PRESS KIT



CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

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HISTORY

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD



THE HISTORY

Inaugurated on April 19, 1970, the Circuit Paul Ricard was created by Paul Ricard, creator of the famous aniseed-based alcoholic drink. The circuit in Var has been the scene of many national and international motor sports events, including 14 Formula 1 Grand Prix (1971-1990), 22 Bol d'Or events (1980-1999) and 13 French Motorcycle Grand Prix (1973-1999).

The place will quickly become mythical for the motorcyclists of the whole world with the performances of the best motorcycle pilots of the world, and it will know its hour of glory in automobile in the Eighties with the confrontations of the biggest champions of Formula 1 like Alain Prost or Ayrton Senna. When it was created, the circuit was already ahead of its time, offering safety and infrastructures that were unheard of at the time.



In May 1999, Excelis SA became the owner of the Circuit Paul Ricard and decided to make it the first circuit in the world dedicated exclusively to testing and communication. It became the "Circuit Paul Ricard High Tech Test Track" (HTTT). Mandated to carry out the renovation of the site, Philippe Gurdjian launches an ambitious program of work intended to make the "Paul Ricard" a model for circuits around the world by being avantgarde, innovative and technological.



After 11 months of work that began in April 2001, the Circuit Paul Ricard, a new technology and safety test center, welcomes in 2002 the professional teams of Formula 1, GP2 Series, endurance, MotoGP for their private or collective tests. In its modern and design setting, the circuit also becomes a privileged place for communication and public relations operations, but also for filming and photo shoots, as communication agencies are seduced by the natural setting of Provence and the blue and red curves of the track.



After an approval of the new concepts by the FIA (Fédération Internationale
Automobile), the Castellet track welcomes again official races and events from August 2006.

After a decade of research and development and events behind closed doors, the Paul Ricard circuit reopened its doors to the general public in 2009, and a new era began.

HISTORY

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

KEY DATES

1970 : Creation of the circuit by Paul Ricard, inaugurated on April 19, 1970

1971 : Organization of the Formula 1 Grand Prix, 14 events until 1990

1973 : Organization of the motorcycle Grand Prix, 13 events until 1999

1978 : Organization of the Bol d'Or, 22 events until 1999, and organization of the "200 Miles of Paul Ricard-Moto Journal" from 1974 to 1982

1999 : Purchase of the circuit site and the Castellet airfield by the Excelis company. Renovation of the circuit by Philippe Gurdjian, to make it the first circuit in the world dedicated exclusively to testing and communication, renamed Circuit Paul Ricard High Tech Test Track.

2001 : Beginning of the renovation works in April after the official launch of the Toyota Motorsport Formula 1. Modification of the initial layout of the circuit: deletion of the chicane after the "double-right" turn of Le Beausset; modification of the Pont, Hotel, Camp, Bendor and Lake turns; creation of new, more technical turns: the Epingle, the North and South Chicanes in the Mistral straight, the "S" of the Airport and the Chicane of Signes.
Modernization of the Race Building: the access tunnel to the pitlane is transformed into the building's entrance hall; new garages are built at the front of the building, and the paddock becomes an enclosed space.

2002 : Circuit Paul Ricard HTTT becomes an avant-garde and creative circuit, notably thanks to the "Blue Line™" concept that combines design and safety.

2003 : Creation of the Montreal chicane in the Mistral straight line.

2004 : Creation of the "Petit Beausset" bend after the Signes curve.
Construction of the Grand Prix Hall with 600 seats.

2005 : Creation of the Suzuka V1 and V2 turns at the "S" of La Verrerie..













HISTORY

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

KEY DATES

2006 : Homologation of the track by the Fédération Internationale Automobile (FIA).

2007 : The Circuit Paul Ricard is designated as the First Center of Excellence by the FIA Institute for Motorsport Safety.

2009 : Reopening to the public for motor racing events and club races.
Construction of 4,400 grandstand seats in the starting straight.
Development of an additional public area: the hillock overlooking the "Double Droite du Beausset" bend, thus increasing to 10,000 the number of spectators that can be welcomed around the circuit. Parking lots and picnic areas have been set up.

