



Film Guide Catch Tom Hanks and Leonardo Di Caprio if you can in Nice this week, p6



What's On Orienteering in the snow, jazz by the lake, English theatre and more, p8



My Riviera Isabelle Chemin looks at the funny side of life in Sophia Antipolis, p6

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Film Guide

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KISSING CODE CRACKED

JUST in time for Valentine's day, a guide to the greeting kiss – long a source of embarrassment and confusion for visitors to France – has been produced by a UK travel company.

And the guide shows that locally, just two kisses will usually do the trick.

The French are renowned for their trademark cheek-kissing, a flamboyant 'hello' which comes naturally to a nation known for their romantic tendencies.

However the custom can be confusing for visitors, especially as the quantity of kisses expected varies from one region of France to another. Many a hapless tourist attempting the ritual knows the dread of either being left hanging in mid-air, or even worse, accidentally landing a smacker directly on the lips of an unsuspecting French acquaintance.

In order to ease kissing relations for travellers, a 'kissing map' has been included in Thomas Cook's new 2003 guide to French B&B's.

Ostentatious

The map shows how many kisses should be proffered according to which region of France you are in.

Amongst the surprises are that busy Parisians greet each other with an ostentatious four pecks on the cheek, as do their neighbours in the

Champagne region, while just one peck suffices in the more restrained Charente-Maritime.

Meanwhile here on the Riviera, where the pace is more relaxed, the locals are stingy with their smooches, settling for a simple two-kiss greeting.

But a Thomas Cook spokesman was keen to point out "we've done the research, but this is just a guide. Local customs may vary, and of course some people will be more or less enthusiastic than others."

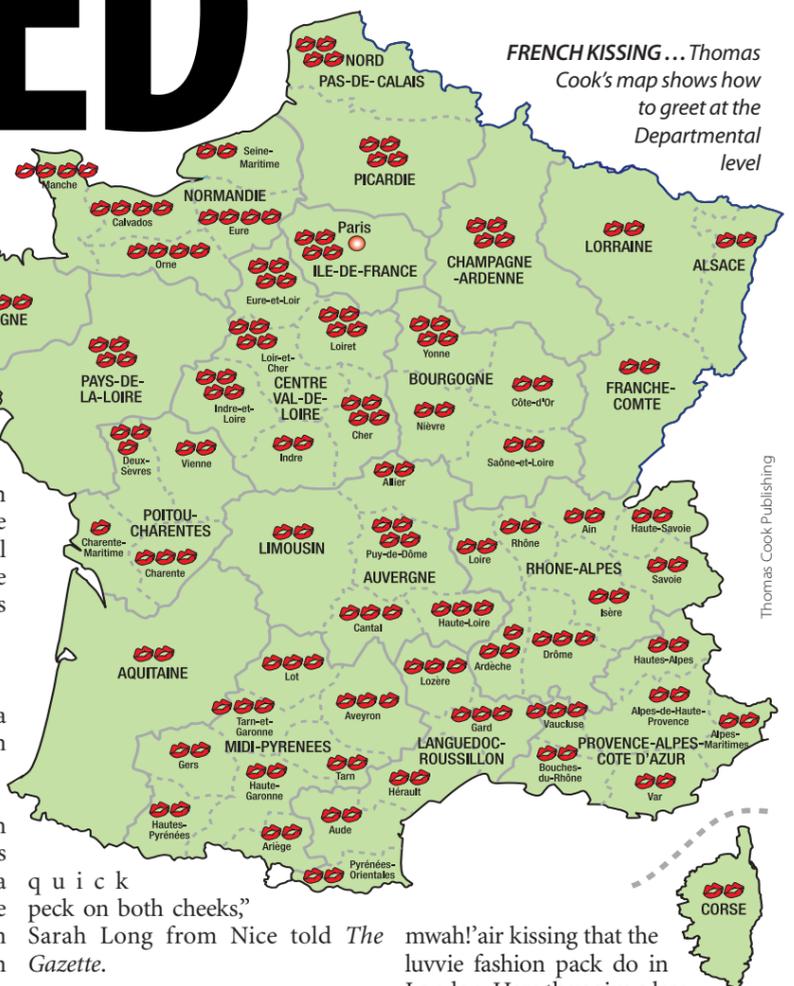
Mystified

Many expats arriving on the Riviera have been left mystified – and even shocked – by local kissing etiquette.

"After a Christmas dinner, a friend's husband kissed me on both cheeks," Jason Keats, 25, of Mougins told *The Riviera Gazette*. "As a Scotsman, I found this pretty strange – men don't usually kiss each other in Scotland and I try to avoid it here in France," he continued.

"I don't normally kiss my mates. A friendly handshake or a pat on the back tends to do."

Plenty of new arrivals have embraced the tradition, however. "I give all my friends, whether male or female, French, English or otherwise a



quick peck on both cheeks," Sarah Long from Nice told *The Gazette*.

Tradition

"I've been here for three years and I've got used to it. When I go back to the UK I hug and kiss all my friends there. I think it's a nice tradition," Sarah, 32, continued. "In my experience the French don't do that 'mwah!

mwah!' air kissing that the luvvie fashion pack do in London. Here they give a less fake planted kiss briefly on each cheek."

"There are no actual rules in fact," insists Magalie Morel of relocation advisers Foreigners Assistance and Services. "You can kiss right cheek first or left cheek first, it doesn't matter."

The new WEEKLY Riviera Gazette: **13,000 copies distributed this week.** Look for the next issue on Thursday February 20



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St Valentine's Day

St Valentine's LOVE NOTES with MOLINARD

Le parfumeur provençal depuis 1849

♥ Christine, thank-you for my greatest happiness, to love and be loved! Here's to another twenty years! David

♥ Sorin — I don't want to imagine how my life would have been without you. Mona

♥ To the little green man, I wuv you!

