

The Riviera Gazette



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6 March 2003 • Number 30

The Côte d'Azur's English-language newspaper

www.TheRivieraGazette.com



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SOPHIA SUICIDE: FIRM FACES COURT

By JENNY PAUL

GLOBAL travel bookings and technology company Amadeus is being taken to court by the husband of an employee who killed herself in Sophia Antipolis in January.

Victoria Binet, 44, blamed pressures at work for driving her to take her own life. In an open letter to her union, she said she felt "humiliated" by recent changes at work.

"I am not a machine," she wrote. "Since January 2002, I have suffered public humiliation, lack of respect, mental anguish and no professional recognition."

At the end of the note, the mother of three concluded "I regret making this gesture because of my children, but I will not inflict on them a frustrated and humiliated Mum."

Binet jumped from a bridge at la Brague, near Amadeus' Sophia offices, on January 25. "Is it not a coincidence that I make this gesture here, in front of Amadeus?" her letter asked. Colleagues from Amadeus held a walk of support for her two days later, from the company's offices to the bridge where she died.

Amadeus' management was swift to order a full internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Binet's suicide. And, on Tuesday, after interviewing 22 human resources staff over four days, its conclusions were made public. Binet was not a victim of



IN REMEMBRANCE... Amadeus staff visit the bridge where Victoria Binet died

harassment in the workplace, says the internal enquiry's report.

But Binet's husband is not convinced and is taking Amadeus to court, at the Tribunal de Grande Instance in Grasse. "I want the company to recognise its part in this," André Binet told *Nice Matin* this week.

Factors

The family's legal representatives say there are three factors which suggest Binet could be considered to have been harassed by her superiors.

"First, after ten years at Amadeus, she was required to sit tests normally

only given to new employees. Second, the course she was taking at the ESSEC Business school in Nice was cancelled. Third, her project work and tasks were cut back," the family's legal representative Alain Chirez told *The Riviera Gazette*. "We are not doing this for money, but for justice."

"I am satisfied that after the results of our enquiry that Victoria Binet was not subjected to harassment by anyone at Amadeus," Amadeus SAS' President Jacques Lignières asserted to *The Gazette* on Wednesday.

A date for hearing the case has yet to be set.



MOTHER OF THREE... Victoria Binet

The new WEEKLY Riviera Gazette: 12,000 copies distributed this week. Look for the next issue on Thursday March 13

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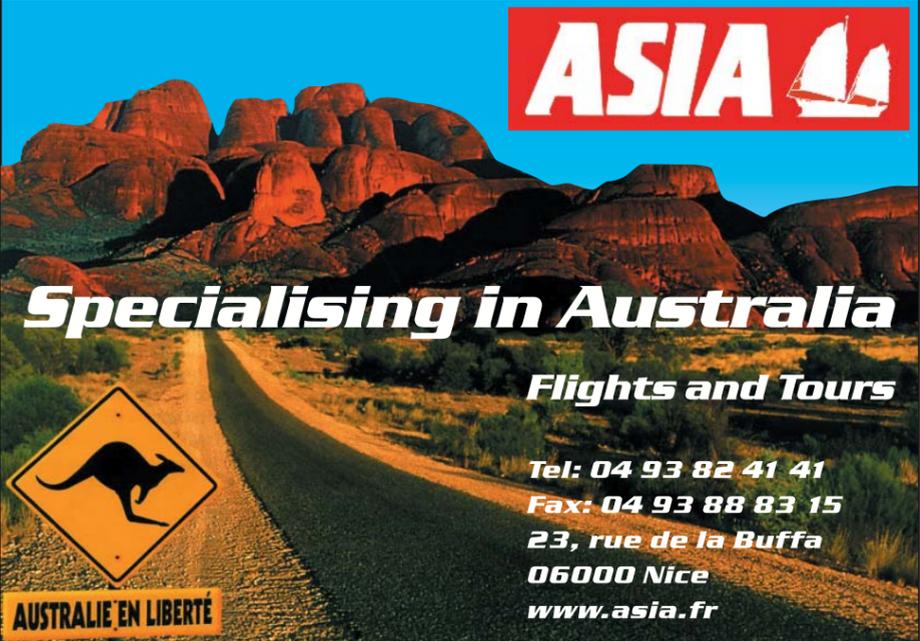
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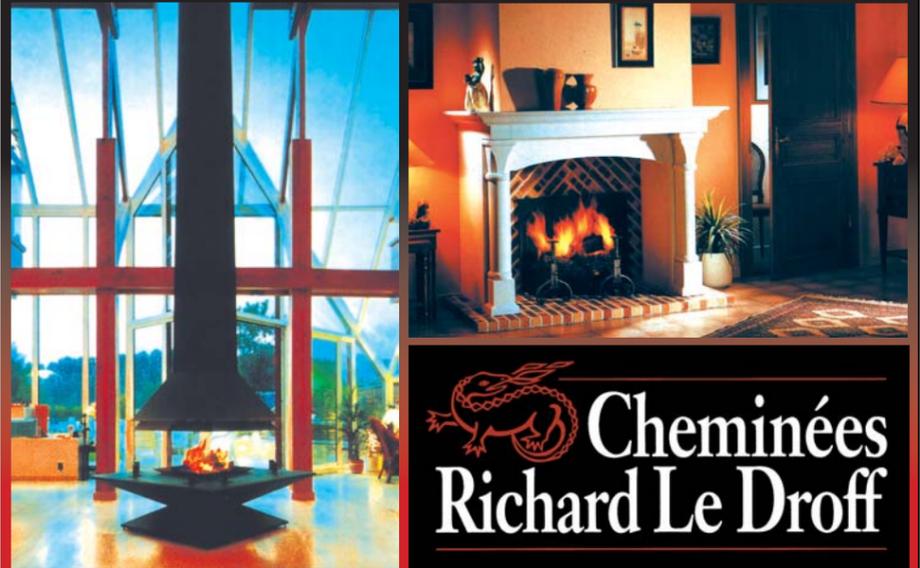
Le Claux Amic

Recently featured in Vins et Gastronomie magazine, the newly opened Le Claux Amic restaurant is the perfect venue for an elegant luncheon. Nestled between stunning sea views and the Claux Amic golf course near Grasse, the restaurant offers you the chance to dine in refined surroundings. Chef Jean-Michel Le Beon, previously the chef of Bruno's in Saint Tropez, entices the palette with a set menu starting at 25 Euros. The Menu Découverte at 38 Euros is a three course delight of delicacies from lobster filled ravioli in truffle and ginger sauce to an "amuse bouche" of whipped asparagus... a must!

