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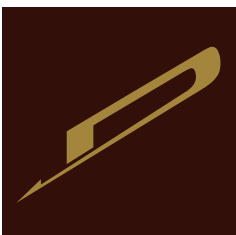
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In this issue ...

The Insider

APPARENTLY summer is right around the corner. This seems impossible when just today I had a call from a contact in Finland who told me it was snowing. Not even two weeks ago, my mom in Toronto woke up to a flurry of snowflakes and a 30 degree change in temperature from the day before, as a storm front swept across the country.

A neighbour in my building said that the weather is like a mood – cheerful, miserable, talkative, quiet ... so I've come to the conclusion that Mother Nature is perimenopausal – suffering hot flushes, uncontrollable tears, fatigue, energetic spurts, mixed highs and lows. And her symptoms must be getting worse. Fortunately, this issue of the *Reporter* will see you through it all.

"Rundraiser" Ben Rolfe and Professor Canivet at CHU-Nice have a lot to say about diabetes, particularly Type 1 (see Health), and a Nice resident shares her experience

as a host on Airbnb, the online rental marketplace (page 16).

A piece on the *Bailey's Stardust* exhibit at the Arles photography festival is on page 20, while on page 8, Anne Nijland is hoping that photos of Chris Vos will jog the memory of anyone who might have known him.

Our Antiques column (page 22) reveals a new kind of visitor hunting in Provence. And if you're on a fact-finding mission of your own, Hillary Barrows may be able to help. Not your typical PI, the head of Shadow Investigations (see page 50) tells us, "As a female, people trust me and I am able to gain information in a softly approach." Though you won't have to go undercover to view Nice's new Statue of Liberty (page 40).

Of course, we have the essential summer seaside fireworks guide (page 29). For schedule updates, see RivieraReporter.com

Nancy Heslin, Editor

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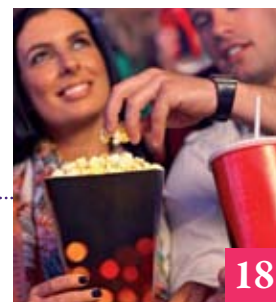
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Cover: Gordes © Riviera Reporter



THE UPSIDE OF OUTSIDE PG 24

riviera reportage



A MEMBER of FANY, the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps), Nancy Wake died in London in 2011, just shy of 100.

Born in Wellington but raised in Sydney, she trained as a nurse before moving to the UK where she became a journalist. Assigned to France, she married a Marseille businessman, Henri Fiocca, and when war broke out they quickly became active helping Jews and escaped allied prisoners out of France through Spain.

In 1943 she was betrayed and had to use the escape line herself. She went to London and was recruited into Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE). Like other female agents she was warned that the Gestapo showed no quarter to captured women; they were routinely injected with carbolic acid and set on fire. Nancy Wake was up to the challenge: she placed bombs, led attacks on German installations and

killed at least one Nazi with her bare hands. On one occasion she covered a distance of 639km in 71 hours by bike to obtain vital replacement radio codes.

Nancy Wake ended up the most decorated allied woman combatant of the War, holding the George Medal, *Legion d'Honneur*, three *Croix de Guerre* and the US Medal of Freedom. (Much later she was admitted to the Order of Australia.)

In September 2014, a group of FANYs aim to retrace her 639km route, not just for Nancy Wake and her incredible legacy, but for every woman who served in the War, and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

You can follow The Nancy Wake Memorial Bicycle Ride teams training on Facebook (PRVC: Ride for Nancy) or on Twitter @RideforNancy. For further information see fany.org.uk or contact lynette.beardwood@free.fr

le FLASH

NOT ENOUGH COOKS IN THE FRENCH KITCHEN?

GORDON Ramsay may be able to help. The producers of Channel 4's BAFTA-winning Ramsay's "Kitchen Nightmares" are on the look out for British-owned restaurants, hotels and B&Bs in France that are struggling to make ends meet and who would like some help from the multi-Michelin-starred chef. The series will be broadcast on Channel 4 later this year.



"We'd love to hear from any owners, managers or head chefs who feel they could benefit from Gordon's advice," says Series Producer Nicola Lloyd.

Contact: +44(0)203 227 5867 or restaurants@onepotatotwopotato.tv

BONNE FÊTE MAMAN

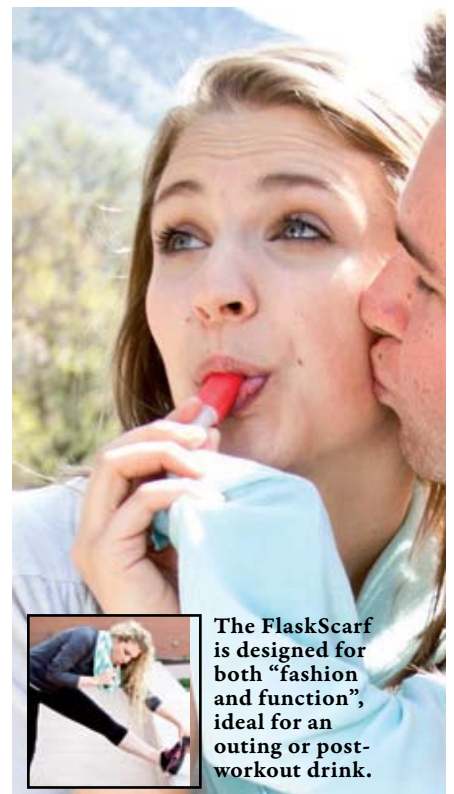
A COUPLE of suggestions for last-minute gifts for Mother's Day, which in France falls on May 25th.

Voted "Britain's most trusted brand" last year, John Lewis opened its doors in 1864 and today has 41 shops in the UK with a valuation of £4 billion. To celebrate 150 years, John Lewis.com now ships to France (and 32 other countries) so you can shop online at "Britain's best retailer" and have it delivered directly to mum.

Mireille Guiliano's latest release *French Women Don't Get Facelifts: The Secret of Aging with Style & Attitude* (\$25 US) will give *maman* 272 pages of ageless insight for much less than the price of a lifting, firming, wrinkle-fighting serum.

And for the mom who has everything, Baxbo.com gives us the uniquely designed FlaskScarf (\$24.95 US) and comes in a variety of colours or stripes.

The scarf's bladder holds around 250ml of liquid (about a third of a bottle of wine) and the ScarfBite valve



The FlaskScarf is designed for both "fashion and function", ideal for an outing or post-workout drink.

provides "on the go boozing" or – post-workout hydration. And it's one size fits all, so you can't go wrong.

And with Father's Day around the corner, there's the FlaskTie.

WONDERING WHERE HAVE ALL YOUR FAVOURITE SKY CHANNELS GONE?

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Death stalks the empire builders

FRANCE IN THE NEWS



THE mafia-style shooting on May 6th of Hélène Pastor, 77, and her driver near the Archet hospital in Nice, which garnered international media coverage, shines a light on this discreet local family.

Those who rent in Monaco most likely pay into one of the companies operated by a member of the Pastor family, who own a third of the Principality's rental property.

Their wealth, power and influence draw admiration, envy and jealousy in equal measures. The hit has been described as an attempt to "muscle in on the family's empire".

The Pastors have been a formidable presence in Monaco since Italian stonemason Jean-Baptiste Pastor first settled there in 1880. They are thought to be wealthier than Prince Albert, one of the world's richest monarchs and far better off than even Queen Elizabeth.

A naturalised Monegasque, Jean-Baptiste was commissioned to construct public buildings such as the Principality's first stadium, while at the same time building for his own account on other sites in Monaco. By the time Rainier III acceded to the throne in 1949, Pastor had amassed significant wealth and when he passed his legacy on to his son Gildo, the stage was set for a massive acquisition of property along the then undeveloped seafront at Larvotto (pictured today).

The secret to the Pastors rapid and increasing wealth came from the fact that Gildo kept ownership of most of the buildings he constructed. The family earnings came from rents – some of the world's highest – while the capital value of the Pastor's massive real estate portfolio continued to rise as the

Principality became a secure tax haven and playground for the rich and famous.

In 1966 Prince Rainier decided to cover over the railway line which allowed Gildo to construct a line of luxury buildings parallel to the rail route across the Principality. When Gildo died in 1990, his three children – Victor, Hélène and Michel (former AS Monaco president who died in February of this year) – inherited half a million square metres of property worth the equivalent of some €19 billion, representing only part of their family fortune, the total worth of which is a closely guarded secret.

As is frequent in families where inherited money is concerned, Gildo's three children are known to not get along very well and to avoid each other's company. Some have made their marks in other areas. Victor's son Philippe is a successful artist and Hélène's MIT-educated son Gildo Pallanca, 47, has partnered with Leonardo DiCaprio in Venturi automobiles in a bid to build high performance electric cars for Formula-E racing.

Hélène and her driver, Mohamed Darwich, 64, were ambushed as they were leaving Archet hospital after visiting her son, who is reportedly recovering from a stroke suffered three months ago. The gunman "shot both in the face and neck with a pump-action shotgun before jumping into a waiting getaway car and speeding **CONT PG 6 ➤**

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FRANCE IN THE NEWS



drinkers prefer quality to quantity and previously shunned imports have seen an increase of 10% over the past two decades.

Another corker, French wine is no longer at the top of the European export list – the honour goes to Spain and Italy – and since 2003 the total land area of French vineyards has shrunk by 14% to 780,000 hectares, while EU rules state that this surface cannot be increased by more than 1% a year from 2016.

While France is falling behind in wine consumption it's tucking in to more fast food. McDonald's sell more hamburgers per capita in France than anywhere outside America. So will French doctors see fewer patients with liver disease and more with diabetes (see page 14)?

Boys in skirts

IT all started with good intentions. To increase awareness of sexism, 27 high

schools in the Nantes area invited boys to wear skirts to school on May 16th as a gesture of support for gay rights and a condemnation of gender inequality.

The "Lift the Skirt" campaign was not obligatory and students were told they might wish instead to wear a badge saying "I'm fighting sexism". Within hours, social networks were buzzing with anger from anti-gay activists and gender theory opponents. On Twitter, militant Frigide Barjot asked Education Minister Benoît Hamon whether the girls were expected to wear beards. Parents' groups were for the most part supportive of the event and one mother commented, "It doesn't seem to be a problem in Scotland."

Lyricist needed

ANYONE who has listened carefully to the lyrics of the French national anthem will know that the bloodthirsty war cry "*La Marseillaise*" was a call to arms. Written in 1792 during the French revolutionary wars it was originally titled "*Chant de guerre pour l'Armée du Rhin*".

The maligned and contentious Justice Minister Christiane Taubira – who once campaigned for the independence of her native Cayenne (French Guiana) – did not sing "let impure blood water our furrows" or indeed mouth any of the words of "*La Marseillaise*" at an event in May. She justified this by claiming she did not believe in "karaoke on a public platform".

Within hours National Front leader Marine Le Pen had called for Taubira's

sacking in an ill-advised rant that backfired. Many other politicians present – including Education Minister Hamon – had also stood without singing as French officials often do on such occasions.

Nicolas Sarkozy always remained silent when the anthem was played and correct protocol dictates that no one should sing if a military band plays the anthem.

The incident resurfaced at the Cannes Film Festival when presenter Lambert Wilson called for a rewrite of the "appalling, racist" national anthem "from another time".

Nice-Côte d'Azur: "you couldn't be anywhere else"

AN annual poll of travel experts and fans by *PrivateFly.com* put Nice-Côte d'Azur Airport – with its "turquoise waters, red rocks, snow capped mountains" – at the top of the global list for most scenic airport landings; London City, UK, ranked 9th.

"We are very proud that Nice airport was voted the most beautiful view in the world in 2014," said Dominique Thillaud, CEO of Aéroports de la Côte d'Azur. "This is an undeniable international recognition."

For the best view on approach into Nice, choose a seat on the left side of the aircraft. The dominant winds mean that 80% of the time you'll land seeing the Cap d'Antibes with the Lerins Islands and the Esterel in the distance before turning right along the coast to observe Cagnes and St Laurent with the nearby Alps in the distance. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS VOS?

IN 1983, Anne Nijland, 25, met Chris Vos in Israel where they were both working as volunteers. The following year she convinced Chris, a Brit six years her senior who had been travelling across Europe, to go back to the Netherlands. They married and had a daughter Naomi.

"Chris said that he'd been in the army in South Africa and that he had no living relatives as his parents – his mother was British and his father South African – and brother all died in a car crash," Anne tells us by phone from Holland. "I had hoped that he would settle down with his little family but he had problems. First, he drank a lot. When we were in Israel, all the volunteers would party together so Chris' drinking didn't really stand out until we came here. I immediately started teaching and living a normal life but Chris struggled as he tried to learn the language and find work. And then there were the nightmares.

"He would cry out in his sleep, like he was back in South Africa with his platoon in a jeep that was bombarded with grenades and he was the only survivor.

"Chris had two personalities. The nice, easy-to-talk-to sober guy or the drunk and aggressive soldier who saw everyone as the enemy, like he had a death wish.

"It became too much for me. I wanted to protect Naomi so I divorced him in 1988."

In 1992, she received a phone call

from the British Embassy in Athens.

"He told me he had health problems and needed money to go to the hospital. That was the last time I heard from him."

Anne and Naomi spent the next ten years in Aruba and returned to Holland in 2003, by which point Naomi had become increasingly curious about her father. Having had no contact for over a decade, her mother launched an investigation.

Anne and her second husband went to England in 2007 armed only with a birth certificate and learned that Chris' mother and *two* brothers were very much alive; his father, a former RAF officer, died in 1988. The family, who Anne describes as seeming "stable", had not seen Chris in 25 years.

Anne compared notes with Michael, the older brother. The family did not know that Chris had been in South Africa or that he had a scar on his cheek, and Anne certainly was unaware that her former husband had been married before, at age 21, to a Swiss au-pair and that they had a child together, Jamie (now 39). There was more: Chris had a second son, Sam (today 34) with a German woman he lived with for three years.

"It was unreal. He never mentioned any other children and when Naomi was born, he acted like it was his first."

After trying to retrace Chris' path,

Anne hit a dead end and eventually went back home with a few family photos she could give to her daughter, and a promise to keep in touch with Michael, which they have done for the past seven years.

