

OFFICE DE TOURISME

St Paul de Vence®



Saint-Paul de Vence and the movies

Stars from the 7th Art have been frequenting the village for over 50 years. Directors, producers, actors, film-makers... the list is long.

Film celebrities started to flock to the French Riviera back in the very early 1940s, drawn by the Victorine film studios in Nice and the Film Festival in Cannes. Many of them saw Saint-Paul de Vence as a tranquil refuge far from the hubbub down on the coast. A lot of the stars stayed at the Colombe d'Or, an inn founded in the 1920s by **Paul Roux**, a local hotelier and artist. The Colombe d'Or very soon became a fashionable spot - THE place to be seen. By 1928, the inn's visitors' book had already been signed by **George Bernard Shaw!**

Over the years, **Kirk Douglas, Michael Caine, Gene Wilder, Orson Welles, Tony Curtis and Donald Pleasence** were all either frequent guests at the Colombe d'Or or settled in the village for a while.

Saint-Paul de Vence enjoyed its silver-screen heyday in the 1950s and '60s. The village was transformed into a fabulous film set for stars from the Victorine Studios, Hollywood and Cinecittà. Every major name in French and international film "called in" at the village.

Those rich years were a great source of anecdotes, such as **Alfred Hitchcock's** brush with the mayor of Saint-Paul de Vence in 1954. Hitchcock was preparing to film ***To Catch a Thief*** and wanted to shoot a funeral scene in the village cemetery. Despite Hitchcock's insistence - and the generous donation he was prepared to make to local good works -, the mayor refused. Not used to being turned down, the famous film-maker flew into a monumental rage...

The village served as a backdrop in several films, including ***Moment to Moment*** by **Mervyn LeRoy** in 1966. It starred **Jean Seberg, Honor Blackman and Sean Garrison**, and several scenes were filmed on the terrace of the Colombe d'Or and on Place de la Grande Fontaine.

Download photos from the library on the website.

PRESS CONTACT

Sandrine Léonard

Manager of the Tourist Office of Saint-Paul de Vence

Tel. +33 (0)4 93 32 86 95

Mail. direction@saint-pauldevence.com