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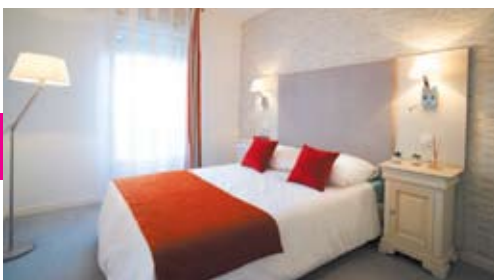
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## In this issue ...

### The Insider

THIS is my 89th issue. Since July 2001, 6 times a year for fifteen years, I've edited the Riviera Reporter.

When I say fifteen years, it doesn't seem as monumental as when I reflect upon the next issue being my 90th. Still, when I look back at what brought me to the South of France, and those shatteringly lonely first years, I wonder how many expats would uproot if they knew in advance the administrative, cultural and social challenges waiting for them at their new address in a foreign land.

According to the Global Moving Trends Report 2016, the reasons we move abroad vary from better quality of life, career progression, economic pressure, family ties, lifestyle change and wanderlust. Their survey shows France as the country people most want to move to, followed by the UK, US, Australia and Spain.

My swimming buddy and I were discussing this as we sat on the pebble beach, sipping coffee from our thermoses while waving to the old-timers with whom we are on a first name basis. We ponder over whether the reality of living in France lives up to the anticipation. In other words, is this the French dream for which you were hoping?

For me, financial background is irrelevant in answering this question. I

know numerous wealthy families living here and 95% are unhappy, rarely taking advantage of what the region has to offer, but want the bragging rights of owning property on the Côte d'Azur.

Fresh from the oven baguette, chilled rosé, long lunches, the sea and sun have short-term value. The struggle to make friends, after understanding that the French do not welcome foreigners with arms wide open (no matter what your level of French), is the most repeated complaint I hear.

The key to happiness is sink or swim. Newcomer Portia Griffey started hiking with *On Va Sortir* (pg 33) while long-time Rivieran Melanie Gulliver recently joined the social running group, the Riviera Hash House Harriers (pg 35).

In Monaco, Ben Rolfe (pg 15) is raising awareness for diabetes, and the International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA) has been giving a voice to refugees (pg 20).

Nearer to Mougins, Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur has a container appeal on the go (pg 22) and Sonja Lockyer will celebrate the fourth edition of her Holistic Garden Party (pg 34).

As for me, I took the suggestion literally. I started swimming in the Med.

*Editor, Nancy Heslin*

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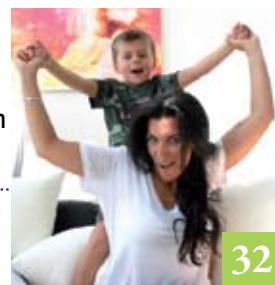
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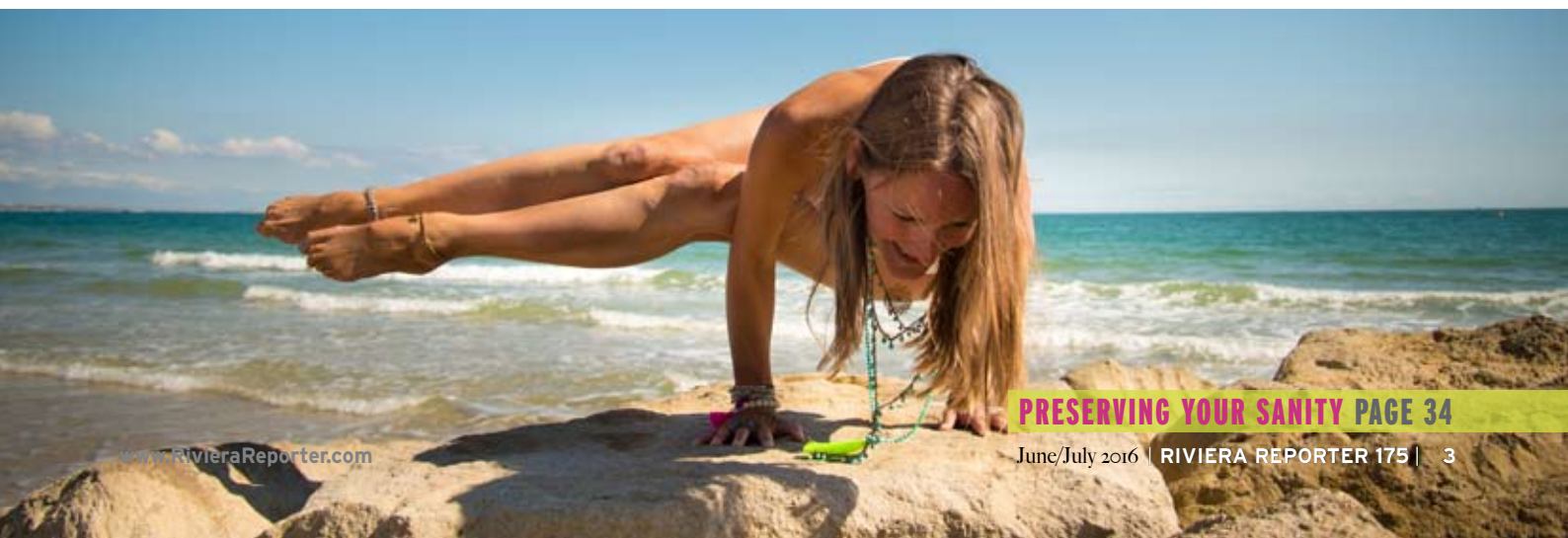


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**PRESERVING YOUR SANITY PAGE 34**

## PREVENTING LEAKS

Uritrottoir takes on the wild-peeing plague



Photo: Fallazi

TWO French inventors think they've come up with an environmentally-friendly solution to the stink and mess of "wild peeing". And people are listening.

"People urinating on the streets of France is a serious problem," says inventor Victor Massip. "And we knew there was a big demand for a solution, so we've come up with one."

Massip and his business partner Laurent Lebot came up with the "Uritrottoir" (a mix of the French words for urinal and pavement), which they believe solves a problem so common in France that the French even have a term for it, *pipi sauvage* (or "wild peeing" in English).

Basically, the new idea sees people urinating into the front of a cubic-shaped

contraption (pictured) similarly to how they'd use a urinal. The urine then collects together with hay in the lower half, which acts as a compost for the flowers growing above. The compost can later be removed for further use, and the hay can be replaced.

The box is coated with an anti-graffiti paint, and the carbon-rich straw not only makes for great compost, but also means the toilet will be largely odour-free.

The team had experimented with the idea before for a festival in western France's Clisson, which saw festival-goers given the option of peeing into urinals that were connected directly to hay bales.

"We've adapted our previous idea so it's suitable for the streets," Massip said.

He said the Uritrottoir means people can save in toilet fees, and would create jobs for cleaners and city workers, considering the hay needs to be replaced every now and again.

And at just €500 to €600 per box, the idea is much cheaper for authorities than the current public toilet options around France, they argue.

Now, to fix the dog poop problem ...

## le FLASH ...



HOUSED in a 18th-century gristmill (built next to a one-of-a-kind 13th-century horizontal mill), EcoMusée du Pays de Fayence is a non-profit association (loi 1901) that promotes local heritage and are organising on Saturday June 18th (from 11am to 10pm) and Sunday June 19th (10am to 4:30pm) the 4th Medieval Festival in Fayence.

During these two days, you can wander the medieval market's craft stalls where some artists will demonstrate

leather, horn and calligraphy works. Troupes representing the 8th to 14th centuries will take you back in time with different short plays – the knight's bath, medieval wedding re-enactment, dubbing ceremony – while various fighting techniques will be presented several times across the day as archers, knife and axe throwers surprise you with their agility. An introduction to fighting techniques and throwing skills will be offered for the young and old alike.

On Saturday evening, a torchlight procession winds along Fayence's village to the EcoMusée, followed by a bonfire, a fire-breathing demonstration and fights with burning chains and swords. The tavern will whet your appetite with locally homemade medieval food.

See [ecomusee-fayence.fr/medievales-2016](http://ecomusee-fayence.fr/medievales-2016)

## NEW LOCAL MEDICINE HOTLINE

FRANCE'S first medicine hotline has launched on the Riviera, to answer questions about drugs, prescribed or bought over the counter, and their proper use.

Over the phone, trained pharmacists speaking French will help to avoid the misuse of medicine and adverse side effects – "I forgot to take my medication yesterday. Should I take double dose today?" or "I bought medication from my pharmacist, but I forgot to tell him that I am following another treatment. Is there a risk of interaction?" – which currently costs some €10 billion a year as the French consume an average of 48 boxes of medicine annually.

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## FRANCE IN THE NEWS

*...in partnership with The Local*

# Strikes, fuel, security: France faces Euro 2016 headaches



AS the Euro 2016 football tournament approaches, there are concerns that it could turn into a fiasco given the prospect of rail strikes, street protests, petrol shortages and security “failings” at the national stadium.

The organisers of Euro 2016 in France will be fretting even more.

Already concerned about the heightened threat from terrorism, their anxiety will have increased after a late May weekend that saw serious concerns about the new security plan at the national stadium, a growing fuel crisis as petrol stations across the country run dry, and threats of ongoing street protests and rail strikes.

While all the focus in the run up to the tournament has been on the threat from terrorists, it appears the biggest risk to its

success comes from the ongoing protests against France labour reforms.

With hundreds of thousands of fans from across Europe set to descend on the country, the French government is facing some major headaches.

The latest militant acts have seen oil refineries and fuel depots blockaded across the country, which has provoked panic among drivers fearing a shortage.

Despite pleas to not all rush to the pumps, worried motorists have been desperate to get their hands on fuel and as a result some 1,600 petrol stations across the country had run dry, or almost dry, on May 24th.

Thousands of fans will be already gearing up to head to France in their cars and the thought that they may have to queue for hours to get fuel, or even worse, risk getting left high and dry on a French motorway, will have them sweating into their replica football shirts.

The government insists all will be fine and say they have plenty of stocks but the crisis is growing before their very eyes and unions have vowed that football is simply not as important as the livelihoods of French workers.

“The European football championships is not sacred. It’s an international competition. What is sacred is the fate of workers in this country and around

the world,” former union leader Bernard Thibault told France Info radio.

With over two weeks to go before the start of the tournament, there is plenty of time for France to refill its petrol pumps but, as we all know issues are rarely resolved quickly in this country.

Fans will hope the government fulfils its vow to use all means necessary to break the blockades of fuel depots.

There is, of course, an alternative to travelling around France by car, with fans also able to use the excellent French train network except ... the hard-line CGT union, which is leading the protest against the labour reforms, are ready to up the ante just as the football kicks off.

The union, backed by other leftist unions like Force Ouvriere and several student groups, has called for two nationwide strikes to be held, the second of which is scheduled for June 14th – four days after the opening game.

The strikes have particularly affected train transport, with the CGT well represented among rail workers. What will make matters worse is that workers with French rail operator SNCF will also be staging walkouts in a separate protest over pay and conditions.

Unions representing rail workers have already announced rolling strikes to take place every Wednesday and Thursday, but for the CGT, that will become every day from June 1st.

On May 24th, the CGT union also

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called for RATP transport workers in Paris to join an “unlimited” strike from June 2nd. That could see services affected in the capital, which will stage 12 matches.

These strikes have already prompted severe disruption throughout the rail network and, if they continue to be strongly followed by workers throughout June, then fans could face real difficulties getting around.

French authorities had a great chance on May 22nd to test their new security plan at the national Stade de France stadium, a plan that had been put in place after the stadium was targeted in the November terror attacks.

But after the French cup final between fierce rivals PSG and Marseille was marred by crowd disturbances in and outside the ground, they admitted that there were several failings.

One of the more serious problems was that body searches on fans had not been as effective as they should have been.

Despite a metal fence some two metres high being erected around the stadium and filters that saw fans searched three times, supporters were able to get flares and other objects into the stadium.

Glass bottles were also among the objects illegally smuggled into the stadium.

Access to the stadium proved to be a problem, as well given that the number of entry points has been reduced from 24 to just four as part of the new security plan.

There were reports of severe crowd congestion on the route from the RER station at Stade de France and the actual stadium.

Local authority chief Philippe Galli admitted they have to go back to the drawing board and “re-calibrate” the plan for the stadium, which will host seven matches during the tournament.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve promised that the security “failures” at the Stade de France would be put right before the tournament started.

He said “the movement of spectators” would be improved and searches would be increased after police were overwhelmed by a surging crowd at the PSG-Marseille match.

Authorities will also be desperate that the tournament, which will see games staged in cities across France, will not be marred by the kind of street protests that have descended into violence in recent weeks and months.

The protests, which have seen hundreds of thousands take to the streets since they began in March, look set to continue with union leaders vowing not to give up their

fight against the labour reforms.

Numerous demonstrations have ended in violence that appears to have mainly been orchestrated by a hardcore of troublemakers.

However, police have also been criticised for being violent with several caught on video punching or kicking protesters.

All in all, it has left the impression that the police have been unable to deal with a small group of troublemakers, with many social media commenters asking how could they possibly deal with outbreaks of football hooliganism?

But the main problem for the already over-stretched police will be that they won't want to have to deal with more anti-labour reform protests when they should be ensuring security of a tournament that will take place under the cloud of a real threat from terrorism.

That, of course, will be of no concern to unions whose main aim is to see the labour reforms bill scrapped and they are running out of time.

The French government is desperate for the tournament to pass off peacefully but it's clear authorities have more than just a terror threat to contend with.

## Foreign investment rises in all of Europe except France



THE results of an annual survey of attractiveness for foreign investors, published on May 24th by professional services firm EY (formerly Ernst and Young), are at odds with President François Hollande's repeated insistence that France is “doing better” – and are a worrying sign for the economy.

Of the 15 countries included in the survey, France was the only one to see an overall drop in attractiveness this year.

Although France has clung on to third place in the rankings overall, it is stagnating while the rest of the continent thrives, and the gap between it and second place Germany is widening fast.

Some 598 new foreign investment projects were started in France over the past year – but that represented an overall drop of 2 percent from 2014, when the

survey produced positive results for France.

Meanwhile, the UK and Germany saw steady rises of 20 percent and 9 percent respectively, with Hungary achieving a 104 percent increase.

Indeed, Europe as a whole (or the 15 countries the study looked at) saw foreign investment shoot up by 14 percent.

So what's gone wrong for France?

While France scored highly in areas such as quality of research and tourist influence, and 80 percent of the 205 company directors interviewed by EY in February 2016 described France's attractiveness as “quite” or “very satisfying”, this positivity did not translate into actual investment.

Fewer than a quarter of investors were planning new projects in France for 2016.

As EY summed it up: “The end of French bashing has not translated into French buying.”

The investments, which were made in France over the past year, were generally of a small size, creating only a handful of jobs – and 80 percent were extensions rather than new ventures.

The 15 major players in Europe's economy were ranked by the number of new projects and new jobs created.

While France saw an 8 percent rise in the number of jobs created by international projects, the average across Europe was 17 percent.

While 150 new headquarters were set up in the UK last year, just 11 were set up in France, with global companies including the New York Times choosing London as the best location for their European operations.

Potential investors were put off by France's social security payroll charges in particular, which 73 percent described as “only slightly or not at all attractive”, while 72 percent cited the tax system as a negative factor. However, the biggest complaint, cited by 83 percent, was the “inflexibility of the labour market”.

The French government is in the process of trying to reform the labour market to make it more flexible for businesses when it comes to hiring and firing and organising working hours. However, the reforms have proved deeply unpopular and have led to a series of strikes and protests that most recently resulted in fuel shortages across the country.

“The decline confirms the inability of [France] to embrace the way of the world,” noted the study, adding that France needed to “urgently take up the challenge of fiscal and social competitiveness” if it was to hold on to its position as an economic power in Europe. ■

# French news: fast and fresh



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France's news in English

# THE LOCAL



# BREXPAT

## We replace our British column this time with your letters about last issue's Brexit editorial

### BORIS

I THINK the most frightening thing about Boris Johnson is his obvious political opportunism and disregard for what's really best for Britain. His campaign is devoid of policies or plans and extremely bereft of facts. He was once for staying in the EU, then he was for leaving but has no plan and keeps changing his tune. We could do like Norway or Switzerland (except they had to adopt Schengen). Then we could do like Canada, then we couldn't. Number 10 is all he cares about.

*Peter Jewson, by email*



### HEALTHCARE

YOU are correct in one can only offer probabilities in respect of future health care provision in France for expats. Although it is indeed logical for present arrangements to remain unchanged. It is probable, although not inevitable, existing pensioners will retain their rights via their S1 (formerly E121). But there is a category of people who could be seriously affected by a Brexit.

Enshrined in EU treaties is the free movement of labour. However this principle is of little use if healthcare rights are not portable too. Because of improved transport links and particularly budget airlines, operating from provincial as well as major airports, it is entirely possible to live in France and work in the UK. The exact circumstances can vary but here is one example.

A spouse, usually the husband and a French resident, spends the working week in the UK and returns to the France at the weekend. As a result of paying UK National Insurance (NI) contributions, he

can obtain a S1 and this will give him and his family the same level of health cover as every other French resident enjoys at no extra cost. But unlike the S1 issued to the pensioner, which is valid for life, in the case of the S1 issued to this worker it is usually valid for a year. But it is renewable assuming the basic employment circumstances remain unchanged. Automatic renewal is far from assured in the event of a Brexit. Both the French and British governments could cynically exploit Brexit to maximise disruption to this family.