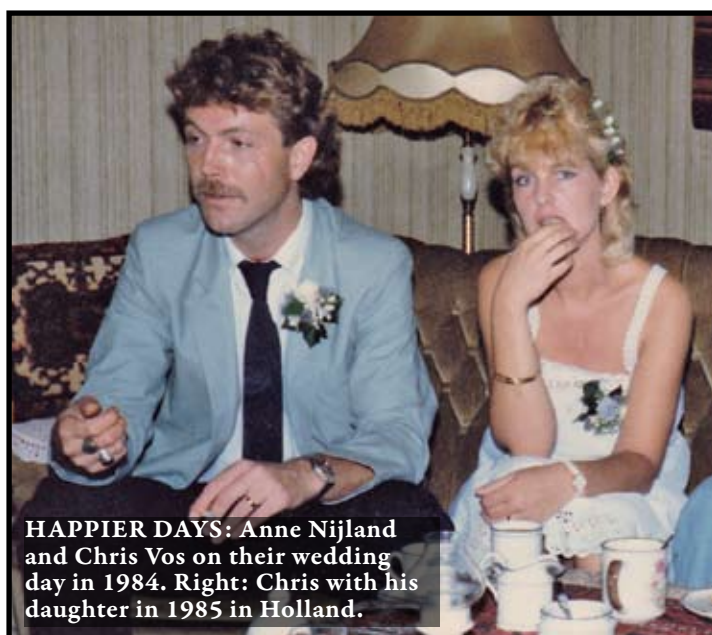
Six months ago, Anne woke in the middle of the night with a premonition to recontact the British Embassy in Athens. When she did, they informed her that they had just received a death certificate from the Paris Embassy for Christopher Roy Vos.

It seems Chris had spent the last ten years with his French wife in Nice and died in December 2012. His ashes were spread under an old oak tree at the Plateau de la Justice in Eze; his widow does not wish to speak to the family.

"For many years I have tried to find out what happened to Chris. I couldn't understand why he didn't get in touch with us, especially because he loved our daughter very much.

"I'd be willing to come to Nice to speak with anyone who may have known Chris to give us more information. Naomi and her two older half-brothers want to find out what happened to their father and, just maybe, we could finally find peace." ■

Christopher Roy Vos was born on May 18th, 1953 in Ely, England. If anyone has any information, please email: arubanne@yahoo.com



HAPPIER DAYS: Anne Nijland and Chris Vos on their wedding day in 1984. Right: Chris with his daughter in 1985 in Holland.



DID YOU KNOW HIM? Chris had dark blond hair, grey-green eyes and a scar across his left cheek. He had a real presence and with his long legs measured 1m90 although he was slim. With his dark character, he spoke often of South African politics.

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How early retirement could ruin your health



ONCE the best healthcare system in the world, these days no one would say that about the NHS.

British hospitals are overcrowded, emergency services are closing, expectant mothers are advised to give birth at home and waiting times to see a GP lengthen. If it's any consolation, most medical care in the UK is still free at the point of delivery ... for those who manage to get delivery, that is.

For some, a solution automatically arrived when they became an expat in a country where access to care was quicker and easier – such as France. That's still true in many cases, but these are now fewer.

British retirees benefit from the same rights as locals when they retire to another EU country, as long as they paid into a national scheme and were covered by it before they retired; the home country eventually foots the bill for overseas care.

The British taxpayer covered early retirees to France for 30 months. If they hadn't reached the UK's

retirement age by that time, they needed private medical insurance until the French system kicked in or after 5 years residency.

From July 1st, early retirees to France will no longer be covered by way of their S1 form and will need private insurance at least until retirement age, unless they are working in France and paying into the French system.

Expert Peter Owen of Expathealthdirect assures us that existing early retirees holding the S1 are not affected by the measure. If an early retiree plans to arrive in France before July of this year he or she can still apply for the S1 and will be issued it assuming the necessary NI contributions were made by the individual in the UK. The S1 will not be issued to early retirees from July 1st onwards.

If currently an early retiree and holder of the S1 reaches retirement age and is in receipt of the UK State pension he or she will be entitled to the S1 (previously the E121) for life and can be affiliated to the CPAM, France's healthcare system.

IN BRIEF:

SINCE the marriage equality act was introduced in March, an International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) study has ranked the UK first among 49 countries examined for legislation and policies that have a "direct impact on the enjoyment of Human Rights by LGBTI people". Belgium came in second place followed by, somewhat surprisingly, Spain. France ranks fifth – on par with Sweden and Iceland.

According to ILGA, Monaco joins Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan amongst the lowest ranked countries for gay rights.

FRANCE has long claimed to hold the top spot for tourist numbers, although this has always been contentious because criteria can differ.

France is near the centre of Europe and an obligatory pathway for Northern Europeans travelling on surface transport to sunny holidays in Spain or Portugal. The Paris airports are hubs for transferring to other destinations, including from North America towards Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Should these transient visitors be counted as tourists or not?

More recent statistics use hotel bookings as a more relevant criterion. For 2013, that puts London ahead of Paris with 35 million visitors against 29.3 million for the French capital. Not to be outdone, Parisian officials point out that the London stats include Greater London while Parisian figures only count the centre. If Greater Paris is included, as far as Disneyland and the Palace of Versailles, the Parisian figure rises to 47 million visitors. So there you go Boris. ■

WHY WE GET OUR KICKS OUT OF THE KARDASHIANS

Kim to wed in the City of Light, does anybody care?

BY PJ HESLIN

WELL yes, two million people actually. According to the ratings, that's how many viewers tuned in for the season eight finale of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians", the millennial version of the Brady Bunch.

I was recently having dinner with some British neighbors in Nice who asked me to explain why the Kardashian family is considered American royalty. They asked the same questions everybody does: What is their fame based on? How many are there? And what's up with Bruce Jenner's face?

So for those more civilized than the rest of us, American Olympic decathlon hero Bruce Jenner married wealthy divorcee Kris Kardashian (husband Robert was one of OJ Simpson's defense lawyers) and this "modern family" – 3 daughters and a son from Kris, the reverse from Jenner's side, plus two daughters they made together

– launched a reality show, which has spin-offs and clothing lines, that's now unbelievably heading into its ninth season.

It's easy to slam *les Kardashians*: they have no visible talent. It's not possible to separate what is genuine from what is a publicity stunt; they all talk with that vacuous southern Californian drawl that makes everything sound like a question. But if at the peak of their ratings, 3.9 million viewers were watching their cable TV show, then a better question to ask is what makes them so popular?

Full disclosure: I love reality shows. Even the worst of the worst (Google "Rock of Love with Brett Michaels" to see what I'm talking about) is great television for me. I don't care that it's all really scripted and the "actors" are told what to say and do, and who to have a fight with and who's going to win the rose this week.

What I love about any reality show is that I can feel dispassionate about horrible people without any ramifications to my professional or personal life. Let me explain. When watching a nasty individual on a reality show, say Vicki Gunvalson from the "Real Housewives of Orange County", I can safely savor my disdain for her because there is no emotional connection. My frustration of what is not fair in this world can be funneled on to her when I watch an episode where her husband cheats on her, she goes bankrupt or one of the other wives says something catty to her. I can dislike them without them impacting my existence one bit. Whereas if it's, say, Darlene from accounting who is a real jerk, those emotions can have direct negative repercussions on my life. If I try to "out jerk" her at work we can get locked in an emotional arms race that doesn't end until somebody's fired or gets another job.

I think that's one of the reasons for the success of the Kardashians. Human beings can feel better about themselves and dump their emotional baggage on the reality TV brood. Sure they date more famous athletes than the rest of us and drive fancier cars and live in a bigger house but look how stupid they are! Ahhh, that makes me feel better about my life.

However, I loathe when nameless people boast about the latest Twitter rant against the Kardashians. To me this is like Nineties stand-up comedy about airplane food or the difference between men and women. Besides it's like throwing pebbles at a brontosaurus: do you really think a pithy less than 140-character comment will crumble the mighty Kardashian Empire?

There are also less choleric reasons for liking the Kardashians. They give us hope. Hope that we too can win the American lottery of fame and success. After all, if a family with no discernible talent or abilities can make millions of dollars – Kim Kardashian gets paid \$80,000 an episode and is worth \$40 million – for just sitting around a fancy house and shopping then I too can have

Kim Kardashian, left, the highest paid reality TV celeb, is said to have pocketed \$18 million off TV rights and endorsements for her 2011 wedding, a marriage which lasted 72 days. Right: Vicki Gunvalson was a single mom at 29 without a college degree and now earns \$500,000 a season on "Real Housewives of Orange County".



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- 47% of girls ages 11-17 in the US say they are regular reaty TV viewers; 30% saying they sometimes watch.
- 86% believe reality TV shows "often pit girls against each other to make the shows more exciting".
- 70% say they "make people think it is OK to treat each other badly".
- among girls who watch reality TV, 72% say they spend a lot of time on their appearance, versus 42% of non-viewers.
- 68% thought reality TV made them think they could achieve anything in life.

Source: Girl Scout Research Institute: Real to Me: Girls and Reality TV, 2012 study

that (even though I hate shopping). This is why we don't want to tax the wealthy too much: in the land where you can get rich by falling in with a guy who comes up with a nifty invention in his garage, we believe it's highly likely we can win the metaphorical or literal lottery so we don't want the government taking too big a chunk when we land on Park Place.

When anybody does anything well they make it look easy. Perhaps that is the genius behind the success of the Kardashian brand. If they truly have no discernible relevance then why do millions of people watch their show, follow their tweets and read every tidbit about them in celebrity media. There's a talent there but what it is I cannot say.

If you think anybody can do what they do with the same results you're wrong. Take the Beckhams, for example. When

Posh and Becks moved to Los Angeles years ago they immediately signed – and desperately wanted – a reality TV deal. Now that sounds like easy money. "Welcome to America" was slated as a 6-part miniseries but a friend of mine who was a producer working on the show said that they were so boring that after weeks of shooting they could only cobble enough footage for a one-hour special. NBC, who originally commissioned the series passed the grenade to their sister station, Bravo, on basic cable.

One critic wrote in the *New York Post* that the "relentlessly self-promoting wife" should go "back to Europe".

The Beckhams could never win over the American public; even Victoria's reportedly 34DD implants (on her "size 0" frame) and dyed blonde hair did little to advance her career stateside.

In France, it appears that reality TV, much like the tabloid press (*Voici*, *Closure*) is slowly gaining in popularity and acceptance but remains years behind the US.

In 2011, 56 contestants in the French reality TV program "*L'Île de la Tentation*" ("Temptation Island") sued the TV station TF1 claiming they deserved to be paid for their work like film actors who "go to a location, do their work then go back to their trailers or hotels for the evening". France's highest appeal court concurred, and awarded the rate of €1400 per day per person, saying that participants must be treated like 35-hours a week salaried staff, with overtime. Little surprise this victory saw some 300 former French contestants make claims.

In comparison, America's "Dancing with the Stars" has guest celebs banking up to \$200,000 per season (the pros make about half of that figure); "Teen Mom" pays its reality stars \$3000-\$5000 per episode; and Vicki Gunvalson, from "Real Housewives"? In 2012, she earned a cool \$500,000 for the season.

Like all great pop culture stories, the Kardashians were at the right time at the right place. First off, their show came shortly after MTV's wildly successful "The Osbournes", based on heavy metal rocker Ozzie Osbourne which not only resurrected his career but made stars of his entire family. The premise of being a fly on the wall of an eccentric and idly wealthy Beverly Hills family set up the winning template (and the buzz around Kim's leaked sex tape didn't do any harm). Even the logos for both shows are remarkably similar. Secondly, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" first aired a year before the crisis. I believe non-panicking scenes of super-wealthy people buying shoes and opening new boutiques for their own fashion lines gave the rest of us who had just had our 401Ks wiped out a sense of calm, that everything was going to be okay ...

If you're hoping the Kardashians will go away, don't worry they will. Our culture is so disposable that \$800 phones are paperweights in a year. The bad news is that somebody equally Kardashian is launching her career right now by Instagramming a pouting, naked selfie.

Until then, the reality is that Breaking News will force-feed us photos of Kim and Kanye's French wedding as it happens. ■

Glitz, Glamour and the Green Prix

BY MOLLY BROWN

THE Monaco Grand Prix has an interesting twist this year: the sophisticated new F1 engines are not only cleaner and greener but quieter ... **TOO QUIET!** Driving is now “as exciting as a golf cart” and the race is “not noisy enough” for F1 fans who need the adrenalin rush of big bangs and the throaty roar of powerful engines. “Sound IS important,” says Sir Stirling Moss, and he should know ... and who can see those streamlined cars scream around the hairpin bends on Monaco’s winding circuit, with a spurt of flame and a bang as the extra fuel explodes, their skidding tyres blackening the newly resurfaced road, without feeling a sharp thrill of excitement and a sparkle in the air? Noise is a great big wow factor and certainly adds to the magic of Monaco’s Grand Prix, which begins with a challenging roar and ends with a triumphal cacophony of sound from hundreds of great big boats and an explosion of fireworks.

June brings more excitement as the 54th Monte-Carlo Television Festival takes over Grimaldi Forum for a star-studded, exciting event (June 7th-11th). An essential event for the television industry, programmes from all over the world compete for a Golden Nymph Award. New TV series and films are introduced to the public and the world’s press and local fans crowd the entrance to see their favourite stars. This year, American producer Jerry Bruckheimer (“Top Gun”, “Pirates

of the Caribbean”) will be presented with a prestigious Honorary Golden Nymph for his lifetime achievements.

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATING the fourth of July in unique style, a team of polo players from America will ride through Place du Casino with competing teams from Argentina, Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Monaco to celebrate the opening of the 2nd Monte-Carlo Polo World Cup, which brings six teams of three players each to the Principality for a second exciting tournament (July 3th-6th). More than 90 horses are expected to take part and matches will be played on the Devens polo field in Beausoleil.

The Grimaldi Forum’s summer exhibition is the “*Pinault Collection*”, with 50 works of this eclectic art collection, some rarely shown, by a diversity of artists from Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East – a highlight of the artistic summer (July 12th-Sept 7th). The Sporting d’Été (en.sportingsummerfestival.com) is Europe’s largest and most popular nightclub where artists of pop and rock light up the summer evenings in style. Robbie Williams is in concert on May 31st and the extraordinary Lana Del Rey will open the summer season on July 4th, followed by actor Kevin Costner & Modern West on the 5th. Julio Iglesias, Paolo Conte, Elton John, Bryan Adams, Tom Jones, and other international stars

will perform in the Salle des Étoiles until the end of the summer season.

For music lovers who prefer the sound of classical music played by 100 talented musicians, with internationally famous conductors and soloists in the courtyard of a 700-year-old Palace under the stars, the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra’s six summer concerts in the *Cour d’Honneur* of the Palais Princier begin on July 17th ... a magical experience (see opmc.mc). Monaco’s outdoor cinema on the rock opens on June 20th and both cinemas will be open until the end of September when the Place du Casino will change forever and the Sporting d’Hiver cinema will move to smaller premises in Princess Grace Theatre.

