

DECEMBER 2020 – News from France

What have we missed in 2020 and what's new for 2021? An exciting range of accommodation, museums and exhibitions, shopping outlets, sporting events and facilities, tourism initiatives and anniversaries will set the tone for France in the coming 2021 year.

Please note that due to the pandemic, dates are subject to change and events may need to be cancelled or postponed. All information contained here is correct at the time of publication, but we advise you to check with the individual destinations or venues for the latest updates going forward.

Atout France is in the early stages of preparing the re-launch of tourism in 2021. The re-launch depends on various factors, mainly respective government announcements on lockdowns in both countries, the travel corridors and quarantine situation from the UK side and of course the roll-out and impact of the potential vaccines. We imagine the reopening will start taking place in 2021.

In line with the general impact of Covid-19 on the transport sector, the capacity and frequency of flights, trains and ferries to France have been severely impacted. However, despite the drop in capacity and frequency, there are still flights operating to over 26 destinations in France from 15 airports across the UK. The transport providers are working hard to ensure that there is still a good connectivity between the UK and France. Please note that the hope is that the capacity and frequency of connections will increase after Q1 of 2021.

Covid regulations in France

Wearing a mask is compulsory for anyone aged 11 and over, in enclosed public places throughout the country and on public transport, including taxis and rideshares. The obligation to wear a mask may be extended to places deemed relevant by the prefects of each department depending on the local epidemic situation. Detailed information is available from the prefecture. A map with updated data on the spread of Covid-19 in France are available on the French government website (see below)

A fine of €135 may be applied in the event of non-compliance with wearing a mask in the places concerned. In the event of a repeat offense within 15 days, the fine will increase to €1,500.

Again, the entry points via the various transport providers depend on the overall reopening factors outlined earlier.

French mountains

The French mountain resorts have and will continue with the preparation of the 2020-21 winter season. The scheduled resort openings have been postponed, but the hope is they will open rather sooner than later. France Montagnes and its partner resorts are taking all the necessary steps to ensure a safe winter season (see below).

Links and sources of information

- French Government guidance on COVID-19
<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>
- For all travel and quarantine regulations to and from France:
<https://uk.ambafrance.org/COVID-19-UK-and-French-travel-and-quarantine-measures>
<https://uk.ambafrance.org/FAQ-advice-CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19-28759>
- More information on preparing for holidaying in France
<https://uk.france.fr/en/holiday-prep/information-coronavirus-france>
- More information on the efforts and guidance for ski holidays in the French Mountains
<https://www.france.fr/en/holiday-prep/stress-free-winter-ski-holidays-covid-reassurance>
- French Mountains Press Kit Winter 2020-21
https://franceuncovered1.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/press-kit-winter-2020-21-_-uk_pages.pdf

ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2020

- January - **The Dragon of Calais**, a new addition to La Machine Company
- 10 June - **The Bassins de Lumières** opens in Bordeaux
- 14 June - **Four-star hotel Les Quais de Lutèce** opens at Parc Astérix
- 18 June - **The world's largest urban farm** opens in Versailles, Paris
- September 2020 – September 2021 - **Lille Métropole: 2020 World Design Capital**
- 1 October - **The Palais Galliera** fashion museum in Paris reopens
- 8 November - **The 9th Vendée Globe** sets sail from Les Sables-d'Olonne
- 19 December - **A new modern art museum** opens at Fontevraud Abbey
- December (TBC) - **Narbo Via**, a new antiques museum, opens in Narbonne

