DUVINE
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TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING LEVEL 2

Europe / France / Provence

Provence Villa Bike Tour

A Private Luberon Valley Ride + Retreat

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Unpack once and enjoy an incredible week of riding from the same luxurious home base
- Tailor your itinerary to your unique interests—including hiking, cooking classes, wine tastings, private yoga classes, and more—perfect for groups with mixed riding levels or non-riders
- Discover the cultural cachet of Provence's hill towns at open-air markets, wine tastings, lavender distilleries, olive oil mills, and art galleries
- Conquer your choice of epic climbs, including Mont Ventoux or the Gorge de la Nesque, located in the UNESCO Mont Ventoux Biosphere Reserve
- Dine on a thoughtful blend of cyclist-friendly fare prepared by the villa's private chef and essential dishes in classic Provençal restaurants









ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- **Airport City**:
  Marseille or Paris, France
- **Pick-Up Location**:
  Avignon TGV Train Station
- **Pick-Up Time**:
  10:30 am

Departure Details

- **Airport City**:
  Marseille or Paris, France
- **Drop-Off Location**:
  Avignon TGV Train Station
- **Drop-Off Time**:
  12:00 pm

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or **emergency@duvine.com**.

Travelers Take Note

For the hikes on this tour, we strongly recommend bringing hiking boots or trail shoes with good traction (not running shoes or sneakers). Moisture-wicking clothing or daypacks are also recommended, but not required.



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Tour By Day

DAY 1

Bienvenue en Provence

Your guides will greet you at the Marseille airport or the Avignon TGV train station, and our adventure begins! A short transfer into the countryside brings us to our luxurious villa, where we'll start in style with a welcome lunch. After a bike fitting, set out for a beautiful first ride through sleepy-seeming villages that host the best *boulangerie*, pottery studio, or picture-perfect town square. Cruise past vineyards and fruit orchards while admiring the region's tranquil landscapes and timeless Roman architecture. Tonight, our private chef kicks off your week in the South of France with a nourishing Provençal dinner, prepared right at the villa.

Non-riders can spend the day at the villa or head to a local village to explore and enjoy an apéritif.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Coustellet, Taillade, Robion, Oppède
Accomplished: 16 miles / 27 km, elevation gain: 938 feet / 286 meters
Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 2

The Luberon's Golden Triangle

Today we'll ride through the forested heart of the Petit Luberon, spanning the valley floor amidst a patchwork landscape of olive groves and vineyards. Pause in the picturesque village of Roussillon to marvel at its striking ochre-colored cliffs, then stop to admire a historic Roman bridge before climbing up to Bonnieux. From there, our ride continues to Lacoste, where we'll pause for a coffee followed by a quick visit to the château once owned by designer Pierre Cardin. Learn about Côtes du Luberon wines in a *domaine* near Ménerbes, then enjoy a lovely picnic prepared by your guides. From there it is just a short ride back to the villa, where you can treat yourself to a poolside glass of rosé. Stay in for dinner at the villa, or let us reserve your table at one of our favorite restaurants in Ménerbes.

Non-riders can visit the towns of Roussillon, Lacoste, and Ménerbes to explore the boutique shops, art galleries, museums, and perched churches and castles.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Destinations: Roussilon, Bonnieux, Lacoste, Ménerbes, Oppède
Accomplished: 29 miles / 48 km, elevation gain: 2,375 feet / 724 meters
Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 3

Local Treats and the Top of the World

Our morning ride follows petite country roads to Gordes, one of the most beautiful villages in the Luberon. It's market day in this hilltop town: our senses will be treated to open-air stalls of aromatic fruit, fragrant dried lavender, bars of French-milled soap, and heaping bowls of briny olives. There's also time to seek out the scenic terraces that peer over the Luberon Valley, browse the boutiques, and visit the subterranean cave of a 15th-century olive mill. From there, climb to the plateau above town and the small village of Murs, then enjoy a rewarding descent into Joucas for lunch overlooking the vineyards. This afternoon, we'll make a "pit" stop at a local olive mill for a lesson in pressing Provençal liquid gold—plus a chance to stock up on olive oil and tapenades. Tonight, we dine at a quaint restaurant serving only local specialties in the village of Taillade. Bon Appétit!

