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17 October 2002 • Number 13

The Côte d'Azur's English-language newspaper

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Motorway could go through Biot, St Paul, Vence and Roquefort-les-Pins

THE GREAT A8 DEBATE

THE Ministry of Transport has re-opened the files on proposals for a northern bypass of the Côte d'Azur's section of the A8.

Work will begin in the next few weeks to prepare plans for possible routes, ready for a public enquiry next year.

The new motorway would reduce congestion on the existing trunk road by providing a faster but slightly longer alternative route for motorists passing through the region. The A8 would then be left to local traffic.

The idea is by no means a new one. But the problem is there is no free land on which to build the new road.

If the proposed A58 runs too far north it would not be fully used. But too far south and it risks ruining some of the Riviera's prime residential and tourist areas.

A detailed proposal for the new road was last produced in 1997. Running from Mandelieu to La Turbie, the plan called for the motorway to pass just to the north of Mouans-Sartoux, Valbonne and St Paul de Vence.

But after much public debate the plan was rejected in 2000, with the decision that the route ran too far north and too close to St Paul.

"Logically, the second motorway has to run from Fréjus to La Turbie. It



ROAD TOLL ... the proposed new motorway will ease jams on the A8, but could cut through some of the area's prettiest villages



PLAN ... this proposed motorway route from 1997 'runs too far north'

has to cut north of the present motorway, possibly through Biot, Roquefort, Vence, St Paul and the Northern communes of Nice," a spokesman from Escota's motorway information centre told *The Riviera Gazette*.

"The new motorway can't go too far north of Antibes, as was the plan before, as it wouldn't be used and the Antibes area will remain jammed.

Underground tunnels are a possible solution. Nothing is certain, yet," he continued. "The A8 is dangerously overstretched. There are often fatal crashes between Antibes and Nice and it is regularly jammed around Nice during the rush hour."

The in-depth study will take a year to prepare and is expected to include several routing options. Then the

public will get to have its say, again, as the great A8 debate re-opens with a full public enquiry. The road could then be built within ten years.

● The €67 million extension of Nice's 'voie rapide,' bringing it to the airport and the A8 at Saint-Augustin, got the go-ahead this week. The work will start at the end of 2003.

The new WEEKLY Riviera Gazette: 10,000 copies distributed this week. Look for the next issue on Thursday October 24

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Stephanie breaks silence on crash

PRINCESS STEPHANIE ... at last year's Red Cross Ball



Pics: AFP/Vanina Lucchesi/Gatti

MONACO'S Princess Stephanie spoke out this week after a twenty year silence on the moments before the car crash that ended her mother's life.

The Rover 3500 carrying Stephanie and Princess Grace, her Oscar-winning filmstar mother, plunged 45 metres off a cliff between La Turbie and the Moyenne Corniche on September 13, 1982.

After initially promising reports, it was announced that Grace had died the next day, leading to speculation on the exact circumstances of the accident.

Rumours

In an interview published in German magazine Bunte, the youngest of Grace and HSH Prince Rainier III's three children scotched persistent rumours that she had been at the wheel of the car when the accident happened.

At just 17 years old, she would have been too young to drive. However, she was

By Jenny Paul

unable to shed light on the cause of the accident.

"Did my Mother confuse the brake with the accelerator? I don't know," she said.

Stroke

But the Princess went on to say that she did everything she could to stop the car, pulling on the handbrake and putting the automatic into 'park'.

The official line is that Grace suffered a mild stroke, causing her to lose control of the car.

Stephanie also dismissed stories of a row with the 52-year-old former Hollywood star, who was known as Grace Kelly before her marriage into Monaco's royal family.

These centred around allegations that Stephanie, a well-known 'wild-child', was involved in a relationship which Princess Grace frowned upon.

The Princess has now spo-

ken out publicly to "protect her three children".

Two were fathered by Daniel Ducret, a bodyguard, before the pair were married in 1995. The marriage ended when Ducret was filmed cavorting with a Belgian stripper. Her third child Camille was born in 1998 but Stephanie will not be drawn on the identity of the father.

Elephant trainer

One of her many colourful boyfriends included married circus elephant trainer Franco Knie. Stephanie and her children famously travelled with him in his circus caravan, but the pair split earlier this year.

She has lately been seen stepping out with a member of her father's household staff.

Stephanie feels that she has been victimised by the media, which wrongly blamed her for the accident.

"Guilty? I have nothing to reproach myself for, unless surviving is a crime," added the 37 year old Princess.