2021

- 23 January - **Collection Pinault Paris, Bourse de Commerce**, opens
- January - **The skippers of the 9th Vendée Globe** return to Les Sables-d'Olonne
- 6 February - **Fondation Pernod Ricard**, a cultural site, opens in Paris
- February - **Department store La Samaritaine** reopens
- February – **Opening of the hotel Airelles Château de Versailles, Le Grand Contrôle**
- March - **Les Franciscaines**, a cultural venue in a former convent, opens in Deauville
- 13 April - **Hotel de la Marine** opens in Paris
- 28 April – 22 August - **The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial**
- April - **DinoPlagne**, a site containing dinosaur footprints, opens in Ain
- 5 May – 18 October - **Jeff Koons at MuCEM**, Marseille
- Spring - **The Marcel Proust museum** opens in Cabourg
- Spring - **France's first underwater museum** opens in Marseille
- Spring - **The Gehry Tower** opens at Fondation Luma, Arles
- Spring – **Reopening of Hotel du Palais Biarritz**
- Spring - **Domaines de Fontenille hotel** opens west of Paris
- Spring - **The first Aloft hotel in France** opens in Dijon
- Spring – **Oceana Lumina – Enchanted nocturnal show** in Rochefort
- 17–20 June - **The Bordeaux Wine Festival**
- 26-27 June – **Nature is Bike: France's first ever gravel bike festival**
- June - **The British Normandy Memorial** is unveiled in Normandy
- June – **The Paris Food Forum**
- 9–25 July - **60th anniversary of the Jazz a Juan Festival**, Juan-les-Pins
- 6–15 August - **50th anniversary of Festival Interceltique de Lorient**
- Summer - **The first Soho House hotel in France** opens in Paris
- 18 September – 3 October – **'The Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped'** by Christo
- 2021 - **30th anniversary of Nausicaa Sea Life Centre**
- 2021 - **200th anniversary of the birth of writer Gustave Flaubert**
- 2021 - **Food Society**, the largest food hall in Europe, opens in Paris
- 2021 - **The Chanel Métiers d'Art Workshop** in Paris
- 2021 - **A temporary Grand Palais** opens on the Champs de Mars, Paris
- 2021 - **Mob House Paris Les Puces**, a new urban residence by Starck, opens
- 2021 - **France's first Bulgari Hotel** opens in Paris
- 2021 - **The Cheval Blanc hotel** opens in La Samaritaine, Paris
- 2021 - **Maison Heler** by Starck opens in Metz

2020

THE DRAGON OF CALAIS, A NEW ADDITION TO LA MACHINE COMPANY

Calais, Hauts-de-France

January 2020 (now open)

Freed from the subterranean worlds, the 'Dragon of Calais' headed for the city. This giant dragon was conceived by La Machine de Nantes and built by La Machine Company, and carries visitors through town and along the seafront. By 2023, other fantastic creatures will be descending on Calais to create a unique urban universe. A permanent creation, the dragon is 15 metres high and able to transport up to 60 passengers at a time.

www.lamachine.fr/en/le-dragon-de-calais/

<https://compagniedudragon.com/>

FOLLOWING THE ATELIER DES LUMIÈRES IN PARIS, THE BASSINS DE LUMIÈRES IN BORDEAUX

A new digital art museum

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

10 June 2020 (now open)

After the success of the launch of the Atelier des Lumières and its Klimt exhibition in Paris, the city of Bordeaux entrusted Culturespaces with the management of its famous submarine base, a remnant of the Second World War. A symbol of the Bassins à Flot district, this enormous bunker is five times larger than the Atelier des Lumières in Paris – covering 11,000 square metres with some areas measuring up to 12 metres high, 100 metres long and 22 metres wide – and is one of the world's largest multimedia installations. The Bassins de Lumières holds digital exhibitions specifically adapted to the monumental architecture of the submarine base. From February 2021 to January 2022 there will be an exhibition dedicated to Monet, Renoir and Chagall.

www.culturespaces.com/en/bassins-lumieres

LES QUAIS DE LUTECE

Parc Astérix, Hauts-de-France

14 June 2020 (now open)

Four-star

Discover the banks of the Seine in 50 BC! The very first four-star hotel in Parc Astérix opened in spring and will take visitors back to Astérix and Obélix's time, in the town of Lutèce.

www.parcasterix.fr/en

THE WORLD'S LARGEST URBAN FARM

Versailles, Paris, Île-de-France

18 June 2020 (now open)

Paris became home to the largest urban farm in the world with the transformation of 150,700 square feet of rooftop space above the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles exhibition centre. It is estimated that the farm will produce 1,000 fruits and vegetables each day and grow 30

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different varieties of plants. The farm will also offer workshops for the public and feature garden plots that locals can lease to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. A rooftop restaurant and bar from Le Perchoir, the group that owns a chain of trendy rooftop venues across Paris, will serve up a menu featuring produce harvested from the farm.