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OPEN FORUM EU ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO END TAX EVASION

After several years of negotiation the EU has finally announced new laws to counter tax evasion and bring banking secrecy to an end.

FACT EU Member States will now automatically exchange information to prevent, and enable investigation into tax evasion.

Banking Secrecy, as we have known it, is finished. **FACT**

FACT Other EU Members and Switzerland will impose a withholding tax of up to 35% on all non-resident accounts.

If you are not disclosing your full income and wealth to the tax authorities you are now at significant risk of discovery. **FACT**

The difficulties and dangers of these new laws will not be avoided by closing your eyes to them. Nor will they be avoided by merely waiting to see what happens. At the second in our Open Forum series we will discuss the implications of these new EU laws and explain how you can legitimately avoid tax on your savings and investments.

Time will be allocated for you to put questions to our guest speaker. We have studied and understand the new laws. Your attendance will ensure that you do too! To ensure your place please book early. The Open Forum held last Autumn was fully subscribed.

If you have not booked your place for the event yet, contact your local partner now.

Tuesday, 8th April 2003
Hotel de Vigniamont
5 Rue Massillon, 34120 Pezenas
at 10.30 for 11.00am, until 1.00pm

Wednesday, 9th April 2003
Hotel Les Bories
Route de L'Abbaye de Senanque
84220 Gordes en Provence
at 10.30 for 11.00am, until 1.00pm

Thursday, 10th April 2003
InterContinental Carlton
06414 Cannes
at 3.30 for 4.00pm, until 5.30pm

Friday, 11th April 2003
Columbus Monaco
98000 Fontvieille Monaco
at 10.00 for 10.30am, until 12.00 noon

For Pezenas and Gordes en Provence contact **Stephen Langton**, Partner on 04 67 09 93 92 or stephen.langton@blevinsfranks.com

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ISN PUPILS PLAY AT STOPPING WAR

PUPILS at the International School of Nice joined over 900 theatrical groups across the globe on Monday to perform the ancient Greek anti-war play *Lysistrata*.

The bawdy comedy, written by Greek playwright Aristophanes in 411 BC, tells the story of a group of Athenian women who, fed up with the constant wars with Sparta, withdraw marital favours until their husbands promise to make peace with the neighbouring state.

"The First Lady of America and Saddam Hussein's three wives should consider this," Kathryn Blume, the American actress who co-founded the project, told *The Riviera Gazette*.

Performances of the play were held in all fifty states of the USA and on all six continents in the hope the play would encourage people to find a similarly creative solution to the current build-up towards war with Iraq.

"Most Americans are opposed to this war and we want to encourage people to find a resourceful way to stop it," Kathryn continued.

"We are overwhelmed with the success of the project — over a thousand readings took place in over 59 countries, including secret ones in China."

Lysistrata is a fun play that puts butts in the seats. It gets people talking about war and creative ways to stop it.



PLAY FOR PEACE... ISN's upper school pupils read parts in the play

As actors, we have little in the way of resources. We cannot buy TV ads or lobby the President directly. So, we, like the women in the play, have come up with a creative way to make our opposition to the war known," concluded Kathryn's co-founder Sharon Bower.

The ISN performance was organised by British actress Melanie Clark Pullen. Now based in Antibes, Melanie

became famous for playing Pauline Fowler's niece Mary Flaherty in BBC TV's popular soap *Eastenders*. "I am interested in theatre that can change things, that means something," Melanie told *The Gazette*.

Melanie led as fifteen upper school pupils and two teachers read a child-friendly version of the notoriously saucy Greek comedy, specially written for Monday's global event, in front of

pupils and staff at a school assembly. The players made an excellent job of the reading, never allowing the audience's attention to wander — a real achievement, having only received scripts on Friday afternoon and not having rehearsed together at all.

Elsewhere, Julie Christie took the lead role in a performance in Los Angeles and Hollywood stars took part in a performance in New York.



EASTENDER... Melanie Clark Pullen

Organic food growth

GROWING demand for organic foods, known as 'bio' products in France, is prompting farmers to abandon pesticides and insecticides.

France now has over 11,000 organic farms, up 8% on last year, covering over one and a quarter million acres of land. The number of organic sheep rose by 9%, 'green' goats are up 12% and there are now 107,000 organically reared cows — up 21% on 2001.

Var crash driver fined

A BRITISH driver was this week given a three-month suspended prison sentence and a €2,000 fine for causing a fatal accident while driving on the wrong side of the road.

John Francis, who has divided his time between homes in Britain and the Var for the last 30 years, caused a head-on collision in June 2002, leaving one person dead and three seriously injured.

Toulon's new airline

TOULON-HYÈRES airport has won a victory over Ryanair, after the low cost carrier demanded lower landing charges at Toulon when it took over Buzz last month.

The airport has instead negotiated a new London-Toulon service with GB Airways, which flies under the BA banner. A daily service to London Gatwick will begin on May 1.

Easyjet to cash in on Air Lib crash

EASYJET is in negotiation to pick up 20,000 of the 44,600 French flight 'slots' owned by bankrupt Air Lib.

But despite slots being available at Nice airport, Easyjet is focussing on vacant slots at Paris Orly as its priority.

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The garden has a large swimming pool and a shaded dining terrace with a BBQ.



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MAN DIES IN SEA WALL FALL



TRAGEDY ... rescue workers recover the man's body

A 36 YEAR-OLD man fell to his death from the Remparts in Old Antibes on Monday.

Youssef Ait Lachgar died instantly after plunging fifteen metres onto the rocky beach.

Shortly beforehand he had asked two youths for a cigarette. Minutes later they noticed he had quietly disappeared from where he was sitting on the sea wall. When the pair looked over the edge they saw his body lying on the beach below.

