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My Riviera *Yacht broker David Skellon talks about his love of boats, p6*



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Film Guide

15 English-language films in six cinemas this week, p7

SAINT BLAZE

Kids playing with matches blamed as fire rips through St Blaise conservation area



HOT SPOT ... over 300 fire fighters battled the flames in the hills above Nice at St Blaise. Teams are still on the scene keeping outbreaks under control.

TWO children playing with matches have been blamed for starting a fire that destroyed 130 hectares – 320 acres – of a conservation area at St Blaise last weekend.

Although the main blaze has been brought under control, small fires are still breaking out in the tinder-dry undergrowth.

St Blaise resident Brian McDowell told The Gazette: "We were terrified – we'd been out for the afternoon and

left our dog in the house. We rushed back and saw the fire was raging only 50 metres away. The firemen told us we'd have to leave the house and 12 families nearby were evacuated.

"The valley below the house used to be spectacular, but it's now just a black charred scar. The pompiers are still here keeping the smaller fires under control.

By **JENNY PAUL**

"All week the waterbombers have been flying at what feels like about ten feet above our house. It has all been very upsetting."

The forest had been deemed a conservation area as it was home to many rare insects and plants.

The area was in the news earlier this year as activists campaigned against plans to route a fast road link between Nice and Digne through it. The proposal, backed by the prefecture and the government, was scrapped as a

result of residents' protests that the road would destroy the local environment. It remains to be seen if the plans are revisited now that the site has been razed to the ground.

● Six hectares of forest also went up in smoke between Frejus and Mandelieu last week. 180 fire fighters with 50 vehicles battled the blaze for more than four hours, hampered by a strong wind. The Var, hit hard by the current drought, is on high alert for forest fires, and many rural roads are closed.

19,000 copies this week – and 585,000 since The Gazette went weekly. Look for the next issue on Thursday July 17

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Jazz will go ahead

ORGANISERS have promised that this month's Nice Jazz Festival will go ahead despite the threat of strikes and demonstrations by unions representing entertainment industry workers.

Festivals and events all over France have been hit by the industrial action, which earlier this week saw roadies at a Rolling Stones concert refuse to pack equipment away after a Paris concert. The internationally renowned Avignon Theatre Festival has also been hit, as was the first night of the outdoor performance of La Traviata in Juan les Pins last week.

But a Nice Jazz Festival spokesperson told the Gazette "the show must go on". Updates are available on the world wide web at www.nicejazzfest.com

Jedi spotted in cafe

STAR WARS actor Liam Neeson was spotted relaxing in St Tropez with his family last week. The Irishman was seen at Club 55 on Pampelonne beach and in La Claire Fontaine cafe in the La Garde Freinet.

Jerry Hall could also be seen strolling along the beach as she enjoyed a sunshine break in the town to celebrate her 47th birthday. The Texan model has always loved the area as she was first talent-spotted there when she was 16.

Female figures up

THERE are now more women than men living in the PACA region. The two million women in the area will represent 53 per cent of the population by 2030, according to statistics agency INSEE.

Businesses created by women represent 33 per cent of PACA's enterprises. A PACA woman's life expectancy is 86, as opposed to 81 for men.

Assassin caught

THE suspected killer of Corsican prefect Claude Erignac, gunned down in 1998, was arrested last week in a remote farmhouse in Corsica by police disguised as ramblers. Yvan Colonna, who had been on the run for four years, has been charged with murder.

FRANCE WOOS USA

Nation tries to patch up war 'misunderstanding'

FRANCE went on a national charm offensive on Friday as Fourth of July celebrations took place across the country in a bid to convince Americans the French really do love them, and tempt US visitors back after the Iraq war.

Nice mayor Jacques Peyrat was keen to do his bit to rebuild bridges at an official Independence Day reception at the Palais Massena, held for Philip J Jones, Louisiana's Minister of Culture, Leisure and Tourism. "Today is the 4th of July and there is between the US and France a misunderstanding. French people really like America and now everybody wants to put this behind them and continue our good relations," he told The Riviera Gazette.

Philip Jones was also quick to dismiss talk of a long term problem. "Americans are reluctant to travel at the moment for lots of reasons. The economy, the aftermath of 9/11 and the strong euro are all combining to keep more Americans at home," he explained.

Birthday

In Monaco, those with US connections spent the evening flitting between two glittering parties. Sports bar Stars'n'bars, an American home from home on the Riviera, threw a huge party to celebrate its tenth birthday while Monaco USA - a club for Americans and 'friends of America' - had its Fourth of July bash at



FEELING GROOVY... Stars'n'Bars boss Kate Powers partied the night away with hundreds of guests to mark the restaurant's tenth birthday



BORN IN THE USA... DJ Myers with the Monaco-USA's Mrs d'Amico

the Riviera Marriott in Cap d'Ail.

Neil Myers, the Riviera's best-known American after presenting his daily show on Riviera Radio for nearly ten years, was at both parties.

