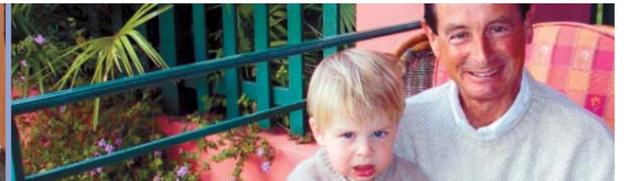


The Riviera Gazette

21 November 2002 • Number 18

The Côte d'Azur's English-language newspaper

www.TheRivieraGazette.com



Film Guide *Die Another Day is one of the English-language films showing this week, p6*

What's On? *Drum up fun at the 'Magic Festival' or sample Beaujolais Nouveau, p8*

My Riviera *Entrepreneur Michael Shapiro on why tourists are a good thing, p6*

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Movie Listings

Your guide to this week's English-language cinema in the region, p6

MAHER TRIAL STARTS TODAY



Maher Family Collection

By JENNY PAUL

THE world's press is descending on Monaco as the trial of American nurse Ted Maher opens today in Monaco's criminal court.

The court has only thirty spaces for press representatives and almost every major news organisation wants a seat.

International news crews have flown in to report every twist and turn in what promises to be the most sensational court case Monaco has ever seen.

Maher, 44, stands accused of starting the fire which led to the deaths by smoke asphyxiation in December 1999 of his boss, billionaire banker Edmond Safra, 67, and fellow nurse Vivian Torrente, 57. An ex-Green beret commando, Maher has been held in Monaco's prison since his arrest in his hospital bed on 6 December 1999. The father of four is charged with 'arson with intent to cause harm,' a charge which carries a term of 20 years to life.

The case has been the subject of

numerous conspiracy theories, most pointing to the two and a half hour delay between Monaco's rescue services being called out to attend the fire and them actually entering the apartment to begin the rescue.

The Monaco authorities maintain the delay was because Maher told rescue workers there were armed intruders in the building, causing them to wait for back up.

Questions have also been raised as to why Torrente and her seriously ill boss stayed locked in a bathroom during this time, rather than opening the door and escaping the fumes.

The defence team maintains that there is substantial information which has not yet been revealed in the public arena and has remained secret for Maher's benefit until the trial.

Donald Manasse, one of Maher's Monaco-based defence lawyers, told *The Riviera Gazette* "Ted is feeling very confident and his defence team

TRIAL ... Ted Maher, accused of causing billionaire banker Edmond Safra's death

are very confident. The number of expert witnesses flying in long distances to testify on Ted's behalf, some of them paying to do so out of their own pocket, is very comforting."

And Michael Griffith, Maher's American defence lawyer, is optimistic. "If the jury listens carefully to all the elements in the case, I'm confident they will vote for the lesser charge of 'involuntary homicide', which carries a term of six years. With time served and time off for good

behaviour, he could be free next year," he told *The Gazette*.

"I'm not here to get Ted off," he continued. "He's admitted to lighting the tissues in the bin. I'm here to make the jury realise that Ted did not intend to kill Mr Safra or Vivian Torrente."

"There are major points to consider: he lit the tissues, then held them under the fire alarm, he stabbed himself, to give credibility to his story that he'd risked his life to save Safra's. Ted

Continued on p5, column 1

The new WEEKLY Riviera Gazette: 13,000 copies distributed this week. Look for the next issue on Thursday November 28

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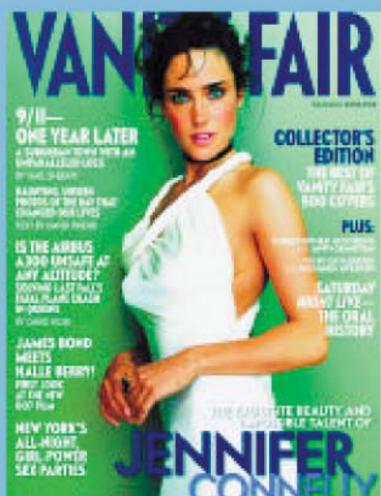
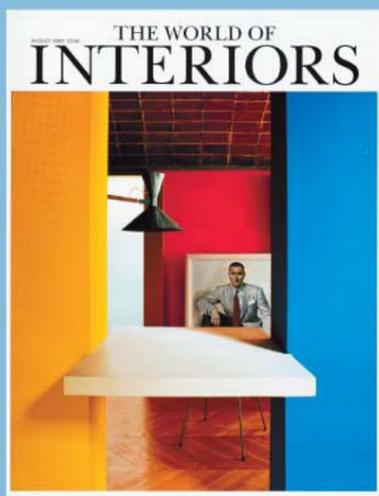
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Winter sports fans can look forward to a good season after last year's washout

FIRST FLAKES FALL



PEAKING OUT... Nice's mountain backdrop shows off its new winter coat

TRG/Mike Clark

THE region's ski resorts celebrated the arrival of the first proper snowfalls of the season earlier this week when more than twenty centimetres fell across the Alps behind Nice, reports Alison Craddock.

