

FRANCE

PROVENÇAL STYLE

Not far from the crush of the sun-soaked crowds along the Côte d'Azur lies the heart of Provence, where wine, food, and art reign supreme. When describing the area surrounding his hometown, Aix-en-Provence, painter Paul Cézanne said, "I was born here; I will die here." We understand why. Below are three historic properties that offer a taste of the region.

LA BASTIDE DES FONTAINES

Adjacent to the rolling hills of the Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon, near Apt, this 18th-century bastide—or country villa—is perfect for families and groups of friends seeking privacy, if even from each other: Between the main house, guest pavilion, and guesthouse there are seven bedrooms, all done in Pierre Frey linens. The bastide's 17 acres also include landscaped gardens, a tennis court, and a pool. *Priced at \$19,600 per week*

DOMAINE DES OLIVIERS

Just outside Lourmarin village, about a 40-minute drive from Aix-en-Provence, this 17,200-square-foot house sits on 123 acres of olive trees and vineyards in the Luberon park. "Its current owners had been looking for a huge property in the Luberon," says Cédric Reversade of Unique Properties & Events. "And when they found this, that was it." But the 18th-century farmhouse was in a state of near ruin and required a two-year overhaul. The renovated six-bedroom, six-bathroom structure mixes French antiques with Warhols and extras like a music room with a piano and a drum set. There are also two heated pools and multiple terraces, as well as complete privacy—not a neighbor in sight. *Priced at \$23,550 per week*

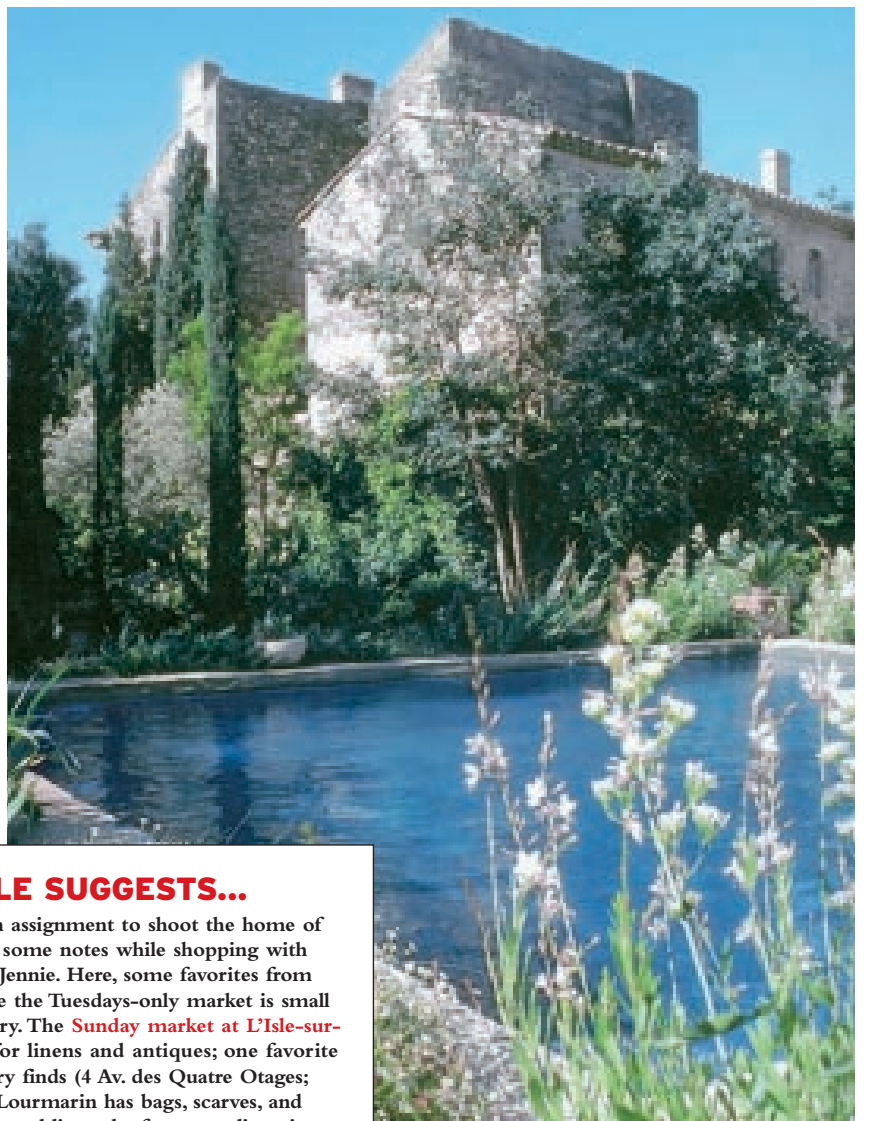
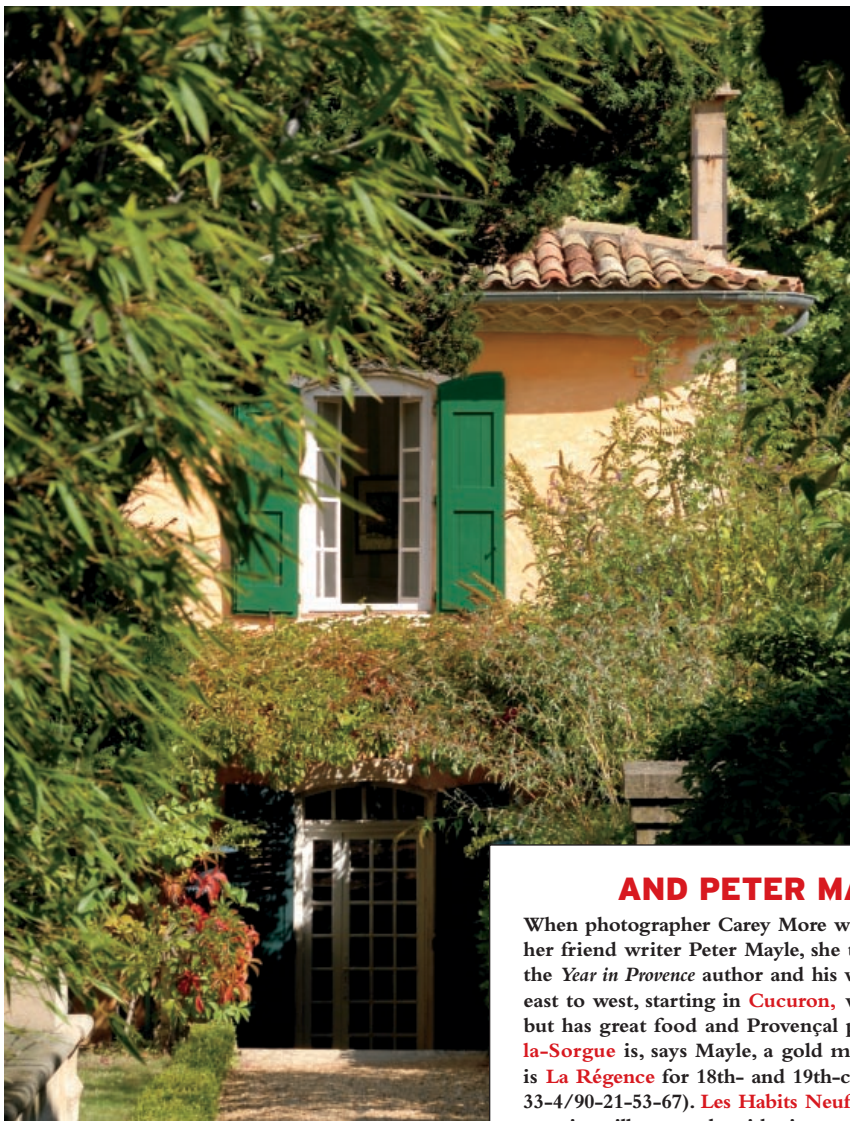
LA ROSERAIE