"Independence day has always had a special meaning for me. My forebears fought in the civil war and my family goes way back - they arrived in America in the early 17th century, with Sir Walter Raleigh's second expedition," Neil told the Gazette.

"America has a long tradition of putting lives on the line to keep us safe. We're just seeing another spat in the marriage between France and the USA, but it'll pass - they always do," continued Myers.



RECEPTION... Philip Jones, left, and Jacques Peyrat, centre, were upbeat about the Franco-American relationship

Your breast bet

HORSE racing commentators in Britain are steeling themselves for controversy if a French horse called 'Big Tits' ever competes in the UK.

The three-year-old filly made her racing debut in the Prix des Favourites at Longchamps last week.

Normally French horses with English names are checked with the British Jockey Club and vice versa - a procedure to ensure that no rude or embarrassing names get approved by either authority. However, Big Tits somehow slipped through unnoticed.

As the mare has already run in France, it seems unlikely that the Jockey Club will do anything about her unusual name if a decision was made to run her in the UK.

Irish men jailed

APPEALS are being prepared for three Belfast men who have been imprisoned for six months in Lille after a fight outside a nightclub involving supporters of French right wing politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The men were with a party from the Somme Association who travelled to France last week for the Battle of the Somme commemorations.

Belfast city councillor Billy Hutchinson, who was also in France for the commemorations said, "These men were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is an absolute nightmare."

France may go to Iraq

THE US ambassador to France has suggested the country could have a 'presence' in post-war Iraq despite the strain in relations caused by Paris' opposition to the US-led war against Baghdad.

Speaking in an interview published Tuesday in La Provence, ambassador Howard Leach said Washington wanted an international presence in Iraq to keep the peace.

Happy birthday

THE first test-tube baby to be born outside Paris celebrated his 20th birthday last week. Nice-born Nicolas Triveri was the tenth in vitro baby to be born in France.

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Wot a generous LOT, part II

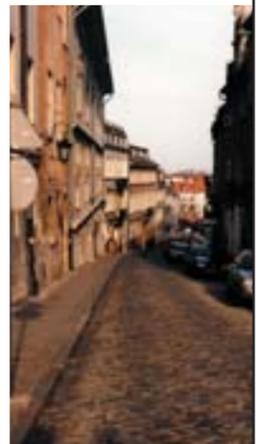


So many of you entered last month's competition that our friends at LOT Polish Airlines have come up with another pair of tickets to Warsaw to give away to a lucky Gazette reader...

Warsaw - often called 'the Paris of the north' - lies just a short flight from the Riviera, and LOT Polish Airlines flies there direct from Nice Côte d'Azur airport six days a week.

LOT's brand new Boeing aircraft also offer fast and convenient connections from Warsaw onwards to hundreds of destinations worldwide. And, of course, you benefit from famous Polish hospitality en-route and a chance to pick up duty-free goods - Poland isn't in the EU quite yet!

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of return tickets to Warsaw, simply answer the following question: If you were flying to Warsaw this week, would it be more appropriate to pack shorts and a tee shirt or a thick overcoat and gloves? Email your answer and your name and address to itswarminwarsaw@rivgaz.com, or post to 'I fancy a weekend in Warsaw', The Riviera Gazette, 738 Route Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins to arrive by July 22, when the first correct entry out of the editor's commodious compy hat will win.



Terms and conditions Only one entry per person; flights must be taken within three months. Specific flights are subject to availability. Other terms and conditions may apply. No cash alternative is available. In the event of any dispute the editor's decision will be final. The winner's name will be published in The Riviera Gazette on 24 July 2003.



News

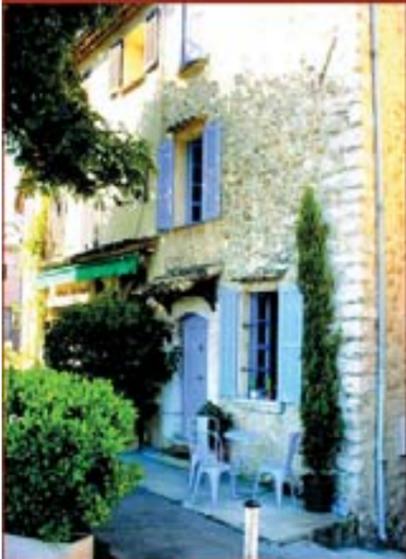
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French dying out

FRENCH experts are afraid that the language is being left behind as English takes over as the primary tongue in Europe.

And within EU affairs there are signs of this happening. In June, French army generals leading the multi-national EU peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo had no hesitation in naming English as the working language of their Paris-based headquarters.

English has long been the language of international trade and business and the trend is being reinforced by the fact that it dominates some 80 per cent

of the internet.

"The survival of our culture is at stake. It is a life or death matter," Jacques Viot, head of the Alliance Française agency which promotes French abroad, told a public debate in Paris last week after a US senator referred to French as a "near-forgotten language."

While French and English are the only two world languages with solid roots on five continents, the economic and political might of the US has pushed English forward as the most desirable language to have as a second tongue.