Its arrival is earlier than last year, when the first snow fell on December 1. And according to the Nice Weather Centre, rainfall expected later this week will mean more snow above 1800 metres as long as the air temperature remains low.

"It is difficult to say whether this early arrival signifies a good ski season as we can only accurately predict

up to seven days in advance," confirmed the centre's Gerard Amiel. "However, the current weather conditions certainly seem favourable for a good season opening."

But mountain residents believe all the traditional signs point to a bumper season.

Local superstition holds that a good mushroom season means plenty of snow later on, while rain falling immediately before a new moon at this time of year also signals the arrival of a good covering.

"We're crossing our fingers for a great season after disappointing cov-

erage last year," Nathalie Cantero of the Auron tourism authority told *The Riviera Gazette*.

"We are very optimistic and the resort is expected to open on November 30. And, just in case, we've bought new snow-makers which can produce much more snow and ensure better coverage."

Isola 2000, Auron, Saint Etienne de Tinee and St Dalmas le Selvage have pooled their resources this year.

After a bad season last year, when some popular skiing venues only had twelve days of snow cover, the local resorts are trying hard to win

back customers.

"We've installed new lifts, created new pistes and renovated existing lifts. We're also promoting the Nordic skiing trails at our sister village St Dalmas le Selvage. And we've aligned the pricing and services across the resorts.

"We hope to provide the best possible facilities for visitors this winter," said Mme Cantero.

● **Get the latest snow reports for local – and national – resorts online anytime by clicking on the 'links' section at www.TheRivieraGazette.com**

Rainier misses party

HSH Prince Rainier missed this week's Monaco National Day celebrations after being hospitalised by a lung infection on Sunday. The Prince, 79, is under observation at the Centre Cardio-Thoracique de Monaco and, the palace says, is doing well.

Consul emails

THE British Consulate in Marseille has launched an email service to keep expats abreast of consular matters.

One of the first messages says fees for passport services will rise from November 21. A 32-page adult passport will go up €9 to €87.50. Send email to marseilleconsular.marseille@fco.gov.uk to join.

● *The Riviera Gazette* runs a free email service for breaking news and urgent announcements. Visit www.TheRivieraGazette.com and enter your email address to sign up.

Peyrat's pyramid

NICE'S council has given the go-ahead to a new €152 million building which will house 2,200 officials.

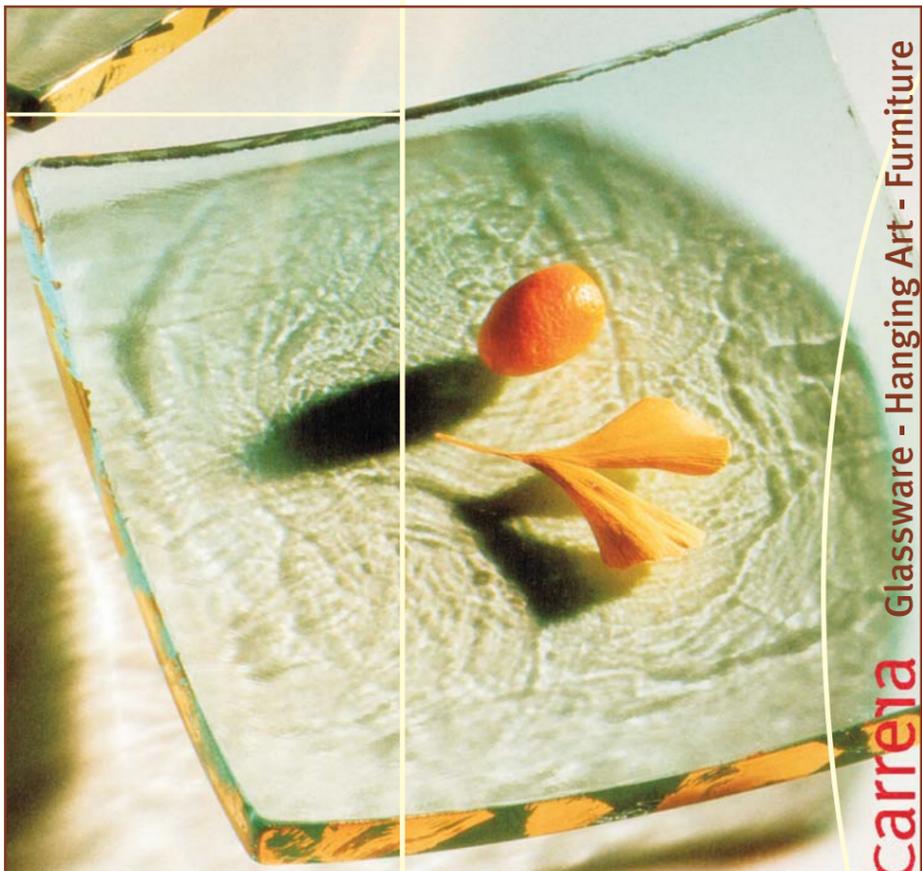
Left-wing councillors, outraged at the cost of the scheme, describe the building as a mausoleum and accuse mayor Jacques Peyrat of having a Pharaoh-like taste for grand projects.