The accident occurred in an area of the town popular with tourists and also local Algerian youths, who often gather at the sea wall. Tests are underway to ascertain whether the dead man was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

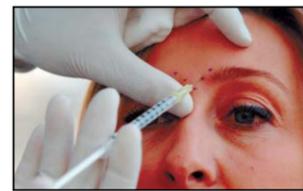
Falls from the Remparts account for an average of one death a year.

Botox gets green light

BOTOX 'wrinkle removal' treatment is to become legally available in France from the beginning of April.

Botox is based on Botulinum toxin, a powerful nerve poison normally used in the treatment of serious neuro-muscular disorders. But it has now achieved annual worldwide sales of over €400 million as a treatment for ironing out frown lines and crow's feet.

"Until now you could only get Botox injections if you were a known and trusted client of a cosmetic surgeon," revealed one local fan. "I swear by it, it is very good for between the ages of thirty to forty, when lines appear, to make you look younger" she continued. But "after forty, you really have to



TRENDY TOXIN ... Botox paralyzes the muscles that produce wrinkles

consider a full face lift and Botox no longer works."

Treatment needs to be repeated every four to six months, and is expected to cost around €400 a visit. Several clinics in Nice are set to offer Botox under the name 'Vistabel' from April 1. The drug is produced by Allergan, a global pharmaceutical company which has research labs in Sophia Antipolis.

Pink plonk aims for UK market

WINEMAKERS in the Côtes de Provence, Var and the Aix-en-Provence regions are launching an 300,000 euro marketing campaign to convince UK drinkers to switch to local wines.

Whilst visiting Brits happily plug local wines on their terraces during holidays in the region, only 200,000 of the 85 million litres of Côtes de Provence produced each year – 80% of it rosé – are sold into the UK.

Importers will be invited to visit the region and sample the wines, a distinctive bottle design will be created, and a new marketing campaign will tempt British drinkers to buy at home what they enjoy so much on holiday.

Tenor on song as Nice revives Vivaldi opera

TENOR John Elwes arrived in Nice last week to rehearse for the first performance in 250 years of Antonio Vivaldi's *Rosmira Fedele*, writes Richard Baker.

The three act opera by the composer of *The Four Seasons* is the Ensemble Baroque de Nice's big production for the year and runs from March 21 to 25 at the Opéra de Nice. Tickets start at €7.

Elwes, 56, has travelled the world making recordings and performing in TENOR... John Elwes concerts and operas, and comes to Nice regularly at the request of his friend Gilbert Bezzina, musical director of the Ensemble Baroque de Nice.

"It's going to be a challenge," Elwes told *The Gazette*. "Gilbert has to make sure everything is in place and at the moment we are going through all the moves and making sure it all gels."

"The audience is in for a great surprise. We're usually well followed here on the Côte d'Azur but this performance will be different to anything else we have done before."

Elwes, who began his career at Westminster Cathedral in London where he was head chorister, is fluent in French after living in Montpellier for 15 years. He also performs in Spanish, Italian and German.

Cannes is nation's pet capital

CANNES has a higher pet-to-person ratio than any other town in France.

The average French town has one cat or dog for every three people, but Cannes has an incredible one per person — a total of 120,000. The plentiful pet population is put down to the number of lonely old folk who have retired to the area and keep dogs or cats as companions.



VALENTINE . . . The winners of *The Gazette's* St Valentine's competition were welcomed by Karel, one of *The Negresco's* famous voituriers, as they arrived at the hotel on Sunday night to enjoy their prize. Kate and Georges Palthey from Plascassier were treated to a slap-up dinner at the hotel's *Le Chantecler* restaurant, which boasts two Michelin stars, and were swept there and back in style in a sleek top-of-the-range Mercedes from local limousine service *Jet Set International*. "I wasn't surprised when Kate won," said Georges, "she's the queen of mush!"

Cops cop suspended sentences

TWO Municipal Police from Le Cannet appeared in court last week to answer aggravated assault charges.

The pair had been called to a domestic dispute in March 2001 which ended with a man suffering a fractured jaw. Jean-Michel Matthey, 37, received a seven month suspended prison sentence and has been suspended from being a policeman for three years. Jean-Marie Salimbeni, 33, was handed a seven month suspended prison sentence.

Top chef's suicide blamed on 'very well done' rating

TOP chef Bernard Loiseau killed himself last week after his restaurant was downgraded by an influential food guide, writes Jenny Paul.

His renowned eatery, the Côte d'Or at Saulieu in Burgundy, was a popular stop-off point for Brits driving through France on their way to the Riviera. The restaurant is widely regarded as the best between Paris and the Côte d'Azur.

Loiseau, 52, also owned three Paris restaurants – Tante Jean, Tante Louise and Tante Marguerite.

The chef was famous for making light sauces with water rather than with butter and cream and, when he won his third Michelin star in 1991, he declared it fulfilled his dreams "just as any footballer wants to be a Pele or a Ronaldo".

But last week he dropped two points in the 2003 GaultMillau guide – in 2002 he scored 19 out of 20, but this year he only scored 17 and the guide added that the cuisine "is not exactly dazzling, but simply very well done."

Other chefs were quick to blame the stress caused by food guide rating systems for Loiseau's suicide. "We are permanently on a razor's edge," three star chef Pierre Gagnaire explained.

"A grade doesn't kill, nor does the removal of a star. This great chef must have had other problems, other worries," asserted GaultMillau boss Patrick Mayenobe.

Loiseau's widow Dominique confirms this, saying he was "totally weary, totally exhausted. Every day he was at work. We had not had a holiday in three years. For 27 years he had been doing just this – open every day – and it became too much."



Nice Matin/Luc Boutria

AN INSTANT HIT... Bar-goers in St Tropez use nasal cannulas to inhale oxygen bubbled through water infused with essential oils

St Tropez's new bar a breath of fresh air

AN INNOVATIVE 'oxygen bar' has opened in St Tropez, where for ten euros customers can enjoy fifteen minutes of oxygen mixed with essential oils.

The effect is said to be relaxing, like smoking a good cigar but without the unhealthy side effects.

The Oxybar, located in a corner of the trendy La Bodega bar in St Tropez's old port, also offers pure oxygen, which is said to be an excellent hangover cure and is sure to be a hit with the beautiful people when they arrive for the summer season.