2010: The Pit Building II is built as an extension to the Race Building, and houses five additional garages divisible into 2 and two 'technical pit'. With this extension, the circuit has a total of 34 garages and an additional Paddock, Paddock II, of 10,000 square meters.

2014 : Launch of the diversification strategy of the circuit: return of the GP Trucks, music festival, rooftop party...

2015 : Modernization of the facades (footbridge and race building) and communication tools.
Decoration of the entire fleet of track vehicles and repair of the circuit's vibrators.
Installation of guardrails in certain areas around the circuit, acoustic barriers behind the stands...
Return of the Bol d'Or after 16 years of absence.
Opening of the Xtrem Park, an extreme activity park, within the circuit.

2016 : Announcement of the return of the French Formula 1 Grand Prix for 5 years at the Circuit Paul Ricard from 2018.
Revival of the Winfield Racing School.













HISTORY

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

KEY DATES

2017/2018: Major works during the winter: resurfacing of the main track and modification of 3 turns: La Verrerie, no longer closed but widened at the entrance; widening of the Camp and Pont turns. The Bendor parabolic has been created: a left turn especially for motorcycles (Bol d'Or), safer but also faster.



2018 : News facilities for the return of the French Formula 1 Grand Prix.
Construction of a new press center with a capacity of 500 journalists.
Construction of a new 16,000m² paddock to host the F1 Grand Prix races.
Installation of additional grandstands (51,200 additional seats).
Installation of FIA security fences.
Creation of 3 new spectator access doors to the west of the installations.
Creation of a "Richard Mille" display and timing tower in the straight line of the pits.
Creation of new pedestrian bridges to facilitate movement within the circuit.



June 24, 2018: Return of the French Formula 1 Grand Prix.
Modification of the pit lane to improve driver safety.



2020: 3-star certification, the highest level of the FIA's environmental program.
50th anniversary of the circuit
Resurfacing of the entire track.



2021: Installation of new traffic lights and start lights, equipment of a new tracking system on the track.
Creation of the Circuit Paul Ricard's Eco-responsible Event Charter.



2022: Opening of the F1 in Schools France Center of Excellence.
Qualiopi certification for the Circuit Paul Ricard training institute.
Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Bol d'Or.

2023: Renewal of the partnership with Audi France for the 15th consecutive year.
Appointment of Jean Alesi as President of the Circuit Paul Ricard.
ISO 20121 Event Sustainable Management certification.



2024: Appointment of the new General Director, Nicolas Deschaux.
Extension of the partnership with Bol d'Or event for 5 years

INFRASTRUCTURES & TECHNOLOGIES

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

LAYOUT :

Unique in the world, the Circuit Paul Ricard's layout offers 247 different solutions (from 826 m to 5.861 km) adapted to everyone's development and training objectives for competitions, a modular terrain that can accommodate all disciplines.

