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My Riviera West End star Christina Collier on getting ready to sing in Nice, p6

What's On This week's guide is on page 8, and the whole of August is on page 2...

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Wild Fire Spreads

Fire destroys area 50 times the size of Monaco, p3

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Law abiding Monaco residents get stung by French property tax, p4

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It's a Dog's Life

Menton mutt joins lifeguard team, p4

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Kilted charity cyclist to reach Calais tonight, p5

Film Guide

23 English-language films in seven cinemas this week, p7

Nationalists claim responsibility for attacks at government offices

CORSICAN BOMBS EXPLODE IN NICE

By JENNY PAUL

CORSICAN terrorists say they blew up the Nice customs headquarters and the town's tax office during the early hours of Sunday morning, injuring 16 people.

There was major damage to the main building, surrounding shops, and cars parked in Rue Tonduti de la Escarene and Rue Delille. Over 100 people living in the area were evacuated.

The first bomb exploded at 2:30am, followed by a second nine minutes later. Maurice Ruel, Director General of Customs was trapped in his apartment after the blast. He lives in a flat on the third floor of the targeted building and the door to his apartment was blocked by rubble.

"The blast barricaded me in my apartment. Luckily we were only trapped for about five minutes before the firemen freed us. I didn't really have time to be scared but afterwards I felt sadness and a sense of confusion," Ruel told The Gazette.

"We are not ruling out the possibility of more bombs going off - you never know. We have stepped up security measures and are being extra vigilant."

A Corsican nationalist terror organisation, the Front de Liberation Nationale de Corse (FLNC), has claimed responsibility for the blasts,



GUTTED...explosions ripped apart Nice's customs headquarters and a tax office in the early hours of Sunday, injuring 16 people

just days after it announced that a seven-month ceasefire had come to an end.

The blasts are the latest setback in Corsica's difficult and often violent relationship with France.

The island has been part of France since 1768 but some Corsicans want independence and this has been a source of bloodshed for decades.

The arrest of Corsican separatist Yvan Collona on July 4 in connection with the 1998 murder of the island's prefect, Claude Erignac, has sparked fresh attacks on French targets on Corsica, including a post office and four French-owned holiday villas.

Collona had been a fugitive ever since the assassination and was tracked down to a stone hut in an

early morning swoop by police just two days before the island narrowly voted against French government proposals which would have allowed the island limited autonomy.

Analysts say the referendum was fudged because president Jacques Chirac had claimed that a yes vote would actually mean reinforcing the island's historical ties with France.

19,000 copies this week. We're taking a summer break - look for The Gazette again on Thursday September 4

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Got a story? Call our newsdesk on 04 93 09 66 43

What to do in August

The Gazette starts its summer holiday today – but our top tips for what to see and do in August will make sure you don't miss out on the Riviera's best events while we're away. We're back on September 4. Bonnes vacances!

All month...

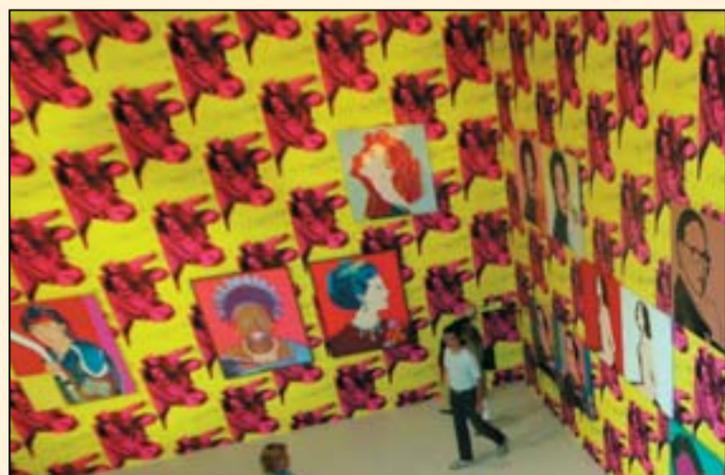
- Nice's **Nuits Musicales**, a season of evening concerts in the Monastery gardens continues until August 8. There are classical performances, international orchestras and soloists. Tel: 08 00 95 08 50.
- The **Barbie Jewellery Collection** is showing at Monaco's National Museum until September. Tel: +377 93 30 91 26.
- Cagnes-sur-Mer's summer **horse racing** season is on at the Hippodrome. There are regular summer race meetings and evening events until August 25. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.
- The Palm Beach Casino in Cannes is exhibiting **Salvador Dali's Christ**, a 3.5 metre sculpture. The exhibition also includes works by Arman. Also running is the first International Festival of Fashion photography. Both exhibitions run until the end of August. Tel: 04 9 06 36 90.
- The Musée de Beaux-arts in Nice is holding an exhibition of **Raoul Dufy's** work until September 28. Some of the works on display are on loan from the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Open every day except Mondays. Tel: 04 92 15 28 28.
- Janet and Howard Thomas' private collection of over 30 portraits and nudes by **Jean-Gabriel Domergue** is on display at the Villa Domergue in Cannes until the end of the month. Entrance is €3 and opening hours are 15:30 to 19:30 daily except Sundays and Mondays. Tel: 04 97 06 44 90.
- An exhibition of photographs of **Picasso** by Lucien Clergue is showing at the Espace Miramar in Cannes until September. Entrance is €4 and opening hours are 11:00 to 20:00 daily except Monday.
- Cannes' Malmaison is exhibiting **Picasso – Travels in Friendship** 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 until the end of August. Tel: 04 97 06 44 90.
- Cannes' annual **music and fireworks** competition is on every evening at 22:00 until August 24. The festival is a series of show by teams of pyrotechnics experts from Portugal, Canada, Germany, France and Italy. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83.
- Menton's **54th music festival**, the annual chamber opera, continues until



RAOUL DUFY... Open Window at Nice

August 25 in the baroque square of the Parvis de la Basilique Saint-Michel Archange in the old town of Menton, with performances by international artists including Sophie Koch and Olli Mustonen. Tickets start at €24. Tel: 04 92 41 76 95.