The UK government would still collect

NI contributions (assuming, of course, he would still be permitted to work in the UK). But because the UK was now outside the EU there would be no obligation or even right to issue a S1. He may not even have health cover whilst working in the UK. He is a French resident and the only qualification for

NHS treatment is UK residency unless, of course, you are resident of another EU state and able to take advantage of reciprocal arrangements. Because of acquired rights he and his family could affiliate to the "Sécu" under residence criteria but that would involve a financial contribution.

Looking 20-30 years ahead, it is impossible to predict whether Brexit will be ultimately advantageous to the UK and to what degree. But it is reasonable to forecast significant disruption to the plans of thousands of families for perhaps a decade or more. Health care would be but one factor in this disruptive mix.

*Peter Owen, Expathealthdirect*

### BE AFRAID

THE Brexiters continually throw the "scaremongering" argument out, but I am scared, and I have yet to get any comfort from any of the Leave campaigns. I cannot see an angle where anyone who investigates the facts would decide that a Brexit is a

good idea. The Brexit argument seems to be based on some kind of fairyland notion that everyone will do all they can to support the British if they leave.

It's not going to happen!

*David Quinn, by email*

### NIGEL

ISN'T it ironic that Nigel Farage should call for a second referendum in the event that there is a narrow majority in favour of staying in the EU? I seem to recall that one of his criticisms of the EU is that whenever there is a referendum the EU dislike they have another one until they get the right result. Will he want a second referendum if there is a narrow majority in favour of leaving? What a hypocrite!

*Helen Harris, by email*

### STUPIDITY RULES

I HAVE still to hear a decent reason for leaving. My big worry is that the main problem with democracy is stupid is allowed to vote en masse and most people in the UK over the last few decades have lost interest in politics and take no notice of it. Suddenly they are all experts again, and seeing some of the posts they make, I use the word "experts" very loosely. I've even seen one or two say that without the EU to bind us we might even get St George's Day as a holiday. Yes, stupid like this gets a say. Stupid might just win the day.

*Paul Ridley*

### GOING UP

I DID take your prediction that Brexit would mean an increase in airfares with a pinch of salt and I couldn't understand why that would be. Carolyn McCall of easyJet is one of the best business minds in the airline industry. If she's worried, we should all be. Ms McCall has outlined her concerns very well in the British press. I never thought I'd agree with Michael O'Leary on anything either!

*Glenn Somers, by email*

### WHEN YOU GOTTA GO...

MY wife and I are both 71 years old. We have the French Carte Vitale because we retired to France. At first we thought that this wouldn't change if the UK left the EU because it is in the interest of both countries to keep reciprocal rights. It now seems that this is not the case because most French people in the UK are young, healthy, working and paying National Insurance.

A higher proportion of British residents in France do not work, either because they are retired or have sterling income from UK investments or pensions. Some work in the UK and commute. It would not be in the interest of the French to cover these people so they would need private insurance purchased with a devalued pound, which my wife and I couldn't afford to do. So we would have to return to the UK for financial reasons. We have voted by post to remain in the EU.

*Harold & Gillian Wells, Fayence*

### FORCED RETURN

HOW many UK citizen European residents will be forced to return to the UK if health care and inflation

protection and citizenship protection do not continue? The quitters have said there will "probably" be replacement agreements but clearly do not care. How are they going to cope when several hundred thousand retired UK citizens return to the UK with health problems and houses they cannot use or sell in mainland Europe? The truth is the politician quitters do not care about them at all - they only care about being powerful in an isolated England (I think Scotland and Ireland will remain in EU).

*Bill Watts, by email*

### THE WAY WE WERE

I DON'T think many people will be forced to leave France for legal reasons but many will have to leave for financial reasons, especially those with sterling incomes like UK pensioners and those who will not still be covered by the current reciprocal healthcare arrangements. Many will need private health insurance for the rest of their lives just like they did 25 years ago. The older you get, the more expensive that was. I remember those days all too well.

*Christopher Ellis, by email*

## A NICE CHANGE

THE British Association of Nice (BAN), whose statutes provide that it is to give welfare assistance to Brits and their families in the Alpes-Maritimes and to promote Franco-British friendship, now has a new and enthusiastic team. Simone Paissoni (Honorary British Consul Nice), Tom Tennant, Pascal Teissiere, Josephine Fellows, Vivian Musson and Carla Challoner are looking to rejuvenate the association, to combine fun with supporting the community.

Every Friday, there's a Happy Hour at the Brice Hotel in Nice; and on Wednesdays, a coffee morning at Blue Beach, by the Negresco. French lessons are arranged in small groups and there are plans for more cultural events, quiz nights and group outings.

A beach cocktail party is lined up for June; and on July 6th, a summer garden party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Ninety-nine percent of the events are in the heart of Nice and membership is only €10. For more information, contact Simone on spaissoni@wanadoo.fr.

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# A LEGION OF THEIR OWN



John Collingwood at the 2005 VE Day Remembrance Ceremony in Draguignan. Nice-based author John Hefford with his beloved Sam.

BORN in 1925, John Collingwood was a man of many layers. He was a British sailor with a distinguished war record, recently acknowledged by the French state with the award of Chevalier de Legion d'Honneur for his part in the minesweeping of the coastal area prior to the August 1944 Allied landing in the South of France. The honour was due to be presented to him at the Victory in Europe service of May 8th. He was a pillar of the French community in Draguignan and a helped those Brits in the Var who had run into difficulties.

Postwar, John started a successful engineering business in London and came to southern France in the 1970s. Before moving to the Var in 1997, John lived in Menton with his third wife, Patricia Burke, who he had met when living in Monaco, and he was working as a maritime insurance assessor. Pat, who had been a star of stage and screen, sadly suffered a stroke soon after moving to Ampus and John cared for her in every way, using his engineering skills to adapt their camping car to accommodate her wheelchair. Pat had two children and died in 2004.

John's naval service left an indelible mark on him. He once told me of his anguish when he rescued from a torpedoed tanker a young sailor, who shortly afterwards died in his arms. Those who never came back from the sea were never far from his thoughts. He was thrilled to be taken to visit the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle at Toulon where he met President Holland as part of the 70th commemoration

of the Frejus landings of 1944.

In the French community of the Var, he was an enthusiastic member of two choirs, and worked for the Croix Rouge and the Secours Catholique. Until a few years ago he was a helper at the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Helping others was a theme of John's life and so when I met him through assisting one of the British Association's first welfare cases in 1999, he was a natural for aiding successive welfare officers in the association. His knowledge of the French Social Security system was encyclopaedic and he was on first name terms with its officials. Likewise, a staunch supporter of the Royal British Legion, he hardly ever missed the Remembrance parade in Draguignan, where he was well known to the other ancient combatants.

John spent most of the last twelve months in hospital but he never once complained about his problems. His passing on March 29th leaves a void in the community of the Var. *Selwyn Glick*

**AUTHOR** John Hefford, who wove his fiction around modern French history and the contrast of French and British personalities, was born and educated in England but he lived most of his life in Nice and Paris.

Speaking to the Reporter in 2012, discussing the release of his novel "The Spy She Loved", he said, "When I came to Nice a long while ago I ran a bookshop

and wondered if I could write. Then for many years I was very busy in the property field. Actually, I did a bit of rather tentative writing but didn't take it very far. When my wife died I took up my pen again, I suppose as bereavement therapy. I devoted my time to research into the true history of World War II, from which I suffered in England. I then realised I could actually produce a good book."

John's nonfiction book "The French Building Industry" was published in 1961 by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He went on to become CEO of a "large group of British housing estate developers in Paris", and was honoured with the "Gold Cup for Good French Taste" for housing in 1977, the only Englishman to receive this award.

His first novel, "The Rebel Legionnaire", was a reworking of an earlier attempt at fiction, which this time turned out well. It's got a strong autobiographical basis, relating the experiences of a young British surveyor who marries a French girl, moves to Paris and gets involved willy-nilly in the Algerian crisis. The book is not only highly readable but offers real insight into the events of that time.

A friend to and librarian at the English American Library in Nice, John passed away on the 3rd of May after a long illness, surrounded by his family. Library President, Judit Kiraly, observes, "A pleasant man who enjoyed writing historical fiction, John was much appreciated by many. We will all miss him." ■

## PENTHOUSE MOUGINS



Very quiet, top floor 2-bedroom 113m<sup>2</sup> apartment in Val de Mougins, walking distance of all amenities. Lots of storage and partly covered terrace enjoys open south-west exposure (seaview from end of terrace), for a total outdoor space of 62m<sup>2</sup>. **€575,000**



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# British vets at Le Mans

## EXPAT APPEAL



hours dropped them to P10 in their first foray into international endurance racing against factory-supported cars and much more experienced able-bodied drivers.

Mark and Martin's story doesn't start here though. They joined Kartforce, the first step to Team BRIT, in 2012, where they learned race craft with their adapted karts and competed internationally at some of the biggest endurance kart events in the world.

The natural progression from their karting success was to Endurance Car racing where they competed in the Britcar Championship, clinching 6 wins over 2015 and Mark won driver of the year.

This attracted the attention of Chris Martin and Coldplay – who have pledged to support the team in the efforts to reach their goal of competing at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the largest motorsport event in the world – and, consequently, this has drawn in fans, media other sponsors alike.

The Team BRIT family-friendly event, aimed at British expats in the area of Marseille and Toulon, will take place over three days with the festival event on the Saturday until the early hours of Sunday, with British-themed events, Maypole, bunting, English music and refreshments. They hope to bring local expats together in the atmosphere during the day while enjoying the build-up to the Paul Ricard 24-hour race.

More details are due to be released. Keep up to date @TeamBRITRacing on Twitter, or if you're interested in attending, contact David Hrough [davidpittard.co.uk/contact](http://davidpittard.co.uk/contact) ■  
See [teambrit.co.uk](http://teambrit.co.uk) or [24hseries.com](http://24hseries.com)

TEAM BRIT (British Racing Injured Troops) are hosting a friendly British expat weekend over July 16th and 17th in the Marseille area, based around the 24 Hours of Le Mans sports car race at the Paul Ricard circuit in which Team BRIT are competing.

Team BRIT will be driving their Union Jack liveried 400bhp VW Golf race car, complete with full wide body kit, racing slicks and aero enhancements. These aren't the only modifications made to the Team BRIT Golf. As the name suggests, Team BRIT has been set up for injured service personnel who have served Great Britain, however, have returned with horrific injuries. Ex-servicemen Martyn

Compton suffered 3rd degree burns to 90% of his body and Mark Allen became one of Britain's youngest double above the knee amputee. The car has unique handbrake and paddle throttle mounted around the steering wheel with mounted buttons for the DSG gearbox, which are easily switchable for Mark to drive versus an able bodied driver.

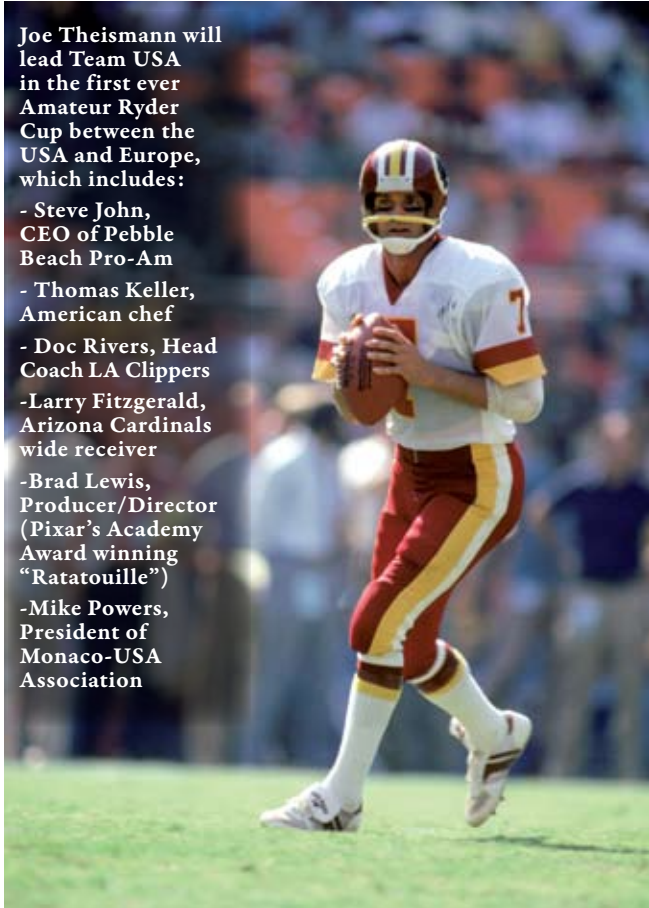
Martyn, Mark and their driver coach, David Pittard, make up 75% of the line up with a fourth driver yet to be announced. The combination took to the track for their home race at Silverstone at the beginning of April, a giant killing performance saw Team BRIT running P2 in class and P7 overall before a gearbox failure after 18

# PAR FOR THE COURSE

**Football great Joe Theismann to captain American team in first ever Monaco-US Celebrity Amateur Ryder Cup**

Joe Theismann will lead Team USA in the first ever Amateur Ryder Cup between the USA and Europe, which includes:

- Steve John, CEO of Pebble Beach Pro-Am
- Thomas Keller, American chef
- Doc Rivers, Head Coach LA Clippers
- Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals wide receiver
- Brad Lewis, Producer/Director (Pixar's Academy Award winning "Ratatouille")
- Mike Powers, President of Monaco-USA Association



BY PJ HESLIN

ALTHOUGH I am firmly lodged into my middle years, there are moments when I still feel like a teenager. In preparation for the first ever Amateur Ryder Cup between the USA and Europe this coming June at Royal Mougins, I had that moment when I interviewed football legend Joe Theismann, who will act as Captain of the American Team in this "kick off" to Ryder Cup France 2018.

"Throwin' Joe" was the quarterback for the Washington Redskins the entire time I was playing football in high school. Although I was a defensive lineman, I loved the fact that he would wear a one-bar facemask at a time when most QBs wore a two- or sometimes three-bar version for protection. I begged my coach to let me wear our team's only single-bar facemask that was specifically designed for our punter. You can guess how that conversation ended.

I began my phone conversation with Theismann rambling like a 16-year-old

lineman looking forward to getting his first concussion. Once I calmed down, we spoke about the upcoming golf tournament, under the initiative and chaired by Susan Feaster, a four-year senior veteran of Ryder Cup France 2018, who promotes France as a golf destination to top US executives as well as celebrities.

As soon as he got wind of the event, through Larry Michael, spokesperson for the Washington Redskins, he knew he wanted in. "Honestly, next to the Super Bowl, I haven't been this excited about a sports event." He confided that these days he doesn't leave the house without his clubs should the chance to get in a few rounds pop up. "I am beyond passionate about the game."

One thing that makes this amateur golf event unique, like the professional Ryder Cup, is the spirit of the players for their Team and their passion to win the Cup as a Team. It is the highest honor in golf. And, like Ryder Cup, you have to be invited and earn the invitation. None of the players are paid to play or win a cash award for their victory. These amateur players on Team

USA have been personally selected because of their successes in their given career making them a celebrity, their passion for golf, their Team attitude and their willingness to devote their time and their own expenses to participate.

This first annual amateur Ryder Cup event will benefit the Ryder Cup European Development Trust to promote golf development at the grassroots for beginning players and for youth, ranging from free lessons at European Tour events to disabled golf initiatives, as well as junior and educational programs.

For Joe Theismann, coming to the South of France was an added bonus. "I've been to Monaco before and had all those images from 'Casino Royale' when I was a kid of the Casino and guys in tuxes. The area definitely lives up to every expectation."

Having visited the Côte d'Azur previously, as well as the Amalfi Coast, I asked him what he thought was the attraction that so many Americans have specifically for Monaco. "I believe most of it has to do with

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## THE US

Princess Grace and her connection to the US, obviously, but I find the people wonderful, the food great and the scenery majestic. It's a part of the world that's fascinating."

A former pro athlete who is an avid golfer isn't exactly breaking news but I had no idea how close the connection between golf and professional football would be for a competitor like Joe Theismann. "It's the ultimate game of management." He went on to explain that like a quarterback, where so much is going on – from the fans to the opposing players to your own team and coaches – golf, for him, has just as many moving pieces. "When I step up to the tee, I get those same butterflies in my stomach that I used to get when I'd step out on the field."

He uses the game of golf to explain what it's like to play in the NFL. "In football, there is no greater concentration than when you step into the pocket to throw a pass. It's the exact same intensity when you step up to the tee to drive the ball. You're completely focused on technique and where you want that ball to go while trying to block out everything else. Now, imagine when you're about to tee off, a 300-pound man comes out of nowhere and hits you so hard you end up by the ladies tee ..."

Most sports have a champion's tour for retired pros. Football doesn't have any such

organization, especially for a quarterback who has broken both legs – the first time playing for the Toronto Argonauts in the CFL in 1972 and then, of course, the infamous compound fracture caught on live television that ended his career in 1985, to this day still "The NFL's Most Gruesome Injury". For Theismann, golf filled the void that football had left wide open.

