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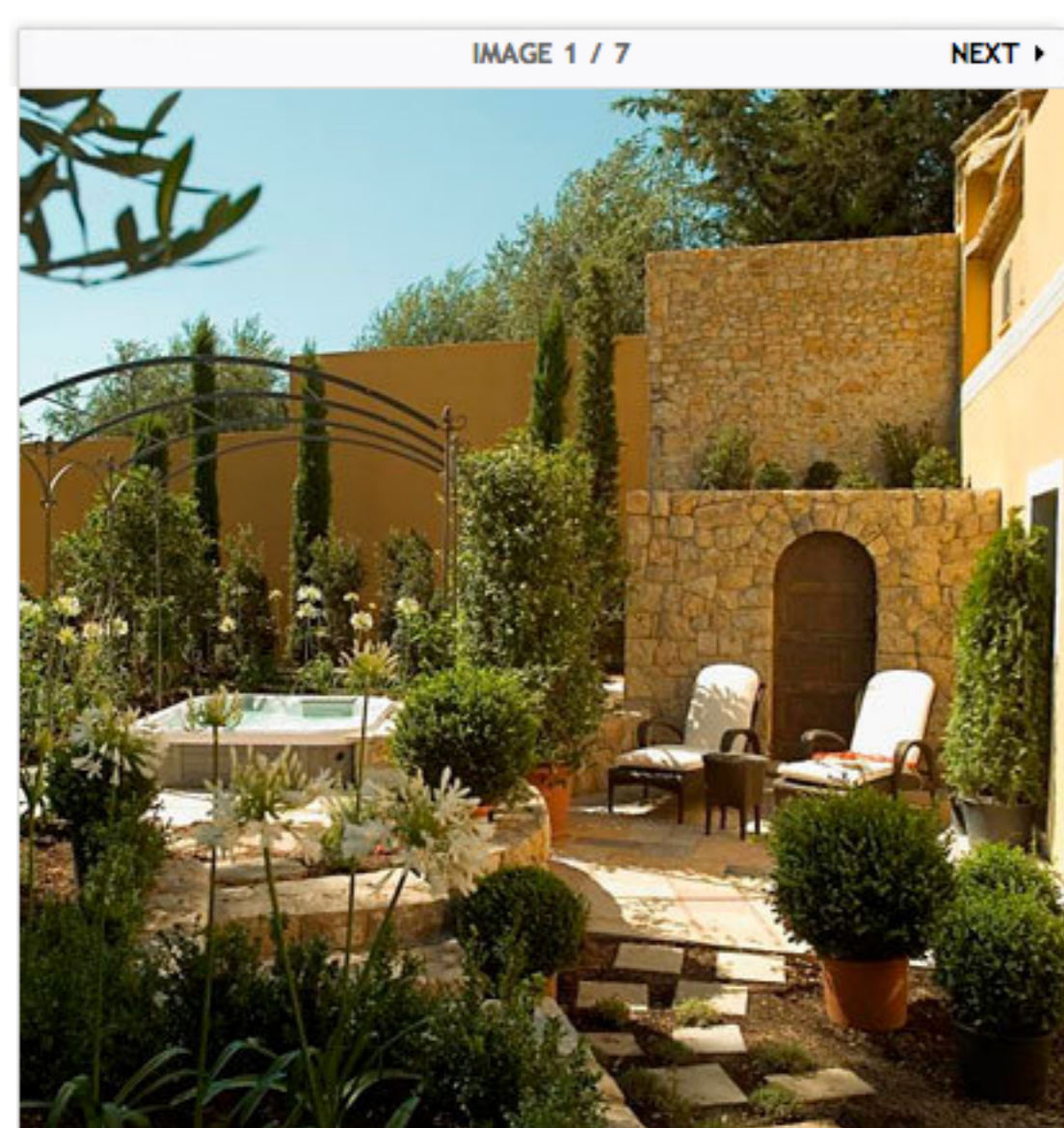
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La Bastide Saint-Antoine Review

Why go? For Michelin stars and ravishing Riviera views...
48 Avenue Henri Dunant, Grasse, Provence, 06130

From **£207** Per room, Per night



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INSIDE TRACK: LA BASTIDE SAINT-ANTOINE

Best room: The suite with the Jacuzzi rooftop terrace

Best dish: The cheese platter - a symphony of fromage

Insider fact: La Bastide was home to Bill Wyman for a while when the Rolling Stones went into self-imposed tax exile during the early 70s