- The **Super Warhol** exhibition at the Grimaldi Forum's Espace Ravel continues until August 31. Tel: +377 99 99 30 00.
- There is **children's entertainment** at Monaco's Quai Albert 1er all month. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16.
- Nice's festival of **southern music** including Brazilian, gypsy music and Italian folk continues at the Théâtre de Verdure on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 21:00 until August 30. Tel: 08 92 70 74 07.
- Actors and musicians are conducting guided walks through the **Castellada Château** above Nice starting at 21:00 daily except Monday and Tuesday until September 6. Tel: 04 92 14 48 00.
- Villefranche-sur-Mer's **changing of the guard**, a re-inactment of the historical meeting of Savoy and French soldiers, takes place every evening at the entrance to the citadel from 19:00 to 19:15 until the end of August.
- Charles Cermolacce's **sculpture exhibition** of works in wood and stone is open daily until August 10 in the gardens of the Hôtel de Ville in Valbonne. Tel: 04 93 12 32 30.
- Cagnes-sur-Mer's **International Jewellery Show** continues until September



SUPER WARHOL... the pop art exhibition at the Monaco Grimaldi Forum's Espace Ravel is running all summer until August 31.

14 at the Espace Solidor. The exhibition shows modern jewellery by German craftsmen Dorothea Prühl, Hermann Jünger, Gabriele Dziuba and Gerd Rothmann. Tel: 04 92 02 85 05.

- Cagnes-sur-Mer's exhibition of **Contemporary German Art** with paintings and sculptures by Erich Lindebery, Ans Matthis and Peter Vogt continues at the Château Musée Grimaldi until October. Tel: 04 92 02 47 30.

Friday, August 1

- Grasse's **Jasmine Festival** is taking place until Sunday 3. The annual celebration includes fireworks, dancing, flower battles and parades. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66.

- The British Association of the Var is having a **wine, cheese and paté** evening tonight in Le Luc. Tel: 04 94 47 06 28

- Vence's **Nuits du Sud** continues tonight and tomorrow night at 21:00 in the Place du Grand Jardin with Cuban music by Clave y Guaguanco and Puerto Rican singer Plena Libre. Tickets are €13. Tel: 04 93 58 40 17.

- Monaco's **15th Biennale** starts on Friday August 1. The jewellery and art exhibition at the Sporting d'Hiver goes on until Sunday 17. Tel: +377 92 16 61 66.

- Jazz Manouche, **gypsy-style jazz** made famous by guitarist Django Reinhardt is playing at Mouans Sartoux Château at 21:00 tonight. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16.

- The 31st **Karting Grand Prix** is being held in Menton until Sunday at the Terplein de Garavan, in front of Stade Lucien Rhein. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 93 35 90 86.

Saturday 2

- Stars 'n' Bars **Nightlife Party** is on tonight at Monaco's Quai Antoine 1er with DJ David Vendetta from Les Bains Paris. Tel: +377 97 97 95 95.

- Haut de Cagnes' **medieval weekend** starts today in the village centre with troubadours, acrobats, fire-eaters and jousting tournaments. Tel: 04 93 20 61 64.

Sunday 3

- **Cunnie Williams and Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings** are playing at Le Sporting in Monte-Carlo this evening at 22:00. Tickets are €60 or €80 including dinner. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.

Monday 4

- **Lionel Ritchie** is performing at Le Sporting in Monte-Carlo tonight and tomorrow at 22:00. Tickets are €48 or €80 including dinner. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.

Friday 8

- **The Red Cross Ball**, a charity fund raiser at the Sporting Monte-Carlo, is tonight at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 16 61 66.

- Haut de Cagnes is having a **free jazz** concert at 21:00 in the Place du Château.

- Vence's **Nuits du Sud** continues this weekend with performances by Cuban band Azucar Negra and the Buenavista Social Club's Barbarito Torres. Tickets are €13 and performances start at 21:00 in the Place du Grand Jardin. Tel: 04 93 58 40 17.

- The **Rythm of the Dance** is on at Golfe Juan's Théâtre de la mer at 21:00 tonight. The vibrant music and dance show is inspired by traditional Celtic reel dancing and songs influenced by the jazz rhythms of Latin America. Tel: 04 93 19 37 40.

Saturday 9

- The **British Association** is having dinner at The Pekin Chinese restaurant in Nice starting with aperitifs at 19:30. €22 for members and €25 for non members including drinks. Tel: 06 23 40 45 41.

- The **5th Riviera Country Music Festival** is on tonight and tomorrow at the Parc des Canebiers Sud in Cagnes-sur-Mer. There will be American cars and motorbikes on display and country dancing lessons. Performers include Doc Fargo, Jackson Mackay and Charlie Mac Coy. The evening starts at 18:00 and goes on till 23:00. Tel: 04 93 20 61 64

- It's **fiesta day** in Monaco today between 18:00 and 23:00 with street stalls, performers and fireworks. Entrance free. Tel: +377 97 77 08 93.