A GLAMOROUS new Yacht Club, designed by British architect, Lord Norman Foster, in the style of an elegant transatlantic cruise liner of the 1930s, will be officially opened on June 20th by HSH Prince Albert II. Situated on Quai Louis II, facing the palace and dominating the entrance to Port Hercule, the modern, high-tech club has been built according to HQE standards and can accommodate a range of crafts from sailing boats to 100-metre super-yachts. In celebration of Monaco’s dedication to the protection of the environment, its first event brings “green energy” solar powerboats from all over the world to Monaco to battle it out July 10th-12th in a race for the Solar1 Monte-Carlo Cup (solar1races.com). ■

L-R: Soprano Gabriela Di Laccio with Mari Laurila-Lili on piano and Brigitte Blondeau (cello).



MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

London-based Bravo Brazil (bravo-brazil.com) helps to improve the quality of life for street children and deprived youth in Brazil. Funds raised support Brazilian organizations that provide free music education and promote the collective practice of music through

symphony orchestras and choruses.

On Tuesday June 3rd, at 20h30, there’s a fundraising concert at the Théâtre des Variétés in Monaco with the support of the Association Brasil Monaco Project (brasilmonacoproject.com).

Tickets (€28) from FNAC, Carrefour, Intermarché, Géant or an hour before the show. For more info call 08 92 69 26 94 (€0.34/min).

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Setting the controls to Manuel

BY PETER JOHNSON

"50 Measures to Simplify Business" screamed the headline of *Le Figaro* on April 15th and many of us will have said, "Not before time".

The new Prime Minister, Manuel Valls (right), seems to be breathing a bit of energy into French economic life and – for the first time in years – some good, concrete measures are being driven through (even the controversial *Pacte de Responsabilité* discussed last issue).

The 50 measures are designed to make business decision-making simpler (without having to second-guess what bizarre government decision could render it worthless), to reduce the time spent doing administrative tasks (traditional red-tape, in other words), and make it easier (and less costly) to hire and train people. In addition, the unbelievably complicated payslip will be simplified, as will the setting up of companies. This will all save money and time, and make France a more attractive place to do business.

Less than a week later, Valls split the Left by announcing tough new measures to save a further €50 billion in order to reduce the



Photo: Jackolant

national debt and bring it into line with the EU requirements. The unpopular measures included extending the freeze of public sector pay rises until 2017; laying off civil servants in various government offices; the freezing of any increase in benefits in housing, public pensions, health cover until 2015; radical measures

to save money in the unemployment agencies (Pôle Emploi) and earnings-related pension schemes (AGIRC/ARRCO) as well as the health service.

The financial newspaper, *Les Echos*, called Valls "Monsieur Muscles" with his quick-fire approach to sorting out the nation's ills. What a contrast to the previous two years under Jean-Marc Ayrault! Valls has set a new tone of determination and courage: he has gone very much on the offensive and even toughed it out with the unions. He has disenchanted many hard-line left-wingers even in his own party, but at least something is at last happening.

An immediate bit of good news followed soon after these announcements:

a slackening of the rate of increase in unemployment, especially amongst the young. Valls can't take credit for this, but he can certainly glow in the aftermath and promise further improvement.

Elsewhere, there is serious talk of reducing the number of regions in France from 22 to 12, thus cutting out some of the layers of bureaucratic ping-pong between government departments.

So, let there be hope and the opinion polls seem to be encouraging, too. Mr Valls' popularity rating of 58% is the highest for a new mid-term prime minister, which suggests that the French people themselves see a glimmer of this *espoir*.

Even the right-wing UMP party approves of Mr Valls. All the while, President Hollande slips down the popularity stakes. One just wonders what kind of Trojan Horse Mr Valls could turn out to be when the next presidential elections come around in 2017.

It's almost as if the whole 5-year term was orchestrated from the start; first beat up business and the middle classes by taxing them to death, and once they've hollered enough, let's go for the civil servants and public sector, with no room left for half-measures and compromise, if France isn't to fall into the same economic mire as Greece, Portugal and Spain.

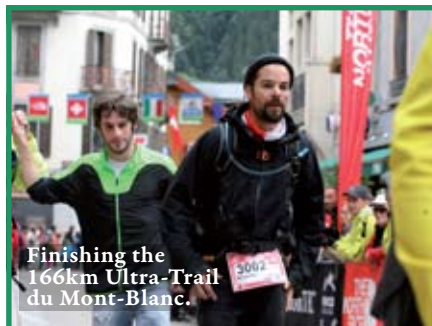
On verra bien! ■

ON A ROLFE

“Sometimes people inspire us to do things differently ...”



Ultra-distance runner Ben Rolfe is raising money for Diabetes UK.



Finishing the 166km Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc.



Ben with his cheering squad.

MEET Ben Rolfe. This is the kind of comment you'll find on his fundraising website – justgiving.com/totallynuts.

In November 2003, age 31, Ben had just moved to the region when the Monaco Marathon ran past his doorstep. At the time, Ben weighed 108kg and was “doing my best to eat and drink my way through the doctor’s warning that I would not see 40 at the current rate of progress”.

When his mother was diagnosed with cancer the following year, Ben the couch potato decided to sign up for that same marathon to raise money for the disease. He has not stopped running since – so far in 2014 he has run 1021km, and it's only May! – losing 35kg along the way; he started a blog pussyfootingaround.net.

Ben's next run is on June 21st, the mammoth 130km Cro-Magnon, from Limone Piemonte to Cap d'Ail, to raise

awareness for Type 1 diabetes, which regrettably his 12-year-old daughter Alice was diagnosed with late last year. However, to up the fundraising ante, Ben's running the course *aller-retour* for a total of 260km.

Diabetes causes more deaths a year than breast cancer and AIDS combined, but only 5% of those diagnosed have Type 1 – meaning the body produces no insulin at all – and it's usually children or young adults. (This is why it used to be known as Juvenile Diabetes.)

According to Diabetes UK, there are 3.2 million people diagnosed with the disease in the UK and an estimated 630,000 people who have the condition, but don't know it. There is nothing that you can do to prevent Type 1, it's caused by genetics and unknown factors that trigger the onset of the disease, whereas Type 2 is a combination of genes and lifestyle.

We asked Ben, who is Head of Special Situations Sales at Tavora in Monaco, how the recent diabetes diagnosis has affected their lives? “To be honest, while it's not terminal cancer, it has been a very difficult time which I can only liken to bereavement.

“Alice had lost weight after the summer in 2013, but other than that we did not notice anything different about her. She was perhaps getting up to

pee in the night, and was a bit more fatigued, but we just thought it was because it was coming up to Christmas with school and concerts. We took her to the Paediatric GP, but she put the weight loss down to a growth spurt, as she was 11 and perhaps coming into puberty.

“When we were in the UK at Christmas, each of us did a blood sugar test – my father-in-law is Type 2 and has all the paraphernalia. It was not the first time we had done the finger prick – it was almost like a family game when we all got together. Alice was off the charts: it just said HIGH. We called the local GP who told us to go immediately to York District Hospital and we returned back to my in-laws that evening with a Type 1 diagnosis, injection pens, blood glucose check kit and enough insulin to last us until we arrived back in Monaco. That was December 23rd, and we realised our lives would never be the same again.

“We arrived back in Monaco on the 27th and immediately saw the doctor to get repeat prescriptions, but then had an agonising two-month wait to get into the French system – there is no Monaco system for Type 1 kids. Diabetes UK provided us – and continue to with education, support and sometimes just someone to talk to at the end of the phone.

“If I could take the condition myself and Alice could have a fully functioning pancreas again, I would. In a heartbeat.” ■

Help Ben Rolfe reach his £10,000 goal in support of Diabetes UK by making a donation at justgiving.com/totallynuts

Ben would be interested in hearing from other parents with Type 1 children to potentially form a support group. Contact: mcbunsy@hotmail.co.uk



In 2013, Alice Rolfe was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes after doing a Blood Glucose Check – a finger prick test.

Professor Bertrand Canivet at CHU-Nice tells us more about the local impact of diabetes

THERE are currently 3 million people with diabetes in France, with many more cases in the north than south (even two fold more in overseas departments, Réunion, Antilles) and also in urban versus rural areas.

About 92% of sufferers have Type 2. That's 3 million people today against 1.5 million in 1997. About 6% to 7% – 180,000 people – are diagnosed with Type 1 while less than 2% suffer rare forms of “secondary diabetes”.

Around 85% of Type 2 patients are under the care of their GP, but more than half of Type 1 are followed by specialists, either paediatricians or endocrinologists. Indeed, patients with Type 1 diabetes need a lot of information to self-manage their treatment (“the patient is his own doctor”). There are technical aspects – insulin injections,



About the size of a cellphone, a computerised insulin pump belt delivers insulin through a catheter continuously.

insulin pumps, home blood glucose monitoring – as well as theoretical aspects, like the dose of insulin according the day-to-day life. The GP is not always comfortable delivering this “specialised” education.

Care on the Côte d'Azur

AS in other parts of France, there are highly specialised institutions usually located in the university hospitals of the area (CHU de Marseille, CHU de Nice ...) and in other “secondary” hospitals or some private clinics. Many patients are under the care of private endocrinologists, as they do not (or not yet) need the highly specialised structures mentioned earlier.

The density of doctors including endocrinologists is rather favourable in the South of France. In recent years, the Ministry of Health and the *Sécurité sociale* have made an effort to promote “diabetes education”, especially outside the hospital, to make patients aware of the impact of the disease on their lifestyle and the crucial importance of medical follow ups in order to detect possible damages induced by diabetes, long before they are at a nonreversible stage.

At what cost?

DIABETES is an economical health nightmare for the *Sécurité sociale*. Expenses attributed to diabetes have shot up from €6.5 billion (2000) to €14 billion (2010). The cost for a diabetic patient is highly variable, depending on complications, but statistically is twice as much as a non-diagnosed person; the cost of the treatment was €1.8 billion in 2010.

The fear, in front of this economic analysis, is the risk of decreasing an individual's reimbursement by *Sécurité sociale* in the future. **B.C. ■**

For the full article, including what to watch out for, see RivieraReporter.com

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DIY B&B:

Airbnb has over 2000 listings in Nice but is there a hidden cost for a bargain bed?

AS I write, Airbnb Inc – the website that “connects people with rooms to share with people who need a place to stay” – is in front of New York’s Supreme Court defending its right to legally operate. New York State attorney general Eric T. Schneiderman claimed nearly two-thirds of Airbnb’s listings were illegal sublets and was hoping to “recover millions of dollars in unpaid taxes”.

At the same time, the company, which was founded in 2008, has been

valued at \$10 billion USD, more than well-known chains like Hyatt.

I heard about Airbnb at a dinner party. I couldn’t understand why anyone would opt to spend a night in a stranger’s house (sharing a bathroom!), nor could I see the appeal of renting a room in your home via the internet to someone you’ve never met.

Also, how does a host ensure safety, pay the hotel tax or declare income?

After a little digging, I think that – other than my husband, thankfully – I

am alone in raising an eyebrow at this system. “Air mattress B&B” is successful in 17,000 cities in 192 countries.

Tim MacDonald, VP of a company that runs a business travel and expense system with more than 22 million worldwide users, told CNBC that “Airbnb has an eye-popping rate of growth that is exploding onto expense reports... We’re seeing Airbnb going from zero two years ago to \$1 million this quarter.”

In November a *New York Times* article quoted three Airbnb hosts, ordinary people looking to supplement their income, who claimed to make \$10,000 a year; \$90,000 a year; and \$2,000 per month.

As a member of this online rental marketplace, you can either be a “host”, or a “guest”. A host lists for free a property – a single room to a suite, a



HOME AWAY FROM HOME:
Airbnb guests like Joe from Arizona use
the site to experience local colour.

PHOTO: TERRY COOPER

moored yacht to a castle (there are 640 listed) – promoting it with photos, seductive blurbs, languages spoken and price, which is up to a host's discretion.

Guests can search the Airbnb database using key words. You don't have to be a member to look, but you do have to be one to "Book it". All major credit cards are accepted, as is PayPal, and the payment goes directly to Airbnb who then transfers the fees to the host.

There are a few points of concern. Hosts must recognise that although Airbnb provides up to a million dollars protection in damages, their policy does not cover cash, jewellery, pets, collectibles or personal liability. Also, hosts must abide by local laws, such as in New York which prohibits subletting an apartment or room for fewer than 30 days if you aren't

living there. But who enforces these laws when everything is registered online?

This leads us to headlines like in the *New York Post* in April: "Hookers Turning Airbnb Apartments Into Brothels."

"It's more discreet and much cheaper than The Waldorf," a sex worker told the daily. "[They] probably save \$200 to \$300 a night ... It's really good for business."

In Nice, we spoke with Michel Tschann, President of the Hotelier Union for Nice-Côte d'Azur. "Airbnb is a new form of competition and that is healthy: we all need competition," he said. "The difficulty is that apartment owners do not pay the same taxes as hotels do, and very often they are not even declared. They have no regulations for safety or the handicapped, pay no city tax and so the competition becomes unfair."

Sarah, a full-time Nice resident since 2008, rents her second bedroom on Airbnb. "It's free to sign up. You create a profile, decide on a rate, and post some pictures – they provide a professional photographer for free."

"I've never had any problems but then you get a real feel from the potential renter through email exchanges."

"You have to enjoy people to do this and you'll meet some wonderful visitors. When I started with Airbnb, it was so easy that I encouraged five friends to come on board but now there are 2000 rentals in Nice and the market is saturated."

And what about the critics? "I pay 5 per cent of each rental to Airbnb. The vast majority of us are renting extra space to survive. We don't want to do it but it's better than going on the dole, right?" **N.H.** ■

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Cannes connection for a big noise in the movie world

Todd Warren's lost eerie souls and airy wind in trees



BY NANCY HESLIN

THE reason Torontonian Todd Warren packed his life in a suitcase and moved to France may not be unique – love (he met his French wife during an immersion stint in Montpellier) – but what he does here to pay the rent most certainly is.

In 2003, he put life as an award-winning sound engineer behind him and with his wife purchased two mediaeval townhouses in Aveyron, with the idea of running a B&B. After five years of renovating, “the dream was gone” and they moved to Cannes.

