

# THE RIVIERA REPORTER

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No 158 August/September 2013



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# VENCE Nuits



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# Meadia

WE have a fascinating and varied anglophone community, as shown by several profiles in this edition. Gone are the days when the average Riviera expat was retired and too stuffy to integrate. Today's *Reporter* reader is cosmopolitan, bilingual, younger and more active than ever before. There are also niches within our global readership – yachting professionals, tech executives and commuters who split their time between home on the Côte d'Azur and work in London or Geneva.

This on-the-go community of expat consumers is an attractive audience for a *Reporter* advertiser. Your ad is not only seen in the magazine but linked to our website allowing readers who can't put their hands on their printed copy of the *Reporter* to readily consult your contact details online. *Reporter* ads build image awareness so that potential clients will recognise your name even before you meet. And your

business will be supporting the only local free publication (and the longest-running) in English for appealing as it does to residents of many nationalities including the Scandinavians, the Germans and the Dutch.

A reminder that the tablet-friendly *Reporter* is available in a PDF version for download on our website, where you'll also find longer articles with corresponding information relevant to certain issues. This time, you can read an online interview with Cédric Segal discussing his reason for selling cans of wine in France (page 4), get direct links for downloading the apps on page 29 and see sample snapshots from our tips for better summer photos (page 42) all at [RivieraReporter.com](http://RivieraReporter.com)

**Mike Meade**

Cover Photo: Villefranche ©Riviera Reporter



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## AQUATIC WONDERS OF THE RIVIERA P34

# riviera reportage



## THE NESPRESSO OF WINES

IT'S been a tough month for the French. First they were "shell-shocked" to learn that 90% of snails eaten in France come from Eastern Europe, as most boxes of escargots are stamped "produced in the EU". French producers are now pushing for a change.

"If we do not distinguish the 'made in France' from the 'made in Poland', we are

shooting ourselves in the foot," Senator Yves Detaigne told *The Times*.

Next came news that cans of wine will be sold in select French independent *caves*, *boulangeries* and food stores (such as the Casino in Monaco).

Cédric Segal, co-founder of Fabulous Brands, the start-up behind these *canettes*, tells the *Reporter*: "Winestar is THE solution for young adults who enjoy a glass of good wine but wouldn't necessarily

open a full bottle. We want to achieve with wine what Nespresso has done for coffee – offer a premium product in a single-serve, convenient package."

Having worked in Japan for 5 years in international trade, Cédric discovered Australian premium wines in a can sold in supermarkets and thought why not in France? "Later this year we will offer Crus Etoilés, *grand cru* wines in a can that consumers would never imagine drinking on a regular basis."

And finally, a French wine firm has come up with Rouge Sucette – 75% wine and "the rest is sugar, water and cola" – in the hopes of seducing the "cola drinking" population.

Pauline Lacombe, Marketing Director of Haussmann Famille, part of the Châteaux En Bordeaux wines, said it's "like candy when you drink it".

With a lollipop-shaped label and €2.95 a bottle price tag, the company is betting that the world's first cola-flavoured wine will see its younger drinkers turn to more sophisticated wines as they, like a good bottle, improve with age.

## le FLASH

### FASHION FOR FOODIES

TRANSPORTING your baguette from the bakery to your table without any close calls like crushing or dropping it, or even worse, exposing the crust to rain, can really add stress to an otherwise idyllic life. Throw a Baguette Bag (pictured) over your shoulder, though, and the problem is solved.

Designed by the Ukrainian company CYAN, the 100% cotton Baguette Bag comes in four colours and has an adjustable strap, in case you eat too much bread from one week to the next. But before you rush out to buy a dozen for friends and family, the Baguette Bag is not actually for sale yet. It's showcasing on Wowcracy ([wowcracy.com](http://wowcracy.com)), a crowdsourcing fundraiser site that helps new designers with manufacturing costs. So once €4000 has been pledged online, CYAN can then start production. At the time of press, CYAN had reached only 8% of its target, with only 33 days to go.



### DON'T DRAG YOUR BAG

LUGGING heavy bags on and off trains, finding a place to stow them, keeping an eye on them during the journey – all this bother can blight your travel when you let the train take the strain.

If you're travelling by TGV, SNCF have a baggage delivery service that is a boon. They will collect a suitcase (any reasonable size) from your home on the day of travel and deliver it to your final destination the following day, unless it's a Sunday. €30 a bag. Find out details at [tgv.com](http://tgv.com) or dial 36 35, say "bagages" and you'll get recorded instructions.

### EAT YOUR BANK OUT

TRAIN schedules certainly won't be a concern if you go on the "most delicious holiday ever": a 6-month trip to 107 3-Michelin star restaurants in 12 countries, with Business Class travel and 5-star accommodation. Can't afford the estimated £182,000 a person? Treat yourself to one of the tour's scheduled stops: Ducasse's Louis XV in Monte-Carlo or Meurice in Paris (easyJet will get you there).

See [holidaysplease.co.uk](http://holidaysplease.co.uk)

# IT'S COMPLICATED

The least you can say about Bernard Tapie is that he's led an interesting life



Photo: Eurobas

THIRTY years ago he was probably the most recognised figure in France. A flamboyant businessman since the early 80s – sometimes thought of as the French answer to Richard Branson – Bernard Tapie has been a singer, actor, television host as well as a politician, serving as Minister of Urban Affairs in the Bérégovoy Socialist government under Mitterrand. The now 70-year-old made a career out of rescuing bankrupt companies: he famously resuscitated LOOK skiing equipment, La Vie Claire health food

shops, Wonder batteries and the Adidas sportswear label, sponsor of this year's Wimbledon champion Andy Murray.

It has not been all smooth sailing for the hardened yachtsman (he owned *Phoebe* and *Club Med 2*). His backing of La Vie Claire cycling team in the 1983 Tour de France ended in bickering amongst the riders; his 8-year presidency of the Olympique de Marseille football club won them the Champions League under allegations of match fixing and financial irregularities that eventually pushed the

club into second division and Tapie out of his management position in 1993.

Around the same time, unable to pay the interest on the loan to purchase Adidas, Tapie entered into litigation with the state-owned Credit Lyonnais bank, which eventually acquired Tapie's shares in the company and then sold them on at vast profit only a year later to Robert Louis-Dreyfus, a friend of Tapie, and also president of Olympique de Marseille. Twelve years later, in 2008, Tapie won €403 million in an arbitration case against CDR, a public body responsible for settling liabilities of Credit Lyonnais. (When the Hollande government came to power in May 2012 the case was re-examined on suspicion of fixing, with the influence of Sarkozy and the now FMI head, Christine Lagarde, who was Finance Minister in 2008.)

In 1994 he was prosecuted for complicity of corruption and witness tampering and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment of which he served 165 days. That same year he filed for bankruptcy.

Tapie remained a popular figure with a "self-made Frenchie" reputation and in 2007 he switched party loyalties to back Nicolas Sarkozy for president. At the time there were allegations that this was an opportunistic political step to help him with his ongoing tax problems.

And this year, the drama continues. In June, Tapie was again arrested and kept in police custody for three days and in July, pending ongoing litigation, most of Tapie's assets – including his yachts and St Tropez villa – were seized in escrow as "protective measures" according to Socialist Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici. ➤

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I will miss *EastEnders* but with counselling, I'll get over the loss.
- ☐ **OPTION B:** I will keep my system as it is for Sky channels (football, movies and USA programmes etc).  
I can't have a big dish but I must have *EastEnders* so I'll watch it on my iPad/laptop using HasEurope VPN.
- ☐ **OPTION C:** I have a garden so a big dish (1.2m to 1.5m) is no problem to install.  
I know it'll take a few months from the change for the signal to settle but want to get the right dish and the correct size. HasEurope.com will keep me up-to-date.
- ☐ **OPTION D:** I enjoy traffic jams, poor food and the NHS so I'll move back to the UK where my TV will work no problem!



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And what of his 50% stake in the Hersant Media Group (GHM), which owns *Nice-Matin*? GHM has now given 100% ownership of the Marseille daily *La Provence* to Le Groupe Bernard Tapie (GBT) in exchange for Tapie's *Nice-Matin* shares.

The French media play on *Tapie, c'est partout*, pronounced *tapissez partout*. A literal translation is "put wallpaper everywhere" but in a looser sense it means: "Tapie is all over the place." And that he is.

### Tall Ships are back

IT's been six years since the tall ships last visited: three-masted schooners, four-masted square-riggers, ketches and brigantines ... more than 40 sailboats will be arriving from the four corners of the globe in Toulon from Sept 27th to 30th.

The idea for a worldwide tall ship race originated nearly 60 years ago when retired British lawyer, Bernard Morgan, joined forces with Earl Mountbatten and the Duke of Edinburgh to create the Sail Training International Race Committee (STIRC) in 1955. The first event was organised the next year, from Torbay in the Southwest of England to Lisbon, with 20 sailboats from various countries, including Argentina, Belgium, France, and Italy.

The regatta – dubbed by the media the Tall Ships Race, a name that has stuck – was such a success that organisers decided

to repeat the event annually (much like the popularity of the Tour de France, which started out as a publicity stunt to increase sales for *L'Auto* magazine). The itinerary changes every year: the Atlantic, Baltic Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean, Black Sea ...

Today the Tall Ships Race (TSR) is one of the most prestigious international events in the field of traditional sailing but it certainly has unique rules. The crews include professional sailors as well as trainees and the winner is not necessarily the fastest: team spirit and sporting performances are taken into account.

In Toulon, the *Voiles de Légende* 2013 programme involves four days of free celebrations – from docks, roofs or windows, wherever you are in the city you can participate in street art, concerts, exhibitions, parades, tournaments, fireworks and free tours of the yachts of Toulon's port.

An Exhibitors and Partners Village will introduce the public to innovative marine-related economic activities, water sports, the marine environment, and regional know-how. New this year, visitors can pay to board one of the competing sailboats – *Belem* (a renowned 48m three-masted French ship, built in 1896), the *Krusenstern* (a Russian sailboat and one of the biggest in the world) and the *Gulden Leeuw* (a Dutch 70m three-masted schooner, built in 1937) – and experience an extraordinary seafaring adventure.

PôleJeunePublic is looking for volunteers to assist during the *Voiles de Légende* to help with shows, greet artists and inform the public. Contact Aurélie Aloy 04 94 93 82 11 or aurelie@polejeunepublic.com

### Christian takes on the travellers

NICE mayor Christian Estrosi came under fire when he called on mayors around France to "revolt" against what he sees as wide-scale abuse by *les gens du voyage* (travellers).

You've seen their caravans from Menton to Mougins and beyond. The "Roma" arrive and demand the right to taxpayer-funded water, electricity and a place to park their caravans. When a suitable site isn't offered they may take over a public park or private field; if the site is barred they have been known to break down barriers, or cut through chains and fences.

According to Estrosi, "When you enter a place by infraction, you're a delinquent."

The Mayor's 7-point plan includes surveillance cameras, the noting of licence plate numbers and, in the case of illegal conduct, the confiscation of "their big and beautiful cars towing their big and beautiful caravans".

As would be expected, civil rights groups attacked the mayor's proposals as xenophobic and several lawsuits have

**In September, Toulon will host the Tall Ships Race, which originated nearly 60 years ago with a course from England to Lisbon.**





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Photos non contractuelles, G. Martinez

## FRANCE IN THE NEWS

been filed against him for inciting racial hatred. Interior Minister Manuel Valls, an unusually popular Socialist minister for his harsh stand on crime, has come out against Estrosi's "diatribe", which Valls says puts all travellers under a banner we might find reminiscent of Cher's lyrics to *Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves*.

Estrosi denies all discrimination charges and sticks to the illegality of many travellers' camps under the 2003 interior security law.

Disturbing developments in the story include an e-threat to the mayor – "You'll get a 7.65 calibre in the head so prepare your grave. Signed: We the Roma" – and on July 10th a postal sorting office discovered a white powder in an anonymous envelope addressed to Estrosi. The powder proved to be harmless.

The mayor's reaction? "Nothing frightens me [...] I've beaten others and I'll beat them too."

## The cop and the prop

SUMMER boating accidents on the Riviera are as certain as jellyfish sightings, and what happened early in the evening of Sunday June 23rd seemed like just another tragic turn: a swimmer was fatally struck by a propeller while swimming to the 22-metre *Joyka* anchored off Cap d'Ail near La Mala beach. Within minutes of the reports, however, we learned that the victim was, until recently, head of police in Monaco (*Directeur de la Sûreté Publique*).

In his fifties, athletically fit, well

connected and reputed to be an expert on matters concerning the Russian mafia, André Muhlberger was appointed police chief by Prince Albert in 2006 and remained in the position until October 2012. He was a hardened officer and had previously occupied high positions in Marseille and Corsica. In Monaco he was known as "the mule" for his tenacity and was well respected by the men and women under him.



It's safe to say that Muhlberger, above, was somewhat of a ladies' man – a *bon vivant* with a taste for pretty blonds. His flamboyant lifestyle raised a few eyebrows among the normally conservative Monegasque population but he was good at his job and so his dalliances – sometimes carried out of sight in the Caribbean or Miami – were discretely accepted in the Principality. Less so perhaps by his beautiful brunette live-in girlfriend, a French magistrate. The couple split when

photographic evidence of his infidelity was printed in the press. Shortly thereafter, Muhlberger was relieved of his functions in Monaco and replaced by the more conformist Richard Marangoni.

So was it a tragic accident near Cap d'Ail on the day of Muhlberger's death? The extent of his injuries, both to the head and legs, suggest they may have been inflicted by a much larger vessel than the 7-metre motorboat that was reported to have immediately fled the scene at top speed. (Once located in Nice, French and Monegasque police found no trace of impact on the suspected boat.) Maybe the Italian captain, who was arrested and then released after questioning, reversed *Joyka* over him, not knowing Muhlberger was swimming back to the yacht after dining and drinking with some wealthy Russian friends in Cap d'Ail.

Or is there a more sombre explanation, questioned the French weekly magazine *Paris Match* on July 5th under the headline "*Une étrange affaire à Monaco*" (A strange affair in Monaco). Two days later *The Sunday Times* took conjecture a step further with their uppercase strapline: "THE HARDLINE CRIMEFIGHTER'S RUSSIAN LINKS ARE STIRRING SUSPICIONS OF MURDER."

It's an intriguing suggestion but the fact is that like Muhlberger's atypical life, his death may well remain shrouded in a mystery that will never entirely be solved. But if it is, we'll be sure to let you know. ■

# Counting the last days as you coast towards retirement?

MAYBE you're one of the 11 million tourists that visits the Alpes-Maritimes each year, and you're thinking of retiring here. There's no doubt about it, France is a pretty good place to do so if you're British.

France has a reciprocal pension agreement with the UK and so a British State Pension won't be frozen at the point of retirement, which is not the case for fellow expats in Australia or Canada; friends and family at "home" are only a short flight or drive away – a mixed blessing for some; the weather is appealing although winter is not quite as mild as it's cracked up to be and summers, especially in the South, can be very hot – but not as scorching as in Spain.

Property transactions are enshrined

in laws that make the sorts of cons that many Spanish expats have suffered impossible. Depending on the location, you may get a larger house in France from the proceeds of the sale of your British property. Again subject to where you buy, local taxes are often comparable but in France you can expect better local services such as rubbish collection.

France has a double taxation agreement with the UK so you won't be paying twice on income, however inheritance tax on your French assets may be taxed so advice from a good financial advisor is important. The French also have a wealth tax on acquired assets over €1.3 million so it's imperative to consult a local finan-

cial advisor well before moving here.

You'll be able to vote in the last place you resided in the UK until you have lived abroad for 15 years at which time you'll be disenfranchised. You'll have the right to vote in local (but not national) elections in France and you could even serve on a city council as some of our readers have.

Finance is a major consideration for most expats. Exchange rates can be unfavourable at times but over the years this can work both ways. In some cases it's worth looking into a fixed exchange rate contract with a UK bank or currency broker. If you have a private pension you'll probably be hit by transfer charges so you may wish to keep an account in the UK for these payments. If you are a French taxpayer remember that foreign accounts should be declared even if they're not taxable.

The biggest hurdles will be learning the language – make an effort to learn at least basic French – and getting along with the French, but you can expect to live longer and in better health in France than your stay-at-home counterparts. The famous Mediterranean diet and the quality of health care is not without some faults; it's both excellent and inexpensive – although not free at the point of use like in the UK. You have a right to the *Sécu* if you're of retirement age and have been paying into a reciprocal EU system such as the NHS. Whereas French employees and businesses pay very high payroll taxes for this, British expats get the same treatment for the comparably lower NI rate they paid

Thinking of turning your French hols into a permanent vacation?

**And that winter fuel allowance?** Even if you qualified for the benefit before you left the UK, some 115,000 expats living in France and six other countries including Spain and Portugal are now subject to George Osborne's "temperature test". As the Chancellor was quoted in the *Telegraph*, "People in hot countries will no longer get it. It is, after all, a payment for winter fuel." To contact the International Pension Centre from abroad call +44 (0)191 218 7777 or see [gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim](http://gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim)



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## All roads lead to ...

IF you work in a French company, chances are you'll be joining the masses in August when, according to INSEE, 40% of the country takes their annual break, many by car on one of the best road networks in Europe. True, French secondary roads can sometimes be dicey but the *route nationale* network is miles – or rather kilometres – ahead of the UK in quality and ease of use.

Pity the British motorist says Germaine Greer. The Australian-born feminist icon and Professor Emerita at the University of Warwick wonders why British roads are badly planned, potholed and weed-infested "primitive messes".

"British roads should be the absolute best that we can manage, in engineering, in design and in construction," says the outspoken Greer. "They offer a huge opportunity that in Britain is in great part wasted."

Her suggestion? "Why can't Britain have roads like the French?" she was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The British Highways Agency (an executive agency of the DoT) has been responsible for the construction, maintenance and management of British roads since 1994. It takes little notice of light or sound pollution and loves road signs – lots of them, often contradictory. Different from French motorways, there are few places to stop for toilet breaks or catnaps as if it wasn't dangerous to drive while tired or with a bursting bladder. Distances between service stations are long, badly indicated and not readily accessible so some drivers resort to carrying extra cans of petrol.