GRACEFUL... Stephanie and her mum just weeks before the crash

Var's storm record

LAST week's storms hit the Var badly, causing widespread flooding and landslides. Firemen in the department were called out more than 600 times, mostly to pump out cellars and garages, recover vehicles and clear roads of mud and fallen trees.

A record 170mm of rain fell in 24 hours in Bormes-les-Mimosas as storms lashed the region between Wednesday evening and Friday morning.

School's out

TEACHERS' unions have called for an all-out nationwide strike today. The day of action is supported by parents associations and by student unions.

The teachers are protesting against the lack of additional funding for education in the new budget.

Crane falls on RN7

A 72-TONNE crane fell onto the RN7 in Roquebrune Cap-Martin on Saturday, causing traffic chaos.

Twenty five nearby residents were evacuated as a safety precaution after the crane collapsed at 8pm. It was finally removed at midnight.

Holiday rents down

THE Var holiday rental market was down 5% this year, after five years of growth. The drop is due to holiday-makers abandoning month-long lets in favour of long-weekend rentals.

Champion plan

THE Champion supermarket chain has been granted permission to build a new store in Nice's upmarket Mont Boron district.

Residents are protesting, saying it will ruin the tranquility of the area.

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Send your answer by e-mail to rochdale@therivieragazette.com or mail it to Rochdale Compy, The Riviera Gazette, 738 Route Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins to arrive no later than midday Wednesday October 23.





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CRUSHING BOAR... the record-breaking 150kg animal was on the loose around Guillaumes until Saturday



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If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a pig surprise

HUNTERS in Guillaumes, an hour inland from Nice, bagged a record-breaking 150-kilogram wild boar on Saturday.

The men went looking for a large animal after several dogs had been hurt whilst out in local woods. Related to pigs, wild boars are strong and ferocious animals that should not be approached.

And in the Var, shoppers were alarmed to find a wild boar running amok in the Lidl supermarket at La Seyne last Thursday. The panic-stricken porker – a 50 kilogram male – took refuge in a storeroom as customers fled. Police eventually trapped and shot the beast.

Wild boars can also be seen nearer the coast, notably along the banks of the river Loup.

Granny, 92, foils robbers

A 92-YEAR-OLD Nice grandmother outwitted two thieves who had snatched her handbag from her apartment.

First, in a classic ploy, the robbers had posed as distressed neighbours wanting to use her phone. She helped the pair, but afterwards discovered her bag was missing.

But after she'd called the bank to cancel her cards and chequebook, her entry phone rang. The crooks were on the line, posing as police officers and claiming they had found her bag and needed her pin number.

The quick-witted septuagenarian called the police, who quickly arrived to arrest the dim thieves. Her handbag was recovered.

Lawyer court busking

A BERGERAC lawyer who moonlights as a busker faces being disbarred for bringing the legal profession into disrepute.

Valerie Faure, 42 and a keen accordion player, faced a disciplinary hearing last week. But there was laughter as Faure whipped out her squeezebox and played a polka. "Is that so undignified?" she asked.

Buskers in Nice this week thought differently – one, Claire, told *The Riviera Gazette* "Having a lawyer amongst our number is more likely to give a bad name to busking!"

Judgement is due next month. If found guilty, the part-time performer faces being disbarred, suspended or given a warning.

MONACO BANKER 'ROBBED SCHUMI'

A BRITISH banker is on trial in Monaco for allegedly stealing €18 million from clients whilst working at HSBC.

Stephen Troph, 42, is accused of siphoning investment funds from the accounts of clients including Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher.

The missing money came to light and Troph was arrested as he returned from a holiday in September 2001.

The private investment bank, where the minimum needed to open an account is \$250,000, says it has refunded all affected clients.

Troph's lawyers have said he is "very sorry and he had been suffering from depression after his divorce." Judgement is expected on November 5.

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• MONACO was targeted by an anti-globalisation demonstration last weekend.

Supporters of Attac, a paradoxically international anti-globalisation organisation, turned out in Monaco, Andorra, Luxembourg and Jersey to protest against tax havens.

But there was no threat of violence and traffic was not bought to a standstill in the principality as just fifty demonstrators made their point peacefully.



UNDER ATTAC... Saturday's Monaco demo

AFP/Vanina Lucchesi

Juvenile prison planned near Eze

ONE of the country's first juvenile detention centres could open next year at La Fort de la Drette, between Eze and La Trinité.