“What has always struck me,” Todd says, “is how Cannes is the Hollywood of France – PACA is second in the country for shooting on location – yet it lacks the post-production infrastructure that goes with

that. For example, if you shoot in New York, you post in New York. If you shoot in Paris you post in Paris. If you shoot on the Côte d’Azur you post in ... Paris.

“I did a market study in 2010 and found from Théoule over to Monaco, the area is undernourished in terms of post-production facilities, even compared to Marseille. For whatever reason, gravity pulls everything film-related towards Paris. True, it used to be that you needed a film processing facility – with lots of money, lots of chemicals and lots of personnel – to produce the first 35mm image and then print copies. But now everything is digital, made on your computer with a DCP – a Digital Cinema Package – for delivery to cinemas. There is no more need for film production and no more expensive copies.”

Todd set up his own business. “The

world has made a shift into High Definition video but why aren’t people talking about the sound in a film? This is why I named my company HDsound: if you’ve redefined the parameters of the image, certainly you’re going to need better sound to qualify that image.”

He contacted local post-production companies La Dame Verte and Adastra and little by little they are trying to push the post boundaries that are nonexistent in this region.

“In Toronto, the city is very proud to cover all aspects of the film industry whereas PACA seems to be satisfied with just the *nuités d’hôtels* numbers. It’s great that people are staying in local hotels during a shoot, but there’s a whole other ‘half’ to a budget of a film for visual effects, post-production audio,



TEAM WORK:
Todd Warren, centre, with
Youcef Mahmoudi and July
Allard at HDsound studios.



PHOTO OP:
Youcef Mahmoudi
at the Cannes Film
Festival. Above: stills
from “O” (right) and
“Kosmodrome”.

marketing and distribution – millions of dollars passing under their noses.”

About two years ago Todd did a project with Adastra – “Social Butterfly” – which was entered in the Sundance Festival. Adastra then managed to secure funding to do a Franco-Georgian feature film that they shot at an actual Georgian prison. They needed sound so Todd spent three months working in Cannes doing “Brides”. It hit it out of the park: it was accepted at the Berlin Film Festival where it won an audience appreciation award, and was at Robert De Niro’s Tribeca Film Festival last month.

Like me, people think that when you shoot a film, you use a microphone to capture the sound, cut the picture together and then add music. But as Todd explains, there’s more to being a sound engineer.

“In fact, you *try* to capture the actors’ dialogue and sometimes you’re not successful in doing that. You have the dialogue as clean as you can get it but then all of the background effects, the ambiances, the personal sound effects – putting down a coffee cup, for example – has to be replaced and embellished.

“So the majority of sound in a movie is replaced. Between 15 to 20 per cent of big Hollywood films use ADR – Automated Dialogue Replacement – when the actor comes into a recording studio to revoice his lines, say for a noisy subway scene.”

Todd is a member of the association *La Nouvelle Séance* (lanouvellesance.com), an underground film community for those who never had an outlet to show their movies. “It all started off at the Salle Escoffier in Villeneuve-Loubet. Once every three months, with a bit of funding from the mayor’s office, we’d watch a film, have a slice of pizza and a coke.

“This is when I first saw

Youcef Mahmoudi’s film “Il Portafoglio”. At the time I was teaching post-production audio at EFA – École Française d’Audiovisuel – where Youcef was a student of mine. I was totally floored by his use of images and also by how bad his sound was! I told him that if he did another film that we needed to work together.”

And so they did. Todd is the sound engineer on Youcef’s latest short film, “Kosmodrome” ([facebook.com/kosmodrome](https://www.facebook.com/kosmodrome)).

Youcef, 28, and July Allard, 21, are both Nice-based writers/directors and graduates of EFA. They co-founded the film company Hypéria; Todd also worked on July’s first film, “O”, about the Parker family who live in different universes.

“I wanted to make a movie about Russian history,” Youcef describes, “which takes place on the day when man landed on the moon. I asked myself, what did the Soviet Union think when they realised they had lost the race to space? What happens to humans when they fail catastrophically?”

“Many of the actors in ‘Kosmodrome’ are Russian, found through the *Maison de la Russie* in Nice, which brings together the Russian community on the Riviera. The short competed at The Art of Brooklyn Film Festival in May of this year.

“The big lesson I learned with Todd,” Youcef admits, “is how sound reinforces the images. And, that you have to make films to learn how to make films.”

Both Youcef’s and July’s films were accepted at the Short Film Corner at Cannes this year which gave them access to the festival’s Marché du Film.

“The Cannes Film Festival has a market and that is what’s most important,” Todd adds. “There’s money to be made, but why isn’t there more of it here?” ■

For more see hdsound.fr



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“YOU HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING UNTIL YOU SEE”

Legendary photographer David Bailey makes the Queen smile

BY PIPPA JANE WIELGOS

A MAJOR exhibition of photographs by David Bailey will be shown at the 45th edition of Les Rencontres d'Arles (July 7th-September 21st), France's largest photography festival, followed by the Scottish National Gallery (Edinburgh).

Bailey's Stardust, on tour from the National Portrait Gallery (London), chronicles a half-century of Bailey's career that led to his emergence as one of the UK's foremost photographers.

Featuring 250 shots from the stage

and screen, central to his rise as a leading British celebrity photographer of the 1960s, Bailey's thematic self-curated exhibition includes key work from that era, such as the Rolling Stones, major artists' portraits and models like Jean Shrimpton (photographed in Manhattan for British *Vogue*) to projects in Africa and Australia to a portrait series of his fourth wife, model and muse Catherine Dyer.

Born in the London's East End in Leytonstone in 1938, his father

Herbert was a tailor's cutter and his mother Gladys a machinist.

Without a conventional formal education and diagnosed as dyslexic, Bailey's prospects did not appear immediately obvious. "If you came from the East End ... there were only three things you could become – a boxer, a car thief or maybe a musician," Bailey reportedly once said.

At fifteen he left school and became a Fleet Street copy boy at the *Yorkshire Post*.



Mick Jagger
by David
Bailey, 1964

Bailey's Stardust runs from July 7th to August 31st at the Église Sainte-Anne in Arles. Open 10h-19h30; entry €9.



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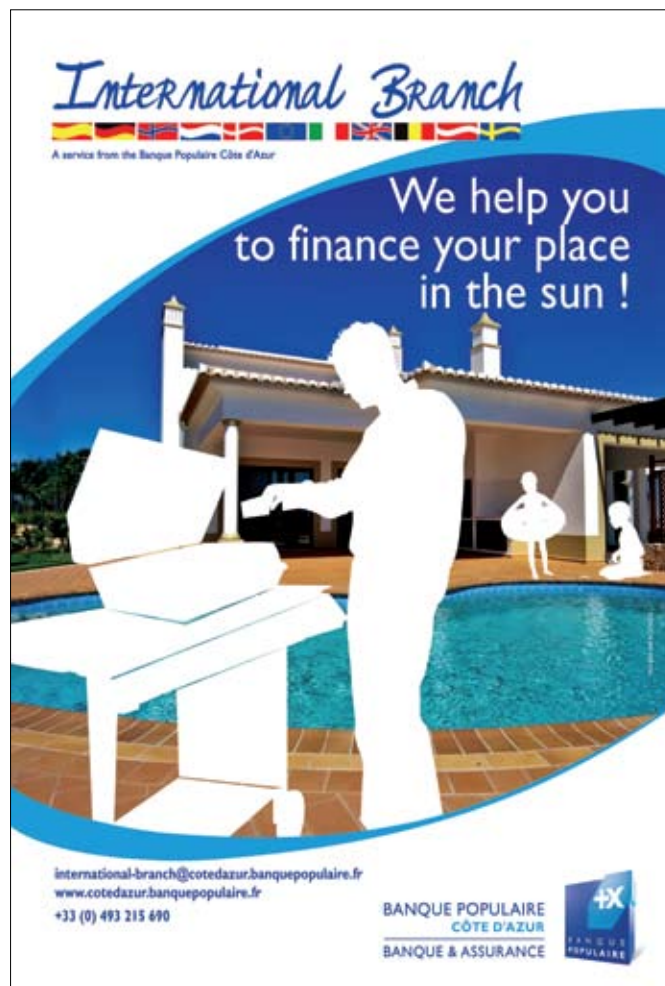
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In 1956 he conscripted for the National Service and served with the Royal Air Force in Singapore the following year. There, he bought a cheap copy of a Rolleiflex, exposed himself to a plethora of American publications available like *Life*, and developed an early interest in Picasso, whose work implied to him that there were no rules where reality could be changed.

Demobbed in August 1958 yet determined to pursue a career in photography, he bought a Canon Rangefinder camera. Unable to secure a formal education at the London College of Printing (now called London College of Communication), he engaged in a range of studio jobs with several prominent London photographers, including David Ollins (where he earned the equivalent of £3.50), John French and John Cole's Studio.

Within a year of leaving the National Service, Bailey had had his first photographs published in the *Sunday Pictorial* newspaper, and the *Daily Express* in 1960.

His exponential international success was realised after being contracted as a fashion photographer for British *Vogue* by John Parsons, the magazine's Art Director,

who offered Bailey his first contract.

According to the British art historian Martin Harrison, "Bailey's agenda" was to "break down fashion's stuffy conventions ... he cleared the way for the British invasion of New York."

Bailey, now 76, and his East London contemporaries Terence Donovan and Brian Duffy were named "the Black Trinity" by Norman Parkinson, and known in the British Press as the "terrible three". Their creativity and originality transformed 60s fashion and portraiture photography in Britain, synonymous with the Swinging Sixties and the booming cultural industry.

Bailey's aesthetic and technical use of the minimalist white background, harsh lighting, tonal compression, high contrast printing – also formerly used by Cecil Beaton, Richard Lester and Richard Avedon and observed in films as the Beatles' debut, "A Hard Day's Night" – was central to his photographic style and pivotal to his visual sensibility in being able to develop his notion of portraiture.

The "white out" minimalistic backdrop, in which Bailey situated his subjects, was revolutionary, as it also enabled his

subjects the collaborative opportunity to make their statement in art.

Bailey's individualistic oeuvre was key in signifying his emergence as a serious contemporary portrait photographer with "signature style". His outsider-insider status notably provided him as participant and chronicler with a unique access to celebrity culture, such as Andy Warhol, with whom he later made a documentary in 1968 at the Hôtel Meurice, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger, Michael Caine, David Hockney and "style icons" Mary Quant and Molly Parkin.

At the height of Bailey's productivity he shot 841 pages of *Vogue* editorial in one year. He was considered to be the brightest and one of the most powerful and talented energetic formidable forces in the magazine at that time.

Bailey's life was glamorised in the film *Blow Up* (1966), directed by Michelangelo Antonioni; he was awarded the CBE in 2001.

In his book *Stardust*, Bailey is quoted in the introductory essay by British art historian Tim Marlow, "It's all about looking ... you have to keep looking until you see." ■



Hunting for the heart of Provence

Searching for souvenirs? Think big ... very big

BY CAREN TRAFFORD

DUSTY olive trees and rows of lavender against a background of hill top villages; days filled basking in bright sunlight ... this is the picture-postcard Provence that continues to draw so many tourists as a summertime destination.

And at the end of a wonderful holiday, saturated with brilliant colours and intense flavours, what is more natural than to want to take home a memento of your stay to enjoy over those long winter months, when the darkness descends just after lunchtime, and you have to battle public transport home through the sleet and rain just to hit the highlight of your evening, "Britain's Got Talent"? No wonder visitors want to keep alive that idyllic interlude in Provence.

The easy souvenir picks are the mandatory perfumed sachets of lavender or a ribboned packet of rose-scented Marseille soap. For the gourmands, there's a host of herbs and spices, olive oils and speciality cakes and biscuits. A shopping list for those a little more adventurous could include perfume from Grasse or a bottle of rosé from a visited vineyard.

Then there are the holiday-makers who arrive with more space in their luggage. They are thinking on a larger scale with the aim of taking home – literally – a piece of Provence. I am speaking of the antique market enthusiasts.

Not difficult to spot, but you have to be up with the sun to head to the local Saturday morning *brocante* market and see these early birds, the ones with boundless enthusiasm. They are looking for something special and it's not the weekly discount at the local supermarket.

Antiquing in the South of France is a holiday in itself. And those who are good at it have it well planned out. The rewards are worth the preparation but there is such a vast choice it's difficult to know exactly where to start.

In Provence, it's impossible to travel far without tripping over a gold mine (or two) of great *bric-a-brac*. And because French Provencal design is so attractive, many city dwellers will spend their summer vacation hunting for that piece of spectacular vintage that they can enjoy at home.

The antique sellers welcome these *chercheurs* with open arms. At

our local Saturday market, veteran *brocante*-seller Monsieur Herve is no exception. A man in his sixties and an expert of all things antique.

Ask him anything. He will be able to tell you the history of every treasure that he has for sale. And as any sales person will tell you, half the sale is in the story. "You like this milk pail? It's at least 100 years old. I discovered it in the ruins of a farmhouse, way up in the hills above Aubagne in the land of French filmmaker and writer, Marcel Pagnol."

The *brocante*-seekers nod wisely, lapping up this wonderful tale. "In fact, Pagnol may even have drunk milk from this very pail."

The wonderful thing about Provence is that you may well be looking at a milk pail that Pagnol drank from. There are so many artifacts to be found here, and each one has a history, which sellers have researched. And if it wasn't Monsieur Pagnol who drank from this very milk pail, it is likely to have been one of his neighbours.

But look out! Recently, a new kind of tourist has arrived in Provence, ready to claim a piece of it. Not content with a small table or a zinc tray, they think



bigger. Much bigger. The result? More of Provence is finding its way overseas, and not always in a suitcase.

Today, some of the biggest draw cards are the old, pre-loved pieces of masonry, stone, wood, marble, iron and zinc. The choice is almost limitless for this area has been a playground since the Romans arrived and built their arenas and

very place to find the very piece she was looking for. Monumental pieces, ignored and overlooked for decades are now in vogue and this region is filled with architectural and colossal antiques from the 15th through to the 19th century, waiting to be reclaimed. Aged limestone flooring, architectural elements such as stone surrounds, enormous



amphitheatres. This means there is a huge choice for antique hunters looking for something monumental. The finest in 17th- and 18th-century French antiques, hand-carved French limestone fountains, garden accoutrements, and antique French olive jars designed from the classical patterns of antiquity, lie waiting and for sale.

To be able to find a home for long-forgotten pieces that have been left to crumble away at the back of some distant, unploughed field is highly satisfying.

Recently a visitor from the US gave me a brief. "Find me a stone or marble fireplace," she said. "It must be from the time of the Napoleonic Empire. It is to be the crowning glory of my new home and it must be original."