Monday 11

- **Cap Jazz** starts today until August 14 at the Amphitheatre de la Mer in Cap d'Ail. Tickets are €35. Tel: 04 93 78 02 33.

Wednesday 13

- **Juan Carmona** is playing the Place du Marche in Cannes La Bocca this evening at 21:00. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83.

Thursday 14

- The **Sound Splash Festival** of electronic music is on today at Nice's Theatre de Verdure at 20:00 with Roni Size, Gilles Peterson, Zero DB and StudioNEX. Tickets are €23. Tel: 04 92 14 48 00.

- The Montauroux **International Guitar Festival** starts today until August 17 at the Aire Saint-Barthelemy with a variety of music from reggae/ska to jazz and classical. Tickets are €10. Tel: 08 92 68 36 22.

Friday 15

- There is a **car boot sale** at 11 route de la Marigarde in Grasse all day today starting at 10:00. Tel: 06 11 96 17 20.

- La Turbie's **Music and Lights** show starts today until August 24 at the Trophée des Alpes. The nightly 40 minute show lights up the columns of the monument to various musical themes including Vivaldi, Ronnie Size, Massive Attack and Stravinsky. Tel: 04



LIONEL RITCHIE... at the Sporting

93 41 21 15.

- Stars 'n' Bars **Beach Party Weekend** starts tonight with DJ Ketty, DJ Manu and a surprise special guest DJ. There will also be dancers, live percussion and saxophone. At 6 Quai Antoine 1er. Tel: +377 97 97 95 95.

- Beaulieu-sur-Mer is having a **flea market** in the Port de Plaisance until Sunday. Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00.

Saturday 16

- La Gaude is having a South American evening with **Andean music** from the group Viracocha at 21:00 in the Ecole Marcel Pagnol. Tel: 04 93 24 47 26.

- There is a **football match** between Orange and Monaco-Bastia at Monte-Carlo's Stade Louis II tonight at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 05 37 54.

Sunday 17

- The **Cabris Cricket Club** is playing against Morrison's Irish Pub at St Vallier de



JEAN-GABRIEL DOMERGUE... one of over 30 paintings on display in Cannes

They. The three day match starts at midday. Tel: 04 93 01 30 00

Thursday 21

- La Colle sur Loup is having a **night market** in the old town, from 17:00 to midnight. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.

- Valbonne's **annual antiques fair** is on until Sunday and open from 10:00 to 20:00 every day with a late night until 22:00 on the 22nd. Entrance is €5. Tel: 06 07 29 72 62.

Friday 22

- This year's Grand Prix **trotting championships** are on at Cagnes sur Mer's Hippodrome. Festivities start at 17:30 with horse demonstrations before the race and fireworks at 23:30. Tel: 04 93 22 51 00.

- St Jeanne's annual **John the Baptist festival** weekend kicks off this evening at the Place du Verger at 20:30 with dinner, dancing and street performers. The weekend event includes children's entertainment, live music, and a boules tournament in the Jardin Malaussène. Tel: 04 93 24 73 83.

Saturday 23

- The **24th square boules world championships** take place today and tomorrow in Haut de Cagnes at the Montée de la Bourgade. Tel: 04 3 73 53 72.

Sunday 24

- St Tropez' **Antiques Fair** starts today with art and antiques on sale at the Esplanade du Nouveau Port until September 7. Open 10:00 to 13:00 and 17:00 to 21:00 daily. Tel: 04 94 97 45 21.

- The **St Petersburg Ballet** is performing at Cannes' Palais des Festivals this evening at 19:00. Tickets are priced from €26. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83.

Wednesday 27

- The **British Association's** Nice Branch is holding its monthly lunch at the Green Room, Nice at 12:00. Everyone is welcome and the price for members is €22; for non-members €25. Bookings essential. Contact Linda on 06 23 40 45 41.

Friday 29

- The **UEFA football cup final** is taking place at Monaco's Louis II Stadium at 20:45. Tel: +377 92 05 40 00

- The 7th International **Beach Football Tournament** kicks off at the Larvotto Beach at 17:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 66.

- Roquefort les Pins is celebrating the festival of **Notre Dame** with markets in the town, live music, food and fireworks until Sunday. Tel: 04 93 09 67 54.

- St-Raphaël is having an **antiques fair** at the Palais de Congrès until Sunday. Opening hours are 10:00 to 20:00 every day and entrance is €5. Tel: 06 07 29 72 62.

Sunday 31

- Bar sur Loup is exhibiting its local **artists paintings** in the streets of the town starting at 10:00 and going on all day today. Tel: 04 93 42 72 21.

What an Eiffel

THREE thousand tourists were evacuated from the Eiffel tower in Paris on Tuesday when a fire broke out near the top of the 324 metre high structure.

Over 100 fire-fighters quickly brought the blaze under control and nobody was injured. The cause of the fire is under investigation but foul play is not suspected.

The 114 year-old tower reopened to visitors yesterday.

Grassed up

POSTAL officials in Lesquin, northern France, discovered 40 grams of cannabis in a Chronopost package that was on its way to Bandol in the Var.

They say they were alerted to the contents by its unmistakable smell. The sender, who had rather unwisely put his name on the package, was arrested the following day.

Eau really?

THE quality of local tap water has improved in the last year according to statistics released by water supplier Compagnie Generale des Eaux last week.

