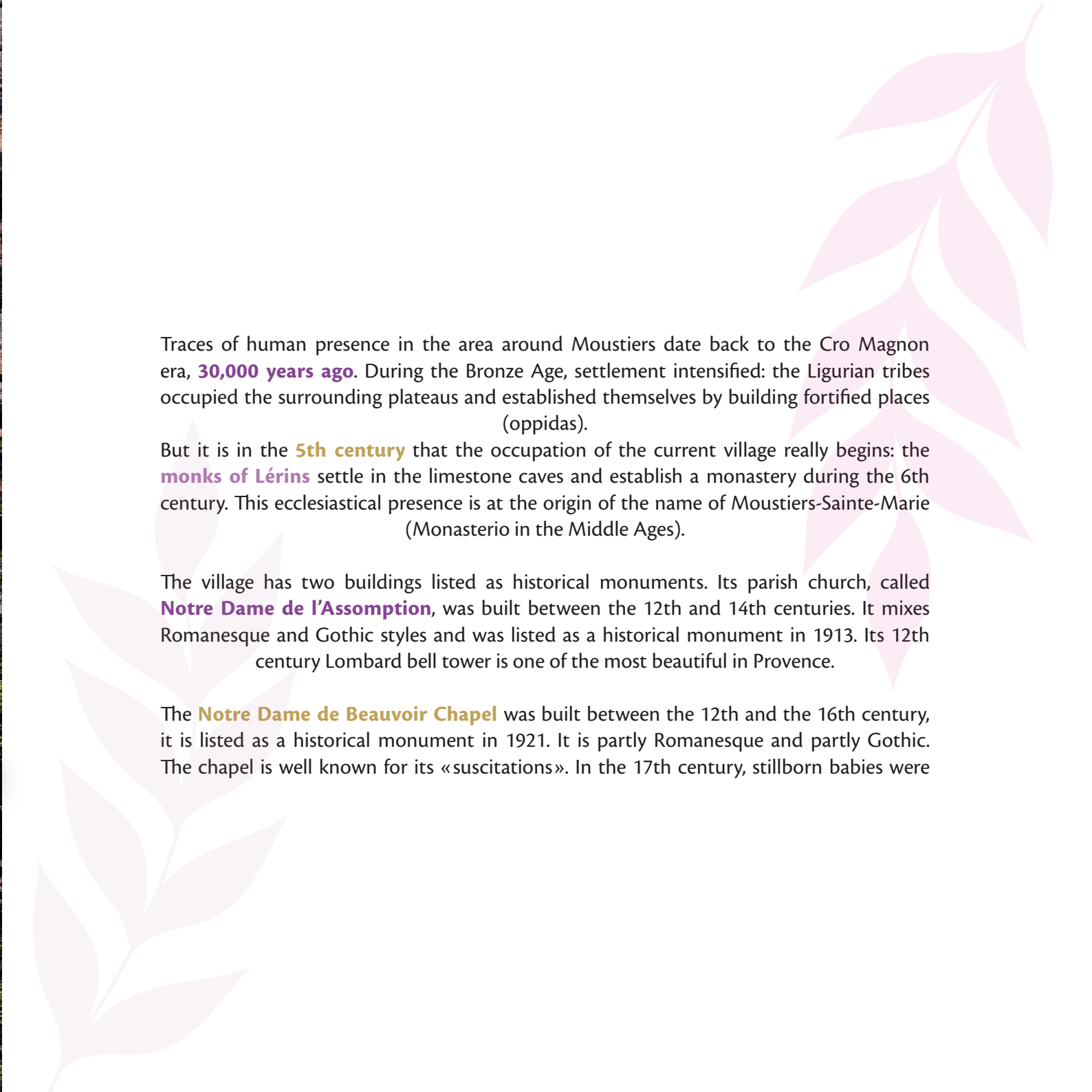
The geographical situation of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie is remarkable. The village is only 3 kilometers from the entrance of the **Verdon Gorges**. The biggest canyon in Europe, reaching a depth of 700 meters in some places, it stretches from Castellane to Sainte-Croix lake on 50 kilometers.

The Sainte-Croix lake, the third largest artificial lake in France, is only 5 kilometers from the village. It covers an area of 2200 hectares (10 kilometers long and 2 wide). The Sainte-Croix dam, which holds 760 million cubic meters of water, supplies electricity to the nearby towns and villages. It is also a major tourist attraction, and offers a privileged space for swimming and various nautical activities.