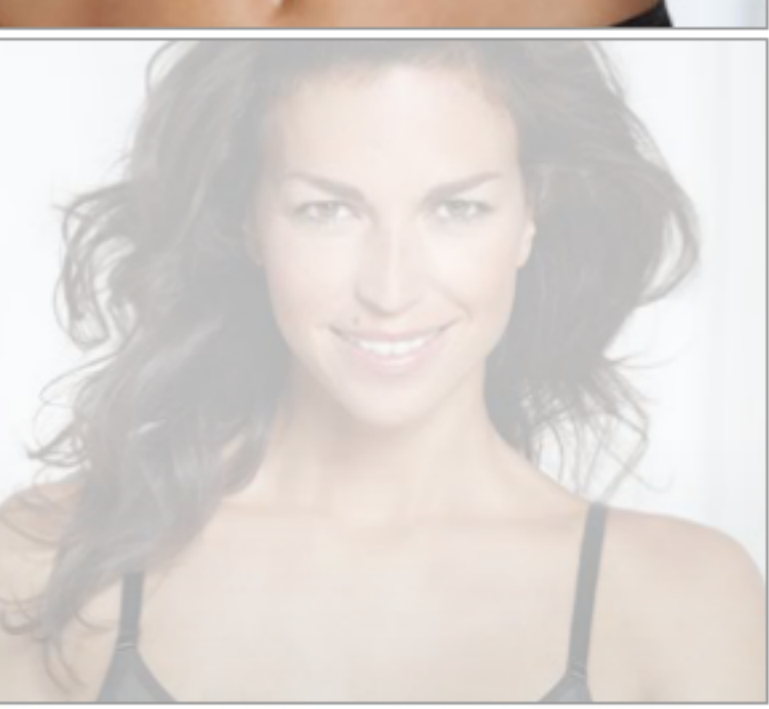
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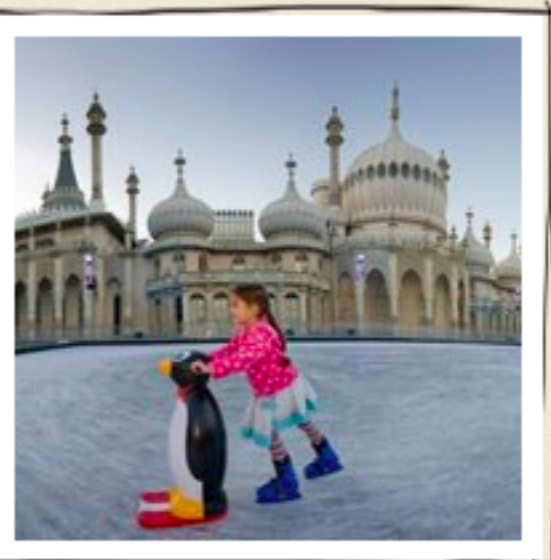
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By Rowena Carr-Allinson

It's not hard to see why Michelin-starred chef Jacques Chibois chose La Bastide Saint-Antoine as the place to set up his gourmet hideaway. A beautiful 18th-century *bastide* (or fortified house) just outside Grasse, the setting is breathtaking with views stretching down a wooded valley and out towards the sea.

In spite of the luxe-y initial impressions, the scale of the place is intimate with just nine rooms and seven suites. These range from a traditional French countryside style of terracotta tiles, painted shutters, antiques and plenty of Provençal charm in the main house, to a handful of more contemporary rooms in the newer extension for those who prefer a sleeker look, gadgets and a Jacuzzi on their terrace.

La Bastide's gardens are a real treat, too: stretching across five hectares, they're made up of centuries old olive trees entwined with delicate rose bushes and citrus trees centring around a (heated) pool with a view. The perfect spot for a 'promenade digestive' or romantic midnight stroll, in other words...

Mostly, though, a stay at La Bastide Saint-Antoine is about the food. Served, in the summer months, out on the terrace against a backdrop of the Bay of Cannes, food and views compete with each other for top billing. And with the likes of asparagus and langoustines, incredible Morilles mushrooms in truffle sauce and a 43 cheese platter on the tasting menu, not to mention a wine cellar of over 800 labels, it's the food that ultimately triumphs.

Highs:

- The Provençal style
- The Jacuzzi on the terraces of some rooms
- The Michelin-starred food
- The gorgeous Riviera views
- The boules courts

Lows:

- The service can be a bit hit or miss
- It's certainly not cheap

Facilities & Important Info at La Bastide Saint-Antoine

Number of rooms: 16

Check-in/check-out times: 4pm and 12noon

Room service: Yes

Swimming pool: Yes. A heated pool

Spa: No

Dogs welcome: No

Child-friendly: Yes, babysitting services can be arranged and baby cots are free - although the restaurant is definitely not for kids.

Restaurant & bar: It's all about the food in very fancy surroundings. The hotel has several different settings, from the luminous indoor pearly-grey chic dining room to the beautiful outdoor terrace set under a white pergola. It's not cheap, but it's also high-on impossible not to be bowled over by the quality.

Location: Half an hour inland from the glitz and glamour of Cannes, Grasse is tucked away in the hills and is best known as the home of Fragonard, the French capital of fragrance. The town itself, all winding streets, babbling fountains and sleepy squares where the elders still play boules in the hot afternoons, is good for a lazy day's wandering.

Getting there: The hotel is around a half hour drive/taxi ride from Nice airport. To arrive by train, the Gare de Grasse railway station (which is a five minute taxi journey away) offers connections to Nice, Cannes and Ventimiglia.



