



*Institut
de Français*

on the French Riviera
A UNIQUE APPROACH
TO FRENCH



The INSTITUT DE FRANÇAIS in Villefranche offers a 2- to 4-week immersion course in French for professional adults and mature students who want to rapidly acquire fluency in French. Founded in 1969, its aim is to develop a natural speaking ability by using a unique concept, the “Total Approach”, which combines the most effective audio-visual methods with practice and real-life sessions in a “French-only” speaking environment.

By diversifying the students’ activities throughout the day, all possible approaches to learning to speak French are explored. Thus, students are constantly stimulated and able to apply themselves to learning the language both analytically and instinctively.

Nothing can equal or compare with this “Total Approach” to French, when applied in an all-day immersion, under the stimulus of small group interaction.

The Institut is located on the sunny, Mediterranean-blue French Riviera unequalled for its beauty, picturesque landmarks and excitement. It is housed in a luxurious Provençal villa, set on the hillside of the lovely port of Villefranche-sur-Mer, overlooking the Mediterranean’s most beautiful bay, 2 miles from Nice and only a short drive to Cannes and Monte-Carlo.

Method

Immersed in French from the outset, the student goes through varied linguistic activities during the day so as to tackle spoken French from all angles and in all types of situations ranging from the audio-visual class, the language lab, linguistic games, films, songs, to making up a TV commercial, role playing in everyday or professional situations, the discussion-lunch with a teacher, evening outings with teachers, etc.

At the end of the stay, the student can expect to be able to speak correct French to varying degrees and be readily understood in everyday conversation. A total beginner will be able to say much of what he/she wants to say, simply and correctly.

The key to this fluency is talk and more talk – ONLY IN FRENCH – in varied situations, using and re-using the fundamental vocabulary one needs for everyday conversation. Although the written language is also developed, oral expression is stressed at all times during the day in constant and spontaneous exchanges with the teachers, eliminating translation into the mother tongue. Thus, little by little, the student is able to acquire an instinctive fluency and familiarity with the French language, which is often impossible with the formal and impersonal character of traditional or “just classroom” teaching.





An audio-visual class

In the classroom

In the classroom, the Institut de Français uses the officially recognized Saint-Cloud-Zagreb audio-visual methods and is the only school in France to also use a video method developed by the Cultural Services of the French Foreign Ministry and the French National Television.

These methods result from the joint research of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud (near Paris) and the Institute of Phonetics of the University of Zagreb. They have been adapted by the Institut de Français, using its own methodology, to make them more effective in developing a real speaking capability in a short time.

Called structuro-global, they are based on the oral language (spoken and

heard) and place the emphasis on the structures, sound, rhythm and intonation of the language which the student absorbs as a whole and reproduces in the same way a child learns its mother tongue, without the need to dissect or excessively analyze the language.

In the first week, an introduction to grammatical terms and sentence structure is given. Then, during the course, grammar is introduced appropriately whenever it helps the process of understanding and speaking correctly. It is not taught per se. It is inherent in the structures contained in each lesson and, with the teacher's guidance, the student absorbs it naturally and gradually, day by day, as it grows in complexity.

No special preparation or particular knowledge of French is required.

Some specific homework is given in order to help make progress and overcome certain difficulties. A minimum amount is also given on an optional basis, the rate and intensiveness of the program making it difficult for a student to forget from day to day.

Because the maximum number of students in each class is limited, each student's progress is closely monitored, with special exercises given to correct

individual difficulties. Each student is thus able to achieve the optimum results compatible with his/her potential and individual effort.

A modern language laboratory is used to complement and reinforce the classroom work and, together with audio-visual aids, is at the student's disposal for accelerating his/her progress or overcoming individual difficulties.