Recent meetings in Brussels to draft a new constitution for

the EU highlighted a future problem for French as negotiators sent by eastern European countries, set to become EU members next year, almost unanimously favoured English.

And it is trendy among younger generations to use 'franglais' or terms such as 'le cash-flow' instead of the tongue twisting 'la marge brute d'auto-financement.'

After threatening legal action against anyone using examples such as 'le weekend' or 'le parking' in advertising or the media in 1994, France now appears to have largely given up the fight against the franglais plague.

BAR cars grabbed

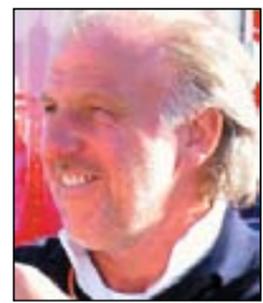


GOOD ON YA MATE . . . Australian Baden Cooke, pictured above, won the second stage of the 90th Tour de France on Monday. Gazette reader Cooke and fellow Aussie competitor Matthew Wilson are based in Nice and doing well in this year's marathon cycle race.

THE British American Racing formula one team nearly missed last weekend's French Grand Prix after two of their cars were impounded in a dispute over unpaid bills.

French police and a bailiff raided the BAR garage at the Magny-Cours circuit, but the team managed to overturn the order before the race. However, BAR's two drivers, Jacques Villeneuve and Jenson Button, were forced to miss Friday morning's opening practice session.

Monaco production company PPGI had won the court order to impound BAR's cars as the latest move in a dispute over a €2.8m commission claim involving a sponsorship deal



BOSS . . . BAR's David Richards

with Canadian company Teleglobe five years ago.

BAR disputes the debt and says British American Tobacco, the team's owner, is responsible.

PPGI then presented team boss David Richards with another order allowing the seizure of BAR's assets on Sunday, but the UK-based outfit said in a statement, "BAR is within its rights under French law to remove its cars and equipment from the circuit and return to the UK and any suggestion that this action is contrary to French law or any orders that PPGI may have obtained is totally false."

The team made a swift exit on Sunday evening.

Fingerprint visas get the go-ahead

NON-EU nationals will have digital fingerprints on their visas under a new law passed by the National Assembly on Tuesday as part of a plan to clamp down on illegal immigrants.

The move will affect tourists from non-European countries who will now have to apply in person for their visas at their local French consulate or embassy. The law will not affect EU citizens and American or Japanese passport holders.

Applicants' fingerprints will be held in a databank in Paris, allowing officials to easily identify overstayers and those without legal papers.

Studios robbed

NICE People, the Nice-based 'Big Brother' style reality TV show has been burgled - whilst the show was still on air.

The show, which uses cameras to constantly monitor contestants while they sleep, eat and shower was robbed of hi-fi and video equipment.

In a bizarre twist the studio's security cameras were not plugged in, allowing the thieves to sneak in and out unnoticed. The crooks didn't get into the 'house' where the contestants were living, but raided the studio and even managed to steal an auto-cue.

Cycle appeal

GAZETTE readers are invited to join the mayor of Mouans-Sartoux at the town's mairie at 5:30pm next Thursday to toast Charles MacFarlane before he starts a charity cycle ride to Scotland.

Charles, who will be leaving Monaco at 9:30 the next morning for his epic kilt-clad journey across France and Britain, is still appealing for extra sponsors.

Pledges towards a local charity which helps handicapped children and Cancer Research UK can be registered at www.freewebs.com/monaco-glasgow

Illegals rescued

THREE illegal immigrants were rescued from a children's dinghy early on Sunday after trying to paddle across the channel to England.

The Romanian men, all aged 26, were spotted by the crew of a passing P&O passenger ferry, the Pride of Burgundy, in the middle of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

The men had set off at around 6pm on Saturday with no lights, safety equipment or navigational aids.

It is the latest desperate attempt by asylum seekers to cross the channel.

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Byebye ITV?

RIVIERA residents who use 'free to view' or FTV cards to watch UK satellite TV broadcasts at no cost are faced with paying a monthly subscription fee or losing access to ITV, Channel 4 and Five.

The cards, used to unscramble coded broadcasts from the Sky satellite service, have until now been free to satellite users who only want to receive the UK's 'terrestrial' channels.

But BSkyB, the company that controls the Sky network, is issuing new access cards to its seven million subscribers and all old cards - including FTV cards - will stop working. Replacement FTV cards will not be issued, leaving viewers high and dry. The cost of issuing FTV cards has so far been met by the BBC, but from today all the BBC's channels will broadcast 'in the clear' so no card will be needed. The side effect for FTV card users is that as the BBC is no longer paying for them, they will be discontinued.

It is unlikely that ITV, Channel 4 and Five will follow the BBC's lead and broadcast 'in the clear'. Last month Five renewed its broadcasting agreement with BSkyB, and the channel is set to be encoded for the next five years.

