



2016 Reunion, Aix-en-Provence

19 – 21 September 2016

ALLIANCE Schlumberger is glad to confirm that the 2016 Reunion will be held in Aix-en-Provence in September.

Hotel

The reunion hotel is the [Renaissance](#), part of the Marriot organisation, a 5-star very modern hotel, yet only an 11-minute walk from the cobbled lanes of the old town. It's also 15 km from Aix-en-Provence TGV train station and 26 km from Marignane (Marseille) airport.

We have obtained a preferential room rate of €175 (double) or €155 (single) including all taxes (even the municipal room tax) and breakfast for the two nights of the reunion programme, Sunday 18 and Monday 19th. In addition, the preferential room rate is also applicable for 2 nights for earlier arrival (Friday 16 and Saturday 17) and 2 nights for later departure (Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21).

If you are a member of the Marriot Rewards programme, your stay will earn points.

How to get there ?

If you arrive by private car, the full-height American-style underground parking area is very convenient, and we have obtained a preferential 24-hour rate of €15 instead of the published €19. The hotel does not have a shuttle service, taxis from Aix-en-Provence TGV are around €40, Marignane around €50.

The hotel is at 320 Avenue Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but as this is a restricted access area for taxis and buses only, the GPS street address is 256 Avenue Perouse. The parking entrance is on the other side of the hotel complex, on Avenue Max Juvenal, southbound at GPS coordinates N 43.525569° E 5.438356°. There is a Hertz office nearby, at 43 Avenue Victor Hugo.



Hotel reservation :

You can reserve your room already on the [customized Marriot web page](#).

When you do so, please also send an email to [Patrick Vandenabeele](#) (vandenabeele59@gmail.com) with the following information:

- Your Name, Forename
- Spouse/partner Name, Forename
- Date of arrival
- Date of departure
- Number of nights reserved
- Type of room (single/double)
- First attendance to an Alliance reunion



Programme

This programme includes several packages outlined here below.

In a couple of weeks, a separate reservation web page will be provided in the Alliance website, for these packages and options

Sunday 18th **Arrival and Welcome**

- cocktail and buffet dinner in the Renaissance, under the supervision of chef Arnaud Davin
- €50 per person

Note : There is a wonderful exhibit of William Turner's works in the [Hôtel de Caumont Centre d'Art](#), a beautiful hôtel particulier. Demonstrating Parisian influences, the Hôtel de Caumont is a mansion built "between court and garden", an architectural design that appeared in Paris in the 16th century. Unfortunately, the last day of the Turner exhibition is the reunion arrival day, Sunday 18 September. Therefore we could not include it in the programme. But you are encouraged, if arriving early enough on Sunday 18 or an earlier day, to make reservations (numbers are restricted) and purchase tickets (€12 per person, €15 with audioguide, reduced tariff might be available) on the Caumont [website](#).

Monday 19th

Morning : **Les Alpilles and les Baux-de-Provence** (in Occitan/Provençal – *Lei Bauç de Provença*)

Les Baux-de-Provence has a spectacular position in the Alpilles mountains, set atop a rocky outcrop that is crowned with a ruined castle overlooking the plains to the south. Its name refers to its site: in Provençal, a *bauç* is a rocky spur – the name bauxite (principal ore of aluminium) is derived from the village name when it was first discovered there by geologist Pierre Berthier in 1821.

- breakfast
- departure by bus to les Baux-de-Provence (about 55 minutes)
- visit to [les Carrières de Lumière](#), a wonderful show of art projected on the walls of a quarry, this season the featured artist is Marc Chagall, this is really a spectacle not to be missed (1 hour); a light sweater or jacket is recommended (constant 14°C/57°F)
- alternate visit to le [le Château des Baux-de-Provence](#), the ancient ruined ramparts of the castle at the summit of the village (1-1/2 hours)
- time constraints unfortunately do not permit both Carrières and Château visits
- free time for walking visit in the village of les Baux-de-Provence
- departure by bus to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence (about 15 minutes)
- lunch and entertainments in [Manade Caillan](#), one of the many cowboy "ranches" in the Camargue and Alpilles region, where the *taureaux* for the local corridas or bullfights (non-lethal – no animals were hurt in this programme) are raised
- departure by bus to the Renaissance in Aix-en-Provence
- €66 per person



ALLIANCE Schlumberger

Monday 19th

Afternoon

- **ALLIANCE Schlumberger annual meeting** in the Renaissance
- free time for non-participants

Gala Dinner

Just three kilometres from Aix-en-Provence, at the end of a long drive lined with century-old trees, the 4-star **Château de la Pioline** offers a professional and discreet welcome, as well as top-quality customer service. With its luxury hotel and gastronomic restaurant situated in a four-hectare park, it enjoys a traditional setting and is equipped with top-of-the-range facilities. Its celebrated chef Pierre Reboul opened the new restaurant in March.

- departure by bus to [le Château de la Pioline](#) in les Milles (about 10 minutes)
- champagne and aperitifs in the gardens
- dinner prepared under the supervision of P. Reboul
- return to Renaissance
- €75 per person

Tuesday 20th **Cassis and the Calanques**

Cassis is the archetypal Provençal coastal village, nestled between the craggy crêtes to the east and the famous Calanques to the west, with the approach running down to the blue Mediterranean in a valley covered in vineyards of the celebrated [Vin de Cassis](#), the oldest Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée in France, 15 May 1936.

- Hotel breakfast
- free time to walk in the streets of Aix-en-Provence
- departure by bus (from Renaissance and from la Rotonde in Aix) to Cassis bus park (no buses in village), about 40 minutes.
- *petits trains* shuttles (50 per train, three trains) from parking to village, with driver's commentary.
- free time to walk in Cassis
- lunch in [le Grand Large](#), spectacular waterfront restaurant, under the supervision of proprietor Philippe Grundler
- visit (optional) to the beautiful [Calanques de Cassis](#) by boat (two 75-person boats), a series of deep incursions of the Mediterranean into the sheer limestone cliffs of the coast between Cassis and Marseille, the result of some [very interesting geological history](#) (about 1-1/2 hours)
- for those whose departure time from either Marignane airport or Aix TGV station does not permit time for the Calanques visit, an early bus may depart for those destinations around 14:45, arriving approximately 15:45 (airport) or 16:00 (TGV)
- departure by *petits trains* and bus to Renaissance (about 1 hour total, arrival around 17:30)
- €77, or €59 without the Calanques visit

Wednesday 21st **Golf option**

Leonardo Kleiner, Alliance member, Dowell retiree, and a very fine caballero, has offered the facilities of his 18-hole [Golf de la Cabre d'Or](#) in Cabriès free of charge to those who wish to participate in the Alliance golf tournament.

See you in Aix-en-Provence in September!