The language laboratory



Practice session in garden

Outside the classroom

Outside the classroom, the student reinforces his/her French during more informal and varied practice sessions such as: the discussion-lunch with the teachers and the French staff, linguistic games, role playing (students improvise a sketch on an everyday situation), radio news analysis, making up television commercials, debates with a teacher on current issues, film showings with discussion, attending outside lectures, evening outings with a teacher to the theatre, a restaurant, etc.

All these activities take place in a congenial atmosphere created by all concerned, and which contributes so much to the students' progress and enjoyment.

Practice session in living room





Levels

There are 8 possible levels, with 6 -10 students per group (10 is a maximum which, for optimum effectiveness, should not be exceeded).

The eight levels are:

- **Beginner I, II**
little or no knowledge of French
- **Intermediate I - IV**
some knowledge with a speaking capability in French
- **Advanced I, II**
a good to very good speaking capability in French

The student's level is determined on the first day by an aural test, written tests as well as an individual oral test. It can be adjusted during the session if required.

There is hardly any upper age limit: anyone can easily follow and derive full benefit from these audio-visual classes. However, a person with a hearing impediment will not be able to progress normally in step with the other students in a program based essentially on oral French.

The minimum acceptable age is 21. Students' ages vary between 21 and 75 upward.



Discussion-lunch in dining room

Daily Schedule

The normal, all-year round program consists of 8 ½ hrs a day, 5 days a week (Monday through Friday).

A typical schedule is:

8.30 – 9 a.m.	Breakfast
9 – 10 a.m.	Class
10 – 11 a.m.	Language lab.
11 – 12 a.m.	Class
12 – 1 p.m.	Discussion-lunch
1 – 2 p.m.	Practice session
2 – 2.30 p.m.	Break
2.30 – 4 p.m.	Class
4 – 4.45 p.m.	Reuse session
4.45 – 5 p.m.	Tea

Coffee breaks with a tutor available, occur in the morning and afternoon.

Meals

Two meals a day, wholesome and balanced, prepared with fresh products by a good French chef are served at the school during class days and are included in the course fee: breakfast and a discussion-lunch with teacher and staff participation. At the end of each day, tea with cakes is served in the dining room where students and teachers gather to chat and relax.

Dinner and weekend meals are not included and can be had where desired. There are many restaurants in the area serving a good meal for 20 to 40 Euros.



Recreation

An introductory social evening, with dancing, is held at the school on the first Friday.



Night life in Monaco

There are also evening outings with teachers to the theater, the opera, a restaurant, etc.

Discussion-excursions with a teacher are held to renowned villages such as Saint-Paul-de-Vence: the Maeght Foundation, Grasse: the perfume and flower center of France, the Picasso Museum in Antibes, the Chagall Museum in Nice, the Villefranche Chapel painted by Jean Cocteau, Monaco by boat, etc.

Many cultural activities are available in Nice, Cannes, Monte-Carlo including the famous Nice Carnival in February, lectures with debate in Nice by famous literary, art and political figures, classical and avant-garde plays by the Théâtre de Nice company. Villefranche is so close to Nice (2 miles) that many students often go there for the evening meal and entertainment.

Windsurfing, sailing, hiking, tennis, sun-bathing, rollerblading, and skiing (Alps ski resorts are 30 miles from Nice) are some of the pleasures available on the French Riviera to be enjoyed during weekends.

Promenade des Anglais, Nice





Weather and Wear

At the Institut, casual but proper wear is customary as the weather on the French Riviera is pleasant during the day, all-year round. Woolens are recommended for the evening when the temperature goes down and it can get cool, even in the summer. Rain occurs, generally for short periods from November to March.