♥ To Dede from Oli: Only once a year / Is St Valentine / My dearest wish is that / Forever you'll be mine

♥ Ma P'tite — You are the chocolat in my croissant / the angel in my Baie/ the lace in my chantilly / my grapple in the hay — love Big Dog

♥ Real love makes us glime in the dark and skine in the sun!

♥ I am fond of you. You know that. If I make you the same effect what do you think about a date? One word from you and I am yours — C

♥ To my Studmuffin: If I get to heaven and you're not there / I'll wait for you at the golden stair / and if you're not there by judgment day / I'll know you've gone the other way / I'll hang up my halo and give in my wings / and give back all my heavenly things / and just to show my love is true / I'll go to hell just for you — buckets of luv, Flossy

♥ Ashley — After just one dance you spent 5 months searching for me. Your smile alone brings me more happiness than any other pleasure. You are my lover, my friend and my partner in life. All my love, Janie xxxx

♥ To Craig: Some in this world condemn our special love... / we choose only to celebrate! / Standing tall and rising above... / Its not a "choice" but our fate! / I Love YOU!

♥ Mon Amour, Chaque jour passé a tes côtés est un Bonheur inégalé. Chaque nuit passée dans tes bras me rend la femme la plus heureuse du monde — je me sens femme avec toi et souhaite que ce moment ne cesse jamais. En ce jour, est l'amour est célèbre — je veux que tu sois mon Roi — m'acceptes-tu comme ta Reine? NM

♥ My gorgeous scrumptious darling Marky, well we've moved to Monaco together only 3 months ago and life couldn't be better. I love you to the moon and back a thousand times over, and even though you don't believe this, I do feel my heart fasten when I think of you. You are my sexy beast and I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you. Bisous forever Abi xxx

♥ Dear Froggy Bebe, I love waking up next to you everyday! I celebrate our union and our love on Valentine's Day and always. Je t'aime chaque jour un peu plus! ton Petite Cochon

♥ JL. My Roquefort Cheese, your qualities — wisdom; warmth; wit — run like blue veins through our creamy love — strengthening; enriching; providing tanginess. DH

♥ When the day turns into the last day of all time / I can say I hope U are in these arms of mine — 2 D love J

♥ Virge, I'm the happiest man to spend this first St Valentine with you — F

♥ My sweet wonderful superman G. You are the best friend I've ever had, the most perfect person I've ever met, and the greatest lover that I could ever imagine. Merci pour tout! L

♥ We may live 600 miles apart / But your love is always in my heart — Bisous, Mom

♥ Eddie Davies, from Julie with love: My heart and soul I give / A gift to you from me / Just promise me your love / For all eternity

♥ To my darling Aika, I will love you forever, NB

♥ To my lover, friend & wife: You may be wife #5 / But you're my reason to be alive / After doing the wrong things / I've got my angel without wings / You said you've a butt like a horse / (But that's perjury) / Get plastic surgery / And I'll sue for divorce / Don't change a hair for me / Not if you care for me / Stay Little Valentine Stay / You make everyday / Saint Valentine's Day — your Pugi

♥ Darling Georges: I loved you yesterday, I love you today, I'll love you more tomorrow. Kisses, Mummy

♥ I love you truly, You make me drooly, This isn't Haiku, But I do like you - AFT

♥ Be my Valentine in two oh oh three / And then I'll be your bride-to-be — RT

♥ To Mr Herpes — every two months you give me another reason to go on — Big Boy

♥ Meeting you is the most beautiful gift life has given me. My Stratody, I love you and always will — LS

♥ Ian — Be mine, Valentine Bee, and honey I shall make for thee. The love we share, we will make three — Leslie

♥ Wossy — I'm afraid no one will ever know me the way you do. And I'm afraid if they did they could never love me for it. Love the Ranting Miss P

♥ Darling Beth — I want to tell you and the whole world I LOVE YOU — your French madman

♥ Dear Lucy — Happy Valentines — ???

♥ Hubbles — For everything you've made me — a wife, a mother and very, very happy — I love and thank you. Wifey x

♥ To the one who could support my character and didn't ever stop calling me "my baby" — Mo, you deserve me!!!

♥ To my dearest love Carl, happy Valentine from egay

♥ Sweetpea: I love you more than I could ever say / So I'm sending you love on Valentines Day!!!! Love M

♥ Mona — I love you as much as an infinite of infinities — Puiiu

♥ Milky — I love you more than... DOUGHNUTS! Now that's a lotta love. xxx Clarabella xxx

♥ Mon bebe, The sun shines strong, Like my love, all year long, This message...yours today, New life...on the way — UH

♥ To Philippe, my lover, friend, and companion in life; The third time has been more than a charm. You have wakened me to the joy of life, made me laugh and dance in spite of hardships. I have learned to do without and be happy without all the trappings I once thought so important. With you I find I am still becoming, growing into, accepting the woman I am and will be. You accept me as I am yet expecting what you know I am capable of. You tell me you love me without my having to ask. Je t'aime, Dianne

♥ Darling Marc — I'm sending you all my love and kisses on this special day, and every day. Love Caz XXX

♥ Dear Daisy. I love you lots and lots. You are the best girl in the world. Love Mummy

♥ Dear Alexander — On your first valentine, this message comes from afar containing our love xxx

♥ Molly, happy Valentines day — Guess who ???

♥ Annabelle, looking forward to another fantastic weekend — see you in Geneva. Love Paul x

♥ From Dara to Olivier: Dinner at The Negresco, Perfumed by Molinard, I could declare my love more deeply Much better than in a card

♥ To Eddie love from Julie: You support me / In everything I do / All I have to give in return / Is my unconditional love for you

♥ Hi Baby! I want to wish you a very Happy Valentine's Day Princess! In my heart & dreams, your prince, Robi ;)

♥ Cher Joseph — Je vous aime bien de tout mon coeur; plus je vous le dis, plus je suis contente; j'espère que vous le serez aussi. Mille bisous, Melissa

♥ NB — You make my cloudy skies blue, rough seas smooth, and rainy days clear. Thank you for everyday! Love forever, Boogie

♥ To Wil Point — Roses are red, violets are blue, I work in the Galerie and so do you...