<https://leperchoir.fr/en/location/le-perchoir-porte-de-versailles/>

LILLE METROPOLE: 2020 WORLD DESIGN CAPITAL**Lille, Hauts-de-France**

September 2020 – September 2021 (updated dates)

The World Design Capital (WDC) is handpicked every two years by the World Design Organisation, to recognise a city's innovative use of design to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental development. The World Design Capital provides a platform to showcase best practices in design-led urban policy and innovation in different domains including public transport, sustainable infrastructure, demographic evolution, mobility, renewable energies and inclusive governance. Following Mexico City in 2018, Lille Metropole is taking over and is the first French city to become World Design Capital.

www.lillemetropoleworlddesigncapital2020.com

REOPENING OF PALAIS GALLIERA, HOME TO THE FIRST PERMANENT FASHION EXHIBITION IN FRANCE**Museum renovation and new permanent exhibition****Paris, Île-de-France**

1 October 2020 (now open)

After a four-year renovation, Paris' Palais Galliera fashion museum has reopened. It is now home to the first permanent fashion exhibition in France in 2020, exclusively sponsored by Chanel. Chanel has partnered with the city of Paris to finance the construction of the permanent exhibition rooms and gallery, which will be called *The Gabrielle Chanel Rooms*, at an estimated cost of €5.7 million. Located in the basement of the Palais Galliera, this 670-square-metre area offers the general public a space open all year round, dedicated to the history of fashion from the 18th century to the present day. The project also includes the creation of a learning workshop and a bookshop. The ground floor of the museum will continue to be dedicated to temporary exhibitions.

www.palaisgalliera.paris.fr/en/cp-dp-visuels/reopening-palais-galliera-press-kit

THE 9TH VENDÉE GLOBE SETS SAIL**Les Sables-d'Olonne, Pays de la Loire**

8 November 2020 (in progress)

The world's toughest solo round-the-world sailing race departed from the port of Les Sables-d'Olonne on 8 November. British skipper Alex Thomson has invested in a new £5m boat for the race, which takes place every four years. It is also the first year in which three female British skippers – Pip Hare, Samantha Davies and Miranda Merron – have taken part, making it a key race for women in an otherwise male-dominated sport.

www.vendeeglobe.org/en/

A MODERN ART MUSEUM AT FONTEVRAUD

New museum

Fontevraud-l'Abbaye, Pays de la Loire

19 December 2020 (postponed from June)

A new museum of modern art will open at Fontevraud Abbey following a vast donation by private collectors Martine and Léon Cligman, including 19th- and 20th-century works by artists Corot, Dubuffet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Derain and Delaunay. Under the directorship of Dominique Gagneux, the museum will open in the former stables, known as the 'Fannerie', and is intended to receive the 'Musée de France' label. Fontevraud is the largest collection of monastic buildings in France, burial place of three English royals – Henry II, Richard the Lionheart and Eleanor of Aquitaine – and today a cultural centre. The on-site hotel has a Michelin-starred restaurant and hotel guests have access to the abbey all night long.

www.fontevraud.fr/en/

NARBO VIA, A NEW ANTIQUE MUSEUM

New museum

Narbonne, Occitanie

December 2020 - date to be confirmed

The Narbo Via museum will be the new landmark of the city of Narbonne in southern France, once an important Roman port. Designed by Norman Foster from Foster+Partners (who also created the Musée de la Romanité in Nîmes, which opened in June 2018), the new 8,000-square-metre antique museum will honour the town's remarkable archaeological collection, charting its antique heritage and displaying as many as 25,000 individual exhibits. It is one of France's most important ongoing contemporary architectural projects, with a remarkably light framework and a transparent, undulating façade.