In contrast to French highways, however, British roads are free. The network is financed by a road tax on every car and there is a brisk market for message-bearing tax disc holders in the UK. One favourite model reads: "I've paid the bloody tax. Now fix the bloody potholes!"

That one could have been written by Germaine herself.

## Q&A with your MEP

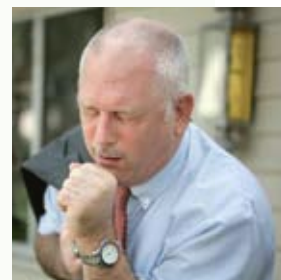
WITH less than a year until the Council and European Elections (more next time on registering to vote before Dec 31st),

Richard Ashworth MEP will be at Holy Trinity Church Cannes on Sun Aug 8th, 14h, to answer questions about the role of a British MEP. Detailed questions can be sent by email beforehand. Lunch (€15) at 12h30, with proceeds going to Holy Trinity for the construction of a toilet for the disabled. Reservations required: Lesley Joines on 06 65 38 05 29 or [lesley.joines@yahoo.fr](mailto:lesley.joines@yahoo.fr) ■

WOODS Solicitors ([woodslaw.co.uk](http://woodslaw.co.uk)) has obtained compensation for hundreds of British clients, including expats living overseas, who have suffered asbestos exposure or had an industrial injury in the UK.

"Even if you are no longer living in the UK," Steve Woods explains, "if you have been diagnosed with an asbestos-related lung disease, you may be entitled to a claim and government benefits."

See *Can you claim against this killer from the past?* next issue.



# LEARNING TO RIDE THE WAVE

Third in *The Rue to France* series profiling Americans, we meet Scott Bell whose passion for surfing influenced his professional destiny

By PJ Heslin



WHAT brings expats to France is not necessarily the reason that they stay. Certainly in the South of France the climate, the food and the pace of life are a big draw but Scott Bell (above) may have one of the most unique reasons for staying: the surf. While most people don't associate good surfing with France, some of the best surfing in the world can be found in the Bay of Biscay. In fact, the Association of Surf Professionals (ASP) holds several events a year there.

Born in Boston, it was business that first brought Scott to France. While working for the American bicycle manufacturer Cannondale, he had the opportunity to set up their overseas office in the Netherlands. As Cannondale grew, he came in contact with, and eventually started working for, Eurodev, a Holland-based company set up to help mid-sized American businesses break into the European market. At that point, Scott says, Eurodev focused on athletic products made in the US.

While he enjoyed his job Scott felt restless and so when Eurodev expanded into France, he jumped at the opportunity. "I always had a Franco affinity in my system. I don't know why but there was something about it that appealed to me. Plus moving here gave me the chance to influence my destiny."

With its eternal sunshine and an international airport, the

Côte d'Azur appealed to Scott. He moved to Cannes with his German wife, an architect, seventeen years ago.

Like many expats, the first big challenge they faced was the language, and neither of them spoke French very well. But as Scott's French improved, Eurodev developed and a family and mortgage followed.

Once living here, Scott soon realized how much more difficult it is to have a business in France. "The tax system and the bureaucracy definitely make it harder. It is not easy to be an entrepreneur here." The biggest lesson he learned was when he had to let an employee go. "You basically need a constitutional amendment to fire somebody here."

On the plus side, though, he felt far less pressure trying to run a business here than in the US. "Here, you're not penalized for trying and failing."

Scott also found that as an expat he felt more individual liberty here than in the States. "You know that if you're from Boston with a certain type of accent then people assume that you're a Red Sox fan, that you hate the Yankees and that you're probably Irish Catholic. There's all sorts of stereotypes and standards that come with where you're from and what people expect from you. But when you live here you can be whoever you want to be."

Around five years ago, Scott began to question his professional choices in life. He had two healthy kids and was happily married but he wondered if what he was doing was enough and if he was either part of the solution or part of the problem. Essentially, he faced typical questions of most middle-aged people but instead of calling it a midlife crisis, Scott refers to it as a "midlife realization".

He had this midlife realization in Brazil while surfing for the first time. From the moment he paddled out, he was hooked. It may sound like a cliché, but as most of us who have ever tried surfing can attest to, there is something transformational about the experience. For me, the first time I went out I spent the entire day being battered about by waves and it wasn't until the end of the day that I was able to shakily stand up on my board to ride a wave for about a minute before falling off. Still, there was something about the sport that takes a hold on you.

As Scott and I compared surfing notes we both agreed on what it is that we like about surfing. The first thing you notice is how quiet it is out there. Even at the most crowded beach, you feel blissfully removed from the normal land-based noises. The next thing you become aware of is the perspective of the land from sitting on a surfboard – it's like nothing else

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you see in everyday life. If you're out there often enough you're bound to run into wildlife, which rarely ends in a Jaws-type scenario, and being within arm's distance of a curious dolphin or seal is bound to make the most stoic amongst us giggle like a child.

Another aspect that attracted Scott to surfing was its lack of environmental impact. "You go out. You catch a wave and when you're done, you look back and it's like you were never even there."

When he came back from his holiday, he was determined to continue surfing and was pleased to learn he could do so right out his back door. "There's a local surf community made up of mostly Australians and Americans." Although this community is not a formal organization, he does note that there are enough recurring and familiar faces at local breaks to create a sense of familiarity.

Scott says that for about twenty days out of the year he can find a good swell off the island of Ste-Marguerite in winter. The drop in the temperature means that they have to wear thick *combinaisons* (wetsuits), complete with booties, gloves and sometimes even something for the head known in surfer parlance as a hood. For another 8 weeks of the year, he surfs in Brazil and also on France's west coast.

Surfing helped Scott find an answer to one of life's questions. Wanting

to do something hands-on for the environment, he started One Planet Surf ([oneplanetsurf.com](http://oneplanetsurf.com)). Its mission statement is to promote companies that create sustainable surf products.

As an example, most traditional surfboards are crafted from urethane foam, fiberglass and polyester resin. These materials make for a great surfboard but pose risks to those assembling the boards as well as potential environmental hazards. One Planet Surf's boards are wood or a combination of wood and recyclable materials, and one British company they promote, Glass Tiger, produce one of the best looking long boards I've ever seen.

As Scott's passion for riding the waves flourished, he found he wanted to do something more in his professional life that could emulate the minimalism and simplicity of surfing. The answer was Vitev (or Vionev as its known in France; see [vitev.com](http://vitev.com)), a company dedicated to supplying customers with water filters and ionized water. With the emergence of ecological hazards like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it's hoped that Vitev can provide a solution to plastic bottled water through their filters. As of July of this year, they have just picked up their first distributor.

Sounds to me like a midlife realization is whole lot better than a midlife crisis. ■



# Digging our own grave?

By Molly Brown

A FÊTE de la Musique is a great way to celebrate Midsummer Day, but there were quite a few discordant notes and a chorus of dismay when it was discovered that the tall palm trees in the Casino gardens had disappeared, leaving large holes, a mechanical digger and mounds of earth. It caught everyone by surprise as it is high season and the gardens are a popular rendezvous for tourists. Then realisation dawned ... SBM had moved the trees during the night (over 50 trees and the fountains are to go) to make way for their new “prefab” shopping area, as they race ahead with their long-planned scheme to imitate New York, with a Central Park surrounded by expensive apartment buildings, prime real estate with views of the Monte Carlo Casino and the Mediterranean. Impervious to objections and undeterred by a further disastrous financial result – a year end deficit of €33.4 million at March 31st 2013, worse than the €28.4 million deficit of the previous year – SBM are gambling heavily on the future upturn of Monaco real estate. Monaco’s gold reserve is its land, a scarce commodity but in a prime location ... but is the loss of the Principality’s one advantage over its neighbours at risk: its history and its charm?

While SBM are in discussions on funding their €600 million project, reassuring concerned employees and persuading designer boutiques in the Sporting d’Hiver to move into the pre-fabricated “unique innovative structures” in November, a local real estate developer has now bought all the apartments in the lovely Palais de la Plage at Larvotto and has obtained permission to enlarge the building and modernise the interior BUT ... **he must keep the elegant façade!** If only they could all be saved ...

For a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Principality and its historic buildings, the *Monacopolis* exhibition at the exquisite Villa Sauber, opposite Grimaldi Forum, features a large mural

of Monaco over 100 years ago, carefully restored by NMNM experts; old sepia photographs and films and the architects’ original plans of the Casino and Hotel de Paris, together with costumes, stage sets and photos of the Opera Monte Carlo. Designed by famous French architect, Charles Garnier, Villa Sauber is one of the few elegant villas left in Monaco. It was donated to the Principality by Madame Galea with her superb collection of automates and 19th-century dolls, presently being restored and hopefully brought back home very soon.

Villa Paloma, a charming 19th-century villa next to the Jardin Exotique, now a museum with a superb view over Monaco, is showing NMNM’s exhibition of paintings and drawings by celebrated Russian artist, Erik Boulatov, until the end of September, and the summer exhibition *Picasso and the Côte d’Azur* with 160 of the artist’s paintings and works on show is at the Grimaldi Forum until September 15th.

A garden lost, a garden gained. Princess Grace Rose Garden near the heliport is to be enlarged to twice its size with dozens of new varieties and types of roses and the “Save the Bees” programme is a success: Monaco’s six hives of honey bees are happily working away among the flowers in Fontvieille; they produced 70kg of “exotic” honey last year and another 60kg this year. Take a walk through a haven of peace; the Japanese garden is full of birdsong and there are not only baby carp, but ducklings in the pond. ■

The popular **Open Air Cinema** on the Rock is in full swing, and will be there next summer also. The **Sporting d’Hiver cinema** will not close until June 2014, when it’ll move into temporary premises in Salle Ponant in the Princess Grace Theatre, until a site is found for a new cinema, possibly in Fontvieille.

In 1912, Prince Albert I of Monaco inaugurated his Oceanographic Museum, now world renowned. Its new exhibition of *S H A R K S* is the adventure day out for everyone, a chance to experience the gentler side of this endangered predator.

Photo: Salle de la Baleine : T.Ameller/  
Musée océanographique de Monaco



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# Slow death of the Auto-Entrepreneur

**BUSINESS**

By Peter Johnson



A RECENT poll showed that 30% of young people in the UK see themselves as becoming self-employed and running their own business. This is an encouraging statistic in these troubled economic times, demonstrating a Thatcherite sense of self-determination and endeavour. "Small acorns" and all that, lots of budding Richard Bransons ready to keep the economic motor ticking over. In Germany, too, twentysomethings have plenty of opportunity to develop their talents through apprenticed positions, learning skills that will open up future jobs or allow them to set up their own small business. The "enterprise culture" is alive there also, where youth unemployment is the lowest in Europe.

In France, the "enterprise culture" is moribund and the recent debate over reforming the status of the Auto-

Entrepreneur reveals that the government just doesn't seem to care. The reform proposed will limit, from 2015, the turnover of service Auto-Entrepreneurs to €19,000 per year (down from the current €32,600) and €47,500 a year for commercial Auto-Entrepreneurs (presently €80,000). If an Auto-Entreprise goes over these limits for two consecutive years they will automatically be "upgraded" to a normal self-employed business structure, which will crucially mean that instead of paying social contributions at 20-25%, they will pay nearly 50%. In other words, it just won't be a realistic proposition for most young self-employed.

In effect, the self-employed will revert to the pre-2009 situation before the invention of the Auto-Entreprise and be strangled at birth by taxes, social charges and layers of confusing bureaucracy. The present number of Auto-Entreprises is 900,000 and the majority will die, the "black economy" will burgeon once more and compared with that 30% of young people in the UK looking to start their own business, the figure for France will be more like 3%.

If you care about the future of the Auto-Entrepreneurs sign up to the *Coordination de Défense des Auto-Entrepreneurs*, an

internet-based lobby group founded at the end of April to defend the AE status (see [facebook.com/DefenseAE](https://www.facebook.com/DefenseAE) or [federation-auto-entrepreneur.fr](http://federation-auto-entrepreneur.fr)). *Les poussins*, as they are known, organised demonstrations in June across France and one hopes they'll have the same success as *les pigeons*, a small business lobby that helped overturn Hollande's crazy notion of inflicting massive capital gains tax on the sale of a business.

As always, with the current government it is likely that there'll be a change of direction, one minister saying one thing and another saying the opposite. There is no clarity at the top in government, just constraint and ambiguity!

## Changes in tax rules concerning expatriates in France

Some of the ambiguity, however, has worked in favour of those with second homes, as President Hollande has reduced the term needed to be free of capital gains tax on a holiday home from 30 years to 20, and elsewhere it has been confirmed that social charges will not be levied on the profit from UK rental property. A little bit of good news to mitigate the rest of the gloom.

Enjoy the summer and let's see what happens at *la rentrée*: a considerable majority of the French feel that with all the social unrest *quelque chose va péter* – something is going to blow. Man the barricades! ■

# BIG DRAW OF THE E-CIG

## ... but should we heed the no-smoke alarm?

By Gus Hurd



Photo: ROK Universal

ANYONE following the 66th Cannes Film Festival this year may have noticed the presence of the latest gadget in the A-list star's inventory: the electronic cigarette. Granted a high profile by media figures such as *The Great Gatsby* actor Leonardo DiCaprio, the "e-cig" is a fairly recent phenomenon that is rapidly gaining in popularity, with an estimated 500,000 regular users in France alone.

Marketed as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco, and sometimes used as a quitting aid, the electronic cigarette offers smokers the relief of a nicotine hit without the danger that comes from the tar and carbon monoxide present in a normal cigarette, while emitting no smoke, thus enabling users to "vape" in public places where smoking is not permitted. Any smoker who has endured a long-distance flight will understand the attraction – an attraction that has spawned a €400 million industry in the EU alone.

However, in June the e-cigarette faced its first major challenge in its ascendancy, in the form of the French Health Minister Marisol Touraine, who stated publicly that "electric cigarettes are not a harmless product" and has put forward proposals to ban the use of e-cigs in public places. Moreover, in 2016 the e-cigarette may be reclassified

as a medicinal product, meaning only pharmacists will have the right to sell it. Similar plans are being made in the EU, which have created uproar from users and within certain spheres of the medical community.

There seems to be three principal reasons for the proposals issued by the French government. Firstly, concerns about the long-term health effects of the e-cigs, which are currently unknown, due to the relatively short time these products have been on the market. On May 27th, the French Office for Tobacco Prevention published a report on the subject, stating, "We don't know enough about these products." And in the UK, Jeremy Mean of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Products Agency (MHRA) said that their "safety and quality was not assured".

Furthermore, there are many who are troubled about the lack of regulations imposed on these products, with a Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) spokesperson

in the US describing the current regulatory situation as "the Wild Wild West". Finally, from the EU there are worries that the e-cigs resemblance to normal cigarettes and their widespread availability will have a negative effect on the anti-smoking battle and may act as a gateway to tobacco use among young people.

However, as the report from the Office for Tobacco Prevention said, there is no actual evidence to suggest that e-cigarettes are health endangering. Critics are labeling the move by Touraine as an "excess of caution", with potentially disastrous effects for the blossoming industry.

Others go further, and see the proposal as a deal with Big Tobacco and pharmaceutical companies. The electronic cigarette is well on the way to becoming the most popular choice of THR – tobacco harm reduction. Recent studies have demonstrated a 45% success rate amongst quitters who use the e-cigarette, compared to 8% when using either nicotine patches or gums. These products are commercialised entirely by pharmaceutical companies, and together they have created an estimated €117 million industry in the EU alone. With the ever-increasing popularity of the e-cigarette, this industry is suffering losses. Naturally the pharmaceutical companies wish to protect their own, and their enormous influence in the political sphere is certainly no secret.

Meanwhile the government has a huge vested financial interest in tobacco, free to dictate prices to a faithful clientele. The ever-increasing price-hikes on cigarettes has achieved little success in decreasing smoking levels in France, with 25% of the population describing themselves as habitual smokers, according to a government survey.

Those with a cynical mindset could paint a conceivable picture of a deal being struck between those who would profit

The "smokeless cigarette" is battery-operated so when you inhale, an atomizer vaporises the nicotine or non-nicotine liquid solution, and converts it into smoke-like vapour.



Source: Legacy For Health

most from restrictions on the use and sale of e-cigarettes, especially when the proposals come in the wake of a €10,000 lunch between members of British-American Tobacco and the French government, and the fact that three of the contributors to the report made by the Office for Tobacco Prevention have made it clear they have links to several pharmaceutical companies.

Then there is the view of the medical community, many of whom actively propose electronic cigarettes to their patients who wish to quit smoking. Jean-François Etter, a professor of public health at the University of Geneva described the e-cig as "an alternative that can save millions of lives" and the proposed ban as "disappointing declarations that work against public welfare."

As mentioned, the success rate when using these products is phenomenal when compared with the alternatives, and with tobacco smoking responsible for 73,000 fatalities a year in France alone, any viable solution should be encouraged not restricted. In addition, the level of nicotine present in the electronic cigarette is considered to be as detrimental to the human body as a cup of coffee, according to an American medical

study published last year. There is no way it could be said that these e-cigs have a positive effect on human health, but current estimates suggest that they are about 100 times better than tobacco cigarettes.

So why the ban? In any case the future of the electronic cigarette is far from assured. Not only will the ban in public places be a setback in terms of exposure, it will take away

*You can sign an online petition defending electronic cigarettes with the Independent Association of Users of Electronic Cigarette at [aideuce.fr](http://aideuce.fr).*

some of its attractions, such as being able to "smoke" in bars or pubs. The EU reclassification on the e-cig as a medicinal product also has far-reaching consequences, as the availability and advertising of the product will be curtailed and controlled. All this will have an effect on sales, and therefore ultimately on lives. There seems to be no proven reason to ban e-cigs, and there seems to be one major reason to encourage them: to do anything possible to prevent the deaths of millions who need these alternatives to quit. ■

#### E-CIGS GO ON TRIAL:

LAST year the Departmental Committee of Respiratory Diseases in the Dordogne, in collaboration with the Périgueux Health Examinations Centre, recruited 100 smokers who had no desire to quit but agreed to use electronic cigarettes for a period of three months.