♥ Barkey — Love and "classical" berthing of laughyness... for all our tomorrows...

♥ Pookie Pooos, I will love you all my life, love Shady

♥ Rami, you make me the happiest little bunny in the whole world. My heart is yours forever. love, Eeva

♥ To Louise, a very special friend, confident and passionate lover. The world would be a dull place without you. All my heart. Kam

♥ Didier Spade I love you so very much. B&P

♥ Cheeky Chimpgirl, swing on over and share my banana — Link-Man

♥ Notre vie commune, d'abord à deux, puis à trois, quatre et cinq nous ont donné de multiples occasions pour célébrer notre amour. Aujourd'hui, je te dis simplement: Merci. Je t'aime. CM

♥ Thinking about you makes me think more about you. If it's love, I am in love with you Ann.

♥ To E with love from J: Our love shines like the stars for everyone to see / Never far from your side is where I'll always be.

♥ For my "doud" — I would like so much flying to Papeete for this special date (we never forget since we met together and married)... just to say "I love you". You know that distance between us at this moment isn't able to alter our wonderful love. See you very soon my darling, I need you close to me.

♥ I love you my Chipouné! SC

♥ Mrs Mouse — I love you & thank you for being 'you!' — Mr Monkey!

♥ You are my pearl. You are the most adorable, cute, sweet, intelligent, bright, beautiful, funny and lovely man in the universe — CL

♥ Matthew, love you more than anything. You're beautiful every moment with you is a happy one. Je t'aime mon amour. Your Moosywoo

♥ Darling we've had problems, as many have in time, but love is everlasting and you'll always be my Valentine. MM

♥ Geneva my love! I know you don't like Valentines Day but I need to let you know how much I love you. Stay with me forever. Jens

♥ Alfreda — To my wife, lover and best friend, just a message to say I still love you, as always.

♥ Georges: Love tested by four children in five years, tragedy, homesickness, you'll ALWAYS be my first and ONLY love FOREVER!

♥ You are the engine of my heart. Ti amo. Matteo

♥ To my Darling Dachshund, will you come and share my bowl of biscuits? So much love, The Long-Haired Schmoos xxx

♥ Bello N, per sempre tuo amore, A.

♥ To my darling Caroline, Almost a year that we've been together and here's our first VALENTINE's day together. Never forget that I love you, and that we will always be together. With loads of love and kisses, Dan

♥ My love for you / is like the waves / on the Riviera shore / ever present, everywhere / always swishing in / gentle and ferocious / deep and vast / overflowing, irresistible. — DC

♥ To Wee Vannie — my best pal, my soul mate...always and forever...Ti Amo! Dave xxx

♥ Eleanor and Guy, you're far away, but we send our love across the sea on Valentines day — Georges and Daisy xxx

♥ A glance, the kiss / When we touched... What bliss! / You have my heart / You have my mind / Will you be my Valentine? — LAG

♥ 'alio Butler, hop on your bus and come visit me in my love shack! Love Mrs Butler xxxx

♥ Clive, for showing me the play of colours between water and sky at sunset... for making me fall in love with life... I am forever yours, Beth

♥ To Mrs Wuv, hang in there sweetie, I love you lots — MMM

♥ Lamu, each day I learn something new, how I cherish you, desire you and need you. Ever yours — Link

♥ Nasa — My jet fuel makes your rocket soar, je t'adore, Bisous, Viagra

♥ Papi — Will it be eternity, take the time to see, hold me in your arms, tell me what will be. Baci, Jacoba

♥ From Pussy Galore to Hot Lips Howard — Here's to a powered cylinder this weekend in Cap d'Antibes

♥ To my darling / I never could have hoped for a nicer feeling / Than the one that comes from loving / And being loved by you / You are my reassurance in life / That every day / Of every year / Will bring more happiness to my heart / Than the day before / You are my every Valentine wish / And I know you always will be... / Because I keep finding reasons to love you / Even more... God Bless, BF

Each note has won its writer a gift of Molinard perfumes and soaps. And, still to be awarded on February 13, is the grand prize for the soppiest love note — and what a prize! On offer is a sumptuous dinner for two at the Hotel Negresco's highly regarded Le Chantecler restaurant. The winner and their partner will be picked up by a chauffeur-driven limousine from Jet Set International and wafted off in style to enjoy chef Alain Llorca's inventive cuisine at this fabulous two Michelin starred restaurant. Afterwards the limo will be waiting to whisk our lucky couple home again! The winner will be chosen by the Editor on Thursday Feb 13 and notified immediately.

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Improvement scheme to transform Bord de Mer 'disgrace' into promenade

CAGNES' CROISSETTE

THE coast road at Cagnes sur Mer is to get a long-awaited new look in a 22 million euro facelift. The work will start in the Autumn, for completion in 2007.

The section stretching from the Hippodrome to the Cros de Cagnes mini-tunnel will be landscaped with palm trees, a cycle path and a wide promenade along the water's edge.

The sea road will also be slightly re-routed and will be reduced from three lanes in either direction to two.

Residents are happy about the prospect: "It's wonderful they are finally developing it; it could be like Juan les Pins or Golfe Juan," Marianne Klerk, proprietor of the seafront Hotel Le Beurivage told *The Gazette*.

By Alison Craddock

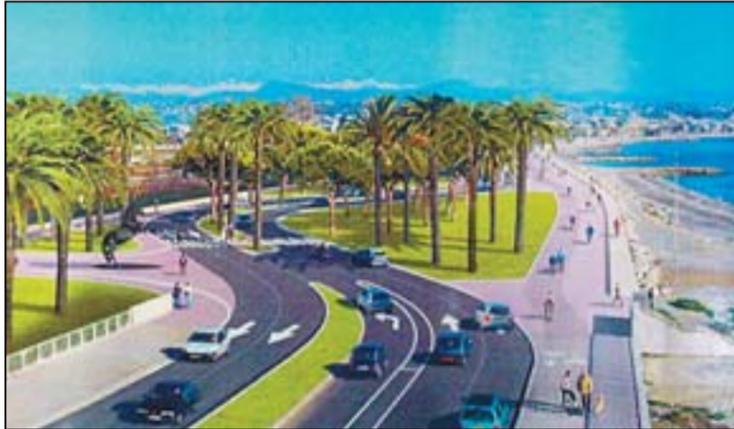
"The Bord de Mer has been a disgrace with no shade, no trees, and no promenade; it's shameful in comparison to anything between Italy and St Tropez."

