

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Worth Flying For

WATERSKIING *at* THE HÔTEL BELLE RIVES *in* JUAN-LES-PINS

Illustration by Damien Florébert Cuypers



Few activities so perfectly encapsulate a place and time as does waterskiing at the Hôtel Belles Rives, on France's Côte d'Azur. Perched on the glittering Cap d'Antibes peninsula, the property overlooks a bay so calm that in 1931 it inspired an off-duty ski instructor named Léo Roman to test out a dynamic new sport—one that soon took off across Europe. The hotel occupies an Art Deco mansion formerly known as the Villa Saint-Louis, which novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald and his family once rented for two years. In 1929, the house was reborn as a waterfront hotel on the

French Riviera. Today the property—and the sport of waterskiing—are still going strong. Indeed, the Belles Rives Ski Nautique, which is open to all, is one of the most prestigious waterskiing clubs in the world. Rosé-sipping hotel guests can while away the hours by watching the tanned bodies glide across the bay. As the daylight fades, guests can relive the golden age of the Riviera at one of the hotel's regular *Great Gatsby*-themed parties or by stepping onto the terrace to see the blinking lighthouse that inspired the green light in Fitzgerald's definitive work. bellesrives.com; doubles from \$218. — ADELINE DUFF