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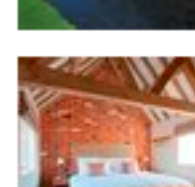
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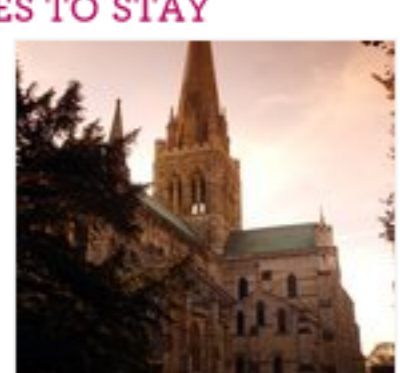
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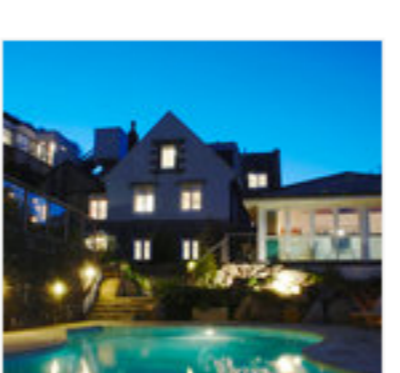
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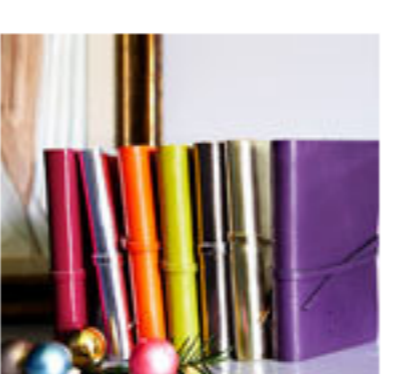
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Ash Buckle Trainers, £129



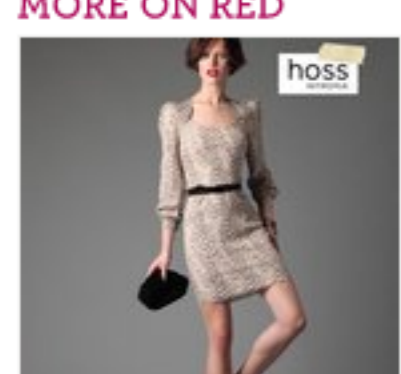
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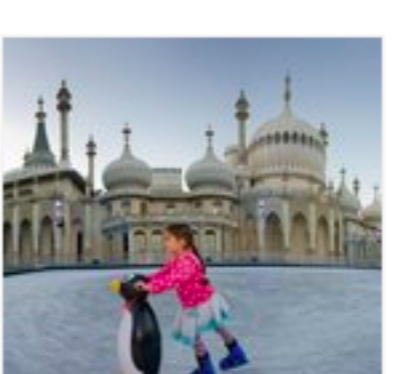
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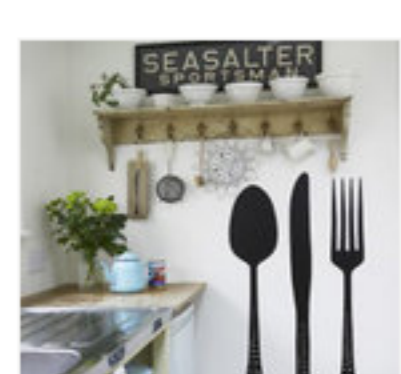
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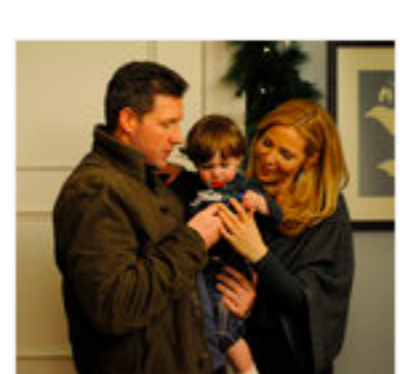
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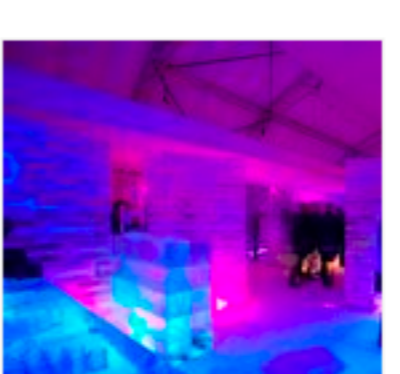
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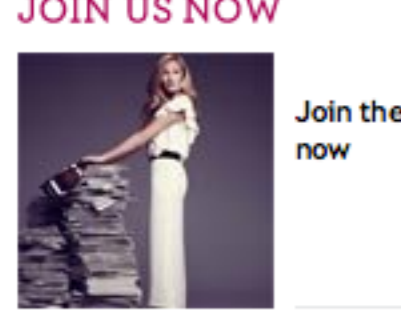


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