The **Plateau de Valensole** and its countless lavender fields is 10 kilometers from Moustiers-Sainte-Marie. According to the seasons, it takes on different aspects. In March: the snowy peaks and the almond trees in bloom; in July: the changing purple of the lavenders and the gold of the wheat. World-famous, **tourists from all over the world** come to admire the beauty of the lavender during the blooming season.



PROVENÇAL VILLAGE WITH A RICH HERITAGE



Traces of human presence in the area around Moustiers date back to the Cro Magnon era, **30,000 years ago**. During the Bronze Age, settlement intensified: the Ligurian tribes occupied the surrounding plateaus and established themselves by building fortified places (oppidas).

But it is in the **5th century** that the occupation of the current village really begins: the **monks of Lérins** settle in the limestone caves and establish a monastery during the 6th century. This ecclesiastical presence is at the origin of the name of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie (Monasterio in the Middle Ages).

The village has two buildings listed as historical monuments. Its parish church, called **Notre Dame de l'Assomption**, was built between the 12th and 14th centuries. It mixes Romanesque and Gothic styles and was listed as a historical monument in 1913. Its 12th century Lombard bell tower is one of the most beautiful in Provence.

The **Notre Dame de Beauvoir Chapel** was built between the 12th and the 16th century, it is listed as a historical monument in 1921. It is partly Romanesque and partly Gothic. The chapel is well known for its «suscitations». In the 17th century, stillborn babies were

DISCOVER THE HERITAGE

Guided tours in Moustiers

Accompanied by a professional tour guide, the Tourist Office offers **thematic tours** in english.

Guided tour of the old center : duration 1h30.

During this visit, the public will discover the history of the village anchored in its remarkable monuments (the parish church, **the mysterious legend of the star** hanging over the village, or the Chapel N.D. de Beauvoir). He will learn about **the traditions** still present in the local heritage and finally, the richness of this territory marked by the proximity of great natural sites (Verdon Gorges, Sainte-Croix lake, Valensole plateau).

Other guided tours are possible in french only :

Guided tour of the old center + ND de Beauvoir and its Way of the Cross : duration 2h.

(Only for groups on reservation)

A **good physical condition** is recommended for this visit. You will climb the 262 steps to reach the Notre-Dame de Beauvoir Chapel. Good shoes are recommended as the steps are slippery.

Guided tours for the children : duration 1h (from 5 to 12 yo).

(Only for groups on reservation)

During this visit, **the children will discover the main points of the history of Moustiers and its heritage** (parish church, ND de Beauvoir chapel, star of the village, ...). In the form of exchanges and questions, they will learn what Moustiers earthenware is, what the wash