Gap prat's dope rap

A MAN who left a bag containing cigarette papers and 196 grammes of cannabis outside the mairie in L'Argentière La Bessée got a six month suspended prison sentence at Gap court last week.

The 35-year-old had reported his lost bag to local gendarmes. They found the bag, looked inside it for ID, found the cannabis stash – and promptly arrested him.

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French don't talk politics, but do fret about going to hell

FRANCE is becoming more tolerant, more individual and less politically active. The population is aging, but the birthrate is up and the population as a whole is growing.

These are the key results from the national statistics office's latest portrait of life in France. Published every three years, the report takes information from the census and from a wide variety of research sources to compile a picture on what the French are like today, and how that has changed over the years.

2.4% of the population still live without a shower or bath. 1.8% manage without a toilet. 3.8% don't have a telephone, 10.7% don't have central heating, 20.1% don't have a car.

Men and women now spend a similar amount of time each day working, but men do most of it outside the home. They spend an average of 6.2 hours a day at work and then do 2.1 hours on average on domestic tasks. Women work only 3.7 hours a day, but then do 4.7 hours a day of domestic duties. 93% of women say they continue to be responsible for the vast majority of household chores. In all 46% of women go out to work.

The French work an average 36 hours a week,

down from 38.9 hours in 1996, and over half work to the 35 hour week.

But 40% say they now just have less time to do the same work and half say the reduction in working hours means their work has become more complex.

That said, 73% of women and 65% of men say their quality of life has improved and 63% of women and 52% of men say they now spend more time with their children.

Only 58% of French people now say they are religious, down from 74% in 1981. But belief in life after death has increased substantially from 31% in 1981 to 42% in 1999. 20% of 18-29 year olds believe in the existence of hell.

The French, still 90% Catholic, have also become more tolerant of other religions. Only one Catholic in six now believes there is only one true religion, compared to one in two in 1952.

Tolerance of homosexuality has also substantially increased with only 16% totally rejecting the idea in 1999 compared to 33% in 1981.

One in three French people say they never discuss politics with their friends; one in two only do so occasionally and only one in ten discuss it often.

Luxury car thieves nabbed

POLICE have broken up a ring of sophisticated luxury car thieves who specialised in stealing upmarket Porsche, Audi, BMW and Mercedes cars, writes Jenny Paul.

Nine people are this week in police custody in Grasse.

The group found a loophole in the French car registration system which allowed them to make stolen cars 'clean'.

The deluxe motors were then resold for around two thirds of the price of a legitimate vehicle.

The system was complex. Four of the gang would break into villas, usually expensive second homes in the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var belonging to rich foreigners, to find keys for foreign-plated cars parked outside.

A second team then organised paperwork to re-register the cars in France, using fake documents.

The gang found it was able to re-register the cars because Prefectures, which handle car

registration matters, do not have access to registration files for some European countries – notably Belgium, Holland, Germany, Portugal and Spain.

Police who raided the ring-leader's villa on Cap d'Antibes found a Ferrari Modena and a Mercedes CLK along with false documents and 810 grammes of cocaine.

The gang is thought to be behind at least fifty car thefts in the area, and its leader now faces up to 15 years in jail.

