



Left: Performance of Trois Sirenes: Memoires in Marseille by H2O. Photo: Agnès Mellon

Cruise the esplanade and admire the Regional Centre for the Mediterranean (CRM), a new multi-functional site in the shape of a C that is partly submerged in water. Enter to browse the many shops, enjoy a snack with water views and browse the documentation centre.

Nearby, the Quai d'Arenc silo has been transformed by local architect Eric Castaldi into a 2000-seat auditorium; the Euromed Center is a new cultural centre designed by Massimilian Fuksas with a multiplex; and architect Zaha Hadid has designed the 147-metre glass CMA CGM Tower.

### NEW OUTLOOK ON HISTORIC CHARMS

But, does this new shiny outlook destroy the old city charm? Mais non. Rather, it encourages an appreciation of Marseille's heritage, as seen best in the renovation of its docks. The project, led by architect Norman Foster, revitalises the area, reduces traffic and facilitates access

without destroying the historic qualities of the 2600-year-old port. Here, the J1, an enormous hangar-turned cultural space, reopens to the public from 10 October. Catch some rays, schedule in some performances or exhibitions, watch the boats or just rub shoulders with the locals at the cafés.

As 2013 European Capital of Culture, Marseille and Provence is playing host to literally hundreds of artistic and cultural events. There's a travelling Pompidou gallery, a weekend graffiti event, fusion music festivals, cuisine and street-food fairs, and a floating festival you can enjoy from your vantage point on the shoreline.

### >> FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information  
Tourisme Marseille  
[www.marseille.fr](http://www.marseille.fr)  
Marseille Provence 2013 official website  
<http://www.marseille.fr>



### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUTUMN 2013

>>>New Orders: Arts collective Une saison du CartelLe Cartel presents three exhibitions, a fair, art in public spaces, debates, films, concerts and performances focusing on new art in France. From 6 July to 31 December, Friche la Belle de Mai ([www.lafriche.org/content/new-orders](http://www.lafriche.org/content/new-orders)).

>>>METAMORPHOSES: Playing with the city – In this initiative by Pierre Sauvageot, director of the national creation centre Lieux Publics, artists from 15 European countries have been invited to play with public space – and by doing so, challenge our interactions with the city. From 20 September to 6 October, various locations.

Above: Opening weekend of Marseille: European Capital of Culture 2013. Photo: Ville de Marseille. Left: Glimpse of the Old Port through the laser-cut façade of Marseille's stunning new history museum, MuCEM. Photo: Lisa Ricciotti.

# Art of the MATTER

THE PORT CITY OF **MARSEILLE** HAS SHED ITS PATINA OF AGE TO REVEAL A SWATHE OF NEW MUSEUMS, PROMENADES AND MORE – JUST IN TIME FOR ITS YEAR AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, WRITES RUBY BOUKABOU.

**A**s France's largest port and second-largest city, dynamic Marseille has an unrivalled urban energy. With its spectacular multimillion-dollar makeover and status as European Capital of Culture 2013, this is an exciting year to visit.

The city has been transformed into a smart cosmopolitan hub, thanks to urban planning collaborations with some of the world's leading contemporary architects. Projects unveiled this year include museums, waterfront renovations, designer hotels and cultural centres.

Make the most of the Mediterranean cli-

mate by starting your day with a coffee and croissant at one of hundreds of street cafés. Then get pedalling on a Vélo (public bike scheme), to explore the new face of the city.

### BIG-PICTURE OPENINGS FOR 2013

To get your historical bearings, start at the MuCEM (Museum of Civilisations from Europe and the Mediterranean, [www.mucem.org](http://www.mucem.org)). Designed by Rudy Ricciotti, the museum has had a major overhaul with an extension of an exhibition venue, 400-seat auditorium, shops, and a café and restaurant.