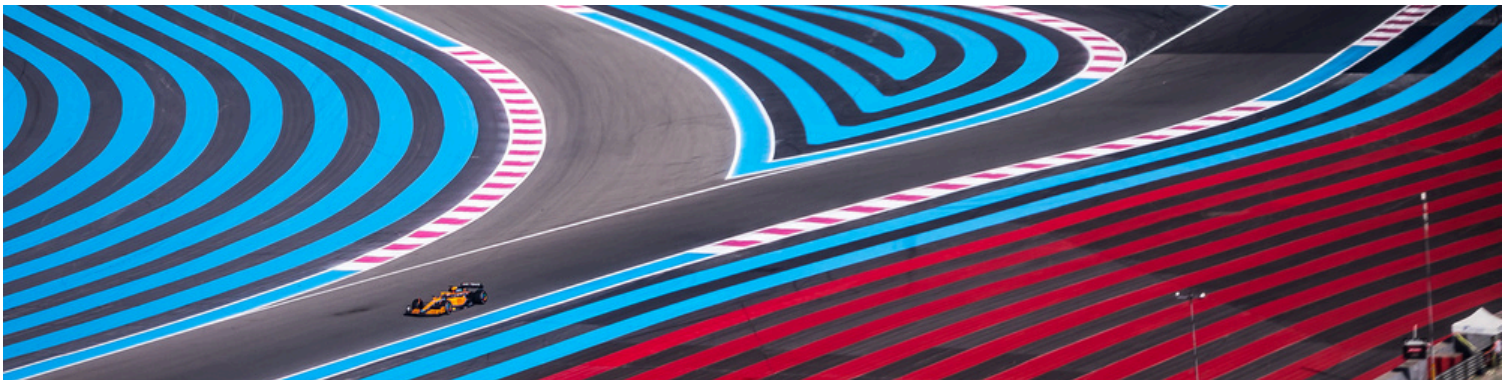
The 5.8 km is the largest track and hosts the majority of competitions and aerodynamic tests.
The 3.8 km track is more often used for motorcycle training courses.
The 1.8 km School Track is used for driving courses.

The Circuit Paul Ricard has one of the longest straights in Europe, the 1.8 km Mistral Straight. The Sport Prototype teams are therefore happy to use this track, which is ideal for full-scale testing and for optimal preparation for the famous 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race.

Since 2002, new curves have been added to the original layout in order to meet new expectations and to further improve the safety of the circuit: Montreal Chicane (2003), new Petit Beausset turn (2004), new options at the "S" of La Verrerie (2005).

Major resurfacing work on the track was undertaken at the end of 2017 to prepare for the return of the Formula 1 Grand Prix and 3 turns were modified: La Verrerie, no longer closed but widened at the entrance to facilitate the start and then create a technical corner with heavy braking, Virage du Camp and Virage du Pont widened to accelerate the passage speeds and promote overtaking.

At the beginning of 2018, the entrance and exit of the pits were modified to improve the safety of drivers. First of all, the Pitlane entrance was moved before the Bridge Bend.
This option, validated by the FIA for the French Formula 1 Grand Prix, allows more spectacle for the public located in the opposite grandstand. The Pitlane's exit lane was extended to the second footbridge, allowing a safer insertion into the braking zone of turn 1.