A second centre is also to be built in the Alpes-Maritimes, but a suitable site has yet to be identified.

Similar centres are now being established across France as part of the government's new anti-crime measures.

The two new centres will each house ten under-18s, with the aim of rehabilitating repeat offenders.

The Fort de la Drette has been proposed as ideal because it is currently empty and is already owned by the department.

"If agreed, the conversion of La Fort de la Drette could see the centre open as soon as 2003," the Prefecture in Nice confirmed to *The Riviera Gazette*.

A new jail is also planned for Nice, housing up to 600 convicted criminals in a top security building. It will be built on five hectares by the river Var, north of the Nice golf course. It is due to open in 2007.

The announcements come amid criticism that jails are overcrowded, and a government report which found 28.5% of prison sentences handed down are never actually administered.

CREAM AND PUNISHMENT

A FLAN-FLINGING anarchist has been brought to justice after a 33-year reign of terror.

Belgian Noël Godin, 57, has been ordered to pay one euro in damages to former presidential hopeful Jean-Pierre Chevènement after being found guilty of assaulting the politician with a cream pie during the election campaign earlier this year.

The Paris court ruled that the slapstick stalker must also pay an €800 fine and legal costs.

The pied sniper's previous targets include Microsoft founder Bill Gates, film director Jean-Luc Godard and French minister of the interior Nicolas Sarkozy.

One victim, philosopher and writer Bernard-Henri Lévy, has been struck six times – most notably in 1994 while he was on stage at the Cannes Film Festival.

Godin admits to a vendetta against Lévy, claiming that French TV's favourite thinker reacts badly and will be let off the hook if he shows a sense of humour and sings a silly song after a pie ambush.

The pastry propagandist, known in France as *l'entarteur*, describes himself as an 'anarcho-pâtissière' who uses humour as a weapon against depressing laws, authority and political power. He has assembled an interna-

By Jenny Paul

tional network of cream pie collaborators, and now as many as thirty fellow flan flingers take part in each carefully planned attack.

But Chevènement argued that the tart-tossing terrorist is paid by the

media to humiliate democracy. And although Godin finances his operations by selling film and photos of the attacks, he told the *LA Times* that he would never accept money to target an individual – "We want to be pirates with pies," he says. "We'll never be mercenaries, because then we'd be a pathetic bunch indeed."



GODIN... tartlet terrorist



PIE-EYED... Contender Chevènement was assaulted during the presidential campaign

Maher trial date set

THE trial of American nurse Ted Maher will start in Monaco on November 21.

The ex-commando stands accused of causing the deaths of billionaire banker Edmond Safra, 67, and nurse Vivian Torrente, 57, in a fire at Safra's Monaco penthouse in December 1999. He will be defended by Michael Griffith, the American lawyer who won freedom for Billy 'Midnight Express' Hayes in Turkey.

Drug driving to be outlawed

A PROPOSED law making it an offence to drive whilst under the influence of drugs has gained the approval of the French National Assembly.

Offenders will get up to two years in jail and a fine of €4,500. The law – which now goes before the upper house – also authorises police to conduct random drug testing.

Sats cut out speeding

A SCHEME to forcibly prevent speeding is being tested in Paris.

Test cars have been fitted with onboard computers and satellite positioning systems that cut out the vehicle's fuel injection system if legal speed limits are exceeded.

If successful, the devices could be ready to fit in new cars from 2010.

Var crime down

THE Var was one of the five departments showing the biggest drop in crime in the year to August 2002.

The Var, the Lot, Morbihan, Rhône and Vienne departments can boast crime rate reductions of between 16 and 22 percent.

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My Riviera

Lori Gardet tells Alison Craddock about a remarkable recovery and why she loves the rain on the Riviera...

“WHEN my kids first came to the Riviera the thing they loved most about it was the rain.

I'm a New Jersey girl, but my children were born in the Turks and Caicos islands and in Brisbane, Australia. We're used to unrelenting sunny weather so the diverse climate here is a constant source of amazement for us.

I researched the area carefully before I moved here in '96 to start a new life – and the CIV and Mougins schools had the international outlook I wanted for my kids.

My husband Charles and his family moved to Paris from Algeria in 1962, and then to Cannes a year later, having found the rain up north too depressing. In 1976 Charles' mother found this place, in Chateauf-neuf-de-Grasse, with nothing on it but a run-down old barn, which she set about renovating herself.

Having always been a keen tennis player, she soon decided that a tennis club would be a perfect use of the land, and so the Tennis de la Plaine le Vignal was born.