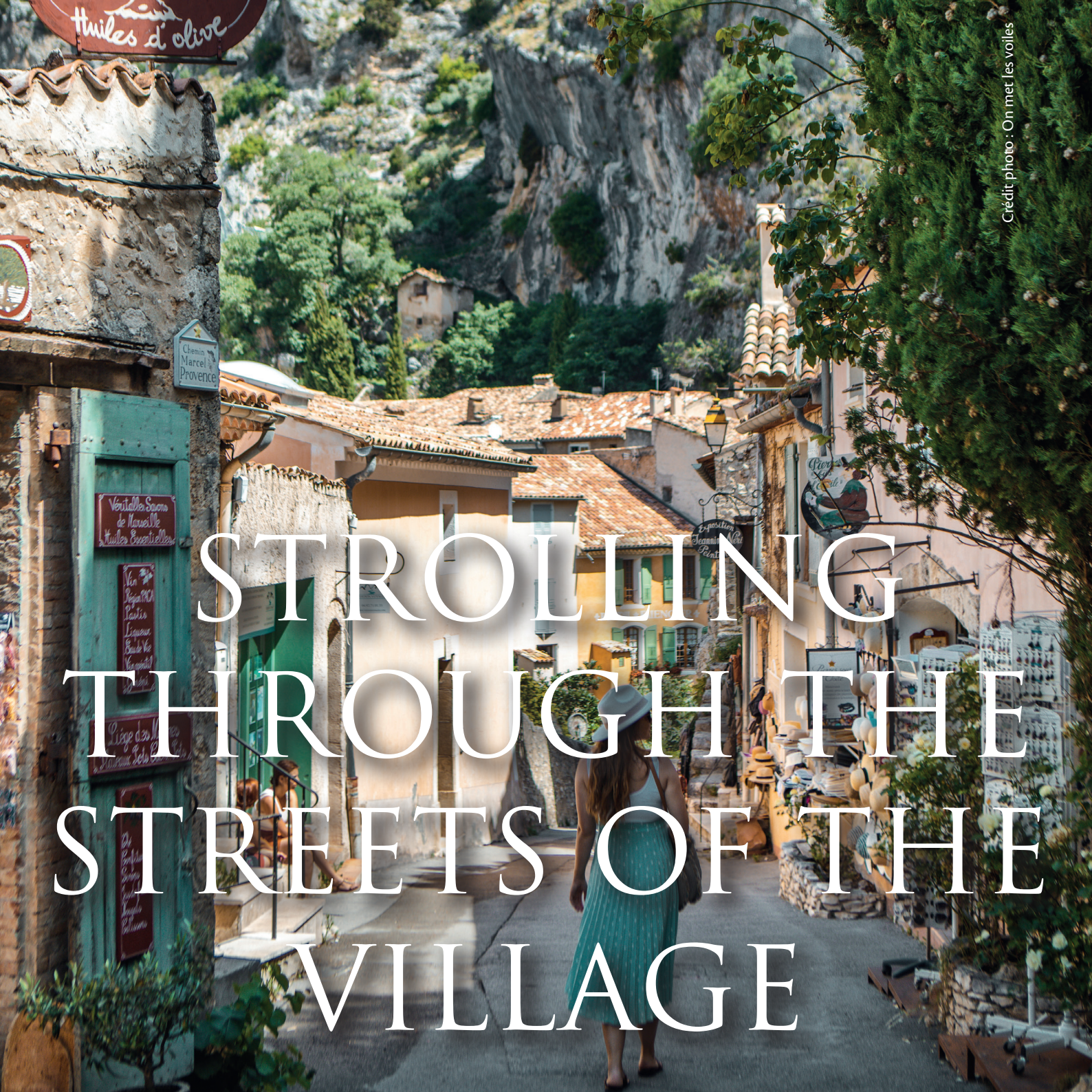
DISCOVER THE HERITAGE

Visiter Moustiers

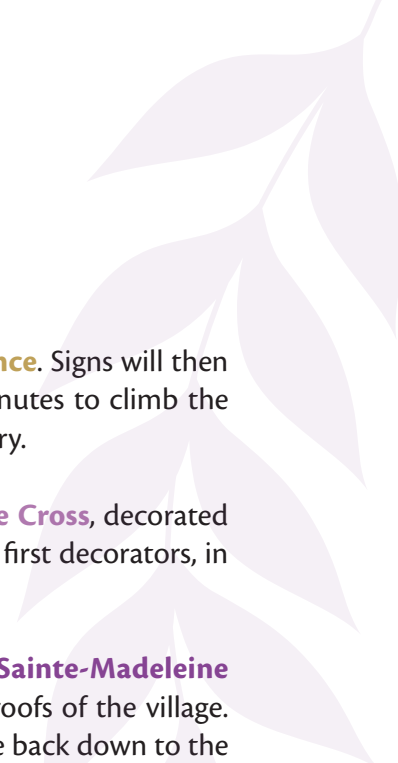
A **mobile application to highlight the village's heritage. Both in english or french, the App is available and can be downloaded for free.** The children route is only available in french.

Through this application, the Tourist Office and the Town Hall of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie invite you to discover the must-sees of our village, at your own pace and in complete serenity. Thanks to numerous visuals, **you will discover the evolution of the village**, from ancient times to the present day.





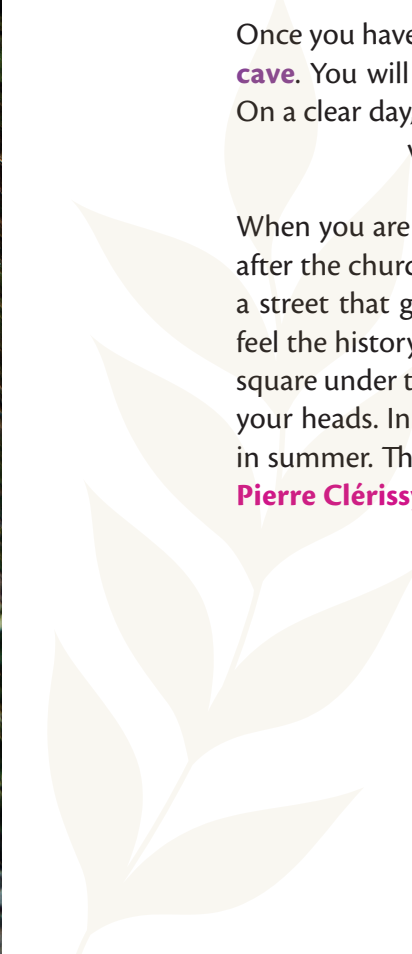
STROLLING THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE VILLAGE



