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PLACES TO STAY

The best hotels in Saint Tropez

Hedonism awaits in elegant hotels with glittering spas and beachfront positions – this is where to stay

BY ROSALYN WIKLEY
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Few places on earth prompt the same grade of hedonism as **Saint Tropez**. It is written into the once sleepy fishing village's DNA, morphing from free-spirited bohemia into star-studded partying and then, more recently, hosting the global bling brigade. The glamorous chapter began in earnest when *And God Created Woman* was filmed on its pine-flanked shores, and Brigitte Bardot placed Saint Tropez on the world map. The French New Wave, **Parisian** Left Bank coterie were leaving the pages of their books to bake in the **French Riviera** sun well before. And despite its 21st-century agenda of rampant revelry – the Champagne-popping-diamonds-and-stilettos-welcome – the village's bohemian spirit and Riviera elegance live on. You just need to know where to find it.

Whether checking in for a coastal cleanse or caviar-laced tasting menus, here are the best hotels in Saint Tropez.



Byblos Beach

Imagine a hotel that blends a pastel-hued **Provençal** fishing village with an ancient Lebanese port, replete with ancient Greek references and Roger Capron ceramics. Gay-Para, the Lebanese billionaire who created it, did exactly that, but he also imagined it would win over St Tropez queen Brigitte Bardot, for whom he had an unwavering obsession. It didn't, although she politely attended the opening party. But it did win the hearts of the glitterati, shortly followed by the deep wallets of Europe's fortunate few. This is a fabulous, unapologetic vestige of the Riviera's golden era, where heavy silver trays of seafood sit on balconies and Chanel heels strut to poolside dinners for live jazz and lobster. Mick and Bianca married here and the legendary nightclub, Les Caves Du Roy, continues to lure in the celebrities and high rollers, all drunk on the iconic party snaps of Grace Jones (and Veuve Clicquot).



Hotel Lou Pinet

There is something endlessly glamorous about Saint Tropez's laid-back spirit. You'll find it in droves at Hotel Lou Pinet where rooms are dressed in shades and prints from the sixties and seventies, and mint shutters lining a typically Provençal exterior blink out over one of the Riviera's most ravishing pools, lined with turquoise tiles. Subdued colours and materials echo the region's more rustic reputation – olives, creams, wicker and terracotta – and ahead-of-her-time Tata Harper has whipped the spa into eco-shape. Breakfast here is a photogenic affair – finessed spreads of bircher muesli, perfectly baked bread and pastries, fresh fruits and cold cuts, enough to stretch on till midday where Saint Tropez' sandal and Tropezienne delis await only ten minutes away.

Address: 70 Chem. du Pinet, 83990 Saint-Tropez, France

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