The cheapest Sky package is £12.50 (€18) a month, with a 12 month minimum term if BSkyB has supplied new satellite equipment. If you own a set-top box some sources suggest taking out a subscription to the cheapest package for one month will mean you are issued with a new card which will allow ongoing access to the UK's terrestrial channels.

TREE FROG BLUES

A RARE blue tree frog was found in a garden at Beaulieu-sur-Mer last weekend, writes Jenny Paul.

The normally bright green frog's skin turned blue due to a genetic abnormality, experts believe.

"Tree-frogs are found all over the planet in a variety of vivid colours, although blue does seem rather unusual. But if you spot one in your garden don't touch it - they have a delicate but toxic skin," Brian Roberts of the London Natural History Museum's amphibian section told The Riviera Gazette.

"An interesting characteristic of tree-frogs is their ability to change colour, a mechanism that, as with lizards, is more a function of temperature and mood than camouflage. The usual green can become grey, brown or yellow, and spots may even appear."

There are five European subspecies. Males can be distinguished by their darker throats, usually smoky



TOXIC FROG SYNDROME... don't kiss this frog - he won't turn into a handsome prince

grey or yellow-brown. Adults live in trees, bushes or tall grass, having sticky pads at the ends of their digits to help them cling on. They are often found some distance from water,

except during the breeding season. "The common tree-frog needs warm and clean water to breed and this time of year is the breeding season," said the frog expert.



Dolphin rescued by bathers

BATHERS at Cavalière in the Var helped rescue a dolphin last weekend after it swam too far inland and was washed up on the beach.

Tourists watched and applauded as young volunteers steered it back into deeper water. However, John Kershaw of Marineland told The Riviera Gazette that it may not have been such a good idea.

"Dolphins often get washed up for

a reason. They are usually ill. People think they are babies when they are just a smaller species of dolphin that is sick. Dolphins know all about drowning and seek out shallow water, or they may be weak and washed in by a wave.

"It's a tricky area so the best thing is to contact the fire service who will get in touch with a dolphin expert. They can then come out and help out."

The death of haute couture?

PARIS Fashion Week opened packed with celebrities as usual this week, but the future of the most revered of French industries is looking bleak.

Chanel's Karl Lagerfeld has threatened to move his show to New York next season because there are more clients in the US.

In a further dent to French pride, the couture industry is no longer seen as chiefly French. The only designers said to be making money are Brit John Galiano for Christian Dior, German Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel and Italian designer Valentino.

Budget deficit

THE Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has cut the growth outlook for France to less than one per cent this year, but forecasted a growth rate of two per cent for 2004.

However, the OECD warned that pension reforms and cuts in the civil service are needed along with changes in tax and labour laws to make France more attractive to investors.

SMS kills policemen

A PREGNANT woman caused an accident that killed two CRS police officers after sending a text message on her mobile phone while driving at 170km/h.

The two died when their minibus overturned in the high speed crash on the A40 in the Haute-Savoie region.

Air con row hot up

A BANK on Rue Vernier in Nice is to be taken to court by residents in a neighbouring building, who maintain that the bank's air conditioning system has been thoughtlessly installed and is blowing hot air directly into their apartments.

NZ wines are best

NEW world wines scooped top awards at France's Bordeaux wine fair last week after red and white wines from New Zealand beat their European rivals in competition.

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UPDATE

FRENCH PROPERTY - MAXIMISE YOUR INVESTMENT

According to a recent survey, half a million Britons own property in France. The overseas property market is booming and on the Côte d'Azur the average price of property is now EUR450,000 - an increase of 50 per cent over the past two years.

Stock market uncertainties have made property an attractive option. But the way in which you purchase your property can have long lasting financial implications, so thoroughly research your options before you buy. Purchasing property overseas may increase your liability to capital gains tax, inheritance tax or both, leaving you with an unexpectedly high tax bill.

To maximise your investment, using a legal entity to purchase high-value properties could reduce or even avoid these tax pitfalls. The correct

ownership may also provide other benefits including savings on legal fees, transfer taxes, value added taxes and stamp duties on any future sales.

Capital gains tax

Unless you have owned the property for over 22 years, French capital gains tax is payable regardless of your country of residence and is charged for direct ownership or the sale of shares in a property based entity at up to 33.3 per cent less relief after two years.

To put this into perspective, a property on the Côte d'Azur purchased two years ago for EUR250,000 may well now be worth over EUR500,000. If you sell the property this would yield a profit of EUR250,000 but also a capital gains tax bill of approx-

imately EUR83,000.

Buying through a structure, however, may mean you can avoid paying capital gains. Under a legal French entity held in a Luxembourg SOPARFI (a special type of company combining the commercial and holding benefits of Luxembourg's tax treaties), the property is 'sold' through the transfer of shares. This means the capital gain is in Luxembourg where there is currently no tax.

Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax in France is charged at up to 60 per cent, depending on the relationship between the deceased and the beneficiary. This is payable regardless of the residency of the owner of the property.