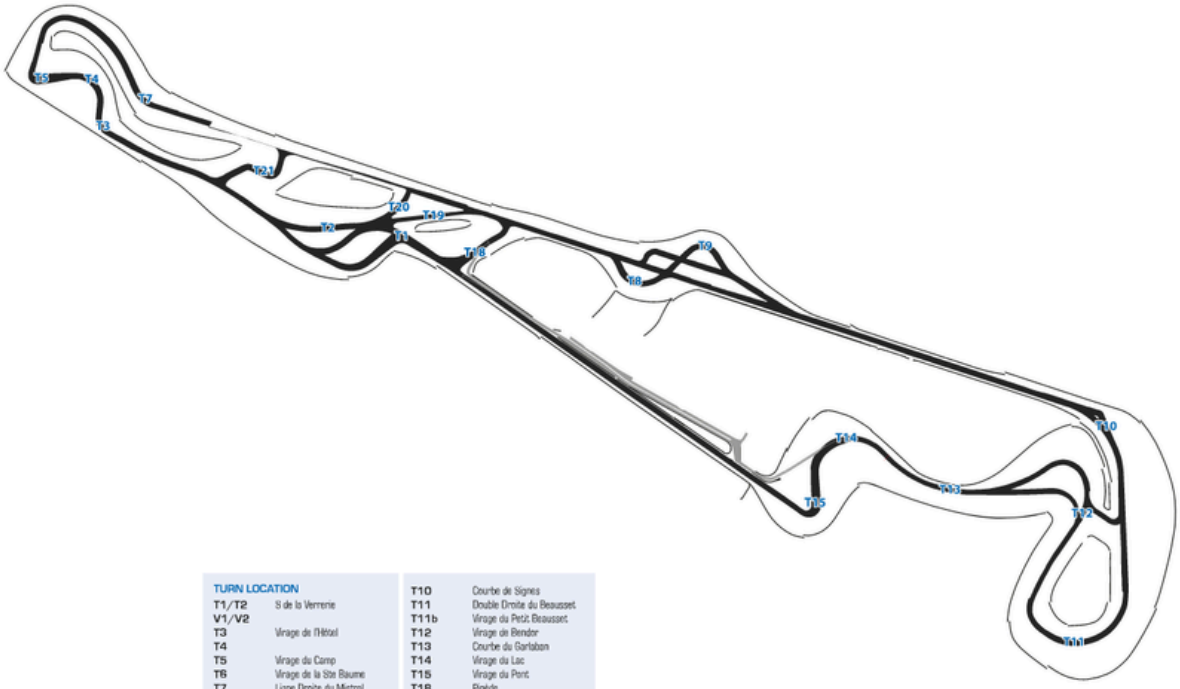
INFRASTRUCTURES & TECHNOLOGIES

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

LAYOUT :

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

TRACK PLAN



TURN	LOCATION
T1/T2	S de la Verrerie
V1/V2	
T3	Virage de l'Hôtel
T4	
T5	Virage du Camp
T6	Virage de la Ste Baume
T7	Ligne Droite du Mistral
T8	Chicane Sud
T9	Chicane Montréal
T9b	Chicane Nord
T10	Courbe de Signes
T11	Double Droite du Beausset
T11b	Virage du Petit Beausset
T12	Virage de Bendor
T13	Courbe du Garlaban
T14	Virage du Lac
T15	Virage du Pont
T18	Pinède
T19	Épingle
T20	
T21	S de l'Aéroport

TECHNOLOGIES & INNOVATIONS

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

The Circuit Paul Ricard has an innovative safety system that advocates maximum prevention for minimum risk. The safety of the Circuit Paul Ricard is based on major innovations and a set of control and information technologies that allow track management, medical and rescue teams to intervene in record time.

These innovations have been validated by the FIA and used on the most modern F1 circuits:

- **An advanced watering system** that allows you to reproduce the conditions of driving or riding in the rain, on 64 of the tracks offered by the circuit.
- **Asphalt clearing zones that replace grave pits**. Highlighted by the red and blue stripes of the Blue Line concept, the run-offs offer decisive safety benefits thanks to their abrasive surface which slows down vehicles when they leave the track.
- **Tecpro High Speed Barriers** are flexible polyethylene blocks that line the safety rails, replacing the tire walls. The innovation of the system lies in its ability to absorb the energy of the impact to cushion the possible shock suffered by the driver in case of runway overrun.
- **A digital solution of signaling and starting lights : Twenty LED panels are installed in the various sections of the track and can be controlled directly track side by the marshals or centrally controlled by Race Control. A 1.6m-tall FIA Grade 1 start light block, with a repeat set of lights in the middle of the grid, is installed on the gantries, and a four square metre, double-sided LED big screen is used to display messages from the Race Director to the drivers on track.**
- **The ACO Monoblock Racing Drain channels are made of high-strength polyester concrete to ensure proper drainage of the track. These channels are capable of withstanding the stresses exerted by the successive passages of the cars and constitute an additional guarantee of safety for the drivers.**
- **The Rescue Teams** operate from fast vehicles, composed of 2 marshals trained throughout the year, especially in fire and extraction.
- **The medical center is managed by a permanent team composed of a chief physician, a nurse anesthetist and firemen, with stateof- the-art medical equipment: resuscitation block, burns bath, X-ray, examination room, and room with 2 medical beds.**
- **The video control room is equipped with 9 Sony professional LED screens and 3LCD laser projectors to display precise images of the race leader and a general view of the circuit thanks to 40 mobile cameras positioned around the circuit.**



TECHNOLOGIES & INNOVATIONS

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

HIGHLIGHTS :