CANNES TRIALS SMART TICKETS

HI-TECH 'smart card' parking tickets will make their European debut on the streets of Cannes from January.

Traffic wardens will no longer spend time writing out parking tickets but will instead enter details into a hand held computer and leave plastic cards – equipped with a computer chip, like bank cards – clipped on to the offending car's windscreen wipers.

Motorists will have to take the cards to designated Tabacs or other payment spots to pay their fines.

Christened *Clip Carte*, the scheme will start operating in Cannes on a €400,000 six month trial run from January. Ventimiglia and Turin in Italy will also get the system from next spring.

The invention, the brainchild of Valbonne businessman Paul Grison, is designed to save time and manpower – and bring in some of the millions lost every year from unpaid tickets.

Representatives from police forces across the globe were present when the pilot scheme was unveiled at Cannes' Palais des Festivals last week.

Mr Grison, who has spent years developing the system from his Sophia Antipolis headquarters, said "The collection of parking fines is a world wide time consuming problem and this automated central system will save police time and free them for the 'street', which is their mission.

"The State can save enormous amounts of money which can be ploughed back into the community."

School bus driver was over the limit

POLICE were stunned to find a school bus driver drunk at the wheel in Sophia Antipolis last Thursday afternoon.

The unnamed driver had 126mg of alcohol per litre of blood in his bloodstream – well over the legal limit of 50mg/l.

Police arrested the man, leaving pupils stranded in the rain while they waited for a stand-in driver to take them home.

A spokesperson from L'Eganaude, one of the colleges on the route, told *The Riviera Gazette* "The parents are furious and we're relieved there wasn't a fatal crash.

"Who would believe that a school bus driver would be drunk?"

The man has been banned from the roads for a year and given a six month suspended prison sentence. He has also lost his job.

Maher Trial continued from front page

ran in bleeding, but gave his cell phone to Safra and Torrente to call for help. He then alerted the head of Safra's security and the fire services took Ted to hospital. The police and fire services took two and a half hours to get into the bathroom where the old man and Vivian were hiding.

"They received many calls on the cell phone telling them to come out and that it was safe to. Safra's wife called. But Safra, who had many real or perceived enemies, still refused.

"Michael Baden, New York city Medical examiner, who worked on the OJ Simpson trial, has studied the autopsy reports and believes he found medical proof that Safra attacked Torrente and prevented her from leaving the bathroom.

"There was Safra DNA under Torrente's fingernails and Torrente DNA under Safra's fingernails. Torrente had blood in her thyroid gland. She had bruises on her knees. Safra was a large man and Torrente was a tiny Filipino. He was a Parkinson's sufferer, but he was a strong man. Think about it: Torrente was trying to escape and Safra grabbed her around the throat. She then raised her hands up onto his wrists and tried to release his grasp. This is how the DNA exchange took place.

"Torrente would have got out alive and Safra would have been rescued, had this assault not taken place."

LOLO HUBBY FACES MURDER CHARGE

THE husband of busty porn star Lolo Ferrari is to stand trial for her murder, writes Jenny Paul.

Lolo, whose enormous 137cm chest was recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest in the world, was found dead at the couple's home near Grasse in March 2000, aged 37.

A post mortem found the cause of death to be an overdose of prescribed medication - she had been taking anti-depressants as well as drinking heavily.

But then her husband and business manager Eric Vigne, 54, was arrested and detained in February for failing to help a person in danger. He has been held in jail ever since.

And now a new autopsy has revealed that the former nude model may have been suffocated in her sleep. The High Court in Grasse has turned down Vigne's latest request for release after deciding that there is enough evidence to try him for the star's murder.

Prosecutors have put forward two possible motives.

They claim that Lolo had taken a lover - reportedly a Monaco policeman - and that the pair had spent several hours together at a local wife-swapping club on the night of her death.

They also maintain that Lolo was past her glory days and no longer earned big money. Police discovered that Vigne had found two young replacements, 'The Silicone Girls', who he was grooming to replace his alcoholic wife on the cabaret circuit.

But Vigne is firmly protesting his



LOLO... suffocated at her home in March 2000

AFP/Bertrand Guay

innocence. His lawyer, Serge Pautot, told *The Riviera Gazette* "Eric Vigne is not a murderer. He loved his wife very much and had no desire or reason to kill her".

Ferrari, born Eva Valois, met Vigne when she was seventeen.

Marriage and more than thirty breast augmentation operations fol-

lowed as the 'Svengali like' Vigne propelled her into a seedy career centred on her enormous 54G bust, which was 'designed' by an aircraft engineer.