So what a challenge! And yet, Provence is the

doors and gates are here, all waiting to be re-discovered and loved by new owners.

These days, Provence offers so much more than just a Kodak moment. As antique collectors will tell you, if you're not lucky enough to live the dream, as we are lucky enough to do, the next best thing is to be able to take a piece of its iconic history home.

As a matchmaker of antiques, I couldn't be happier than when some aged architectural element finds a new home, perhaps on the other side of the planet. Once there, I imagine these aged treasures standing proud once more and reminding the rest of the world what living in Provence is all about. ■

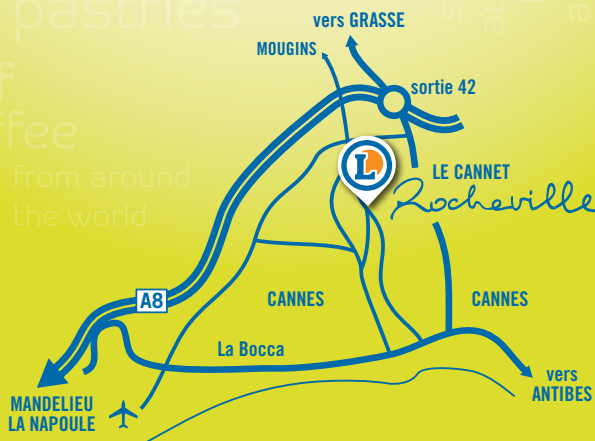
Caren Trafford writes environmental books for kids – see planetkids.biz – and lives in Provence. She is happy to find architectural pieces of interest for you in Provence.

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SITTING PRETTY



EVERYTHING in the garden is absolutely lovely – until a sudden shower soaks all the garden furniture cushions before you’ve had time to get them inside.

No need to keep a weather eye out for dark clouds if you have the latest in fabrics and fillings from Home Store.

Used in the Happy Collection from Rausch, a special “open pore” filling allows water to drain through instantly. Air can circulate rapidly through the material to aid quick-drying. The result: your garden furniture can be used straight after a shower and nobody will leave your place complaining of a damp bottom!

As with other new garden furniture lines currently on sale at Home Store, the whole ensemble is designed to be left outside all year round without the slightest ill effect, although it is wise to use a protective *houss* through the coldest

parts of the winter when the furniture is not being used.

These are available for all the different garden furniture sets you’ll find at Home Store. The use of dyed acrylic material as covers for the cushions, specially adapted for exterior use, ensures that mould is never a worry.

Employing aluminium epoxy for the basic structure of the garden furniture banishes corrosion forever, so the tiresome business of maintenance becomes a chore consigned to history. Another significant advantage of such construction is that all the furniture is light and easy to move around, an important consideration for the hernia-avoiding older householder, while remaining sturdy and stable at the same time.

There is much to discover in the new garden furniture selection at Home Store. “We rotate the main furniture

Talenti Icon Aluminium Collection

- Quick-Dry foam
- Removable covers for easy washing



Talenti planters

- Designed by Robert Serio
- As tough as they are elegant





The Rausch Happy Collection

- Open air pillow filling allows quick drying
- Durable furniture for year-round weather

display at Home Store with the season,” reveal Angelina Lopez and Remy Alunni, the helpful heads of the department. “About 80 per cent of what the customer will see in our display is totally new.”

The Icon Aluminium Collection from Talenti will attract the attention of the buyer wanting to combine style with practicality. The eye-catching design of the aluminium-framed armchairs, sofas, chaise longues and sunbeds is a real plus, and the state-of-the art construction ensures a long and trouble-free life in your garden.

Quick-Dry foam is used for the fillings, and the covers are weather resistant and removable for easy washing. Talenti also provide the elegant *tonnelle* – what we would call a bower – which is made of wood. The coffee table shown features a safety-conscious and elegant tempered glass top.

For the garden that seems to have everything, Home Store have come up with a daring new concept that is sure to be a talking point at your next barbecue. The two Talenti planters, designed by the renowned Robert Serio, are constructed using a non-ceramic powder coating process. The result: a beautiful design that is as tough as they come.

As a particularly ingenious piece of garden magic, the planters can be transformed with an ethanol-burning grate to create a warming outdoor fireplace for the chillier nights.

One of the joys of equipping your garden or terrace at Home Store is that all the pieces of furniture are sold separately, so you can mix and match the latest lines for a stunning and impressive effect. And as we’ve found with all the departments at Home Store, the choice is as wide as your imagination. ■

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CANNES LA BOCCA

ZIN

The Brit making his Mark at Mougins



THE Honours Board was the first aspect of Cannes-Mougins Golf Club to impress me on my first visit, invited some years ago by a fortunate and well-endowed friend.

The *vainqueurs* of the European Open were an impressive bunch, chief among them Seve ('87), Greg Norman ('83), Ian Woosnam ('94). But as the winner's sub-par total over the years reached the embarrassing (for the course) 20s, the show left town for longer tracks with bigger prize pots.

Bathing in the prestige of hosting a big tour event is something that all the members of this rather special golf club long to enjoy again. If any man can deliver on this and all the other aspects of a successful golf club, it's the new director general, Mark Vickery.

Mark is a rare beast, and the headhunter who found him deserves his fee. The 52-year-old former European Tour card holder combines a scratch game with the

business and people skills required to operate at the top level. His management pedigree features some gorgeous golf courses with some demanding owners – Lord March at Goodwood, and in Barbados the Rooney family at Royal Westmoreland and Dermott Desmond at Sandy Lane. Now Mark, working for his first members' club, has hit the jackpot with 500 owners, all of them the sort of people who are used to having their opinions listened to with reverence.

"Cannes-Mougins is unique among the Côte d'Azur courses, the only one owned by entirely by its members," says Mark. "The number of shareholders has been limited to 500, and members who move away or no longer play the game are entitled to sell on their shareholding."

The owner-players of Cannes-Mougins are privileged in many ways. The course itself is a pretty tough test of golf in an exceptional setting. Although only 15

minutes from the centre of Cannes, the *parcours* is cradled in the magnificent forest of the Valmasque, a protected woodland of outstanding beauty. Here you will not find yourself distracted by fairway-side villa owners gawping at you from their swimming pool.

You play up one side of a delightful valley and back down the other, taking in as you do what Mark calls Cannes-Mougins' Amen Corner: holes 12 (sharp dogleg left, approach over water just in front of the well-bunkered green), 13 (fiendish drive that tempts the faint-hearted to go for the shortest option over the water – leaving their second shot blocked by a mighty tree), and 14 (two big straight hits then a lofted shot over water to what appears from the fairway to be a narrow sliver of a green).

The clubhouse and surrounds are a charming rendition of traditional Provencal architecture. The facilities it



THE TEES THAT PLEASE: Above and below right, the course is cradled in the Valmasque woodland. Below left, the putting green with a Provencal twist at this private members' club.



houses are backed up by a full complement of staff, outside there are four caddy masters to keep the members' clubs and trolleys shining, and if you leave your shoes in the *vestiaires* they will be polished to a standard that puts Augusta to shame.

Feeling peckish out on the course? Stop off at what the new director general calls "the best halfway hut outside Sunningdale" to restore depleted energy with the tastiest bangers to the south of Alsace.

The membership is split evenly between French and foreign players, with a fair sprinkling of Brits among them. Within days of taking up his new post Mark Vickery had hit on a plan to approach the future of Cannes-Mougins on the basis of the broadest possible consensus.

"The Board gave their approval to the making of a short film, introduced by the club's president, that sets out three options for the future direction of the club," says Mark. "This has been emailed to all members

along with a simple method of voting for their chosen option. I thought that the members would find this easier to digest than a pile of paper bumf sent through the post that is easily ignored, and the response we are getting seems to confirm this.

"The options cover retaining the status quo, investment in a major upgrade of the club's facilities and what approach to take towards the pricing and number of green fees and related topics. This way every member has his or her say in the future of this great club."

The members may be applauding Mark's vision and energy, but how does their French half of the membership react to having a Brit at the helm for the first time? "It doesn't seem to be a problem," says Mark. "I speak French – both my children were born here – and I think that has made a big difference."

The *Reporter* will be revisiting Cannes-Mougins in the autumn to see how the

members' chosen strategy is going. Mark Vickery may have the correct approach, but can he really square the circle that inevitably exists in a club which includes opposites such as:

- The local member who plays at least twice a week and doesn't mind paying a bit extra in his sub if it means keeping the damned green fee players off the first tee at his favourite time. And ... the Swede who comes for a couple of months in the summer, plays half a dozen rounds and is quite happy to see an increase in green fees to pay for better facilities so he doesn't have to delve into his own pocket.
- The northern European golfer who is used to the formality, dress code and strict etiquette that applies at St Andrews. And ... the relaxed Frenchman of the Midi who wants to play in a less straightened environment.

In the meantime we wish Mark and his team *bonne chance*. **N.K. ■**



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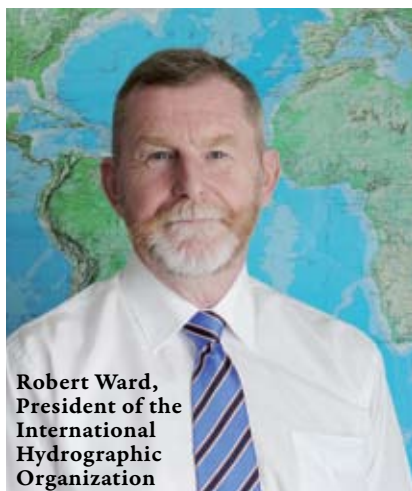
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OFF THE CHARTS

BY MICHAEL HEALY



Robert Ward,
President of the
International
Hydrographic
Organization

SEAMEN, who depend on nautical charts for their safety, often know little of hydrography – the science of surveying and charting the seas. Most coastal countries (except Monaco!) have a national hydrographic service, which is guided by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) with its 82 member states and current President Robert Ward, retired Navy Captain and former Deputy Hydrographer of Australia. And thanks to the wise initiative of Prince Albert I nearly a century ago, the IHO is based in Monaco, on the harbour front near Stars 'n' Bars: the world centre for Nautical Charting!

The work of hydrographic surveyors results in world coverage by nautical charts using standard IHO symbols understood by mariners of any language. Charts have existed for many centuries, often guarded as military secrets to give an advantage against enemies or trade rivals. When printing was invented, tedious inaccurate

copying was replaced by printing onto paper from very large copper plates, and the draughtsmen had to be skilled at perfect mirror writing for engraving onto the copper. Later on, offset printing made it much easier and, in 1972, IHO decreed that

depths would in future be in metres rather than fathoms (the US never complied). Now, many charts are in digital electronic form, but paper charts can still be used; the Riviera Chart Agent (riviera-charts.com) in Antibes has a new machine for Printing on Demand so that the British Admiralty charts for sale are immediately available and up to date.

World Hydrography Day (iho.int) on Saturday June 21st celebrates the work of the backroom boys and girls who plough the seas to chart the depths and dangers, and the nautical cartographers who present them to navigators as charts. With all the other activities on and above the seabed, like finding wrecked ships and downed aircraft, this year the main theme is "Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts". Meanwhile, those navigating their yachts small and large should ensure they have all the charts needed, and corrected up-to-date. Safe sailing! ■



Photo: Monaco Press Centre Photos

RIVIERA REPORTER Summer Seaside Fireworks 2014

For updates see RivieraReporter.com

JUNE

Sat 14 BORMES LES MIMOSAS
Tues 24 ST JEAN CAP FERRAT

JULY

Fri 4 CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPODROME), LE LAVANDOU
Wed 9 CANNES (AZERBAIDJAN)
Fri 11 LE LAVANDOU
Sat 12 BOULOURIS, CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPODROME),
ROQUEBRUNE CAP MARTIN
Sun 13 AGAY, ANTIBES (SALIS), BORMES LES MIMOSAS,
CAGNES SUR MER, GOLFE JUAN, LA FIGUEIRETTE
Mon 14 BEAULIEU SUR MER, CANNES (ITALY), CAVALAIRE,
JUAN-LES-PINS, LE LAVANDOU, MENTON, NICE,
PORT GRIMAUD, ST. LAURENT DU VAR,
STE MAXIME, ST RAPHAEL, ST TROPEZ, THÉOULE
LA NAPOULE/CHÂTEAU
Tues 15 CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPO), MONACO (POLAND)
Sat 19 CANNES (SPAIN)
Mon 21 CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPO), LE LAVANDOU
Fri 25 MONACO (SPAIN)
Sun 27 CANNES (ITALY)
Tues 29 LA NAPOULE/PLAGE ROBINSON
Wed 30

AUGUST

Fri 1 JUAN LES PINS, LE LAVANDOU
Sun 3 ST RAPHAEL
Thurs 7 CANNES (FRANCE)
Fri 8 JUAN LES PINS, LE LAVANDOU
Sat 9 MONACO (ENGLAND), SAINT JEAN CAP FERRAT
Tues 12 LA NAPOULE/PLAGE ROBINSON
Thurs 14 AGAY, CAGNES-SUR-MER, ROQUEBRUNE CAP
MARTIN, SAN REMO
Fri 15 CAGNES-SUR-MER (HIPPO), CANNES (CHINA/
HONGKONG), CAVALAIRE, JUAN-LES-PINS,
LE LAVANDOU, MENTON, NICE, PORT GRIMAUD,
STE MAXIME, ST RAPHAEL, ST TROPEZ, THÉOULE
Sat 16 DRAMONT, MONACO (ENGLAND)
Sun 17 BORMES LES MIMOSAS
Fri 22 CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPO), LE LAVANDOU
Sat 23 CAGNES SUR MER (HIPPO), LA NAPOULE/CHÂTEAU
Sun 24 ANTIBES/FORT CARRÉ, CANNES (RUSSIA)
Fri 29 LE LAVANDOU

*At time of print Bandol, Port Fréjus, Marines de Cogolin, Villefranche TBD.
Plus many "private" fireworks whose details are kept secret, notably on Cap Ferrat.
Errors and Omissions excepted – no liability taken for disappointments; check locally!*
Michael Healy ©Riviera Reporter. Reproduction authorized with credit: "Riviera Reporter".

SHOWY HOMES



BY ANTONIA OWEN

THIS is a tale of two homes that were built centuries apart. At first glance, there seems no similarity whatsoever between an historic 17th-century mansion apartment in the heart of Aix-en-Provence and a concrete and glass post-modernist marvel just outside the pretty village of Cadière d'Azur in the southwestern Var.