Its report published December 5th, 2012 observed that of the 74 participants who followed protocol, 72% considerably reduced their cigarette smoking, while 11% stopped smoking.

"One cannot recognize that smoking is the first cause of avoidable deaths, yet not make any study of the electronic cigarette, which meets the approval of millions of users worried about their health," said Dr Jacques Granger, President of the Dordogne Committee.



Photo: ROK Universal

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# STRIPMATES!

## Antibes yachties cast off clothes for a good cause

By Nathalie Giraud



ALL great ideas are born over food and friends. And so it was in February of this year when photographer Linda Alaniz was lunching in Antibes with gal pal Lisa Mancino and a mate of hers, Linda "Loopy" Gardhage, both of whom worked in the yachting industry. The conversation turned to Linda Loopy's fast approaching 40th birthday and, as two of her closest friends had been diagnosed with cancer, she wanted to host a charity birthday and somehow tie in a auction to raise funds for cancer research.

Linda Alaniz had produced the Biot *pompier*s 2012 calendar – a series of photos of unclothed firemen – and upon seeing her work, Linda Loopy had an inspiration to do the same thing but with a twist: Yacht Women Who Dare To Bare.

Finding models was no problem. Twelve

women aged 28 to 50 who have, for the most part, known each other for a long time were willing to "put their modesty aside" in the name of charity. The pressure was the deadline, to launch the calendar at Linda Loopy's birthday party in April.

But taking off your clothes takes on a whole new meaning when there's a camera pointed at you. And so, unsurprisingly, when the moment came to ditch the attire and bare all, some of the ladies were somewhat apprehensive. A tipple in a couple of cases was needed to tackle their inhibitions.

"Be sure not to show my nipples" ... "My fiancé will kill me"... "Can you make my legs look longer ..."

Just why is it that we are conditioned to judge every detail of our body so critically? We can't just be the product of a Photo-

shop culture, which promotes unblemished skin and fat-free bodies. A finger could be pointed at society and the use of unnaturally thin half-naked women to sell any kind of product from toothpaste to coffee, or at the fashion industry, women's magazines and the media which all seem to endorse one standard of female beauty: flawless.

Is it any wonder then, as the *Daily Mail* reported last month, that "a quarter of women wear make-up to bed to stay looking their best for their partner"?

This is a stark contrast with the findings of a French survey published in 2012 by Dr Philippe Brenot: of the more than 3400 French heterosexual women questioned, 60% labelled themselves good looking, 67% sensual and 74% said they felt desired and easily aroused.

In a country where people have a more open mind to nudity than, say, the British or Americans (France was voted the best naturist resort in 2008), there seems to be a link to a higher sense of self-esteem. You don't have to look further than our public beaches or local sport gyms to see that French women of all shapes and sizes are much more comfortable in their own skin and exude a healthy dose of confidence.

So how could posing for a nude portrait liberate your hang-ups? For most women, posing naked in front of a stranger and having your picture taken is not a normal occurrence. It takes courage. But once the photographer starts clicking away, suggesting this or that pose while reassuring how gorgeous you look, eventually you, the model, will start to believe it from within. That is the magic of the nude. Then, when you see the photos, they provide you with a new way to see yourself, often the start for a much-needed truce with your body: accepting you as you are fosters a real sense of pride and self-esteem. (Remember, though, that nude photos are for you and not at-

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tachments to be shared by text messaging or email – not even to your partner).

Nowadays women of all dimensions pose for nude portraits not only as a present for their partners but also as a morale-boosting gift for themselves. As Linda Alaniz, in her fifties, pointed out: "My goal is to make females feel beautiful, to celebrate their individuality."

We spoke with Leila Nafa (below), who runs Crew Eyewear ([creweyewear.com](http://creweyewear.com)), an Antibes-based company that sells top-end certified UV protected sunglasses that are customised with yacht logos and worn by crew or given to guests onboard (and only €80 a pop). Leila, 36, only became involved at the last minute.



"The night before the shoot, I got a call telling me one of the other girls had to pull out and asked if I would fill in," she explains. "Truthfully, I was a little dubious but on Sunday at the shoot, Linda showed me photos of some of the girls and they were so beautiful and flattering that it put my mind at ease. For the most part there's a lot of waiting around with adjustments and lighting, but Linda was very motherly, very caring and I didn't want to waste her time so I tried to be professional.

"This was an incredibly empowering experience, and there's nothing garish about it. We all have lumps and bumps that we are paranoid about but we are healthy so we did this for those women who don't have the luxury of being healthy. What more of a reason do we need to embrace our bodies?"

With a print run of 4000, the Yacht Women Who Dare To Bare calendar launched April 20th at the Antibes Yacht Show. Signed copies were auctioned off for up to €650, and to date they've raised €12,000 for the Worldwide Cancer Research Fund. The calendars ([facebook.com/WomenWhoDareToBare](http://facebook.com/WomenWhoDareToBare)) sell for €20 each and can be

found in local English shops like Heidi's in Antibes or Brittain's in Valbonne and the next big push will be at the Monaco Yacht Show (Sept 25th-

28th). Alternatively contact Leila (06 21 01 94 26 [sales@creweyewear.com](mailto:sales@creweyewear.com)) and she will deliver a copy to you within a week anywhere from Monaco to Cannes, or organise a mailing.

And if after reading this, you're ready to step up to the lens, see [alaniz-photo.com](http://alaniz-photo.com) ■

*Nathalie Giraud has been a sex therapist and relationship coach for ten years with an office on the Riviera and a shared practice in Paris. She's frequently interviewed for TV, radio and magazine media.*



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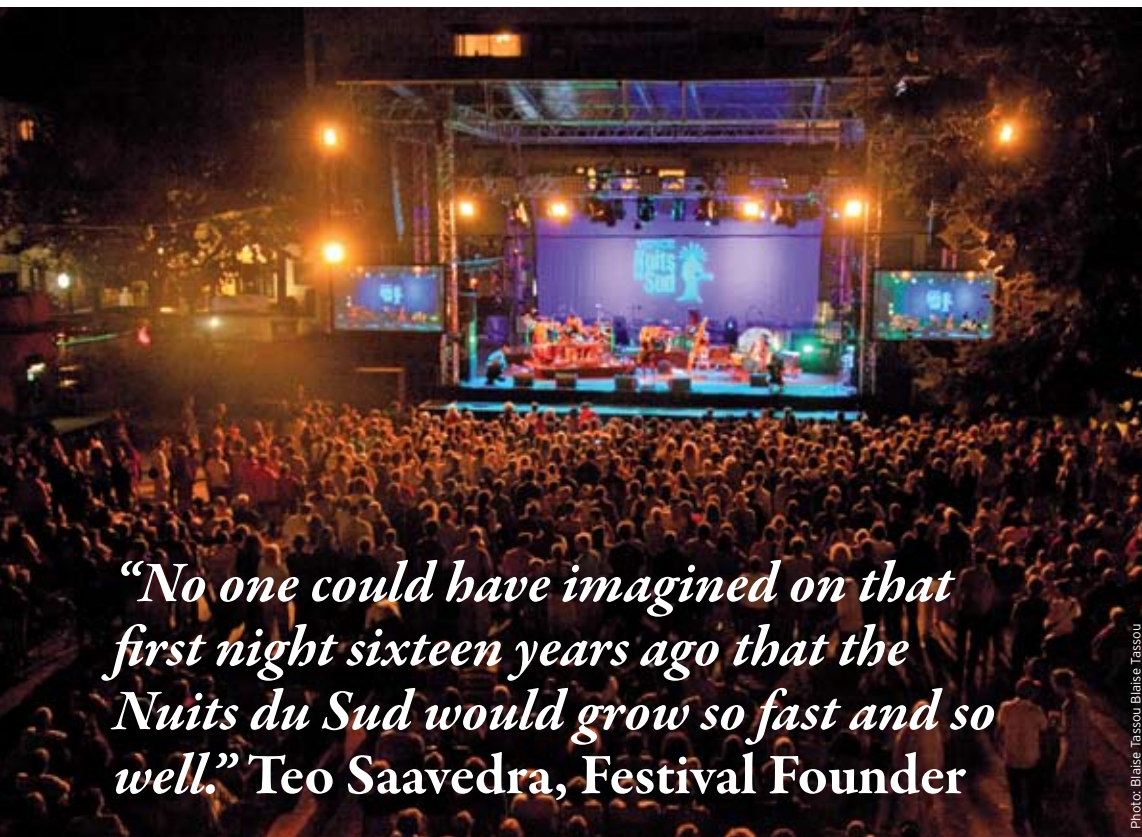
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# HAVANA GOOD TIME IN VENCE

By Nick Kent



*“No one could have imagined on that first night sixteen years ago that the Nuits du Sud would grow so fast and so well.”* Teo Saavedra, Festival Founder

Photo: Blaise Tassou Blaise Tassou

Line-up: Big queues were still snaking towards the entrances as the concert kicked off at 8:30pm.



Teo Saavedra, Nuits du Sud Founder & MC

ZUCCHERO, the re-born, is centre stage. His band belt out Cuban rhythms as a trio of black beauties wearing the minimum of white ostrich feathers gyrate on a platform suspended in mid-air. An audience in its thousands whoops and wiggles.

Can this really be happening in the modest square of a hill town in Provence? It can when it's the first night of the Nuits du Sud in Vence.

This festival of world music is in its sixteenth year. It would be easy to say that it's all down to one man, Teo Saavedra, and his vision, and in many ways it is. But without the work of hundreds of unsung mini-heroes this major summer event, running this year from mid-July to August 10th, would never have got off the ground and soared to the heights it currently enjoys.

Pause and rewind to 4pm on the first day of the 2013 Nuits du Sud. In the Place du Grand Jardin in Vence, dogs and kids and tourists criss-cross the dusty ground. The quiet of the afternoon is ripped as stacks of speakers come to life for the sound check, and your head turns towards a big,

multi-tiered stage. How did that get there? Quickly, is the answer. Up it went in 24 hours, a crew of fifty working flat-out.

And now other hands are transforming the square. The restaurants on either hand are laying tables, and more tables.

*“Desolée, nous sommes complet,”* says the owner of Le Troquet. On a normal Friday night in summer they'd have 20 covers maybe. Tonight it's 305. That's an awful lot of lamb shank to serve, and the entire front of the restaurant has been stripped out and resembles a field kitchen from the Crimean War.

The other resto owners agreed, it was good to be busy, but the first night ... well it was all a bit too much, really.

They'll have to get used to hiring hundreds of extra tables and chairs, because like Freddie Mercury said, Teo and his team don't want to stop at all. They started working on this festival in September last year. With 28 acts to book, schedule and look after, it's a major operation. The musicians and their entourages come in many different packages.

Tonight's bill features FM Laeti and Zuccherio. Chalk and cheese. Ms Laeti, a whip of a thing with youth on her side, gives us an interview in the window of the Leclerc bookshop on one side of the square and afterwards strolls unperturbed towards her room in the modest hotel on the other. Her performance later in the evening is spare, light. Something of a lukewarm-up act for most of the audience, who seemed there for a full-on rumba.

Old Zuc, an ageing bear in his lair, only comes out after dark when it's time to be hussled by his team through the fans and onto the stage. He has a lot of musical mouths to feed, so it's just as well that 6000 have paid €20 for a place in the Place tonight.

Why does he do it? He's about to get a free bus pass. I get the answer from Polo Jones, the cheery bassist who has been supporting Zuccherio for decades.

“Man, it's the only way to keep earnin’.” Nowadays they just download stuff, so no way can guys earn from recording. They've just gotta stay out there on the road.



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"Hey, everybody's out there – I hear Deep Purple are touring now! Soon there's not gonna be enough room."

Now it's half-nine and Mme Laeti has got through to the audience, who have picked up her gentle, melodious vibe. At the corners of the square, where a couple of hours earlier scores of tag-wearing official helpers had put up discreet entry barricades, people are still politely queuing to get in. Those inside who are not dining *à table* are being fed and watered from stalls. Everyone seems happily grooved in, except ... Teo! The master of ceremonies had earlier appeared on stage extolling the virtues of the *Eco-cup*, a branded plastic beaker that cost a refundable €1 and would make less work for the clearer-uppers of Vence. Having witnessed certain individuals supping from chuckable football-ground style plastic, he was frantically doing the rounds of vendors and restaurants to spread the *eco-word*.

As this intense guy in a big, colourful Bahamian shirt showed his talent for micro-management, I could see why the Nuits du Sud has endured.

"I've always believed in the project. But it was impossible to predict sixteen years

ago that the Nuits du Sud would succeed in the way it has. We've built the festival step by step.

"Sixteen years ago my wish was to connect my love for music to my work. So, I did it! Today, I'm working with a fantastic crew for a festival I'm glad to have created.

"My favourite moments? Every show was so important for me but certainly the arrival of Ruben Gonzalez, the Buena Vista Social Club pianist, in 2000. On that day Nice Airport called me. Festival-goers on a flight from Paris had asked the pilot to inform us that the flight would be late landing, they were afraid they'd miss the show. It was crazy. At that moment, I realized the festival had become an Event. So it was a very special moment, full of emotion."

The key to the wide appeal of the Nuits du Sud lies in Teo's own musical background.

"I've played guitar since I was young. I am interested in music from all around the world – French, blues, rock ... – I'm fascinated by all of it, I believe in World Music. This is why the program of the Nuits du Sud is extremely varied."

Rock on, Teo. ■



## Les Arcs beneath my wings

THE Independante in Les Arcs has a history that dates back to 1865 but these days the wind ensemble has a modern repertoire which includes Duke Ellington and Dixie time, French and pop music, and even Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

Every Tuesday evening, under the musical direction of Englishman Tony Bagwell, the more than 20 wind instrumentalists rehearse for two hours followed by an open bar (and nibbles).

The Independante is always on the look out for new members: flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone ... and membership costs €3 a year. Language is no problem as the band has several English members.

If you're interested, contact president Sue Jones on 04 94 67 12 51 or [jones.sue@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jones.sue@wanadoo.fr)

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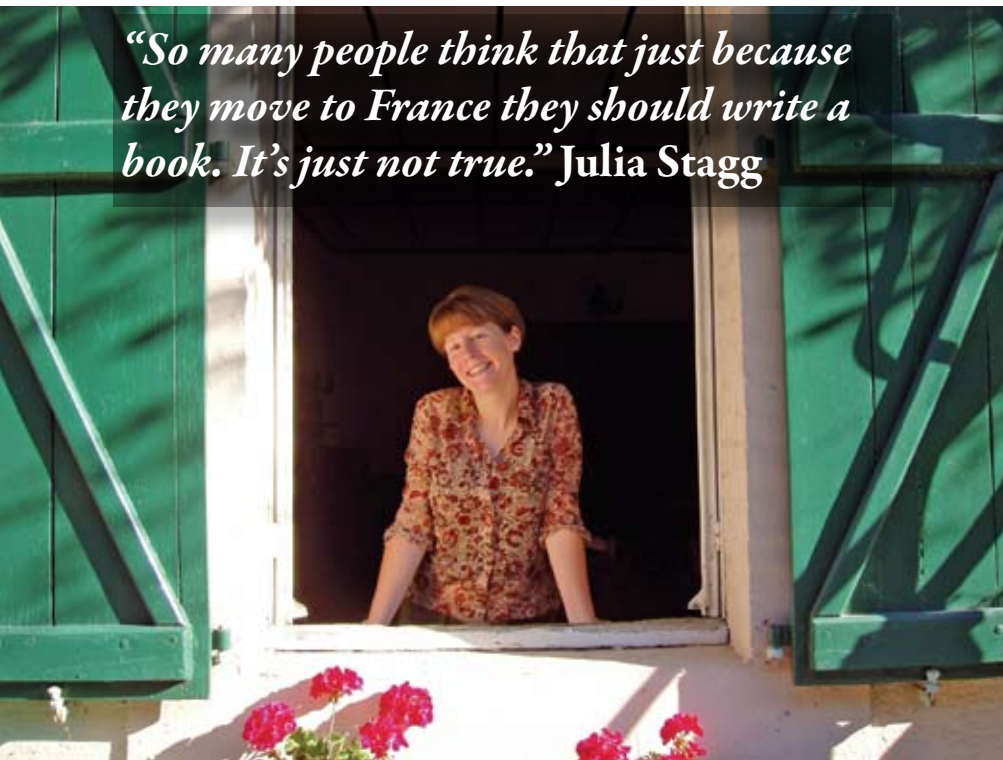
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# The chef, the cyclist and the conspiracy

Three British writers to read this summer

*"So many people think that just because they move to France they should write a book. It's just not true." Julia Stagg*



## A real "inn" to French living

TEACHING English as a Foreign Language, Julia Stagg has lived in Australia, Japan and the US, although her time in Charlotte, North Carolina, was thanks to her husband's work. When the two finally returned to the UK, they decided to develop a business together that would afford Julia time to write.

This led to the couple buying an Auberge in the Ariège-Pyrénées, even though neither spoke French ... nor knew how to cook. Despite this, the inn gave Julia and her husband an advantage: "It brought the village to us," she says.

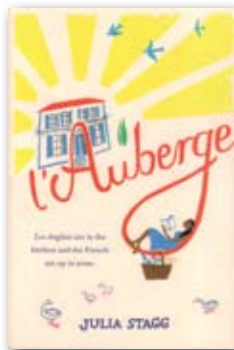
"A turning point was about four months after we arrived. There was a knock on the door and three of the village men asked if we could accommodate an informal party."

At least that's what Julia had understood. It turned out that *les mecs* needed a large place to make polenta, a tradition during pig-killing season when one villager shares his pig with every neighbour by separating the parts with the grain-based dish. Four weeks later, someone else has the honour of

poking the pig and so on. It was the start of an endearing friendship.

*L'Auberge* (UK: Hodder & Stoughton), which came out May 2011, is a fictitious account of *les anglais* who purchase an Auberge in the town of Fogas, in the French Pyrénées. The cast of characters makes for familiar reading for any foreigner who has ever lived in France – the owner of the only *épicerie*, the farmer living with his parents, the single mother, the post mistress, and of course the mayor to throw in a little *Système D* for good measure.