Ironically, Lolo was scared of flying because each breast contained a three litre bag of saline solution and she was terrified that they would burst.

A trial date is yet to be set.

Human penknife

A LYON eccentric dubbed 'Crazy Eric' has entered the Guinness Book of Records for always carrying more than 1,000 useful objects about his person.

The 30-year-old electrician is obsessed with being prepared for all eventualities and designs special clothes to hold his tools. A recent innovation is a Velcro leg pocket holding a fold-up umbrella and a paintbrush.

Eric insists he thinks rationally about what he might need. "I used to carry a pedometer, for example," he explained, "but I've just taken it off. I found I never needed it."

Wood fired pizza

AN ANTIBES pizzeria was destroyed by fire early this week.

Police say the blaze at Pic Pizza, which opened only two months ago, was caused by an incendiary device.

The town's Pizza Kelly and Mister Pizza burned down after similar attacks earlier this year, sparking fears that a pizza war is underway.

Property penalty

UK taxpayers could be hit for income tax on property owned abroad if it is held by a company such as a Société Civile Immobilière (SCI).

The House of Lords has ruled 'shadow' company directors should be taxed on benefits in kind, in the same way company directors are. One tax expert called the ruling "absurd".

Shock, no horror

AN unexplained shock was felt in the west of the Var last Wednesday.

The phenomenon - which felt like a weak earthquake - lasted three or four seconds in the area between Saint-Cyr and la Valette near Toulon, but no seismic activity was recorded.

Who let the dogs out?

(woof, woof, woof, woof)

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My Riviera

Entrepreneur **Michael Shapiro** tells Paul Coleman why he's pleased low cost airlines are bringing in ever more visitors...

“ I FIRST came here with my parents in 1949 after the war and we've been coming down on a regular basis ever since, for family holidays with my aunt and uncle who lived in Paris.

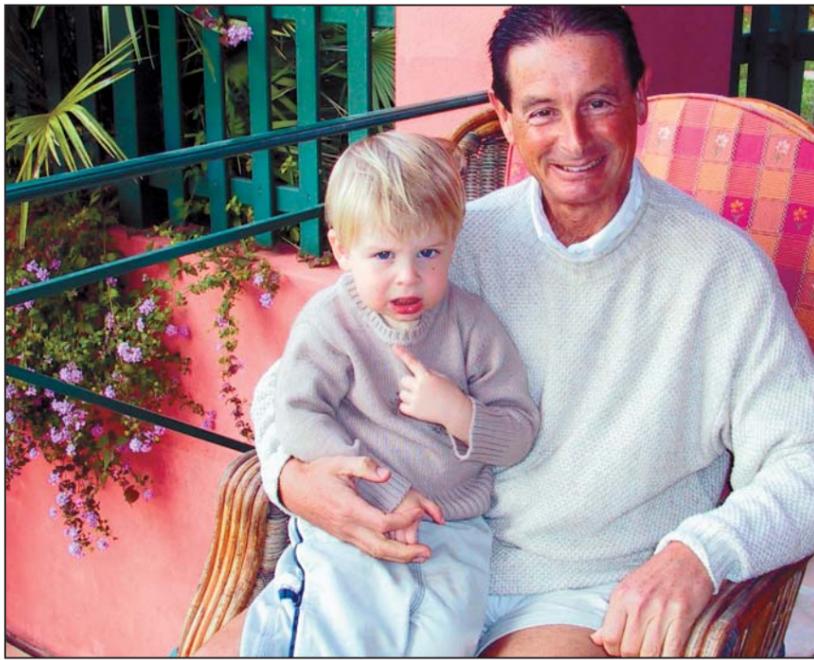
Things have changed a great deal in this time, but the greatest changes have occurred in the last few years because of low cost airlines and the modernisation of communications, allowing people to do business without being in the office.

You've now got people from all over Northern Europe coming to live down here, bringing their families, while keeping their business going at home. It's made a big change to the property market. It used to be principally secondary homes or people living as retirees, but now you've got owner-occupiers and that provides a lot more stability to the market. It makes the population around here a lot more cosmopolitan and, of course, that's been a tremendous benefit to the people here in general and to the industry.

Where I live has really been spruced up in the last few years; the villages like Valbonne, Tourrettes and Gourdon have all had facelifts and look probably as beautiful as they ever have done.