Renowned for its meticulously groomed garden (its owner is a rose aficionado), this 16th-century bastide is near Les Baux, a quintessential Provençal village in the Alpilles Hills, northeast of Arles. It mixes country elegance with stylish luxury: An old wooden entryway leads to two vast halls, a grand 18th-century stairwell, and a vaulted professional kitchen (a chef is available upon request) with a Lacanche stove, an antique sink, and a central bar-cum-table perfect for a midafternoon aperitif. Each of the five upstairs bedrooms—including the master bedroom with a terrace overlooking the gardens below—has a bathroom stocked with Diptyque candles. A housekeeper stops by six days a week, while a gardener tends to the pool (designed to resemble an old stone basin) and the greenery surrounding the bastide's many outdoor sitting areas. Music and theater festivals take place regularly in the summer in nearby Avignon. *Priced at \$15,700 per week. All properties can be booked by e-mailing Unique Properties & Events at info@cedricreversade.com.*

—MELISSA DENCHAK



Domaine des Oliviers



AND PETER MAYLE SUGGESTS...

When photographer Carey More was on assignment to shoot the home of her friend writer Peter Mayle, she took some notes while shopping with the *Year in Provence* author and his wife, Jennie. Here, some favorites from east to west, starting in **Cucuron**, where the Tuesdays-only market is small but has great food and Provençal pottery. The **Sunday market at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue** is, says Mayle, a gold mine for linens and antiques; one favorite is **La Régence** for 18th- and 19th-century finds (4 Av. des Quatre Otages; 33-4/90-21-53-67). **Les Habits Neufs** in Lourmarin has bags, scarves, and oversize pillows made with vintage Provençal linens by former stylists, sisters Patricia and Sylvie Serodon (17 Rue Savornin; 33-4/90-68-31-63). **La Boutique de L'Antiquaire** is the place for chandeliers and subtly distressed furniture (9 Rue du Grand Pré; 33-6/86-73-39-32), and **Côté Bastide** for perfumed lotions, bath oils, and candles (3 Rue du Grand Pré; 33-4/90-08-57-92). **Le Thé dans l'Encrier** serves as both a tea- and bookshop specializing in contemporary and classic Provençal literature (Rue de la Juiverie; 33-4/90-68-88-41). **Les Caves du Château** is a wine cellar and tasting room in an old château, run by the young but knowledgeable Florian Girbal (Av. Raoul Dautry; 33-6/10-69-09-26). At **Edith Mézard's** linen shop there are custom-embroidered tablecloths, pillows, and shawls, plus a one-off line by Mézard, with silk PJs and baby clothes (Château de l'Ange, Lumières, Goult; 33-4/90-72-36-41). **Décor & Tradition's** vast space is the source for architectural salvage like gargoyles, lions, and birdbaths, as well as statues, urns, fountains, and fireplaces (Rte. de Cheval Blanc, Cavailon; 33-4/90-06-05-77). And **Marie-Claude Brochet** has carried on the family business of making wooden-bead curtains. The Mayles use one on the front door in the summer (1043 Av. des Vertes Rives, Montfavet; 33-4/90-23-58-37).



La Bastide des Fontaines

La Roseraie