"I planned to write five books, each with the name of a French institution – like Auberge, Boulangerie, La Poste – within a commune," Julia tells us. "The French words posed a few problems for the English so that's been changed, otherwise each



story follows a different character in the village of Fogas."

I was surprisingly charmed by *L'Auberge*; I felt as though I was eating comfort food on a chilly winter's day.

*L'Auberge* is published in seven languages. What does Julia, who has become an avid cyclist, feel is the key to her success? "The writing is fiction, and I'm the storyteller. Not everyone has an interesting story, nor the ability to tell the tale. And writing is a disciplined work that must be constantly crafted."

The third instalment in Julia's Fogas series, *The French Postmistress*, is due out in paperback in September. For more on Julia see [jstagg.com](http://jstagg.com)

## How to enjoy French food and lose weight

WITH *France on Two Wheels: Six Long Bike Rides for the Bon Vivant Cyclist* (UK: Short Books) Adam Ruck has written



a travel book that is equally informative as it is enjoyable. All three of Ruck's passions are evident: his love of the French countryside, cycling and French cuisine. His six rides,

which he illustrates with maps, cover almost every geographical area of France and there's a trip in this book for every cycling level. Even if you're a week-end pedaller who is looking for an easy route in France with a good hotel and meal at the end of the day, you'll find that, too.

Ruck's style of writing extremely appealing; it's very British without being pretentious or overbearing. At the end of each chapter he includes a list of the restaurants and hotels he visited, which range from cheap to expensive, as well as essential websites.

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And even if you never want to climb in the saddle, Ruck's book is worth the read if you're interested in visiting less travelled French towns and villages. Avid cyclists looking for travel tips will find that *Two Wheels* pays for itself.

See [france2wheels.com](http://france2wheels.com)

## A political thriller with many layers

AT 586 pages, *Paris Night* (UK: Marble-Joe) might be a tad heavy for toting to the beach, but its weightiness will certainly



keep your towel from being blown away. (There is a lighter Kindle version for €6.) Conspiracy, terror, money, murder and sex (not necessarily in that order) in the underbelly of France are promised by author Roderick d'Entrac ([roderickdentrac.com](http://roderickdentrac.com)), a British journalist who has lived in France

for 35 years. Roderick was an independent strategic consultant to the EU Commission leading up to the launch of the euro and, eleven years ago, he founded a mini think-tank in France.

"For decades France has rejected deep reforms, and a strong smell of decadence is polluting its institutions," he says in an interview. "There will be an awakening, but the longer the sleep-walking lasts, the greater the shock."

*Paris Night* is fiction, yet its "culture of political corruption" is very topical. "The novel gives insights into how France really works, with an environment out of which so many scandals, like DSK, have emerged and continue to emerge almost every week. The most spectacular recent example being the Cahuzac Affair, and the dramatic warning by President Hollande that this climate of scandals could destroy the Fifth Republic."

The Prologue is a little off-putting and wanton, so maybe skip to Chapter One, knowing a terrorist attack against the West is imminent. D'Entrac's style fortunately evens out from here as the story spans different regions in France making for a decent, albeit complicated, read. ■

## Pages à la Plage ... and elsewhere



PLAGE Macé, near the Palais des Festivals, is operating its annual beach library, this year from June 15th to Aug 31st (10h to 18h). For a €10 deposit, readers can

borrow books for up to two days; English publications are also available. For more call 04 97 06 44 83.

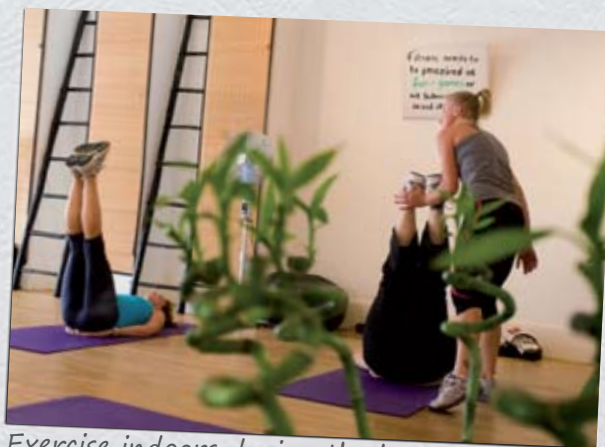
And if you're in Nice, Hotel Meyerbeer's newly opened cultural café at 15 rue Meyerbeer keeps a stock of second-hand English books, while the English-American Library of Nice (12 bis rue de France; [nice-english-library.org](http://nice-english-library.org)) has tourist memberships for €6/week. Open Tues-Sat, 10h-11h and 15h-17h, there are 28,000 volumes in English plus magazines, newspapers and DVDs.

# MAKE SURE YOU SIZZLE (not fizzle) THIS SUMMER!

By Colette Kent, FitHub



Stay cool (& fit!) on the stand up paddle board



Exercise indoors during the hot temps

IT'S getting hotter and hotter on the Riviera as the lazy days of summer are well under way. Yet despite what you might think, taking time out of your fitness routine during the summer months is not actually a good idea.

In fact, according to experts, you may be doing yourself more harm than good as studies suggest that the benefits of exercise are lost in four to six weeks of inactivity. Plus we all know how hard it is to start back up again after a break!

With the higher temps, though, many of my clients find themselves lacking energy and struggle to maintain any kind of exercise routine. So my advice is rather than putting on the exercise breaks and losing fitness levels that were so hard to build up, simply adjust the workouts.

## Work out early in the morning.

Before the sun hits its peak and when the air is less polluted, this is an invigorating way to start the day, plus you'll feel energised till your head hits the pillow.

## Head indoors.

The population on the Riviera swells dramatically in summer and the increased traffic causes air pollution, which can damage your lungs, particularly in the evening when pollution can be at its highest. So if the only available time you have to workout is at lunchtime or after work, then consider taking your workout indoors – a group class at FitHub in Nice or go to the gym: Fitlane now has eight clubs from Nice to Mandelieu.

## Make some waves.

There are many great water sports to enjoy on the Riviera – stand up paddle boarding (SUP), kayaking, windsurfing. Many local beaches rent out this equipment, or just check out your local Club Nautique:

### Clubs Nautique

Nice: [cnnice.fr](http://cnnice.fr)  
Antibes: [cna.antibes.free.fr](http://cna.antibes.free.fr)  
Golfe Juan: [cngj.free.fr](http://cngj.free.fr)  
Cannes: [club-nautique-croisette.fr](http://club-nautique-croisette.fr)  
Mandelieu: [mandelieu.fr](http://mandelieu.fr)  
Frejus: [club-nautique-frejus.pagesperso-orange.fr](http://club-nautique-frejus.pagesperso-orange.fr)

**FITIP:** SUP originated in Hawaii in the 80s and its popularity quickly spread. In France, it's relatively new so there are no laws as such. The board is considered a beach toy so you can't go further than 300m from the shore, but in swimming areas the SUP can be forbidden because of the paddle (like a canoe). You'll need to check with the lifeguard. Cannes Stand Up Paddle ([cannesstanduppaddle.fr](http://cannesstanduppaddle.fr)) rents boards from as little as €8/30 minutes, giving you a chance to discover this complete body workout while taking in magnificent coastal views and keeping cool.

## Protect your skin.

Many sport sunscreens are sweat-resistant to survive your workouts. Use the Météo-France app to check the day's UV rating.

## Hats on.

Wearing a light-coloured hat will not only keep the hair off your face but will also deflect the sun's rays, protect your face and absorb sweat from your forehead (helpful if you wear contact lenses). The advantage of a hat over a visor is that you can soak the hat and put it back on as a cooling aid.

## Hang loose.

If you are running outdoors, wear unrestricting clothing. Lighter colours will reflect the heat while breathable fabrics such as cotton will keep you dry. Why is this so important? It's the evaporation of sweat that keeps you cool.

Take frequent breaks (don't overexert) and try to run on shady paths, like at the Parc Valmasque in Mougins, instead of on pavement, which only absorbs and stores heat because of its low heat reflectivity. If you start feeling dizzy do not lie down: walk around slowly, find shade and always keep your head upright.

## Drink up.

Thirst is our weakest sense, so if you feel thirsty then you're already dehydrated. Drink water – sips not gulps – before, during and after workouts. If out on your bike or going for a long run, set your watch or phone alarm for every 15 minutes to remind you to drink.

In the hot weather, think about adding electrolytes to your water. Electrolytes control your body's fluids, and create electrical impulses vital to all aspects of physical activity. Run & Style in Nice (3 rue Chauvan) sell ready-made powders or, even better, make your own:

### Homemade Electrolyte Drink

- 1/4 cup of lemon juice
- 1/4 cup of lime juice
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 whole squeezed orange (or a can of frozen OJ)
- 1 litre of water

The best way to check whether you're adequately hydrated is to check the colour of your urine. If it's clear to pale yellow then you're well hydrated, if it's darker in colour then you need to drink more water.

Says Jeff Gaudette at RunnersConnect, "An average, healthy adult should urinate 5-8 times a day ... This is especially important to note after hard workouts or long runs. You shouldn't be going 5-6 hours between bathroom stops if you're well hydrated."

**FITIP:** To calculate how much you need to stay hydrated in any temperature, Google "Sweat Loss Calculator".

## Listen to your body.

Most *sportifs* believe they can "power through" the heat. The reality is that there are real dangers, so if you feel any of the following signs you need to take steps to cool down immediately and seek medical attention if severe. For emergencies dial 15 or 112, or in English, Riviera Medical Services, 04 93 26 12 70. Heat exhaustion symptoms:

- Headaches
- Heavy sweating
- Cold, moist skin, chills
- Dizziness or fainting
- Weak or rapid pulse
- Muscle cramps
- Fast, shallow breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or both


Why is heat stroke a medical emergency? Body organs are made of protein and when the body temperature reaches or surpasses 105.1°F (40.5°C), the protein can break down.

- High fever
- Strong, rapid pulse
- Warm, dry skin with no sweating
- Confusion/unconsciousness
- Throbbing headaches
- Nausea, vomiting or both

## Food for thought.

Although we tend to eat lighter at this time of the year, excess calories can be consumed with sugary drinks and alcohol – and yes that includes rosé, which seems to flow endlessly on the Riviera. Be sure to drink water as well to stay hydrated.

I believe it's all about balance and moderation: enjoy the socialising but keep your body toned and trim throughout the summer with regular exercise. Cheers! ■



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# FLYING LIGHT ... it's the weigh to go



THE arrival of the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner (a Norwegian flight from Oslo) at Nice-Côte d'Azur on July 8th heralds a new age in eco-aviation for these lighter aircraft that promise fuel savings of up to 20%. The A350 is Airbus's first contribution to the growing market for less heavy airframes with redesigned profiles, wingtip refinements and the use of carbon

fibre, which is lighter and stronger than metal equivalents.

Fuel is an airline's biggest single expense: only eight years ago it accounted for 15% of an average airline's running costs but today it has surged to over 40%. A Boeing 747 needs 60,000 gallons (227,000L) to fill its tanks, while the annual cost of commercial aircraft fuel worldwide is over

\$200 billion. Nice airport can currently stock 1440m<sup>3</sup> of fuel (370,000 gallons) but is expanding this to 5400m<sup>3</sup> as demand increases. The current stock is only just enough to cover long-weekend needs when fuel trucks cannot use French autoroutes for top-up delivery.

American Airlines saved over \$1 million a year on fuel for their Boeing 777 fleet alone by replacing heavy flight manuals with iPads; Qantas currently prints 18,000 pages of crew information every day but has bought 2000 iPads and commissioned their own app so that by September their 737 fleet will be fully equipped, saving 20kg of weighty paper on each flight.

It costs fuel to carry fuel so budget airlines especially want their pilots to carry the smallest fuel loads possible within the authorised limits. The subject was spotlighted last year when some Ryanair flights needed priority landing in Spain because they were running low on fuel. As a retired pilot from a different airline told the *Reporter*, "Aircraft engines aren't designed to run just on the fumes left in empty tanks." The Ryanair flights were within the legal guidelines and the Irish carrier has not been sanctioned.

More severe baggage restrictions now imposed by carriers such as easyJet (see Letters) are also part of the battle of the bulge. Meanwhile the industry has been toying with the idea of charging passengers by their body weight, making cheaper travel another incentive for some of us to go on a diet. ■

*For the full version of this article see our website.*

## Tipping the scales

A RECENT TripAdvisor survey of 9000 people from countries including the US, UK, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Russia and Brazil has revealed that Germans are the most generous tippers when travelling overseas, with the US taking second, as 57% of Americans claim to "always leave a tip when on the road" although only 16% felt "well informed about international tipping etiquette".

Explains TripAdvisor's Brooke Ferencsik, "Tipping is a cultural norm in the states and US travellers have a tendency to take their customs on the road whether they are on American soil or travelling abroad."

France, Spain and the UK all came in

between 36% and 39%, with Brazil at 40% and Russia 53%. And the most tight-fisted tippers of the nine nationalities surveyed? The Italians (23%).

## "The Best of the Worst"

STARTED over a year ago, a Prague-based travel agency offers a unique speciality: walking tours – in Czech, German and English – of corrupt areas and cities. Example: "Hospitals on the Edge of the Law", a medical corruption tour of three notorious Prague hospitals.

"Corruption is a worldwide phenomenon," the company says, "but most people do not know what it looks like. We look at the brighter side of sleaze, and take our customers

behind the scenes. Corruption is mankind's cultural heritage after all. Enjoy the Best of the Worst!"

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

## It's a bird, it's a ... Falcon

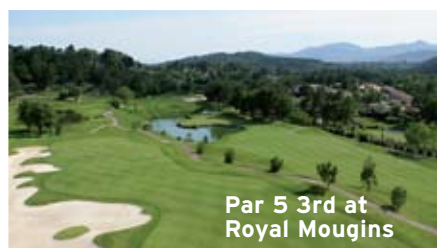
IF you're wondering about that shiny new building near the east end of the airport, it's the hangar for HSH Prince Albert's new private jet – a Falcon 7X to replace his 900EX. The late Marcel Dassault always said that for a plane to fly well it had to be beautiful. The Dassault Falcon 7X is indeed that with a range of 11,000km and a top speed of 753km/h. You can buy your own for about \$45 million but finding a comparable hangar in Nice might be a problem.

# TEE UP YOUR TOP HOLES

Help us build a dream course



Par 4 16th at  
Château Taulane



Par 5 3rd at  
Royal Mougins



11th par 5 on Le Château, Terre Blanche

JOIN Riviera Golfer in our search for our Elite Eighteen, the best individual 18 holes in the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var.

We have teamed up with Golf Plus to launch this historic quest for quality, and we know that selecting the very finest from an impressive collection of golf holes isn't going to be easy.

Where to start? Some of you will be tempted to pick the signature hole of the fabulous Château course at Terre Blanche in Fayence, the par 5 downhill 11th, thrilling to look down as it frames Tourrettes in the hilly distance, and

terrifying to play – a mini-ravine trapping anything remotely left and then crossing straight in front of the green.

Or the remodelled 18th at Claux Amic, Grasse, now a par 5 of fearsome length, your reward for reaching the green the delightful sight of Cabris in one direction and the Doublier mountain in the other?

And how about the 11th on the Old Course, Mandelieu? Only a long drive on the perfect line will take that big umbrella pine out of play for the shot to the green.

Brilliant or just beautiful – there are

many reasons that can come into play when a golfer chooses his favourite hole.

Voting is easy. Send your choice of favourite hole with a sentence or two telling us why you think it merits a place in our Elite Eighteen. Email [nick@rivierareporter.com](mailto:nick@rivierareporter.com) or send by post to Riviera Golfer, Riviera Reporter, 56 Chemin de Provence, 06250 Mougins.

We would also like to know your nominations for Hell Holes – include the hateful hole that you can never seem to par no matter what tactic you employ. ■ **Nick Kent**

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For details of membership, please contact Bernard Boukhobza. Email: [info@golf06.com](mailto:info@golf06.com). Phone: 06 75 84 09 08.



# ON COURSE FOR A RENAISSANCE



HE'S too modest to welcome the comparison, but Nuno Bastos is, like his fellow countryman José Mourinho, The Special One.

This particular Portuguese is the new director of golf at Riviera de Barbossi, the Robert Trent Jones Sr course that lies between Mandelieu and the Esterel mountains. Nuno, an open and likeable man, has a big job to do – pushing Riviera up into the Premier League of Côte d'Azur courses that has the likes of Taulane and Terre Blanche.

He's only been in the post since the beginning of the summer, but he's attacking on all fronts.

"There is much to be done," says the 54-year-old as he sips coffee against the delightful mountain backdrop of Riviera's restaurant terrace. And we have started ...

"We are improving the course

drainage, renewing the irrigation system, and improving the bunkers. We have appointed a head greenskeeper who is a qualified agronomist to oversee the works, because it is a specialised business.

"The clubhouse and restaurant are being altered as we need to create more of the atmosphere of a traditional golf club.

"Most of all we will be striving to attract new players to the course. Golf in the South of France has become enormously competitive. Not so long ago a green fee here cost €120. That is just not realistic these days.

"Now we have reduced the prices. We are offering special packages of golf and accommodation using the Ermitage du Riou (a charming 40-room hotel on the riverside at La Napoule, part of the Domaine Barbossi), but because that is quite a

small hotel we have started working with other establishments in Cannes."

There are a lot of add-ons in the wonderful world of Barbossi. Wine tastings tickle your fancy? Come and share a glass with Tino, who runs the Barbossi vineyard next to the course. Anyone for tennis? The Barbossi courts are at your disposal.

In Nuno's impressive brain, it's all part of a grand plan – that's right, it's hard not to keep making comparisons with the current Chelsea coach. But the man is used to grand plans. He was at the birth of what has become in no time one of the world's great golf courses, Oitavos Dunes on the Lisbon Coast, working with the dashing Miguel Champalimaud to create a venue that has, according to Paul McGinley, the potential to become the best golf course in Europe.

Nuno moved on to a very differ-



ent golf project, the impressive Aphrodite Hills resort course between Paphos and Akrotiri in Cyprus.

