

# Cannes Survival Guide

Want to make it out alive? Follow these tips ...

**THERE ARE A FEW THINGS** you'll just have to accept about Cannes. Accept you will be robbed. Even if you escape the hotel room burglars, there's no avoiding the cafe latte and a la carte gouging on the Croisette. Accept you will get no sleep. There is no single documented case of anyone, ever, carrying through on that oft-quoted pledge to "have an early night, for once." And accept that, by the end of the festival, you will be utterly sick of foie gras, snooty waiters, thuggish bouncers and the entire worldwide film industry.

But given that, there are ways to make Cannes a tolerable — even mildly enjoyable — experience.

— Scott Roxborough



First, stock up on drugs. Not Class A, but the real essentials — sleeping pills for the plane, cold meds for the inevitable midmarket bug and aspirin/Tylenol/Advil to take the edge off those morning hangovers. Speaking of which ...



... drink the water and forget the wine. Yes, you are in the world capital of great grapes. And yes, you can imbibe at noon here without anyone calling AA. But if you and your liver want to survive the next two weeks, get on the wagon (or get on it occasionally) for the duration.



Bikes and Band-Aids. Bikes as in two-wheel transportation — the fastest way to cruise the Croisette. Either cycle or scooter, depending on your — and your outfit's — sweat tolerance. Rent one from the shop behind the bus station. The Band-Aids are for the foot blisters from hoofing it between the Carlton and the Marche du Film.



Mix low tech and high tech. Obviously bring the BlackBerry, but don't forget a good old paper-and-pen diary/calendar with your schedule, the key screenings and all priority contact details. Software will fail, the network will crash and some crazy Cannes tourist will knock your phone out of your hand and into oncoming traffic. Have a hard-copy backup.



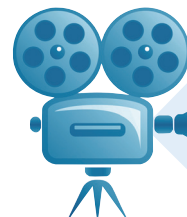
Choose your parties carefully. Be wary of boats. Once on, they are hard to get off of. Be wary of buses. Is that incredible villa in the hills worth an hour of "luxury coach" travel there and back? Be wary of the hot ticket. If everyone is talking about it, the can't-miss bash might be incredible or it might be packed, stuffy and impossible to get into.



Hit the film commission events. Superficially dull, interchangeable affairs on dull, interchangeable stretches of Cannes beachfront, the cocktails put on by various national film commissions are the best one-stop shops for networking (everyone from the territory puts in an appearance) and gossip gathering.



Get out of Cannes. By midfest, you'll be feeling like Number Six in "The Prisoner": trapped in the village with your fellow inmates. Escape the endless cycle of rumor, deal details and cinema banter for a night, at least. Book a table in Mougins or Antibes — or even just up the hill — so long as it's away from the madding crowd.



See some films. A controversial idea, to be sure. But there's still nothing like a great movie to remind you why you got into this business in the first place. And if it's a dud, well, those warm, dark screening rooms and comfy seats are ideal for catching up on the sleep you missed last night.