- International circuit grade 1 FIA and FIM
- 247 track solutions - from 826 m to 5,861 km
- 15 right turns, 10 left turns
- 25 hectares of run-off - ultra-abrasive asphalt clearance zones
- Automatic watering system on 76 track solutions
- 12 pits with three spaces - garage, telemetry and lodge (can be converted into 24 garages) and 5 garages
- (can be converted into 10 garages) in paddock II
- Information systems in the pits - 6 flat screens, telephone, Internet
- Technical pit with F1 scale
- Paddocks secured 24 hours a day with access by magnetic badges
- Gas stations
- 110 km of fiber optics and 50 loops integrated in the track
- 21 Km of safety rails
- Tecpro High Speed Barriers with high absorption
- ACO Monoblock Racing Drain with high resistance
- Lighting System - traffic light system
- Track Video Control Room
- Video Tracking - video tracking (9 screens) and electronic sensor timing
- 40 cameras around the circuit
- Medical Centre - medical assistance for drivers
- Media Center - up to 500 seats with high speed internet, Wifi
- Conference and seminar rooms from 60 to 2500 m².
- Panoramic Club - 400 seat restaurant, VIP catering service
- Mistral Hall - 1010 m² of fully modular exhibition space
- Dynamic Driving Centre - sliding track with automatic watering system
- Karting - 964 m of track, 5 different layouts, FFSA approved, EFK FFSA karting school
- Xtrem Park - leisure park with adventure course and Grand Prix Burger restaurant
- Driving Center - leisure and safety driving track
- 4x4 track - 9 ha all terrain

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

Since its reopening to the general public in 2008, the Circuit Paul Ricard has hosted various sporting events as part of its diversification strategy, but also filming and business events.



DIVERSIFIED ACTIVITIES:

In addition to the established competitions (Bol d'Or, Grand Prix Camions, GT World Challenge Europe, European Le Mans Series, Dix Mille Tours du Castellet...), the return of the French Formula 1 Grand Prix from 2018 to 2022, development tests for teams, manufacturers and private drives, the circuit regularly hosts driving courses (car and motorcycle), client operations (BtoB events, product launches), club meetings, non-motorized sports events (bike races, running sessions), as well as press presentations, seminars, advertising shoots and photo shoots.

Concerts and parties with DJ's also complete the animation of the events during the competition weekends.







ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

HIGH-END SERVICES :

The Circuit Paul Ricard offers its clients high-end services in its various reception areas.



PANORAMIC CLUB RESTAURANT

With a panoramic view of the start line and the pit lane, it includes a bar and two modular restaurant rooms that can seat 340 people simultaneously.



LOUNGE HOSPITALITY

The 12 lounges are located above the garages in the pit building and each offers 100 m² of reception area and a 170 m² terrace. They are available during racing weekends with track view.



BUSINESS MEETINGS

The Circuit offers versatile venues from 60 to 2500 m² for seminars, conferences, work meetings, press launches... which can be completed by exclusive tour of the circuit, driving activities or others.

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

MERCHANDISING

The Circuit Paul Ricard collection offers clothing and accessories in the colors of the circuit with a "FrenchTouch" collection: sportswear for men, women, children and even babies, but also collabs' with trendy brands.

The shop in the Pit Building is accessible during public events.

The collection is also available online : https://boutique.circuitpaulricard.com/fr/ and at the ORECA store in the Xtrem Park



DÉTECTEUR DE TALENTS

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD



FFSA FRENCH KARTING SCHOOL

As part of its development policy for karting, the FFSA created a few years ago the French Karting Schools (EFK) with the aim of teaching the basics of driving from the age of 7, to facilitate access to competitive karting and to make young people aware of the need to respect the rules. It is also in this perspective and to detect young talents that the Karting du Circuit Paul Ricard opened its EFK in 2009. Today it is the first EFK in France by its number of students.

Website : www.kartingcircuitpaulricard.com

XTREM PARK

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

The Circuit Paul Ricard opened in 2015 a leisure park called Xtrem Park, to offer outdoor activities for both children from 3 years old and adults. Open from Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Open 7/7 during school holidays.