"It was great to be part of the success of Aphrodite Hills. By the time I left we were having 40,000 rounds a year, and the golf staff had grown to 45. At Riviera Barbossi, I am aiming for 25,000 rounds within two years.

"To achieve this we must change our ways radically. We need to attract new members, a new sort of player."

Riviera Barbossi got off to a flying start when it opened in the early Nineties. The canny developer had sold golf club memberships as part of the package to people buying the new villas that discreetly border part of the course. Instantly there was a large and lively group of members and the club's reputation grew, attracting green fees in good numbers to boost income.

*"I am aiming for 25,000 rounds within two years."*

*Nuno Bastos*



But with a change of ownership came a decline, until the Franco-Lebanese millionaire Iskandar Safa became the new Barbossi boss. He may have the lowest of low profiles, but Mr Safa has been responsible for giving the golf course a unique look. Sculptures drawn from a kaleidoscope of artistic taste, some of them gigantic, litter the course. In play, I find them unnerving at times – half a ton of twisted steel girder reminds me of how my stomach feels when I miss a short putt. But there they sit, and there they will stay, I guess.

Nuno talks of making the course a bit longer, presumably to attract pro events, but it's quite a test already, with some difficult holes interspersed with what head pro François Lamare calls "fun" holes – teasers that invite you to play the drive in a variety of ways.

Those who have not played Riviera for some time will be pleased by the way the order of holes has changed. The former first, an interesting par 5, is now the third, with the old 17th and 18th holes being 1st and 2nd respectively. This makes for a much more satisfying experience, closing with the superb par 5 to the west of the clubhouse lake.

And here's a challenge for you: no course record has yet been set for the new layout. Get practising!

The last word goes to Nuno, a guy who, underneath the engaging exterior, I suspect is used to having the last word. A guy who has a lot on his plate, not the least of which is keeping his 12 handicap while working his nuts off.

"I want to make the South of France

a destination for international golfers in the way that Portugal now is. I am not alone, the Palais des Festivals in Cannes has started an initiative to promote our golf to players from overseas.

"They have brought together 11 golf courses and 40 hotels to offer exciting packages to these golfers. Can you imagine how difficult it is to get all those different elements working together?

"They really mean business." ■

## BLAZE BREAKER!

THE Riviera Barbossi course played an important part in saving a swathe of residential homes in Mandelieu from being engulfed by flames during the last big forest fire in the area.

On the evening of July 4th, 2007, a car caught fire on the hard shoulder of the A8 motorway a few kilometres west of the Mandelieu exit. Strong winds swept the flames across the A8 and within minutes trees by the side of the motorway were ablaze. Fanned by the wind, the fire surged out of control down the valley of the Argentière river towards Mandelieu.

More than a thousand residents in west Mandelieu were evacuated and, although much damage was done to vegetation, very few homes were affected by this large-scale fire. Why? Because the wide fairways of Riviera Barbossi acted as a superb firebreak.



# SWISHFUL THINKING

François Lamare, head pro at Riviera Barbossi, shares his form with **RIVIERA GOLFER**

A European Challenge Tour player, François Lamare won the Danish Open and through that went on to play on the main tour for a spell. So it comes as a surprise that he advocates club throwing – a disgraceful spectacle all too common these days as bad-tempered golfers multiply – as the best way to start on the path to a great swing.

Have I got the wrong end of the stick? Of course ... but by this time François has the wrong end of the club in his hand.

“Swooo-eesh” he goes as he demonstrates one of his fave training

techniques “The correct action of the swing is like throwing a ball. When you throw a ball you move your weight forward to get maximum distance. It’s the same with the golf swing.

“To get this good feeling, take a club by the head with one hand and swooo-eesh it through the swing action. You want the shaft to make that swishing noise as it accelerates.”

## Reverse pivot tip

François sees many golfing casualties of the reverse pivot – the body’s weight

staying on the right side (for a right-hander) when it should shift on to the left side through ball impact.

“Players see pictures of the swing in a book, watch the pros on TV, and to them it looks like the proper thing to do is to stay ‘behind’ the ball, but you cannot have proper contact with the ball unless your weight shifts through completely on to the left side.

“I get the player with this trouble to clasp the club to his chest and to turn, keeping on a plane, not dipping down behind the ball.”



## A THREE IN ONE

ENGLISH-speaking François and his assistant pros, Isabelle Lambolez and Jonathan Faudin, have my favourite practice area in the region for their lessons. Constructed with oodles of charm in a hidden valley just across the road from the Riviera Barbossi clubhouse, the terrain features three short practice holes as well as a good putting surface and driving range.

For the €5 price of a bucket of balls (and these are proper balls, not the round bits of Polyfilla you get on some ranges), you can practice pitches up to 80 metres, chipping, bunker play ...

Contact François on 06 07 38 72 32 for details of his lessons, which cost €60 per hour. For beginners, there’s no need to turn up with clubs as these are provided free of charge, a nice touch.



# LIFE'S A BEACH WITH "POCKET"

IF you want to keep up with the rest of the world when you're holidaying on a remote beach or mountain top then you need Pocket – formerly known as Read it Later. Whenever you have an internet connection just go to the sites containing pages you want to read later (any text page, public website, instruction manual, recipe in text form, news site or magazine including *Riviera Reporter's* online articles) and with a single click send the links to your free Pocket account for reading offline. That's it. You can do this from your browser, Twitter client, RSS newsreader or any one of almost 360 other applications. You can even email the webpage link to your Pocket account, which will then load the text for you to read on your iOS device, Android or Kindle Fire wherever you don't have a connection. You can also read your saved pages in any browser on PC or Mac when you are connected.

This app is very simple to use and once you start, you won't be able to live without it. The *Wall Street Journal* ranks Pocket amongst their top 5 apps.

Pocket is free and can be used on Android or iOS as well as Google Chrome (now the most popular browser) on PC or Mac. If we had to delete all our iOS apps but one, Pocket is the one we'd keep.

## UV, BABY

UV Meter claims to tell you the UV index at your current location, gives you advice on how much exposure is too much and which sun blocker you should be wearing. Requires

## APPS

an internet connection for live consulting. It's no doubt a useful basic guide but we wouldn't bet our melanoma on it.

## WHAT'S UP DOC?

YOU'RE far away on summer holiday and you don't feel too well so off you go to the local sawbones who doesn't speak English (and of course you don't speak Portuguese). Available for iOS and billed as a helpful medical translation app for travellers, patients and doctors, Universal Doctor Speaker has a database of 5500 common medical sentences in each of 12 languages and includes audio translations.

It's a bit pricey at almost €7 and you're not likely to need it often but when you do, it could be a lifesaver.

## ONE FOR THE BIG BOYS

THERE'S nothing like a remote controlled flying machine for a bit of summer fun in the garden. Miniature helicopters are available for about €35 from most toy stores and some hypermarkets. You can also order one online from [fxmodelrc.com](http://fxmodelrc.com) and the free i-Helicopter app turns your iPad, iPod Touch or iPhone into a remote controller.

Griffin also makes their own HeloTC model, which



can be controlled with iOS or Android. These miniature helicopters are rather fragile so it's best to keep them out of the reach of children who may watch but not touch. Dads will understand. ■

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# we've got mail...

## NOT SO EASY CABIN ALLOWANCE

YOUR report in the June/July 2013 edition about easyJet reducing the size of cabin baggage is not correct. According to the easyJet website, from July 2 bags of the new smaller size are guaranteed to go in the cabin with you. You can still bring a cabin bag of up to 56 x 45 x 25cm but "on busy flights it may have to be put in the hold" ... but without charge. It would probably also be one of the first bags out (hold luggage having already been stowed) so could be merrily circulating on the luggage reclaim belt by the time you get out of the plane and into the terminal. Perhaps you could check and clarify your article in the next edition.

Jon.M, by email

*EasyJet's new guarantee bag policy means that 56 x 45 x 25cm bags are still permitted onboard, however the bag guarantee is a way for passengers to gain peace of mind that their 50 x 40 x 20 bag will definitely travel with them onboard the flight (whereas with the 56 x 45 x 25 this guarantee does not apply). To be noted that passengers won't be charged if their bag cannot be onboard.*  
Raphaëlle Amaudric,  
easyJet Press Officer



## LEAVING THE EU NOT EVEN AN OPTION

YOUR article about leaving the EU was very interesting but Britain isn't going to leave the EU. It isn't even an option. Think of what would need to be done before that became a possibility.

For a start, 40 years of legislation – both EU and British (based on EU) – trade and many other agreements arrived at with third parties through the EU would need unpicking and redoing. All that would take how many years? While that was going on, the world would keep turning and Britain would have to negotiate its new position within the world and its relationship with the EU. How many more years?

No, Farrage should go back to doing what he obviously does best, playing in a sandpit.

David Heal, by email

## LEAVING THE EU

I think the British people should be careful about what they wish for. British business interests, such as the CBI, are very much against Britain giving up its seat at the EU table. From a trade point of view, it's safe to say that with American protectionism being what it is we could be left alone in the world. Within the next year, more cars will be built in Britain than in France. That certainly would not be the case if Britain were not in the EU. Cars (and many other products) are only built in the UK because of our EU connections. It's a bit like being married or in a partnership. The partner might have many faults and not be perfect but in practical terms we're much better off with than without.

BARRY  
KLINGMAN, Nice

Star  
letter

## TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION

DEREK Fletcher's inverted "No Representation without Taxation" argument in your last issue looks deceptively straightforward. But the two terms are not equivalent and make no more sense reversed than "No Permission without Trespassing". Such a tax-based voting rule unjustly excludes millions of UK citizens who travel, work and retire across the world while fully retaining their national identity, language, culture, way of life, home contacts and right of abode.

Many of these served their country in the Armed Forces, worked in the UK for years or represented their country abroad in business, education or the arts, with some even receiving formal honours for their contribution to Britain's interests. The only option for them to recover their democratic right is – absurdly – to adopt the nationality of their host country. Few other nations act in this vindictive manner,

treating their overseas citizens as beyond-the-pale traitors.

France, for example, goes out of its way to encourage its overseas compatriots to vote in national elections back home, and actually assigns specific MPs to represent them abroad. As the country that painted half the globe pink in the 19th century, it is high time that Britain also respected the voting rights of its countrymen abroad in the 21st century. The British Government is our Government, too, and the right to vote is about far more than merely where you pay your tax.

If Mr Fletcher still thinks that taxation is what it is all about, then will he please explain why half a million French and many other foreign taxpayers living in the UK are denied the opportunity to vote for or against Mr Millipede? Because they already have the right to vote on national issues back home? Quite right, too. And that should also be the case for British citizens abroad, instead of a regime where living elsewhere is considered betrayal.

Anthony Vyryan, Villeneuve-Loubet

## WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

MONACO is the only country in the world where the population doubles every working day.

Carl Budge, by email

## MONACO SPORTING

YOUR Molly Brown is certainly tenacious about defending the Sporting d'Hiver and Casino gardens. What a champion of elegant and traditional architecture of which there are still a few beautiful examples in Monaco. I have seen her mentioned in *Country Life* and *Nice-Matin*. She's quite a fighter!

E.J.P. Curtiss, by email

## IN ENGLISH PLEASE

CONCERNING the Egyptian situation I have read Morsy, Morsi, Mursi all in the last month. What is the correct spelling? You are the press ... why is this so difficult? You journalists aren't very good at tuning your violins, are you?

Mary Bead, by email

*This is a recurring problem with foreign names, and especially there is no way to accurately translate Arabic names into English, so everyone does it their own way.*

*Is it the Koran or Quran or Qu'ran? Was the prophet called Mohammed, Muhammad*

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## LETTERS

or Muhammed? Muhammad is the closest we can get in English but most journalists write Mohammed

And what about the late Libyan Colonel? Gaddafi? Kadafi? Qaddafi? Gadhafi, Kaddafi? Gathafi? They've all been used in the press but are all wrong because it should really have a prefix as it does in Arabic, such as el-Kadhafii or al-Gaddafi...

The same often happens in Greek. Greece should really be called Hellas (as in Hellenic). I remember trying to get a ticket to Corfu once, before realising that it's called Kerkyra in Greek.

The funniest thing that ever happened in my travels was when I met a couple of Americans at the airport in Rome who said they were flying to Monaco for the first time. I told them that they would have to go through Nice because Monaco didn't have an airport but they were adamant that I didn't know what I was talking about. They had tickets direct to Monaco, which of course has an airport because a Prince lives there.

In fact Italians usually call Munich "Monaco di Baviera" so as not to confuse it with the Principality but these two "world travellers" were particularly

disagreeable know-it-alls, so maybe they thought their Italian travel agent didn't know what he was talking about either. Or maybe he did. M.M.

### E-REPORT

I like getting my Reporter by pdf on my computer instead of picking it up at a distribution point but isn't there a way of letting us know when it's available?

JaneB, by email

Thanks for that excellent idea. Anyone who wants to be advised when the latest issue is online should email [info@RivieraReporter.com](mailto:info@RivieraReporter.com) with "Advise Issue" as the subject. The email address you send it from will go onto a group list that we will advise as soon as a new issue appears. Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else. M.M.

### THE ROMANCE OF ROUNDABOUTS

THE French were late in discovering roundabouts, when I started driving here 30 years ago it was all junctions and *priorité à droit*. Now their fling with gyratory traffic has turned into a full-blown love affair. I am sure there is a discreet inter-commune competition for the most lovely *rond-point*, and if there isn't there should be. My vote this year goes to this beauty at the junction of the D4 and D204 to the east of Valbonne (below). Any challengers? Sheelagh Stark, Mandelieu



# Is the grass really greener on the other side?

## Enter the world's largest expat survey for your chance to win £1000 cash

CALLING all expatriates of any nationality! Have you moved overseas for a better quality of life for your family, to pursue a career opportunity or simply for a change of scenery to the place you always adored? If you have, then The Expat Survey wants to hear from you and this is the opportunity to make sure your voice is heard.



Whatever initiated your move, The Expat Survey invites you to share your opinions on a variety of different topics. While there are the usual questions requiring you to tick boxes, the research study breaks away from convention and enquires about your experience, whether or not expectations have been fulfilled, what expats miss about home and requests tips and advice for others contemplating a move to a new place. Your input will make a valuable contribution to understanding how those residing outside their country of origin can be supported, so that organisations and companies that specialise in servicing

expatriate communities and individuals can understand their needs better.

In a world of rapid change and volatile economies, with the diversification and consolidation of businesses resulting in employment instability and mounting stress, many have chosen to move overseas in the belief that the grass is greener on the other side. For some a permanent move, for others temporary; in many cases for a lifestyle change, for others there has been no choice. Whether it has proven to be the best or worst decision you ever made, your feedback is essential.

The Expat Survey is the largest independent research study ever undertaken on migration and expatriate life. Led by the ex-head of research for BBC World, it does not share any information with third parties and has no links whatsoever to Governments. It is entirely independent and promoted, but not sponsored, by almost 100 publishers and reputable companies servicing expatriates around the world, such as the international accountancy firm Chantrey Vellacott DFK and the specialist expatriate insurance company Clements Worldwide.

Conducted as an annual rolling programme, the study comprises three surveys – Migration & Lifestyle (start date July 15th), Retail & Finance (Sept 10th) and Travel & Health (Nov 5th). While the main thrust of each survey lasts 8 weeks, all surveys will remain live until December 31st, 2013 so that a continual collection of responses takes place.

Those that complete all three surveys are automatically entered into a prize draw to win £1000, which you can opt to donate to charity if you wish.

Go to [theexpatsurvey.com](http://theexpatsurvey.com) to find out more and complete the first survey, which has now gone live. ■



## Where passion is the only requirement



LAST issue we featured local photographer Jilly Bennett. If you can't find your copy, the article is on our website along with some links to her photography on the eastern Riviera.

Jilly has been lucky enough to take part in *Telling Tales: The Art of Creating Stories in Images and Words*, a workshop in Monaco by "two of Europe's most intrepid and intuitive chroniclers", award-winning photojournalist, author and documentary filmmaker, Nick Danziger, and best-selling author, Rory MacLean.

The group was small (a maximum of ten people) with teaching tailored to the needs of each participant.

Jilly wrote to the *Reporter*: "I thought their course would be out of my league but I can tell you it was truly a life-changing experience and I loved every second of it. We each worked on an assignment that was close to our heart and presented it on the final day. We left with a clear direction for our future creative projects. Mine is well underway! Nick and Rory are brilliant teachers."

Nick and Rory will be giving two additional four-and-a-half day writing and photography workshops in English on Sept 9th-13th and Oct 7th-11th in Monaco. Cost: €1250. Tempted? Email: [danzigerexhibitions@gmail.com](mailto:danzigerexhibitions@gmail.com) or see [nickdanziger.com/workshops](http://nickdanziger.com/workshops)

## WRITE TO US

Letters to the Editor can be sent by post (see page 50) or email to [info@rivierareporter.com](mailto:info@rivierareporter.com). Unless specifically marked "not for publication", letters may be published in our Letters pages and may also be added to our website forum. Names are withheld when requested but please note anonymous letters will not be considered.

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## ANCHORED OFF

YACHTING

By Michael Healy

TRAVELLING along the Riviera coast by sea, road or rail reveals a phenomenon new this summer: an amazing number of large yachts anchored not far offshore. This is sometimes because of parsimonious owners or charterers avoiding marina fees, but it is true France has an acute shortage of berths, and available places get booked up early. Italy has been busy constructing new marinas – Loana, Ospedaletti and Ventimiglia are nearby – but France has lagged behind, so there are never enough places for the increasing numbers of mega-yachts flocking to the Riviera.

Some yachts are actually cruising for the enjoyment of their owners and guests, and they are greatly welcomed in the facilities ashore. Others are simply “parked”, waiting for the next charter. They must run a generator and provide boat transport for crew to shop, and remain at short notice to move to sheltered waters if worsening weather threatens. They must also take all their waste ashore by tender to the *poubelles* in the nearest port (most ports want to be paid for this extra load of garbage), and they may be damaging the seabed with their anchors, as well as becoming another possible source of pollution. Local authorities would like to ban these inactive yachts, but have no power unless a nuisance can be shown, such as a recent case of over-loud music at midnight. Anchorage-prohibited areas can only be established by national agencies, and until some tragedy occurs this is unlikely to happen.