I question Theismann about his competitiveness. He laughed. "Ask my wife." Every time he hits a red light "I have to be first car off the line if someone's beside me. I just have to be. And my wife asks, 'Do you have to do that?' and I reply, 'No' ... but I know I do."

That drive isn't the only thing that led him to helm a Super Bowl winning team. It was the combination of opportunity and love of the game, according to Theismann, that won him the starter's position as QB for the Washington Redskins.

Theismann – who played 163 consecutive games from 1974-1985 for the Redskins – is surprisingly dismissive in describing his talents and ability. Yes, he recognizes he has a great arm for throwing, but admitted that he didn't consider himself as naturally talented as other quarterbacks who were bigger, taller and faster. "People always counted me out. But if there's one way you

want me to succeed, it's to tell me that I can't do something."

That drive and love of the game won him the starter's position and a Super Bowl XVII ring in 1983. Yet, remarkably, it's not the lessons of a Super Bowl victory against the Miami Dolphins that Theismann carries with him to this day, but of losing the title the following year to the LA Raiders. "I did not prepare for the second one. I had the attitude of 'I've got this – been there, done that.' I personally did not play well in that game." Looking at clips, you can see it on his face when plays went wrong, a look of disappointment not in his teammates but in himself. After that, he said that he learned to live in the moment and not rely on accomplishments of the past.

Before I got off the phone with him I just had to ask, "Why one bar?" He laughed out loud. "Well, I used to tell the press that I wore one bar because it was easier to see the ball on hand-off plays, which is true. But I'll tell you the real reason. Jurgensen and Kilmer [the QBs who preceded him] only wore one bar and those guys were tough. At the time, I'd rather have had my nose broken or lose some teeth than lose their respect."

My kind of guy. ■

*See [usmonacoccelebritygolfcup.com](http://usmonacoccelebritygolfcup.com)*

# A funny thing happened on the way to the Grimaldi Forum ...



**Grimaldi Forum hosts a variety of summer events: “The Bodyguard” starring Alexandra Burke; actors and directors best compete for the Golden Nymph at the Monte-Carlo TV Festival; LikeBike, the world’s most prestigious bike show.**

BY MOLLY BROWN

THE Automobile Club of Monaco has the organisation of the Monaco Grand Prix down to a fine art. I never cease to marvel at the speed and efficiency of the workers as they begin to disassemble fencing and grandstands seemingly minutes after the winning driver completes his triumphal lap around the circuit. During the race, avenue Princesse Grace is closed to traffic. At one end, luxury hotels and apartment buildings overlook a virtually deserted beach; at the other, sleek F1 cars race down from the Fairmont hairpin bend at breakneck speeds and roar around the right-hand turn into the tunnel – the one place where cars can overtake – the high-pitched scream of their engines echoing back along the avenue, black skid marks and the smell of burning rubber the only signs of their passing. The small tribune at the mouth of the tunnel has scarcely emptied before the workers arrive with thick gloves and huge screwdrivers; fencing is unscrewed and crash barriers of tyres neatly stacked for night-time removal. The next morning traffic is moving as normal. This corner is where the new land extension is to be located and will doubtless affect the Grand Prix circuit in future years. Work on the environmentally friendly underwater foundations is scheduled to begin at the end of the year and of prime importance is the protection of the adjoining Larvotto fish reserve. The Prince Albert II Foundation is currently raising funds to add two rare

species of seahorse to the reserve. What fun that would be ... a day at the beach and the chance to swim with a seahorse!

This ambitious urban extension project will include not only apartment buildings, public parking, a seafront promenade and a marina but an extension to the Grimaldi Forum, which is not only a successful conference and exhibition centre but a centre for the performing arts, with great plans for the summer season. Strategically placed between Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France, LikeBike 2016 brings the latest bicycles from around the world to this popular event at the forum (June 3-5), then the elite of the television industry arrive for the 56th Monte-Carlo Television Festival (June 12-16) where the world's best actors and directors compete for the legendary Golden Nymph awards. There is an increased demand for high-quality TV programming and this festival is a landmark for the industry. Six British dramas and an ITV documentary are among the entries chosen to compete for the awards this year and the public are invited to see some of the films in competition. A week later, the stunning musical, “The Bodyguard”, starring Alexandra Burke arrives from London (June 23-26), then the forum's summer art exhibition opens, celebrating the life and works of British artist, “Francis Bacon, Monaco and French Culture”, with over 60 of his works on display (July 2 -Sept 4). Joint tickets for the Bacon exhibition with the European Art Fair Monaco (formerly Point Art Monaco, PAM), running July 20-

24, will be offered for €16. At the charming belle époque NMNM Villa Sauber museum opposite, a nostalgic project of the life and times of legendary actress, Marlene Dietrich by Francesco Vezzoli, is a tempting alternative to the beach on a hot summer's day (until Sept 11).

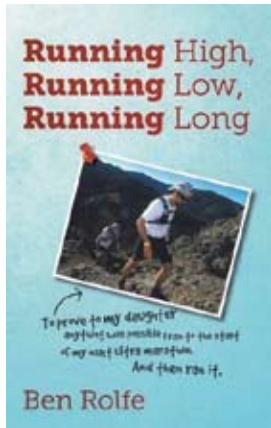
At the Café de Paris, BAM celebrates the Queen's 90th birthday with the Band of the Carabiniers, who will play a range of British and well-known music to entertain members and guests at the Salon Bellevue on June 8 (only prepaid tickets, €50/pers).

No one comes to Monaco for peace and quiet, but in winter avenue Princesse Grace, with its empty beach and few tourists, is relatively calm ... but in summer Ferraris rev to and from Jimmy's legendary night club; the beach is alive with long legs and bikinis and jazz at the Note Bleu or chilling at the first ever Amber Summer, the sister of F1's charity auction and after-party Amber Lounge, at the Meridien Beach Plaza.

Since its inauguration by Josephine Baker in 1974, the Sporting d'Été has brought the world's greatest stars to the Salle des Etoiles, with its sliding roof that opens to the stars and fireworks finales. Rod Stewart kicks off the season this year, then old favourites Gladys Knight, Burt Bacharach and Tom Jones add a little nostalgia. On July 23, American singer Lana del Rey stars at the Red Cross Ball, the most glamorous social event of the season, where Dior gowns and Bulgari jewellery are de rigueur. So don your coolest threads and have a wonderful summer. ■

# BEN ROLFE:

## On the run again



WE first mentioned Monaco-based Ben Rolfe in the summer of 2014 (Reporter 163), after his daughter Alice had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes from a finger prick test. Ben was about to embark on a 230-kilometre fund-raising run for his daughter's cause.

Now Ben comes to us promoting his motivational book "Running High, Running Low, Running Long" (UK: New Generation Publishing), an autobiographical account of his journey from "fatty to fitty and the power of the mind".

It starts with a routine medical in 2004, when Ben was told he wouldn't see 40 unless he changed his lifestyle. An overweight, sedentary smoker, Ben had a young family and busy career with little time for anything else. Fast forward a decade, transforming himself from couch potato to a man on the move, losing 35 kilos along the way, and you'll see pictures of Ben crossing the Finish Line of the world's toughest ultra-marathons, including the Western States 100, the Ultra Trail of Mont Blanc and the Marathon Des Sables.

However, in 2013, hit with life-changing news that his 11-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, Ben decided

to undertake his toughest challenge yet: to prove to her that anything was possible. One evening, departing from the bright lights of Monte-Carlo he headed towards the mountainous terrain behind the Côte d'Azur to run an unsupported 100-km trail run. For most hardened ultra-marathon runners this would be a feat in itself, but for Ben he had something else to prove: choosing to descend the rugged terrain he had already climbed and run the Cro Magnon Trail – the 130-km mountain trail ultra-race. "I wanted to prove to my daughter, that even though she had a life-changing – and potentially life-threatening – condition, that she could do anything she wanted if she put her mind to it.

"I had previously chronicled my running adventures on my blog *pussyfootingaround.net*, and I was encouraged after my "double ultra" to put my musings down in a book. Having changed my own lifestyle, I hope my experience will encourage and inspire others to get off the couch and get outside."

For a down to earth story, detailing Ben's journey to fitness and his love of nature and travel, pick up "Running High, Running Low, Running Long". ■

*Available from [amazon.fr](http://amazon.fr), [waterstones.co.uk](http://waterstones.co.uk) and local bookstores.*

### CAROL DRINKWATER BOOK SIGNING

Antibes Books (13, rue Georges Clemenceau) welcomes Carol, signing her new novel, "Forgotten Summer", as well as all her other titles, on Sat June 18th, 11h. See page 47.

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# TAX ON SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS IN FRANCE

BY ROB KAY, SENIOR PARTNER, BLEVINS FRANKS



ARE you protecting your savings and investments from unnecessary taxation in France? You will have worked to build up your savings; your aim now is to protect them and the income they provide. To maximise your returns, you need to understand the impact of French taxation and plan to limit your liabilities.

Many UK nationals have accumulated large savings and investment portfolios using an array of options, from National Savings to Individual Savings Accounts (ISA) and Personal Equity Plans (PEP). Unfortunately, once you take up residence in France, these tax incentives fall away and the income and gains become wholly taxable under French law. If you are lucky enough to win one of the large Premium Bond prizes, you could lose over 60% in tax.

You therefore need to reconsider the way you hold your investments, and look for the most tax-efficient arrangements in France.

There have been a number of tax reforms over recent years, including on how investment income is taxed, so you need to make sure you are up to date on the rules and rates.

## Income tax

Investment income, whether it is bank interest, dividends or capital gains on the sale of shares, is added to your other income for the year and taxed at the progressive rates of income tax. The

rates for 2015 income (payable in 2016) are:

Income band €	Tax rate
Up to 9,700	0%
9,701 to 26,791	14%
26,792 to 71,826	30%
71,827 to 152,108	41%
Over 152,108	45%

Remember, in France you are taxed as a household not as individuals.

There is an additional exceptional tax (meant to be temporary) of 3% or 4% for income over €250,000 and €500,000 respectively. The thresholds are higher for families.

Social charges on investment income at 15.5% are added on top of income tax. The total combined tax rate can therefore climb as high as 64.5%, for those with an income over €500,000 (or €1,000,000 for a family).

It looked, briefly, as though Form S1 holders may no longer have to pay social charges on their unearned and investment income. This was following a ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) that France could not apply social charges on people subject to social security in another EU member state. Refunds are available for the charges paid in recent years.

However, the French government has now amended its social security law whereby social charges will be paid to a non-contributing fund, and so are outside the scope of the ECJ ruling. So all French residents need to pay social charges this year on their investment income, even if they have Form S1.

When it comes to tax on capital gains, there is a form of relief of 50% for investments held for between two and eight years and 65% thereafter. If you have held shares for a number of years, you could consider selling the shares to reinvest the capital in more tax-efficient arrangements.

## Wealth tax

You may also need to consider and

plan for wealth tax, which is charged on top of income tax each year.

This unpopular tax remains a concern for wealthier residents. It affects you if the total taxable, worldwide, wealth of your household amounts to over €1.3 million. If it does, you pay tax on assets over €800,000, at progressive rates from 0.5% to 1.5%. If you are affected, seek advice on how to lower this tax liability.

There is a “holiday” from wealth tax on non-French assets for new residents of France, for five years from arrival. In addition, once wealth tax does become a factor, the French tax system provides a “tax cap”, where your combined income tax, wealth tax and social charges liability is limited to 75% of your total income. While this sounds high, this does actually provide tax-planning opportunities.

## Tax planning

There are arrangements available in France that enable you to reduce the tax liabilities on your savings and investments. You need to understand how to use the advantages offered by the French tax system to your benefit.

Your tax planning should also cover succession tax, as the way you hold your savings and investments can impact how easily you can pass them to your heirs and how much tax they have to pay.

You will probably be surprised at how much tax you can save in France on your investment capital and income. It is important, however, to seek personalised advice in these complex areas of wealth management. ■

*For more, visit [blevinsfranks.com](http://blevinsfranks.com) or email [rob.kay@blevinsfranks.com](mailto:rob.kay@blevinsfranks.com). The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change.*

*Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices, which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual should take personalised advice.*

# HUBERT BOIVIN

## Q&A with "Best of Cooking Nice"

### INDUSTRY



**RR:** Hubert Boivin, tell us about your role as President of UPCR, the restaurant owner's union of Nice and the surrounding area ("Syndicat des cafetiers et restaurateurs de Nice et ses environs").

**HB:** My role is to lead and represent the union in front of the various administrative bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), the Union for Business (UPE), the Town Hall, Prefecture and Pole Emploi. On top of that, I'm here to solve any problems that trade union members may face.

**RR:** Can you share some statistics about Nice's restaurant industry?

**HB:** There are 20,745 establishments in this sector, the majority (58%) of which are traditional restaurants. Hotels (18%) and licensed premises (15%) strongly make up the other two groups, while in the Alpes-Maritimes region, casinos and thalassotherapy institutes are also well established.

Over the past ten years, the number of establishments employing staff has increased by 20% overall but this has not been equal across sectors. Restaurants saw a rise of 47%, but hotels and licensed premises saw a decrease of

5% and 10% respectively.

**RR:** The second edition of "Best of Cooking Nice" is now available. Where did the idea come from?

**HB:** The "Best of Cooking Nice" presents the *savoir faire* of restaurateurs in and around Nice through their recipes. You'll discover a selection of restaurants and beaches, as well as regional products and gourmand delicacies made by *artisans du goût*.

The concept really is to highlight *nissart* in the kitchen and promote the homemade trend. This lets readers get inside the minds of the leading chefs on the French Riviera, reproducing their specialties.

**RR:** What will readers discover and where can they buy it?

**HB:** "Best of Cooking Nice" is aimed as much at local readers attached to their *terroir* as tourists wanting to discover the region through Mediterranean cuisine. Foodies looking for great restaurants and culinary ideas will certainly find plenty of them here.

The book (€15) is for sale at Librairie Massena in Nice, city kiosks, the Nice Tourist Office and in the restaurants themselves.

**RR:** What is unique about restaurants and eating in this part of France?

**HB:** Nice is the second gastronomic city in France, and its location between the sea and mountains provides many local products labelled "cuisine nissarde", which originate from between Provence and northern Italy and respect their traditions.

In sampling dishes and produce by these chefs and artisans, you'll find the sun and the art of living unique to the Nice region. ■

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# WHAT A GUICHET!

## A step-by-step guide to becoming a freelancer



BY BARTH HULLEY

DESPITE the French government embracing digital technology to reduce the form-filling burden, paperwork is a way of life for those of us residing in this country. Any brush with officialdom still seems to require no end of *justificatives*, *attestations*, and *lu et approuvé*. Even though form filling has moved online, it still has the potential to strike the fear of God into you – especially when your level of French might not be the best and your comprehension of legislation and legalese is non-existent. It is for this reason, and I am not referring to just expats here, that many households across the country hire accountants and lawyers to fill in forms for them. Ignorance, after all, is bliss.

This was one of the things that motivated me to write “Freelance in France 2015”: to demystify the basics and give the reader a global view of the way the Republic functions, in respect of freelancing, so as to avoid the unnecessary step of paying someone to explain it all to you in simple English. Of course, the difference between knowing how to do something and actually doing it yourself can be vast, according to your level of confidence and experience. Nothing beats having someone there to tell you if you’re doing it right.

A few weeks back I was contacted by a recently-arrived *New-Yorkeuse* who, on a two-year work visa, wanted to set up in business as a freelance wedding photographer. She had done all the necessary reading and red tape in advance of her arrival but, was stuck at the last hurdle: form filling. With only a rudimentary grasp of French and its legislative vocabulary, she didn’t feel confident enough to get started. Would I be able to help?

Looking past the fact that the last time I’d actually filled in a business declaration form was over ten years ago, I felt the opportunity too good to pass-up, to see behind the log-in screen of France’s business-creation portal *guichet-entreprises.fr*. So it was that we sat down in front of a computer screen and began our journey into the unexplored realms of French digital bureaucracy circa 2016. Along the way we encountered many things that no user-manual could ever prepare you for, nor logically explain; quirks of a system designed to be all things to all people. You have to think of it in much the same as getting used to a new software program – sure, you can read the manual before you even boot it up, but it’ll make more sense, and you’ll learn a lot more and a lot faster by opening it and playing with it until it does what you want it to.

The whole process of setting up her micro-entreprise took approximately half an hour, though this was only because we were well prepared and had all the necessary documents at hand (I’d suggested she bring every single official document in her possession just in case). Without this organisation, the process could have taken days – if not weeks!

So, dear Reporter readers, I am now able to divulge what we learned about how to set up your business in a step-by-step guide; not just here in black and white but also with the help of a video shortly to be made available on [freelanceinfrance.fr](http://freelanceinfrance.fr).

### Step 1: Do it in French

If you’ve ever copy-pasted any lengthy piece of French into an online translation tool, you’ll already know that the results of machine translation can be far from satisfactory. Although I occasionally use Google Translate to help me understand words or short phrases, I would never use it to make sense of large blocks of legal French text – and neither should you. Why? Because there is no such thing as a true or perfect translation. Google Translate can confuse subjects for objects, ignore objects completely, translate “pas” as “step” (instead of “not”), and translate verbs and nouns verbatim regardless of their context.

