

The History of Beaulieu-sur-Mer



Beaulieu-sur-Mer, land of history and culture, has been independent since 1891.

The city reflects a glorious past. Its monuments and the inhabitants have been influenced by those different eras, especially

during the Belle Époque (circa 1870 – 1914).

The heraldry is the olive tree, symbol of the Olivo territory, and the sun, showing a temperate warm and mild climate.

“Pax in pulchritudine”, the device means : Peace in beauty. The inhabitants are called the “Berlugan”.

The city lies in a magnificent site combining the sea with the mountains.

Following in the footsteps of the Belle Époque

1 1885 PALAIS DES ANGLAIS

Originally the Palace was composed of 2 floors only. Shortly a 3rd floor was built, slate-covered and adorned with dormer windows. In those days, it was one of the finest hotels equipped with water-closet and an hydraulic lift. Many English and Slavs stayed there.



During the interwar-years, the Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's son and royal citizen of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, used to spend some time there.

Since 1939, this palace is divided into private apartments.

2 1904 THE BANDSTAND



This bandstand has a circular shape and is composed of little metal columns topped by a dome. Inaugurated in 1904, it was part of the Mayor of Beaulieu-sur-Mer Eugène Gourdin's project of a city square. The bandstand was created by wrought iron craftsmen and displayed in the middle

of a public garden, enabling the local orchestra “La Renaissance” to play regularly.

Hippolyte MARINONI's statue

Benefactor, rotary press inventor and first Mayor of the city in 1891. Thanks to whom Beaulieu-sur-Mer was separated from Villefranche-sur-Mer. This work had a pyramid-shaped base crowned by a bust on the architect Carlo's design with a sculpture by Stretti.

3 1893 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

This edifice was built from the architect Temple Moore's plans, on a field offered by Sir James Livesey in order to enable the English community to practice Anglican worship.

In 1904, the architect Aaron Messiah (Leopolda and Rothschild's villas) added two aisles and one bell tower. Today this church still belongs to the Anglican community.



4 Circa 1893 THE VICTORIA

The Victoria was first a hotel. It acquired year after year a prestigious reputation by receiving important people who used to appreciate its privileged lifestyle.

Renovated by the Architectes des Bâtiments de France, this building turned into apartments found its original brightness once again.

On the same avenue, across the street, you can look up to the numerous houses Belle Époque.



5 1899 THE TENNIS CLUB



The Lawn Tennis Club of Beaulieu was created by Sir Blundell Maple. In 1921 the champion Suzanne Lenglen was welcomed for a match against the Australian Miss Ryan.

Immediately after WW1, international tennis tournaments were organised by the

Hotel Bristol manager on these exceptional clay courts. In the course of 1947-48 winters, King Gustav V of Sweden's every day presence, brought greater prestige. Currently open the whole year round, the eight tennis courts welcome annual big competitions such as the I.T.F. Junior Grade 1 tournament in April.

6 1899 THE BRISTOL

Designed by the Danish architect Tersling for Sir Blundell Maple, this palace offered the luxury to have bathrooms supplied with warmed up seawater.

The Bristol was patronized by famous people during the winter season, as it was customary to do: Crown Princes Alexander of Serbia, Henri of Baviera, the Duchess of Aosta, the Princess of Oldenbourg, Queen Marguerite of Italia and many others.

As a result of a fire in april 1911, the roofing was completely destroyed and the Bristol lost its look of an English castle.

In 1954, the Bristol was sold and divided into apartments.



7 1899 THE ROTONDE



The Danish architect Tersling designed the Rotonde to create an additional drawing room for the Bristol dancing tea time.

Opened in 1904, the Rotonde has a circular shape with glassed-in apses and a dome. From 1914, the Bristol was used as a hospital for the injured from the Great War and

the Rotonde accommodated the Hadfield Spears surgery ambulance in 1945. Nowadays, it is a renowned venue for events.

www.beaulieusurmer.fr



8 1929 THE CASINO

As soon as 1891, when Beaulieu acquired its city status, the request for the construction of a casino was launched without success.

New projects were presented later but it's only with the March 11th, 1922 decree raising Beaulieu-sur-Mer to the status of health resort that the opening of a casino was considered.

