Local product

- en - Tourism - A wide range of ideas -

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The hills of Vallauris Golfe-Juan still house farms that specialise in flower cultivation (in particular roses, mimosas and strelitzias), market gardening and citrus fruit production. Traditional farming activities of growing perfumed plants have led to their transformation into products for the perfume industry. Today, the majority of these holdings are wholesalers. Visits to see how perfume is traditionally made can be arranged.

**A speciality that is unique in france : the bitter orange tree**

The blossom of the bitter orange tree perfumes the hillsides in May and the colourful fruits stand out against the blue sky in winter.

We do not recommend that you taste them however as they are certainly not sweet!

Producers, who came together to form the ‘Nérolium’ agricultural cooperative, grow the tree which yields fruit several times a year and forms the basis of a variety of products.

* The fruits of the tree are distilled in the cooperative’s stills in Golfe-Juan, which produces the essential oil known as ‘Néroli’ (used in many of the big-name perfumes) and orange blossom oil, which is used in the baking industry. 1000 kg of flowers are needed to make 1 kg of Néroli.

* The oranges themselves are turned into marmalade using traditional methods of production.

Sale and tasting of bitter orange jam at the Nerolium agricultural cooperative
Three annual events are held in celebration of local produce: "Orange Blossom feast in May." On the first Sunday in August the "Fête des paysans" (country-folk festival), known as "la Saint-Sauveur" is held with processions of highly decorated farm trucks. "In November there is the "town farm" festival.