By Jenny Paul

"L'Oxybar has been a great success," La Bodega's Chantal Morand told *The Riviera Gazette*. "Plenty of people have come in out of curiosity, to try out the soothing effect of the oxygen."

Oxygen bars were first introduced in Canada in 1997 and have become very successful in Japan. They are now spreading rapidly across Europe, although in the US the Food and Drug Administration warns that oxygen bars are, in effect, dispensing a

drug without a prescription and as such in breach of FDA regulations.

The concept was first shown locally at a Zen evening at the Noga Hilton in Cannes and La Bodega's owner jumped at the chance to be the first bar in France to provide the service full-time.

"We have a unique product here that intrigues people. We will definitely keep L'Oxybar," Chantal confirmed.

Oxygen bar machines can also be rented for parties for €2,000 a day and can be purchased outright for €8,000.

Bono backs Chirac

U2 singer Bono was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour by President Chirac this week. "In my opinion Tony Blair is a great politician. His convictions about Iraq are sincere, but for me he is sincerely wrong," said the pop superstar, who has a villa in Eze.

Brit audience sought

A TV company is calling for audience members – they're offering tickets to Brits aged 18 to 25 for an international pop music competition to be held at Cannes' Palais des Festivals. Email euro@endemolfrance.com for details.

French economy overtakes UK

FRANCE is set to overtake Britain as the world's fourth largest economy.

After falls in the value of Sterling, the UK economy is now worth 1.52 trillion euros and heading down, while France is worth 1.51 trillion euros.

New cops arrive

THIRTY SEVEN new cops started work in the region on Monday. There are now ten more officers in Nice, seven in Villefranche, seven in Cannes, six in Grasse, four in Menton and three in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

Champagne bubbles

THE champagne industry is toasting a 9.5% jump in sales last year. Of the 288 million bottles sold in 2002, 61% went to French drinkers. One in four bottles of bubbly were sold outside the EU.

Taxis on strike

TAXI drivers in Nice, Cannes and Antibes are on strike, in protest against new, cheaper price structures introduced by the Prefecture on 1 March.

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UPDATE

CUTTING TIES, CUTTING TAXES

As we approach the UK budget, speculation continues that the government may press ahead with plans to close the 'non-domicile loophole'.

Currently non-UK domiciled individuals are exempt from paying tax on their overseas income – providing it is not brought into the UK. The media focus has been on the 60,000 wealthy UK residents with non-domicile status, but there are many UK expatriates who may find that the proposals affect them too.

What is 'domicile'?

Under UK law you must have a domicile for tax purposes. This is usually the place with which you have the closest connections – normally where you were born, rather than where you currently live.

If you are not intending to return to Britain to live, you may be able to establish an alternative domicile. This means shaking off the UK as your domicile of birth and taking steps to show that your new home abroad is permanent.

Why become UK non-domiciled?

There are considerable tax advantages for UK nationals who are able to lose their UK domicile. If you are not domiciled in the UK, you are only subject to UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) on assets situated within the UK.

In contrast, if you are UK domiciled, IHT is 40 per cent of the total value of your worldwide estate (after allowances). You may also find that you are liable for estate duties in your country of residence and in the country where the assets are physically located.

Credit is frequently not given for tax paid in one country against tax due in another. This could mean that the total estate duty payable on your assets could actually amount to more than your assets are worth.

How do I lose my UK domicile?

The Inland Revenue will look for proof that ties with the UK have been cut and permanent ties with a new country established. This could include purchase of a house in the new country, relinquishing of rights to vote in the UK and establishment of financial ties with the new country.

You can't find out in advance from the Inland Revenue whether you are classed as non-domi-

cile. The easiest way to test domicile is by setting up a discretionary trust, making a 'chargeable transfer' into it over and above lifetime exemption and reporting this to the UK Inland Revenue. If there is no tax charge to lifetime IHT you are non-domiciled. If you receive a charge then you remain domiciled.

Act now before it is too late. Changes to non-domicile status will not benefit UK expatriates or wealthy non-domiciled individuals residing in the UK.

If you would like advice on the chances of obtaining non-domicile, or further information about protecting your assets, please contact us.

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My Riviera

Estate agent **Philip Weiser** tells Jenny Paul why he loves the Riviera, even after treading on the wrong toes in his roller-skating days...

“ I CAME here in the early 80s, with my wife and my kids. I chose the area because I wanted to live in a warm environment, with a degree of sophistication and good local schools.

I looked all along the coast and settled on Antibes as it has easy access to Cannes, Nice and the airport – and I haven't regretted it.

I came here with no job or specific aim in mind. Then I met my former business partner on an airplane. He had an estate agency in Antibes and was at the point of having to close it down. I asked him to let me try and make it work on condition that if I did turn it round he'd give me a 50% stake in the company. It took two years to make it a success and we subsequently sold it.

Then in '95 I started up Carlton International. We sell real estate, aimed at the upper end of the market. We go and meet clients from the airport and take them directly to the properties they want to view. We aren't a 'shop front' organisation.

I have also started up a new scheme called 'B-Visuel' where we will provide flat screens to be put in shop windows. Businesses in, say, New York can show customers in Antibes, for example, their offer of the day.

Before that I used to run a car



OLDER AND WEISER... Philip has given up roller skates for real estate

dealership, an *auto-marché*, in Nice on Sundays, which was just for fun really. People used to leave cars they wanted to sell and I'd make appointments for them with interested buyers. I used to go round on skates like the girls in Carrefour supermarkets do.

The business was a success – too much of a success really; I gave up after getting a death threat, which I'm sure came from other local car dealers.

I like going walking in the hills above Gourdon. Hanggliders float around up there. There's lavender and wild thyme. The area itself is very

wild, but when dressed up warm it's exhilarating.

From there you have mind blowing views of the coast. In summer it's hot and breezy and in winter it's cold and crisp. Twenty centimetres of snow fell up there last weekend, but it's only a few miles from Antibes. I like to buy a sandwich down in the village and then walk around for a couple of hours.

I love the cinema. I particularly like watching films in their original language and then I read the subtitles. I also enjoy conferences. I'm a real bore like that. I can spend hours wan-

dering around the stands of esoteric events.