So, although you may be tempted to select “English” from that drop-down list at the top of the *guichet-entreprises.fr* screen – don’t do it! Otherwise, you’ll be trying to make sense of some gobbledygook that’s far worse than French legalese.

For example, here’s the very first stage translated according to Google Translate: “To create your business, follow the steps step and incorporate your business creation record.” I think I’ve made my point.

### Step 2: Create an account

Click on “Créer mon espace personnel” in the top right hand corner to create an account on the site. You can do this in advance of your actual business creation as it bears no relation to the process – it’s just so you have a secure account area in which to complete the process. Fill out all the fields marked with an asterisk to create your account. Name, address, password etc. and then click “Valider”. Note your

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## FREELANCE

password has to have at least one number, one capital, one lower case letter and one symbol in order to be accepted – this is the first annoyance of many! You will need to activate your account by clicking on the email you receive shortly afterwards.

### Step 3: Type and location

You're ready to embark upon the creation of your business, which, according to the site, is a six-stage process. Stage one begins now with you entering the essentials about the business you want to set up. To get started - click on "Créer mon entreprise". The first screen asks you to specify your type of business and where you intend to do it.

It's here that you have your one and only opportunity to sign up for the once named "auto-entrepreneur" statute created in 2009 by the Sarkozy government. Be sure to tick the checkbox under "Votre Activité" to benefit from this status. If you don't check the box you'll be creating an *Entreprise Individuelle*, which might end up putting you in an immediate negative cash flow situation – depending upon your trade.

If you check the box you'll be asked if you want to register under the EIRL statute (*Entreprise Individuelle Responsabilité Limitée*) which is basically asking if you want to limit your liabilities, however, I have yet to meet anyone who has opted for this relatively new variant of the *entreprise individuelle* statute. Created in 2012, it was designed to tackle the problem of the personal ruin often experienced as a direct result of business failure. Should your business collapse

spectacularly, not losing your home is certainly a major benefit; although, it is widely believed that the rigidity and complexity of the legislation governing EIRL outweigh the benefits – which is why take-up, thus far, has been lackluster.

Crucially, under EIRL, you are still regarded as a *personne physique* (a person) – meaning your liability remains unlimited unless there is a clear demarcation between your personal and professional assets and affairs. Under the EURL and SASU statutes, however, you can be considered a *personne morale* (a professional entity) – meaning you have no personal liability unless you use personal assets as a guarantee.

My advice – don't bother (check "non").



### Step 4: Define your activity

This is where things get a little difficult. For the purposes of statistics, vested interests and national protectionism, you need to specify your business within the confines of a pre-programmed structure. This is all very well if you intend to pursue a single, easily defined, activity – such as pig farming – but a real pain if your business is less well defined. The screen offers three levels of granularity: domain, sector and activity. The choice you make in one drop-down menu will define what

options are available in the next. Once upon a time, this section on the paper form required you to specify a simple five-figure NAF code that corresponded to your chosen activity – which, if you ask me, was actually slightly easier. We had to go through the menus several times to find the best fit, eventually opting for "Capture digital" (which, as it turns out, doesn't mean digital photography.)

Besides statistical usefulness, your choice indicates to INSEE (the national office of statistics) which institutions need to be notified of your activities when you register. Once registered, the appropriate Pension, Social Security and Health Care will contact you to acknowledge your registration and, if relevant, the appropriate trade body or regulator will also get in touch.

Once registered with INSEE, your name and address will be added to a national listing of companies and businesses that can be contacted by any member of the public. Unfortunately, this means you become an immediate target for junk mailing, sales calls and local teenagers looking for work experience.

It cannot be stressed enough, then, that if you choose the wrong or an inappropriate activity, it could make life a little difficult. When I last checked there were some 732 activities to choose from. So choose wisely!

Look out for the next Reporter for the next instalment of this step-by-step guide. ■

*Barth Hulley lives in Strasbourg. His recent book, "Freelance in France 2015", offers practical advice on working for yourself in France. See [freelanceinfrance.fr](http://freelanceinfrance.fr)*

# A million refugees, a million voices

President of the Monaco-based International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA), Marco Orsini, spotlights “Refugee Voices in Film”

“When one has the power to change the world positively, then one should act,” says documentary film maker Marco Orsini, pictured in Cairo for UNHCR.



BY LUDOVIC MERCIER

ON May 25th, six people drowned when an overcrowded wooden boat capsized off the Libyan coast, a drama that followed a two-day period seeing 6,000 migrants rescued at sea. There's a refugee crisis at our doorstep, at the French-Italian border of Menton, and all around the Western world. You simply can't ignore the 59.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.

For Marco Orsini, a documentary filmmaker and cofounder of IEFTA, the media need to learn how to raise a compassionate voice toward refugees. “No matter where you stand on that crisis, whether sympathetic to the refugees or in fear of what your life will be in the future because of the current situation, we have to at least come to an understanding that it is a crisis, and that these people are humans who have the right to basic needs like we do.

“Last year in Lesbos, Greece, as refugees were flowing in, I was asked by an American producer to find two boats,” the tall Puerto Rican described. “One to install a crew and equipment to make a film about refugees who would be especially picked up in Turkey and brought to Greece on the second boat. Just for a film. I was stunned.”

Not only did Orsini refuse, but, outraged by the lack of ethics by some media outlets, he decided to search for organisations that help refugees tell their individual stories without exploiting them or putting them in harm's way.

“Doing something” is a kind of leitmotiv for Orsini. After a childhood in the Far East with his military father and his family, he went back to the US to study. He then moved to Los Angeles where “everyone ends up working for the film industry, sooner or later”. A few years working for a Spanish-language TV production

company and a few documentary films later, he relocated to Monaco, which per square foot has more not-for-profits focusing on injustices, indifference and environmental issues than anywhere else.

In 2006, he joined IEFTA and the following year, while filming “The Reluctant Traveller”, he discovered Ethiopia. He was shocked by what he saw: Ethiopia had become one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, seemingly without the rest of the world noticing. “Western media remained stuck on the ‘We Are The World’ era. AIDS, civil war and malnutrition are what most people have in mind when they think of Ethiopia. That's over now, yet no one seems to care!” claimed Orsini.

He decided to lend them his voice. He organised a conference in Africa's second most populated country for filmmakers and members of the film industry to show that Ethiopia had

changed, and they decided to help the emerging film talents of emerging countries, which has become IEFTA's mandate. "When one has the power to change the world positively, then one should act," deemed the film director.

"We answer everyone, sometimes with advice, sometimes with plane tickets to help them go to a festival," Orsini explained. "And, although I might sometimes have difficulties for my own projects, we never get a 'no' from professionals when it comes to helping these talents. I organise meetings during festivals, introduce them to powerful people in the film industry and then I leave."

This year, as IEFTA celebrate their 10th anniversary, things have changed. "There's a moratorium put on all travel from the countries we represent," Orsini said. "So when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – the UNHCR – approached me to see if I'd consider doing a conference during the Cannes Film Festival, it meant that instead of bringing filmmakers from Ethiopia, this year we brought filmmakers, some of whom are refugees themselves, who film in refugee camps around the world, trying to find a way to let refugees tell their own story, without exploiting them."

Refugee Voices in Film, in collaboration with the UNHCR and the Marché du Film, was an all day conference that took place on May 18th at the Palais

des Festivals. The keynote address from Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR's Director for the Bureau of Europe (below left) set the tone: "Europe is trying to understand what happened last year. It's like a hangover. You wake up and there are one million displaced people."

"Europe acted badly, with a lack of responsibility, trust and solidarity. Survival is not something you plan for and these refugees did not leave their home for fun. They hope to return one day when it's safe for their children."

While matter-of-factly sharing harrowing stories involving children caught up in this humanitarian crisis, he underlined that we need better storytellers, a sentiment shared by the four panels across the day, to hear individual voices sharing their hopes and dreams, so as to not look at the displaced in terms of what they will take from society but at what they can offer.

On a lighter note, Cochetel said that the first thing most refugees ask for when safely reaching shore in Lesbos is not about finding food or shelter but rather "Where can I charge my phone?" ■

*IEFTA is currently working on a program with Cambridge Film Festival called "Water Sprite". See [iefta.org](http://iefta.org) for more, as well as continued film initiatives in Bangladesh and Ethiopia.*

*Ludovic Mercier graduated top of his class at Nice's Ecole du Journalisme and is bilingual: [lmercier.news@gmail.com](mailto:lmercier.news@gmail.com)*



IEFTA's "Refugee Voices in Film" conference in Cannes showed that behind the figures, behind the crowds, there are individual voices that need to be heard. Photos: KK Aksliim

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# Leaders of the packing

## Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur's container drive for Syria



L-R: Michon Sweet, Denise Mosawi, Emma Colvin, Jennifer Kingston and Wendy Cooper-Fostvedt, with the youngest packer, Millie Colvin. Absent, Gabriella Jarratt, who works with Ventimiglia Red Cross and Caritas, where recently the camps were relocated.

WHEN a local Facebook group started up in September 2015, no one would have guessed its imminent success. In collaboration with four schools, Les Trois Collines, Les Colibris, Marie Mater and Mougins International School, Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur (RACA) appealed to parents for winter clothing and other essential items and ended up with enough donations to fill 21 sponsor-donated pallets. Antibes Yacht Chandler organised the delivery of the aid to Paris, and then to Iraq, by lorry.

Michon Sweet, who has a yachting background and has been here for three years, joined RACA soon after the Iraq appeal: "When fall started and my son was sent to school with a heavier jacket, hat and mittens, I realised that children in Syria would be facing a winter without warm things. It was horrifying to me, as a parent, to think about these little, fragile, vulnerable children being cold and sleeping on the ground. Many of them have nothing. We have so much."

There are six equal and competent

volunteers on the Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur team, each a mom with young children. Michon and Wendy (American), Emma, Denise and Jennifer (English) and an Italian, Gabriella, who has helped with the refugee situation in Ventimiglia and regularly makes trips to Italy with RACA resources to help both the Red Cross and the Catholic charity, Caritas.

Michon explains, "Emma and Denise were two of the founders of Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur and spearheaded the first projects. I know, for them, the start was the Syrian boy found on the beach last September, which brought worldwide attention to the refugee plight. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we all felt helpless seeing what was going on and watching innocent children and families dying. We just wanted to do something."

In June, RACA will host their project "Kids HELPING Syrian Kids", where children bring 10 cans of food, pile it all on a table and then draw a message or picture to put in the box before taping

it up and shipping it off. "We have some age-appropriate explanations for the kids," Michon says, "to raise social awareness of those less fortunate. My son is helping. He knows all about the refugees, though he doesn't grasp the whole concept yet."

RACA has also launched another drive to send a container with food and medical supplies going directly into Syria. One Nation UK, a registered charity, has generously sponsored this container and Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur needs help to collect 80 pallets worth of aid. They have donation drop-off points throughout the Côte d'Azur and also volunteer drivers if people cannot get to one of these places. There is an Amazon Wish List for food and medical items and flyers available for people who would like to post it at their school, church or place of business. RACA can also help coordinate a donation drive. "Collectively, we can make a difference to the many orphans and families in Syrian refugee camps." ■

Follow Refugee Aid Côte d'Azur on Facebook or for more information email [RefugeeAidCotedAzur@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeeAidCotedAzur@gmail.com)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CONTAINER APPEAL:

### 1. DONATE FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CAMPING GEAR AND CLOTHING.

Food and medical supplies are needed most. Many of the hospitals have been bombed and the supplies in those that remain are critically low.

### 2. AMAZON WISH LIST:

[amazon.fr/gp/registry/wishlist/2TAZBM0MFNGHD](https://amazon.fr/gp/registry/wishlist/2TAZBM0MFNGHD)

### 3. ORGANISE A LOCAL EVENT:

School, work or church donation drive.

### 4. VOLUNTEER TO HELP US SORT and BOX DONATIONS.

We always need boxes, too.

### 5. FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:

Post your ideas and successful events to inspire others.



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# DON'T SWEAT IT...

but if you do, remember to hydrate

**NUTRITION**



BY SUSAN TOMASSINI

THERE'S something special about eating in the summertime. Maybe because fruits and vegetables are at their best or perhaps it's that eating *en plein air* strengthens our connection to nature and exposes us to sunlight, both of which are scientifically proven to help us feel happier.

As a nutritionist, I love the summer months, not only for the physical benefits of outdoor living, but also because I feel especially inspired to make healthy dishes and creative smoothies from the fresh produce brought home from the market (see last Reporter for a list of local markets), much of which has functional effects that are particularly relevant for the season.

You may not have noticed but nature's rhythms provide us with the appropriate resources just when we need them. Dehydration is a common health risk during the hotter months, especially for those who are more likely to lose body fluids quicker, like children, older adults

and endurance athletes. Staying hydrated is a fundamental part of any summer activity, whether it's a strenuous workout, beach volleyball or brisk walk along the coast. Even if you're just sitting in the car on a long, hot ride, you're still sweating more, so it's easy to fall behind on your water intake. Fortunately, since many summer fruits and vegetables are over 90% water, we don't actually have to drink it all – we can "eat" some of it, too. Strawberries, peaches, apricots, salad greens, courgettes, radishes, celery, tomatoes, aubergines, peppers and spinach all contribute considerably to our fluid intake, helping prevent the headaches, poor concentration and sluggishness caused by dehydration.

What's more, reaching for a piece of cucumber or watermelon after a workout can replenish your body twice as effectively as a glass of water or a sports drink. That's because fruits and vegetables provide us with natural sugars, amino acids and nutrients that are lost in exercise, boosting the body's absorption of fluids and preventing muscle cramps – without any of the artificial chemicals commonly found in sports drinks.

More time outside and at the beach means you need to take special care with your skin. Don't let high SPF creams lull you into a false sense of security. Many popular sun protection products focus on blocking the UVB rays that cause sunburn while doing far too little to protect us from

UVA rays – the ones that penetrate much deeper and have the potential to cause a lot more damage in terms of both aging and serious forms of skin cancer. Studies show we're now more likely to stay out in the sun longer because we don't see any obvious signs of burning, so we absorb higher amounts of dangerous UVA rays. To make matters worse, many sunscreens contain chemicals that can actually damage skin tissue. Ask your pharmacist to recommend a brand without parabens or dioxanes.

Freshly made smoothies are an excellent way to keep skin dryness at bay, especially if you include raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. These antioxidant-rich berries contain alpha-hydroxy acids, natural exfoliators that help regenerate cells and prevent premature aging of the skin. Always add some healthy fat, like avocado, coconut oil or almond butter to your smoothie, which not only enhances texture and richness, it helps curb cravings and facilitates the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. I like to add hemp and chia seeds as they contain protein to support skin structure and help maintain muscle mass, and also help replace calcium and magnesium – two important minerals often depleted by sweating.

So stay cool on the Riviera this summer and take advantage of nature's supermarket. ■

For other nutrition tips, join *The Clever Kitchen's* monthly lunches at *Stars'n'Bars* in Monaco. Contact [Melanie@thecleverkitchen](mailto:Melanie@thecleverkitchen)

# Sirens of the South

BY DELANA NELSEN

**Shortly after a move to Monaco, Naomi Buff's young son stopped eating, or at least eating anything that was good for him. Disregarding doctor's orders of juice and yogurt until he "got over it", Naomi invented delicious and nutritious drinks that would interest him. When her friends began asking for recipes, she realised she was on to something**

NAOMI and her family packed up house and moved to Monaco five years ago to experience a change of lifestyle. With her husband's job it was possible and they wanted their two children to go to French schools and to live by the sea.

"It seems like longer than five years, actually. We've moved around so much and crammed so much in during that time. The first few years were absolutely crazy, with constant entertaining ... children ... moving."

This caused a lot of troubling stress in her life as well, aside from her son's eating problems, and Naomi began a quest to learn how to live a healthy, balanced life. She studied at the Institute of Integrative Nutrition to learn how to teach herself and others that "good health extends beyond the plate".

From this evolution of events, Naomi's Kitchen (*naomis.kitchen*) was born and now has her working as a certified Wellness Coach, conducting workshops, and offering ingredients through her website. She also serves as a consultant for local restaurants, most recently with the Fairmont Monte Carlo, developing a breakfast menu concept.

Naomi is currently developing, in conjunction with a scientist, special blends of superfoods in powder form that can be added to water or juice and have specific functions such as weight loss, energy, and anti-aging. There is even a men's formula.

"I'm a creative person and this project is really expressing this side of me. Although it's hard to start and keep up a business here, all of the red tape is off-putting. But as quick as I think it's just too much, I get a message of gratitude from a client and I know I'm on the right path."



## DO HEALTH GURUS DRINK:

Yes, I do drink but not huge amounts these days as I find the recovery too long. It takes me a good 2-3 days to get over a big night out! I generally enjoy a nice glass of wine or two with a meal when I am out, or a vodka, fresh lime and soda, or occasionally an Aperol Spritz as a cheeky sundowner.

## BEST SALAD IN TOWN:

Restaurant Bouchon, as I have created most of the salads on the menu. It's home from home for me, really close to my house and I can go there with my children easily.



## FAVOURITE PUT-ON-YOUR-HEELS RESTAURANT:

Buddha Bar, Maya Bay or Nobu. I love Japanese food.

## CHILL OUT:

I meditate every morning, and practice yoga on a regular basis to keep myself balanced and as chilled as possible. I love nature walks with my children when the weather is good or a PJ day on the sofa watching movies when the weather is bad.