Just one thing unites these two truly exceptional properties: they were both built to impress, and impress they certainly do.

The lucky new owner of the apartment set in this *hôtel particulier* in Aix will not only have bought a home, he or she will also be the exceedingly proud owner of a State-listed work of art. The large and airy 220m² apartment, on the *piano nobile* (first floor) of the Maliverny mansion, has decorated ceilings attributed to Van Loo that are a true national treasure.

Your breath is taken away as you enter the magnificent rooms,

which have been furnished by the present owners in the Baroque style. There isn't a better location in all of Aix, a carriage hail from the delightful Cours Mirabeau.

As you would imagine for such a stylish residence dating from the reign of Louis XIV, the Sun King, there are plenty of stories attached to the Maliverny mansion, including more than a whiff of scandal involving one of the Maliverny women who was a pioneer of divorce.

The grand apartment had fallen on hard times by the Sixties, and up until

a short while ago the elderly lady who owned the property rented out to students the splendid decorated rooms, including the stunning boudoir, which feels like a private chapel as you enter it.

The current owners have updated the apartment to include the latest in mod cons, while retaining the essential period feel of the whole. At present there are two bedrooms, but the possibility exists of doubling that number with sensitive conversion.

At €2.1 million, the property is not cheap,

but there is a vital tax break that would interest a well-off prospective purchaser. As a listed work of art, the building would not be included in the arithmetic that is done to assess whether a person is liable to the ISF, the *Impôt de solidarité sur la fortune*.

The second impressive home featured in this issue is located on the fringes of the village of Cadière d'Azur, an unspoilt, non-touristic Provencal gem, built on a hilltop just back from the coast and nestling in the Bandol vineyards.





Built in 2012, the house (pictured above) uses glass to astonishing effect. The aim of the architect was to fuse the beautiful natural surroundings of the villa with the interior. A full-height atrium allows palms and waterfalls to be sited inside the property, turning a winter day outside into a summer one within. Beautifully

constructed bay windows in other parts of the house add to the feeling of being “in nature” all year round.

The property is vast – 550m² of living space – and there’s a price tag to match of €3.2 million. But there’s a lot for your money, including outdoor and indoor pools, a home cinema and quarters for domestic staff.

Transport links are favourable, with Marseille airport less than an hour away and Toulon-Hyères airport even closer, just a 40-minute drive. ■

You can find out more about these properties by going to the website <http://bit.ly/1muVwPR> or contact the charming and knowledgeable Julie Lichtlé at Leggett Immobilier on 06 99 81 69 06.

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IN A FIX OVER PRICE

The essential tips to get your property moving

BY TIM CLARK, LEGGETT IMMOBILIER



ALMOST daily I'm asked the question: "Why hasn't my house sold?" Often the answer is fairly simple.

In the last two articles we covered preparation and presentation, two fundamental points to ensure you get the best price and attract the best buyers. There are two additional things to consider.

The most delicate question first: Have you got the price right? The French property market is experiencing tough times and this includes hot spots such as the Côte d'Azur. There are more properties for sale than buyers coming along, and I think this statement covers the majority of the region.

France is quite a curious country when it comes to real estate valuations as all too often a property is on the market at the owner's appraisal. While it is perfectly reasonable to expect an owner to want to gain the best price possible, there is often reluctance on his or her part to accept that the downturn in the market has an impact because "I bought in a great location".

I recall many occasions when an evaluation was offered to a vendor who was not in a rush to sell. Subsequently the owner priced the property in excess of a 40% premium, with a view to attract an

offer and negotiate, while single-handedly ensuring to deter any viewings or interest.

There is a flaw in this "I'm in no hurry" method. During the last few years, while the one person who has not heard of the financial crisis has appeared and bought the house in this part of the world, the market has continued to fall and now this house is worth less, and so when the owner does decide to reduce the price, the proverbial boat has been missed.

I am not suggesting you give your house away. However, I am perhaps advising to at least listen to what your agent may

have to say with regards to your home's true market value and discuss together the way forward. In my experience a good agent will always try their best to get you the highest price possible. The number of new sales we are transacting at close to asking price, when a house has been priced for today's market, proves this.

I mentioned another essential issue to consider when selling your property, and this one may get me into trouble ... As I said earlier, buyers are a somewhat rarer breed today and it's important that your agent is doing more than sitting in an office hoping someone comes in the door or finds the website amongst the countless other realtors in the region. Be prepared to question your agent on what is being done to attract buyers:

- Are they proactively marketing to French as well as international buyers?
- Are they working tirelessly to reference their web listings?
- Do they work with international property portals?
- Do they actively sell your property to their client base or await an enquiry?

A final word, though. While it's not all doom and gloom – enquiries are up, sales are up and things are starting to move – I bring this message to anyone who has been on the market for over a year without an offer or a visit (there are lots, believe me): it may be time to look at your price! ■

Contact local expert Tim Clark of Leggett Immobilier at tim@leggett.fr

THE HUNT FOR "HYPERLUXE"

EARLIER this year, luxury real estate specialist John Taylor reported record sales up to €50,000/m² on the French Riviera. In Cannes, a 153m² penthouse located in the heart of the Croisette, with panoramic views of the Lerins Islands and the Bay of Cannes, was sold for €7.65 million – more than €50,000/m².

"This duplex is rare," explained Sylvain Boichut, commercial director at John Taylor France. "It's on the top floor in the heart of the

Croisette and, more importantly, in a highly sought residence."

Typically prices on the Croisette go for around €15,000/m² for Pointe Croisette (opposite Port Canto) and €30,000/m² for the Croisette Centre (between the Palais des Festivals and the Martinez).

"These hyperluxe properties with rare features are highly sought after, especially by international clients," commented Philippe Calmon, CEO of John Taylor France.



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BROWN IS THE NEW BLACK

BY JAMES BASSON, SCAPE DESIGN MONACO

WHEN creating a sustainable garden, we have to bear in mind the need to work with nature and not fight against it; never is this more true than in the height of summer.

In the fashion industry black has always been considered stylish, classy and timeless but periodically, and more so recently, brown has become a very popular alternative. This is because brown sets off any other colour that surrounds it, be it light and subtle or strong and bold.

As spring fades into summer, bird songs become less sonorous during the day and are replaced with the monotonous hum of the cicadas. As humans, we have a natural tendency to recoil from the heat of the day and the bright light, preferring to slow down and find a place in the shade. Shouldn't we allow our gardens to do the same: let them shut down in the summertime and protect themselves, just as the surrounding landscape does?

Plants have amazing natural defences to cope with the hot Mediterranean summer. Leaves curl inward to

reduce the amount of sunlight that they are exposed to; silver-leaved plants reflect the bright sunlight rather than absorbing it; and some plants such as *Euphorbia dendroides* (Tree Spurge) go into summer dormancy to the extent of losing their leaves. Bulbs draw all the moisture and energy back into the ground away from the heat and roots delve down deeper in search of moisture.

If we were to water these plants during high temperatures, some would die and many would develop mould growth that would be encouraged by heat and moisture.

A brown garden in summer may sound dull but with careful plant selection, a wonderful effect can be created. So what are the "stars" of the brown garden? One excellent example is in the hills above the bay of Girolata in Corsica where in July and August the native *Cistus* (Rock rose) curl their leaves away from the scorching sun, making the hillsides a deep chocolate brown. This background is punctuated with gold and





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silver stems of *Ferula* and *Asphodelus* standing high above the golden swathes of dried grasses.

This entire landscape is then mottled vivid green with the evergreen shrubs of *Arbutus* and *Pistacia* making a rich contrast against the dominant brown. The whole landscape is then lit up by the silver seedpods of the local broom, giving a spectacular ensemble of tones and hues.

A lesson we can learn from this is perhaps to take comfort in these restful colours – the fashionable brown hues – of the natural summer landscape instead of the rich bright colours we sometimes try to force to grow in the peak of summer, colours which in any case dissipate under the bright summer sun.

Just as we like to sit back, relax and slow things down in the heat perhaps we should consider allowing our gardens to follow their natural path and do the same. ■

For more see scapedesign.com

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When you've got the Mayor's number ...

BY JAMIE IVEY



NEARLY eight years ago I was first introduced to the Mayor of our village. The meeting was an uncomfortable one. Even back then the Mayor had something of an aura. He was long serving, revered by all residents, known to be just, fair and, at least to some, approachable. As with all Provencal villages though, there were tensions to be dealt with, one of which was the continuing influx of foreigners.

In those days if I happened upon the Mayor in the street I tended to lower my head, treating him as if he were a minor member of the British Royal family. At the same time I tried to appear as unobtrusive as possible. Instinctively I even half-bowed as he passed. No doubt I was trying to behave like the "right type of foreigner" but to the Mayor I must have appeared to be suffering from stomach cramps or some sort of compulsive nervous twitch.

I called the strategy deferential disengagement. And it worked. In my first six months in the village the Mayor and I never exchanged a word. Then a French

friend propelled me across the street right into the Mayor's path. I would have liked to have had a speech prepared for the occasion, a few flowery and grammatically correct phrases to demonstrate how happy I was to have found such a wonderful place to live. Instead the Mayor practically tripped over me, and I mumbled a few words of apology in terrible French. Hands were not shaken and there was certainly not the hint of a kiss. I walked backwards away from him, eyes fixed to the ground so as not to cause any more offence.

Thankfully, since then, week on week, year on year, our relationship has improved. I still bow my head instinctively as he passes, but until recently I've been treated to a broad smile, even an occasional handshake. With three children in the village school we have become part of his community. I believe he is, or rather was, proud of the way we'd integrated into the village.

I say "was" because a few weeks ago there was a certain incident

involving me and the Mayor.

Here's how it happened. It was mid-week, the sun was shining, and the air was full of the scents of the south and the sound of my neighbour hacking away in his garden. The lavender bushes were swelling with their first shoots of fresh growth and the virgin leaves of the plane trees already cast a dappled shade. As I surveyed the scene I experienced the sense of tremendous well-being, unique to the expat, that comes with knowing that he or she has made the right choice to live abroad.

A car crunched down our drive, stirring dust into the air, rolling slowly by my front gate, before creeping onwards towards my neighbour's house. Minutes later the same car, a grey Twingo, returned at the same leisurely pace, came to a brief stop, and then disappeared up the drive. My neighbour called me urgently over. The driver of the Twingo, he explained, was a gypsy, surveying which house to burgle next. Only two weeks ago there had been a



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break-in up the road. "Be on your guard," he said before returning to hacking the weeds.

Later the same day I was out visiting a local vineyard, sampling a rosé. The wine winked in the sun, and the feeling of blissful contentment briefly returned.

"Jamie, he's back." It was my wife on the phone.

She was taking our toddler for a sleep-inducing stroll, and had just seen the same grey Twingo turn down our drive again. Our neighbour was out, and both our houses vulnerable.

I sped back, filled with irrational anger against the man who was threatening my family. Moments before reaching home I spotted a grey Twingo parked by the side of the road. I didn't think, I took the number and called the gendarmes.

Now, the gendarmerie has just been relocated to a shiny new building less than one kilometre away. Response times are pleasingly rapid, which in normal circumstances is a bonus.

"It belongs to a gypsy," I explained. "He's been up and down our road looking for houses to burgle."

"We're on it, thanks for the number plate."

Back at home, wife, baby and house were all safe, but I experienced a creeping feel of disquiet – didn't the Mayor also drive a grey Twingo and wouldn't a convoy of gendarmes bristling with sidearms be heading his way right now?

These days when we pass in the street, I blush red, and once again bow obsequiously as if beset by stomach cramps, while wondering whether it is only the English who are taught as children to forgive and forget. ■

Jamie Ivey is the author of Ten Trees and a Truffle Dog and runs the website provenceguru.com

AU CONTRAIRE

The bare truth on the beach



THE Riviera's beaches are widely known for two things, their beauty and the dress code. I must admit, I receive more inquiries from friends considering a visit about the latter than the former.

"Hey, didn't I hear that there are topless beaches in France?" male friends ask with forced casualness.

So then I explain that it's not just certain beaches where toplessness is tolerated, it's okay AT ANY BEACH AT ALL. Anywhere. Everywhere. No exceptions.

"No wonder France is the most visited country in the world!" they exclaim.

The vision is the same: pristine sands, azure sea and a

human landscape resembling a *Sports Illustrated* "Swimsuit Issue" photo shoot.

I remember one ride to the beach during which the male members of our party discussed optimal poses (pretending to read) and attire (very dark sunglasses and a hat) to maximize their view of what would certainly be a sea of doppelgangers for starlets and runway models. But contrary to popular belief, not all the women on the beach remove their tops. And the ones who do are not always the ones you would elect to see topless, if you were to choose. I find that any fears men may have of being caught sneaking a peek is quickly put to rest with the first half-naked grandmother they encounter. And wives who were barely tolerant of their husbands' plans to openly ogle other women now smile smugly as the guys prefer to read their books.

In fact, it's the women who adopt a whole different attitude toward the beach after they get there. Once reluctant to even visit, not wanting to bare their breasts but afraid of being the only one "fully" dressed, they feel much more at ease when they find that the whole scene is far less sexy than the average French TV ad for yogurt.

And with all preconceived notions now put aside, both Venus and Mars can finally settle in and ... enjoy the beach.

Lisa Pepin, lespastras.com

Cook d'Azur

Katie Bills whips up this refreshingly light early summer dish to enjoy for lunch under a parasol or with a glass of chilled rosé over dinner. Serves 4



Salmon with fresh pea, mint & lemon risotto

INGREDIENTS

4 salmon fillets	2 lemons, juice and zest
800ml of stock	150g Parmesan cheese, grated
200g fresh peas	50ml olive oil
400g Arborio rice	10g butter
Large handful of fresh mint	Salt and Pepper for seasoning

Finely chop a large onion and clove of garlic. Fry in 1 tbsp of olive oil and 1 tsp of butter until soft and slightly brown. Add a pinch of chopped mint and the Arborio rice. Stir and cook for 5 minutes on low heat. Increase heat add juice of 2 lemons and stir.

In a separate pot, bring stock to boil then remove from heat. Add enough stock to the rice mixture to cover it, and cook on medium heat. Once absorbed by the rice, slowly stir in more liquid, each time letting it be

absorbed. Repeat until the rice is cooked through. Add the peas and mix well.

Mix in zest of 1 lemon and a large handful of finely chopped mint. Sprinkle in Parmesan cheese (leave a little for garnish at the end) and stir until melted. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Season the salmon with salt and pepper and fry in a teaspoon of olive oil for 2 minutes on each side until brown. (Check with a knife to see if cooked through.) Serve on top of risotto.

