



*Opening May 1st 2026,
Zannier Bendor brings a new chapter
to Île de Bendor in the south of France*



Zannier Bendor, one of Europe's most highly anticipated openings, is set to debut on the private French island of Île de Bendor in spring 2026, after five years of transformation. With bookings now live, Zannier Hotels has appointed Emmanuel Blanchemanche as General Manager and renowned chef Lionel Levy as Executive Chef, as the project unveils expansive dining and wellbeing programming in a combined effort of Société Paul Ricard and Zannier Hotels to restore the isle's legacy as a convivial gathering place steeped in old-world glamour. The Ricard family, guardians of Paul Ricard's vision, joins forces with the excellence of Zannier Hotels to write this new chapter.

Facing the town of Bandol in Provence, the seven-hectare island was first brought to life in 1950 by Marseille-born pastis pioneer Paul Ricard, and this meticulous five-year revival has been spearheaded by hotelier Arnaud Zannier, hand-in-hand with Ricard's great grandson, Marc de Jouffroy of Société Paul Ricard. Working as a united front, Zannier and the Ricard family have overseen all aspects of the island's evolution, together with new General Manager Emmanuel Blanchemanche, Hardel Le Bihan Architectes and Niez Studio Paysagistes, as the destination is poised to become the new social, culinary and wellness capital of the French Riviera.

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With a joint commitment to restore and preserve its very essence, the Provençal-style village will reopen as an elegant 93-key hotel, set across three island locations, complete with a holistic wellbeing center, beach cove and diving centre, and a choice of eight dining spaces – including the second outpost of Nonna Bazaar – to reframe Paul Ricard's dream of an island imbued with soul.

« The ambition is to reimagine Paul Ricard's island dream, crafting a destination that captures his forward-looking spirit of creativity, sharing, and openness ; values that we embrace », explains Arnaud Zannier.



Zannier Bendor will see distinct styles: Delos, Soukana and Madrague, thoughtfully curated across these three signature settings, all with their own ambience and guest experience. 39-key Delos will encapsulate the refined spirit of the 1960s French Riviera, 49-key Soukana will centre around wellbeing and reconnection, and the five two-storey Madrague houses, each with a private garden, will provide authentic Provençal charm for young families near the harbor.

Celebrating the joy of culinary merriment and the simple pleasure of eating together, Zannier Bendor will unveil an expansive collection of convivial dining and social spaces, including three restaurants, four bars and lounges, and creperie. Gastronomic restaurant Le Grand Large with sweeping sea views will host a programme of visiting chefs, Delos will serve all-day casual dining beside the main pool, Café Paul Ricard will serve traditional Provençal fare, while Bar Patrick will pay tribute to Paul's beloved son, Patrick Ricard. Nonna Bazaar, a multi-sensory lifestyle and restaurant concept first launched on the island of Menorca in 2022, will toast to family tradition and friendship through sharing plates, with 'Nonna' evoking animated gatherings and ancestral tales; whilst 'Bazaar' draws on the vibrant bazaaris and soulful souks that scatted the Mediterranean. Soukana Restaurant will serve an Asian-fusion inspired cuisine with expertly paired cocktails ; drinks also served on a magnificent rooftop terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

An art gallery, three artisan ateliers and a concept store will ignite creativity and honour the cultural legacy of Paul Ricard, while a dedicated kids' club ensures engaging activities for younger guests and families.

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Rooted in four pillars – wellbeing, spa, movement and nutrition – the island's 1200 sqm spa, set to be one of the largest spas in the region, will reflect holistic wellness where the ancient wisdom of the body's equilibrium, meets modern healing practices. Drawing from Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine, acupuncture, osteopathy and naturopathy, alongside gentle lifestyle and nutritional adjustments, the wellbeing center will guide guests on a personalised wellbeing journey that supports the body's natural healing processes, helping to return to a state of ease while promoting deeper resilience and connection. Facilities will feature: eight treatment rooms including a honeymoon massage suite with private spa, indoor and outdoor pool, hammam, cold bath, mud bath, balneotherapy, Iyashi dome, meditation, yoga and reformer Pilates studio, as well as a high-tech fitness centre, tennis court and three pickleball courts.

"It is with great emotion that we finalise the rebirth of Bendor and with pride that we entrust "Paul Ricard's miniature world" to Zannier Hotels, whose vision for hospitality is fully in line with our ambition to elevate Bendor to the rank of one of the most iconic destinations in the Mediterranean" says Marc de Jouffroy.



Zannier Bendor will be the sixth property from Zannier Hotels, with the brand currently operating five hotels, resorts and lodges around the world: Le Chalet (France); Phum Baitang (Cambodia); Omaanda (Namibia); Sonop (Namibia); and Bãi San Hô (Vietnam), and is an exciting next chapter as the brand continues to make its mark beyond the hotel space following the launch of Zannier Private Estates and Zannier Residences.

For reservations, please visit www.zannierhotels.com/bendor

For more information and renderings, please contact communication.bendor@zannier.com

For any recruitment-related questions, please contact career.bendor@zannier.com

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ABOUT ÎLE DE BENDOR

Facing the bay of Bandol, 45km East from Marseille and 15km West from Toulon, Île de Bendor was purchased in 1950 by Paul Ricard, who conceptualised his ideal of Mediterranean life on the shores of this stony island. Led by the desire to instil happiness in others, the French entrepreneur meticulously curated this island to bring his vision alive. In no time at all, Île de Bendor was the place to be, a social and cultural hub where locals, families and celebrities could gather, enjoy themselves, and be completely immersed in the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea. With its harbour, leisure facilities and beaches, its quintessential architecture and its “Provençal art de vivre”, the island is known for its laid-back and genuine approach to hospitality, an inspiring place valuing conviviality, nature and craftsmanship. Today, more than 75 years after Paul Ricard first set foot on its shores, the island is poised for a bold revival. Société Paul Ricard and Zannier Hotels have undertaken to modernise the island in order to continue the legacy of its founder. Their shared commitment to restoring, preserving and passing on this art of living marks the rebirth of Île de Bendor. Reopening its doors in May 2026, Zannier Bendor is set to re-emerge as an iconic Mediterranean destination.

ABOUT ZANNIER HOTELS

Zannier Hotels creates one-of-a-kind stays and experiences, united by a desire to inspire Life's Greatest Stories. Their hotels celebrate the beauty of simplicity, the return to simple pleasures and appreciation of adventure, gastronomy and nature. Echoing the spirit of their surroundings, each new destination enraptures every sense, inviting guests to experience enriching exchanges with local traditions, cultures and communities. Today, Zannier Hotels embraces a collection of five properties and five private estates in Europe, Africa and Asia. Their journey and desire to share unforgettable moments continues with Zannier Bendor in France, and Zannier Zardun in Saudi Arabia.

ABOUT SOCIÉTÉ PAUL RICARD

Created by Paul Ricard, Société Paul Ricard is a family-owned holding and operating company with headquarters on the island of Les Embiez in the South of France. A major player in tourism in the Var region, the company owns two islands: Île des Embiez and Île de Bendor. Hotels, restaurants, shops, leisure facilities, ferry services, a marina and a vineyard are operated there with one constant requirement: to preserve an exceptional natural heritage and to uphold the values and promise of its founder: *‘to work for the happiness of mankind’*. Société Paul Ricard is now run by the Ricard family and its managing director Marc de Jouffroy, Paul Ricard's great-grandson.