But disruptions to local businesses and traffic are expected during the development.

Traffic hell

"Traffic will be sheer hell - there will be bottlenecks and it will be hell for commuters," Marianne noted. "We'll probably have to close while they're working outside our hotel - or offer our rooms at half price."

Slowing down the traffic is one of



BOULEVARD OF DREAMS... The seafront at Cagnes sur Mer will become beautiful

the main objectives of the project.

"This section is notorious for speeding cars, especially at night. The reduction in lanes will make sure the traffic moves more slowly, making the road safer and more pleasant for people promenading," explained Cagnes' Mairie.

This stretch of the Bord de Mer was a national road until three years ago, and

therefore overseen by Paris. Its reclassification as a departmental road has made way for plans to improve the aesthetics of the area.

Undervalued

"The area has been slightly undervalued in the past, but a development of the seafront could certainly make it more interesting," estate agent Julia Preece of Conseil Patrimoine told *The Gazette*. "Property prices in the Cagnes area have increased in the past two years, although they are still lower than equivalent properties in Nice and Antibes."

Funding for the development comes from the state, the department and the town of Cagnes sur Mer.

What a banker!

A BETRAYED husband from Nancy had insult added to injury last week when a court ordered him to pay €3,000 in damages to his wife's lover after he put up illuminated signs naming the man, a bank employee, in the window of his dog parlour. One sign read "Ladies, open an account at X bank, Monsieur Y will give you his close and very enduring attention."

Bring back brothels

NEARLY two-thirds of French people support the re-opening of brothels, according to a poll published on Sunday in *Le Parisien*. Of those questioned, 63 percent said they were in favour of the re-opening of 'maisons close', while eleven percent did not give an opinion.

Elle of a joy

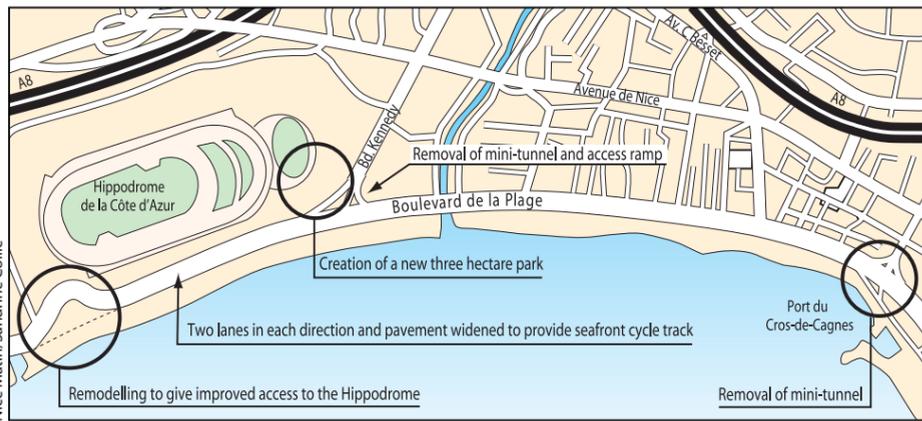
AUSTRALIAN supermodel Elle Macpherson, 38, has become a mother for the second time. Famously nicknamed 'The Body', and married to French banker Arpad Busson, the leggy model gave birth to a boy named Aurelius, weighing 3.5 kilos.

Dugimont departs

RIVIERA Radio's managing director Mark Dugimont yesterday left the company after just ten months in the job, in a surprise move described as being "by common consensus" by a station spokesman.

Monaco tourism rise

MONACO saw a growth in business tourism in 2002, despite a difficult international climate and strong competition. Conference hotel 'nights' in the Principality last year were up 6% on 2001.



GRAND PLAN... The proposed development will disrupt shops, businesses and traffic and take four years

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Bat man finds new species

A CONSERVATIONIST has discovered a new species of bat in the French Alps – after he hit and killed one with his car.

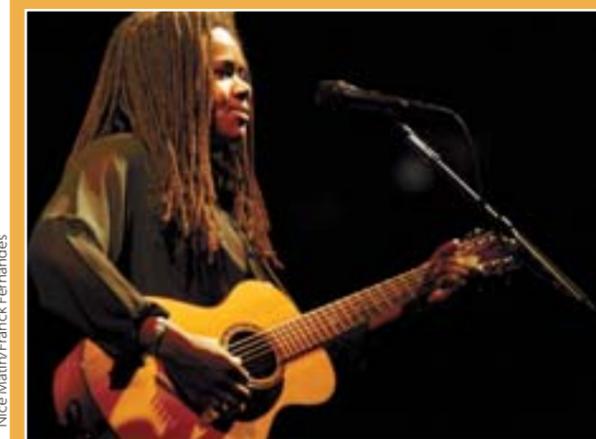
New DNA analysis techniques have this week confirmed the discovery of the 'Alpine long-eared bat' in the Isere region.

Phillipe Favre was on the way to the Queyras regional nature preserve to conduct research on another bat species in August 2001 when his car hit the small flying mammal. Not immediately recognising the dead creature, Favre sent its corpse to a research institute in Germany for analysis.

Lengthy DNA examinations at the University of Mainz, where the bat's remains are now on display, have concluded that it is indeed a new and distinct species, to be known as *Plectotus Alpinus*.