www.fosterandpartners.com/projects/narbo-via

2021

CULTURAL SITES, EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

COLLECTION PINAULT PARIS – BOURSE DE COMMERCE

New museum

Paris, Île-de-France

23 January 2021 (postponed from 2020)

French billionaire and notable art collector François Pinault is taking over a new hot Parisian spot to display his art collection. Located at the heart of Paris, the Bourse de Commerce (Stock Exchange) is the new exhibition space for the Pinault Collection. The historic building has been fully restored and transformed into a museum by famous Japanese architect Tadao Ando, including an auditorium and 3,000 square metres of contemporary art display space. French chef Michel Bras will take up residence and open a restaurant at the museum.

www.boursedecommerce.fr/en/

FONDATION PERNOD RICARD

New cultural site

Paris, Île-de-France

6 February 2021

A new venue, a new ambition, new artistic encounters: the Pernod Ricard Foundation will be as committed as ever to supporting the young contemporary French arts scene and to making it as widely accessible as possible. This new multidisciplinary venue – whose development was entrusted to the firm NeM / Niney & Marca Architectes – is located at 1 Cours Paul Ricard, at the forefront of the new global headquarters of the eponymous Group, in the Saint-Lazare district at the heart of Paris. It boasts a main exhibition space of 300 square metres, as well as a 130-seat auditorium and a modular lobby that can accommodate performances or one-off installations. Café Mirette will provide a warm and welcoming meeting place for all art lovers. The space will open onto a large terrace, the Paul Ricard courtyard, accessible to all.

<https://www.fondation-pernod-ricard.com/en>

LES FRANCISCAINES

New cultural site in a former convent

Deauville, Normandy

March 2021

As its name suggests, this beautiful building was once home to the Franciscan order. It was sold to Deauville in 2012 and has since been entirely restored to house a museum, auditorium and media library, arranged across five zones – including one for children – all thematically linked to Deauville and its history. The museum will also exhibit works by André Hambourg, who donated over 500 paintings to the town, and other contemporary pieces.

<https://en.indeauville.fr/Franciscan-project>

HOTEL DE LA MARINE

New museum

Paris, Île-de-France

13 April 2021 (postponed from 2020)

For the first time in over two centuries, the Hôtel de la Marine in Paris will open its doors to the public in April 2021. Accompanied by their 'Confidant' - a handset for 3D visual / audio effects - visitors are taken on an immersive tour of the sumptuous apartments complete with furnishings and the state rooms that provided access to the loggia overlooking Place de la Concorde. Various visit options are available, including one specially designed for families. Lastly, the exhibition gallery in the Hôtel de la Marine will be home to temporary exhibitions, masterpieces from the Al Thani Collection and a programme of cultural events. Since its completion by architect Ange-Jacques Gabriel in 1774, the Hôtel de la Marine has been owned by the Crown and houses the management and storage of the Court's furniture and works of art.

www.hotel-de-la-marine.paris

THE SAINT-ETIENNE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN BIENNAL

Design festival

Saint-Étienne, Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes

28 April – 22 August 2021

The city of Saint-Étienne is famous for its design and football. The Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne in France began in 1998, is held every two years and has been successfully held for 11 sessions to date. One of the world's most important design exhibitions, it is an academic, forward-facing industrial design exhibition that aims to present outstanding works in the design field, while providing a high-level promotional display platform for talented artists and designers. They are invited to gather for forums, interviews, symposia and artistic creation under the theme of industrial design, in order to promote the ideal connection between art and industry. The Biennale is equally renowned for the American National Design Triennial, Milan Design Week and the London Design Festival.

<https://www.biennale-design.com/saint-etienne/2021/> (French only)

DINOPLAGNE, A SITE CONTAINING DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS DISCOVERED IN 2009

La Plagne, Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes

April 2021 (postponed from 2020)

What does three minutes in the life of a dinosaur represent? At Dinoplagne, traces of giants from times gone by will give you a striking insight into their world. This paleontological site has the longest trail of dinosaur footprints in the world, fossilised 145 million years ago – and will finally open to the public after being discovered by geologists and biologists from Oyonnax in 2009. *Official website not yet available*

