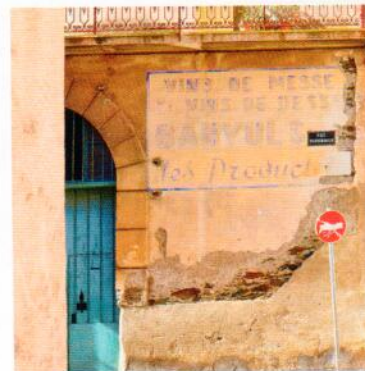


# THE ROAD TRIP



We took in the French commune Collioure, the birthplace of Fauvism, after starting our adventure in Catalonia, passing the city of Girona and Cubist Cadaqués.

Girona is a mix of time periods and influences: from the Gothic churches and 19th-century ochre buildings hanging over the Onyar River to the hip food spots run by the Roca brothers.



Narrow, shuttered streets are typical of the gorgeous, old Languedoc-Roussillon town of Béziers. We peered eagerly into windows from the slow-rolling, purring convertible.

In Salvador Dalí's home region of Catalonia, surrealism is ubiquitous - even at Rocambolesc, the Willy Wonka-like Girona ice-cream parlour owned by pastry chef Jordi Roca.

A TOP-DOWN RIDE IN A MERCEDES-AMG C 43 CABRIOLET FROM BARCELONA TO MONTPELLIER

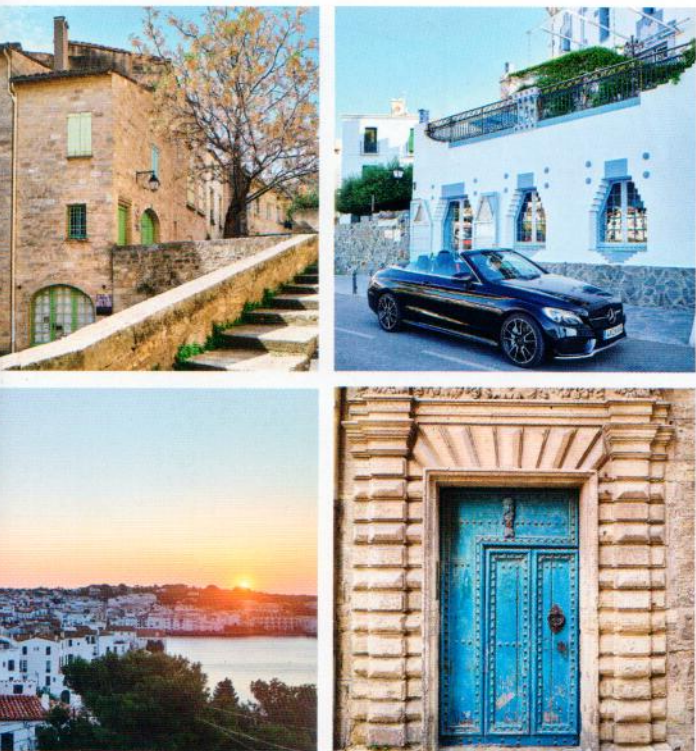
BY ANGELA LOFTUS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID LOFTUS



el Villa Gala is a love letter to the whites and cobalts Cadaqués - the seaside town that inspired Pablo Picasso, n Miró and Marcel Duchamp, and where Dalí owned a house.



A day spent tasting red-wine vinegar in the Banyuls-sur-Mer town ends with a drive north to overnight at Château St Pierre de Serjac, set in a lush, 200-acre vineyard.



ter sunrise in Cadaqués, we roar past Cap de Creus coves and lavender fields on the way to crafty, cobblestoned enas in southern France, with its left-field door museum.



We found those signature Cadaqués blues again in a boat mender's workshop near the modernist Casa Serinyana building. To hire the Mercedes-AMG C 43 Cabriolet and other cars across Europe, see [driverso.com](http://driverso.com)