BATTERED . . . *Plectotus Alpinus* was discovered quite literally by accident in the French Alps



TALKIN' BOUT A REVOLUTION . . . Tracy Chapman played to a packed house at the Salle Nikaia in Nice on Sunday, treating her fans to a selection of songs from her most recent album, 'In the dark', as well as hearty renditions of old favourites such as 'Sorry', 'Fast car' and 'Mountains o' things'.

Monaco eatery wins back lost star

ONLY two restaurants in France have been promoted to the ultimate three star status in this year's Michelin ratings, it was revealed last week.

The Louis XV restaurant at the Hotel de Paris in Monaco has won back the third Michelin star it lost in 2001.

The only other restaurant to achieve **DUCASSE**... tribute three star status in France was Le Cinq in Paris.

"Good cuisine is the result of a formidable amount of imagination and innovation made possible by a huge amount of work," Louis XV boss Alain Ducasse announced after the results.

Ducasse also paid tribute to the expert skills and hard work of his chef, Franck Cerutti. But elsewhere in the region the news wasn't so good for 'Neat' in Cannes, which has lost its star.



Nice Matriv/Marc Mielhan

FOREIGN LEGION SETS RECRUITMENT RECORD

THE French Foreign Legion's Nice branch enlisted a record number of recruits last year, reports Jenny Paul.

Local applications have increased from just 160 in 1980 to 399 last year. Nationally a staggering 5,869 would-be legionnaires applied last year, of which only 1,502 were accepted.

The rise in interest has seen more stringent screening practices adopted in recent years.

"The days of 'no questions asked' are gone and candidates face gruelling fitness and aptitude tests before being accepted," a spokesman from the Nice

recruitment office told *The Riviera Gazette*.

Meanwhile the senate last week approved a bill making it a criminal offence for French nationals to serve as mercenaries in Foreign conflicts.

The new law, which was passed unanimously, comes as French nationals are reputedly fighting on both sides of the war in the Ivory Coast.

However this won't affect the Foreign Legion, "Although our foreign members are technically mercenaries, as they are not French we don't see them like that," the spokesman continued.

Var man on trial for seven murders

A FORMER school bus driver is to stand trial for the murders of seven young women who disappeared between 1975 and 1979, reports Jenny Paul.

Emile Louis, known as 'bon Monsieur Emile' by the mentally handicapped children he used to drive to school in Auxerre, is alleged to have come into contact with all seven women at some point.

Only two corpses have been found, but authorities believe Louis – who now lives in the Var – could enter the history books as one of the country's most notorious serial killers.

Driver crackdown continues

POLICE are out in force on the region's roads as they carry out the government's promise to crackdown on the country's horrific road safety record.

One reader who doesn't want to be named told *The Gazette* "I was driving on the dual carriageway between Cannes and Grasse. I got stopped going over the limit. The Police took my driving licence off me straight away and gave me a two month ban.

"I had to wait by the road for my husband to come and collect me and I'm likely to get a fine. We didn't realise they could do this to you."

Crew recruitment live on the 'net

BLUE Water Yachting's crew agency is to make its internal recruitment database available live on the internet from Monday.

The move allows yacht owners and captains to easily review potential employees online.

"We still have call-centre backup to answer any questions on candidates, and we interview every candidate when they register," Blue Water's Michelle Guy told *The Riviera Gazette*.

"Candidates who are available contact us regularly, and we update their information directly on the online database," she continued.

BUZZ IN A TAILSPIN

LOW-COST airline Buzz has suspended flights between London Stansted and Toulon-Hyères until March 1, without informing the flying public or some of its own staff, writes Susannah Hickling.

The reason for the decision remains unclear. Buzz, which was bought on 31 January by rival no-frills operator Ryanair, grounded flights to its main Var destination from 1 February, and has been transferring passengers to Marseille, which it also serves. However, there is no mention of the change on the airline's online booking website, and on Tuesday a customer services representative in Paris was still insisting February flights to Toulon are available.

A spokesman for Buzz confirmed flights from Stansted to Toulon-Hyères had been eliminated as a result of "a dispute over commercial costs, which could have had a negative impact on the price of fares."

"The problem has now been resolved and flights will resume on 1 March," he said.

As the re-routing is not mentioned on Buzz's website, passengers are often unaware, until they attempt to check-in, that their flight is taking off from a different airport.

After booking flights online, Iris and Allen James from Méounes in the Var arrived at Toulon-Hyères to be told that no Buzz services were operating from there. "We were offered a full refund or a transfer to Marseille, which is what we did," said Iris.



NEW COMMITTEE... Linda Baldwin, Gillian Crossley, Chris Ashby, Jean-Marie Ashby, Steve Crowe, Mike Lorimer, Peter Johnson, Linda Price and Ines O'Donovan will set the agenda for the British Chamber of Commerce over the coming year. TRG/Mike Clark

BRIT BUSINESS CLUB ELECTS NEW BOARD

THE region's British Chamber of Commerce elected a new committee at their Annual General Meeting, held over lunch in Roquefort les Pins on Tuesday.

"Changes to the committee are that Vice Chairman Roy Cox and Joint membership Secretary William Collie have come to the end of their three year terms. Newly voted in members are Simon Huxford of Gordon Blair's law offices in Monaco, Linda Prince of the IPAG Business School, Steve Crowe of The Anglo

Phone Book and Ines O'Donovan, an entrepreneur," chairman Peter Johnson told *The Riviera Gazette*.

They will join current committee members Mike Lorimer (Joint membership secretary), Jean-Marie Ashby, (Development officer), Linda Baldwin (Treasurer), Chris Ashby (Secretary) and Gillian Crossley, (Communications manager).

"Our next meeting will be on 6th March at The Antibes Squash Club, where responsibilities for the new committee members will be decid-

ed," Johnson continued.

"For the coming year we will be holding monthly lunches to do with business related activities locally and we will be helping our members in any way we can," Johnson said.

"We are fast approaching one hundred members and things are getting better all the time," he added.

The British Chamber of Commerce was started in 1994 by a group of young British business people wishing to promote links with their French counterparts.