JEFF KOONS EXHIBITION AT MUCEM, MARSEILLE

Marseille, Région Sud

5 May – 18 October 2021

Curated in close collaboration with the artists, 'Jeff Koons MuCEM: Works from the Pinault Collection' will present some of his most famous works in Marseille. It will explore the relationship between these works and everyday objects, photographs and documents from the MuCEM's immense collection, in the field of popular arts. Thanks to a loan of 20 works from the Pinault Collection, it is a real dive into the artist's work, punctuated by his iconic works, sculptures (such as *Balloon Dog, 1994-2000* and *Lobster, 2007-2012*) and paintings (including *Backyard, 2002* and *Dutch Couple, 2007*).

www.mucem.org/en

THE MARCEL PROUST MUSEUM

Cabourg, Normandy

Spring 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Commemorating 100 years since Marcel Proust won the coveted Prix Goncourt literary prize, the Villa du Temps Retrouvé (Marcel Proust Museum) will open in 2021 in Cabourg, Proust's favourite holiday retreat and the inspiration for his famous novel, *A La Recherche Du Temps Perdu [In Search of Lost Time]*. The museum will showcase the Belle-Epoque period at the end of the 19th century and explore the history of the Cote Fleurie through Proust's eyes.

www.cabourg-tourisme.fr/en

FRANCE'S FIRST UNDERWATER MUSEUM

Marseille, Région Sud

Spring 2021

A group of art lovers in the city conceived the Musée Subaquatique de Marseille, or 'Marseille Underwater Museum', a series of sculptures submerged in the Anse des Catalans bay that can only be reached by diving. The project was inspired by the MUSA Museum off Cancun, Mexico, created in 2009 by British artist Jason deCaires Taylor, which now attracts divers from around the world. The plan is to launch the museum with 45 art pieces, 15 of which will be by Taylor himself.

www.musee-subaquatique.com/fr/ (French only)

THE GEHRY TOWER AT FONDATION LUMA

Arles, PACA

Spring 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Designer Frank Gehry's vertiginous, twisting tower at LUMA Arles is taking shape on its 16-acre site in Provence. The tower will support a variety of functions and spaces including research facilities, workshops and seminar rooms, as well as artists' studios. While it used only to open during summer, the Fondation LUMA itself is now open all year round.

www.luma-arles.org/en

OCEANA LUMINA

Rochefort, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Spring 2021

In the remarkable setting of the Rochefort Arsenal, Oceana Lumina is an enchanted night walk. This hour-long pedestrian tour transports visitors into a fantastic world inspired by the site's maritime epics. It's immersive and multi-sensory, inventively combining a variety of digital tools - lighting and scenographic installations, video projections and an original soundtrack - to allow visitors to experience the emotion of the great ocean crossings. Designed by renowned Canadian company Moment Factory, this first tour in Europe is scheduled to open in spring 2021, with a programme of over 100 performances.

www.arsenaldesmers.fr (french only)

NATURE IS BIKE: FRANCE'S FIRST EVER GRAVEL BIKE FESTIVAL

Angers, Pays de la Loire

26-27 June 2021 (postponed from 2020)

France's first festival dedicated to gravel bikes will take place over two days next summer in the historic riverside town of Angers. Conceived as both a sporting event and a reconnection with nature, the festival will feature two challenges - a 64km night ride and a 100km daytime course - plus a family ramble, a 'Gravel Expo' trade fair and a programme of environment-focused activities. Angers is a major cycling centre, sitting at the crossroads of three major routes that are enjoyed by almost 200,000 cyclists every year.

www.natureisbike.com/en

THE BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL

Ver-sur-Mer, Normandy

June 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Designed by Liam O'Connor, award-winning architect behind the Bomber Command Memorial in London, this new site will be the first memorial to honour the 22,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died fighting under British command on D-Day and in the Battle of Normandy. It will stand just outside the village of Ver-sur-Mer, overlooking Gold Beach.

www.normandymemorialtrust.org/the-memorial/

THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED

Art display

Paris, Île-de-France

18 September – 3 October 2021 (postponed from 2020)

In partnership with the Pompidou Centre, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN) will be creating a temporary exhibition entitled 'The Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped'. The work will be visible for 14 days and conceived by Christo, who famously 'wrapped' the Pont-Neuf in Paris, the Reichstag in Berlin and the Gates of Central Park in New York. As the artist sadly passed away in 2020, the display will be entirely funded by the sale of his preparatory studies, drawings and collages of the project, as well as scale models, works from the 1950s and 1960s and original lithographs on other subjects.