But the price has also risen by 3.8 per cent due to the costs involved in "assuring the quality and preventing the pollution of the water."

Bank spurns La Poste

CREDIT AGRICOLE is considering using the Dutch or German postal services to handle outbound mail, instead of La Poste.

The bank has already contacted the foreign organisations with a view to getting a more competitive price and a better service.

Air Lib fibs

THE former director general of bankrupt airline Air Lib has been arrested in Paris.

Jean-Charles Corbet is suspected of using "company funds for his own personal gain."



THE GREAT ESCAPE... Residents and tourists flee Vidauban, part of an estimated 9,000 who dashed to safety as the fire took hold

FIRE DEVASTATES VAR FOREST

A WILDFIRE in the Maures hills in the Var caused over four thousand residents and holidaymakers to be evacuated last weekend as it destroyed 10,000 hectares of forest.

The area destroyed is five times the size of the commune of Valbonne, or over 50 times the size of Monaco.

Terrified people who escaped the raging flames had to spend the night in sports centres and other public facilities. The A8 motorway had to be closed for a time on Friday afternoon, causing traffic chaos.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin visited the area by helicopter on Saturday to see the devastation first hand. "The scene is moon-like, the

ecology has been reduced to nothing. I've never seen nature so devastated. There is hardly a green blade left in this dark and sombre space," he said after his visit.

Raffarin unveiled a €500,000 aid package to help the area rebuild after the disaster and warned that people must be extra vigilant during long dry spells.

Vincent Mollay of Vidauban told The Gazette: "I went to the post office on Thursday at 2:25pm and saw the fire breaking out. I rang my wife and said, 'Fire! Get out!' but then the line went dead as the cables burned.

"I then called the fire brigade and we soon had helicopters flying over-

head. All around us houses were burning. I went into mine to look for my wife, but a firefighter grabbed me saying, 'Come! You can't stay here!'

"Just after 4pm we were allowed back to the house - the garden was burnt and still smouldering.

"But a couple in their 70s who live in my road weren't so lucky; their house burned down. I don't know what they are going to do - we are all very upset."

Elsewhere in France, 180 hectares of forest was devoured by flames in the eastern Pyrenees on Saturday, while fire-fighters on the island of Corsica received reinforcements from the mainland to cope with their blazes.

Mums back to work

A MINISTRY of employment study out last week revealed that three quarters of women who have given up work to look after their children are planning to go back - eventually.

Despite 92 per cent citing 'wanting to devote themselves to their offspring' as their reason for becoming a housewife, only 5 per cent envisaged never going back to work, while 18 per cent had no fixed timetable for returning to paid employment.

Cheaper restaurants?

THE European Commission has given the go-ahead for a drop in VAT charged by French restaurateurs, from 19.6 to 5.5 per cent.

The measure, an election pledge last year, is set to cost the government €3.5 billion in lost revenue and should lead to lower prices for consumers. Final say on the move will come from the EU Council of Ministers in September.

Congestion question

TRAFFIC congestion charges may be introduced in major French towns following the rollout of a scheme in London where cars entering the city centre are charged £5 (€7).

The proposals come from a committee set up by the General Commission for Planning to look at traffic problems in urban areas.

Club Med hold-up

OPIO'S Club Med holiday resort was robbed in broad daylight on Tuesday when two gunmen burst in at 9am and demanded that two young workers hand them the contents of the till. The robbers got away with €1,700 in cash.

Roxanne's read right

A NICE child prodigy has passed her BAC exams at the age of 13. Roxanne, a pupil at Michelet school, passed her science exam with honours in Maths.

SOVEREIGN

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UPDATE

INHERITANCE TAX & PROPERTY

According to a recent survey, the average price of property on the Côte d'Azur is now 450,000 Euro - an increase of 50 per cent over the past two years. This is great news for those of you who have invested in property, but even better news for the taxman.

Most UK expats remain liable to UK inheritance tax even if they left the UK many years ago. This means that many expats - especially those who also have property in the UK - will be finding that the increased value of their property now takes them over the lifetime UK inheritance tax exemption level, which is £255,000.

Inheritance tax varies by coun-

try, but with UK inheritance tax currently at 40 per cent this could seriously affect the final value of your estate, leaving your loved ones with an unwanted tax bill when you die. This week **Sovereign Update** looks at some of the many issues that can affect your liability to inheritance tax.

Domicile

Last week we looked in depth at the advantages of being 'UK non-domiciled'. This is a classification that may be obtainable if you have no intention of returning to Britain to live and are able to prove this to the Inland Revenue.

The UK government has plans

to reform the non-domicile status but currently the tax advantages are considerable. If you are non-UK domiciled you are only subject to UK inheritance tax on assets situated within the UK. In contrast if you are domiciled in the UK you must pay tax on ALL your assets, regardless of where they are located.

Double charges

Estate duties may be payable in your country of residence and in the country where the assets are physically located. Without proper planning a double charge on the same asset can and does occur, as credit is often not given for tax paid in one country against tax due in another.

'Equalising' your estate

Estates not exceeding £255,000 are exempt from UK inheritance tax so married couples should try and 'equalise their estates' to take full advantage of this exemption.

For example, a man, whose wife is wealthy in her own right, should consider leaving all or part of his estate to other beneficiaries. This avoids adding to the potential charge on his wife's estate upon her death.