## HIKING WITH A VIEW:

The Mala walk in Cap d'Ail is a really special walk for me and helps me clear my head and refocus my ideas and goals.

## WHERE TO MEET THE GIRLS FOR A DRINK:

The American Bar and Buddha Bar are both really fun and there's always good people watching.

## BEAUTY SECRET:

I wash my face every morning with baking soda and rose water.

## ITINERARY FOR THE INEVITABLE INVITEES:

La Guerite on Île Sainte-Marguerite, off Cannes, is one of my favourite places. I feel like I could be anywhere in the world and I love to share that magical experience with my visitors, plus the food is really good and it is always really fun with great

people. (See page 34 for more on Île Sainte-Marguerite).

## PEOPLE WATCHING:

Anywhere in Monaco, nothing shocks me anymore!



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#### **GUILTY PLEASURE:**

Shoes, handbags and chocolate. I love beautiful shoes as they make any outfit amazing and Christian Louboutin is my favourite, so sexy and feminine. My bags are an extension of life, which I carry around with me, so I love well-made, gorgeous bags, like Chanel, as they are simple, classic and timeless. As for chocolate, I make my own and eat it; it's creative, healthy and a satisfying and enjoyable process from start to finish.

#### **GROCERY SHOPPING:**

I get so much inspiration from all the fresh produce at the bio market in the Condamine.

#### **GET A MOVE ON:**

I go through stages, at the moment I am really into Pilates, which I am doing 3 times a week, I have been limited due a foot operation. I also love boxing, yoga and walking. I try to work out outside as much as possible, it's so renewing.

#### **FRENCH BEAUTY PRODUCTS:**

Eve Lom products and Lumity, a supplement that really helped my acne and hair loss.



#### **FAV PERFUME:**

Armani Privé Rose d'Arabie.

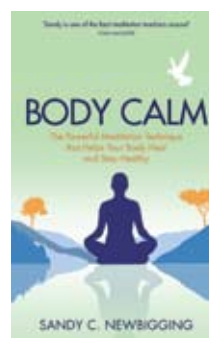
#### **ADVICE FOR WORKING MUMS:**

It is really hard to run a household, build a business and be a mother, especially away from home comforts, familiarities and family. The most important thing, in my opinion, is to be passionate about whatever you are doing

and to make time for self-care. It is not easy to balance it all and it is something that I am still working on every day. I used to be really critical of myself but now I start my day with a positive intention to show up and just do my best, I have an open mind and I am constantly learning. Instead of judging myself when things don't go to plan, I ask myself why and look at what I can learn. This shift in perception has been a key tool for me to move forward.

#### **BOOK OF THE MOMENT:**

I am currently reading "Body Calm", about the mind and body connection and healing.



#### **PÉTIT-DÉJ, YES OR NO:**

I love breakfast! I always start the day with lemon water. Weekdays, I usually have porridge, eggs or sheep Greek-yoghurt with berries and almond butter (it tastes much better than it sounds). Weekends, I love to make pancakes, all healthy of course and all super yummy.

#### **RECENT FILM:**

I watched "JOY", its a true story and hugely inspiring, it really resonated with me.

#### **FAV MEAL ... EVER:**

This is tough but probably Lebanese food. My father is Lebanese, which is where I get so much inspiration for the recipes I create today.

#### **FAMILY TIME:**

We have all been learning to ski, so this is a fun activity that we can do together, although the children are already much faster and better than me. We spent a lot of time in Auron, which I enjoyed as they have some great slopes. In the summer, we do lots of boat trips, as well as swim and paddle board. ■

# GRASSE IS GREENER

... and scented with lavender, too!



Spectacular panorama from the villa that's just a short walk from the village of Cabris. Below, formal living room with fireplace.

INLAND from Nice, in the foothills surrounding Grasse, are some of the best and most entrancing views in this magical part of the world.

Long considered the perfume capital of the world, Grasse is just 15km from Cannes, with its yachts and all the excitement of the Riviera lifestyle and, to the east, Nice's pebble beaches and international airport are just a 30-minute drive. And here you really can have the best of both worlds year round as the ski station at Gréolières Les Neiges is 45km away.

But turning inland from Grasse you have

hills, forests and the magical world that will seduce from your very first visit. Of course, with its altitude, there's a fresher climate here than on the coast in the heat of summer, but it's the smell of flowers and clean air and those magnificent views that complete the allure.

CABRIS is one of those marvellous perched villages that seem to exist only in this part of the Alpes-Maritimes. With narrow streets flanked by old grey houses, you'll be captivated by the scent from lavender bushes as you wander around this

chic and lively village where artists and craftsmen still linger.

Once again, the panorama is simply spectacular – especially from a beautifully presented villa a short walk from the village centre or spied just as you drive in through the electric gates down to its covered parking area.

For maximum impact, it's as soon as you enter the house when your eyes will be drawn to the unbroken views over to the Esterel and Tanneron hills (smothered in yellow Mimosa every February) and on down to the coast. Living spaces are



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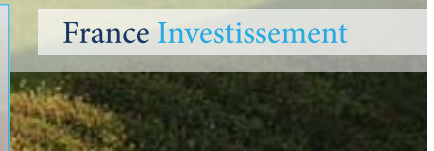
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beautifully appointed – the formal sitting room even has a fully-functional feature fireplace – perfect in winter. But with summer heat in mind, a door from the kitchen leads to an attractive covered side terrace with built in BBQ – the optimal spot to entertain.

The ensuite Master Bedroom is on the main floor with French doors leading out to the garden. Stairs from the entrance lobby lead up to the first floor where an ensuite guest bedroom awaits with French doors opening out on to its own private terrace – your guests will never want to leave. The mezzanine office area leads into bedroom three.

Outdoor living is perfection here with private landscaped gardens and a quite beautiful south-facing terrace and infinity pool. Cabris has many restaurants open year round as well as events, so this property's new owners will find being able to stroll into the heart of the village an absolute boon.

Set in a truly fantastic location it is on the market for €725,000 (Leggett 58978).

JUST 5km to the east of Grasse is Spéracèdes – a charming unspoilt Provençal village with all the amenities needed for daily life literally at your

**This two bedroom villa in Spéracèdes, 5km east of Grasse, has a south-facing cottage garden with a third bedroom.**



doorstep. Tucked away, down a path, is a bright spacious blue-shuttered home with three ensuite bedrooms. And here, as you enter its gates, you enter into your very own slice of Provence – or paradise!



Living spaces in this house are generous but truly eye-catching features are the glazed wall and loveliest balcony, which have been created to maximise the

**PROPERTY, PAGE 28**



South-west of Grasse, Saint-Cezaire-sur-Siagne: with an exterior painted the softest ochre and shutters in the very best shade of pale blue, this wonderful 5-bedroom home is, quite simply, seductive in the extreme.



## PROPERTY, FROM PAGE 27

incredible views over the hills down to the Côte d'Azur. Two of the bedrooms are upstairs, the third is set independently beside the south-facing cottage garden.

This could be a wonderful family home or perhaps a lock and leave with great rental potential ... at a mouth-watering price of €389,000 (Leggett 58697).

TO the south-west of Grasse, Saint-Cezaire-sur-Siagne is more substantial than many other local villages. To say its imposing position, along the top of a rocky hill, is striking is somewhat of an understatement – the heart of this village is set along the promontory where ancient houses lead to a small place that acts as the perfect viewpoint where you can see for miles around and out over the valley below.

Again within easy walking distance of this ancient village, a beautiful, newly built bastide has been carefully sited, along with its 15-metre pool, to take fullest advantage

of the simply stunning panoramic views. Here, five bedrooms, three bathrooms and a hand-crafted kitchen are completed by wonderfully bright living areas to create the ultimate contemporary home.

Built just five years ago from a melange of reclaimed and original materials with underfloor heating and cooling, double glazing and automatic ventilation, it has been designed to be as energy efficient as it is beautiful!

It truly is an entertainer's dream. Reclaimed church doors open into the hallway, which leads on to a double height drawing room with feature antique fireplace; the galleried landing runs along one side of this magnificent room. The kitchen would be the envy of many with its built-in coffee machine, wine fridge and top of the range appliances – perfect for event catering – or perhaps, more frequently, to feed your family who might just be seated in the adjacent dining area which is located in the tower. The French windows on all sides have views out

over the pool to tempt you outside.

The master suite is on the first floor and comes complete with dressing room and bathroom, featuring a free-standing copper tub, and its bedroom in the tower. There is also a reading area on this level with amazing views and two more guest – or family – bedrooms with their own bathroom.

In all, there are five bedrooms and three bathrooms making this a home perfect for year-round family living or for wonderful luxury holidays!

Outside, there is ample terracing for entertaining on a grand scale with established landscaped gardens. While only a few minutes' walk to the local shops, this wonderful property is a haven of peace in a magnificent setting. For sale at €1,470,000 (Leggett 56744).

Truly the Grasse is greener in this stunning part of the Provençal countryside. ■

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# WHAT GOES DOWN, MUST GO UP

BY TIM CLARK



SO here we are, nearly half way through the year, and what's that I hear, a collective gasp of "What, already?" Okay, so what has the housing market been like to date.

It's not all bad news, folks, the notaires' society of France recently "called" the bottom of the market and suggested that things are beginning to improve in terms of transaction numbers. And, in some areas of France, prices have begun to climb a little, while overall across the country resale houses show a rise of 1.4% for the first quarter of 2016. I must stress this is based on actual sales prices, so please don't rush out and put your price up, especially if you haven't allowed for the fact the market has had 36 months of consecutive drops.

I do tend to treat general statements such as this from the notaires with caution, though, as for sure it is still a buyer's market.

As I said, it is not all doom and gloom. We have experienced a fantastic increase in transactions and enquiries so far this year

and in speaking with other agencies this trend seems to be matched.

One area that has surprised us has been the continued high levels of interest from UK buyers, and it seems all this talk of referendum has not diminished interest from this prime market for the French Riviera. We did notice a downward blip when the pound weakened against the euro in March, but this was temporary and sterling has since rallied a little and the clients are back in force.

We are cautiously optimistic for the remainder of the year and at two recent UK property shows we attended, we asked the million dollar question about whether a Brexit would stop you buying in France and there was a unanimous: "NO!"

With all of this in mind, if you are currently looking for a buyer, you need to consider how you can maximise your chances of a sale in this market. Presentation and preparation are still the

most important aspect if you want to ensure you capture a buyer this year.

Refer to past Reporter property articles about presentation, ask your agent to come and retake photos, for example, as we are in late spring and your garden and pool will be looking fabulous. Consider the price, is it realistic in comparison to properties that are on the market in the same location and also talk to your agent about what has actually sold recently and at what price.

My final point is a personal bugbear and one I have raised previously in this column (see "Septic Shock" on RivieraReporter.com). You have to get your septic tank tested if you find a buyer, so why not now when you bring your home to market? I know of two cases in the last week where agreed sales are in jeopardy because the septic tank test has been left to the last minute. Talk about waste ... ■

*Contact Tim Clark of Leggett Immobilier at [tim@leggett.fr](mailto:tim@leggett.fr)*

# The Euro Earners

YACHTING

BY MICHAEL HEALY

FOR those of us on the Riviera, the most conspicuous euro earners for France are the huge fleets of megayachts, both based here and visiting – they all want to call in to Monte-Carlo and Cannes, though Antibes is the main base. Only a few are built in France (by CNB) but many are designed and crewed here. And the Côte d'Azur now has excellent refit facilities for them, able to deliver the perfection required by their owners. These Chantiers Navals developed very late because of the destructive attitude of the Marseilles-based trade unions, which took decades to learn about perfection at work. So the two big-yacht yards in La Ciotat now offer everything needed and are the town's main employers, while IMS has upsized for increasing demand by leasing the ex-French Navy aircraft base at St. Mandrier near Toulon, which can now haul out yachts up to 80-metres and offer space ashore for 100 of these magnificent creations.

As for building, "Showboat International's Global Order Book" records a whopping 755 yachts, 24m and up, under construction in 2015. Lined up bow to stern, these would stretch more than 19 miles! Active yachts afloat and in service are estimated as 9902 worldwide – no wonder Monaco might acquire the half-completed Ventimiglia marina! The biggest yacht-building nation is Italy, by far, with 286 new builds taking shape, while the Netherlands comes second and Turkey is catching up. Britain has dropped to 6th place with 64 new-build projects over 30m, just ahead of Germany which has far fewer, but much larger. All these yachts need crew,

some of them over 70 sea persons, who must nowadays be trained and certificated – more work for the training schools in Antibes. So, working on yachts is a real career, needing hard work and reliability – not for everyone! Yacht chartering is an important role for many yachts, and there is a big market of wealthy people wanting to enjoy at least a week of luxury afloat – with perfect weather as in the brochure! Charter brokers work hard for their living, following up every lead until a contract on West Mediterranean Terms is signed, and then supervising events from afar. Most of them are female, and the best ones are constantly being poached by rival yacht-brokerages. They describe the 2015 season as excellent, with a shortage of quality yachts to meet demand; but they hope for even better in the upcoming season. One market remaining untapped is for wedding cruises, where the captain can perform legitimate marriages at sea. This arose through legislation in the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda in 1999 whereby the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths legitimises marriages at sea on ships on the colony's Registry of Shipping. This has proved so lucrative that many cruise liners have re-flagged to the Bermuda ensign to gain this privilege. The three Cunard liners reflagged from British to Bermudan in 2011 after 171 years under the plain red Ensign. Sir Donald Gosling's famous yacht *Leander* (now sold) has long been Bermuda-registered but I haven't heard of any wedding business. ... or interest in developing the offer, although the Reporter alerted brokers in 2006 and again 2013. Life must be too easy! ■

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# A cove to call your own

Never taken the ferry from Cannes to Ile Ste-Marguerite?  
Lewis Longman explains what you've been missing



PASSENGERS 104 maximum. That was the capacity of the boat, according to the slightly faded sign. We were certainly precariously close to limit, bunched together, proverbial sardines in the morning sunlight, heading across to Ile Sainte-Marguerite, twenty minutes off the coast of Cannes.

I had been there a few times before, for walks through the forest pathways that snake across the infamous island, but this time I was taking a friend. The infamy owed to the fact that the “Man in the Iron Mask” was held captive there, a mysterious prisoner whose identity was hidden by, you guessed it, an iron mask. Rumour has it that it was the identical twin of Louis XIV who was subjected to the ordeal, though today we are not visiting the island to speculate. We are here to swim.

Surrounded by almost improbable clear waters, the island is home to breathtaking beaches and coves. My accompanying mate knew the area extremely well, and told me we would visit a cove he has known since

he was a child. As we left the over-crowded boat in a flood of limbs and pushchairs, I was escorted up some old stone steps.

“Follow me. We’re going the way no one else knows.”

How very exciting. Though had those words been spoken by somebody who I did not know, perhaps excitement would not be an apt description. We walked for about fifteen minutes through trails lined by prodigious trees, the chaotic hubbub of the boat left behind. We soon found ourselves at the cove.

Descending a group of rocks, we set up a base of towels, sun cream and flip-flops. What’s interesting about the island is the lack of sand, or rather its complete nonexistence. Instead, the island’s shore is covered in layers of dried seaweed, which actually seem to be more like chunks of sawdust. Perhaps it’s not as traditional as sand, but the stuff makes for a lovely natural mattress.

Growing up by the North Sea, I’ve never been one to shy away from cold

water, so it wasn’t long before I ventured into the perfectly still sea, much to my friend’s horror. The horror was well placed, my enthusiasm wasn’t. The water was freezing, big mistake. I forced myself to persist, and ventured underneath a mysterious rocky arch, wading knee deep through glass-like water. I felt like I was on some kind of expedition, and I half expected to see Bear Grylls behind me, grunting while punching a snake.

But no, I was alone. Complete serenity except for the odd seagull manically screaming as it flew by. Next to me was a dark cave, a shingle beach at its entrance.

My friend informed me, having finally dared to leave the warmth of the beach, “When I was a young boy, I used to call this place *le repère de la sirène*.”

Murmaid’s Waypoint, a befitting name for such a mysterious place. Next to it trickled a miniscule waterfall, pouring into a rock pool. After maybe ten minutes

trying to ascertain whether a red object was a fish or perhaps a piece of litter (it was a fish, thankfully) we climbed up onto the hot slabs of rock behind.

From here, we could really appreciate the beauty of the cove below, a sparkling gem hidden from the rest of the world, a turquoise canvas untouched for centuries. I plucked up the courage for another swim, which perhaps lasted a meagre 33 seconds. Bear Grylls would have been ashamed.

It was time to leave the island and head back to Cannes. A bustling metropolis in comparison. I told my friend that we would return soon, for I would love to swim without the sea rendering me a whimpering child.

How do you find this hidden cove, you ask? Well, it wouldn’t be a secret if I told you. But there’s much to discover on the off-beaten paths at Ile Sainte-Marguerite. ■

*The 15-minute ferry departs from Quai Laubeuf in Cannes year round. Adult return fare: €14. Book online at [trans-cote-azur.com](http://trans-cote-azur.com). For more, see [lewislongman.wordpress.com](http://lewislongman.wordpress.com)*

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# ON Y VA!