www.paris-arc-de-triomphe.fr/en/News/The-Arc-de-Triomphe-Wrapped

CHANEL METIERS D'ART WORKSHOP

New cultural site

Porte d'Aubervilliers, Paris, Île-de-France

Date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

This 25,550-square-metre building in the northern Parisian suburb of Porte d'Aubervilliers was conceived by Rudy Ricciotti, and will house the majority of the 26 speciality ateliers that Chanel oversees, including milliner Maison Michel, cashmere specialist Barrie, feather maker Lemarié and embroiderers Maison Lesage. A total of 600 artisans will take up residence in a striking structure covered in a concrete shell evoking threads. Through the project, Chanel hopes to contribute to the influence of Paris as the capital of fashion.

Official website not yet available

A TEMPORARY GRAND PALAIS ON THE CHAMPS DE MARS

Temporary pop-up cultural site

Paris, Île-de-France

2021-2024

The Grand Palais is temporarily relocating to the Champ de Mars, at the base of the Eiffel Tower, at the beginning of 2021 and will remain there until Autumn 2024. The new temporary 10,000-square-metre structure was designed by the Wilmotte & Associés architecture firm. The 'Grand Palais Ephémère' (Temporary Grand Palais) will host the events of the Grand Palais during the transformation of the original Parisian institution, which closed its doors in summer 2020 to carry out a large-scale renovation ahead of becoming a host venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024.

www.grandpalais.fr/en/constructing-temporary-grand-palais

ANNIVERSARIES

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAZZ A JUAN FESTIVAL

Juan-les-Pins, PACA

9-25 July 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Antibes-Juan-les-Pins' iconic jazz festival was due to celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2020, and will now be organising its celebrations for 2021. Listening to jazz in the Pinède Gould pine grove overlooking the Mediterranean is a unique experience and has given the festival world renown. Next year's special edition will go on longer than usual to celebrate the anniversary, with a line-up including Gregory Porter, Herbie Hancock and Diana Ross.

www.jazzajuan.com/en-us/home.aspx

50TH YEAR OF THE FESTIVAL INTERCELTIQUE DE LORIENT

Lorient, Brittany

6-15 August 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Each summer around 700,000 people from all over the world invade the Celtic town of Lorient for the Festival Interceltique. From Galicia to Scotland, the best of Celtic music can be found here and enjoyed in a buzzy social atmosphere. No less than 200 events and shows and 5,000 performers around the city will be celebrating this 50th anniversary.

www.festival-interceltique.bzh

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAUSICAA SEA LIFE CENTRE

Boulogne-sur-Mer, Hauts-de-France

2021

After a major extension which opened in May 2019, Nausicaá became the largest aquarium in Europe and is located in Boulogne-sur-Mer, just a swim across the Channel. The major attraction in Hauts-de-France will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2021 with a calendar of activities and events. In addition to being the perfect family holiday destination, the sea life centre's role is also to educate and encourage the general public to protect marine life for the future and to assess the impact of resources and how they can help with marine conservation.

www.nausicaa.co.uk

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF WRITER GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

Normandy

2021

2021 marks the bicentenary year of the birth of Gustave Flaubert, one of France's most famous and influential writers who is perhaps best-known in the English-speaking world for his debut novel, *Madame Bovary*. Flaubert's attachment to Normandy – in particular the city of Rouen, where he was born and did much of his writing – makes him an important figure in this region's history. Until December, Normandy will host a varied programme of events to celebrate the bicentenary of Flaubert, including exhibitions, shows, tourist trails, dramatised walking tours and educational activities.