I bought my land here in Turrettes-sur-Loup twenty years ago and built the house ten years ago, so I've watched the valley change, and we've got to know people. I've always loved the valley where I live; looking at Gourdon across the river. You've got the beautiful walks, and the air is clean. The cool air from the Gorge washes the valley every day, and this is a nice corner of the world.

French local government works very well in that it encourages communities to stay together and gives a dignity of living to people who might be lost in a city. When



SETTLED... Businessman Michael Shapiro and son Austin at home in Turrettes-sur-Loup

you go into these villages, they have a soul which they otherwise wouldn't have, and the people live there with a sense of purpose. They maintain old customs of consideration and politeness and good manners, which makes it very pleasant to be amongst them.

That's the whole thing - there's a continuity. In the village square everyone is represented; young kids playing football, the old men playing boules, young guys showing off to the local girls; it's a kind of theatre of the village. And that's very good as it gives purpose to the village life. You don't have to be a tourist guide or a media personality to wax lyrical about it.

I think the charm of the area is that

everything fits together very well. The locals need the foreign people who live here and the tourism to survive, and they recognise it. There's a 'live and let live' attitude, which is very nice.

I think the problems one encounters down here are just the general problems of too much bureaucracy; although that is common in Western Europe these days.

But I've got friends and relatives who say that the bureaucracy isn't as bad here as London - although I've been away for five years, so I wouldn't know.

I'm very happy living here with my wife and two young boys, going for walks in our valley and playing tennis with our

Classifieds

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CINEMA

The Riviera Gazette's guide to this week's "version originale" films with English-language soundtracks...

Auditorium du MAMAC
Promenade des Arts, Nice

As part of the 5th International Resistance film festival, 22nd to 27th November 2002:
TAKING SIDES
Wed 20:30

Cinema Casino
Boulevard du 24 Aout, Antibes

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
Tue 20:30

Cinema Sporting
Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo

BLOODWORK
Thu 17:30, Sat 17:00, Sun 21:15, Tue 17:30
DIE ANOTHER DAY
Thu 21:15, Fri 17:30, Sat 19:30, Sun 17:30,
Mon 17:30

Cinémathèque
Esplanade Kennedy, Nice

THE HONEY POT
Fri 19:15, Sat 17:30
ONE FROM THE HEART
Thu 17:00, Fri 22:00
TIME CODE
Fri 17:00, Sat 20:15, Sun 15:00
THE LAST TYCOON
Wed 20:00
ELEPHANT MAN
Wed 17:00