The Xtrem Park is all about thrills, with the adventure tower: a 300 m course on a zip line offering a unique view of the track, or the free-fall simulator for the thrill of jumping out of a plane!

Of course, Xtrem Park is all about driving: challenge your friends on the go-kart track with the latest generation karts, drive the most beautiful supercars or challenge the stopwatch on the dynamic driving simulators to experience the real thrill of driving.

Children aged 3 to 12 can also get behind the wheel of the pedal go-karts on the Kids Club track and let off steam on the trampolines, bouncy castles or on a course between nets.







XTREM PARK

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

For all the family, Xtrem Park also offers a range of leisure activities, including 18-hole mini-golf, a Racing Experience with tyre-changing challenge, Batak test and quad bikes for family outings through the circuit's pine forest.

Behind-the-scenes tours of the circuit are available, with access to areas usually reserved for professionals: Pitlane, race contraol with video screens, VIP boxes, garages....

The **Official Store of the Circuit Paul Ricard by ORECA**, located in the Xtrem Park, offers a wide range of clothing and accessories from the F1 and MotoGP teams, as well as the official merchandising of the Circuit Paul Ricard: the famous sunhat, T-shirts, caps, goodies and children collection.

For the lunch break, head to the **Grand Prix Burger restaurant** with its stunning view over the track and the race building: on the menu are salads, burgers, veggies, ice creams or sweet snacks and cold drinks.

Website: xtrem-park.com









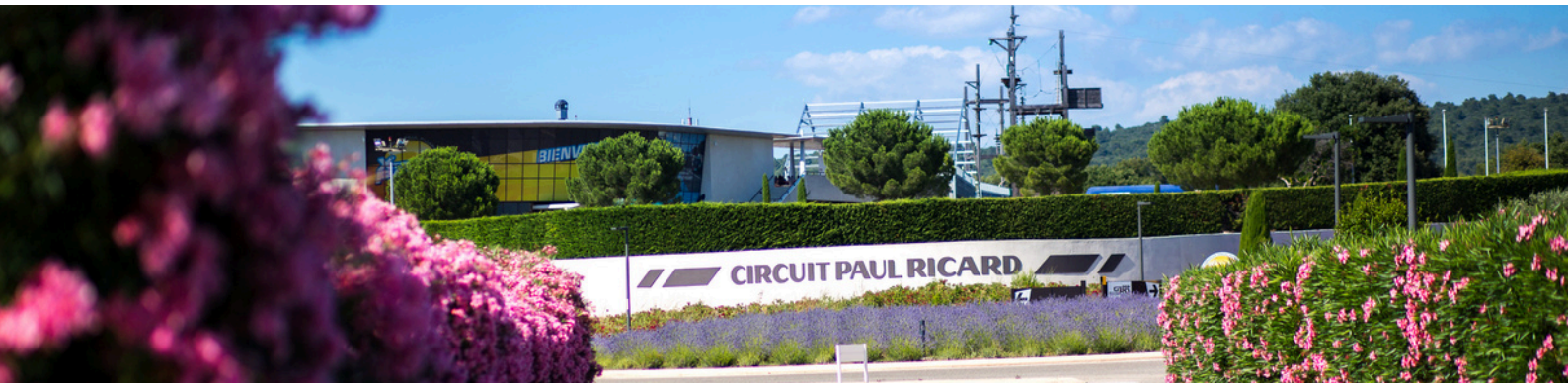




SUSTAINABILITY

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

Ideally located in the heart of a preserved site, the Circuit Paul Ricard teams strive to fully assume their environmental, social and societal responsibilities. For the past fifteen years, the Circuit has been committed to an ambitious sustainable development approach.



This approach involves multiple actions within the company:

An exemplary air quality: thanks to 4 beehives installed around the circuit, an independent research office specialized in apivigilance measures 3 times a year the concentration of polluting elements in the air, water and flora. The results show an exemplary air quality.