I'm not a great sportsman but I do go to the squash club because it's cool and not posurish. When I go out I go to Nice and Cannes. I like exotic food – a favourite is the Arabic restaurant in Valbonne, where they serve a good selection of Moroccan and Middle Eastern foods.

I often go to St Tropez. I love to go to the market they hold in the town all year round. It's fabulous, there's a great selection of antiques. I also go to the market in San Remo. Then, afterwards, I go to a real non-touristy Italian restaurant for lunch. It's a family place and they bring out selections of pasta, then just as you get to the main course, you're already stuffed!

In the market you can buy unusual fish, like octopus, for example. I go to the market for the atmosphere more than anything else. They make belts for you on the spot and you can choose your own buckle.

Closer to home I enjoy getting out on the Cap d'Antibes – there are great walks around the peninsula.

Of course the bureaucracy in French life gets on my nerves, but my tip is that I make sure I always fill in every space on every form. I'm not certain it gets read, but it makes certain they don't throw stuff back at you.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● PRIVATE ads are FREE up to 96 characters; €2.50 per 32 chars thereafter. Major credit cards accepted. Call 04 93 09 66 43 for trade ad prices.

BUSINESS

Business services

● NEED help writing and typing up your CV? Professional recruiter able to offer advice concerning content and presentation of your CV. Full typing and printing services also available. Contact 06 68 76 27 55

PO BOXES – Express or standard shipping, meeting rooms etc – Mail Boxes etc, 2 Bis Ave Durante, Nice – Tel: 04 93 16 57 27

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

● INTERNATIONAL Baptist Church welcomes you! NICE: 13, rue Vernier, services every Sunday evening at 18:30, info 04 93 24 92 61, SAINT-PAUL: Espace Saint Claire Commercial Centre, Level 0, services every Sunday morning at 10:45, info 04 93 77 31 45

ENTERTAINMENT

● TRADITIONAL Scottish bagpipe player available for weddings, parties, events. Michael, 06 13 36 47 16

● DINNER PARTY? Call a French Chef, 12 yrs MasterChefs experience + 5 yrs in Riviera homes. 04 93 65 50 91 or rivierachef@free.fr

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● WEIGHT LOSS: 2-5 Kg a month, naturally inspired products, money back guarantee – Darryl, 06 03 81 56 06, www.NoWeightProblem.com

GET into Action! with personal trainer Jennifer Potts, Bachelor of Kinesiology – 06 80 33 26 92

● HOME GYM – as new, can deliver, only €250. I'm fit enough! Tel: 06 07 32 07 59

HOBBIES AND SPORT

● ENJOY Cartoon of the Month, 'The Adventures of Rembrandt' on www.ArtMonteCarlo.com

HOUSEHOLD

● 3 PIECE suite, cushions need replacement otherwise good condition + coffee table, 04 93 12 95 81

● SINGLE unit, low level pine kitchen unit, electric oven (nearly new) & computer suitable for beginner – 04 93 12 95 81

● FURNITURE and other items for sale – tel 06 07 93 43 18 for details

● 2 ALDER glass-door wall cabinets + tv/hifi piece in middle (also Alder) for €700. 06 22 26 83 11

JOBS

PUT your job vacancies in this section for just €10 for three lines +€2.50 per extra line! (Prices per week, hors taxes) Find the best candidates FAST among the Gazette's weekly 20,000+ English-speaking readers. See order form in this section for details

Jobs offered

● WORK AT HOME – US Co expanding in Europe \$500-\$1500p/t, \$2000-\$6000f/t, full training, paid vacations, http://www.4freedom.info

www.french-real-estate.com

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• Food purchasers (2)
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● HOME workers needed: Easy jobs for excellent pay! Home mailers, home typists and home assemblers... work with as many companies as you want and make unlimited income! <http://www.homeexecutives.com/member/lakshmi.html> or email lakshmi@homeexecutives.com

● SCANDINAVIANS LOOK HERE! We are looking for people aged 18-25 to sell advertisements on internet. No French or previous experience required. For more info contact Johan, 06 14 46 75 51

● THE Cutting Shop is looking for a receptionist. Must be bi-lingual English and French. This is an all year position. Please post CV to The Cutting Shop, 7 Rue Thuret, 06600 Antibes.

Jobs wanted

● ENGLISH babysitter/nanny, speaks French, experienced & reliable, own transport. Claire, 06 09 06 88 38

TRILINGUAL PA looking for secondary properties to manage in Valbonne-Vence area. Skills: translations, receiving intl clients & supervising construction. Languages: English, German & French. Attributes: trustworthy, reliable & available immediately! Call Irene, 06 10 44 04 50 or i.raffa@wanadoo.fr

● EXPERIENCED young Hungarian lady graduate looking for job in family as assistant of retired. Please tel 06 18 76 77 64 (Natalie)

● MATURE couple, English/French speaking seek job looking after a villa. Woman is qualified nurse. Permanent post required. Tel: 0044 (0)208 697 1994

● 27 YO female avail. for work, exp. in catering & domestic duties, hard working & reliable. Tel: 06 12 97 39 32 (Antibes area)

● CAPTAIN/CHEF team seeking position 60 to 80ft M/Y. Professional experienced couple. Will provide refs. Tel: Aaron & Christine Boucher, 06 17 63 90 38 or e-mail crewteam@hotmail.com

● AU-PAIR, female, speaks English & German, age 19, avail. from July 2003. Much experience with children. Position wanted in south of France. E-mail elloe@bellsouth.net

● HOUSE/PET/GARDEN sitters, Holiday managers, from June. Prof couple. Email caro_uk_45@hotmail.com

● MATURE couple Eng/Fr speaking, seek work looking after villa. Gardening/chauffeur/housekeeping. Perm posn reqd. Woman is qual nurse. Tel +44 208 697 1994

LEARNING

● FRENCH immersion courses for adults at family-run centre, 04 90 94 43 87 or www.parlons-en-provence.com

● LEARNING French... don't give up - Phone Fabienne 06 15 91 33 68, your dynamic private tutor who will give all the support and tips needed for you to make it happen (Antibes area)

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LONELY HEARTS

● FRENCH lady, Menton, single, 58, dynamic, is looking for English gentleman 58-65 to improve English - e-mail epo2@wanadoo.fr