- **Risotto is the name of the finished dish, not the rice itself.**
- **A medium- to long-grain rice, Arborio comes from the north Italian region of Piedmont.**
- **Arborio is the classic risotto rice but there are two other variants, carnaroli and vialone nano.**
- **Unlike Asian rice, risotto rice is not boiled in water but first cooked in olive oil.**
- **Rice for risotto dishes is usually cooked 20-30 minutes with liquids added slowly, and constant stirring until creamy.**

MR PIGGY GOES TO MARKET

THE local markets seem to have hit a purple patch when it comes to the must-eat seasonal vegetables. Let's first sniff out the asparagus, its season in full swing. Brought up as I was in East Anglia (home of Britain's best pork), I relish the fresh green shoots of the new asparagus grown with loving care on long mounds in the garden.

The French asparagus snob, however, says that the whiter and fatter the asparagus stem, the more delectable it is. This is a lot more expensive than the thin green variety, at around €7 the bunch compared with €2 or €3.

But the true connoisseur reckons that the purely purple shoots from the Gard, currently on sale for twice the price of the white, are the ultimate taste experience when it comes to this difficult-to-grow vegetable.



There is a world of difference between the miserable topped-and-tailed green beans from Kenya to be found on chilled supermarket shelves throughout the UK and the real McCoy, the French grown *haricot vert* (the best around €6 the kilo). But you're missing a taste trick if you haven't sampled the delights of the *haricot beurre*, priced as the green. These yellow beans have a rounder, richer taste.

Keep your fingers crossed for settled weather in the coming weeks and, diseases and pests permitting, you will be able to buy purple beans – *haricot violet*. These are an ancient variety recently finding their way back in the favour with the bean brigade. They may cost a few cents more than the green and yellow, but go ahead and buy, as you will be supporting a minority vegetable.

And remember: never put your beans, or your asparagus for that matter, in the frigo. It's a sure way to stifle the fresh taste. ■

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WINE



AS the weather warms up, the wine lover looks to uncork the rosé, and four interesting new bottles have made an appearance on the shelves at Leclerc.

A new taste to me came from the titchy AOC Côtes de Provence with an AOP (*Appellation d'Origine Protégée*) of Sainte-Victoire, nestling at the foot of Cézanne's famous mountain to the east of Aix-en-Provence. Pale and light as is the trend these days, this wine has something extra in the way of depth of flavour. The 2013 wine is €5.60 the bottle.

Domaine de le Grand'Pièce at Cabasse



Four new rosés can now be found at Leclerc

has produced a fine AOC Côtes de Provence at €5.77, but also worth uncorking is their IGP (*Indication Géographique Protégée*) second wine at €3.95.

Those with expensive taste buds will find €10.64 well spent on a bottle of Thuerry Côtes de Provence 2012, which comes from Villemore. This complex rosé is a delight, and not to be wasted on the casual quaffer.

Friends of mine who live in the Var usually have their own favourite supplier of wines *en vrac* – usually a box wine. But nearer to home and with not such a big price difference as you would think, the city supermarkets are increasingly marketing highly drinkable bag-in-a-box wine. Côtes de Bourg Chantet Blanet is a bargain at €11.50 for 3 litres, with excellent structure and an admirable fruit-acid balance. The producers of the reliable Estandon Côtes de Provence rosé have even made their wine available in a not-too-bulky two-litre box at under €12.

Some people think they can drain a glass or two from a box of red wine and the rest will keep for weeks. In hot weather this is usually not the case, with oxidation often setting in within a few days. The answer is to keep the red box as cool as the rosé or white once opened, so in the frigo, decanting and leaving the wine at room temperature for at least an hour before serving. **N.K.** ■

THE LIBERTY BELLE MISSES FIRST BASE

BY MARGO LESTZ

THE Statue of Liberty is one of the most recognised symbols of the United States. But did you know that Lady Liberty is an immigrant, a French woman by birth who made New York her home. No wonder she's so elegant.

There are replicas of this monument throughout the world and now Nice has one too. Fronting the Old Town, the Quai des Etats-Unis – named so in 1917 in honour of the US's decision to enter World War I and support the Allies – has been given a facelift. This includes a new and adorning statue of Lady Liberty. She's a bit on the short side, only

1.35 metres but apparently she is cast from an original mould signed by Bartholdi, the sculptor who made the big one in New York which is 46m.

It's hard to imagine but the Grand Dame in New York almost found herself homeless.

The idea

IT all started in 1865 with a Frenchman called Edouard de Laboulaye. He was an idealistic political thinker who wanted to make a monument to the liberty that both France and the United States valued.

It would be a gift from the people

of France to the citizens of the United States with no government involvement. The French would produce the statue and the Americans would provide the pedestal on which it would stand.

Laboulaye enlisted the help of a sculptor friend named Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi. Together they planned and waited for the right time to start their monumental project. Ten years later in 1875 the project was officially announced.

Americans say "No thank you"

THIS noble and idealistic French plan had only one little flaw. They had not even considered the possibility that the Americans might not want to participate. But that was the case.

Bartholdi went to New York to meet with the movers and shakers of the city. When he explained that the French public wanted to give America a giant statue to glorify the idea of liberty, that was fine with them. When he asked them to fund the pedestal that it would need to stand on, that was a different matter.

They weren't keen on a gift that would cost them money. They wanted to know how they could profit from it; could they advertise their businesses on the base? They halfheartedly agreed to form a committee to raise funds for the pedestal but the money was slow to come in.

Meanwhile the committee in France organised concerts, opera events, and collected money from individuals all over the country. They raised the amount needed for the statue and construction began.

The arm misses the party

BARTHOLDI had hoped to present the completed statue at the American bicentennial celebration in 1876, but the project was behind schedule. So he decided to present the most symbolic part of the statue – the arm holding the torch. Unfortunately,



Lady Liberty's head at the Paris World's Fair in 1878

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the ship carrying it was a month late and the bicentennial celebration was finished by the time the arm arrived.

But the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia was still going strong, so Bartholdi packed up his giant arm and went to Philadelphia where he exhibited it and charged people 50 cents to climb up to the flame. It was a big hit and the interest of the American public was piqued by his project.

Back in Paris, Bartholdi continued his publicity by displaying Lady Liberty's head at the 1878 Paris World's Fair.

All dressed up and nowhere to go

IN 1884, nine years after construction and the tallest iron structure ever built, with the interior designed by Gustave Eiffel pre-Eiffel tower fame, the statue of *La Liberté éclairant le monde* (Liberty Enlightening the World) as named by her sculptor was

finally complete – but the base was not.

This giant of a woman had no place to go. The Parisians launched a petition to keep her, but in 1885 Bartholdi decided to send her to New York and hope the Americans would finish the pedestal. The French government paid for the transportation to New York, which was the only State involvement in the entire project. The 210 crates containing the dismantled lady arrived in New York and were stacked next to the unfinished base. The Americans still needed to raise \$100,000 to finish it.

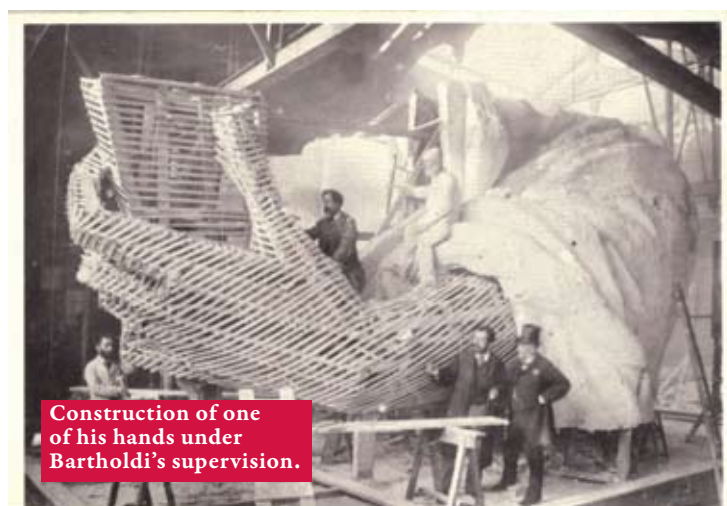
The pennies roll in

AN immigrant newspaperman named Joseph Pulitzer (the same one who later established the Pulitzer Prize) stepped in to save the day. He decided to bypass the rich businessmen and do what the French had done. He got the whole country involved. Using his newspaper, he started a

campaign asking everyone to give money, even if it was just a penny. He promised to print the name of every person in his paper no matter how small the donation. The rest of the money came pouring into the newspaper office in pennies, nickels, and dimes. The \$102,000 was raised from 120,000 contributors. Pulitzer kept his word and every contributor's name was printed on the front page of his paper.

With the pennies of the people, the base was completed and the majestic French lady stepped up onto her pedestal. The statue that started as an idealistic French plan, and was unwanted by the Americans, has become one of the most important symbols of the United States of America, and today people often forget that Lady Liberty is a French woman. It's no wonder the immigrants coming through Ellis Island could relate to her so well, she too is an immigrant. ■

See <http://curiousrambler.com>





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we've got mail...

CANADIANS BACK TO THE BALLOT BOX

THE Canadian government now recognises the significance and interests of Canadian expatriates.

In a closely parallel situation to the relationship of British expatriates with their national government, the Canadians – till now – have refused to allow their expats full lifetime political representation. This rule was dropped with effect from May 13th.

All expatriate Canadians now have the right to vote and be represented in their country. Previously any Canadian resident abroad for more than five years lost their right to vote.

British expatriates lose their right to vote after fifteen years as a nonresident. For those living in the EU, this is particularly galling. In effect they lose their right of free movement within the European Union in respect of political representation as British citizens.

This point of view was forcibly uttered recently by an EU Vice-President Viviane Reding, "A Canadian State Supreme Court (Ontario) has declared the ban on voting rights as 'arbitrary and unreasonable' and that many expatriate Canadians 'care deeply about their country'."

Exactly the same can be said in relation to the fifteen-year ban on voting for British expatriates.

Graham Richards, votes-for-expat-brits.com, by email

ALTERNATIVE PLATES

IT is funny to learn that Paris wants to keep down air pollution by banning even and odd number licence plates on alternating days. People will just do what they do to escape speed cameras – they'll have a second set of plates. A far better solution would be for the government to do more to encourage cycling, public transport and to heavily tax gas guzzlers.

By the way, there are days when Nice and Antibes have higher counts of micro particle pollution than most of Paris does.

Keith Lowry, by email

ELECTRIC POWER

I'VE been thinking of buying an electric car but there doesn't seem to be much information in France about charging points or help-to-buy or anything else for that matter. I know there is one charging point at the parking garage near the Cannes Forville market where I go every week.

Can anyone share their advice on whether electric cars are worthwhile and if they have seen more charging points like this around? This is a picture I took of the one at Forville.

"Treats" on Riviera Reporter forum



CAMS AND JAMS

WE are soon in traffic jam season so everyone should know that there are quite a few public traffic cameras around Alpes-Maritimes with updates every 10 minutes so you can see the exact driving conditions. There are only a couple of dozen cameras at the moment but more are added all the time. I find the ones around Antibes are really useful for avoiding jams. You can view them all at inforoutes06.fr. Not bad.

Graham Hendricks, Biot

MEANWHILE, IN LES ARCS

THE Café de la Tour, our local Riviera Reporter distribution point and monthly Fish and Chip venue now has a Facebook page, which can be found by typing precisely "CAFÉ-De-La-TOUR" in the Facebook search box.



ON THE OTHER HAND ...

THE article on page 18 of your last issue (No 162) reads like a fairy tale. What a brilliant experience for the family, being comforted and cared for by the French social security system.

Unfortunately there are many accounts of quite the opposite experiences. In my case, I would have wished for a better experience with the social security. Nothing was given, everything had to be researched, asked for and in the end many things I had to pay for myself.

Starting with the diagnosis of cancer, the ensuing treatments according to protocol, nothing human, no personal decision: "This is how we do it in cases like yours." Even a doctor telling me that if I do not follow the prescribed protocol, no doctor would support me.

A nutritionist? Somebody coming to my house? 18 euro visits to the doctor? A flyer with sessions of an exchange group was hanging at the clinic and upon requesting psychological support from the CPAM, I was told that none of that is reimbursed.

And the crowning experience was the meeting with my local representative, since I had taken 3 years maternity leave and was then diagnosed with cancer, I was only entitled to 6 months sick pay, going back to work on a part-time basis (advised by the doctor), the representative told me that I could still not expect any further pay, since then everybody could do the same (!) and that I should have thought about this before I took three years off ...

Whether it is a question of the area, the type of cancer, the hospital or down to every single doctor, I don't know. Experiences can be so different.

Claudia Graf, by email

For those disillusioned with e-books who have gone back to the good old paperback novel (good recent English paperback novels are becoming really scarce), if you have a supply of paperbacks that you would like to donate then we will be only too pleased to collect them from you at any of the events at the Café de la Tour, Les Arcs.

Jim and Pauline North, email

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

I AM an old movie freak and own more than a thousand DVDs of classic movies of 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s both American and British with a handful of French, Italian and some German, too.

I would like to start a Cinema Club in my flat. Once or twice a month inviting like-minded people to come over for a film and buffet supper. Films to be chosen by the participants and not necessarily by myself alone.

We could have a theme night or even do a double feature. Anyone interested can email jonathanlippman@hotmail.fr or call 06 41 78 83 61.

Jonathan Lippman (pictured), by email



THE FUTURE IS ORANGE

AS an Orange subscriber for my iPhone, I kept receiving SMS messages from Orange saying, "*Vous avez atteint 100% du credit internet de votre offer/option. Vous etes en debit reduit.*"

As I only use my phone for calls and Apps (such as reading the news) I couldn't see how I was using 1 Giga of internet every 30 days. I used Orange's *Chattez avec un conseiller* on their website and within seconds I was chatting live with customer service who asked me a few questions in French before concluding that I had not turned off my cellular data, which meant my emails and internet usage was using 3G to connect.

So, I was advised to turn off cellular data on my phone and in the future when checking emails or looking at stuff online to use Wi-Fi because with my phone plan, data is unlimited with Wi-Fi. What I didn't realise is that you can still make phone calls and send text messages without 3G or Wi-Fi coverage.

Problem solved, without having to be on hold for ten minutes waiting to speak to someone, and with the added advantage of being able to write and read the exchange in French, which is sometimes easier than speaking French on the phone about technical stuff.

Margaret Tontoria, by email

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

HOW can it be that French TV channels are so arrogant/stupid/ignorant (choose one or more ...) that they show the episodes of a series in a seemingly random order?