Recovery and use of rainwater: to preserve the water table, rainwater and runoff are channeled, filtered and stored in an artificial lake of 60,000 m3. The water from the lake is then used to water green spaces, supply fire hydrants, etc.

A green lung maintained and preserved: the gardeners work hard to maintain the 150 hectares of green spaces, taking care to plant endemic plants adapted to the climate of the south of France, maintenance without pesticides or chemical fertilizers, gentle pruning, programming of watering times, etc. This exemplary approach allows the circuit to be fully integrated into the Sud Sainte Baume Regional Nature Park.

Recourse to ecopasturing once a year for green spaces maintenance.

Waste recycling: 100% of recoverable waste is sorted and recycled, i.e. 2,358 liters of used oil per year, 2,273 tires in 2017 and 67kg per year of ink cartridges.

Noise emissions measured 24 hours a day thanks to 4 beacons. The data are compared to the acoustic environment in order to determine the real impact of the activity of the circuit on its environment. A real time control of the noise emissions of each vehicle is carried out during the official races.

A RESPONSIBLE TRACK

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

Substantial investments to reduce noise emissions: the installation in 2009 of an 8-meter high, 800-meter long earthen mound in the Signes curve, the planting of fast-growing, high-density hedges over 300 meters along the mound of the grandstands and over nearly one kilometer around the karting site.

The circuit's infrastructures are actors in the energy transition: 98% of the office lighting and traffic lanes use low consumption LED bulbs, a fleet of 12 internal electric vehicles, a parking lot covered with 20,000 m² of photovoltaic shading, 100% of the diesel company cars switching to biodiesel.

The awareness of all to eco-gestures: free provision of charging stations for electric vehicles for the general public, waste sorting and recycling, introduction of an Eco-responsible Event Charter, sorting and daily recycling of waste...

The creation of an Environmental Consultative Committee (CCE) associates the local residents to the development of the circuit by offering a space of collective dialogue between the circuit managers, the local residents, the elected représentatives...





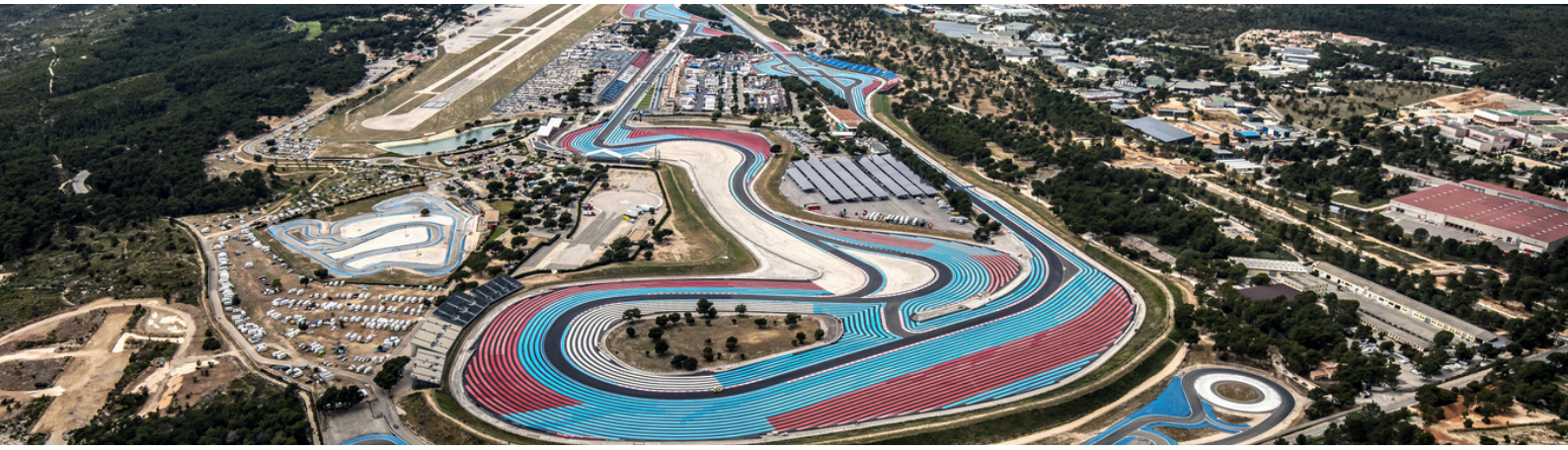




A MAJOR ECONOMIC HUB

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

Anchored on the Plateau du Castellet for more than 50 years, the Circuit Paul Ricard has become over the years a key economic player in the Var department and the South PACA region. The offer is completed by two hotels, restaurants and an airport.