Eden
Rue de la Republique, Menton

SPIDER
Thu 14:30, 20:45, Fri 17:45, Mon 14:30, 20:45,
Tue 17:45

La Boite Images
Place du 8 Mai, Brignoles

ARARAT
Sun 15:00, 17:00

Les Arcades
Rue Felix Faure, Cannes

ALL OR NOTHING
Daily 14:00, 18:30

Maison pour Tous
Rond Point du 8 Mai, Montauroux

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL
Thu 20:30, Mon 17:00

Mercury
Place Garibaldi, Nice

AMADEUS
Tue 21:00
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
Thu 18:00, Fri 14:30, Sat 17:00, Mon 20:10,
Tue 14:00, 19:25
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Sun 17:00, Mon 20:10
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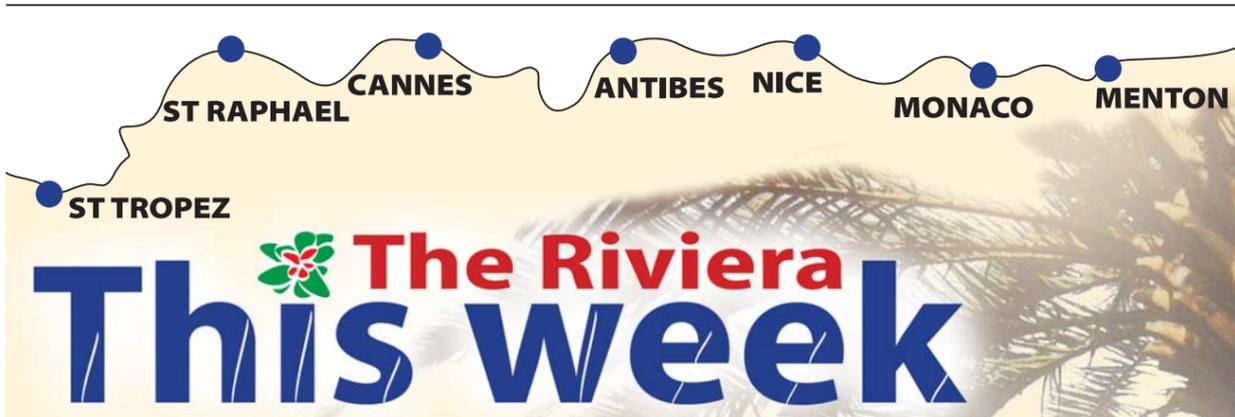
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- Antibes Access restricted on Rue Thuret until Mar 20, 2003
Antibes Traffic lights, diversions and 30km/h speed limit on RD4 until Dec 13
Cannes No vehicular access to a 190m stretch of Rue d'Antibes until Dec 2002. Diversions in place
Mandelieu Traffic lights and 50km/h speed limit on RD109 until Nov 22
Moyenne Corniche The RN7 is closed between Eze and Villefranche until Dec 15. Diversions are in place
Nice Delays possible on the Promenade des Anglais, at Pont Magnan until Dec 20, and on the Quai des Etats Unis, at Cap de Nice, until Nov 29
St Jean Cap Ferrat Construction work on a new fire station will cause delays at Pont St Jean until Dec 2003
St Paul de Vence Traffic lights and 50km/h speed limit on RD2 until Nov 22
Valbonne Roadworks on the RD103 with a 50km/h speed limit, causing delays in the village centre until Dec 19
Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50Kmh/h limit and delays on the RN98 coast road, caused by lane closure due to last winter's storm damage

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK "Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved." William Jennings Bryan

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Thursday 21

- Today, being the third Thursday in November, is **Beaujolais Nouveau** Day, the first chance to savour this year's vintage. Remember that 'Nouveau' is unusual in that it is a red wine that tastes best after an hour in the fridge.
- The Salle Cinemonde in Vallauris is kicking off the Beaujolais Nouveau celebrations tonight at 7.15pm with a **buffet of local delights** and wine flowing all night. Entry is €8, call 06 09 74 06 70 for info.
- In celebration of Monaco Day, the Salle des Princes is hosting Jacques Offenbach's **opera La Perichole**. Tickets start at €30, call +377 99 99 20 00 to book.
- Starting today is the week-long Djembefolie, a **festival of African culture** at the MJC Picaud in Cannes. Films in original version run each day. Call 04 93 06 29 90 for times.

Friday 22

- The Beaujolais celebrations continue at the Salle des Fêtes in Pegomas at 8.30pm. For €12 you can indulge on **charcuterie, cheese and dessert** and as much wine as you like. Get tickets on the door.
- Food lovers** can head to the Palais des Congrès in St Raphaël today for tastings of all the French foodie specialities. The €16 entry fee allows you to sample anything from the 150 stands.
- Jazz enthusiasts can hear the **Stephane Huchard Quintet** at the MJC Picaud in Cannes at 9.30pm. Tickets cost €8.
- In Monaco the **Soledanna Trio** and Fabrice Eulry entertain at the Théâtre Princess Grace at 9pm. Tickets cost from €14, book on +377 92 16 61 16.
- The region's largest **computer fair** runs until Monday at the Acropolis Exposition centre in Nice. The Salon Cap Cyber opens at 10am today and hosts a huge range of exhibitors and demonstrations from the world of multimedia and the internet. Entry is €5.50, but kids under 10, if accompanied by an adult, get in free.
- Continuing today is Djembefolie.

Saturday 23

- If you've got kids, don't miss the two-day **Magic Festival** at the Salle Nikaia in Nice. From 10am to 7pm Saturday and Sunday there's everything you can imagine from food tasting to clowns and education to pottery making. Kids over three get in for €5 and adult tickets are €7.
- The **dance spectacle** Le Project Satie hits Cannes tonight at 8.30pm. Dancers from Canada perform at the Théâtre Palais Croisette. Tickets, from €14, are available from

the Palais des Festivals ticket office. Call 04 92 98 62 77 for info.

- Djembefolie – the celebration of **African culture** – at the MJC Picaud in Cannes heats up today. From 9.30am experience African art, music, food and music, finishing off with concerts at 8.30pm. Tickets start at €8.
- The Lions Club Fayence-Pais are hosting a **Fête du Vin** tonight at 8pm at the Salle du Temps Libre. For €25 you can be entertained by an orchestra whilst indulging in traditional French food and wine.
- A fair showing **highlights of Cannes and the region** starts today at the La Palestre in Le Cannet until Sunday, Dec 1. Open from 10am-9pm weekends and midday to 9pm weekdays, entry is free.



