



Château de la Messardière
Hôtel & Spa ★★★★★ Saint-Tropez
PALACE

Press release
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The Château de la Messardière will host an exhibition of Anne VERNON's works from 14 April to 14 June

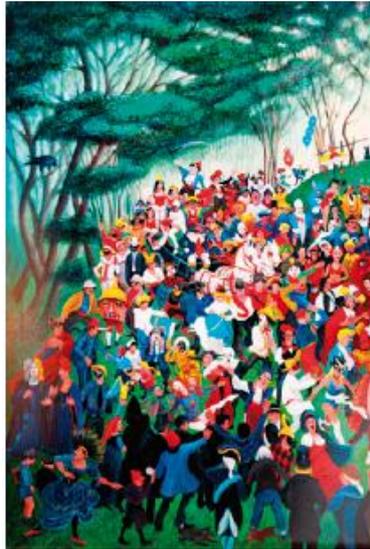
Alexandre Durand-Viel, Managing Director of the Château de la Messardière in Saint-Tropez, will welcome **Anne VERNON**, an eternal artist, humanist and great nature lover, to the totally refurbished Galerie Victoire as soon as the famous five-star luxury hotel re-opens for the 2016 season.

Ms. VERNON is a very great artist. Before becoming a painter she was an actress, which allowed her to develop the bearing, diction, art of "storytelling" and sense of staging she still possesses today. For her, art is meditation, a spiritual act. She finds renewal in painting vibrant colours and figures. A form of ingenuity in mystery, a world on the border between the real and imaginary, reigns in each work. Echoes of stage and screen, which she left after appearing in around 50 films and plays in France and abroad, can be found in her paintings.



Ms. VERNON's pictures are theatrical. Outlandish, burlesque figures inspired by the theatre and circus flow from her paintbrush. She mixes her favourite themes: life, death, the theatre and religion, which she makes "sensual" and ironic. The artist's skilful drawing allows her to depict any subject accurately and precisely. Her world is unreal but so gripping that the viewer's gaze passes through to the other side of the canvas. Her colours, swirling shapes and amazing, ambiguous world are utterly captivating.

For two months starting on 14 April, she will reveal the secrets of her pictorial world and unveil her most beautiful works, which already capture our imagination.



The free-spirited, unalienable **Ms. VERNON** signs her paintings “FMR”, symbolising that she does not belong to any artistic school or movement.

But **Ms. VERNON**, an independent woman if ever there was one, can also play hard to get. In the early 1970s, she quit acting to find spiritual renewal at her estate in Grimaud, in the Var, where she lived alone for around 10 years to focus on painting. After briefly returning to Paris and travelling widely in the 1980s, for 30 years she has lived in a beautiful house on the heights overlooking the old town of Cogolin, silently painting in her studio at the back of her garden. She does not seek fame, keeping the modesty and humbleness of those gifted with an innate, natural talent. Now, Ms. Vernon has agreed to share her work at a magical, spiritual place in the heart of a 10-hectare protected setting: the Château de la Messardière.

Born in Saint-Denis, near Paris, on 9 January 1924, **Anne VERNON** graduated from the School of Applied Arts and Industry before joining Rochas as a designer at the age of 16.

In 1944, the 20-year-old took a screen test, which launched her acting career. She tirelessly alternated between stage and screen, appearing in films with Marcel Achard, Daniel Gelin, Jean Marais, Fernand Ledoux, Pierre Fresney, Catherine Deneuve and others. She was in around 50 productions, including *Édouard and Caroline* and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964).

After several television appearances, in the early 1970s Ms. Vernon left acting in order to focus full-time on painting at her estate in Grimaud, in the Var.

Perching atop a hill in the heart of Saint-Tropez, the château has long been a destination for people who love historical places imbued with a quiet, luminous atmosphere.

A luxury hotel since 2012, the château boasts 57 suites and 60 guestrooms, each with a terrace or private garden offering sublime views.



Château de la Messardière

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