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How to Make the Most of an Antiquing Trip to Provence

Provence is known for many things: its food, its wines, its lavender fields. Its ritzy coastal enclaves and charming hilltop villages. It's a wonderful place to bike, to hike, to meander slowly down twisty cobblestone streets and browse bustling farmers' markets. But in my book, one of the most fun ways to explore Provence is through its antiques.

WHERE TO STAY

[Grand Hôtel Henri](#) is right in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, a short walk from the antiques markets. It's a comfortable and well-appointed home base for a day or two of browsing. Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, about an hour from L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, is a charming town just across the Rhône from Avignon. In addition to its Saturday brocante, it has narrow cobble streets that beckon to be explored, a medieval fortress that's worth spending a morning or afternoon visiting, and a number of little shops and restaurants you can idle away the hours at. [Le Prieuré](#) is a medieval cloister turned boutique hotel in the heart of town, with a bistro and restaurant gastronomique. And [Hôtel Crillon Le Brave](#), which is about a 45-minute drive from L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, is a bucket list destination in its own right: The hotel has basically taken over the entire tiny hilltop village, which has breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and Mont Ventoux. There's a pool, two exquisite restaurants, a spa (that uses Tata Harper products), and an array of luxuriously charming rooms tucked into the historic stone buildings.