On paper, anchorage zones for yachts large and small sound attractive. Large commercial ports such as Genoa have them

for vessels waiting to enter harbour for loading or unloading, and ships with dangerous cargoes are segregated the furthest from land. The zones are clearly marked on nautical charts so that captains understand where the Port Authority directs them to anchor. But policing such a scheme for yachts would be an industry in itself, patrol boats would be needed with penalties for non-compliance. On the Riviera there are several no-anchoring zones, to protect either seabed features such as electric cables or nature reserves, or the swinging circles for large-ship mooring buoys as in Villefranche Bay, but the various maritime authorities here do not even manage to police these.

Another scheme often proposed would be laying moorings, and these exist to a small extent in the bays of Villefranche, Cap d'Ail (Mala), Port Cros and Agay. They are much used in coral waters to protect the delicate seabed from anchors and chains but the moorings need to match the size of the vessel using them, which requires more regulation. Finally, there is Dynamic Positioning, which uses computer-controlled thrusters to keep the vessel stationary. Very valuable for offshore oil drilling in very deep water but it uses expensive energy, too few yachts are fitted with it and a breakdown could be catastrophic.

Yacht-mooring is only a seasonal problem – after the summer most yachts disappear to refit or cross the Atlantic for the winter charter season in the Caribbean; While anchored off our towns, they provide a pleasant spectacle. Making more rules would only drive more owners out of the mega-yacht industry, especially as VAT is payable since July 15th on charters starting in French waters. So leave our yachts alone – at sea, in harbour or at anchor. ■

# TAKING THE PLONGÉE

By Nick Kent

SEX apart, it was the shortest thirty minutes of my life.

At the end of my debutant scuba dive, the instructor indicated it was time to come to the surface, and it was with the greatest reluctance that I said goodbye to the delightful new world I had discovered beneath the waves.

The guy who had his hand on the air control from the tank on my back throughout the dive was Bruce Willis lookalike Alex Diamond, who runs Diamond Diving in Golfe Juan with his French partner Noémie Broglio. With him as my guide, I learned that it wasn't necessary to journey to the Great Barrier Reef or the Red Sea to discover an amazingly colourful cosmos of fishes and other assorted aquatic wonders. The rocks which are marked by the Formigue lighthouse between the Lerins islands and Cap d'Antibes hide wonders enough.

In the early stages of my Try Dive I was more like a fish out of water than a fearless frogman. The belief that the mouthpiece through which arrived my vital air supply required no effort from me to stay in place was ill founded. The first session underwater with Alex ended with me gurgling unhappily and giving the thumbs up sign, perversely the accepted signal for I'm a Floundering Fool Get Me Out of Here.

"Just give the mouth a permanent big kiss," Alex suggested. Mouthpiece repositioned and the kissing in full swing, we dived again. This time, Alex told me later, I was much less tense and nervous – the French have a better word for it: *crispé*

– and able to pay full attention to the new universe around me.

After a while I am down around six metres, hands by my sides and using the flippers, sorry, *fins*, for propulsion, and I have plenty of friends, bright and beautiful fish swimming by, seemingly unfazed by the rubber-class figure in their midst. From time to time Alex points to new watery wonder. Back on the boat there is an identification chart that puts names to most of the denizens of the deep you have seen while underwater.

The Diamond Diving setup in Golfe Juan is in its fifth year, and continuing to expand. The year 2013 has seen a shop open and a compressor installed at the Dive Centre. Getting out on and into the water had been well charted by Alex and his friendly team. For a start, there is no wrestling with wetsuits when out on the sea, changing is done at the Centre. The wetsuit is flattering to the *bella figura*, but I find that I have to, in the words of a girlfriend, suck my gut in as we pass admiring café breakfasters on our way to the boat.

Alex has made a good choice in craft; the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) makes entry into the water a straightforward business of slipping gently over the side. Also on the boat was Donna-Marie, a chatty blonde Essex girl doing her PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Divemaster course. She is loving her first experience in the South of France, impressed and surprised by the quality of the diving to be found here and the excellent "viz" in the clear, clean water. During her course she has been staying in a Diamond Diving studio apartment handily located near the Dive Centre.

Back on land after my *baptême*, I ask Alex about the dangers of diving, recalling the headlines in recent times of sub-aqua fatalities along our coast.

"With properly supervised diving when you start out, and sensible application of the safety principles when you are qualified to dive alone, the danger is negligible," he says.

"Most of the accidents involved men of a certain age who had not dived for some time, 'testing' themselves when back in the water, doing far too much too soon and forgetting the principles of safe diving."

And Alex, I ask, what drew you to diving, what would attract a beginner?

"The physical challenge is one element to enjoy, the other is the feeling of being close to nature. It may be another world down there, but it's surprising how quickly a novice diver starts to feel at home underwater."

"There is also a social side that's very important, the bonds that build between divers can be very strong."

Well, this is one new fish that is well and truly hooked – next step the PADI Open Water Course. But first I need a mask with prescription lenses to enhance the diving experience. Surfacing from my last dive, I asked Alex if he had seen that massive starfish a few minutes earlier.

"Er, that was the boat's anchor," he said, almost apologetically. ■

*The first step on the diving ladder, the Try Dive, costs €50 at Diamond Diving. Consult the website [diamonddiving.fr](http://diamonddiving.fr) or call Alex Diamond on 06 15 30 52 23.*

In 2010, Alex Diamond, pictured below, was contracted by the the CREPS Antibes (regional centre of excellence in sport) to teach future French diving instructors "Diving English".



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# WALKIES ON THE WILD SIDE



THERE he was, big round bell on the collar, guarding his herd of cows at the *vacherie* above the Col St Martin, the Mercantour venue for that week's outing of the Club Alpin Français, Cannes Division.

The Border Collie has an active, some would say hyperactive, mind. They like to keep busy, and hanging round Daisy and Buttercup all day was clearly a tad dull, so he came along with us. Six hours later he was having an interesting conversation

with a Westie in the car park above La Colmiane as we boarded our coach.

It was great to have him along and, as he scoffed the last of my sandwiches, I admired how the coat of this blue merle matched the snow and rock of the great Maritime Alps. Not many of his cousins in the Scottish Borders, where this herding breed originates, could have

made it to a spot twice the height of Ben Nevis – Mont Pépouri at 2670m.

I don't know if he knew the *via ferrata* we took for a short-cut on the way down, but a Border Collie can make it up as he goes along, and he gaily flung himself down gullies as we clambered in ungainly fashion across the falaise.

If he gets fired by the shepherd for dereliction of duty, he's got a home at my place. *N.K.*

STOPPING by my butcher the other day, I sadly learned that the owners had to put down (*piquer*) their 12-year-old Lab. As we shed a few tears together, they explained that the dog had suddenly developed an abscess on his hind leg, and his health quickly deteriorated. An unfortunate tale, but I did walk away with a positive piece of information: *taxi animaux*. There are a couple of certified pet taxi services in and around Nice that are specifically equipped to transport disabled dogs down the stairs and get them in and out of their special vehicles (and even pick up the dog from your home if he's died). Azur Taxi Animalier in Nice (06 27 85 34 37 - [johmelge06@hotmail.fr](mailto:johmelge06@hotmail.fr)) and in Saint Laurent du Var, Taxi Animalier Ambulancier PACA (04 92 27 70 21 - [transport-animalier-paca.fr](mailto:transport-animalier-paca.fr)) both claim to operate 24/7. *N.H.*

## A helping hand for old hounds



A new refuge for elderly dogs has opened on the road between Cabris and St-Vallier-de-Thiery. *SOS Foyers Chiens Agés* provides shelter for dogs of all shapes and sizes (sick, lame, blind, elderly) which other charities are not able or willing to accept. It also looks after dogs whose owners can no longer keep at home but do not want to give up.

The Old Dogs' Home needs your

support and anything you can give – blankets, washable duvets, sheets, small mattresses or even bags of light food for “old tums” – will be appreciated by the more than 50 current “residents”. And of course money is always very welcome. A building programme is underway to provide more shelter for the coming winter. *SOS Foyers Chiens Agés* is a registered charity (*Association*

*loi 1901*), so you can also help by becoming a member.

Located about 12km from Grasse in St-Vallier-de-Thiery (3 route de Cabris), the Old Dogs' Home is open to the public Mon-Sat 10h-noon and 14h-17h. Visitors will be greeted enthusiastically by wagging tails.

For more info contact Francine on 04 93 40 23 13 and 06 36 88 57 31 or by email: [asschiens.ag@orange.fr](mailto:asschiens.ag@orange.fr) ■



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# It's fast food all right, but not fake food



MARKET gardener Raphaël Clerissi has spent €40,000 providing a shop-in-a-box solution for those of us who always turn up at the farm shop when it's closed.

Pitch up at his patch on the D1 at Gattières across the La Manda bridge from Nice at any time of the day and night and freshly-picked fruit and veg can be selected from individual compartments, some of them refrigerated, and paid for by popping money in a slot.

When the *Reporter* called by, a wide selection of produce was on offer, from delicious strawberries that had been growing in the polytunnels alongside the air-conditioned vending cabin just hours before, to

super fresh spuds, courgettes, radishes, peppers. In fact, all the contents of a market stall.

Raphaël, 22, said, "There are about 60 of these vending machines in France, but this is the only one in our region. It frees up more time for me to work on the land, and the customers can come whenever they want."

Surprisingly, convenience does not come at an extra cost. Lettuce at €1, half-kilo of strawberries for €4.90, or €3.90 for a big bag of new potatoes – hard to beat these prices in the supermarket. And you can buy his mum's homemade jam, too.

Credit cards accepted, and there's plenty of parking. ■

## One mot time

### Magnan

A valley and a viaduct in Nice, this Provençal word describes the voracious appetite of the silkworm, the *ver à soie*, as it munched its way through great quantities of mulberry leaves. A phonic echo of a long-dead industry.



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# IN DEEP TRUFFLE

*Second in our series, American Lisa Pepin chronicles life on a Luberon farm*

May 9, 2013

TODAY was our garden party to kick off the summer truffle hunting tour season. We invited tour guides, travel bloggers and food writers, as well as friends from near and far. The idea was that truffles are their own best advertising and that getting people out to Les Pastras, our farm, with a glass of champagne in one hand and a truffle canapé in the other would have everyone talking about our tours. Just one problem: we didn't have any truffles.

The summer truffle season starts in early May but, due to an unseasonably cold and wet spring, there were none whatsoever on our property. So we set out to find a caterer. The estimates for a cold buffet of truffle hors d'oeuvres were outrageous. It was clear that these companies didn't know that *we knew* how much they really cost. We managed to get the price down slightly by having my French husband Johann make the calls instead of me. Apparently, the sound of my voice over the phone gets me an automatic "accent markup".

One caterer tried to dissuade us from serving truffles, saying that summer truffles weren't flavourful enough and that they would disappoint our guests. Then we met Yann Sandrini at *La Truffe Dans Tous Ses Etats* in Bouc-Bel-Air, who proved that nothing could be further from the truth. From the truffle crostini and truffle croque Madame to the foie

gras with truffles and *caillettes de lapin* with apple and truffles, every bite was a triumph. And let's not forget the *pièce de résistance*, the *Île Flottante* with chocolate, salted caramel and truffle cream. It was magnificent, and the tastiest publicity we could have hoped for.

May 19, 2013

VISITORS, particularly those who live in cities, fall in love with the property when here for a tour. It's lush and green and has a little bit of everything in the way of flora: figs, almonds, olives, pomegranates, cherries, plums, apricots ...

Johann frequently tells the story about when he would go missing on the way home from school as a child. He'd inevitably be found hours later up in some fruit tree, juice dripping from his chin.

On today's tour, we took the group past the grove of ripe cherry trees, then on to see the beehives. The mother of an 8 and 10-year-old looked concerned for a second, as one of the boys is allergic to bee stings. But then she really panicked when she looked around and realised the boys weren't even with us anymore. The whole group retraced their steps, only to find that the boys had been inspired by Johann's story and were perched in a cherry tree, munching away. Pulses stopped racing and the cameras came out.

June 16, 2013

WHEN people imagine truffle hunting, it seems quite specific: a well-worn path, free from weeds and rocks, that stretches through a vast, flat expanse of trees lined up in neat rows. Properties like this definitely exist, but we're just a family farm, not a big commercial truffle producer, so the route we take to our trees can be weedy, grassy, hilly and dirty. This is the *real* Provençal countryside.

We're conscientious about telling visitors to wear shoes they don't mind getting dirty. And usually, they comply. But today we had a terribly-chic South African woman with impossibly long legs show up in the most beautiful knee-high suede boots I have ever seen. Paired with her khaki shorts and flowing white linen top, she looked like she had come to Les Pastras straight from a Vogue photo shoot.

I begged to give her some other shoes to wear, but she assured me with a casual wave that she'd be just fine. She was just fine; the boots were not. To her credit, it didn't seem to bother her at all. After the tour, she drank champagne cheerfully and tasted the truffle hors d'oeuvres enthusiastically, without a glance at her beautiful boots that were now in desperate need of professional cleaning. I, on the other hand, couldn't take my eyes off them and still get a little teary when I think of all that buttery suede caked with dirt.

Photo: April ZA



**Truffle croque Madame (left), and truffle crostini.**

Photos: Claire Benvenuto, La Provence de Claire



It's hard to resist walking past the cherry tree.

Photo: Adi Bukman Photography

June 21, 2013

WE are often asked what happens if there are no truffles to find. We've heard that other *truffières* will sometimes hide truffles to be discovered later in front of an audience, and I understand why. Tourists have come a long way, having reserved in advance, and really looked forward to hunting for truffles. It would be such a shame to disappoint them. Luckily, though, we haven't ever had to do such a thing ourselves. Our expert hunter Jean-Marc usually comes by the night before we have a tour, to get a couple of truffles for me to

use to make the canapés for the guests and to make sure there are some out there. The dogs sniff them out, but we don't dig them up.

See page 40 for Lisa's truffle Q&A

Today, though, the *sangliers* beat us to the punch and dug up all the truffles we'd had our eye on during the night. They only left us five! Our guests didn't seem too disappointed by the small haul, but we sure hope some hunters make a nice boar *daube* and appreciate that they have been seasoned from within by truffles! ■

Expert truffier Jean-Marc with his hunting dogs.

Photo: Apéry ZA



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# TRUFFLE FAQs

## Q. Which trees have truffles?

A. Oak is the most common, but you can sometimes find them beneath hazelnut trees.

## Q. Can any oak tree produce truffles?

A. Yes, but it's rare to find one that does. The soil, rain and sunlight must be in the perfect combination to produce them. Even when you buy saplings whose roots have been given a dose of truffle spores and provide them with the ideal environment, there's still no guarantee.

## Q. Why are they so rare?

A. Every year there are 400,000 new truffle trees with spores planted in France. Yet every year, the gross total of truffles produced in France declines. There are many theories on this: climate change, trees being planted by amateurs and younger generations being less in touch with the land than their forefathers. All we know for sure is that this rare product is becoming even more so with time.

## Q. Just how much do truffles cost?

A. Summer truffles are less expensive because they are less fragrant and flavourful than the winter ones. You can expect to pay €100 per kilo if you buy directly from a producer, or €200 at a truffle market. Winter truffle prices vary according to the weather and demand, reaching a peak around Christmas of anywhere from €500 to €1000 per kilo.

## Q. What's the best way to eat truffles?

A. Any dish with some salt and fat will complement a truffle. Some simple ways to experience fresh truffles are shaved on a white pizza (pizza without sauce), with a drizzle of truffle oil or on top of a thinly sliced baguette spread with salted butter. When the truffles aren't hidden inside a complicated dish, you can best appreciate the aroma, the beautiful marbling inside and the light crispness.

## Q. Why do you use dogs instead of a pig?

A. The scent of a truffle is remarkably close to the scent of a female pig in heat, so truffle pigs get really enthusiastic when they pick up the trail. And at up to 150 kilos, they're hard to hold back. A dog will find truffles for the simple reward of a doggie treat, whereas the pig wants to eat them. And heaven help anyone who gets in the way! They say that you can tell a truffle hunter who has a pig on sight because he'll be missing at least one finger. *Lisa Pepin*

# Cook d'Azur

## Courgette, Pea and Basil Salad with Sardines, Prawns & Courgette Flowers

*Katie Bills slices up a scrumptious summer starter or lunch using seasonal courgettes and peas, available at local markets along the Coast. Serve with or without prawns, and substitute any fish fillet for sardines. Just ask your local fishmonger for the catch of the day!*



## INGREDIENTS

1 cup of self-rising flour	Large handful of fresh
1 cup of light beer (eg. Leffe)	petit pois, blanched
1 egg	1/2 clove of garlic, crushed
300ml vegetable or sunflower oil	1 lemon
2 medium courgettes with flowers	Handful basil leaves, chopped
4 sardines (or any fresh fish fillet)	Olive oil, for drizzling
6 large prawns	Salt, pepper

First, make the batter by mixing one cup of flour, one cup of beer and one beaten egg, then season with salt and pepper. Before dipping the courgette flowers in the batter, dust them in flour to help the batter stick.

Heat the oil over a medium to high heat. Test the oil with a strip of courgette to make sure it is hot enough, and deep-fry the flowers in oil till lightly browned. Dip the prawns in batter and fry until brown as well. Lightly dust the sardines in seasoned flour and fry for a minute on each side until slightly coloured in a frying pan with olive oil.

At the same time, shave the courgettes into ribbons using a potato peeler. Add half a clove of garlic and blanched petit pois (30 seconds in boiling water, then plunge peas into ice water). Add juice of one lemon, chopped basil leaves, drizzle with olive oil and season.

Pile the salad onto a serving dish, and place the sardines on top and garnish with the courgette flowers. Add a squeeze of lemon and serve alongside a cold crisp glass of local rosé. Delicious!

Serves 2.