Lifetime gifts

Lifetime gifts, which exceed the £255,000 nil rate band, are taxed at a maximum of only 20 per cent on death. In many cases the gift will be exempt from this tax and in others it will be a 'potentially exempt transfer'. This means that if the donor survives for more than seven years after making the gift there are no inheritance tax consequences.

Corporate ownership

As a company never dies, inheritance tax can be avoided by owning property through a corporate structure. The structure may also provide you with additional planning opportunities for the eventual transfer of the ownership - through a discretionary trust, for example.

Plan ahead and leave your assets to your loved ones, not the taxman. If you would like further information regarding tax planning or corporate ownership, please contact us.

The information provided in this article does not constitute advice and no responsibility will be accepted for any loss occasioned directly or indirectly as a result of persons acting, or refraining from acting, wholly or partially in reliance upon it.

Taxing issues?

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News

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MONACO EXPATS GET TAX REPRIEVE

By Jenny Paul

MONACO residents who own second homes in France have been granted a welcome tax break by the French government.

"For the last ten years Monaco residents have been liable to tax on their second homes in France," Francis Ferrari, senior partner with the principality's branch of Ernst & Young told The Gazette.

"The highest court in France, equivalent to the House of Lords in the UK, recently

ruled that Monaco residents no longer have to pay the tax on their second homes.

"The tax base was as much as three times the property rental value, and income tax rates applied to that notional income," explained Francis.

The ruling is good news for those who have challenged the tax in court over the last ten years; they should get a large

refund. But those who have quietly paid their dues and not opposed the tax will only be able to claim back payments made over the last three years.

"I never paid it anyway. A lot of people didn't," a Monaco resident who did not wish to be named told The Gazette.

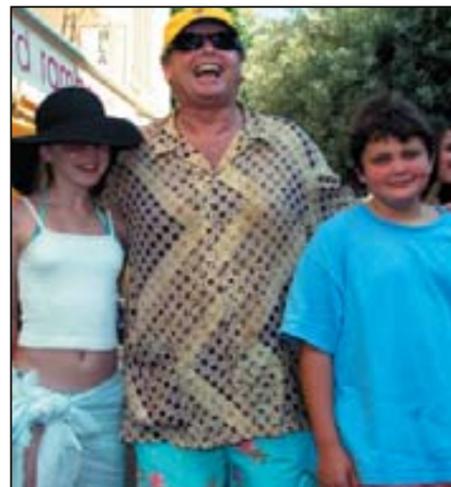
"I always felt it was an illegal tax as it discriminated against Brits and Italians – French residents in Monaco weren't liable for the same taxes on their second homes in France."

CELEB INVASION CONTINUES

Jack's back, Posh 'n' decks, and antiques charm Joan Collins

STAR spotters are having a bumper season as each day brings a fresh crop of celebrities coming to relax on the Riviera.

Hollywood legend Jack Nicholson was spotted in St Tropez with kids Raymond, 11 and Lorraine, 13. Nicholson has recently been filming in Paris.



JACK THE LAD... Nicholson in St Tropez this week

A glammed-up Joan Collins was seen at an antiques fair in Fayence, hiding under a wide brimmed hat and sporting stary black shades.

And Posh and Becks have again been staying at Elton John's mansion in Nice. Victoria Beckham is believed to be in the region for a summit with former Spice Girls impresario Simon Fuller, who looks set to manage her next comeback bid.

The Beckhams were spotted boarding a yacht in Cannes early on Monday evening, possibly to take in the Cannes beach party. And a Gazette source claims Victoria committed a faux-pas at a VIP party on a yacht in St Tropez on Sunday, when she wore stiletto heels on board, which can damage a boat's teak deck.

The Gazette also spotted U2 superstar Bono at the Cannes Beach Party, where the singer shunned the comforts of the VIP area to groove amongst crowd as he took in Massive Attack's set on Monday night.



ANTIQUE LOVER... Joan

LOOK WHAT THE DOG DRAGGED IN

A SHAGGY dog called Simba is the newest member of the Menton beach lifeguard team.

Weighing in at 55 kilos, the 18-month-old black Newfoundland is a strong swimmer by nature and has a natural instinct to save bathers in distress.

"He's easily capable of saving two swimmers at once," lifeguard Marc Coyot told The Gazette. "He hasn't had to jump in and rescue anyone yet, but should you find yourself in distress in our waters and a big black dog comes paddling up, don't be scared!"



GO ON, THROW ME ANOTHER! Simba can drag swimmers to safety

Postal delays until September

THE wave of public sector strikes earlier in the year has led to a huge backlog of undelivered mail piling up in the Alpes Maritimes.

Nice Matin reports that the town's Magnan sorting office is sitting on a pile of 100,000 delayed letters and parcels. Other offices are thought to be similarly affected.

Postal chiefs have hired extra staff to clear the mail mountain, and are hoping that a quiet August will help.

Drugs cutbacks

NEARLY ninety prescription drugs have been taken off the French health system's approved medicines list and will no longer be available for free, it was revealed last week.

The drugs, all thought to have minimal effect, are being axed in a bid to cut down on a €10bn health budget deficit.

On average the French take three times more prescribed medicine than Britons or Germans. France is ranked as having Europe's best health-care by the World Health Organisation.

Electric cars drive into backcountry

VISITORS to the valleys of Vesubie, La Tinée and Paillon in the countryside behind Nice will be able to explore the area in hired electric cars as part of a bid to protect the environment from pollution.