When you arrive in Moustiers-Sainte-Marie, take the rue **Marcel Provence**. Signs will then lead you directly to the chapel's ascent. It takes between 15 and 20 minutes to climb the path. Be careful when climbing the steps, they are slippery.

Take the time to contemplate **the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross**, decorated much later with tiles made by Simone Garnier, one of Marcel Provence's first decorators, in the 1950s.

Once you have arrived at the chapel, you can go back down towards the **Sainte-Madeleine cave**. You will take a stone path offering you exceptional views of the roofs of the village. On a clear day, you can also see the Sainte-Croix lake. You will then come back down to the village by the rue de la Clappe, not far from the Place de l'Eglise.



When you are on the Place de l'Eglise, in the center of the village, pass the small porch just after the church Notre Dame de l'Assomption. You will find yourself on the rue de la Diane, a street that goes down to the Place du Couvert. Lose yourself in these narrow streets to feel the history of the village. By taking the rue du Courtil you will arrive on a very beautiful square under the olive trees. An opportunity to sit and contemplate the cliffs that rise above your heads. In front of this square, you will find a washhouse to refresh yourself, especially in summer. Then, above the fountain, you will notice an earthenware plaque in homage to **Pierre Clérissy, one of the first maitre-faïenciers of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie** at the end of the 17th century.

MOUSTIERS- SAINTE-MARIE AND ITS TERROIR



On the food side, **about twenty restaurants** satisfy gourmets and food lovers, amateurs of refined gastronomy, brasserie or local cuisine. Restaurants with Labels :

La **Bastide de Moustiers**, gastronomic restaurant, 1 Guide Michelin star and part of the label Les Collectionneurs.

Côté Jardin, located on Avenue de Lérins, has Nina Lopez as its head chef. Lopez, the youngest Master Restaurateur in France! Southern cuisine that gives pride of place to products from the region. Beautiful outdoor terrace with panoramic view or room with veranda.

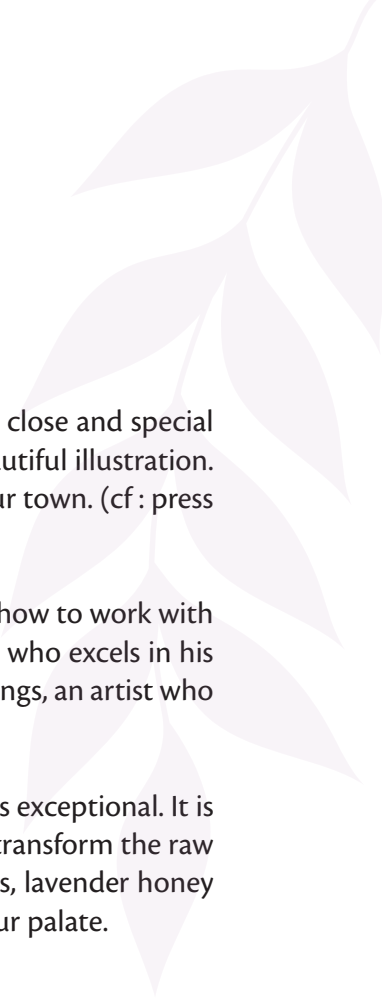
Le Couvert, for cuisine lovers. A stopover is necessary on the terrace covered by the arcades where Johnny and Marine, craftsmen cook. Le Couvert is a member of the Disciples of Escoffier and the association «Haute Provence Gourmande»...

From the traditional inn to the gastronomic restaurant, you will have a vast choice to discover the regional delights. Olive oil, lavender honey, goat cheese, truffles, cookies from Moustiers and local charcuterie: these are the products that the chefs will honor!

Every **Friday morning** the village is transformed into a shimmering colorful and fragrant place. The stalls of the **Provençal market** are full of appetizing local products. Flavor markets are also organized throughout the year.