● SPANISH law graduate, handsome single male, 29 yo, looking for single females, penpals or nice friendship. I reply to all. My interests: music, art, poetry, sports, nature, pets. Write to me at josecarret_00@yahoo.es

MOVIES

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

Le Casino
Av. du 24 aout, Antibes
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
Thu 16:30, 20:00
GANGS OF NEW YORK
Tue 20:30

Les Arcades
Rue Felix Faure, Cannes
CHICAGO
Daily 14:00, 16:00, 18:00. Also Thu 20:30, Sat 20:00, 22:00, Sun, Mon 20:30
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
Daily 16:15

Studio Cinema
Bvd du Jeu de Ballon, Grasse
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
Thu, Thu, Sat, Sun, Tue 18:30, Fri 15:00, Thu 21:00

Cinema Sporting
Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Thu, Mon 17:30, 21:15
MAID IN MANHATTAN
Sat 19:30, Sun 17:30, 21:15

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MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
Fri, Tue 17:30

Cinematheque
Esplanade Kennedy, Nice
BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM
Sat 21:30
FOLLOWING
Thu 16:30, Fri 20:15, Sat 18:15

LIAM
Fri 16:15, Sat 20:00, Sun 15:00
MOBY DICK
Tue 14:00
THE INNOCENTS
Tue 18:30
THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA
Tue 14:00
THE OTHERS
Tue 20:15
THERE'S ONLY ONE JIMMY GRIMBLE
Fri 21:45
WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?
Thu 18:00, Sat 14:00

Mercury
Place Garibaldi, Nice
ALL OR NOTHING
Thu 20:10
BLOODY SUNDAY
Sun 19:25
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
Thu 15:15, Sat 17:00, Mon 20:10, Tue 21:40
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
Sat 21:30
INSOMNIA
Fri 21:40
L.I.E. - LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY
Fri 14:30, Sat 14:40, Sun 21:40, Mon 18:00, Tue 14:30, 21:40
MINORITY REPORT
Sun 21:30
MULHOLLAND DRIVE
Sun 21:40
PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE
Sat 14:40, Sun 17:00, Mon 20:10
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS
Tue 21:30
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
Thu 20:10, Fri 20:45, Sat 17:00
THE PIANIST
Thu 15:30, Fri, Sat, Sun 19:00, Mon 15:30, Tue 19:00

UGC Rialto
4 rue du Rivoli, Nice
ABOUT SCHMIDT
Daily 14:00, 16:30, 19:15, 21:55
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Daily 16:25, 19:05, 21:45. Also Thu, Fri, Mon, Tue 13:45
SOLARIS
Daily 13:45, 17:55, 22:15
THE HOURS AND TIMES
Tue 20:00

PROPERTY
Property for sale
VALBONNE villa 3+1 bedroom, aircon, pool, tennis - www.vm360.com/vtvilla - €520,000 (private sale) Tel 04 92 94 04 37

● COTTAGE in Cannes, 220m2, 3 beds, separate 1 bed apart 35m2, garden, 5 mins from sea €457,000. Tel: 04 94 47 75 19 (no agents please)

● NICE hill, facing sea, luxury apt, 80m2 in private Botanic park, pool, terrace & garden 100m2, very calm - €380,000. Tel: 06 12 04 68 29

NICE Cimiez, 2 bedroom apartment, very good condition, sea and park views, equipped kitchen, garage and cellar €312,000. Tel: 06 85 67 17 70

● CALLIAN cottage 160m2 on 4000m2, views to golf/village, photos avail. 360,000 GBP neg. Tel: 04 94 47 75 19, 6-10pm - no agents

● HOUSE Ste Maxime €375,000, Bg lge, 3 bds, 2 bths, 3wc, garage, 420 m2 land exc. cond. Tel: 04 94 96 40 08

COAST & COUNTRY
● Ref 8166 FOR SALE: VILLEFRANCHE - Ground floor apt in the old town. 49m², sea views, 1 bed, unique position facing the sun all day - €245,000
● Ref 8170 FOR SALE: VILLEFRANCHE - Garden apt at top of Mont Boron, 69m², 1 bed, large garden with sea views, uncovered parking - €250,000
● Ref 7262 FOR RENT: NICE - 84m² apt in Mont Boron area with lovely sea and hill views, 2 beds, furnished - avail now, €1350/month charges incl.
● Ref 8215 FOR RENT: NICE - 30m² apt, terrace 8m², 1 bed, beautiful sea views, furnished - available immediately, €800/month
MOUGINS 04 92 92 47 50, NICE 04 92 04 98 99, ST TROPEZ 04 94 54 78 48
See 500 properties at www.coast-country.com

● NICE Promenade - 30m from beach, 1bd, lg terr, luxury bldg, excel cond €198,000 - 06 19 10 17 00

Property to let
● NICE, studio with seaview, garden & pool. www.rjhemingway.plus.com or call 0044 131 667 5002
● THEOULE: 2 bed, garden, parking, opp. sea, short lets, reasonable tariffs. Tel: 04 93 75 27 01
● PRIVATELY owned apt, Cannes la Bocca, for holiday rental, sleeps 6/7 - vilaservices2002@yahoo.co.uk
● FINDERS fee offered: Tenants sought for lovely 2 bed 2 bath unfurnished apt, full sea-view/large balcony in Monaco. Avail mid-March €3000/m + charges. No agencies. e-mail: parnasse502@aol.com
● HOLIDAY villa, pool, nr. Vence, priv. grounds, 3 bed, living rm, patio windows, stunning views, terraces, gardens €1000-1500. E-mail: wendyhouse@libertysurf.fr
● ANTIBES old town, apt in new building with seaview. 1 bed with balcony & terrace. Avail May, 2nd week July, Aug & Sept. Tel: +46 705 73 94 00
● TWO charming 1 bed flats to let in scenic old Nice nr sea, flower market and transport. €600 and €800 per week from July-Sept. Call 00 44 7791 798117
● B'ful furn apt for rent - 1 bed, lg living rm, kitchen, garden. NE Nice, €700pcm. 04 97 20 51 09
● Beautiful villa for rent in Antibes: 1300sqm land, 280sqm living space, 70sqm living/dining room, fully equipped kitchen, 4 beds, 3 baths, terrace w/sea view, 2 independent rooms, luxuriously appointed throughout. Close to town centre, beaches and Sophia. €3500pcm. Agency fees €3000+tax. SEQUOIA IMMOBILIER, Corinne Hugon, 06 17 18 71 39