Tourists can now park outside the area's towns and take an electric Renault Kangoo to explore the stunning scenery.

The green idea was thought up by the French electricity board, EDF, and the cars will be available between June and September.

Water shortage looms as record heatwave bites

RECORD beating temperatures have been recorded this month with the mercury hitting 38.5 degrees Celsius in Antibes on July 17. The previous highest recorded temperature in the town was 36.9 degrees in 1989.

Nice has not quite recorded an all-time high – temperatures ‘only’ reached 35.2 degrees, and the record stands at 35.7.

As the heat wave continues the prospect of water restrictions looms, and there are fears that temperatures will rise even higher in August, which is traditionally the Riviera’s hottest month. If no rain falls soon, a coast-wide English-style hosepipe ban is likely as reservoirs dry up.

Exceptional

And the unusually high temperatures seem to be showing no signs of relenting. Meteo France’s Francois Legrand warns: “Yes, June and July have been exceptional and all we can say is that we know your part of France will cool down over the coming weekend as light wind and clouds are forecast. Beyond that I can’t say, but August is traditionally very hot on the Riviera.”

Already many towns halls are asking residents to be economical with water and electricity as local reservoirs run dangerously low and air conditioning units place heavy demand on power supplies.

Check with your mairie if you are uncertain about restrictions in your area.

Kilted rider blazes towards ferry



NEVER SAY NEVERS... Charles pedalled into the central France town on Monday

KILTED cyclist Charles MacFarlane will this evening board the ferry at Caen as he reaches the halfway point of a marathon charity ride from Monaco to Glasgow.

“I’m making good time and it’s surprisingly straightforward,” Charles told The Gazette during a rest stop yesterday. “Although I do have sore legs and a sore bum!”

Charles left Monaco last Friday morning and is spending some ten hours every day in the saddle before sitting down each night to update the website that charts his progress.

“Day four was a real long one – it was 232km, and I rode for 14 hours. I’ve really come to appreciate lorries when they overtake because they give me a tow in their slipstream.

But the trip has not been uneventful. On Tuesday a hole in the road led to Charles taking a tumble. “As I rode into a shadow the bike went bounce,

bounce and hit the kerb, throwing me off. I hit my head on a wall, and put big grazes on my knees and a shoulder.”

“The bike was mostly OK, except for a split inner tube. Luckily I had everything I needed to get it going again. That was a close call!”

“My head was sore, but of course I couldn’t see what I’d done to myself – then I realised I could take a picture with my mobile phone and have a look. It’s quite a deep cut, but I’m OK.”

Readers can follow Charles’ progress – and make charity donations – at www.freewebs.com/monaco-glasgow.



GBH OF THE EARHOLES: Tuesday’s fall left Charles with cuts and bruises

RIVIERA STRIKERS HEAD FOR Highbury

A NEW English-speaking boys’ football team played its first match on Tuesday – and will jet off to take part in an international tournament this weekend.

The eight and nine year olds, mostly pupils at Nice’s International School, have called their team ‘Riviera Strikers’ and have been training intensively since the squad formed four weeks ago.

Now the lads are packing their kit bags to head to England on Saturday to take part in the Arsenal International Soccer Festival, where they’ll be the only overseas team playing in the Under Nines’ seven-a-side competition.

The tournament will see the Riviera Strikers pitted against 15 English teams as they chase cup glory in a series of 15 minute matches at the Royal

Holloway College near Windsor.

Organiser Nish Sawney, 48, told The Gazette “The boys are very excited to be playing in the tournament, and are particularly looking forward to a tour of Arsenal’s Highbury ground on Monday.

“We formed the club to help the lads integrate and get to know people in the local community. Since they all love football, it’s a great way to start them meeting French kids,” the Monaco businessman continued.

Our picture shows squad members Benjamin Sawney, Gustav and Albert Larsson, Santos Vanderburg, Charlie Dast, Stuart Wilmot and Alexandre Fridgant. Not present for the photocall were Dominic Webb and Axel Lilliusunde.



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN... the Strikers with new kit

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My Riviera

Singer **Christina Collier** tells Jenny Paul about working with Michael Crawford and nerve-wracking moments in front of the cameras...

“ I MOVED to the old port of Nice a year and a half ago. I have friends who live here and I'd come on holiday to visit them and I fancied a change. It was a dramatic change in my pace of life as I was living on the edge of Lake Geneva, which was very quiet.

Before I moved there I had a career as a singer in London's West End, where I'd played Christine in The Phantom of The Opera and Jenny Lind in Barnum opposite Michael Crawford.

I'd done tours in Hong Kong and Tokyo and eventually I ended up on Lake Geneva, from where I toured with a tenor for five years. Life was a bit quiet there but now that I'm living in Nice I'm booked up with concerts all summer.

The mayor of Nice has designated this year 'American Year', and as part of the celebrations we're doing a show called One Night On Broadway at the open air theatre in Nice.

It's an amazing place, out in the open by the Promenade des Anglais. Edith Piaf and Eve Menton both sang there in their times. I'll be singing all sorts of familiar numbers, backed by the Nice Philharmonic and dancers from the Opera. There'll be pieces from Phantom, Les Miserables, Miss Saigon and lots of other favourites. At the moment I'm very busy rehears-



SONGBIRD... but Christina longs to find a peaceful perch in the Var

ing for the show – it's at the end of this month.