## OUTING



Views from window aboard the Train de Merveilles. Photo Gilles Lentulo.

**HIKE:** Airole -Sospel  
**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Medium  
**TOTAL KMS:** about 15  
**TOTAL WALKING TIME:** 4h15/4h45  
**COST:** Train €30 full fare return  
**HIGHLIGHT:** The train journey, visiting the villages.

### BY PORTIA GRIFFEY

I HAVE lived in Nice for the past few years, learning French as I go, as I didn't speak a word when I arrived. Through On Va Sortir (OVS) I have discovered a love of hiking and the riches of the countryside even without a car, with the added bonus of being able to improve my second language.

The site [onvasortir.com](http://onvasortir.com) offers a range of group activities, from cultural to entertainment and sports, for individuals

to meet and go out as a group. I started timidly with a *Marche Rapide* along the Promenade des Anglais, thinking that even if I couldn't join in the conversation I could, well, *promenade* ... The conversation was as sparkling as the sunlight on the sea and many of the group have since become friends.

When I posted my own event to exchange my English for French conversation, I met a woman who introduced me to the hiking groups within OVS. I have since spent most weekends in this incredible landscape of natural beauty.

One particular group hikes by train, often the Train des Merveilles or the Train de Chemins des Fer de Provence. A favourite of mine is a hike from Airole to Sospel, taking the Train des Merveilles from Nice to Breil-sur-Roya at 8:33am, with a chance to gaze out of the window (be sure to look

out for the pictorial *village perché* of Peille).

At Breil we change trains catching the 9:55am Italian line to the second stop, Airole, arriving at 10:27. In this charming village, we stop for an Italian hot chocolate in the square before beginning our hike, direction Fanghetto, clearly signed with a yellow marker from the village square. The footpath follows the river to Fanghetto, about an hour, before crossing the bridge over La Roya.

We head up the hill to a main road where we buy sandwiches and cakes from the local Italian café. Once stocked up, we cross the busy main road and walk up the footpath directly opposite. This is the steepest part of the walk and heads toward Olivetta (look for the red and white marker). Before reaching Olivetta, after another hour of walking, we stop for our picnic, finding a spot with magnificent views. This really is one of life's simple pleasures.

Restarting the walk, we arrive in Olivetta. The sign for Sospel is easy to miss, turn right up a cemented track just before a house over the footpath (in other words, don't go under it). Enjoy the walk to Sospel, another two hours or so from Olivetta. From Sospel there are several trains returning to Nice, but take some time to explore Sospel, also a delightful discovery.

The hike is a memorable day away from it all – but remember it isn't a stroll in the park, wear walking shoes, take warm clothing, water and sunscreen. It's worth stepping out to discover the Alpes-Maritimes ... and you might just learn some French along the way. ■

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE GARDEN PARTY



BY KAREN HOCKNEY

IT started out as a simple midsummer gathering among friends and acquaintances in a back garden in Mougins. Now in its fourth year, the Holistic Garden Party has flourished into the perfect escape from the treadmill to enjoy nurturing and indulgent treatments in the hands of the Riviera's most highly regarded complementary practitioners.

This year's event, to be held over two days on Thursday June 16th and Friday June 17th between 9am and 4pm, promises to be the most successful yet. Visitors will have the chance to sample half-hour trial slots of shiatsu, Chinese herbal medicine consultations, shamanic healing, reiki, nutrition advice, reflexology, aromatherapy and Thai massage, facials and acupuncture, as well as hour-long yoga and meditation classes and Speakeasy talks on how to get the most out of your health and lifestyle.

A yoga devotee, teacher Sonja Lockyer, recalls the idea came to her one day during a class. 'I was meeting more and more interesting people who were offering alternative and holistic therapies and my yoga clients were constantly asking me for recommendations.'

'I realised I had an ability to connect people, so four years ago, I invited them all to meet each other in my garden. I was making smoothies in my kitchen, while

friends were selling clothing, jewellery and candles. Around 80 people turned up and it was a lovely day. But by the second year, it was clear that people weren't coming so much for the shopping opportunities as for the treatments.'

Sonja saw the potential to grow the informal gathering into something more commercial and now rents a beautiful private villa, 'Abi's', in Mougins, as a venue. Last year, over 200 people came from all over the Côte d'Azur and Sonja adds: 'I had no idea it would grow this big! It's a wonderful opportunity to try out therapists that you might be interested in building a relationship with and also to meet people who are of a like mind. It's a massive icebreaker.'

While many of the treatments take place in the tranquil gardens, some are in private rooms. Yoga classes will run throughout the two days and there will be a peaceful meditation zone. The event will also showcase new ideas including Garuda Movement, as well as more established therapies including the Alexander Technique.

A healthy salad box lunch will be available from Leigh of Fit Nutrition, plus a wide selection of Tea Pigs tea, Be Fresh juices and Scott Bell's Pure Flow coconut products.

On Thursday evening, Sonja is planning a movie night accompanied by Asian cuisine, where guests can watch 'One Giant Leap', the inspirational music movie

featuring Faithless's Jamie Catto, who will be available via a live Skype call-in after the screening to answer questions and chat about the project.

Sonja, a former photographer's agent from Poole, Dorset, was a prime candidate herself for stepping off the merry-go-round of frenetic work assignments paired with a crazy social life. Having strived to create a highly successful career working with London's premier stylists, fashion photographers and make-up artists on shoots all over the world, she gave it all up 14 years ago to retrain as a yoga instructor.

'I always wanted to be a serene and graceful person but trying to be cool, buying nice stuff and being part of the in-crowd actually turned me into the most stressed out person,' she explains. 'The world I was in was very decadent – there wasn't a lot of nurture or sleep going on!'

'I started doing Ashtanga classes at my gym to preserve my sanity and found I really enjoyed them, even though it meant getting up at 5:30am every morning to practise before work. In the end, I walked away from my business, gave away all my belongings and went off to do four years of yoga teacher training.'

She has never looked back and with this year's event attracting some big name sponsors, Sonja has grand plans for the future of the Holistic Garden Party.

'I would love to develop it into a pop-up event in other parts of the world,' she reveals. 'Scandinavia, Australia, the West Coast of America and Canada are all communities that are very open to this kind of thing. The reason it works so well in Mougins is because it appeals to an international community, not just a French one. There's no reason why it can't travel and become a global event.'

'Health and wellbeing are founded in joy, it's the most healing state you can be in. These practitioners really take you to a joyful place and I want to share that with as many people as possible.'

Entrance to the Holistic Garden Party is €15 for an early bird ticket (available until the beginning of June) or €20 and includes Speakeasy access, yoga and meditation subject to availability. Treatments last 30 minutes and cost €20 each. Lunch is €15 a head. To find out more, check out [Holisticgardenparty.com](http://Holisticgardenparty.com) ■

# Hashing it out

CLUBS

BY MELANIE GULLIVER



IF, like me, you like to discover new places on the Côte d'Azur and meeting friendly multi-national (mostly English-speaking) people of all ages, then you should check out the Riviera Hash House Harriers.

Founded in Kuala Lumpur in 1938, the worldwide Hash House Harriers is purported to be "a drinking club with a running problem" – not entirely the truth but not too far from it either.

Having recently joined the Riviera Hash, I have "hashed" now at Villeneuve-Loubet, Agay, Le Broc and Chateaufort de Grasse (joined by my walking husband and two sons, 12 and 7).

Each Hash has been different in nature, but all have been fun. Through a clever system of false trails all "runners" keep close together, so it doesn't matter if you are Mo Farrah or his grandmother in terms of speed, and there is always a shorter trail for dedicated walkers and talkers to discover.

Thirsty joggers and hikers have the chance to cool down at "The Beerstop", strategically situated along the route, which always features crisps, beer, panache and water. This stop is often rather quickly followed by the finishing point, at which there is another opportunity to drink as prizes are "awarded" to those who excelled on the trails.

When I was researching the Riviera Hash's history,

I was regaled by a blast of emails resurrecting events and members from the past. (The membership has included a couple of villains in its time!) The very first Riviera Hash was at Parc de Valmasque, Mougins, on Sunday March 13th, 1988, and a run has been organised every other Sunday since.

Once or twice a year the Riviera Hash also arrange a Hash Away – a whole weekend of hashes, drinking and, I'm told, some culture thrown into the mix. I'll be attending the next one, just over the border with Italy, from October 7th to 9th, and we will be hashing around Albenga (Friday evening pub crawl), Zuccarello (Saturday), and Toirano (Sunday).

Members are welcome to join other Hashes worldwide, and once every year there is an "Interhash" – this year it is taking place in Bali and there will be a Eurohash in Vienna in 2017.

The Hash is open to everyone – families are very welcome – the first time is free and then annual membership of a steep €15 kicks in. The run is always followed by a meal in a local restaurant or perhaps a picnic in the summer months, so there is a social side to the club, too.

Sign up for our mailing list at [rivierahhh.com](http://rivierahhh.com) to get details of future Hashes. All you need is a sense of humour and a pair of runners. ■



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# MAKING MY HEAD SWIM

BY DAN BRIGGS



SO there I was in the village watching a Euro 2016 warm-up game. The bar had put a TV outside on the street. A woman squeezed through the crowd to stand next to me. She was wearing an off-white party frock, short and frilly around the knees, revealing around the bust. Her hair was cut in a neat bob, her hair light brown, and her eyes almond brown. She sipped on beer from a bottle and watched the game.

Because I'd had a few beers, and have been encouraged by my French teacher to interact with the locals, I struck up a conversation.

"Nice evening," I said.

And in that moment I was lost. It was in my eyes, and in the slight quaver in my voice. She knew that I fancied her, and she instinctively looked away. Once or twice again during the evening she caught me looking at her and demurely lowered her eyes. Eventually, she drifted away into the crowd.

And that would have been that, had it not been for the life-saving course, which I had to pass to help the teachers supervise the kids' swimming lessons. A couple of days after the incident in the bar, I drove to the municipal pool of the neighbouring village. I'd come forewarned.

Public swimming pools in France do not allow men to wear swimming trunk shorts. The theory being that men, being the lazy beast that we are, will in the summer sun, eat, sleep, drink, and swim in the same pair of shorts and that public pools can do without the detritus from the last three meals floating around in the deep end.

Speedo swimming trunks were as a result compulsory. I slipped mine on and pulled the drawstring tight. Now, at the best of times I am not a pretty sight. But nearly naked, with white skin, freckles and eruptions of red hair protruding from every orifice, I'm not far off a monster from a children's picture book.

And there I stood by the side of the pool, waiting. There was one other father from school. He said a friendly hello and another mother smiled politely at me. The course instructor arrived. I guessed he was around 60 years old, but judging by his banana-hammock briefs and reflector shades, he still thought of himself as a bit of a heart-throb. Hasselhoff's spirit was alive and well in the South of France.

Dave, as I immediately named him, gave an introduction to the course: "200 metre swimming test, rescue a drowning person and then administer mouth to mouth. Just waiting for the last person until we start, ah, here she is ..."

Brown hair, almond eyes, all too skimpy bikini that made me swallow with fear and avert my eyes: it was that girl from the bar.

"Marie Lou, do you know Dan?" the other two parents made the introduction, her daughter has just started at school.

Marie Lou inclined her head to signal that our paths had crossed. The 200-metre swim passed without incident, in that I made it to the end of the pool, albeit in an extraordinarily slow time. Once my heaving breaths stopped, it was time for life-saving. Marie Lou would pretend to drown. It was my task to dive in, swim to the other end of the pool, clasp Marie Lou around the neck and then swim on my back with her on my chest to the safety of the shallow end. I was then to pull her from the water, perform mouth to mouth and pump her chest to get the water from her lungs.

The following five minutes were as bad as I had imagined. While rescuing Marie Lou, my hand slipped from a position of safety at the base of her neck, to her breast, my other hand instinctively came around to help, so that I was swimming on my back with one hand clasped upon each breast. I could feel the goose bumps on the curve of her skin. One stroke, two strokes, and still my hands remained frozen in place. It had been embarrassingly long. To remove them would have signalled that they shouldn't have been there in the first place. Best to brazen it out I thought. Pretend this was my natural stroke.

When we got to the side, I waited for the blow to the face, that insouciant back of the hand slap that Gallic women have patented on celluloid. Instead without a glance, she lay down and allowed me to breathe life into her supposed failing lungs. Our lips met somewhat mechanically. I trembled as I blew the air into her lungs. I knew what was coming next. Ten repeated pumps of her breast.

As I flexed my hands, and looked down at the pliant French beauty beneath me, I couldn't believe how much I desperately, desperately, wanted to be somewhere else. At which point Mars entered Venus. This is not a metaphor but a reference to the stars and the changing of my luck.

The village clock struck midday.

"Well, I think we've all got the idea," said coach Dave. "You all pass with distinction."

I'm not sure whether he was jealous or hungry or both. I do know I could not have been more relieved. ■

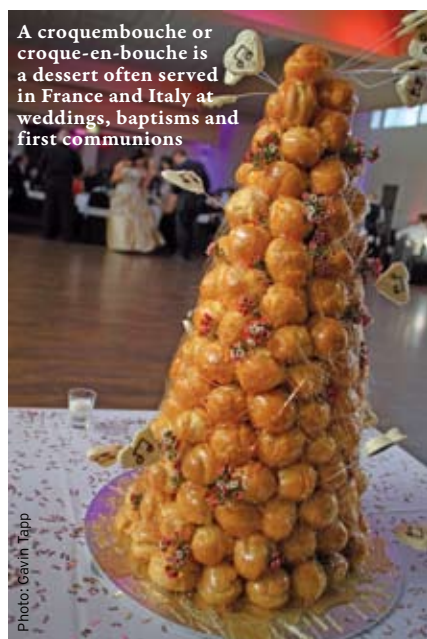
*Read more about Dan Briggs's trials and tribulations at [proveneguru.com](http://proveneguru.com)*



# Here comes the pride

.. the French do love their wedding customs

TRADITION



IF you are lucky enough to have been invited to a wedding in France, or are planning to get married here, there are a few wedding traditions you might not have seen before.

Every region in France has its own set of wedding customs and modern couples may not include them in their day or may change them slightly, but with a country as diverse as France, is it any wonder there's so much difference?

## Le Vin d'Honneur

Immediately following the wedding ceremony there may be a *vin d'honneur*, a kind of mini-reception usually close to the location

of the ceremony, such as a church garden, or sometimes held in the same place as the main reception. The *vin d'honneur* can last for a couple of hours while canapés and cocktails are served and the bride and groom meet their guests post-ceremony. This time allows the newly married couple to relax, as well as meet those guests who are not invited to the wedding reception, like work colleagues or neighbours. Champagne, wine and cocktails (the Kir Royal) are often the drink of choice at the *vin d'honneur*.

## Croquembouche

Instead of a tiered wedding cake at a French wedding you might see a *croquembouche* – an outrageously delicious pyramid of caramel covered profiteroles! Choux pastry puffs are filled with vanilla pastry cream, coated in a thin crust of crispy caramel and “glued” together with melted chocolate or toffee ganache. These towering pyramids are often covered with webs of spun sugar but can also be decorated with fresh flowers, chocolate and sugar roses, cake toppers, chocolate drizzles or fresh fruit.

The bride and groom traditionally cut off the top with a sword while the bridesmaids hold up the corners of the table-cloth to catch the pieces!

## Dragées

One sweet tradition is to have prettily wrapped candy-covered almond favours called *dragées* to hand out to guests as a

wedding keepsake. Some couples prefer to change this tradition slightly to reflect their preferences and offer a whole range of sweet-treats including chocolate bonbons, mini macaroons, truffles, local specialties or even jelly beans instead of sugared almonds.

## La Danse de la Brioche

Regional traditions vary. If you're at a wedding in the Vendée in the Pays-de-la-Loire region, you might be lucky enough to see a very special dance with a rather large brioche. The bride and groom are presented with a giant brioche, often weighing more than 9 kilos, on a platter, which they and their guests must hold aloft as they dance to prove their strength!

## Pot de Chambre

On their wedding day, the newlyweds are transported in a cart drawn by a donkey, and they hold a chamber pot to announce the ceremony to the villagers (this ride was called “the donkey dance”). The day after, very early in the morning, the villagers had “The running after newlyweds”, a hunt to give them the chamber pot. As soon as they were found, they had to drink the contents of the chamber pot, the bride first, then the groom and finally, the villagers. The content of the chamber pot was intended to give vigour to the couple after the wedding night. This tradition started in the Aveyron and, depending on the region, can contain bananas, alcohol, chocolate, spices, bread ... ■

For more see [frenchentree.com](http://frenchentree.com)

# An Insider's Guide to life west of Cannes

BY CHERYL ROBSON



IT was a *coup de coeur* as the French say – a simple fisherman's cottage with a panoramic view of the bay of Toulon – and we fell in love with it over 20 years ago. Since then, we've extended the cottage by buying the land next door and building a pool in the garden. The whole project took over five years, involved two teams of builders, as well as many local tradesmen. The French words for tiles, screws, taps, drains, insulation and electrical fittings tripped off my tongue after many visits to Point P or Leroy Merlin.

While our house was a building site, we moved to Monaco for a summer of fun with the Grand Prix and other festivals. Not so much fun during the winter months though, when half the residents fly off to the Caribbean or Asia and the shops and restaurants lack the seasonal flow of tourists. Sometimes we'd experience a kind of cabin fever and need to go out west to Villefranche or Nice or head east to San Remo for a day or two's escape. With our love of sailing, we discovered, to our frustration, that there's not much wind in Monaco, compared with Hyères in the Var, where the Coupe du Monde is held annually.