Non-riders can explore the hilltop village of Gordes, browsing the market or perusing the medieval arcades and boutiques. A visit to the 16th-century Château de Gordes is an afternoon well-spent, with its museum, art collection, and ancient architecture. For some anthropological contrast, the dry stone dwellings in nearby Village des Bories provide a fascinating look at rural life.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Gordes, Murs, Joucas, Oppède
Short Option: 20 miles / 32 km, elevation gain: 1,889 feet / 576 meters
Long Option: 30 miles / 49 km, elevation gain: 2,316 feet / 706 meters
Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 4

Flex Day: Saint Rémy and Les Alpilles

Take a day off the bikes to visit the parts of Provence that are farther afield. Head for the coast to spend a day at the beach, or visit Avignon's medieval center and grand Papal Palace. Cross the Rhône into the region of Les Alpilles: here, the town of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence was home to both Nostradamus and Vincent Van Gogh. See the artist's inspiration for his lifelike olive tree paintings, explore the vibrant boutiques and galleries in town, stock up on souvenirs at a chocolate factory, and have a laid-back lunch. This afternoon, find yourself at the famous hilltop fortress of Les Baux-de-Provence, followed by a tour of a former stone quarry that's been transformed into a cutting-edge exhibit of world-famous painters. Finish the day tasting organic wines from a local producer at Domaine de la Vallongue (and bring back a few bottles for pre-dinner drinks). Tonight, enjoy a special cooking class in your villa.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Destinations: Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, Les Baux-de-Provence
Accomplished: Optional riding or hiking

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Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 5 Conquering Mont Ventoux (or Lavender Fields Forever)

For any serious cyclist, Mont Ventoux is absolutely iconic. Best known as the epic climb regularly featured in the TDF, the massif of Provence absolutely dominates the landscape. Those who are up for the challenge can spend the day tackling its slopes, but aside from Ventoux there are plenty of other rewarding rides. Another favorite is the D942 which skirts the sheer walls of the Gorges de la Nesque and reaches the village of Sault, high above a valley blanketed in purple lavender. Either route is a momentous feather in your cycling cap and a feat to remember from your week in Provence. Tonight, your group will be treated to an authentic Provençal feast at the villa.

Non-riders can visit Bédoin and Sault, base towns for the climb up Mont Ventoux. Sault is the capital of lavender production, and a visit to a lavender distillery is an intoxicating and enlightening experience. Heading back from Mont Ventoux, stop at the Abbaye de Sénanque set in a sea of lavender.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Bédoin, Mont Ventoux / Venasque, Gorges de la Nesque, Monieux
Short Option: 24 miles / 40 km, elevation gain: 3,221 feet / 982 meters
Long Option: 43 miles / 54 km, elevation gain: 5,626 feet / 1,715 meters
Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 6 Canoeing on the Sorgue

Follow a winding bike path that meanders through vineyards, past perched villages, and around the ruins of the Mur de la Peste—a historic wall built to stop the spread of ancient plagues! We'll take our time riding to the charming town of L'Isle sur la Sorgue, where we can stop for a coffee or some antique shopping. From there, our ride continues to Fontaine-de-Vaucluse where we'll enjoy lunch then trade our bikes for a paddle and a canoe. Though the river is clear and inviting, only the bravest will want to take a swim—the water's temperature is never higher than 55 degrees Fahrenheit. we'll explore the charming town of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue and treat ourselves to an ice cream break or some antique shopping. Back on dry land, opt to keep riding or head back to the villa for some time by the pool. Tonight we'll toast our adventures and enjoy a memorable farewell dinner with views over the Luberon Valley.

Non-riders can spend the morning in Isle-sur-la-Sorge. This "Venice of the Comtat," as it's known, is wonderful for antique shopping and strolling the canals. Later, rejoin the group in Fontaine-de-Vaucluse for canoeing.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Cabrières d'Avignon, Lagnes, L'isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse
Accomplished: 21 miles / 37 km, elevation gain: 1,194 feet / 364 meters; 4 miles / 7 km canoeing

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Longer Option: 37 miles / 60 km, elevation gain: 1,653 feet / 504 meters; 4 miles / 7 km canoeing
Accommodations: **Luxury Provence Villa**

DAY 7

Au Revoir!

For your final morning, enjoy a quiet breakfast and relax or go for a ride down to Roussillon, soaking up one last look at the landscape of olive groves and cypress trees. Once showered and changed, your guides will transfer you to the Avignon TGV train station or Marseille airport.

Meals: Breakfast