Morale low

CONFIDENCE among households in France dropped to its lowest level in five years in January, according to statistics institute INSEE. The gloomy international situation, social problems and increased unemployment are to blame. Morale among employers has also deteriorated, a situation which is common to nearly all countries in the Eurozone.

Head chopper's money whopper

FOURTEEN diaries belonging to Anatole Deibler, France's last public executioner, have sold at auction for €100,249.

The diaries detail Deibler's guilottinings including time, place, reason and even weather at the time. The journals were bought by 'Scripture', a company that specialises in conserving historical documents.

Going under

THE number of French business bankruptcies increased last year by two and a half percent, after five consecutive years of decreases.

The Government has announced a package of measures designed to boost small businesses, including a proposed 50% tax break on investments.

Monaco gets the UPM

The Union for Monaco (UPM) party claimed victory in the Principality's parliamentary general election earlier this week. The outgoing UDN party, the National Democratic Union, have held power for the last 40 years. There are 5,800 eligible voters in Monaco's population of 35,000.



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My Riviera

Artist Isabelle Chemin tells Heather Stimmler-Hall about life in Sophia Antipolis from a cartoonist's viewpoint

“I’VE been living in Sophia Antipolis for two years now. I’m from Caen, in the north of France, but I’ve moved around a lot. I came here with my partner because he works at Philips.

Most people live here without really knowing what’s happening. They go to work, maybe drop off their kids at school, then go home. But there is something going on in Sophia, people are making their lives here.

The climate brings people from all over the world. I like the little streets here, to see the houses and how people make them their own. It’s all personalized so we don’t feel like we’re living in a rabbit warren. The Anglo-Americans add a lot to the atmosphere, like decorating for Halloween and other holidays.

We’ve just had a festival celebrating twenty years of Sophia-Antipolis. An ethnologist from the Mairie interviewed people who have lived here since the start, and that was where the idea for my cartoon book, *Action!* came from. It’s a satirical look at living in Sophia and on how it has failed and succeeded as a new town.

Of course, there is no address “Sophia-Antipolis”. My address says I live in Valbonne, and we have the same mayor and tourism office, but this is a new town. They try and say we are the same.

I spoke to the mayor about life here. More people who come here want to stay



ANIMATED... Isabelle Chemin draws her inspiration from Sophia experiences

now. Most people live in the new buildings in Garbejaire and Sophia, but they’re really looking for their Provençal villa. In the beginning of Sophia most of the life was focused on the CIV and the school at Haut-Sartoux. There was nothing else built yet. So people had no reason to drive through Sophia when they could go around it. They created Garbejaire to get traffic flowing through the park, but the scale of Garbejaire is all wrong. They wanted to create a village, but Place Méjane was a mistake. It’s too dark and cold. Its buildings are taller than everything around them. It doesn’t have the right feel.

Before Sophia, the area around

Valbonne was just wheat fields and olive mills. It wasn’t considered a nice place to live because it was so humid.

But it’s changing. Now there are so many people coming to live here, new schools being built, more pedestrian walkways along the roads. Some people even continue to live here even if they’re working in Nice.

I’ve really come to appreciate it. It’s a very green, very calm place to live, and there are a lot of schools and sports fields close by. I think it’s an attractive place, but it’s important to introduce more culture – there’s no culture here, no galleries, no cinema. There are exhibitions in some of the buildings in Sophia, but there’s no culture to attract

people from outside. Some artists work here, but there’s not much support to attract more, although Artotec in Valbonne provides a link to Sophia so our work is seen by the public.

My favourite place to visit is Gourdon. It’s a good compromise between a sea view and mountain village.

I also like La Turbie, the history of Augustus’ Trophy is really interesting. You can walk around the mountains up there with a view out to the sea. And my favourite thing? There’s a little ice cream shop with a view of the monument on one side and the sea on the other, and really good ice cream!

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

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Av. du 24 aout, Antibes

DIE ANOTHER DAY
Tue 20:30
SWEET SIXTEEN
Thu 16:30, 20:00

Les Arcades

Rue Felix Faure, Cannes

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
Daily 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 20:45
PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE
Thu 16:00, 20:30, Fri 16:00, 20:00, Sat 16:00, 20:00, Sun 16:00, 20:30, Mon 16:00, Tue 16:00

Cinema Sporting

Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo

ANALYZE THAT
Fri 17:30, Mon 17:30, 21:15
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Thu 17:30, 21:15, Sat 19:30, Sun 17:30, 21:15, Tue 17:30

Le Maison pour Tous

Rond Point du 8 Mai, Montauroux

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
Sun 17:00, Tue 20:30

La Strada

Route de Cannes, Mouans-Sartoux

SWEET SIXTEEN
Thu 20:00, Fri 22:00, Mon 20:00, Tue 17:30

Mercury

Place Garibaldi, Nice

ALL OR NOTHING
Thu 20:10
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
Thu 15:15, Sat 17:00, Mon 20:10

INSOMNIA
Fri 21:40, Tue 14:30
THE PIANIST
Fri 14:30, Sat 19:10
MINORITY REPORT
Sun 21:30
MULHOLLAND DRIVE
Sun 21:40
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS
Thu 20:10, Sat 21:30, Tue 21:30
BLOODY SUNDAY
Fri 20:45, Sat 14:30, Sun 19:25, Mon 18:00, Tue 19:25

UGC Rialto

Rue de Rivoli, Nice

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Daily 13:45, 16:25, 19:05, 21:45
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MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
Daily 13:45, 15:50, 17:55, 20:05, 22:10
Matinees Sat, Sun, Mon & Tue 11:30
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● Book your classified ad online at www.TheRivieraGazette.com

● ROME, ne, ff, luxury apt, 3 bed, 2 bath, l/d, k, ac, €950/w. No smokers / pets ptrisolini@atrisolini.demon.co.uk

● LOVELY Hungarian city, central 2 room apart. Beautiful province with mountains, lakes & forests. 1hr Slovakia, 1hr30 Budapest, 4hrs Vienna. Tel: 06 18 76 77 64 Natalie