As a company never dies, this tax

can normally be avoided with the correct legal entity ownership structure. This may also provide you with additional planning opportunities for the eventual transfer of the ownership - through a discretionary trust, for example.

Patrimonial tax

This is an annual three per cent tax applicable to French and foreign companies owning real estate in France, where there is no tax treaty and the appropriate declarations have not been made. The charge means that more traditional property holding structures using offshore companies are not recommended. Luxembourg, however, has signed a tax treaty with France permitting an exemption from this charge. So purchasing property through the Luxembourg SOPARFI structure detailed above, will avoid this charge.

Get advice

Be aware of the tax implications of

purchasing property overseas and get advice. If you would like more information on this or other tax planning and asset protection matters, please contact us.

Consultants from The Sovereign Group will be in the Côte d'Azur on 14, 15, 16 and 17 July. To arrange a free, no obligation consultation on tax planning, wealth management or yacht registration, please contact Mike Jones on +350 76173 or email mjones@SovereignGroup.com

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My Riviera

Yacht broker **David Skellon** tells Jenny Paul about his many yachting ventures and his life-long love affair with the sea...

“ I WAS an airline pilot 35 years ago when I first went on holiday to St Tropez. As I was flying in I was struck by the beautiful scenes, and later in the day by the fine wine and cool music. So I said to myself 'one day, I will come and live on the Côte d'Azur'.

In the meantime I'd always loved boats – when I was a teenager I captained a yacht all the way from Hamble in the UK to the Caribbean.

In 1969 I started building boats by converting a MFV, a fishing boat with a motor.

People liked it but wanted it to be built out of more modern materials, so it quickly became less of a hobby and more of a large business concern.

Eventually I employed 240 people and won the Queen's Award for Export.

I resigned completely from flying and concentrated on the business until 1980, when I came to live in the south of France to start a new life.

I began by captaining a 75 foot motor yacht with my wife as crew. We eventually ended up with a fleet of eight vessels and 60 crew and on the odd occasion I was able to take one of the yachts to St Tropez and realise my old dream.

The business developed in the 80s and 90s and moved more into yacht charter and management, then later into brokerage, until five years ago when we became the official Ferretti importer for France.

DS Maritime now has offices in Antibes, Golfe-Juan, St Tropez and La Napoule and we are soon opening an office in London, so I am still very busy.

I'm one of those people who's always working but at weekends I do like to just 'switch off' at my house near Grasse.

As a result of having cancer – which I've



GOOD LIFE... David likes to wine and dine when he can take a break from his hectic schedule

now overcome – the doctor said I should cut out all drinking apart from quality red wine, so good food and drink has now become habitual.

When I go out to eat I like to go to the Transat restaurant in Antibes – they do an excellent roast lamb.

I would like to semi-retire soon and take more of a back seat. I'd like to indulge in some painting and tennis, as well as flying again.

But I have two ex-wives, three children, three step children and two grandsons – a lot of mouths to feed. Family life has an amazing way of making money disappear!

The last time I had a holiday was four-

teen years ago in Antigua, so it's difficult for me to know if anywhere is better than here. It's difficult for me to get away. A change of scenery is always good, but with 5,000 hours of flying behind me I don't really like being flown by anyone else.

The only thing I dislike on the Riviera is the traffic here during the summer, but I get round that by taking my motorbike.

There also seems to be an ever growing influx of European drop-outs but, essentially, I tolerate everyone.

I love the Riviera and I get on fine with the French – especially the blonde female variety – and I love good wines. “

They go well together!

Classifieds

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● GOLF III GL 1.8 1993. 95000km, good cond. €3900. Tel 04 92 96 15 07 or 04 93 86 69 39

● VW Polo 1988, white, CT ok. €800. Tel Stewart 04 93 65 18 35

● FORD Escort cabriolet. 1993, electric everything. Roquebrune. €5,000. Tel 06 60 63 69 40

● OPEL Senator 1989. 176,000km, needs some repair, so €900. Tel 06 82 60 68 95 or pongorof@aol.com

● RENAULT Kangoo 2001, petrol, blue, urgent sale! €9100. Cathie 06 20 79 15 60

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Classifieds

SCOTTISH country dancing! 8pm Weds at Mougins school from Sept 10. Tel 04 93 12 95 81

KIDS CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Creative workshops in Monaco, held in English and French, for children aged seven and up during August. €25 for a two hour action-packed session.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM MAKING

Weekend seminars for adults on 23/24 Aug and 6/7 Sept. Led by Max Ryerson, a young director and producer from LA. Covers aspects of film making from the original idea to final distribution. 12 hours over two days. €200 per person.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Cameo Academy's Jason Keable is available throughout the summer for private lessons in speech & elocution, drama and public speaking.

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FURNITURE, books, dinner service, various items. Cannes, 04 93 48 16 62

USED upright piano wanted. Can you help? Thanks - Tim, 06 17 03 28 39.