The euro dropped in value, increasing our building costs considerably and after two years with no end date in sight, we had to sack our Bulgarian builders and turn to a French family firm. On the up side, we

had the opportunity to visit other parts of Provence, like the stone village of Gordes in the Luberon (pictured pg 3) or the aqualine river and limestone cliffs of the Gorges du Verdon, north of Brignoles, where you can kayak or swim in a freshwater lake.

Other places we came to love were Les Baux de Provence near Arles where the strange rock formations served as the location for hell in the film "Le Testament d'Orphée" by Jean Cocteau and, closer to Toulon, we discovered Sanary-sur-Mer where numerous German writers such as Berthold Brecht, Arnold Zweig and Thomas

Mann lived in exile during the 1930s.

I realised that it wasn't just Grace Kelly, Brigitte Bardot and Picasso who had made the region famous – people from Petrarch to the Knights Templar, Queen Victoria to Coco Chanel and many other, far more interesting if less well-known personalities have lived or vacationed here, leaving an indelible impression.

While millions clog up the roads in the summer along the Riviera, there are fascinating places not too far from the usual haunts along the coast. You can visit the studio of the artist Paul Cezanne in Aix or the Papal apartments in Avignon or take a boat trip to the Chateau d'If near Marseilles, made famous in Dumas's novel "The Count of Monte Cristo".

Being a writer, a project suggested itself and I began by persuading my husband that we needed to have some outings to unusual places for lunch or even an overnight stay. It wasn't long before he twigged that we were on some kind of a research trip, especially when I insisted on visiting museums or taking numerous photos of a particular statue. I gathered up all the snippets of information, the dozens of photos of the places I'd visited, the many tasty local recipes and created a handy guide with information about the people, places and food of the region. ■

To order "Provence, People, Places, Food: A Cultural Guide" (UK: Aurora Metro Publications, €17) contact [cheryl@aurorametro.com](mailto:cheryl@aurorametro.com). Reporter readers get a special price of €12.

## CHERYL'S POP QUIZ:

**What one-time Riviera resident's body was held for \$600,000 ransom by grave robbers?**

THE iconic English comic actor and director of the silent film era, Charlie Chaplin, was best known for his portrayal of "The Tramp", a character he launched in 1915. By 1918, age 29, he had his own studio and complete control over the making of his films.

In 1919, with Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D. W. Griffith, he cofounded United Artists, which distributed his films. Director Rex Ingram, who had a studio in Nice, introduced Chaplin to the Riviera.

His films made in the 1930s became classics, yet Chaplin's left-wing sympathies forced him to relocate to Europe during the McCarthy era in the early 1950s.

Chaplin was often a guest of Florence and Jay Gould at the Palais Méditerranée in Nice, and he lived in Cap-Ferrat in one of the oldest villas, Lo Scoglietto (now La Fleur du Cap), which he sold to David Niven in 1960.

On Christmas Day 1977, Chaplin died at his home in Switzerland; his body was stolen on March 2, 1978. When the family recovered the body 5 weeks later, they reburied the actor in a concrete grave to prevent further thefts.

For more Riviera stories, pick up Cheryl's book.

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## Thoughts on 2015 En Primeur

BY ALEX IGNATIEFF

WINE

FANTASTIC! Finally, a year in Bordeaux to really get excited about. This may not be the biggest news of the day as the wine world has been not so quietly excited about the 2015 vintage since the moment the grapes were safely out of Mother Nature's hands. But a subject worth visiting as the wines are now being released to a deserving public.

This gradual, drip feed release as Châteaux announce their prices for the last vintage is the culmination of the well-established process known as the En Primeurs Campaign. Historically, the Châteaux work closely with a select group known as the courtiers, who in turn distribute to the larger pool of negociants and merchants that sell on to private clients. Pricing, too, follows a well-established path. As the vintage is harvested and assessed, a general opinion is developed. The key date is April following the vintage. At the start of April, the Union de Grands Crus hosts general tastings where the trade flock to Bordeaux for the first look at the new wines. This is also when we tasters discover that the general opinion bandied about before our arrival applies to no specific Château! Quite rightly, each property leads us through the microclimatic conditions that affected their particular blends in their own unique way.

But, perhaps even more important than how the wines taste, is the reaction and market feedback that the Châteaux glean. Armed with their opinions of the vintage, feedback from the courtiers, negociants, merchants and critics at En Primeur

tastings, the Châteaux then make their decisions on release pricing. Usually, to a general cry of disbelief from the merchants, we are only really happy when prices go down but even then can find reason to grumble that they haven't dropped far enough! Despite the extraordinary circumstances of the great 2010 vintage, it is still true that buying wines on release is buying them at the best price.

I seem to have neglected the most important bit – the highly considered contents of every bottle. And herein lies another quirk of the En Primeur Campaign. All the wines tasted are still well and truly under development. Fermentations are pretty much done but the wines are only just embarking on their ageing process. Ageing in small wood, medium wood, high toast, low toast, concrete or whatever medium the winemaker desires. And certainly the final assemblage/blend is not on show. Not that I'm searching for violins, a week of tasting Bordeaux from barrel is hard work. Excess acid and tannin are generally not high on this taster's preferred flavour profiles – perhaps why the lunches and dinners generally make up for the hard labour, but that might be another story.... Opinions do need to be compared and thoughts consolidated!

Back to the bottles, because they are so far from the finished article, experience is a vital tool in the repertoire of any taster. Albeit the levels of acidity, tannin, fruit and flavour are nowhere near where

they will finish, it is possible to look at a raw wine and say it is in balance, or not, and has potential. But the great tasters can draw on an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of previous vintages. Recalling a familiar flavour profile and knowing how it developed allows us to pontificate with a vague degree of authority! All of which must be taken with a pinch of salt, they are, after all, just one taster's personal opinion – even the great Robert Parker himself claims no more than to offer his thoughts on what is put in front of him. To make use of the endless scribbling available, it is important to identify the foibles of your preferred scribe. Mr P likes a big wine, if you don't, he is not the critic for you or perhaps choose the wines he finds light and lacking in substance!

Here are very brief thoughts on four wines to enhance or start any cellar:

**Château Cissac, Cru Bourgeois, Haut Medoc.** Classic old school claret, fresh and elegant.

**Château Gaby, Canon-Fronsac.** Bright, much more opulent and decidedly right bank.

**Château Cantemerle, 5th Growth Cru Classé, Haut Medoc.** Continues its impressive rebirth, rich and full of swagger.

**Château Teyssier, Grand Cru, St Emilion.** Jonathan reckons this may be his best Teyssier yet, he may be right. ■

*If you'd like to be kept up-to-date with thoughts and offers on 2015 Bordeaux, contact [alex@emporiumduvin.com](mailto:alex@emporiumduvin.com)*

# A WINE WITH A VIEW

Discovering the other Piedmont: Nizza Monferrato and Barbera



BY CHRISSIE MCCLATCHIE

WITH gentle slopes covered in vines, historic hilltop villages overflowing with charm, chic restaurants and cosy B&Bs, it's easy to see why Piedmont is such a popular destination for French Riviera residents. This corner of Northern Italy is a world apart from the glitz and glamour of our azure stretch of coast, yet is less than a three-hour drive from Nice.

The hills surrounding the pretty villages of Barolo and Barbaresco are usually where visitors head, seduced by the romantic landscapes and the scent of the world-class

wines bearing these very same names.

These villages are, justifiably, the stars of the show, although the Langhe (as the area is known) doesn't have the monopoly on breathtaking scenery and fine wine. And, while the rolling hills, medieval villages and stylish restaurants extend throughout every corner of Piedmont, the wine landscape changes quite significantly. Nebbiolo, the grape of Barolo and Barbaresco, may be king, but other varieties such as Dolcetto, Arneis and Cortese make noble wines. Yet, it's the cheekier grape sibling, Barbera (in the wine Barbera d'Asti), with who the wine world

is currently rekindling their love affair.

Traditionally regarded as the everyday quaffing wine to Nebbiolo's special occasion status, Barbera is high in acidity and low in tannins, hardly a winning formula for red wines. Nebbiolo, on the other hand, with both high tannins and high acidity, has won the genetic grape lottery and only gets better with age.

The last few years have, however, witnessed a real reversal of fortunes for Barbera, thanks to passionate and innovative producers who have used careful oak ageing to increase the wine's roundness and tannic structure. Today, in



the villages of the Monferrato, the spiritual home of Barbera to the east of the Langhe, there's a real excitement. Because, finally, the rest of the world has awoken to what they've known all along: that their Barbera wines are both world-class and totally fun.

The villages surrounding Nizza di Monferrato, 50 kilometres east of Barolo, have been at the heart of the Barbera revolution and are a wonderful base from which to explore the "Barbera" side of Piedmont. Nizza itself may look rather uninspiring from the outskirts but don't let that put you off. The monotonous brown apartment blocks give way to bright, pedestrianised streets of the town centre, full of charming old buildings, stylish bars and restaurants and friendly locals.

To say they're proud of their wine here is an understatement: "Nizza e Barbera" (Nizza and Barbera) is a sign you'll see more than once. It's also the name of an annual spring wine festival that sees the town come to life in celebration of their beloved grape.

The paint is still drying on Nizza's elevation to its very own DOCG (the highest classification for Italian wines), which recognises the town itself and 18 surrounding villages as producing their own unique, high-quality style of Barbera d'Asti. The distinction was finally made in 2014, and the wines from that very important vintage have only just made it into the bottle.

Producers such as Tenuta

Olim Bauda, Azienda La Gironda and Tenuta dell'Arbiola are making some of the most acclaimed wines in Nizza: overflowing with juicy, fresh fruit and with the grape's notorious acidity in control. The requisite six-month oak ageing gives Barbera from Nizza complexity and richness and, since these wines don't have the astringent tannins so common in young red wines, you can enjoy a glass both by itself and with a meal.

In fact, Nizza's Barbera is the perfect dinner party guest: bright, vibrant and full of interesting conversation. It also offers incredible value for money and a visit to the cellars of the wineries above is highly recommended.

Villages such as Castelnuovo Calcea and Rocchetta Palafea are important names for Nizza wine but also offer a road less travelled in the region. You would be wrong to assume that this translates to less appealing, however. The Monferrato hills shelter an array of intimate boutique hotels, such as La Collina dei Conigli in Castel Boglione, which offer the same spellbinding landscape as its Barolo neighbours.

Fine wine with a view? Make Nizza di Monferrato your next weekend escape. ■

*Chrissie McClatchie is an Australian wine specialist who has been living in Nice for the past seven years. You can follow her travels at [rivieragrapevine.com](http://rivieragrapevine.com) or on Twitter @RivieraGrape*



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LIKE this magazine almost 30 years ago, the Riviera Reporter Facebook Group is a convenient place for Riviera anglophones and their French friends to be informed and discuss local issues.

WE'VE replaced our web forum with a Facebook Group because so many of you are already Facebook members, it's much easier to join and contribute to than an internet forum.

THE Riviera Reporter Group allows any member to initiate topics or respond to a post. If you don't want to actively participate, it's perfectly fine to just read and learn from others.

THERE is discussion of local and wider issues, from community support initiatives to crime and traffic warnings, from news of local charities to the yachting community. There

are also administrative and other documents that you can download and keep for reference.

RECENTLY, there've been posts concerning the UK-EU referendum that we cover extensively in the Riviera Reporter magazine. The referendum on June 23rd will affect all of our futures in vital ways. On the group you will find posts, documents and links to keep yourself up-to-date, ask questions and learn how to vote in the referendum if you qualify.

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# we've got mail...

## A ROYAL FLUSH

PERHAPS the city of Nice has already plans for solving unemployment by hiring more street cleaners. They have sealed the self-clean toilets. They have closed the public toilet in the bus station. They have closed public access to the toilets in the main library. Even the toilets at the conservatory were closed to the attendees of the concert after the performance.

But as I dodge excrement on the sidewalks, I realise that lack of civility is already the norm for pet owners who can't even curb their pets let alone stoop and scoop after them.

*R. K., Nice*

## BEETLE BAR

YOUR reader Gordon Petri (issue 174, pg 44) has his dream of a modified VW camper van. Personally, I'd like one like this! *J. Holloway, by email*



## NOT CERTIFIABLE

I ENJOYED reading your recent article on "What will happen to expats?"

It said in the article that we have professional qualifications mutually recognised in France. This is not true. Myself, and many people I know, are refused recognition for our qualifications obtained in the UK. I have the highest qualifications possible for coaching at squash but France will not give me a letter of equivalence. It is also the case for my qualifications as a physiologist. I have been told that in both cases I have to do the entire equivalent course in French to get the same qualifications

and that with regards to my squash qualifications it would take me 3 years (1 exam each year) until I am allowed to coach people at the highest level.

My own dentist, who is Dutch, had his qualifications refused. Luckily his wife is a French lawyer and took his case to the European court where he won.

I get the feeling it is arbitrary as to whether they accept your qualifications or not. In my case I have lived in France for 22 years and pay my tax along with my wife who works full-time.

I know of another squash coach who had similar problems and he went to the European court and won but it has not changed the system in any way for further coaches. Very frustrating as I have had to change my occupation.

*Paul Hughes L.C.S.P. (Assoc), by email*

## NOT BANKING ON IT

I HAVE owned a *maison secondaire* in Bar-sur-Loup since 1991. I was recently informed by my bank (SMC) that they are closing my (small) bank account. Apparently my country [the US] has annoyed France with onerous banking regulations and this is their retaliation. I cannot simply change banks because they are all doing the same thing. The only suggestion was HSBC but they want a €70,000 deposit. I am a retired junior high school teacher.

I normally transfer \$500-600 a month from my US bank to my French bank. My standing bills (taxes, insurance, EDF, water, phone) are *prélevé* from that account. I am now in a situation where I cannot pay my bills.

The only thing I have thought of is finding a manager to whom I could wire money and who would then pay the bills. I am, apparently, not the only American in this fix. Any suggestions? Ideas?

*Sue Janssen, by email*

## I'M BACK!

AS frightening a prospect as it is, there is a very credible scenario under which Hollande could easily be re-elected.

We saw something similar in 1988. It

## NO VOTE

I CANNOT vote in the country I live in, except in local elections.

I am European. I live in Europe (France). I

pay my taxes in Europe (France), a part of which are given to finance the EU.

My children are French and the boys could be called into the French military in case of war. I speak two European languages fluently. I am bicultural.

I cannot vote for the leader of any European country. Not Britain, because I do not live there and not France because I am not French.

I could become French but I have not because I am European and that should be enough to allow me to at least vote for a government that will decide whether a European country will send my children to war, how much tax I will pay and how those taxes will be spent.

If I have to become French or move to Britain in order to have a vote in at least one national election, then what is the use of the EU as an instrument of democracy? It is undemocratic at the moment.

As a European, I want the right to vote in national elections of at least one country.

I do not have that basic democratic right.

*Anne Turton, on Reporter Facebook Group*

goes like this:

- Sarkozy becomes the LR candidate.
- The people have shown they don't want him so would vote for minority parties or the PS in the first round.
- That would leave the Front National and PS in the second round.
- The PS candidate would be almost

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certain to win against the FN, no matter who their candidate is. - If the PS candidate is Hollande, he would get a second term.

Solutions:

1. Pick someone other than Sarko as the LR candidate. Juppé is popular.
2. Pick someone more generally acceptable as the PS candidate (Macron?)
3. Both of the above.

*Paul Costa, by email*

### FRENCH JUSTICE

FRENCH justice doesn't have a good image in the UK. But my brief encounter with it this year has left me quite impressed.

In the summer I went into a shop in Nice and ordered and paid for a tap – for building work in our flat. The tap was never delivered. So a month later I went and cancelled the order and asked for a refund. It was refused: the tap was on its way, apparently, and I couldn't cancel even though it was late and no longer wanted. I emailed with my RIB (bank details). Still refused.

So, being an EU lawyer (what's the point of being a QC if you can't help

yourself?), I thought I'd tackle the EU small claims procedure. All very easy. Google found the Commission website in a trice. Appropriate forms found quickly along with address of *Tribunal d'Instance* in Nice. Form could be filled in English but my French being up to this, I did it in French. Sent the form off.

Two days later I got an email from the Tribunal. I was astonished for two reasons. First, an English county court would not respond to any communication for weeks. This must have been sent the very day it was received (and by email). Second, an English county court would never do anything so helpful as give useful advice. But the Tribunal was not only telling me I had made a mistake by giving the defendant's address as its Paris head office (which, it explained, would give jurisdiction to a Paris Tribunal), but also told me what to do (send a further form giving the branch address in Nice). So I did that.

A week later the shop emailed. This being France, there was no apology. Instead there was a complaint that because I hadn't given my bank details they hadn't been able to pay me. I decided to be gracious in victory, and gave them the details (again). Money duly refunded.

I then wrote a polite letter in my best French, on Chambers paper, to the Tribunal saying how impressed I was. I hope it did its bit for Anglo-French relations.