Official website not yet available

FOOD & SHOPPING

DEPARTMENT STORE LA SAMARITAINE REOPENS

Paris, Île-de-France

February - date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

After closing for safety reasons in 2005, La Samaritaine is finally unveiling the results of its large-scale renovation project conceived by the LVMH Group. Several facilities will be grouped together within the buildings, surrounded by a pedestrian area, spread over two blocks between the Quai du Louvre and Rue de Rivoli: a department store, a five-star Cheval Blanc hotel with 72 rooms (see 'New Hotels' section), housing units, offices and a children's nursery.

www.lvmh.com/houses/other-activities/samaritaine

THE BORDEAUX WINE FESTIVAL

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

17-20 June 2021 (postponed from 2020)

A city synonymous with wine, Bordeaux holds a four-day wine festival every two years. At this event, 80 appellations from Bordeaux and Nouvelle-Aquitaine are made available for visitors' tasting pleasure. The two-kilometre-long festival stretches from the banks of the River Garonne to the 18th-century buildings at the heart of the city. Each evening, a spectacular light show will be projected on the façade of the Palais de la Bourse.

www.bordeaux-wine-festival.com

THE PARIS FOOD FORUM

Paris, Île-de-France

June 2021 (postponed from 2020)

On the initiative of Emmanuel Macron, the Paris Food Forum will be held in the capital next June. The forum is an international symposium on the future of gastronomy and the place of food in our everyday lives. Catering and nutrition experts from all five continents will come together to find common solutions to the global challenges in this field, with a special emphasis placed on environmental, health and social issues. With over 500 stakeholders and 100 keynote speakers, a state dinner with President Emmanuel Macron, a large farmers' market and a series of events will be organised on the initiative of the various ministries. These include the exhibition of a monumental work by Indian artist Subodh Gupta in the Tuileries Garden and an exhibition of food cultures at the Palace of Versailles.

Official website not yet available

FOOD SOCIETY, EUROPE'S LARGEST FOOD HALL

Paris, Île-de-France

2021 - date to be confirmed

In the Montparnasse district of Paris, Ateliers Gaité will feature over 100 shops and services spanning three floors, plus restaurants and a gourmet food stand, a fully refurbished Pullman hotel with almost 1,000 rooms, offices and housing, and a renovated public library. Above all, it will be home to Food Society, Europe's largest food hall measuring 5,000 square metres.

Official website not yet available

NEW HOTELS

AIRELLES CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES, LE GRAND CONTROLE

Versailles, Paris-Île-de-France

Five-star expected

February - date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

The LOV Group is opening another hotel as part of the Airelles Collection brand, this time in Versailles near Paris. The luxury 23-room hotel at 12 Rue de l'Indépendance Américaine is housed in the 17th-century 'Grand Contrôle', 'Petit Contrôle' and 'Premières Cent Marches' pavilions, with a view of the palace orangery and across the Pièce d'Eau des Suisses lake, as well as a restaurant by Alain Ducasse. The Airelles Collection owns Hotel Les Airelles in Courchevel and La Bastide de Gordes in Provence, as well as the Airelles Val d'Isère Mademoiselle which opened in December 2019.

<https://airelles.com/en/airelles-collection-properties/>

DOMAINES DE FONTENILLE

Paris-Île-de-France

Five-star expected

Spring 2021

Less than an hour from the capital, by a river at the heart of one of the most beautiful parks in the Paris region, this 18th-century aristocratic residence has been transformed into a 30-room hotel with fine-dining restaurant, bistro and spa. It's set to be an exceptional place for relaxation, surrounded by romantic gardens and classical architecture.

www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com/en

FRANCE'S FIRST ALOFT HOTEL

Dijon, Burgundy-Franche-Comté

Four-star expected

Spring 2021

A new hotel under the Aloft brand will open its doors on Place Grangier in the Hôtel des Postes in Dijon. Formerly a commercial premises now transformed into accommodation and/or an artist's studio, the space will offer 93 bright and fully open loft spaces, plus various services for hotel guests and local customers.