Designed by the architects Plousey and Collard, the casino was inaugurated under François de May, in January 1929 and known as Villa des Fleurs.

www.casinodebeaulieu.com



9 1902-1908 THE KERYLOS GREEK VILLA



The Kérylos Villa is a unique reconstruction of an antic Greek house, based on a 2nd century BC Delos island villa, dreamt and built by the archaeologist Théodore Reinach and the architect Emmanuel Pontremoli. It is an amazing invitation to travel into the heart of Greek antiquity, because from the space

organisation to the decoration stylishness, everything has been thought to recreate the atmosphere of a luxury Greek villa, with the modern comfort. Nowadays property of Institut de France, it is managed by the Monuments Nationaux and open to the public.

www.villakerylos.fr

10 1882/83 THE EIFFEL RESIDENCE

In 1882-1883, Joseph Durandy acquired the land and built a house. The Villa Durandy was rented to Grand Duke Peter of Russia ten years later. In 1895, the Salles-Eiffel family chose to spend their vacations there, and the engineer Gustave Eiffel was so enthusiastic about the house that he decided to buy it.

After Gustave Eiffel's death, his daughter Claire Salles kept on spending her holidays in this Villa. Property of the family until 1977 (when it was sold), it then became a residential hotel (currently closed).



11 1880 HOTEL LA RESERVE



Founded by Pierre Lottier, from Nice, La Réserve was, in its early days, a restaurant which took its name from the fish and crustacean reserves contained in its sea water basins. During the Belle Époque, the hydroplane pilot August Maicon suggested his services to the rich customers of

the Hotel and a pier was built for this purpose.

The billionaire James Gordon Bennett Jr introduced a mail coach service between Nice and the restaurant, which was given the first telephone number 01.

Attended by international customers: Mistinguett, Rita Hayworth, Clark Gable, Charlie Chaplin, Sir Thomas Lipton, Paul Newman, Walt Disney, Robert Redford... La Réserve is today a 5 stars palace which houses a Michelin-starred restaurant. www.reservebeaulieu.fr

12 1899/1927 SACRED-HEART CHURCH

In the 19th century, there was a need to have a bigger church than Sancta Maria de Olivo. The Sacré-Coeur managed to be erected thanks to Hippolyte Marinoni, one of its benefactors, and many other foreign donors. Its was consecrated in 1903 and the present entrance porch was achieved in 1927.



13 1899 THE OLIVAIE GARDEN - Square Calmette



Originally a hundred years old olive grove in the Marinoni estate, this garden was purchased by the town in 1934 by the mayor François de May. The olive tree is intimately linked with the life and development of Beaulieu, from which it took its name of Olivo in ancient times.

In the 19th century, a gigantic olive tree of 12,40 meters of circumference caused admiration among everybody in Nice county, unfortunately in 1880 a fool set fire to it.

This 6000 m² plantation with hundred years old olive trees is a public garden. You can get into the garden in Jean Bracco street by the railway bridge. The “Nuits Guitares” Festival takes place every year in July in this olive grove.

Discover as you walk on...



THE PALAIS DE MAY 1826



This mansion used to belong to Count Gaétan de May and is built in distinctive Empire style, with a façade of 4 pilasters under a frieze. The interior is decorated with frescoes inspired by Greek and Roman statuary.

Recently restored, the Palais is home to the inter-community Conservatory of Music and Arts.

THE CHAPEL SANCTA MARIA DE OLIVO 11th century

The Chapel Sancta Maria de Olivo was erected over the ruins of a Gallo-Roman temple. When the Sacré-Coeur church was built, the Chapel was derelict and the city took it back thanks to the 1905 law about the separation of the Church and the state. Today it is a place for exhibitions and concerts.



THE CITY HALL



In 1882, this former country house was turned into a parish school. In 1891, the building was divided to accommodate the new civic institutions. The heraldry of the city can be seen on the city hall west front.

THE BATTERY AND THE FISHERMEN'S HARBOUR

In the early 18th century, this headland was equipped with a small fortification work planned by Vauban from which a spur shape has remained.

After Nice county was annexed by France in 1860, the imperial government raised the Battery of Beaulieu, composed of a customs office and a small fort completed in 1862.

It is situated in the middle of a rich Gallo-Roman archeological area, in which Dr Johnston-Lavis discovered a large cemetery in 1897.

In 1944, the Battery was destroyed by the German Army. There is still an esplanade that offers a superb view of the cliffs and the marina, which has developed around the small fishing port where the coloured “pointus” of the local fishermen are anchored.



MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY ANDRE CANE



This museum highlights the incredible history of Beaulieu-sur-Mer : pictures, old postcards, roman ceramic, Belle Époque anecdotes and many other surprising discoveries invite you to follow the evolution of the small hamlet in thriving town.



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BEAULIEU
 L'ESPRIT CÔTE D'AZUR SUR MER

*Following in the footsteps
 of the Belle Epoque*

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