MOUSTIERS- SAINTE-MARIE AND ITS CRAFT



Moustiers is not only a beautiful village, it is a place that has always had a close and special relationship with **art and crafts**. The faïence of Moustiers is the most beautiful illustration. This age-old art craft has contributed to the international reputation of our town. (cf : press kit : La Faïence de Moustiers)

The municipality counts **about twenty craftsmen**. Ceramists who know how to work with clay, an art glassmaker who magnifies stained glass windows, an art cutler who excels in his creations, a painter who illuminates the beauty of Provence with her paintings, an artist who gives life to his cutting cards...

Food producers live in the village. The terroir of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie is exceptional. It is all of Provence that you will find through the work of the craftsmen who transform the raw material into exceptional products. Artisanal ice creams, cookies, olive oils, lavender honey or beer Made in Moustiers, it is a panel of dishes which will fill your palate.

Brochure : Notre Savoir-Faire downloadable on our website.





OFFICE
de
TOURISME

Credit photo : Philippe Murtas

THE EVENTS

Throughout the year, the Tourist Office of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie organizes many events !

Not to be missed in 2023 :

May, Saturday 13 at 9pm : European Night of the Museums



Crédit photo : tourism office

The Ministry of Culture invites everyone to the 18th edition of the **European Night of Museums**, which will take place on Saturday May 14, 2022 at 9 p.m.

This event allows you to live a new and fun museum experience.

May 19th 2023 : Moustiers TouKKouleurs (dates likely to be modified : more info : www.moustiers.fr)



Crédit photo :Unspash

Moustiers puts itself on African time. Fashion show and concert, market, vernissage and exhibition of paintings of paintings, show of Simb, demonstration of dances and percussions.

(More information on our website under «Agenda»)

Organized jointly by Nomade Style, Sunu Africa & the Office of Tourism of Moustiers-Ste-Marie.

August 2 and 3, 2023: Comedy Festival

2 days of shows where laughter and good humor will be the the key words!

Gil & Ben are honored to return to the church square for their last show!

Other guests to come. More information on our website in the «Agenda» section.



Crédit photo : tourism office



September 17, 2023 : Moustiers à la Page !

Crédit photo : Tourism Office



It's the start of the literary season! In partnership with the Jaubert bookstore in Riez, about twenty writers will meet on the church square for a moment of exchange with the public!

More information on our website in the part « Agenda »

December : Moustiers celebrates Christmas



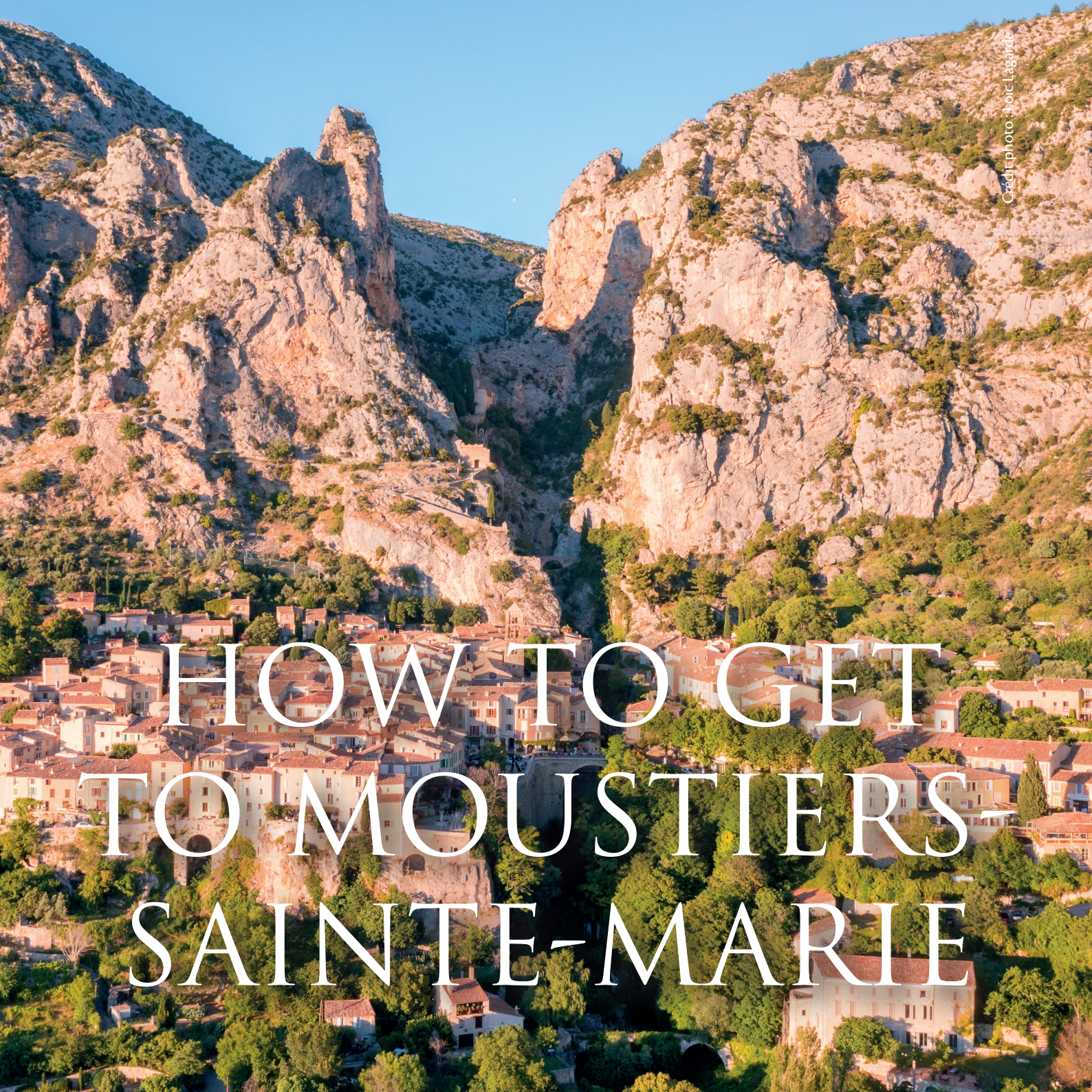
Throughout the month of December, an exhibition-sale is held at the Galerie de l'Ancien Presbytère.