DISHWASHER, microwave, oven, double bed. All perfect, ring for prices. Tel 06 13 03 62 09

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

PRIMARY/PRE SCHOOL seeks English teacher. Must be mother tongue & have experience with young children. Call Ecole La Fontaine, Cagnes on 04 93 20 69 76

URGENT: DRIVER WANTED to join The Riviera Gazette's delivery team. Must have own car and be available on Thursdays. Call 04 93 09 66 43.

Jobs wanted

MULTILINGUAL organised dynamic British PA/translator (Fr/Sp/It) Antibes. Kate 06 65 40 55 90

ANGLO-French lady seeks house-keeper/carer position. Ex-London nanny. Cagnes, Tel 06 17 19 54 96

LANGUAGE teacher, Ger/Sp/Eng seeks live-in position this summer. Email michahesse@terra.es

WORLDWIDE multilingual, multi-skilled and reliable seeks position. Christina 06 89 50 24 02

LEARNING

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

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FRENCH lessons at home by qualified teacher. 10yrs experience. 06 03 70 42 71

A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL is being added to the La Fontaine pre-school in Cagnes sur Mer this September. Private school, 20-24 children per class. Montessori influenced. Education in French

with the security of English-speaking back up. Open 7:30-18:30 weekdays. Call 04 93 20 69 76 for details.

LEARN French in Cannes. No.1 on the Côte d'Azur. Free trial. 04 93 93 33 10, www.grand-bleu.net

MOVIES

The Riviera Gazette's guide to this week's 'Version Originale' films with English-language soundtracks...

Le Casino

Ave du 24 aout, Antibes

MATRIX RELOADED Tue 20:30

Les Arcades

Rue Felix-Faure, Cannes

THE HULK Daily 16:00, 18:30, 21:00 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE Daily 18:00

Cinema Sporting

Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo

BASIC Mon 17:30, 21:15

Mercury

Place Garibaldi, Nice

25TH HOUR Fri 21:40 ABOUT SCHMIDT Thu 20:10 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN Mon 20:10 CHICAGO Mon 16:00 DOGVILLE Sat 21:15 FAR FROM HEAVEN Sat 19:25 FRIDA Thu 18:00, Fri 21:40, Sat 17:00 THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE Sat 21:40 THE LORD OF THE RINGS:TWO TOWERS Tue 21:30 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS Tue 21:40

UGC Rialto

Rue de Rivoli, Nice

THE HULK Daily 13:45, 16:25, 19:05, 21:45 Plus Sat, Sun, Mon 11:00 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE Daily 13:45, 17:55, 20:00 LONG WAY HOME Daily 16:00, 22:10 plus Sat, Sun, Mon 11:30

Cinema Valbonne

Salle des Fetes, Valbonne

FRIDA Thu 20:30, Sun 18:00, 20:30, Mon 20:30

PERSONAL

BRITISH girl new to Antibes, looking for fun mates. Male/female, 30-40yrs. Tel 06 03 73 63 18

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PETS

HOME needed for cat. Female adult tabby, very good natured. Frejus, tel 06 08 89 02 88

PROPERTY

XCHANGE 2bd flat Maida Vale nr Hyde Pk for similar, Antibes. Jul/Aug min. 15days. 06 07 53 45 83

MARRAKESH stunning artist's riad. Pool, views, staff. Tel 06 13 30 78 14 or www.riadelzohar.com

GROUND flr apt in villa, 90sqm. V comfortable, garage w/mechanical door. Tel 04 93 42 93 58

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KIWI wants house share for summer. Fun & easy going. Frans, 06 79 29 39 79

Property for sale

VALBONNE 4bed, 160sqm. 1600sqm gdn. Garage, construction permit. €630,000. Tel 06 64 24 66 37

Property to let

DOUBLE room for rent in large villa on Cap d'Antibes. Available immediately. Contact gbqfr2001@yahoo.fr or call 06 25 07 28 36

VILLA Le Rouret 30mins from Nice, 20mins Sophia. Sleeps 8, pool. Tel 04 93 77 31 96

APART Monte-Carlo centre. All home comforts, protected property, Tel 04 93 28 38 10

PRESTIGE villa sleeps 6-8, private grounds, 2000sqm garden, pool. Quality services. Weekly, monthly, 3 monthly or longer. Summer/winter Tel 04 93 28 38 10



Ref 8543 FOR SALE ANTIBES Modern new house in quiet private domaine, 3 beds, 80sqm, 2 parking spaces. Garden views. €355,000

Ref 8606 FOR SALE JUAN LES PINS House in residence minutes from sea. 200sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths, terrace with spa/pool. Country views. €810,900

Ref 8419 FOR RENT LE CANNET Beautiful villa in the hills looking over Cannes. 4 beds, 4 baths/showers, pool, dbl garage. €8,000/wk in Jul/Aug

Ref 8445 FOR RENT MOUGINS Det'd house in domaine. 250sqm, 5 beds, 3 baths, fully eqp'd kitchen. Pool, garage. Garden views. €2,650/wk Jul/Aug MOUGINS 04 92 92 47 50, NICE 04 92 04 99 99, ST TROPEZ 04 94 54 78 48 See 500 properties at www.coast-country.com

