

# A French double act



## Guaranteed to Entertain

**W**ith the late season in full swing, many are thinking of a perfect coastal home on the French property stage. Cannes, St Tropez and Marseille may well be headline acts to many, but the curtain can still come up for potential buyers seeking peace and quiet, away from the crowds. Grahame Anderson reviews a couple of real showstoppers in an historical department.

The Department of the Var was created during the French Revolution, on March 4, 1790, from a portion of the former Royal province

of Provence. Its capital was originally Toulon, but this was moved to Grasse in 1793 to punish the Toulonnais for having handed the town to the British in 1793. The capital was moved to Brignoles in 1795, then to Draguignan in 1797. It was not returned to Toulon until 1974.

Rayol-Canadel-sur-Mer in The Var department of south-eastern France comprises two small villages: Le Rayol and Canadel, each with their own beach. Le Rayol and Canadel are more like gardens than villages, with 400 species of flowers and plants from all over the world

growing in the area. The villages face the ocean, with imposing villas built on the side of sloping green hills, among the pine forests at the edge of the Mediterranean. Driving along the coastal D599 road linking Bormes-les-Mimosas/Le Lavandou and Saint-Tropez, you could easily miss the tiny commune of Rayol-Canadel if you weren't paying close attention. This hidden gem is therefore a great choice for anyone looking for Mediterranean views and climate away from the crowds of nearby St Tropez. So how about this little beauty for a solid long term investment? A wonderfully luxurious 10 bedroom property, with 830 square metres of well-equipped and beautifully presented habitable space. This unique property sits on a stunning landscaped plot of land housing the vast swimming pool and surrounded by a relaxing 'beach area', which overlooks one of the most stunning sea views on the Mediterranean sea coast. The property is only a few kilometres from Saint-Tropez. This offers the very best of both worlds for a price tag of €10 million.

Le Lavandou, also in the Var department of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, used to be a sleepy fishing port. Today it is a little busier, with a marina and plenty of opportunities for water sports and other activities. The town has nevertheless retained a peaceful and relaxed





atmosphere. Le Lavandou derives its name from the lavender flower, growing prominently in the quaint and tranquil village of 6,000 residents. The town has 12 kilometres of beautiful coastline, with lush Mediterranean vegetation. The coastline is truly 'unspoiled' as the town was awarded the Blue Flag of Europe for its protection of the water, environment, and coastal heritage. Divers come for the beauty of the sea bed, with its rich marine life and crystal-clear waters.

Perhaps a six bedroom property in Le Lavandou priced at €7 million will appeal? It's located near the sandy beach of Aiguehelle, and boasts superb panoramic views of Cap Nègre, Îles d'Or and Cap Bénat. The property has several direct and private access ways to the sea and creeks with turquoise waters. The 240 square metre house features a large living room, dining room, kitchen and attached caretaker's apartment.

If your funding doesn't quite stretch as far as our other star attractions, this four bedroomed property offers spectacular views across Cavaliere Bay with its turquoise waters framed by Cap Benat and Cap Negre, at €1,456,000. To the west, you can see the tip of Layet and the "Îles d'Or" (Port-Cros and Le Levant). Access to the house is by a path at the rear of the property.



A few steps lead to the entrance of the villa. A swimming pool, surrounded by bougainvillea, lies below the reception terrace. The property covers 300 square metres over two levels and includes two independent studios. It has a very spacious living room and two staircases leading to a mezzanine level. Light fills this spacious family villa, and most rooms have a view of the sea and islands.

All singing – all dancing property investment opportunities in vibrant Var.

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