Beat: Arts

From Le Train Bleu to the Croisette

Belle Epoque Meets the Riviera

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USPA NEWS - Created for the 1900 Exposition Universelle within Paris `s Gare de Lyon ,, Le Train Bleu ``remains one of the finest surviving masterpieces of Belle Epoque elegance . Originally opened as the ,, Buffet de la Gare de Lyon ``for the Exposition Universelle , the restaurant known as ,, Le Train Bleu ``has welcomed travelers bound for the French Riviera for more than a century .Beneath its gilded ceilings ,,Le Train Bleu ``resembles an art gallery as much as a restaurant . Magnificent paintings by renowned Belle Epoque masters such as Henri Gervex , Albert Maignan , Francois Flameng and Gaston La Touche celebrate the landscapes of southern France and the Mediterranean world .Together with sculpted figures , gold -leaf and crystal chandeliers , they create an atmosphere where art , travel and history merge into a single experience .After admiring the Belle Epoque splendor of Le Train Bleu , immortalized in ,, The Mystery of the Blue Train ``starring David Suchet as Hercule Poirot , the traveler boards a TGV bound for Cannes , embarking on a five- hours journey from the artistic grandeur of Paris to the timeless elegance of the Croisette , Cannes .

Once in Cannes , the traveler is naturally drawn to the legendary Croisette , where the iconic Carlton and Martinez hotels stand as symbols of Riviera glamour , while the prestigious boutiques evoke the refined atmosphere of Paris ` s Avenue Montaigne .Along the Croisette stands the legendary le Palais des Festivals , the prestigious home of the Cannes Film Festival , where Romanian director Cristian Mungiu earned his second Palme d `Or in 2026 , further cementing his place among Europe `s most celebrated filmmakers .Not far from Cannes lies Grasse , the perfume capital of the world , where Coco Chanel collaborated with perfumer Ernest Beaux in 1920 to create the legendry Chanel N° 5 , a fragrance that would become one of the most recognizable symbols of France elegance .Text and pictures by Cristian Amza , director and journalist ;

The French Riviera remains a would apart , where the light of the Mediterranean , the elegance of its seaside promenades and the legacy of generations of artists and visionaries continue to captivate visitors .From Le Train Bleu to the Croisette the journey is more than a passage between two cities : it is an invitation to experience the timeless spirit of France at its most beautiful and inspire .

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