ALPS 3 bed house, mountain village, nr lake. Short lets from Sept. Tel 04 93 64 64 50

JUAN LES PINS one bedroom flat available for long/short term lets from September. UK tel +44 (0)207 219 3444

Holiday lets

VALBONNE villa Jul/Aug sleeps 7-8, pool. Tel 06 07 10 09 06 Http://mon-site.wanadoo.fr/villa133

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SUPERB 2rm apt, old Antibes, 2 min sea, twin king bed, avail Aug/Sep, €65/night, 06 32 20 22 67

STUDIO for rent, Nice, 3 mins to sea. Jul/Aug, sleeps 3. Only €150/wk. Email paulista@mons.be

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CAVALAIRE sur Mer. 1 bed garden flat. Shared pool, 7min to sea. €450-630. Tel 44 (0)208 946 6694

NICE studio sea view sleep 2, private protected domain. Tennis & pool. €450-500/wk. 06 23 02 04 20

NICE P des Anglais right by beach. Sleep 5, all new. TV&wash mach. Aug/Sep. +39 33 82 64 22 88

NICE city centre nr beaches. Share 2rms with lady. Fully equipped, very quiet. €450/fortnight, €250/wk. Tel 04 93 88 67 52

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PLEASANT flat in Villefranche old city. Quiet, free site, close to shops and beaches. Aug/Sept, €450/wk negotiable. Tel 04 93 76 99 53 / 06 84 96 28 54 Email m.cerise@voila.fr

Property wanted

ENGLISH lady wants to rent self cont accom, 3 month winter let or house-sit. hollyhock79@hotmail.com

ACCOM for 4-6 pers needed from the 5th-14 Sep, Antibes area for Nice Triathlon. +44 7970 894277

VILLA for Sept, 4bd, pool. Vence, Antibes, Cagnes area. Email Mandy AMANDAFAZELYNIA@AOL.COM

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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

- Cagnes sur Mer Traffic lights and 30km/h limit on RD2085/6 until Oct 30. Contes Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD15 until July 25. Gattieres Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on the RD2209 until July 18. Le Broc RD101 closed; diversion via RD1 and RD2202 until Nov 28. Menton Long-term delays on Blvd Camot during road widening works. Nice Voie Rapide closed from 11pm until 6am every night until Sept 30. Puget Théniers Traffic lights and 100km/h limit on RN202 until July 24. St Etienne de Tinée Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD39 until July 31. St Martin Vesubie RD89 closed. Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50km/h limit on the RN98 coast road.

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4 About you, and payment

Form for providing personal details and payment information.

Free private ads



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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Whenever man comes up with a better mousetrap, Nature immediately comes up with a better mouse." James Carswell

What's On and Where To Go...

The Riviera This week

Thursday 10

- Charles Cermolacce's **wood and stone sculptures** go on display today at Valbonne's Hotel de Ville. The exhibition lasts all summer and is open from 17:00 daily and at weekends until September 10. Tel: 04 93 12 32 30.
- Villeneuve-Loubet is having an **environmental awareness day** exploring nature and the environment at the Parc des Rives du Loup in the village between 10:00 and 18:00. Tel: 04 92 60 78 78.
- The **World Backgammon Championship** is taking place in Monte-Carlo's Grand Hotel until July 13. The final is on Sunday at 14:00 and is followed by cocktails and a prize-giving ceremony at 21:00 in the Salon Foyer. Tel: +377 93 50 65 00
- Bunny Wailer and Israel Vibration are performing at La Pinède in Juan les Pins in **The Big Reggae Festival** tonight from 19:30. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00.
- Villefranche-sur-Mer is hosting **Musical Moments of the Citadel** with the Casadeus Trio. Lionel Bringuier will be playing Brahms, Mendelssohn and Beethoven this evening at 21:00. Tickets are €12. Tel: 04 93 01 73 68.
- There is a **beach disco** with DJ Jean Max starting at 21:00 on the Plage des Sablettes in Menton. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 92 41 76 50.

Friday 11

- The Haut de Cagnes **antiques fair** will be open each day until Monday in the town's main square. Tel: 04 93 22 19 24.
- The first international **accordion festival** is being held in the village of St Jeannet in the Place de l'Eglise. There will be concerts every evening at 19:00 until Sunday. Tel: 04 93 24 73 83.
- Central Line, a group of singers, dancers and musicians from London's Notting Hill, are performing **calypso, soul, jazz, rap and R&B** at Cannes' Kiosque des Allées de la Liberté at 21:30 tonight and tomorrow. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83.
- **Lou Reed** is performing at Monaco's Grimaldi Forum at 21:00. Tickets are €38 to €48. Tel: +377 99 99 30 00.
- Algerian-born French musical megastar **Patrick Bruel** is singing at a charity concert for the SPA (society for the protection of animals) tonight and tomorrow night at the Sporting Monte-Carlo. Tickets, including dinner from 20:30, are €143. 'Concert only' tickets for the show, which starts at 22:00, are €80. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.
- Vence's annual music festival **Nuits du Sud** kicks off tonight at 21:00 with South African performer Johnny Clegg and Argentinian Minino Garay in the place du Grand Jardin. The Friday and Saturday night concerts go on until August 9. Tickets are €13 Tel: 04 93 58 40 10.
- Rock group **The Running Birds** are performing in Mouans Sartoux at 21:00 in the

château. Tickets are €10 for adults and €5 for under 12s. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16.

- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Prague and Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today is the World Backgammon Championships.

Saturday 12

- The 44th Jazz à Juan **jazz festival** starts tonight at the town's beachside Pinède Gould at 20:30 with funky jazz from Candy Dulfer and Maceo Parker. The festival lasts until July 20 and includes performances by Keith Jarrett, Herbie Hancock, Lucky Peterson and Ike Turner. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00.
- Janet and Howard Thomas' private collection of **over 30 portraits and nudes** by Jean-Gabriel Domergue will be on display at Villa Domergue in Cannes from today until August 31. The villa, in the Californie district, is open between 15:30 and 19:30 but is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Entrance is €3. Tel: 04 97 06 44 90.
- The opening of the Cannes Malmaison's **Picasso - Travels in Friendship** exhibition is tonight at 19:00. The show goes on until September 28 and includes a number of portraits of his family and friends. Opening hours are 11:00 to 20:00 except Mondays and entrance is €4. Tel: 04 97 06 44 90.
- An exhibition of **photographs of Picasso** by Lucien Clergue starts today at the Espace Miramar in Cannes, and runs until September 28. Entrance is €4. Opening hours are 14:00 to 19:00 daily except Mondays. Tel: 04 97 06 44 90.
- The annual **light and music show** over the waterfalls of the river Loup at the Gorges de Loup (Saut du Loup) in Gourdon starts today until August 19. This year's theme is gypsy music and Miles Davis playing his trumpet. The shows last 30 minutes and start at 22:00 and 22:40. Tickets for adults are €8, under 18s €6 and under 12s €2. Tel: 04 93 09 68 88 after 15:00.
- Guitarist **Christian Brun and his trio** are playing at Valbonne's Salle des Fêtes tonight at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 12 32 30.
- LOT flies to Gdansk, Warsaw and Wrocław at 16:30.
- Continuing today is the accordion festival, Haut de Cagnes' antiques fair, Central Line, Patrick Bruel and Vence's Nuits du Sud.

● It is the island of Sainte-Marguerite's **annual festival**. There will be aperitifs from 19:00 and music and dancing all evening on the island. Catch a ferry by the Palais des Festivals in Cannes to get there. Tel: 04 97 06 46 01.
- La Gaude is celebrating July 14 with a **Caribbean ball** starting at 21:00 in the Place des Victoires. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 93 24 47 26.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are Jazz à Juan, the World Backgammon Championship and Gourdon's music and light show.

● Today is **Bastille day**, a public holiday. There will be celebrations and fireworks in all towns.

● Cannes' annual international **music and fireworks competition** runs from today until August 24. The festival is a series of shows organised by teams of pyrotechnics experts from Portugal, Canada, Germany, France and Italy. Performances start at 22:00 over the bay of Cannes. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83

● Tournettes-sur-Loup is celebrating July 14 with a **summer ball and fireworks** at the place de la Liberation. Tel: 04 93 59 30 11.

● LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.

● **Elvis** is alive and well and playing in Draguignan this evening, says the town's tourist office. Go to boulevard Clemenceau, opposite the tourist office, at 19:30. Tel: 04 98 10 51 05.

● The **Nice Philharmonic Orchestra** is playing this evening at the Château in Roquebrune Cap Martin. Tel: 04 93 35 62 87.

● LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.

● Continuing today is Cannes' music and fireworks competition.

● Monaco's Grimaldi Forum is holding a **Super Warhol** exhibition until August 31 in the Espace Ravel. Tel: + 377 99 99 30 00.

● LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.

● There is **Brazilian jazz** this evening at the Château St Julien d'Aille in Vidauban as part of the Var Village Voice's 'Jazz in the Vineyards' summer programme. Dance the night away to sambas and salsa from 19:00. Admission is €10. Tel: 04 94 04 49 60 or email anitavvv@tiscali.fr

● Beaulieu-sur-Mer is having its traditional **Bastille day** celebrations tonight with dancing and fireworks at 23:00. The evening starts at 21:00 in place de la Batterie. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21.

● Roquefort-les-Pins is hosting a **car boot and**

Sunday 13

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AM	21°C Sunny	20°C Sunny	21°C Sunny	20°C Sunny	21°C Sunny	22°C Sunny	Avg. high: 26°C Avg. low: 19°C Avg. rainfall: 16mm
PM	29°C Sunny	30°C Sunny	29°C Sunny	29°C Sunny	29°C Sunny	31°C Sunny	Summer's here! Watch out for sunburn, mozzies and burglars taking advantage of open windows...

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