With a high level of activity from March to December, the Circuit Paul Ricard plays an important economic role in the region due to the number of jobs, the proportion of purchases made from companies in the region, the number of visitors... a significant impact on the economy and jobs in the Southern PACA region.

<u>5 tracks :</u>

- Main track : 5.8 km
- Driving Center : 1.6 km
- Karting : 0.9 km
- 4x4 : 9 ha
- Sliding track

- Service stations
- Seminar rooms
- Xtrem Park
- Panoramic Club and Grand Prix Burger restaurants
- Photovoltaic panels : 20 750 m2
- Photovoltaic production : 3 484 MWh/an

<u>Surface areas :</u>

- Built : 25 300 m2
- Land : 156 ha

<u>2024 figures :</u>

- 220 events
- 420 000 spectators
- 24 millions euros in sales

EXCLUSIVE SURROUNDINGS

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD LUXURY EXPERIENCES

The Circuit Paul Ricard and the Castellet Airport has developed over the years with the establishment of exceptional hotels and restaurants, offering the Circuit Paul Ricard Luxury Experiences.



HÔTEL & SPA DU CASTELLET*****

This Relais & Châteaux hotel is composed of 42 rooms and south-facing suites in a Provencal and Tuscan-inspired decor. The 700 m² Spa is dedicated to tranquility and relaxation with an indoor swimming pool, sauna, hammam, salt grotto... The 6-hole golf course is set in an enchanting site with a view of the hills of Provence and the sea in the distance.

Web Site : www.hotelducastellet.net

LE SANFELICE

The San Felice restaurant offers a gourmet table in an enchanting setting, facing nature. On the menu, a traditional cuisine revisited, to be tasted with a panoramic view on the golf course and the park. In the distance, the old medieval village of Le Castellet can be seen, and on a clear day, the sea can be seen like a painting between the hills.





LA TABLE DU CASTELLET

An exceptional gastronomic table, focused on a cuisine of character, delicate and sincere, with marine and vegetal flavors. Within the Hotel & Spa du Castellet*****, Chef Fabien Ferré (3 Michelin star en 2024) proposes a gastronomy with a local identity that celebrates and enhances the Provencal soil.

EXCLUSIVE SURROUNDINGS

CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD LUXURY EXPERIENCES

GRAND PRIX HÔTEL & RESTAURANT***

The 3-star hotel has a modern, contemporary look, ideal for a business or tourist trip to the region. The 116 guest rooms are sleek and comfortable. The outdoor pool, fitness room and sports facilities are available for relaxing moments.

Web Site : https://grandprixhotel.fr/fr/





LA SQUADRA

With a view of the Grand Prix Hotel's garden and swimming pool, La Squadra restaurant welcomes Italian food lovers for lunch and dinner, just like a trattoria.

LE CASTELLET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Open 24/7, the international business aviation airport offers FBO services, catering, helicopter shuttle (on board), limousines, fuel... It has a spacious parking lot with 24-hour surveillance, and 5 secure hangars that can accommodate business jets up to BBJ. Fast and high quality service.

Web Site : www.aeroportducastellet.com/fr/



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HD PHOTOS LINK

Circuit Paul Ricard - https://www.facebook.com/CircuitPaulRicard

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Circuit Paul Ricard - https://www.youtube.com/@PaulRicardTrack

Circuit Paul Ricard - https://www.linkedin.com/company/6305783/admin/

@circuitpaulricard - https://www.tiktok.com/@circuitpaulricard