Property wanted
● 360° Real estate tours - webpage and email tour from €250 - www.vm360.com/realstate or tel 04 93 74 79 32



● DO you have a luxury holiday villa? Would you like a responsible and renowned villa holidays company to manage your holiday rental? Contact Palmer and Parker on 0044 1494 815 411 or visit www.palmerparker.com for more information

● 1 BED, self contained, sunny accom., in older character property for 4 mths from Dec '03, coastal Nice-Menton. Tel: 04 93 26 67 64

● WANTED: Long term rental. Min one bed apt/sml villa, unfurn. 20 mins max Valbonne. 0682340977

Property services
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● SELLING your house? Make those 1st impressions count. Call "Belle-to-sell" House Doctors, 06 22 94 59 08

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● GENERAL services, home renovation, curtains, upholstery & domestic helpers (Filipinos single or couples). Tel: 04 97 06 50 85
● VEGETARIAN CENTER - We sell veggie products! Variety of veggie meats. Tel/fax: 04 97 06 50 85, Mobile: 06 98 22 47 98
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● 2 ROOM apart. in centre of lovely Hungarian city in a beautiful province with mountains, lakes, forests. 1hr Slovakia, 1.5hrs Budapest, 4hrs Vienna. Tel (0033) 06 1876 7764, Natalie

● BANDOL(83) T2 in house nr sea & shops with pool. From €325 to €625/wk. Tel: 06 17 33 32 79/04 78 26 23 13

● CORSICA - Calvi, 4 bedroom townhouse for holiday lets. Tel: 04 95 60 32 56 or nickyandpaultaylor@yahoo.fr

● YOUR next adventure? Try a hot air balloon safari in Africa! www.BalloonSafarisDirect.com

● BOOK your classified ad online at www.TheRivieraGazette.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 ramps in the old town is closed for extensive works until Apr 30
● Antibes 30km/h limit on RD4 until Mar 28
● Biot 50km/h limit and traffic lights on RD4 until April 11
● Biot 30km/h limit along the RN7 until Mar 28
● Gattieres/Carros 50km/h limit daily until 17:00 until Mar 26
● Pegomas Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD9 until March 21, and on RD109 until March 7
● St Laurent du Var Delays and 50km/h limit on RN202 and RD2209 until Mar 7
● Vence Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD2210 until March 14
● Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50km/h limit on the RN98 coast road

LONDON: Not another pokey hotel room - rent a luxury Kensington apartment! Newly renovated and furnished, sleeps 6 (2 dbl, 1 twin), available 1-4wks at €1050/wk. 2mins from tube, nr museums. Tel 04 93 09 69 07

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● COLOUR TV&VCR combo - Samsung 14" box + remote, used only a few times, €170. 06 77 04 18 41
● BOOK your classified ad online at www.TheRivieraGazette.com

YACHTS & YACHTING
● 50 METER mooring for sale, \$1.8M (Golfe Juan area) and 33 meter mooring for rent, \$75,000 (gulf of St Tropez) - azurlink@email.com
● ZODIAC mk 3, 4.70m + 40cv Johnson + trailer, aluminium floor, 2 fuel tanks, safety equipment, remote steering €1800 ono. Anne & Jim: 04 93 12 20 13/06 88 99 44 83 or anne.moseley@wanadoo.fr

RIVIERA MARKETPLACE

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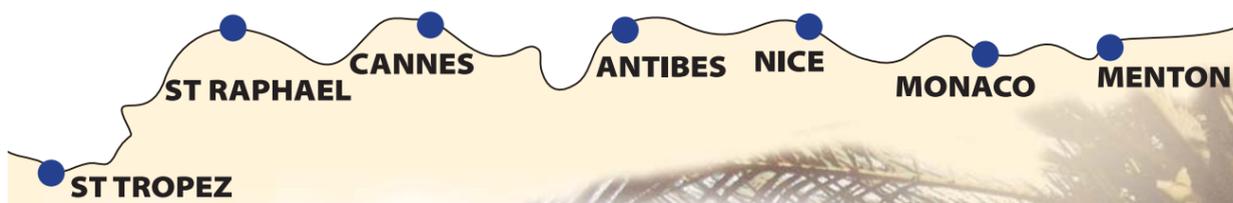
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For your copy call 0892 688 397 (0.34 €/min) www.englishyellowpages.fr

What's On and Where To Go...



The Riviera This week

Thursday 6

- MIPIIM, the international **real estate trade show**, is on at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes from 9.00 to 19.00 today and 9.00 to 18.00 tomorrow. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.
- The Fête du Citron, Menton's annual **lemon festival**, continues with a night parade and fireworks on the Promenade du Soleil from 20:30 tonight. Saturday sees a parade with characters and songs from Alice in Wonderland heading along the bord du mer and around the casino from 14.00. Entry to both events is free. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76.
- The 12th Festival Musical du Grand Hotel du Cap-Ferrat starts today with **Broadway Night** – a concert with soprano Anna Maria Kaufmann – at 20:00. Tickets from €30. Email banquet@grand-hotel-cap-ferrat.com to book.
- The Holy Trinity Church, Cannes is hosting an Alpha Course – “an opportunity to **explore the meaning of life** in a friendly way in small groups” – today at 19:30. Tel: 04 93 94 54 61.
- The Monte-Carlo Jazz Chorus is hosting the Greor Quartet and the **Linus Olsson Quintet** at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco, tonight from 20:30. Tickets are €8. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99.