As far as I have experienced, it goes for them all. Tonight, e.g., there were three episodes of "Doctor Who" on channel 4 – a bit on the heavy side, but still. In the TV magazine they are announced as episodes 4/14, 5/14 and 1/14! So they know, and still they do it – why?

I'd really like an explanation. And while you're at it: could you please ask them to provide VO language on the internet channels!

Anders, by email

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SWINDLED

READING the article in issue 161 ["Stripped bare by a swindler"] suggesting that the swindler was running a "Ponzi scheme", whenever legal issues are involved one has to do one's own homework. This is extremely time consuming. However any discovery can then be fed to the legal representatives; after all for the lawyers to "fire the cannon we need to give them the gunpowder"!! In this case one needs to find where the swindler is residing in Luxembourg. Maybe the members involved could unite and pay for a person unknown to the family to spend a vacation in Luxembourg. After all it's not such a large country to discover where a person is living. For a start, the telephone directory because even if he has an unlisted number there could be a

listing under one of the family members. If he was involved in finances he could be known to members of this community. Of course one needs to act with discretion. Once you have an address this should be enough for some action to be taken. We had an issue where with the help of family, information from Scotland Yard, and other areas of research, which took five years, we found a person living in Great Britain. Once we had the address, then paid him a surprise visit he eventually repaid the debt owed which was quite a considerable sum of money. This person also knew that we could issue an international warrant as, at one time, he'd given us a NSF cheque which is a criminal offence in France. Best of luck with your search.
K. M. Wright, by email

WRITE TO US

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

One mot time

Condamine.

An Occitan word first used in the 12th century indicating land free from feudal dominion – "common" land that could be worked or grazed without tithes or taxes being paid to the local lord. The Latin root is from cum + dominium, "property in common".



Wally and Christel Storer with friend Peter Mayle at book signings over the years. Right: with former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard at the 2011 G8.



CURL UP WITH WALLY AND CHRISTEL

THIRTY years ago Australians Wally and Christel Storer set up the first Cannes English Bookshop in Square Merimée. Soon afterwards they expanded to bigger premises in the rue Jean de Riouffe where they distributed the first issues of this free magazine before relocating to their present location in rue Bivouac Napoléon, only 100 metres from the Festival building.

"It's been good," says Wally, "and we've certainly had some interesting times."

The crowded street once had to be closed for a few hours when the ever-flamboyant Tony Curtis signed his autobiography at the bookshop. "We sold 400 copies that day," remembers Wally.

Well before he was famous, Peter Mayle was invited by his personal friends the Storers to do one of his first ever book signings. Since then, Mayle has signed every one of his titles at the Cannes English Bookshop. "It's a local shop but we're told that we account for 0.01% of the worldwide sale of Mayle's books," claims Wally. Not bad.

Another memorable success was Peter Wright's autobiography *Spycatcher*, which was banned in Britain for exposing the secret underbelly of MI5 where Wright had served as Assistant Director. "You couldn't get it in England so people bought it from us when they came to the

Riviera. It wasn't unusual for someone to buy a dozen copies for friends at home." *Spycatcher* couldn't be sold in England but HMRC had received no instructions to confiscate copies from arriving passengers at Heathrow. The book eventually sold over 2 million copies worldwide and made Wright a millionaire before his death in 1995.

And the future? Wally and Christel are of retirement age so the shop is up for sale. "Paper is on the way back," Wally tells us, echoing Tim Waterstone's claim that sales of e-books in America fell by 5% last year while hardback sales are increasing.

Recent studies also show that reading on electronic devices in bed disrupts sleep and adversely affects health. So maybe curling up with Wally and Christel is just what the doctor ordered. ■

may

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN DRAGUIGNAN

Sun May 25, 10h: Democrats Abroad France Riviera Chapter invites all members and guests to an exceptional Memorial Day ceremony celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Allied Débarquement de Provence. If you wish to participate, please email dafrance.riviera@gmail.com to coordinate carpools. This event is free and open to the public.

"NATURAL CAUSES", RADA

Thurs May 29, Fri May 30 & Sat May 31, 20h: the Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association presents the black comedy "Natural Causes" by Eric Chappell (writer of TV's "Rising Damp") at the Mougins School. Entry: €10 (incl. a free drink). Three ways to book: phone 09 53 73 56 70; email bookings@rada.freesevers.com; from the English Book Centre, 12 rue Alexis Julien, Valbonne.

13TH PYA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Fri May 30: Golf de la Grande Bastide, Opio, France. More information at website: pya.org

HOLY TRINITY CANNES

Sat May 31, 9h30: A Teaching Morning on "The Lord's Prayer". Its origin, meaning and importance. Lunch provided. Contact 04 93 94 54 61 to reserve.

18TH FÊTE DU VÉLO

Sat May 31-Sun June 2: Activities in Nice. See feteduvelo.fr

june

JAZZ CONCERT

Sun June 1, 14h: A Tree For Two, piano-bass-drums-sax quartet, at Holy Trinity Church Cannes (Ave Branly). Program of jazz standards with vocalist Cy Todd and cornetist Hartmut Bartram. Entry: €10; under-10 €7. See atreefortwo.com; 06 78 09 66 98.

RACE FOR LIFE



Sun July 27: In conjunction with Cancer Research UK, this event is open to all women and girls and is a 5km walk, jog or run. The location is likely to be Mougins, but this has to be confirmed. The entry fee and the sponsorship money will go to Cancer Research UK. If you are interested please contact raceforlifeFrance06@gmail.com

DEMOCRATS ABROAD FRANCE RIVIERA CHAPTER

Sun June 1: Tax Event.
Wed June 4, 18h30-20h: Political Wine event with host "Doc" Curlin (Topic TBD). Members and guests welcome to interact with fellow Americans in the region and engage in American political discussions. At La Canne à Sucre/Sports 11 (11 Prom des Anglais, Nice). No formal entry fee but 1 drink minimum. Please RSVP (even "maybe") to dafrance.riviera@gmail.com. See democratsabroad.org/group/france-riviera

EPN ROUND TABLE LUNCHESES

First Mon of the month: The Nice Roundtable takes place at the Boscolo Hotel Nice, Pescheria Restaurant, 12 bd Victor Hugo.
Third Tues of the month: The Monaco Roundtable takes place at ZEST restaurant, Port Hercule.
Third Thurs of every second month (June, Aug, Oct & Dec): The Sophia Roundtable takes place at the Omega Hotel, Les Lucioles, Acces 3, 49 Rue Ludwig Von Beethoven, Sophia Antipolis. See pwnnice.net or contact events@pwnnice.net

COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF THE RIVIERA

Wed June 4 June: Wine tasting and luncheon in the Var at the Château de Cancerilles. Details on commonwealthclubriviera.com

AMIAc

Wed June 4: Carlton Beach restaurant, Cannes (fully booked). Any info please contact Doug Attwood on 04 92 97 50 72.

OPEN HOUSE & POSH PARAPHERNALIA

Thurs June 5 & July 3: quality 2nd hand clothes & accessories for men and women at Posh Paraphernalia. A light lunch will be served.
Sat June 21 & Sat July 19: Open House at the Grange with lunch served from 12h30-14h. At 815 Chemin Gourettes, Mouans-Sartoux. See sunny-bank.org

CANADIAN CLUB HAPPY HOUR

Thurs June 5, 18h30: Flashman's Pub, 7 ave Princesse Alice, Monte Carlo, just beneath the Sun Tower building.

RIS SUMMER CONCERTS

Fri June 6 & Sat June 7, 20h: Riviera international Singers summer concerts at Mougins School provide a wonderful variety of music ranging from Verdi, Bernstein and the Beatles. Entrance €10 adults; €5 for children. Come and join us for an evening's entertainment. More information at: riviera-international-singers.com

CHAMPAGNE & CHUKKAS POLO TOURNAMENT

Sat June 7, 10h: With the International Club of the Riviera at Domaine de Pijaubert in Montauroux. Sign up at internationalclub.fr

"NATURE AT THE TIP OF THE PAINTBRUSH" EXHIBITION

Until June 22: Free entry to visit 20 works by impressionist artist Jacques-Michel Dunoyer at the Musée Saint-Paul in Saint-Paul de Vence, 2 rue Grande. Tel. 04 93 32 86 95.

COOKING CONCOURS RENÉ GRAGLIA

Mon June 9: The Association "Cercle de la Capelina d'Or" is organising an amateur contest of *niçois* dishes in Villars-sur-Var, preceded by a visit to the vineyards of Le Clos Saint-Joseph. There will be a meal afterward (€35, all included). For those who need transportation (€10), a bus will be in front of the Lycée Masséna at 8h30. The village church will be open for visitors afterward. For more info in English, call Jacquie Berben on 06 08 36 67 58.

BA VAR SUMMER SOIRÉE

Wed June 11: Summer Soirée and pétanque competition in La Motte. For more information contact events@baofthevar.com

ST-HONORAT PICNIC

Thurs June 12: A tour of the island of Saint-Honorat and picnic lunch. More details at VIAC.fr

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY TEA, CANNES

Fri June 13, 16h: France Grande Bretagne Cannes will be celebrating the Queen's official birthday with a tea including champagne at the hotel Carlton on the Croisette, Cannes. All are welcome. Reservations and enquiries from Iris on 04 93 97 86 32 or Odette on 04 93 49 37 01.

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

Sat June 14, 18h: Free concert of sacred music by church choir – Mozart, Bach, Handel, plus modern composers at St John's Church, St Raphael. For info: 04 94 50 38 46.

MARINELAND, AMERICAN CLUB OF THE RIVIERA

Sat June 14: A day at Marineland in Antibes, for all ages 7 to 70. Information: Ms Judy Walters 06 95 37 86 00. See <http://americanclubriviera.com>

THE GARDENS OF VILLA DELLA PERGOLA AT ALASSIO

Until end Oct: "One of the wonders of the Riviera", the gardens are open to the public on Sat and Sun, 9h30-11h30 and 15h-17h. Tickets €12. Incomparable views of the gulf of Alasio and the island and Gallinara, with Corsica visible in the distance. In 2012, after six years of careful restoration work the 22,000m² gardens were returned to their original splendour, with their surrounding Mediterranean vegetation and rare plants and exotic flora. Giardini di Villa della Pergola, via Privata Montagu 9, 17021 Alasio (Savona). Tel 01 82 64 61 30 or see villadellapergola.com

FRANCE-ETATS-UNIS AGM

Mon June 16, 17h: Assemblée Générale will take place at the Blue Beach, Promenade des Anglais, opposite the West End Hotel. As usual there will be a cocktail dinatoire at 18h. €22 for members, and €25 for non-members. More details at Jacquie.berben@wanadoo.fr

LOW BUDGET MEN CONCERT

Thurs June 19: At the Théâtre de Verdure in Nice to finance several defibrillators and scientific research programs related to cardiac diseases. Tickets and info about the group and the association at: lowbudgetmen.com, where you'll also find concert dates (Nice Jazz Festival July 12th) and their album "Crossing Lives" and "Live in Nice" DVD. The Association 20 000 Vies and the town of Nice are organizing an open day on June 18th dedicated to fight against sudden cardiac arrest. This event will be associated with the Cardiology Congress "Cardiostim" bringing together more than 6000 Cardiologists between June 18th to 20th.

BA VAR LUNCH

Thurs June 26: Gourmet lunch at the Entrecasteaux trout fishing lake. For more information contact events@baofthevar.com

ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC IN FRANCE

Fri June 27-Sun June 29: Residential Weekend at Renouveau Holiday Village, Roquebrune-sur-Argens. Singers who can read music welcome as residents or day visitors. Music by Faure and Elgar among others. More details: 04 94 50 38 46 or rscmf.fr

SUMMER SOLSTICE PARTY

Sat June 28, 19h: With the International Club of the Riviera in Roquefort-les-Pins. Sign up at internationalclub.fr

ROSE GARDEN CONCERTS, NICE



July 19-Aug 14, 21h: The Académie Internationale d'été de Nice offers 20 concerts in the magical setting of the cloister and the rose garden of Cimiez. Entry €10.

Sat July 19: Opening concert "The Classics". Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice

Tues July 22: The Romantics, Orchestre Symphonique de l'Opéra Toulon Provence Méditerranée.

Wed July 23 & Sat July 26: Gala evenings at the conservatory.

Thurs July 24: 100% Women.

Tues July 29: Grand Repertoire, Orchestre Régional de Cannes Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur.

Thurs July 31: Hommage to Mstislav Rostropovitch, Orchestre Régional de Cannes Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur.

Sat Aug 2: French Classics.

Sat Aug 9: Jordi Savall Day, Master Class public (19h) and recital (21h).

Mon Aug 11: Soirée Lyrique.

Wed Aug 13 & Thurs Aug 14: Chamber music.

For info: info@aie.fr or 09 70 44 09 36 or see academie-internationale-ete-nice.com

WESTERN BBQ

Sat June 28 (TBC): France-Etats-Unis in Brignolles with France-Louisiane (western barbecue, come dressed as cowboys and cowgirls, if you can dig it). More details at Jacquie.berben@wanadoo.fr

july

AMIA

Thurs July 3: Relais des Pinedes, Mouans Sartoux. To reserve please contact John or Jenny Bailey on 04 93 65 00 58.

FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

Fri July 4 (TBC): France-Etats-Unis picnic in Eze. More details at Jacquie.berben@wanadoo.fr

FOURTH OF JULY, AMERICAN CLUB OF THE RIVIERA

Fri July 4: Reception & dinner at the Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat/ Information: Mr Jay Jellad 06 70 30 63 18. See <http://americanclubriviera.com>

CANNES YACHT CLUB KIDS' SUMMER CAMPS

July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25, 28-Aug 1; Aug 1-8, 11-15, 18-22. , Aug 6-10, Aug 13-17, 14h30-17h: from age 6+, price €150/week for non-members. Info at yachtclubdecannes.org/lecole-de-voile/stages-dete or 04 93 94 71 68 - yachtclubdecannes.org

NICEJAZZ FESTIVAL

Tues July 8-Sat July 12: nicejazzfestival.fr

VIAC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Fri July 11: VIAC 25th Anniversary celebration at Chateau de Saint-Martin in Taradeau. More details VIAC.fr

WORLD CUP FINAL & DINNER

Sun July 13, 19h: With the International Club of the Riviera at Quai 21 in Cannes. Sign up at internationalclub.fr

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LOOKING FOR SERVICES? SEE PAGE 50

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. Tourist €6/week or €26 for a year. See: www.nice-english-library.org

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