TV & SATELLITE

● DVD player proline 2100 slim design cd mp3 dolby etc (new, used once) €100. Tel: 06 19 13 42 83

● What's on the box tonight? — see www.TheRivieraGazette.com/links

YACHTING

● 50 METER mooring for sale, \$1.8 M Golfe Juan area and 33 meter mooring for rent \$ 75,000 gulf of St.tropez azurlink@email.com

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Motorways

Get real-time traffic information on line at www.TheRivieraGazette.com/links or listen to regular traffic reports in English on 107.7fm whilst you're on the motorway

Local roads

● Antibes Access severely restricted on Rue Thuret until Mar 20

● Antibes The road around the ramparts in the old town is closed for extensive works until Apr 30

● Biot 30Km/h limit along the RN7 until Mar 28

● Biot 50Km/h limit daily until 17:00 on RD4 until April 11

● Gattieres/Carros 50Km/h limit daily until 17:00 until Mar 26

● Nice Road closure at the port end of the Quai des Etats Unis until the end of Feb. Expect delays and diversions.

● St Jeannet 50Km/h limit until Feb 28

● Tournefort 50Km/h limit on RD2205 until Feb 21

● Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50Km/h limit on the RN98 coast road

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Optional extra lines:

2 Choose your options

Type of advert: Private Trade
Optional extras — see section 3 for prices.
 Use all BOLD type Put a box around the advert
 Reply box number (for privacy; personal ads only)

3 Work out the price

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Box round ad	+€7.50	+€7.50

Tax is included in private ad prices, but must be added for trade ads. If you'd like us to work out the price for you, fax or email your ad to us and we'll call you back.

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

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Address: _____

Tel: _____

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 Carte Bleue/Credit card (enter number and expiry date below)

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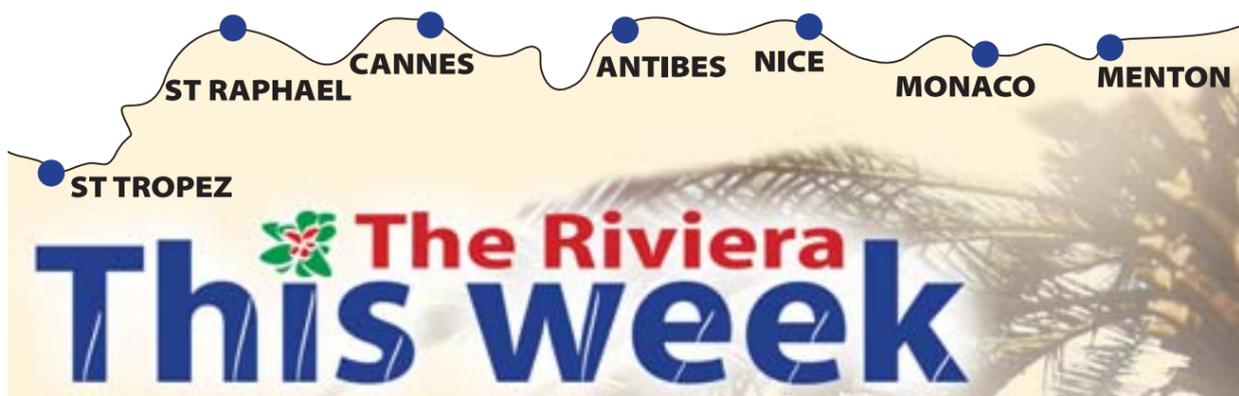


THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Loving is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same direction. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in "Wind, Sand, and Stars", 1939

5 MAIL to: Riviera Gazette Classifieds, 738 Route Notre Dame (Cidex 47), 06330 Roquefort les Pins, France • EMAIL to classifieds@TheRivieraGazette.com • FAX to 04 93 09 66 53 • or submit ONLINE at http://www.TheRivieraGazette.com

What's On and Where To Go...



Thursday 13

● The **Anglo American Group of Provence** is holding a luncheon forum today at 12:00 at the Brasserie La Madeleine, 4 Place des Prêcheurs, Aix-en-Provence. HM Consul General Simon Lever will be talking on the topic of "Immigration and Integration", the second forum in a series on Citizenship. Call Peter Gillespie on 04 42 24 02 22 for more info.

● Films from last year's **Festival of Underwater Images** will be run today at the Palais des Congrès in Antibes. Doors open 9.30 - 20.30. Tel: 04 92 90 53 30.

● **Salsa** fans can head to the Espace Centre in Cagnes sur Mer for a Salsa Show starting at 21:00. Entry €14.00. Tel: 04 93 20 71 40.

● The CEDAC in Cimiez, Nice is the place to be for **jazz** tonight with the Louis Winsberg Trio in concert at 21:00. €12.00 Tel: 04 93 53 89 66.

● Continuing today is St Raphael's Mimosa Week with a walk from 9:00, a parade at 18:30 on Friday. Exhibitions and celebrations start from 10:00 on Saturday and the big carnival on Sunday at 15:00. Tel. 04 94 19 52 52.

Friday 14

● Today is **St Valentine's Day**, and to celebrate, Isola, Auron and Valberg are handing out roses and glasses of champagne on the slopes today.

● The play **Love and the English**, featuring a collection of Valentine words and music, comes to the Red Pear Theatre Company in Théâtre Antibéa today and tomorrow at 20:00. Tickets €23.00. Tel: 04 93 61 01 71.

● The Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer has a **horse meeting** on tonight from 20:00. Entry only €4.50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.

● Tonight at 21:45 the Maison pour tous de Montaurous hosts a "Music Live" night at the Cine Pub. Two groups will perform a mix of **jazz fusion**. Tickets €4.00 Tel: 04 94 50 40 30.

● Monaco is hosting Destination Bien Etre, a **health and wellbeing** exhibition, starting today until Feb 17 at the Espace Fontvieille. Check out the latest products, gadgets and info for a healthier life from 10:00 to 19:00 each day. Entry is free. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16.