Friday 7

- The 12th Golden Dove **festival of magic** opens today until Sunday with international magicians and illusionists performing at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins. Entry from €20. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00.
- Take in some **jazz** with Philippe Canovas and friends in concert at the MJC Picard in Cannes at 21:30. Tickets €7. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90.
- The Ensemble Instrumental de Nice is giving a **free concert** at 20:30 at St Jacques church in Mougins. Tel: 04 92 92 50 42.
- Indoor **Motocross** comes to the Palais Nikaia in Nice tonight at 20:30. Tickets are €26. Tel: 08 92 69 70 73.
- There's **horse racing** at the Hippodrome, Cagnes-sur-Mer from 20:00. Entry is €4.50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.
- Tournettes-sur-Loup marks the end of the violet flowering season with the **Fête des Violettes**, a weekend which sees the village covered in the flowers which traditionally symbolise love. The fun begins with the official festival opening tonight at 20:30 at the Salle des Fêtes. A farmers' market, visits to the violet fields, children's games and jazz and folk musicians are on the programme on Saturday. Sunday offers a mass at 10:30 in Saint Grégoire church and parades, accompanied by the Nice Firefighter's brass band, from 14:30. Tel: 04 93 24 18 93.
- Three **ballet performances** are on offer tonight at the Salle des Fêtes, Nice at 20:30 – K

- 551 with music by Mozart and choreography by Richard Wherlock, *Boléro* by Ravel and choreography by Marc Ribaud and *Shpiel Es* with the music of Kol Simcha. Tickets are €10. Tel: 04 93 12 30 92.
- Take in jazz from ten different musicians tonight with **Julia Scottish Jazz** at the Salle Escoffier, Villeneuve-Loubet at 21:00. Entry is €10, including a drink. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50.
- Continuing today is MIPIIM.

Saturday 8

- The Foire de Nice starts today at the Palais des Expositions in the Acropolis and continues through to March 17. This huge exhibition presents products and services touching on nearly **every aspect of life on the Côte d'Azur**, and this year's theme is the letter 'F' – so football, flowers, family and film will be well covered. Doors open daily 10:00 to 19:00. Entry is €6. Tel: 04 92 00 20 80.
- The **Universal Ballet of Seoul** is performing Romeo and Juliet today at 20:30 and 16:00 tomorrow at the Théâtre Debussy, Cannes. Tickets from €30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77.
- La Bigreen Randonnée, a **cross-country bike ride** open to everyone, is on in Mandelieu-La Napoule today and tomorrow. There's also a bike sale at the Parc Robinson between 14:00 to 18:00 today. Tomorrow riders set off for their 45km to 65km ride from Mons between 7:00 and 9:30 and return to Parc Robinson. The day finishes with a BMX display, again at Parc Robinson, at 15:00. Entry for the ride is €23. Tel: 04 93 43 51 54.
- A regional halfpipe **snowboard competition** is on at Isola 2000 between 9:00 and 17:00 today and tomorrow. Entry is free. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15.
- A model exhibition, the Salon du Modélisme et de la Figurine, is on at the Salle Léo Lagrange in Mouans-Sartoux today and tomorrow. **Model boats, cars and planes** are all available to see, buy, sell or swap from 10:00 to 19:00. Entry is €3. Tel: 04 92 92 47 24.
- The **Carnaval Provençal de Saint Tropez** is today from 16:00 to 18:30 at Place du la Garonne, St Tropez. There'll be traditional Provençal music, dance and costumes. Entry is free. Tel: 04 94 97 45 21.
- Yokoyama Keiko will demonstrate **origami**, the Japanese art of paper folding, today at 14:30 and 16:00 at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice. You'll also be able to have a go yourself. Admission is €10. Tel: 04 92 29 37 00.
- Monaco's **football** team is in action tonight in the French premier division, against Bordeaux at the Principality's Stade Louis II from 20:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 18.
- Continuing today are the Golden Dove Magic Festival, the Fête du Citron and the Fête des Violettes.

Sunday 9

- Today is the **Fête des Grands-Mères**, Grandmothers' day.
- The regular **organic food market**, the Marché Bio-Provençal, is on today from 8:00 to 17:00 in Place Marinoni, Beaulieu-sur-Mer with local products and delicacies on sale. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21.
- Continuing today are the Foire de Nice, the Universal Ballet of Seoul, the Salon du Modélisme, the snowboard competition in Isola, the Bigreen Randonnée, the Golden Dove magic festival and the Fête des Violettes.

Monday 10

- The Trio Serenata is in concert today at the Espace Culturel Fra Angelico in Monaco, performing the **music of Mozart, Schumann and Bruch** at 20:30. Tickets are €10. Tel: +377 92 05 36 99.
- Continuing today is the Foire de Nice.

Tuesday 11

- Stars 'n' Bars. Monaco's US-style sports bar, is holding a **pub quiz** from 21:00 to 23:00. Tel: +377 97 97 95 95.
- Continuing today is the Foire de Nice.

Wednesday 12

- The International Games Festival starts today at the Palais des Festivals, Cannes and runs until Sunday. The **latest board games** will be on show and for sale. Doors open 13:00 to 20:00 weekdays and 10:00 to 20:00 at the weekend. Entry is free. Tel: 04 92 59 41 20.
- Yachties may want to pop along to Blue Water, which is presenting its new **internet crew placement** system at its offices in Antibes from 17:30 to 19:30 this evening. You'll be able to see the system in action, and try it out too. Refreshments provided. Call Simon on 04 93 34 34 13 for details.
- There's a **recruitment roadshow** for Grasse's flavour and fragrance industry today at Place Yves Klein in Nice. Contact Coralie on 06 23 97 19 84 for more info.
- Continuing today is the Foire de Nice

Now booking...

- The **British Association of the Alpes Maritimes and Var's Menton branch** is hosting a lunch on Saturday March 15. Call Lita Tabanelli on 04 92 10 04 16 by Saturday 8 to book.
- The International School of Nice's production this year is **Return to the Forbidden Planet**, a rock 'n' roll musical based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Performances will be on March 27, 28 and 29. Reservations are essential; tickets are €13 for adults and €8 for students from 04 93 21 04 00.

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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 6	Friday 7	Saturday 8	Sunday 9	Monday 10	Tuesday 11
AM	8°C Sunny	9°C Very sunny	8°C Sunny	12°C Very sunny	13°C Very sunny	9°C Very sunny
PM	15°C Sunny	13°C Very sunny	14°C Sunny	15°C Very sunny	17°C Very sunny	15°C Very sunny

MARCH IN NICE...
Avg. high: 15°C Avg. low: 7°C
Avg. sea temp: 13°C Avg. rainfall: 70mm
Days are getting warmer, but mornings and evenings remain cool. Last chance to visit the ski slopes for this season.

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CMYK