*George Peretz, by email*

### GREEN CRED TAKES ANOTHER STEP

INTERESTING letter in your last issue

## LETTERS

(page 44) about electric and hybrid cars. It appears France is taking steps in this direction because many of the Tour de France support cars will be electric this year. Also, 200 fast charging stations (15 to 35 minutes) are being installed on French autoroutes with the intention of having a station every 80 km. There are already several on the A8 autoroute between Aix and the Italian border. The latest one is near Les Adrets in the Var in the Aix-Nice, direction. There is also a station on the A8 near Beaulieu and there are two stations planned soon at Cannes-Mougins and Scoperta Menton.

This is what is needed for more of us to be able to use electric vehicles conveniently.  
*Karen Dalmasso, by email.*

### UP TO SPEED

GOING through some old issues I came across a mention of the speed limit sign along the river as you leave the airport T2 towards the autoroute. Did you know it's still there? This is usually the first sign visitors see when they leave the car hire park. They have no idea what the limits are and presume this tells them. It doesn't.

The autoroute limit is posted 130 km/h and a couple of minutes later they will be on it. But in the Alpes-Maritimes the limit is 110 km/h maximum. It's only when they get into the Var that it becomes 130 km/h. I wonder how many unsuspecting visitors have been trapped by this misinformation.

*Kevin Eames, by email*

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# HOW TO SAY “OUCH” IN FRENCH (AND TEN OTHER SOUNDS)

BY CAMILLE CHEVALIER-KARFIS



ONOMATOPOEIA is the written version of a sound – think *ssh*, *ouch* or *bang*. And like everything else, the rules are a little bit different in French.

The French don't make a kissing noise or say *mwa* – they say *smack* (or even *smack smack*) for the sound of a soft kiss in French. It's even the common name for a peck on the lips. “*Il m'a fait un smack*” (He gave me a peck on the lips, a soft kiss) is a far cry from the English definition of “smack”, as in, to slap.

## PAF!

– the sound of hitting something (or someone)

In French, a slap (*une gifle, une baffé*) is accompanied by a big “paf!” (we say “*Et paf, une baffé!*”).

Other French sounds for hitting would be *vlan*, *pif* (especially when hitting someone on the nose), *pof*, *tchoc*, *tchac*, *bang*...

## Guili-guili

– the sound for tickling

Okay, okay, this isn't onomatopoeia, but it's still a good one. While in English you

might say *tickly tickly* or something equally ridiculous, in French it's the adorable *guili-guili*. Pronounce this one with a hard G, the u is silent, as in *gili-gili*.

## Quin-ouin & Areuh-areuh

– the sounds to imitate a baby

Similar to how a crying baby makes a *wah-wah* noise in English, they say *ouin-ouin* in French, featuring the very nasal sound “in”.

And instead of something like *coochy-coo* when talking to a cute little tyke, French people say *areuh-areuh*.

## Pan-pan!

– the sound of gunfire

It doesn't sound quite as menacing as the English *bang bang* ... but *pan-pan* is in any action comic you'll pick up in France.

## Plouf

– the sound of falling into water

You can forget making a splash; in French, it's a *plouf* all the way. And the sound for falling on the ground is *patatra* (rather than whack, or kaboom).

## Chut

– the sound for *shhhh*

Next time you're at a French cinema and you're being disturbed by a loud popcorn eater, turn and say *chut* to them. It's a pretty loud word for a hushing sound, if you consider the T is pronounced, but we can guarantee it's effective.

## Aïe

– the sound for pain

Anyone who has ever read a French Asterix comic will have seen this. It's pronounced just like *eye* and is often repeated three times: *aïe-aïe-aïe!* In English, we might say *ow* or *ouch*, which you'll agree are a lot less expressive.

## Miam

– the French version of yum

French people often show their appreciation for food by humming a *mmmm* sound, but they're also very likely to say *miam*. Worth remembering next time you're dining with your French mother-in-law.

## Beurk

– the French sound for yuck

If you're in France and you're eating something like an andouillette (intestine sausage), you might say *beurk* if you felt like being particularly rude. We recommend you don't put this one into practice too much, perhaps you should stick with *miam* (above).

## Ron-ron

– the French sound for sleeping

And lastly, there's no *zzzz* for the French, who prefer a gentle *ron-ron* instead to signify sleeping. If you really roll your R while saying it, you can easily see why they say it. ■

*Camille Chevalier-Karfis is a French language expert and founder of the language site French Today (frenchtoday.com).*

## june

**POLITICAL WINE, NICE**

Wed June 1, 18h30-20h: With the Riviera Chapter of Democrats Abroad at La Canne à Sucre (11 Promenade des Anglais; Parking: Palais de la Méditerranée or Palais Masséna). All Americans invited. We do not impose a formal entry fee, but ask that you order at least one item. Please RSVP (even "maybe") to dafrance.riviera@gmail.com

**POSH PARAPHERNALIA**

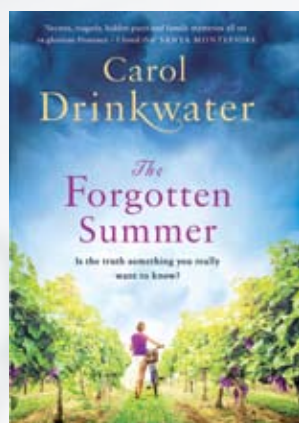
Thurs June 2 & Thurs July 7, 10h-15h: Books, bric-a-brac, posh paraphernalia and light lunch.  
Sat June 18 & Sat July 16, 10h-15h: Books, bric-a-brac, posh paraphernalia and 2-course lunch. At the Grange (815 chem Gourettes Mouans-Sartoux). See sunny-bank.org

**CANCER SUPPORT 06 DROP IN**

First Wed of the month, 15h30-17h: monthly "drop in" meetings at The Grange, 816 chem des Gourettes, Mouans Sartoux. An informal get together open to all of our clients and volunteers to meet our CSG06 committee members, psychologists, sophrologist and oncology nurse. They currently follow on from the 2pm-3pm mindfulness meditation session, to which everyone is also welcome to attend.  
cancersupportgroup06.wix.com

**BA MONACO QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY COCKTAILS**

Fri June 3, 15h-17h: Friendship Club at St Paul's Church Library.  
Wed June 8, 19h-20h30: BAM is honoured to have the Band of the Carabiniers who will play a range of British and well-known music to entertain members and guests at the Salon Bellevue to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. This is a very special event. Prepaid tickets only (€50/pp), bookings must be in no later than Friday 3rd June. Non-members welcome.  
Thurs June 9, 18h30-20h: Happy Hour. See bam-monaco.org

**CAROL DRINKWATER BOOK SIGNING**

Sat June 18, 11h: Antibes Books (13, rue Georges Clemenceau) welcomes Carol Drinkwater, signing her new novel, "Forgotten Summer" as well as all her other titles. For more on Carol, see "The Bee's Knees" on RivieraReporter.com

**LIKEBIKE MONACO**

Fri June 3-5, 10h-18h: The world's most prestigious bicycle lifestyle show at the Grimaldi Forum. Tickets €10 online or €15 on site. See likebikemc.com

**TABLE TOP SALE**

Sat June 4, 10h-16h: Vide-grenier at Parish Hall, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 11bis rue de la Buffa, Nice. Contact Elisabeth 04 93 72 97 08. Items for sale gratefully received Fri June 3 at the Hall from 17h-19h.

**FRANCE-GRANDE BRETAGNE NICE**

Sat June 4: Guided Tour of the village and castle of Dolceacqua, Italy.  
Mon June 6: Guided Tour organised by the Centre du Patrimoine - "Belle Epoque et Art Déco sur la Promenade des Anglais".  
June TBC: End of season Cocktail Party. All three events with our friends from the Franco-British Society of Southampton. Contact: 04 93 81 76 74 or see fgb-nice.com

**ENSEMBLE VOCAL RISTRETTO, NICE CONCERT**

Sun June 5, 18h: "Le Temps d'un Été" (The Balmy Days of Early Summer) is a celebration of vocal music of the 16th century to the present day, including Morley, Weelkes, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Grieg, Janequin, Poulenc, Delius, Waldmann. Artistic Director: Errol Girdlestone, Soloists from the Choir. Holy Trinity Church, 11, rue de la Buffa in Nice. Tickets 15€ available at the FNAC (fnac.com) or ristrettovoices.com

**RACE FOR LIFE MOUGINS**

Sun June 5, 8h30: At the Parc de l'Étang de Fontmerle in Mougins, and open to all ladies and girls, this is a 5km walk, jog or run. The entry fee and the sponsorship money will go to Cancer Research UK. If you are interested please contact Angela Anderson +33 6 48 50 36 46 or email: raceforlifeFrance06@gmail.com or see cruk06.wix.com/cruk06

**PWN EVENTS**

Mon June 6 & Mon July 4, 12h-14h: Nice Round Table & Entrepreneurs Club by Deborah D'Alessandro. Hotel Villa La Tour, Nice.  
Tues June 14, 12h-14h: Sophia Antipolis Round Table with guest speaker: Liz Menches & Tues July 12, 12h-14h: with guest speaker Carmen Blike (Omega Hotel, Les Lucioles, 49 rue Ludwig Von Beethoven).  
Tues June 21, 12h-14h: Monaco Round Table with guest speaker: Cindy Egoft, "We hear but do we listen?" Restaurant Miramar, Port Hercule 1, Av. J.F. Kennedy, Monaco. Also on July 19.  
Wed June 29: Summer Party at Le Provençal Beach, 22 blvd Edouard Baudoin, Juan Les Pins. See pwnnice.net

**FRANCE-GRANDE BRETAGNE CANNES QUEEN'S 90TH**

Fri June 10, 16h: We hope to make the Queen's 90th birthday a really special occasion at the Hotel Carlton on the Croisette in the presence of the British Honorary Consul. Champagne toast followed by tea, coffee, orange juice and patisseries. Come singly or with friends (tables seating 8 to 10). €25. Reservations 04 93 97 86 32 or 04 93 63 10 13.

**AMERICAN CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Sat June 11: Guided tour of a Grasse perfumery and make your own cologne (men and women's). Followed by lunch in the lovely town of Cabris. Full details on americanclubriviera.com or call Burton Gintell on 06 20 40 11 28.

**TEACHING MORNING**

Sat June 11, 9h30-13h: "The World around us speaks". Why the magnificent and incredible world around us is a revelation to us; how it speaks to us of a Creator; the origin of life and why this absolutely necessitates a Creator; conflict between science and religion; and other topics. Lunch provided. At Holy Trinity Church Cannes (ave Branly). See holytrinitycannes.org

**BA VAR**

Mon June 13: Queen's birthday lunch and quiz at Entrecasteaux Trout fishing pond. See [baofthevar.com](http://baofthevar.com)

**AMIAIC**

Tues June 14: Beach buffet at the Carlton Beach Restaurant in Cannes. Reservation and prepayment obligatory. Forms from John Bailey on 04 93 65 00 58. Early reservation advised. See [amiac.org](http://amiac.org)

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Mid-June (TBC): Visit to and lunch at Azienda Agrituristică Il Bey at Imperia, Italy. Details on [commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

**VIAC**

Fri June 17: Picnic at La Motte. More details at [viac83.fr](http://viac83.fr)

**LE TUNON ROCKS YOU UP FESTIVAL**

Sat June 18: First edition showcases 7 emerging artists at Nikaia in Nice (tickets €20). See [facebook.com/Tryupfestival](http://facebook.com/Tryupfestival)

**BREATHE AS ONE YOGA**

Sun June 19, 9h-18h: Free. Celebrate International Yoga Day at the Parc de la Colline du Chateau in Nice – open to all ages, all levels. Nico Luce teaching in the morning, followed by a hot yoga in the afternoon, and Gloria Latham at around 5pm, closing with a yoga “rave”. Plus, all day flying yoga demonstrations, Tibetan bowl concert, tai chi class, zen marketplace, live music and DJs. We are supported by the marie de Nice, the Negresco, Lululemon, Riviera Radio, Pure Flow Coco water, all of the yoga studios from St Tropez to Menton. RSVP: [breatheasone.eu](http://breatheasone.eu)

**RESIDENTIAL SINGING WEEKEND**

Fri June 24-Sun June 26: Residential Singing Weekend with the Royal School of Church Music in France for choristers and those who like to sing. Sight-readers preferred. Held at Renouveau Holiday Village in Roquebrune-sur-Argens in the Var. See [rscmfrance.org](http://rscmfrance.org) for details or ring 04 94 50 38 46.

**LIMITED PLACES FOR THE GLAMOROUS 3RD EDITION OF THE CHARITY LADIES RALLY VINTAGE**

Sun Sept 18, 8h30-19h: Organised by Child CARE Monaco, get ready for an amazing trip, full of surprises, with an arrival at the prestigious Place du Palais in Monaco. This event is to raise funds for our girls school in India. Reserve ([childcare@monaco.mc](mailto:childcare@monaco.mc)) with payment before July 1st to benefit of a special discount of €30. 1/Classique €330/pers (we organise the car) 2/ My own €290/pers (Drive your own car) 3/ Royal €330/pers (with driver, car and petrol), enjoy complimentary champagne for this option. All three include breakfast, lunch, coffee break, and cocktail dîatoire. See [childcaremonaco.com](http://childcaremonaco.com)

**HANDICAP BEACH CANNES**

July & Aug 9h-19h; June & Sept, 10h-18h: Bijou Plage in Cannes, the leading beach/water facilities in the region equipped for swimming (buoys, life jackets, floating hammock, etc) with lifeguards. Parking, changing room, toilet facilities, accessible shower. 04 93 94 13 09 (June to Sept). See [ccas-cannes.fr](http://ccas-cannes.fr)

**BA VAR**

Thurs June 30: Summer Soirée in La Motte. See [baofthevar.com](http://baofthevar.com)

**july****CANADA DAY CELEBRATION**

July 1, 19h30: At the Fairmont Hotel in Monaco, Restaurant l'Horizon Top Deck. Dinner & champagne cocktail with entertainment by the “Lib Day Darlings”. Price €105/per. Canadians and friends of Canadians are equally welcome. To reserve please send check to: Canadian Club de Monaco, PO Box 211, 98004 Monaco Cedex. More info on +377 93 5045 82.

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Fri July 1: Picnic on the beach. Details on [commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

**AMERICAN CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Mon July 4: American Independence Day Full details on [americanclubriviera.com](http://americanclubriviera.com) or call Burton Gintell on 06 20 40 11 28.

**HOLI 5KM COLOUR RUN**

Fri July 8, 20h30: This run at Marina Baie des Anges in Villeneuve Loubet douses runners from head to toe in different colours at each km: red, blue, green, yellow and pink. See [holiruncotedazur.com](http://holiruncotedazur.com)

**“MA VILLE EST TANGO” MENTON**

Fri July 15-Sun July 17: Three days of passionate embraces, languorous steps, exotic sounds ... Shows, free dance classes, street entertainment. Esplanade F. Palmero, Palais de l'Europe. See [tango-menton.fr](http://tango-menton.fr)

**NICEJAZZ FESTIVAL**

Sat July 16-Wed July 20: Info at [nicejazzfestival.fr](http://nicejazzfestival.fr)

**AMIAIC**

Tues July 19: Jardin du Cap (Cap d'Antibes), to reserve please phone Ann Wynn on 04 93 61 87 60. See [amiac.org](http://amiac.org)

**VIAC: CHÂTEAUDOUBLE - SIX YEARS ON**

Tues July 19: The torrential rain of June 15, 2010, left its mark on the perched village of Châteaudouble, and devastated Draguignan and places further south, taking 25 lives. We'll explore the charming old village, and ruined road in the gorge, before lunch on the terrace of La Tour restaurant, over-looking the magnificent gorges. After lunch, a visit to neighbouring Ferme La Pastourelle to sample the excellent cheeses and visit the cows, goats and sheep in their sheds. See [viac83.fr](http://viac83.fr)

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Thurs July 21: Boat trip to view fireworks display in the Bay of Cannes. See [commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

**AMERICAN CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

Thurs July 21: Famous firework concert and dinner in central Cannes. Entitled “La Vie est Bella” (Life is Beautiful). Full details on [americanclubriviera.com](http://americanclubriviera.com) or call Burton Gintell on 06 20 40 11 28.

**LES NUITS GUITARES - BEAULIEU SUR MER**

Thurs July 21 to Sat July 23, 21h: Since 2002, in the delightful setting of the Jardin de l'Olive (rue Jean Bracco). See [lesnuitsguitares.com](http://lesnuitsguitares.com)

**TEACHING MORNING CANNES**

Sat July 23, 9h30-13h: “The Eucharist”. The inception of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and how it focuses on Christ's death; the history and significance of the Passover; the Eucharist in the early Church and the church today. Lunch provided. At Holy Trinity Church Cannes (ave Branly). See [holyltrinitycannes.org](http://holyltrinitycannes.org)

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### BUSINESS FOR SALE

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### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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#### THE FRANCE-GRANDE- BRETAGNE ASSOCIATION IN CANNES

holds French and English classes from beginners to advanced including conversation every Saturday from January to June 2016 from 2pm to 5pm followed by tea and biscuits. We also organise a social event every month. We are on the first floor of the Maison des Associations Cannes, 9 rue Louis Braille, in Cannes (behind the train station off rue d'Alsace).

Parking free and available.

More info: Tel. Iris on 04 93 97 86  
32 or Odette on 04 93 49 37 01

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