

Saint-Tropez for wine lovers

The glitzy resort town on the French Riviera may be known for superyachts and sparkler-topped magnums, but Saint-Tropez is also the gateway to Provence's famous rosé region. Decanter highlights some of the best spots to sip and soak up the sun on Saint-Tropez's shores.

In the summer months, the former fishing village of Saint-Tropez swells in size as jet setters cruise into the Vieux Port, docking their shiny yachts in front of landmark cafés that have been sitting here well before the 1950s, when sex-symbol Brigitte Bardot came sauntering in. Her film, *Et Dieu... créa la femme* (*And God Created Woman*), helped propel the petite peninsula into the global spotlight and made it a requisite stop on the Mediterranean for celebrities in summer.

And while Saint-Tropez's bohemian-chic image hasn't faded in the time since (in the 1970s, models and rockstars like Mick Jagger and Grace Jones held court in the exclusive, still-standing Caves du Roi at **Hotel Byblos**), it's drawing a crowd other than A-listers and day trippers hoping to get a glimpse of Bardot's home. Pop-up wine tastings, new natural wine bars and chef-driven eateries are adding to the fabric of the resort town and infusing that much-needed local touch.

My perfect weekend in Saint-Tropez

Friday

Leisurely make your way down to the port and post up in one of the cherry-red chairs on the terrace of **Café Sénéquier** to people watch over a cappuccino and croissant before setting off on a wine tour around the region. Greeks planted the first vines here around 600 BC, and now there are more than 200 hectares of vineyards lining the peninsula's plains and hills. In and around the Gulf of Saint-Tropez, you'll find more than 30 wineries that offer tastings, including rosé heavy-hitter **Château Minuty**, which has been run by the Matton family for four generations, and the ultra-modern **Château Saint-Maur**, which produces both its own wines and, more recently, has collaborated on **La Fête du Rosé**. Taste by the glass (or bottle) in the outdoor wine bar, La Terrasse, which is surrounded by vines and views of the village of Grimaud. You can also arrange tours and tastings (or direct-to-villa or yacht deliveries) through newly-opened wine shop **Cave 1990** back in town.



Château Minuty vineyards. Credit: Minuty