She and her brother dug out the ground for the first court and a club and restaurant was founded with her as the manageress and cook, serving giant paellas and couscous to hungry players.

But Charles chose to follow a career in engineering over an offer to join the French national tennis team – something he now admits he regrets a little.

I broke my neck in a skiing accident when I was 18, and was a quadriplegic and then paraplegic for nearly twenty years. Intense physiotherapy saw the nerve-endings repair and I made a slow but determined recovery.

After so long immobile, you develop a passion for anything physically demanding. Tennis gives me the physical and mental challenge I crave. Charles and I still try to play at least three or four hours a week.

I met Charles in '98 when some friends convinced me to try out for a place in the Tennis club's team for the annual 'Madame Figaro' championship. Charles was also making big changes in his life, having



LOVE ALL ... Charles and Lori get set for a perfect match at their tennis club in Chateauf-neuf

given up engineering to come and help his mother run the tennis club. I got in to the team, and Charles coached us to win first for our Department, then our Region, and finally we came third at a National level.

After that he asked me to dinner, and not speaking a word of each others' language, we both turned up with dictionaries – it was hilarious. The evening flew past with us frantically flicking pages as we began to discover how much we had in common.

We were married last year at l'Abbaye in La Colle sur Loup – and we must be trendsetters because Roger Moore's daughter was married there the next day!

We both have a passion for cooking, which leads us to try international cuisines on our nights out.

We're big fans of the Lebanese dishes at Restaurant Armenian on the Croisette in Cannes, and are often to be found at Saint

Bernadin, the fabulous Chinese eatery in Valbonne. One of the things we love most about the region is the availability of fresh ingredients. Right across the road is a farm cultivated by handicapped people – they have wonderful melons and tomatoes in the summer. Mushrooming is great fun too; we've even discussed getting a pig to help us find those elusive truffles. We tried training my dalmation without success.

My favourite escape on the Riviera is St Tropez. I love running along the beach and I almost feel like I'm back in the Caribbean when I'm there.

The international diversity here makes it so special; the mix of cultures, food and style, combined with natural beauty. But my two great passions – apart from tennis and Charles – are champagne and chocolate. And what better place to indulge than the south of France! ”

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● NICE Victor Hugo, large studio/duplex 43m2, large kitchen, bath-room & storage space €88,000. Tel: 04 93 88 36 29

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● 2 BED APT, Antibes, Juan-les-Pins, Golfe Juan, pref. Balcony or Garden up to €750/month. Tel: 06 17 96 86 39

● ESTABLISHED couple looking for 2/3 room apartment in Nice. Tel: 06 19 30 30 82

● GARDENER seeks cottage to rent with garden for his collection. Caretaker's cottage could suit. Tel: 04 93 35 17 21 After 7pm

● PAINTER & decorator looking for run down accommodation to rent 3/4 rooms Tel: 04 93 94 60 10

TRAVEL

● HOLIDAY EXCHANGE? Retired English couple interested in swapping their beautiful country cottage on Dorset coast for Riviera Apartment/Villa in June or September 2003 Email: martin.oliver4@btinternet.com Tel/Fax +44 1258 840 845

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TRAFFIC UPDATE

Local roads

● Antibes Rue Thuret access restricted until Mar 20, 2003

● Antibes Traffic lights and 50km/h speed limit on RD4 until Oct 31

● Cannes No vehicular access to a 190m stretch of Rue d'Antibes until Dec 2002. Diversions in place

● Mandelieu-La Napoule Traffic lights and 50Km/h limit on RD109 until Oct 25

● Moyenne Corniche The RN7is closed between Eze and Villefranche until Dec 15 whilst upgrade work is carried out on three tunnels. Diversions are in place.

● Nice Delays possible on the Promenade des Anglais, at Pont Magnan until Dec 20 and rue Halevy until Nov 4

● Nice Delays possible on the Quai des Etats Unis, at Cap de Nice, until Nov 29

● Saint Jeannet Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD2209 until Oct 18

● St Jean Cap Ferrat Construction work on a new fire station will cause delays at Pont St Jean until Dec 2003

● Valbonne Roadworks are causing delays in the village centre

● Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50km/h limit and delays on the RN98 coast road, caused by lane closure due to last winter's storm damage

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2 Choose your options

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Optional extras - see section 3 for prices.

