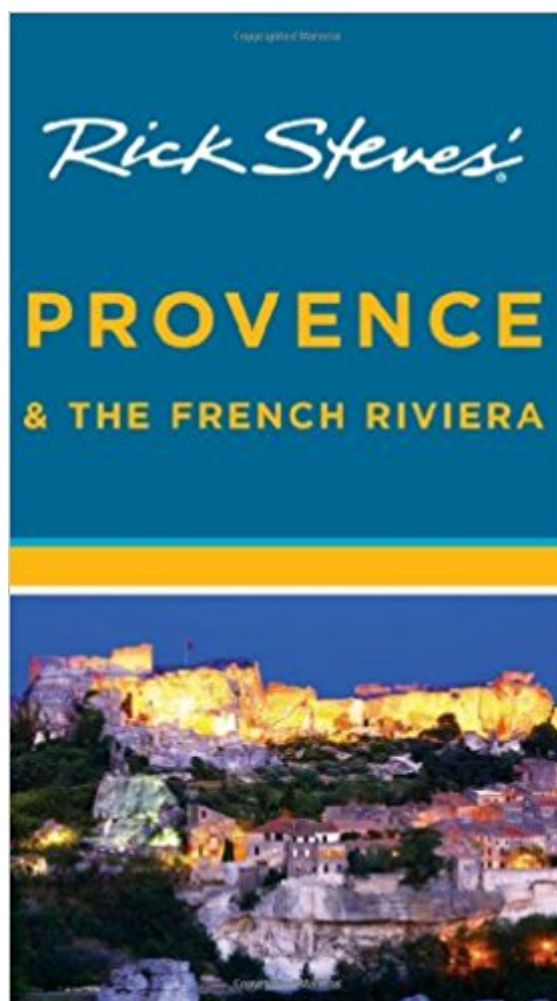


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Rick Steves' Provence & The French Riviera 2012



Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in Provence and the French Riviera. In this guide, you'll find a dazzling mix of enjoyable cities, warm stone villages, Roman ruins, and breathtaking coastline. Experience Roman history with self-guided tours of the Pont du Gard aqueduct, Roman theater in Orange, and Arena in Arles. Explore sun-soaked Riviera beaches and resort towns, from cosmopolitan Nice to colorful Villefranche-sur-Mer. Get inspired by artistic masterpieces by Renoir, Matisse, Picasso, and Chagall. After a day of sightseeing, relax at a caf   with a view, dive into a bowl of bouillabaisse, and watch fishermen return to the harbor. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. You'll learn which sights are worth your time and money, and how to get around by train, bus, car, or boat. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and a podcast (Rick Steves' Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (ricksteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 70 at Europe Through the Back Door in Edmonds, Washington, just north

of Seattle—Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Steve Smith manages tour planning for Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door and has been researching guidebooks with Rick for two decades. Fluent in French, he's lived in France on several occasions, starting when he was seven, and has traveled there annually since 1986. Steve's wife, Karen Lewis Smith, who's an expert on French cuisine and wine, provides invaluable contributions to his books, as do his two children.

I bought two other guide books to find things that are inspiring and interesting in Provence - Frommer's "Provence & the "Riviera" being a good one. Those books are better than Rick Steve's for giving you an idea about what you might want to do. But Rick Steve's is the best book once you know what you want to do - because he tells you how to do it and whom to contact. He makes getting around without a tour group do-able and much less painful. So get another book for the "poetry" of the trip and Rick Steve's for managing the details.

I bought the Spain Rick Steves' book last year (2012) and it was very good. I highly recommend it. Unfortunately, the Provence Rick Steves' books is slightly worse due solely to the wrong pricing information. Because the book is a few years old, most places will cost more than what is listed. For example, as of July 2013, bus rides in Nice are 1.5EUR not 1EUR. Most sights or attractions are about 25% more expensive, so entry price to an amphitheater is 12.5EUR instead of 10EUR. Hotel prices however are mostly unchanged. That said, it's possible prices during the low season have not changed. The tourism industry in this region has no hesitation raising prices during the high season, so prices can change month to month without notice. It's too bad, since Rick Steves has no control over this and that's the only negative thing about this book. Other than the pricing information regarding sights, the information inside this book is great. When Rick Steves updates the book (near future hopefully) it will easily merit 5 stars.

We have used Rick Steves guides before and are familiar with his format which matches our style to go it on our own. The book is well organized with an emphasis on walking tours. Information on sites is current and his website updates are a nice complimentary asset which helps if you have a guide which is a year or two old. If you want extensive information about hotels and restaurants this guide will not meet your needs.

Always appreciate the detail in these books

Rick Steves, as always, does a great job. But reader be warned, these types of books are best in print because you are researching different regions/areas and tend to bounce from one section of the book to another. You cannot do this very effectively with an electronic version - it is frustrating at best. I love my reader for magazines and pleasure books, but not for reference type books. I'll take Steves book in hard copy

We are big Rick Steves fans, but he often leaves out great chunks of a country if it is not his favorite area. We wanted to go to Marseilles because in 2013 it was selected as a "European Capital of Culture." Rick's regular France book has barely a mention of this great city. The Provence book has a lot of information on Marseilles. It also lists information about smaller towns and places to sleep and eat that are not covered in the France book. If you are going to be in Provence, I would recommend that you purchase this book instead of the general France book.

As always, Rick Steves books provide valuable information for planning your trips, on what to spend your time on, etc...The only thing that he needs to include is a good road map. He has done so on other books (i.e. 2011 Spain).

We are a couple in our mid-30s, traveled to the region 8/13. Had a great experience, the book was very informative, funny and detailed. I gave it 4 stars because the restaurants recommendations did not include a notice that they will be closed in august. Many restaurants we made a point to visit, were closed in august for holiday, but not all. However, we wasted our time traveling to the location to find the restaurant is closed. Otherwise, all was great.

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