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## MR PIGGY GOES TO MARKET

IT'S ratatouille time, and the market stalls are heaving with the ingredients for this signature Mediterranean dish. Want to avoid being sold a duff, aged aubergine? Dominique Piette, that pint-sized powerhouse of the Marché Forville in Cannes, is always more willing to chat than work, and today he leaves his leggy assistant Corinne to see to the customers as he tells me:

"The aubergine must be brilliant – shiny. It should feel heavy, be free from the brown *tâches* of bruising and the green part where it was attached to the must not be shrivelled. A reasonable price? €2.90 a kilo."

"Don't be tempted by fancy-looking tomatoes, plump ripe local ones are plentiful and don't pay more than €2 a kilo."

"Good courgettes, firm and smallish, should also cost no more than €2 a kilo."

It's worth spending a little more on the peppers if you come across the *mini-poivrons*, super-sweet and €1 for 100 grammes.



## Chilling with reds

**WINE**



By Nick Kent

SUMMER in the south can be a difficult time for the red wine lover. As the heat takes hold, nobody seems to be serving a hearty daube washed down with a sturdy red Rhone.

Here are a half-dozen decent reds that – horror of horrors to the purist – can benefit from a spell in the fridge and go perfectly with the cuisine of the Mediterranean. These light, young *vins rouges* will even appeal to those who usually avoid red wines on the grounds of their heaviness.

This is France, so of course there is a correct way to serve a cool red wine. Proceed as follows:

Put the unopened bottle in the veg compartment at the bottom of the fridge for one-and-a half hours. Decant the wine and put it back in the fridge for another hour. Take the decanter out of the fridge, remove the stopper and leave the wine to rest for 15 minutes before serving. The wine thermometer should read 14°C.

Or get real and do what I do which is to shove the bottle in the freezer for a bit.

The Loire reds are perfect for this kind of treatment, so go for:

Sancerre Rouge. We all know the charm and attack of the white, but its dark brother is the best red I know for serving

cool. Leclerc Rocheville *caviste* Michel Roulcois recommends René Carroi 2010 Sancerre (€10.15).

If, like me, you find spending more than €10 on a bottle of wine adversely affects the taste, then I suggest good quality from a lesser-known appellation: Menetou-Salon 2011, also from M Carroi, at €8.30.

The wines of Anjou were previously only known to me via the curry houses of North London, where for some reason the flaccid pink was always available. The reds served chilled are a revelation, but don't go for rock-bottom cheap. Domaine Chupin 2010 at €5.80 is a delightful partner for a summer barbecue.

The same caveat on *qualité-prix* goes for Saint-Nicholas-de-Bourgueil, which in its most basic form (as sold by the lorry-load to cross-Channel booze-cruisers) can make Sarson's vinegar taste like Château Lafite. Try Les Troglodytes 2011 at €5.40, but *attention!* Just because a red wine has a light taste doesn't mean it's low in alcohol content. Drink too much of this and you won't be able to pronounce the name when Plod pulls you over and asks what you've been drinking.

And then there's the Beaujolais – but the good stuff only. Domaine des Roches Anciennes 2011 is a beautiful Côte-de-Brouilly, €7.30.

Wines of the far south, the Midi, don't usually benefit from the chill option. If you get a Côtes de Provence offered to you at single-digit temperature it will most likely be using the coolness to mask a fault in the wine. However, Costières de Nîmes Saint-Bénézet 2010 (€5.30) takes the treatment very nicely. ■

# HOT FLASHES

## Ten Tips for better summer pics

By Mike Meade

BACK when Paul Simon was still singing *Kodachrome* and the red and yellow company from Rochester, New York, was still developing your films, Kodak had the ultimate in-house tool at the tips of their fingers: only they could see every one of the billions of photos taken by millions of happy snappers around the world using the iconic colour slide emulsion that the company's own labs were exclusively equipped to process.

"Kodak moments" haven't changed much over the years, except for an increased number of "naughty" pics because the man in the camera store no longer sees your film developing (in my student days I worked weekends in a camera store so you can take it as fact that we sometimes peeked). The preferred subjects, in order, are – the girlfriend or boyfriend, family pet, new baby, kids' birthdays or Christmas, and (finally) the long-term spouse. Four out of five family photos are likely to include one of those subjects.

This explains why you get so bored looking at your neighbour's snaps and why they are equally uninterested with yours. To be honest, most of us come back from holiday with pictures that pretty much resemble the ones we took last year – the dog in the lake or scowling children at a statue in a village you've forgotten the name of.

The simplest of today's digital cameras make experimentation easy and, with a few basic tricks under your belt, you may produce some memorable holiday shots that even your neighbours will approve of.

**1. Turn the flash to OFF when shooting indoors or at night.** Flash emits a stark light that usually overrides existing atmosphere. The flash is sure to kill all reminiscence of that romantic candlelit dinner so pump up the ISO (read your camera's manual) and brace yourself (elbows on the table!) to avoid blur and use the candle's own light instead. The same applies to one of the most common in the Kodak archives: blowing out the birthday candles. If you want to see the candle flames and their orange light, turn off the flash.

**2. Turn the flash to OFF when visiting religious buildings, galleries and museums.** Most museums forbid photography with flash to protect the artwork from light damage. Respect churches, mosques, temples and synagogues that are sacred to many by not using a flash. Your photos will be much better at any rate – some church interiors have beautiful available light streaming through the windows.

**3. When shooting fireworks, night-time sports events or music concerts, turn flash to OFF.** The flash doesn't carry that far so there's no point. All you'll get is the perfectly lit bald head of the person sitting in front of you rather than Elton John far away on the stage. Elton brought his professional stage lighting along so why not use that instead? Fireworks are all about illumination so your little flash is no competition. As a rule of thumb, if the subject emits its own light, there's rarely a need to add your own.

**4. Turn the flash to ON for taking portraits outside in bright sunlight.** At midday, the sunny side of a face is so much brighter than the shady side that most cameras can't cope properly with both. The flash will fill in the missing light on the shady side, giving you an evenly lit portrait. If the subject is on light sand you may find that the flash isn't necessary. Sand (or snow) acts the same as a professional photographer's reflector and fills in facial shadows.

**5. Don't be afraid to shoot towards (but not directly at) the sun.** The old rule that the sun should always be behind the photographer went out with the Box Brownie. Again, try using the flash with backlit outdoor portraits to fill in the darker parts.



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#### 6. Stay away from cliché overkill.

Nothing resembles a sunset like another sunset, but the silhouettes of Martha and little Johnny walking down the beach with that sunset behind them – now that's a great photo! Panoramas and views can be perfect backdrops for other subjects but seldom make interesting photos on their own.

**7. Include the surroundings.** That close up of Johnny gobbling down his pizza in Florence could have been taken anywhere (even back home). Move back or zoom out a little (but not too far) to take in the setting as a reminder of where you visited.

#### 8. Avoid putting your subject smack in the middle of the photo.

To know why placing your subject off-centre can make almost any photo much easier on the eye, try Googling "Rule of thirds".

**9. Take in the background.** Your eyes see in 3D but a photo is 2D. You might be so engrossed in what you're photographing that you forget the person that sees it will be just as aware of the background as of the subject itself. This can bring unwelcome surprises. See examples on our website, Keyword SummerSnaps.

**10. Embrace the ordinary.** Good summer photos are lurking everywhere so don't only point your camera at that famous botanical garden or classic cathedral. Try some shots of those local fishermen you see every day when you're out walking the dog.

Now that you have all the tools you need, you should be able to produce some decent photos. We'd love to see how you do. Email your best summer shots to [photos@rivierareporter.com](mailto:photos@rivierareporter.com) ■

# FOR THE LOVE OF ART:

Why Elena Shchukina put law behind her

By Nancy Heslin



*Born and bred in Siberia, Elena Shchukina, completed her law degree at Moscow Law State Academy. This gave her a useful grounding for the business side of running a gallery, as she always knew that her real passion was art.*

Photo: Antonia Couling

"I first studied interior design in Moscow," Elena Shchukina explains, "and began to develop my holistic approach to fine art and furniture, experimenting with themed interiors. Studying at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan gave me an appreciation for the workmanship and the beauty of a unique piece of furniture, as well as contacts for the best furniture makers. I started creating my own designs. When I moved to London in 2009, I was taught by Israel Zohar, a renowned portraitist and Royal painter, and began working on my own artistic practice."

Elena completed a course at Sotheby's Institute of Art before researching how to create a new gallery concept. The result: Gallery Elena Shchukina – an "immersive environment" scheduled to open during the London Design Festival in September.

"Instead of displaying fine art in a 'white cube' format in total isolation of other art forms, my gallery will create a living environment for artwork. Furniture, sculpture, *objets* and lighting will complement paintings to create a holistic environment for appreciating art. For example, the furniture that we have commissioned for our opening show will draw its inspiration from the paintings of Nigerian-born artist Onyeka Ibe, reflecting the tonality and forms found in his works. In this context, a piece of furniture becomes as much a work of art as a painting, so that in our gallery visitors will really be able to experience a complete, harmonious aesthetic: total art immersion!"

As an artist herself, Elena knows how difficult it is to get your work noticed so she wants to create opportunities to

present some of the best up-and-comers.

"All of the artists I choose are exceptionally talented and have a unique charm to their work."

In the meanwhile, the never idle Elena is in Monaco presenting British artist Paul Wright at the Gildo Pastor Center (7 rue du Gabian, Fontvieille) until the end of August. Wright has been nominated for the UK's prestigious BP Portrait award, and his accomplished portraits "hang intriguingly between abstraction and figuration with generous use of paint and flashes of brilliant colour".

And just what is her connection to this part of the world? "I adore Monaco. I've been spending my summers here since 1998. I also love Saint Paul-de-Vence – such a creative place and perfect for artists." ■

See [galleryelenashchukina.com](http://galleryelenashchukina.com) for more.

## Brighton-based photographer snaps up award in Arles

By Pippa Jane Wieglos

LANDSCAPE photographer Simon Norfolk, winner of the 4th Prix Pictet Commission, had a special screening of his work *Afghanistan* during the opening week of *Les Rencontres d'Arles* ([rencontres-arles.com](http://rencontres-arles.com)), the international photography festival, which this year runs until September 22nd with 50 expositions.



**Simon Norfolk, *The Disaster Season, Afghanistan, 2013***  
©Simon Norfolk for Prix Pictet Ltd

Lagos-born English-educated Norfolk is known for his devastating "aftermath" and "battlefield" documentation of some of world's worst war zones and refugee crises – such as in Bosnia, Israel and Beirut. *Afghanistan* is based on the study of the 19th-century British photographer John Burke (1843-1900), who accompanied the British forces during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, the first ever photographer to make pictures in Afghanistan.

Norfolk's work takes into account John Burke's portfolios and his Afghan war scenes in the context of the contemporary conflict for the project *Photographs from the War in Afghanistan* by John Burke and Simon Norfolk. This work will be on exhibition in *Les Rencontres des Arles* alongside three monographs *Afghanistan: Chronotopia* (2002), published in five languages; *For Most Of It I Have No Words* (1998), landscapes of genocide; and *Bleed* (2005), the war in Bosnia. Norfolk's show will afterwards feature at Somerset House, London between October 10th-27th. ■

TWICE nominated for the Turner Prize, Irish-born American abstract artist Sean Scully has an exhibit in Mougins Village. *DORIC* – "from his experiences of Greek temples, their natural setting, and a fascination with the principles of the Doric order of architecture" – is at MACM ([mouginsmusee.com](http://mouginsmusee.com)) until Sept 29th. Open daily 10h30 to 20h.

*LA Situation Semblait Désespérée* by Glen Baxter runs until Oct 5th in Nice at La Station ([lastation.org/en](http://lastation.org/en)). Baxter, born in Leeds in 1944, learned to express himself through a style of drawing with captions: "I found my own way," he says, "by diverting illustrations of books for teenagers of the 30s." The painter and cartoonist, who counts Prince Charles and John Cleese amongst his fan base, is offering a limited-edition black and white serigraph (€100) at La Station (tram stop Vaubun or St Roch).



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FROM A RIVIERA PAST:

# The art lovers from Belfast who gave the Emperor's library to a nation

By Judit Kiraly, English-American Library of Nice



On May 3rd, 1934 Mayor of Nice Jean Médecin awards the Légion d'Honneur to the Jaffes (Published in *L'Eclaireur*).

*M. Jean Médecin, député-maire de Nice, vient de décorer M. et Mme John Jaffé qu'encadrent les drapeaux de la British Legion.* (Photo Gargano.)

GENEROSITY is one of the rare values that withstands the ravages of time, and never fails to impress biographers. It is a pity that there is no published life history about (Joseph) John Jaffé (1843-1934) and his wife Anna Emily Gluge (1845-1942), as it would be an interesting tale to tell since theirs was a life far from ordinary.

John Jaffé was born in Germany and educated in Belfast, where his family specialised in exporting Irish linen and lace, and where his brother Sir Otto Jaffé became mayor. John Jaffé was successful in business, having had the rare privilege of being President of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce and then later elected as President of the British Chamber of Commerce of the Riviera.

John Jaffé married Anna in 1873; they moved to Europe having homes first in Monte Carlo and Neuchâtel, before living for over fifty years in their beautiful house with the prestigious address of 36 Promenade des Anglais in Nice. With his large fortune and Anna's excellent taste for purchasing artworks, they were soon

known for their collection of Old Masters paintings: works of Goya, Rembrandt and Constable decorated their house containing exquisite furniture and tapestries.

Anna's father was personal physician to the King of Belgium; she received an unusually broad education, moving with ease around the art world of Europe from an early age. Her mentor and adviser was art specialist Wilhelm von Bode, who later would be (in)famous for his advice concerning collections looted by the Nazis.

The Jaffes' circle of friends included the writers Proust and Henry James, who stayed at their villa, and they were well-respected members within the international social circles of Nice. Not having any children, their generosity found a wider scope. John Jaffé contributed to several medical charities, and was founding member of the Jewish sanatorium in Cimiez, today called *Maison du Jacob*. The Jaffes donated an entire wing for underprivileged patients to the *Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital* in Mont Boron, and purchased as a gift to the French

nation the library of Emperor Napoleon; they thought such a gift was an excellent idea to celebrate their own diamond wedding anniversary. (King George and Queen Mary sent them a telegram on this occasion.) They also gave several important art works to the Massena Museum in Nice. They lived near this Esslingen family villa, built by the Anglo-Niçois architect Aaron Messiah, before it became a Museum.

In 1934, the elderly couple received from the Mayor of Nice, Jean Médecin, the Légion d'Honneur for their numerous charitable donations. Médecin did not hesitate to personally decorate the Jaffes, even though anti-Semitism heavily marked the era.

Jean Médecin was an extraordinary character who always behaved with great dignity, a fact now sadly overshadowed by the negative image of his son, Jacques Médecin, Mayor of Nice himself and nemesis of the writer Graham Greene. When John Jaffé died just days after receiving his decoration, Jean Médecin personally accompanied his coffin to the city limits of Nice.

Anna died in 1942; the Jaffes' art collection was confiscated soon after and sold at a Public Auction at the Hotel Savoy in 1943— at which point the story turns much more ugly. The auctioneer added insult to injury by appraising some of the works as “copies” and selling them under value, only to then later re-appraise them as originals. It took decades for heirs to the Jaffes, their niece and nephews, to recover some of the five dozen paintings, by then in major museums and private collections all over the world. Most of them are still at unknown locations. A Turner painting — one of the many missing — sold in 2005 by Christie's for over \$6 million, which gives an idea of the actual artistic and financial importance of the Jaffé collection.

The Jaffes today are long forgotten, but if you visit the Musée Masséna and admire the impressive painting of the Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, give a kind thought to this couple with superb taste and generous hearts, who donated it to the museum. ■

# august

## 16TH EDITION NUITS DU SUD

nuitsdusud.com

Until Aug 10: Orchestrated for 16 years by Teo Saavedra, the festival aims to highlight music from all walks of life, all cultures. During 13 nights, 26 groups – internationally renowned, nationally or on the rise will hit the stage at Place du Grand Jardin in Vence. Tickets from €12-€20; free for children under 12.

## 4TH LES NUITS DU CHÂTEAU DE LA MOUTTE À ST-TROPEZ

lesnuitsduchateaudelamoutte.com

Until Tues Aug 13: A cultural summer staple in St-Tropez, prestigious concerts and shows with artists from the biggest international stage. Traditionally, the festival honours the culture of a country every year. This year, it celebrates Portugal and Argentina with a Fado-Tango performance by Cristina Branco. On Canebières beach, one of St-Tropez's legendary locations, two rare evenings: a jazz quartet led by the great guitar player Sylvain Luc, and on a classical note, François-René Duchâble literally playing on the water for a typically intense recital.

## CEDRIC MASSIER CERAMICS

06 31 77 65 53

Until Aug 17: Cedric Massier (ceramics) and Emmanuelle Ordener (icons and tempera) with artists during the Festival des XXèmes Soirées Musicales de l'Abbaye de La Celle. The exhibition will be open Thurs-Sun, 15h30 to 18h30 at gallery Lantelme, Clastre place in La Celle. Call for information and concert reservations.

## SUNNY BANK

sunny-bank.org

Thurs Aug 1, 10h-15h: Books & Posh Paraphernalia.  
Sat Aug 17th Open House (light refreshments only this month).  
Books & Brocante every Thurs 10h-15h. The Grange 815 ch des Gourettes, Mouans Sartoux.