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Terms: All ads must be legal, decent and honest. Ads are run at the sole discretion of the publisher. Free offer applies to private ads only. Payment due with booking. Free ads will be published in first available issue. Ad deadline: Midday Tuesday

4 About you, and payment

Name: _____

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Cash Cheque, in euros, drawn on a French bank, payable to 'The Riviera Gazette'

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

5 Send this form back to: Classifieds, The Riviera Gazette, 738 Route Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins, France • Tel: 04 93 09 66 43 • Fax: 04 93 09 66 53 • Or email your ad to classifieds@TheRivieraGazette.com

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"There are three types of people in this world; those who can count, and those who cannot" Carl G Hostnik

What's On and Where To Go...



The Riviera This week

Thursday 17

● The 8th **Festival de Blues** begins tonight with local band Hoochie-Coochie Men and New Yorker Bill Perry performing at the Forum Nice Nord at 9pm. French blues musicians Chris Lancry and Bill Deraigne are at the Forum tomorrow night and Clive Carrol and Hiram Bullock play on Saturday night. The festival climaxes on October 26 at the Salle Nikaïa, with Willy Deville and Calvin Russell. Tickets for the concerts at the Forum Nice Nord cost €17; the Nikaïa concert costs €20. Call 04 93 93 37 40 to book.

● The 14th **Foire International de Monaco** continues today, until Sunday. The exhibition features everything from hi-fi to jewellery and clothing to furniture with exhibitors coming from as far afield as Nepal, Morocco, India, China and Slovakia. The Foire is open daily from 10am to 8pm. Entry is free on weekdays, €5 at weekends.

Friday 18

● Polar en Fête, a three day **film noir festival**, begins today in Cannes. Several English-language films will be screened, including *The Third Man* (1949) at 4pm on Saturday and *Gun Crazy* (1950) at 8.30pm on Saturday at Studio 13. Admission is €5.

● The **British Association** of the Var is meeting for lunch today at La Bonne Maman in Régusse. Lunch costs €16 including wine. Call 04 94 47 06 28 for information or to book.

● The **Linus Olsson Jazz Quintet** performs tonight at MJC Picaud, Cannes at 9:30pm. Olsson arrived in Nice from his native Sweden in 1995 and formed the quintet in June 2001. Tickets are €7; call 04 93 06 29 90 to book.

● The Professional Yachtsmen's Association is having a **golfing day** at La Grande Bastide in Opio today, playing in teams of four. The fee is €80 per person including lunch. Call 04 93 90 40 00 for info.

● Continuing today are the Foire de Monaco and the Festival de Blues.

Saturday 19

● The **Auld Alliance**, a social group celebrating the ancient ties between France and Scotland, is organising a day trip today. Included are a visit to a chateau and vineyard with wine tastings and 'a gastronomic afternoon'. Tickets are €33. Call Brian McDowell on 04 93 08 32 78 to find out more.

● The British Association of Monaco is running a **day trip to Italy** today, visiting the medieval Ligurian village of Colletta di Castelbianco. Tickets, including lunch, cost €40. Call Aisling Launder on +377 93 50 19 52 for information/bookings.

● A new **exhibition of paintings** by two local artists, Brit Michael Sanders from Valbonne and German Constanze Hamm from Biot, opens today at the Golf de la Grande Bastide, Chateaufort de Grasse. The exhibition is open from 11am to 6pm daily until October 27.

● Puget-Theniers, an hour's drive inland from Nice, holds an **Agricultural Fair** all day today. See farm animals and traditional crafts; buy local produce. Call 04 93 05 05 05 for info.

● For rallying enthusiasts, a two-day **hill climb** competition, a 'Course de Côte', takes place today and tomorrow in Biot. It starts from the bottom of the chemin de la Chèvre d'Or on the Antibes road.

● Auctioneers Jean-Pierre Besch are at Cannes' Hotel Martinez this weekend for a **sale of rare items**. The auction begins today with stamps at 11:30am, cartoons and drawings at 2pm and fine wines and spirits at 8pm. Under the hammer on Sunday afternoon are paintings and sculptures at 2:30pm, furniture and decorative items at 3:30pm

and jewellery and watches at 5pm. Lots on offer include a 1790 Madeira and fifteen Picasso plates. Viewing is from 10am today. Call 04 93 99 33 49 for info.

● Catch the concert version of Puccini's **Madame Butterfly** at the Grimaldi Forum, Monaco tonight at 6pm. Call +377 99 99 30 00 to book.

● Argentine **piano virtuoso** Miguel Angel Estrella opens St Laurent du Var's cultural season tonight with a performance at the Espace S Grappelli at 9pm. Call 04 92 12 40 64 for info.