Typical temperatures for the area are given below:

Chatting “en français”

Average Temperatures

	°c		°f	
	max	8 p.m.	max	8 p.m.
Jan	14-16	10-12	57-62	50-54
Feb	13-15	9-11	55-59	48-52
March	15-16	12-13	59-62	54-55
April	17-19	14-16	63-66	57-62
May	20-22	17-19	68-72	63-66
June	24-26	21-23	75-79	70-73
July	27-30	24-27	81-86	75-81
August	27-30	24-27	81-86	75-81
Sept	25-27	22-24	77-81	72-75
Oct	19-22	16-18	66-72	62-64
Nov	17-19	13-15	63-66	55-59
Dec	14-17	11-13	57-63	52-55



Accommodation

(see "Calendar and Fees" leaflet for prices)

The Institut provides private accommodation outside the school, if desired. These are pleasant, comfortable 1- to 3-room apartments located in Villefranche, within walking distance of the school, shops, restaurants, banks, etc.

All are completely furnished, with linen, cooking utensils, dishes, refrigerator, TV and free Wi-Fi. Linen is changed and cleaning is done weekly.

One can choose between a **community apartment** or a **private apartment** :

Community apartments

- These are 2- or 3-room apartments with **individual rooms**, solely occupied by students, of the same sex, who share the kitchen and the bathroom.
There are a few double rooms at a lower price.

The students are assigned these apartments according to age groups and with the aim of mixing nationalities whenever possible.

Private apartments

- A **private "studio" (1-room) apartment** (for 1 or 2 persons)
This is a 1-room apartment, with a kitchen, a bathroom, washer, TV, etc.
- A **higher standard "studio" (1-room) or a 2-room apartment** (for 1 or 2)

These are larger apartments, equipped with washer, dishwasher, TV, etc.

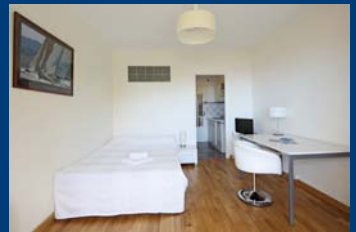
Most have a balcony or terrace and a view of the bay.



typical double room



typical individual room



typical studio apt.



higher standard studio apt.



higher standard 2-room apt.



Transportation

Local buses run along the coast every fifteen minutes from Villefranche to Nice, Cannes and Monte-Carlo. Nice has an international airport with connections to the major cities of Europe and the world (the taxi fare from Nice Airport to Villefranche should be around 80-100 Euros). A bus goes from Nice Airport to the Nice Central Bus

Station where another bus can be taken to Villefranche.

The stop in Villefranche is close to the Institut and is called “Place de l’Octroi”.

Nice is linked to Paris by a Very High Speed Train (TGV).



Relaxing during a break



The graduation ceremony

Teachers

All INSTITUT DE FRANÇAIS teachers have been rigorously selected to ensure the highest teaching standard, which, along the years, has become the Institut's hallmark.

They all hold various university degrees in foreign languages and linguistics.

They are all native, accentless French speakers who speak fluent English; some also speak German, Spanish, Japanese or Chinese.

They have been thoroughly trained in the audio-visual teaching of French to adults, and are continuously monitored

and counseled by the Institut's teaching supervisor.

On the last day of a 4-week session regularly attended, a final examination is given leading to the **Institut de Français Certificate**.

In summary, in this unequalled, world-renowned setting, providing innumerable cultural and sport activities, all ingredients exist, at the Institut de Français, to make learning French in France a rich and memorable experience.



The INSTITUT DE FRANÇAIS is dedicated to the effective teaching of the French language. Its objective and sole function is to teach French to adults quickly and effectively by using the most advanced methods and continuously innovating on techniques to bring about the best possible results in the shortest time.