● Head to Valbonne Village between February 14-16 for the **Fête l'Asia**. Discover the colours of Asia on Saturday at 19:00 with a cocktail reception at the salle des Fêtes. Tél: 04 93 12 34 50.

● The Accueil des Villes Françaises of Sophia Antipolis is hosting a free **St Valentine's dance** tonight starting at 19:30 at AVF, Place Sophie Laffitte. The night includes an aperitif and dinner. Tel: 04 93 65 43 00.

● Continuing today: Mimosa Week in St Raphael.

Saturday 15

● The Les Arboussiers restaurant, Lac de Saint Cassien, Tanneron is hosting live jazz with the Tuxedo Jazz Band performing from 19:30 and a **jam session** for all. The themed menu costs €25.00 a head. Tel: 04 93 60 67 89 to book.

● Local winter **school holidays** start today and finish on March 03.

● The first Salon Azureen de l'Aquariophilie et de la Terrariophilie starts today at 9:30 at the Palais des Congrès in Antibes. Everything from **insect and animal displays** to conferences and a fish market which starts on Sunday at 14:30. Free entry. Tel: 04 92 90 53 30.

● The 12th Festival d'Art Sacré comes to a close today with the **Nice Philharmonic Orchestra** performing at the Cathédrale d'Antibes at 21:00 tonight, featuring the music of Vivaldi. Tickets are available at the Antibes Office de Tourisme for €20. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00.

● The 5th Feste'femmes, a **festival of women**, by women, for everyone with exhibitions, shows and concerts around Antibes starts tonight at 21:00 at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins with a gala opened by comedian Chantal Ladsou and runs through to Feb 22. The highlights include poetry reading at place Nationale on Sunday at 20:30, theatre at Palais des Congrès in Juan les Pins on Tuesday at 21:00. Wednesday at 14:00 there will be jugglers, clowns, musicians and comedians at the Salle du 8 Mai in Antibes. Tickets from €8:00 are available from the Antibes tourist office. Tel: 04 93 34 11 21.

● The Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer has a **horse meeting** on today from 13:00. Entry is €4.50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.

● Vence's Miss Valentine will be crowned tonight at the Salle Falcoz during a **party** starting at 20:30. Tickets cost €26.00 for an evening of dance and food. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38.

● The two-day **Raid Hivernal**, a combination of mountain biking, cross country skiing and cross country orientation, starts today in Tende. Starting at 13:30 today there's lots of cross country ski action and tomorrow the fun - including ice sculpting - starts at 9:00. Two-person teams can enter for €50.00. Tel: 04 93 04 92 05.

● Continuing today: Mimosa Week in St Raphael, The play Love and the English at the Red Pear Theatre Company and the Fete l'Asia in Valbonne Village.

Sunday 16

● **Cyclists** young and old can meet at Place du Château, Cagnes-sur-Mer this morning between 8:00 and 12:00 for a hot drink and then disperse for a social ride. Every club will be represented but members and non-members are welcome to sample cycling on the Côte d'Azur. Tel: 06 12 87 88 63.

● Valdeblore la Colmiane hosts the **Big Boarder Tour** today starting from 10:00. Head to la Colmiane for top snowboarding action. Tel: 04 93 23 25 90.

● The **Monte-Carlo Opera** and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, under the direction of Enrique Mazzola perform *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Auditorium Rainier III at 18:00. Tickets start at €30.00. Tel: +377 92 16 60 00.

● Continuing today: the Raid Hivernal, the 5th Feste'femmes in Antibes, the Fete l'Asia in Valbonne and Mimosa Week in St Raphael.

Monday 17

● The **3GSM World Congress** starts today at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes and runs through to Feb 21. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.

● Continuing today: The 5th Feste'femmes in Antibes.

Tuesday 18

● St John's Church in Menton is holding its **135th Anniversary Celebration** today at 12:00 followed by a bring-and-share lunch. All are welcome to join in. Call Kath Warrilow on 04 93 57 20 25 for further info.

● The Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer has a **horse meeting** tonight from 20:00. Entry only €4.50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.

● Continuing today: The 5th Feste'femmes in Antibes and the 3GSM World Congress in Cannes.

Wednesday 19

● Keen walkers can meet at the Parc de Vaugrenier, Villeneuve-Loubet at 10:00 today for a walk to discover the **nature and history** of the area. Tel: 04 92 60 78 78.

● The Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer has a **horse meeting** on today from 13:00. Entry only €4.50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.

● Continuing today: The 5th Feste'femmes in Antibes and the 3GSM World Congress.

Now Booking...

● The first International Convention of **Painters on Porcelain and Glass** starts on Friday February 21st at the Grand Hotel in Monaco and runs until Feb 23. More than 20 international artists will give demonstrations and seminars on new techniques on glass and porcelain from 10:00-17:00 (until 16:00 on Sunday) each day. Tickets cost EUR5.00 while entry to the daily exhibition from 10:00-18:00 costs €10.00. Tel: 04 93 81 67 30.

● The Riviera Expatriates Golf Society is hosting a North vs South **golf tournament** at the Grasse Country Club on Feb 22. Entry is €50 and closes Thurs 20th. Tel: 04 93 20 24 74.

● **Nice Carnival** tickets on sale from €10:00. Tel: 08 92 70 74 07 and Menton's 70th Fête du Citron starts on Feb 21. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76.

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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 13	Friday 14	Saturday 15	Sunday 16	Monday 17	Tuesday 18	FEBRUARY IN NICE...
AM	4°C Cloudy	1°C Cloudy	2°C Cloudy	2°C Sunny	1°C Cloudy	5°C Sunny	Avg. high: 13°C Avg. low: 6°C
PM	11°C Cloudy	8°C Cloudy	8°C Cloudy	8°C Sunny	7°C Cloudy	10°C Sunny	Avg. sea temp: 13°C Avg. rainfall: 76mm

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thursday
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next week!