## Riviera Reporter Summer Seaside Fireworks 2013

Updates at rivierareporter.com



## AUGUST

- Thurs 1** Juan les Pins
- Fri 2** Port Fréjus
- Sun 4** le Lavandou
- Mon 5** Bandol
- Wed 7** Cannes (Hongkong)
- Thurs 8** Juan les Pins, Marines de Cogolin
- Fri 9** Port Fréjus, le Lavandou, Monaco (Italy)
- Wed 14** Agay, Cagnes sur Mer, Roquebrune Cap Martin, Saint Raphael, San Remo
- Thurs 15** Cannes (Portugal), Cavalaire, Juan les Pins, le Lavandou, Menton, Nice, Port Grimaud, Ste Maxime, St Tropez, Théoule
- Fri 16** Cagnes sur Mer (Hippodrome), Dramont, Eze bord/mer
- Sat 17** Bormes les Mimosas
- Wed 21** Bandol, Monaco (China)
- Fri 23** Cagnes sur Mer (Hippodrome), le Lavandou
- Sat 24** Antibes: Braque Beach
- Fri 30** Cannes (France) le Lavandou

Errors and Omissions excepted - no liability taken for disappointments; check locally!  
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## MONTE-CARLO POLO CLUB TOURNAMENT

0640618962-montecarlopoloclub.mc

Thurs Aug 1-Sun Aug 4: At Stade André Vanco, Complexe sportif du Devens on Avenue des Combattants d'AFN, Beausoleil.  
Fri, 17h30: Grand Parade of horses and riders around the Place du Casino, Bellevue.  
Lunch on the terrace on the first floor of the Café de Paris.  
Match at MC Polo Club.  
Sat at 17h: Match at MC Polo Club followed by Argentine barbecue from 19h30 till midnight.  
Sun 16h: Match at MC Polo Club; dinner with fireworks.

## MONTE CARLO SPORTING SUMMER FESTIVAL

+377 98 06 36 36

en.sportingsummerfestival.com

Sun Aug 4: Brian Ferry.  
Tickets €170  
Wed Aug 7: Elvis Costello and The Imposters. Tickets €170.  
Fri Aug 16 & Sat Aug 17: Joe Cocker. Tickets €220.

## CINÉ PROM IN NICE

04 92 04 06 66 - tdv-nice.org

Mon Aug 5, 21h30:

*Mission Impossible 4.*

Mon Aug 19: Martin Scorsese:

*The Stones in Shine a Light*

Ciné' Prom has opening air screenings at the Théâtre de Verdure during the summer. All films shown in their original versions with French subtitles. Tickets €2 (free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult). Don't forget to bring a jacket or shawl and a pillow.

## SEAN SCULLY "DORIC"

mouginsmusee.com

Until Sept 29: Twice nominated for the Turner Prize, Irish-born American abstract artist Sean Scully has an exhibit "from his fascination with Doric order of architecture". MACM in Mougins. Daily 10h30 to 20h.

## 5TH INTERNATIOAL FESTIVAL TANGO

verynicetango.com/Festival.htm

Wed Aug 7-Sun Aug 11: Courses and workshops at various locations across Nice.

## RICHARD ASHWORTH MEP, Q&A ABOUT THE ROLE OF A BRITISH MEP

Lesley Joines 06 65 38 05 29  
lesley.joines@yahoo.fr

Sun Aug 8, 14h: This event is open to members and friends of all British connected Associations. Detailed questions can be sent by mail beforehand. At Holy Trinity Church Cannes (Av Branly). Lunch €15 at 12h30. Reservations required, with proceeds going to Holy Trinity for the construction of a toilet for the disabled.

## FESTIVAL MELOMANIA

06 82 90 30 08

jennifer@amisbrusc.com

Sun Aug 11-Sat 17, 20h30: Festival Melomania at La Chapelle de Notre Dame du Brus, (Chemin des Colles, Chateaufort). Tickets: €15 adult; €7 students under-22; under-16 free. Contact for reservations.

## PROM PARTY NICE

08 92 70 74 07 - nicetourisme.com

Sun Aug 11 & Wed Aug 15, 21h30: the Promenade des Anglais becomes a huge dance floor with free concerts to dance, listen and hang out!

## CANNES RUSSIAN ART FESTIVAL

billetterie@palaisdesfestivals.com

Fri Aug 23-Tues Aug 27: Since 1998, a panorama of the Russian culture with music, dance, folklore, arts of circus, paintings, gastronomy ... an opportunity to immerse yourself and travel to Russia. Don't forget the prestigious *Russian Night*, the "rendez-vous" of cinema and all the free animation in the city all day long.

## PAUL WRIGHT,

## MONACO

paul-wright.com

Until Aug 30: Paul Wright at the Gildo Pastor Center in Monaco (7 rue du Gabian, Fontvieille). Wright has been nominated for the UK's prestigious BP Portrait award, and his accomplished portraits "hang intriguingly between abstraction and figuration with generous use of paint and flashes of brilliant colour".

**AMIAC**

Ann or Dan Wynn 04 93 61 87 60  
Thurs Aug 22: L'Ecluse Pegomas.  
Please ring to reserve.

**NICE 2013: A SUMMER FOR MATISSE**  
[matisse2013.nice.fr](http://matisse2013.nice.fr)

Until Sept 23: To celebrate the Matisse Museum's 50th anniversary, 8 exhibitions presented at 8 municipal museums: Matisse Museum, Archaeology Museum, Theatre of Photography and Images, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Palais Lascaris, Galerie des Ponchettes, the Villa Masséna and Museum of Fine Art.

**LES RENCONTRES D'ARLES INT'L PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL**

[rencontres-arles.com](http://rencontres-arles.com)

Until Sept 22: 50 expositions, featuring Simon Norfolk, winner of the 4th Prix Pictet Commission. Norfolk is known for his devastating "battlefield" documentation of some of world's worst war zones and refugee crises. *Afghanistan* is based on the study of the 19th-century British photographer John Burke, who accompanied the British forces during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, the first ever photographer to make pictures in Afghanistan.

**GLEN BAXTER EXHIBITION**

[lstation.org/en](http://lstation.org/en)

Until Oct 5: *La Situation Semblait Désespérée* by Glen Baxter in Nice at La Station. Baxter, born in Leeds, learned to express himself through a style of drawing with captions. The painter and cartoonist, counts Prince Charles and John Cleese amongst his fan base. Tram stop Vaubun or St Roch.

**september****ASSOCIATION FRANCE ÉTATS-UNIS**

[jacque.berben@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jacque.berben@wanadoo.fr) - [franceusa.org](http://franceusa.org)

Mon Sept 2, 16 & 30, 16h15:  
American English at the  
Hôtel Brice in Nice.  
Mon Oct 21: Wine tasting. TBC.

**SUNNY BANK**

[sunny-bank.org](http://sunny-bank.org)

Thurs Sept 5, 10h-15h: Books & Posh Paraphernalia.  
Sat Sept 21, 10h-15h: Open House (lunch available).  
Books & Brocante every Thurs 10h-15h. The Grange 815 ch des Gourettes, Mouans Sartoux.

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

[commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

Sat Sept 7: A Taste of Asia.  
Details on website.

**FESTIVAL DE LA PLAISANCE CANNES**

[salonnautiquecannes.com](http://salonnautiquecannes.com)

Tues Sept 10-Sun Sept 15, 10h-19h (Fri until 22h): More than 150 boats at the first meeting of the season bringing together exhibitors or visitors, owners or prospective buyers at Vieux Port & Port Pierre Canto.

**AMIAC**

Kim on 04 93 01 20 37

Thurs Sept 12: Auberge Provençal Valbonne Village. Please ring to reserve.

**30TH EDITION EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS**

[journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr](http://journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr)

Sat Sept 14 & Sun Sept 15: Visit historical monuments and buildings usually closed to the public. "1913-2013, one hundred years of protection," on the occasion of the centenary year of the founding legislation for the protection of historical monuments in France.

**CHARITY BOOK SALE**

[iwc-var.org](http://iwc-var.org)

Fri Sept 20, 11h-18h & Sat Sept 21, 10h-14h: Organized by the International Women's Club of the Var, 10 books for €5 – many languages including English, French, Dutch and German – at Salle la Renaissance in Fayence.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CANNES**

04 93 94 54 61

[holyltrinitycannes.org](http://holyltrinitycannes.org)

Sun Sept 22, 10h30: Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

**Tall Ships Toulon: Volunteers needed**

Photos: © Hortense Hebrard - TPM

PôleJeunePublic is looking for volunteers for the second stage of the Tall Ship Regatta in Toulon from Friday Sept 27th to Mon Sept 30th. Parades, concerts, street entertainment, bands, fashion shows and parties will take over the city's port while tightrope walkers cross water and pirates sail the streets ... it will be an amazing four days and from docks, roofs or windows, wherever you are in the city you can participate! If you sign up as a volunteer, you can: assist with shows and performances, greet artists, inform the public, or join PJP's PR team. So get on board and contact: Aurélie Aloy 04 94 93 82 11 or [aurelie@polejeunepublic.com](mailto:aurelie@polejeunepublic.com)

**MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONAL WINE TASTING**

[info@pya.org](mailto:info@pya.org)

Wed Sept 25: PYA and The International Superyacht Society will be hosting one of the Monaco Yacht Show's greatest opportunities to network and enjoy food and wine in a most breathtaking environment. Open to all PYA and ISS members and sponsors.

**MONACO YACHT SHOW**  
[monacoyachtshow.com](http://monacoyachtshow.com)

Wed Sept 25-Sat Sept 28, 10h-18h30: Considered the most prestigious boat show in the world with an exhibition of 500 major companies in luxury yachting and 100 super and megayachts afloat. Tickets €80/day.

**PYA SEA CHANGES FORUM 2013**

[info@pya.org](mailto:info@pya.org)

Thurs Sept 26: PYA Sea Changes Forum 2013. Please contact the PYA office for more details.

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA**

[commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

Thurs Sept 26: Visit to the Villa Santo Sospir. Details on website

**TOULON VOILES DE LÉGENDE (TALL SHIPS)**

[toulonvoilesdelegende.fr](http://toulonvoilesdelegende.fr)

Fri Sept 27-Mon Sept 30: After the huge success of their first visit in 2007, the most iconic boats from all over the world are calling in Toulonnaises waters. The 4-day program is free with festivities of exceptional performances that will not be forgotten.

**TEACHING DAY CANNES**

04 93 94 54 61

[holyltrinitycannes.org](http://holyltrinitycannes.org)

Sat Sept 28, 9h30: A Teaching Day at Holy Trinity Church Cannes on "An Overview of the Bible" looking at the Bible as a book, its reliability, when and how it was written, who wrote it and a quick overview of its contents. Lunch provided. Contact to reserve.

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### LOOKING FOR PROPERTY?

See the Realty Report on page 51

**Nice, near the port between Place du Pin and Place Garibaldi, 2 bedroom apt in "Niçois" building, €279,000. 68m² + attic + mezzanine. Open kitchen, 2 balconies on east and west side. 2nd floor out of 5, no elevator. Train station Riquier 15 minutes walk. 15 min walk to beach. Lots of parks in area for kids. Contact: 06 61 73 27 39. See niceport.weebly.com for photos. No agents please.**

**In residential area Cimiez, Nice. 12 mins to Nice centre, near schools, 3 room apt in small art déco building with garden. 66 m² with small balconies on the 2nd storey out of 3. Collective fuel. New windows & aircon in 2 rooms. 2 large wardrobes and spacious cellar opens over garden. Monthly charges less than €200, €847 annual tax. €315,000. Contact [morezachach@gmail.com](mailto:morezachach@gmail.com) - 07 81 26 85 30.**

**Fully renovated 71m² house in a quiet hamlet off the coast road (D98) between Ste Maxime and Port Grimaud across the bay from St Tropez. Roof terrace (15m²) offers panoramic sea views. Property on three floors, two bedrooms and shower room; open plan sitting/dining room; and kitchen (plus scullery). Kitchen is brand new with quality oak units and Italian granite surfaces. Wood-burning stove heats house; reversible aircon/heat in bedrooms; thick walls for year-round insulation and even temperatures. Car space with other parking available nearby. The owners' much-loved principle home, which they are only leaving as a result of family issues in the UK. Pls call 04 94 96 53 32 or [susan.broadbent@sfr.fr](mailto:susan.broadbent@sfr.fr)**

**Antibes. 54m² one bedroom apt,** fabulous 180° sea view. 9th floor. 7m² terrace. 20m² living room full sea view. 7m² open-plan luxury kitchen. 13m² bedroom full sea view. 6m² luxury bathroom. 8m² home theatre room with sofa bed. Basement garage accessible from elevator. 6m² cellar. Video intercom. Huge swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, pétanque. Fully secured residence. Concierge. Faces garden, no road! Very quiet. <http://apartment-antibes.blogspot.fr>. €415,000. Phone: +336 75 84 44 45.

**House for sale Italy. The property at Borgata Confredi is located on a hill just 2km from the sea. 180m² living area, comprising entrance, dining room, lounge, kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom, laundry and two box rooms. 150m² terraces (three in total), 65m² garden, parking area for one car. Total area is about 390m². Train station at 1km with trains to Nice. Asking €425,000. Contact +39-335-6550225 or [carl.ottersen@gmail.com](mailto:carl.ottersen@gmail.com)**

**Apartment for Sale. 2 room apt.** 55m² in Le Cannet in small building. Residential district, very good state. €180,000. Call 04 93 69 42 69 (Fr).

## PROPERTY FOR RENT

Paris stylish two-bedroom apartment in the heart of trendy Montmartre. Weekly from €650 [parislikehome.fr](http://parislikehome.fr) - 06 60 37 28 53

**2 room apartment available to rent.** Cipieres, small village overlooking the Loup valley, in the heart of the Alpes-Maritimes. Bedroom, living room/kitchen, bathroom, entrance hall, cellar. €350 + €20 charges per month. Contact: 0044 797 984 5622 or 06 11 59 10 76.

**Large open space style modern villa** with 4 bedrooms located 200m from Biot village centre with exceptional views of the sea and old village. South facing. Large terraces on a 2000m² garden. Private, lots of secure parking. Completely renovated, newly built. 50m to local school. Available from Sept 1. €3500/mo. Tel: 07 87 52 11 64.

**One-bedroom apartment with** spectacular sea views to let in a verdant Cannes seaside residence with outdoor and indoor pools and own parking. Rates from €550 p.w. Email [torragio@gmail.com](mailto:torragio@gmail.com) or call 06 45 31 86 25.

## PROPERTY WANTED

**2-bdrm modest apt near Promenade des Anglais or Nice Centre.** Please contact [nancy@riviera-reporter.com](mailto:nancy@riviera-reporter.com)

## JOBS OFFERED

**Driver needed with small van or a** large enough car to transport artist and paintings (80x100cm) to art shows every Saturday and Sunday morning and collect again in the evenings, from Antibes to Cannes. Please contact: [karen\\_artstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_artstudio@yahoo.com)

## JOBS WANTED

**Trilingual (German, French, English)** reliable female looking for PT or FT work in office; or to help with translation of French admin and paperwork. Please call Hilda on 06 63 85 33 56.

## BUY, SELL & SWAP

**For Sale 2004 Citroen Jumper Van. 2.3** HDI diesel. See page 35.

## PERSONALS

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0820 200 257  
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## MISC

### HANDS-ON COOKING CLASSES IN OLD NICE

Nice-based food writer Rosa Jackson offers market tours and hands-on cooking classes in English for visitors and residents. For more, see [www.petitsfarcis.com](http://www.petitsfarcis.com)

**English American Library, 12 rue de** France, Nice. Open since 1862, the largest English-language library in Southern Europe. Open 10-11 and 3-5 Tues to Sat. 20,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction, DVDs & English press. Tourist €6/week or €26 for yearly memberships. See: [www.nice-english-library.org](http://www.nice-english-library.org)

**The English Book Centre in Valbonne.** Tues 10h30-12h: English improvement sessions. Walk-ins welcome. Thurs 10h45-12: French improvement sessions. Walk-ins welcome. Contact to confirm: 04 93 12 21 42 - [www.englishbookcentre.com](http://www.englishbookcentre.com).

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# REALTY report

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**Auribeau.** Wonderful property in excellent condition in a setting of total peace and quiet. 4 bedrooms. Living Area: 230m<sup>2</sup>. Land: 2292m<sup>2</sup>. Summer kitchen, pool house, barbeque area. Garage. **1,190,000€**



The English Estate Agents in France  
71 Avenue de Tournamy, 06250 Mougins  
Tel : +33 (0)4 92 92 47 50 [www.coast-country.com](http://www.coast-country.com)



**OPIO** - Light provençal villa with 4 rooms offering 145m<sup>2</sup> of living space on one level. Flat garden 2595m<sup>2</sup>. Pool. Closed garage. Close amenities. Very calm. Sophia Antipolis 15 mns, Cannes 30 mins. Price: 695 000 €. Call Meta Looij  
+33 (0)6 15 52 14 61  
[cotedazur@groupe-mercure.fr](mailto:cotedazur@groupe-mercure.fr)



**CANNES, CROIX DES GARDES** Apartment 74m<sup>2</sup>, 2 bedrooms. Sea view, 3rd and last floor with lift. Secured domaine. Shared pool, tennis court, garage, cellar. Walking distance sea. Price 750 000 €. Call Meta Looij  
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**Peymeinade.** Charming entirely renovated stone country house in a quiet residential area with open views of the surrounding hills. 5 Bedrooms. Living Area: 201m<sup>2</sup>. Land: 2528m<sup>2</sup>. Garage. Heated pool. **892,500€**



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**La Roquette.** Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath/showers. Living Area: 225m<sup>2</sup>, Land: 1500m<sup>2</sup>. Garage and covered parking for two cars. Coast & Country/MLS exclusivity **€749,000**



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**Cannes.** Beautifully renovated apartment between the Rue d'Antibes and Croisette. Open plan equipped kitchen a bedroom with fitted wardrobes. Excellent rental income. **299,000€**



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**ANTIBES**  
Fantastic charm for this 56 m<sup>2</sup> top floor apartment with a 45 m<sup>2</sup> terrace and open views. Cellar, parking.



**450 000€**



113 Boulevard Wilson, 06160 Juan les Pins  
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**Mandelieu.** Charming apartment on the ground floor of a villa. Open plan kitchen and bathroom + separate bedroom in wooden cabanon. Flat garden, terrace in front of the apartment.



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[info@chrisma.com](mailto:info@chrisma.com)

Parking for the building. Close to amenities, good area. **265 000€**

**ANTIBES**  
Elegant apartment nestled in the greenery and calm of luxurious gardens. 101 m<sup>2</sup> with spacious volumes. Terrasse. Must be seen !



**495 000€**



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**Mandelieu.** Lovely light and airy apartment in sought after residence on the sea front, quiet, with pool, tennis, park and caretaker, in excellent decorative order + cellar and underground parking (possible to convert to garage) **665 000€**



Tel: 04 93 49 90 99  
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