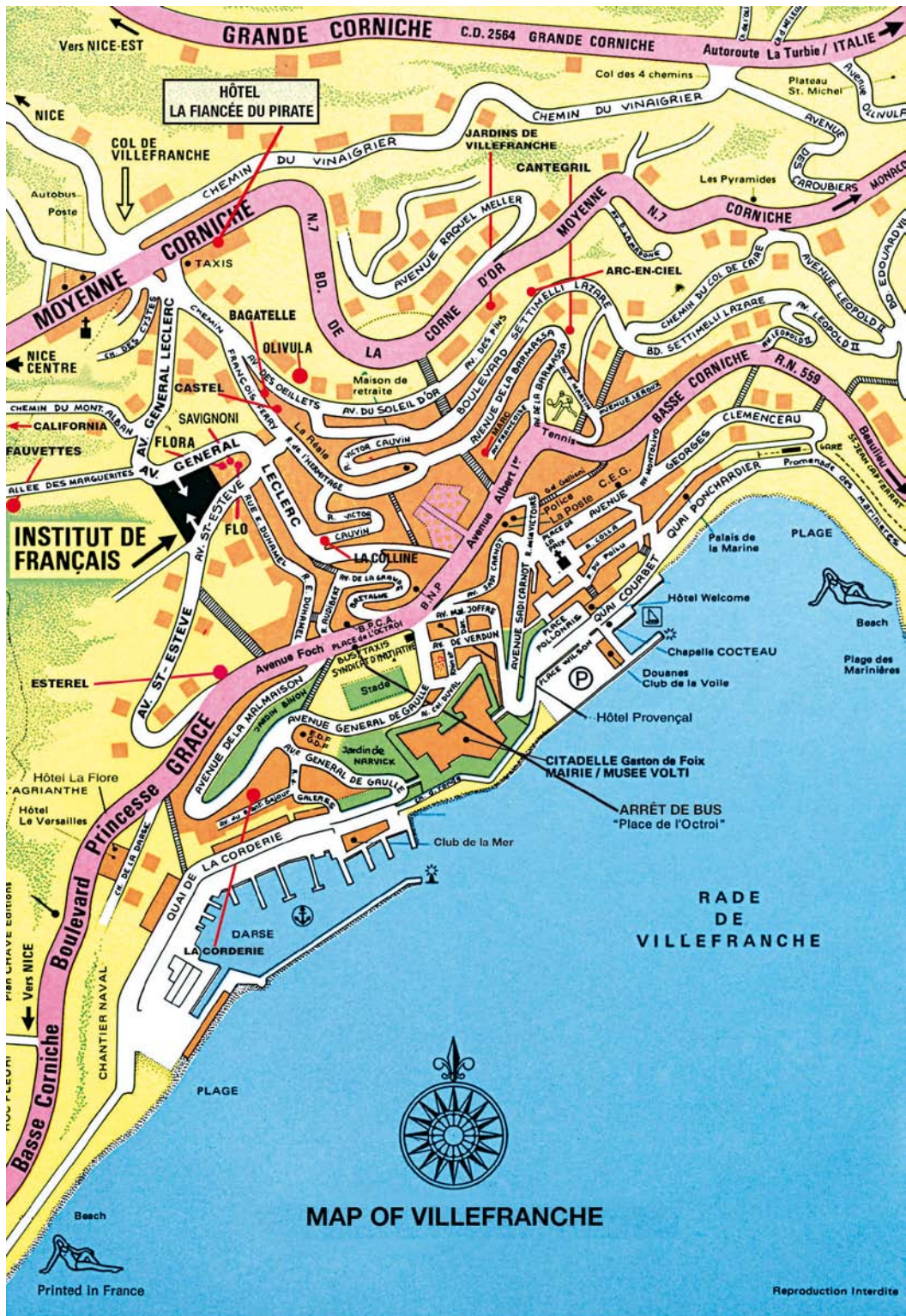
The harbor

Introducing Villefranche

Villefranche is a picturesque port town located just outside Nice. Set in one of the most beautiful bays of the Riviera, it is popular with sailing enthusiasts, artists and tourists. Around a quaint “old quarter”, can be found a 15th century citadel, a chapel decorated by Jean Cocteau, the Oceanographic Institute, the Sailing and Motornautic Club and many delightful little restaurants. Villefranche offers vacationers beauty, charm and historical sights that make it truly one of the outstanding spots on the French Riviera.

View of the bay from the school







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