I'm also doing a concert on August 16 in Roquebillière at the 12th century Templiers Abbey. It's a programme for all the family with arias from Madame Butterfly, Ave Maria and Fauré's Requiem. One of

the plus sides of living here is you are in a nice setting to sing. It's a combination of work and pleasure.

When I'm not singing I like to go to Eze beach as it is quiet and out of the way and has a fabulous restaurant. The peace and quiet just takes me back to

Lake Geneva. I also like renting boats with friends and taking my English picnic basket and laying out the blanket and getting the champagne flutes out.

I'd love to get a little motor boat, so I'm going for my boat licence when summer is over. Until then, though, I'm too busy with work – you don't just turn up and sing; a lot of time has to be spent in rehearsal.

I'm also singing at the Golden Boot football awards in Monaco soon... I'll be singing You'll Never Walk Alone for a footballing luminary as he collects an award. Pelé and Maradona will be there, as well as HSH Prince Albert, and the whole ceremony will be on television so it's a bit nerve wracking!

I like living in the port of Nice, sitting on the terrace and watching the sea, but it's a bit too crowded down here for me. Another passion is going to the Var to hunt out little hidden villages. If I could find a stone Bergerie somewhere there, with easy access to Monaco and the coast, that'd be perfect.

I do think I'll stay down here, but I'll probably edge towards the countryside as I'm really a country girl at heart!

● *Christina Collier stars in One Night on Broadway at Nice's Theatre de Verdure on July 31st at 8:30pm. Admission is €7.50*

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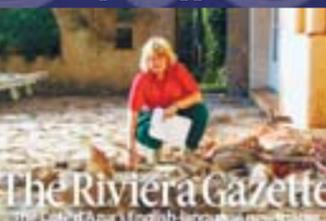
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Tue 20:30

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THE MATRIX: RELOADED
Mon 21:30

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Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo

FRIDA
Mon 17:30, 21:00

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Fri 21:40

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Tue 19:00

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Mon 20:10

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Thu 18:00

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Sat, Sun, 21:40

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FRIDA
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Mon 18:00

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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.
- Le Broc RD101 closed; diversion via RD1 and RD2202 until Nov 28.
- Mandelieu Traffic lights and 50km/h speed limit on RN2007 until August 4.
- Menton Long-term delays on Blvd Carnot during road widening works.
- Nice Voie Rapide closed from 11pm until 6am every night until Sept 30.
- St Etienne de Tinée Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD39 until August 14.
- St Martin Vesubie RD89 closed.
- Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50km/h limit on the RN98 coast road.

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Optional extra lines:

2 Choose your options

Type of advert: Private Trade

Optional extras – see section 3 for prices.

Use all BOLD type Put a box around the advert

Reply box number (for privacy; personal ads only)

3 Work out the price

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

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

4 About you, and payment

Name: _____

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

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"If you take a starving dog and feed him, and make him prosperous, that dog will not bite you. This is the primary difference between a dog and a man." Mark Twain

What's On and Where To Go...

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The Riviera This week

Thursday 24

- Performing at tonight's **Nice Jazz Festival's Hype...Hype... Hype... Hourra** are David Guetta, Erik Truffaz, Gotan Project, Laurent de Wilde, Frederic Galliano & The African Divas, Rubin Steiner, Bumcello and Jerome Badini. Gates open at 17:30 in the Cimiez Gardens and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.
- La Colle sur Loup is having a summer **night market** from 17:00 to midnight in the streets of the old town. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.
- Thoronet Abbey's season of **medieval music** continues tonight with the Gundecha brothers from India - Umakant, Akhilesh and Ramakant Gundecha. Tel: 04 94 60 10 94.
- The Nice Chamber Orchestra is playing **Mozart's Symphony No 30**, Concerto for two violins and orchestra and Symphony no 28, conducted by J-F Manzone at St Paul de Vence's Place de la Courtine at 21:15. Tel: 04 93 32 45 82.
- St Jean Cap Ferrat's 16th **Antiques Fair** starts today at the gym on Place du Centenaire and goes on until Monday 28. Opening hours are 10:00 to 19:00 every day. Tel: 04 93 76 08 90.

Friday 25

- Performing at tonight's **Nice Jazz Festival's Ladies Forever** are Beth Gibbons & Rustin' Man, Noa, Case de la Trova, Gianna Nannini, Oumou Sangare, Bebel Gilberto, Lisa Ekdahl and N'dambi. Gates open at 17:30 and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.
- Monaco's Stars 'n' Bars is having a **Jack Daniels evening** with live music from Inimitable, a Tennessee-based band, at 6 Quai Antoine 1er. Tel: +377 97 97 95 95.
- The Sporting Monte-Carlo is having a **Panama Latin American** theme night starting at 21:00 and a fireworks display later on in the evening. Tickets from €80. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.
- Vence's **Nuits du Sud** music festival continues tonight and tomorrow with DJ Dolores & the orchestra Santa Massa and Daniela Mercury, both from Brazil. Performances start at 21:00 and tickets are €13. Tel: 04 93 58 40 10.
- Tourrette-Levens' **Les Nuits Musicales** continues tonight at 21:00 in the chateau with the Ensemble Baroque de Nice playing Vivaldi, conducted by Gilbert Bezzina. Entrance is free. Tel: 04 93 91 03 20.
- La Colle sur Loup is having a **ska jazz concert** with Sinke Zakeou and Vods'k at 21:00 in the Jardin Publique. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.
- Villeneuve-Loubet is having a **night guided tour** of the village and chateau starting at 21:30. Booking essential. Tel: 04 92 02 66 16.
- Mandelieu La Napoule's Nuits du Chateau is showing **Carmen** this evening at the chateau at 21:15. Tickets are €20. Tel: 04 92 97 99 27.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Prague and Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are Thoronet Abbey's

season of medieval music and the Cap Ferrat Antiques Fair.

