



It's a given that St. Tropez is surrounded by endless white sandy beaches and a sunny climate. It's also renowned as a playground for the rich and Hollywood elite. St. Tropez is about the glitz and glamour of dining like A-list stars, and sunning on the brilliant beaches.

More modest travelers come to work on their tan, or unload money on expensive drinks in any of the abundant and stylish nightclubs. Celebrity watching is also popular.

The Beach Clubs at Rametuelle:

St. Tropez offers miles of sand. The Plage de Tahiti, 2.5 miles southeast of town, is the best in the area. If swimwear is making you feel restricted, head east to La Moutte, a nudist (they call it "naturist" in Europe) beach, and shed your clothes.

For the most "wanted" beaches, a reservation is required in advance and it is best to let your A Season Away VillaHost look after this. A chaise lounge can cost from €15/20 to €100 at Club 55 for the day. The beaches below are the ones which have a reputation but there are plenty of other more modest/classic ones to observe the world go by.

Generally, topless is "out" in St. Tropez, in part because there is so much fashionable swimwear and accessories that most people in St. Tropez want to put on a show. Women usually take their top off while lying down but put it on again to go for a swim or eat at the restaurant with a beautiful, stylish kaftan. Men should always wear a shirt or casual top while lunching at a beach restaurant.



TAHITI BEACH (Tahiti Beach):

Probably the most loved by posh locals and 40-something socialites, this Polynesian-theme beach club and hotel at the northern-end of the gulf attracts a loyal patronage of yacht-hoppers and Ramatuelle

(Be prepared to spend up to €23 on a beer at some of the swanky places! Hey, this is, after all, St. Tropez!)

On the whole, St. Tropez is hip, upscale, and expensive, but never-the-less, a fun city to kick back in and it isn't snobbish, rather it is welcoming to all...

Below we have divided the party scene in 2 sections, the beach clubs - places to be seen in the day - and the party "cat people" of the night in St Tropez!

residents. Known more for its restaurant than beach scene, visitors arrive via neighboring valet area or private pier that welcomes moored yachts of visiting glitterati. More Steven Spielberg than Paris Hilton, the crowd is a mostly grown-up contingent of rich globetrotters on hand for a mature restaurant scene and hour-or-so in the sun. The décor mixes tiki totem poles with oiled teak furnishings and signature orange-and-white umbrellas above canvas loungers. French cuisine.

LE CLUB 55 (Boulevard Patch):

Bridget Bardot said it was her favorite, thus creating one of the first beach clubs along Pampelonne Beach with a sexy scene of sunning celebrities and gourmet cuisine. You arrive to a thick-forest of overgrown bamboo surrounding a typically Provencal beach bungalow with white canopies and lavish beach club jetting all the way to the Mediterranean. A wooden pier extends into the water, luring star-studded occupants away from their mega-yachts parked offshore and into the land of the fabulous. No matter how famous and well known, guests should expect to fight for a prime lounge near the water that command 100-Euro in high season and promises of endless Cristal champagne ordering. More modest types may prefer a simple lunch within the main dining room, offering all the views of the elite with a more digestible price tag.



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St. Tropez Party Scene: Day & Night

LA VOILE ROUGE (Moorea beach):

Ideally you want to arrive in your yacht at La Voile Rouge - The Red Sail - on Pampelonne beach. It's how Princess Grace and Brigitte Bardot would have done it in their day. Then again, why not just walk through the front door after landing in your helicopter nearby like everyone else. The revered beachfront restaurant has been a legend for four decades, serving pricey French fare and the finest champagne to the rich and famous since 1968. Still known for its gorgeous women and Mediterranean playboys, there is even a makeshift catwalk for them to sashay down in the middle of the space. Dancing on tables seems standard later on. Don't bother with credit cards either - they only accept cash here!



NIKKI BEACH (Route de l'Epi):

This is a luxurious, fun, happening beach club and you don't have to be a 'name' to get in - just the right 'spirit' according to the owners... A place to spend an afternoon having fun, relaxing and people watching. Party really gets going late afternoon. The ice gun is a gimmick which seems to make the crowd go wild and of course refreshed. The Champagne fight is certainly the climax of the pompous decadence. This is a place for slow guys and fast girls!

Nightlife in St. Tropez:

Apart from the VIP ROOM (listed below) which is more for the younger generation, most clubs are open to all as long as you look elegant...no tie required but best to avoid jeans and sneakers.

L'ESQUINADE:

This classic dance club has been part of St. Tropez's night scene for decades. Quite popular with locals, L'Esquinade provides an avant-garde ambience and lots of late night fun.

LA BODEGA DE PAPAGAYO:

Located on the port and attracting a young teen to early 20's crowd, this bar is renowned as the best dance club in town. La Bodega de Papagayo starts getting busy after midnight and consists of two rooms, one a busy bar and the other an energetic dance floor and stage area. Bands perform almost nightly, and, during the season, it is standing room only. The ambience is high energy, and the decor includes lounge sofas, long tables and dim lighting. Once inside, expect to sweat, because between the music and the crowd - Papagayo's can get hot!

LES CAVES DU ROY:

For celebrities and A-list spotters. Late night dancing and pre-dawn partying can be had at this popular spot. Les Caves du Roy, which is located in the Hôtel Byblos, is the place to be seen. Getting in

takes persuading a bouncer, but once inside, the decor is cavernous and chic. Admission is free, but there is a one-drink minimum to get inside this huge nightclub. Beware: the average beverage price starts at €23!

VIP ROOM:

The VIP Room is notorious for appealing to the rich and famous, as well as locals but we think it is for the younger crowds. The club features an upstairs dance floor that also has a small bar area. The ambience may be dark, but the music is modern and techno and works at getting the crowd pumping to the groove. The club's decor consists of deep purple and green colors, small white lights that delineate the winding stairway, and a doorman that welcomes each guest. An evening at this popular dance spot is quite memorable.

LE YACA BAR:

Located next to the Hôtel Le Yaca, this bar is chic and stylish. Le Yaca Bar has a salon ambience, and its decor, which features warm hues, wooden accents and tasteful lighting, creates an intimate mood. The music is lively and showcases '80's dance classics as well as funk.

LE CAFÉ DE PARIS:

One of the city's favorite nightspots, this café is both ritzy and trendy. Café de Paris is a great place to people watch. Located on the port, it has al fresco seating, and the decor features lush red velour sofas and gold trimmed mirrors. The crowd ranges from the young to the famous, and the ambience is upscale yet welcoming. Extremely popular during the summer season, the café still draws a crowd during the off-season.



L'OCTAVE CAFE:

With an intimate ambience and an interior that resembles castle walls, this local café is quite chic. The Octave Café features jazz musicians in a small back bar area, a friendly atmosphere in its main bar room, and regional touches like Mediterranean lanterns throughout although there is a very small dance floor.

LA COHIBA:

With a combination bar and café, this hot nightspot is quite popular. La Cohiba is located in St.Tropez's old town and thrives on its salsa and Latin music and atmosphere. The decor is quaint and intimate. It features a series of small tables, lounge sofas and outdoor seating separated by strategically positioned rubber plants and palms. The entrees are strictly tapas, and the selection of beers and cocktails is impressive. This café provides a quieter setting to enjoy a late evening on the town.



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Toll-Free: 877-291-AWAY (2929)

Phone: 410-377-9300

Info@aseasonaway.com

www.ASeasonAway.com



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