ART ATTACK... Constanze Hamm and Michael Sanders are on show in Chateaufort

● The **Rémi Abram Jazz Quartet** performs at the Bar-en-Blais, Antibes, at 8pm tonight.

● **Monaco FC** is at home tonight against Lille. Kick off is at 8pm at the Stade Louis II. Call +377 92 05 37 54 for tickets.

● The **Supermotard de Cagnes-sur-Mer** takes place today and Sunday at the Hippodrome. Supermotard is motorcycle mayhem; basically a cross between scrambling and flat track racing. This event brings together 150 expert riders, including the Cagnes-based 1999 World Champion Stéphane Chambon. Two day run-of-the-event tickets are €15. The action starts at 4:30pm today and continues all day Sunday.

● Continuing today are the Foire de Monaco, Polar en Fête and the Festival de Blues

Sunday 20

● It's chestnut harvest time. **Chestnut festivals** – Fêtes de Châtaignes – are being held in the region's growing areas, primarily in the Var's Massif des Maures region and in the Nice hinterland. Collobrières, in the heart of the Maures mountains, is the liveliest, with a big market today selling anything and everything made of chestnuts, plus other local delicacies and crafts. Street entertainers add to the carnival atmosphere. Nearby La Garde-Freinet has a large Provençal market today and next Sunday with chestnut flour bread, marron glacé, jams, cakes and, of course, roast chestnuts on offer. The local tourist office is also running guided tours to the chestnut groves with a woodland specialist.

● In Valdeblore, an hour and a half inland from Nice, today's chestnut festival includes **free wine and roast chestnuts** at 3pm and festivities and tastings all day.

● The **Festival of Traditions** takes place in the Chantier Naval Opera, Antibes today. Buy tickets

for €15 on Saturday then feast on all you can eat from midday Sunday. There's a broad range of food from many French regions, and music in the afternoon.

● **Corsican singer** Dominique Ottavi performs traditional songs from Corsica and around the Mediterranean at the Théâtre de la Semeuse, Nice tonight at 8:30pm. Tickets cost €12; call 04 93 92 85 08 to book.

● Bargain hunters should head to Saint-Jeanet today for the town's twice yearly **second hand sale** or to Beaulieu-sur-Mer for the fortnightly bric-a-brac sale in the Port de Plaisance.

● Continuing today are the Foire de Monaco, the Supermotard, Polar en Fête and the Course de Côte.

Monday 21

● The **Tax Free World** exhibition opens in Cannes today. 12,500 professionals will attend to find out what the world's airlines and duty free shops will be offering next year.

Tuesday 22

● Kurt Elling plays **jazz** at the CEDAC in Cimiez, Nice tonight at 9pm. Tickets are €12.

● **Line dancing classes** take place tonight and every Tuesday night at Mougins school at 8:30pm. Beginners are welcome. Each lesson costs €2. More info from Julie Davies on 04 93 90 01 36.

Wednesday 23

● Cercle Nordique, the **Scandinavian social group**, is holding a tango evening tonight at La Dolce Vita on the route de Nice between Villeneuve Loubet and Antibes, from 7.30pm. Beginners, singles and couples are all welcome. Food and drinks are laid on. Call 04 93 82 21 02 for info.

● The Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice performs music by **Rimsky-Korsakov** at the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 4pm. Tickets are €4. Call +377 92 16 22 99 for info.



GONUTTY... ease into Autumn at one of the region's chestnut fairs, starting this Sunday

Now booking

● The next **Red Pear Theatre production** is "The Spirit of Aphra Behn" on October 25 and 26 at the Antibe Theatre, Antibes. "A gem of restoration sorcery, a huge hit at the Edinburgh Fringe and a tour de force for Illona Linthwaite who portrays a sassy, sexy poet and spy... what more could you want," Red Pear's Hilary King told *The Riviera Gazette*. Tickets are €20 from 04 93 61 01 71.

● Rada, the **Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association**, is performing 'Ghost Writer', a comedy thriller, at Mougins School on October 31, November 1 and 2. Tickets are €10 from The English Bookshop, Valbonne or from Lena Walsh on 04 97 01 08 94.

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next week!

Riviera Languages

5 Avenue de L'île • 06270 Villeneuve Loubet • France
Phone/fax: 04 93 73 02 59 • Mobile: 06 15 33 54 21
E-mail: RivieraLanguages@aol.com • www.RivieraLanguages.com