Saturday 26

- Performing at tonight's Nice Jazz Festival's **Folk Me Blue** are Robert Plant, Keziah Jones, Dr John, Mighty Mo Rodgers, Richie Havens, Red, Chic and Sam Moore. Gates open at 17:30 and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.
- France's most famous rocker, **Johnny Hallyday** is playing at the Sporting Monte-Carlo tonight and for the next two nights at 21:00. Tickets including dinner are €250. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.
- Ian Anderson and Tony Bagwell are putting together a special **Big Band Jazz** concert with jazz artists Shireen Francis, Derek Pasco and Paul Christmas from London and Ed Russell and Mary Churney from New York who are flying to the Var specially for the occasion. Tel: 04 94 04 49 60.
- The village of Eze is having its **Medieval Festival** this weekend between 15:00 and midnight. There will be story-telling, singing, dancing and jousting displays. Entrance is €5. Tel: 04 93 41 26 00.

- Cannes' **Nuits du Suquet** continues tonight with a violin and piano concert at the Parvis d'I Eglise Notre-Dame d'Esperence in Suquet at 21:15. Tel: 04 92 99 33 83.
- LOT flies to Gdansk, Warsaw and Wroclaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are Nuits du Sud, Les Nuits Musicales, the Cap Ferrat Antiques Fair and Nuits du Chateau.

Sunday 27

- Performing tonight at the Nice Jazz Festival's **So Soul** are Solomon Burke, Kool and the Gang, Wilson Pickett, Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, Mahia, Corneille, Terry Callier and The Blues Brothers. Gates open at 17:30 and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.
- Le Bar sur Loup is having a **car boot sale** in the village all day. Tel: 04 92 60 39 29.
- Puccini's **Madame Butterfly** conducted by Errol Girdlestone is at Carros' Villa Barbary tonight and tomorrow at 21:15. Tickets are €20 and €29. Also at St Paul de Vence's Place de la Courtine at 21:15 on Tuesday. Tel: 04 93 08 69 94.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today is the Eze Medieval Festival, the Cap Ferrat Antiques Fair and Johnny Hallyday.

Monday 28

- Performing tonight at the Nice Jazz Festival's **It's A Man's World** are Jamiroquai, Arthur H, Ed Hardcourt, Edoardo Bennato, John Ellison, Mokhtar Samba, Nayal and Etienne M'Bappe. Gates open at 17:30 and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.

- Menton's **54th music festival**, the annual chamber opera, starts today in the baroque square of the Parvis de la Basilique Saint-Michel Archange in the old town of Menton, with performances by international artists including Sophie Koch and Olli Mustonen. The festival goes on until August 25 and tickets start at €24. Tel: 04 92 41 76 95.
- Monaco's Fort Antoine theatre season continues tonight with **Spaccanapoli**, an evening of traditional neopolitan peasant songs in the Place du Marche de la Condamine at 21:30. Entrance is free. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16.
- A selection of Chrystelle Chary's **black and white photographs** titled Maya and taken on her recent travels in central America are on display at L'Art Tisse in Valbonne until August 3. Tel: 06 82 09 88 21.

- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today is Madame Butterfly, the Cap Ferrat Antiques Fair and Johnny Hallyday.

Tuesday 29

- Performing tonight at the Nice Jazz Festival's **Guitar Summit** are Luz Casal, Birelli Lagrene, Trio Sud, Nguyen Le, Overhead, Raphael Fays & the Cannes Regional Orchestra, Beverly Jo Scott, Lenine and Piero Pelu. Gates open at 17:30 and tickets start at €27. Tel: 0 820 800 400.
- **Diana Krall** is in concert at the Sporting Monte-Carlo at 20:30 tonight and tomorrow. Tickets are €48 or €95 including dinner. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.

- Valbonne's **Hip Hop and Rap Java** evening starts at 21:00 in the Salles des Fêtes. Traditional French music joins rap as le Rap Guinguette, four Parisian musicians play the accordion, guitar and drums. Tel: 04 93 12 32 30.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.

- Continuing today are the Menton music festival and Madame Butterfly.

Wednesday 30

- Twenty young dancers aged between 16 and 21 have been chosen from eight European countries to take part in the ballet **Europe Dance** tonight and tomorrow night at 21:00 in Grasse's theatre. Tel: 01 42 77 31 34 or 04 93 36 66 66.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are Diana Krall and the Menton music festival.

Thursday 31

- West End star Christina Collier is singing favourites from big name shows including **Miss Saigon** and **Les Miserables** in a concert with the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra at Nice's Theatre de Verdure on July 31. Tickets are €7.50. Tel: 04 92 14 48 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 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26	Sunday 27	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	JULY IN NICE...
AM	22°C Sunny	22°C Sunny	20°C Sunny	21°C Sunny	22°C Sunny	22°C Sunny	Avg. high: 26°C Avg. low: 19°C Avg. rainfall: 16mm
PM	29°C Sunny	30°C Sunny	30°C Sunny	31°C Sunny	32°C Sunny	32°C Sunny	Summer's here! Watch out for sunburn, mozzies and burglars taking advantage of open windows...

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thursday
september 4 see you soon!