<https://aloft-hotels.marriott.com/>

REOPENING OF HOTEL DU PALAIS BIARRITZ

Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Spring 2021

Hotel du Palais, the only 'Palace' on the Atlantic Coast, has undergone a renovation to enhance the majesty and elegance of this exceptional establishment, while conserving the spirit of its prestigious 19th-century design and architecture. This former imperial residence of Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie de Montijo was built in 1854 and ranks among the world's most beautiful hotels, earning it the 'Palace de France' label. The five-star seafront hotel in Biarritz will reopen the doors to its 57 suites and 82 rooms in spring 2021, alongside a 26,900-

square-foot spa, a large outdoor pool and a panoramic restaurant headed by chef Aurélien Largeau.

www.hotel-du-palais.com

THE FIRST SOHO HOUSE HOTEL IN FRANCE

Paris, Île-de-France

Summer 2021 (postponed from 2020)

In the former red light district of Pigalle, the 35-bedroom Soho House Paris is taking shape behind a handsome and historic Parisian facade, in what was once the home of French poet Jean Cocteau. The design is set to recall Paris' bohemian heyday of the early 20th century, with low-level lighting and rich textures. The building houses a charming courtyard, a sumptuous cinema for late-night screenings, club lounges and restaurants, and upstairs, no two bedrooms are alike. There are also rumours of a Soho Farmhouse-style project in the pipeline, expected to open on the Les Bordes estate in the Loire Valley.

www.sohohouse.com

MOB HOUSE PARIS LES PUCES

Saint-Ouen, Paris-Île-de-France

Date to be confirmed

Following the opening of the MOB HOTEL Paris les Pucés in 2017, the first MOB HOUSE conceived by Cyril Aouizerate and decorated by Philippe Starck is set to open at Les Pucés in Saint-Ouen, northern Paris. The MOB HOUSE will be the first hotel to offer professionals an environment adapted to their needs and stimulating their creativity. Designed by Philippe Starck, the interiors are set to be cosy and full of curiosities and surprises. This will be a unique, innovative place, hinging its success on inviting guests for 'bleasure' (both business and pleasure).

Official website not yet available

THE BVLGARI HOTEL PARIS

Paris, Île-de-France

Five-star expected

Date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

Next year anticipates the opening of the first Bulgari hotel in Paris at 30 Avenue George-V, with 76 rooms and suites, spa with 25-metre pool, bar, restaurant and Parisian courtyard. Set on an exquisite corner of the Triangle d'Or, the hotel has been designed by Italian architectural firm Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel and renowned Parisian architects Valode & Pistre. It will combine classic Haussmannian style with a contemporary rationalistic façade.

www.bulgarihotels.com/en_US/paris

CHEVAL BLANC AT LA SAMARITAINE

Paris, Île-de-France

Five-star expected

Date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

Japanese architects Sejima and Nishizawa have transformed former iconic department store La Samaritaine into a luxury hotel, the Cheval Blanc. It will boast 72 rooms and suites with far-

reaching views of the Seine, cultural spaces, a restaurant, garden terrace and shops. At the centre of the site is an Art Nouveau building crowned with an impressive glass roof, which was completed by Frantz Jourdain in the early 1900s. LVMH eventually plans to open a Cheval Blanc hotel, spa and Louis Vuitton café in London's Mayfair.

www.chevalblanc.com/en/maison/paris/

MAISON HELER BY STARCK

Curio Collection by Hilton

Metz, Grand-Est

Date to be confirmed (postponed from 2020)

Presented at MIPIM (International Property Market) in Cannes on 15 March 2018, the first hotel designed entirely from scratch by French creator Philippe Starck is scheduled to open its doors in 2020 near the Centre Pompidou-Metz. The building will be one of the 50 remarkable hotels in the 'Curio by Hilton' collection. It will have 119 rooms and suites spread over 14 floors – topped by the famous replica of the Salomon Villa on Avenue Foch – as well as a restaurant and cosy bar-salon.

<https://maison-heler.com/>

-ENDS-

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About Atout France

Atout France - France Tourism Development Agency, is responsible for promoting the development of the tourism industry, the country's largest economic sector. Atout France's primary mission is to monitor and analyse the supply and demand in the tourist market. Atout France is also committed to promoting destinations and tourism partners in and from France. This is achieved through marketing campaigns, online promotion, PR and working closely with the travel trade sector. Atout France is represented in the UK and Ireland from its office in London.