Come to discover the space-sale «Art & Crafts in Moustiers» which highlights the whole of our artisans of the commune but also guests from the region! from the region !

What to find many original ideas for your end of year gifts !



Find all the events in the municipality of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie on our website : www.moustiers.fr





By car

From the A51 highway (Aix en Provence-Sisteron), you have **two choices**:

- Exit 17 : Vinon sur Verdon - Cadarache direction Gréoux, Riez, Moustiers (D952).
- Exit 18 : Manosque, follow Digne-les-Bains by Valensole, Puimoisson, Moustiers.

Autoroute A8 (Nice, Côte d'Azur) :

- Exit 36 : Draguignan, by Aups, Les Salles-sur-Verdon, Moustiers



By regular bus lines (www.sudmobilite.fr)

Regional bus stations :

Marseille 130 km (1h45) 04 91 08 16 40

Aix-en-Provence 97 km (1h30) 0 821 20 22 03
(0,30 €/min)

Manosque 47 km (50 min) 04 92 87 55 99

- Marseille - Gréoux - Riez ligne 27
www.zou.maregionsud.fr
- Riez - Moustiers - Castellane ligne BV1
www.zou.maregionsud.fr
- Manosque - Gréoux - Riez ligne 132
www.dlva.fr
- Nice - Sisteron (par Castellane) ligne 31
www.zou.maregionsud.fr



By plane

Airport Marseille Provence : 126 km (1h45)

www.marseille.aeroport.fr • 0 820 811 414

Airport Nice Côte d'Azur : 138 km (2h)

www.nice.aeroport.fr • 0 820 42 33 33



Car rental

Manosque, Digne-les Bains, Aix-en Provence, Marseille, Nice.



By train

Closest train station : Manosque 46 km (50 min), Aix

TGV 115km (1h30),

Marseille Saint-Charles 130 km (1h45).

TER/ SNCF 0800 11 40 23 (numéro gratuit).

TER : Marseille - Briançon via Manosque ligne 13

www.ter.sncf.com/paca/

- Digne : Chemins de Fer de Provence (Train des Pignes)

04 92 31 01 58

www.trainprovence.com



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MOUSTIERS

Sainte-Marie

PRESS CONTACT :

NOAT Adrien – Head of communication

Office de Tourisme de Moustiers-Sainte-Marie, Maison de Lucie – Place de l'Eglise
04360 Moustiers-Sainte-Marie

+33 (0)4 92 74 00 99 – webcom@moustiers.fr www.moustiers.fr

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