GOING POTTY... Kids can try all sorts of fun stuff at this weekend's Magic Festival in Nice

- Bargain hunters** can head to Square Nabonnand in Vallauris today for a bric-a-brac sale. An early start at 8am.
- Football fans** should get to Stade du Ray tonight at 8pm to see top-of-the-table Nice take on bottom-placed Rennes in the French national football league. Tickets start at €7.
- If your musical tastes encompass James Brown and Fats Domino, head to the San Louis in Cannes to see "Big" Al Downing behind the **piano** tonight. The music starts at 9.30pm, tickets are €15.
- Check out the area's best selection of santon figurines, featuring figures from the nativity and traditional provençal life, at the Centre Culturel des Cedres in Mouans-Sartoux. The **Foire aux Santons** runs from today until the end of the year – take a cheque book or cash.
- There's an all-day **pottery market** in Place Jean Jaures, Mouans-Sartoux, where local artisan potters will be displaying their wares and offering them for sale at direct from the producer prices.
- International **opera** star Jose Todaro performs La Belle De Cadix at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 8.30pm today and tomorrow. Reservations made at the venue.
- The Bar en Biais Jazz Club in Juan les Pins is

hosting a **Brazilian jazz evening** with invited Brazilian musicians performing live. Call 04 93 74 10 98 for info.

- Continuing today are the Magic Festival, Djembefolie and the Cannes fair.

Sunday 24

- For a taste of **chestnuts and other winter goodies** head to Place des Deux Frères in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin for a Fête de la Châtaigne from 2pm today.
- The **Beaujolais Nouveau** celebrations continue at the Salle des Fêtes, Peymeinade from 2pm to 7pm. Entry is €10.
- The **Cannes PACA Orchestra** performs music by Poltz, Prokofiev and Mozart at the Théâtre Palais Croisette today at 4.30pm. Tickets start at €20, from 04 92 98 62 77.
- The 4th Festival des Arts Russes finishes tonight with a luxurious **Imperial Gala Dinner** at the Hotel Negresco. Call 04 93 16 64 00 for tickets at €140 each.
- Continuing today is the Magic Festival, Djembefolie, the Cannes fair and Jose Todaro.

Monday 25

- Continuing today are Djembefolie and the Cannes fair.

Tuesday 26

- The world's top women squash players arrive in Monaco today for the **Monte-Carlo Squash Classic**, running through to Saturday at the Stade Louis II. Entry is free. Call +377 92 04 40 00 for start times.
- Today is the last day of the Djembefolie fair.

Wednesday 27

- For a day out with the kids, head to the Parc de Vaugrenier, Villeneuve-Loubet for a free **Nature Walk**, weather permitting, from 10am.
- The Budapest Strauss Symphony Orchestra and the Viennese Pannonia **Ballet** perform shows today at 3pm and 8.30pm in a musical spectacle at the Nikaia Zenith in Nice. Call 04 92 29 31 12 for tickets, which start at €35.
- The Fifth Festival International of Film on the Resistance at the Auditorium du MAMAC, Nice includes the English language movie 'Taking Sides' starring Harvey Keitel tonight at 8.30pm. Entry is free.

Booking now

- Local American clubs are preparing to celebrate **Thanksgiving** on November 28. The American Club of the Riviera is taking bookings for its lunch at the Hôtel de Paris in Monaco; tickets are €70 from Arlette on 04 93 82 01 08. And down the road at Stars'n'Bars you'll find Monaco USA tucking into turkey and all the trimmings. Call Isabelle or Merrily on 06 78 63 15 73 if you'd like to join them.

Riviera Weather

Call 08 99 70 11 11 for today's weather in your town, or to get a three-day forecast in English. Calls cost €0.34 per minute

	Thursday 21	Friday 22	Saturday 23	Sunday 24	Monday 25	Tuesday 26	NOVEMBER IN NICE...
AM	9°C Showers	10°C Cloudy	11°C Cloudy	10°C Showers	10°C Stormy	10°C Cloudy	Avg. high: 18°C Avg. low: 10°C Avg. sea temp: 19°C Avg. rainfall: 94mm Getting cold at night inland. Local ski resorts set to open at the end of the month. Bring delicate plants inside.
PM	15°C Stormy	14°C Cloudy	15°C Cloudy	13°C Showers	15°C Stormy	15°C Cloudy	

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next issue out **thursday november 28** see you next week!