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Film Guide

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Police find 60,000 Ecstasy tablets and lethal armoury hidden in cellar

ARMS, DRUGS HAUL FOUND IN ANTIBES

By JENNY PAUL

A STAGGERING haul of weapons, ammunition and 60,000 Ecstasy tablets was seized by police in a dawn raid in Antibes last Wednesday.

Daniel Choumar, 32, has been placed under arrest for 'infringement of the drugs and arms legislation' and for possession of false documents after the police swooped on his home between the town's ramparts and La Salis beach.

"It is clear this man is part of a gang. We are at the start of a very large investigation and the rest of the people involved are still at large and, naturally, extremely dangerous," warned Guy Sapata, the Nice-based head investigator on the case.

The chilling array of arms found in Choumar's cellar include two Uzi 9mm sub machine guns, two pump-action shotguns, an assault rifle, knives and a sawn-off shotgun. Other items included blue police car lights, handcuffs, security arm bands, bullets, shotgun cartridges, radio scanners, two stun guns, fake drivers licences and identity cards.

Investigations

"There is no doubt that something very serious was being planned," Sapata told The Gazette. "This is just the beginning of what is going to be a very important, thorough and long



DEADLY ... Police believe the arms cache found in a cellar in the old town of Antibes belongs to an underground criminal network

investigation. The 16 kilos of Ecstasy is the biggest haul in France this year and has a street value of €1 million. We are confident we have found the stock, now we will be concentrating on catching the other team members."

Choumar, previously unknown to the police, was brought to their attention by an informant.

"We were acting on information that was given to us in connection with an ongoing drugs investigation in Marseille," said Sapata.

Choumar worked in a beachfront bistro, Le Passe Temps on Boulevard Maréchal Leclerc in Antibes.

Neighbours have been shocked to learn that they have been living in the

shadow of a drug-dealing armed criminal. "I thought I knew him quite well, he seemed very nice. I'm really shocked he has turned out to be involved in something like this," a neighbour, who did not wish to be named, told The Riviera Gazette.

Le Passe Temps declined to comment when contacted by The Gazette.

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Rents on the rise

THE cost of renting an apartment soared 17.4 per cent in the Alpes-Maritimes during the last year. The increase is blamed on "lack of property available to rent and high demand for long and short term rentals," according to Olivier Miller of Nice-based FNAIM. "The situation will not get better in the foreseeable future."

Mud slide threat

THE Var is now threatened by mudslides after the summer fires destroyed much of the area's vegetation. Towns and rural houses are at risk of being swamped as the rains arrive. The French forestry commission is currently carrying out preventative measures such as building dams and cutting back overhanging branches of trees.

Yeltsin back in Nice

BORIS Yeltsin was back in the area this week for his annual holiday. The former Russian president was accompanied by wife Naina, daughter Elena and grandson Valery. The family visited several local art galleries including the Maeght foundation and the Matisse museum.

Bubbly takes off

CHAMPAGNE lovers can look forward to an excellent vintage this year as the extreme temperatures have boosted the quality of the Pinot Noir grapes used to make bubbly. The heatwave also forced the champagne grape harvest forward to August 20, the earliest in living memory.

Expats like Germany

FRANCE is now the seventh most popular destination for those moving to a new country, a survey revealed on Friday. The US came top of the list, with the UK coming second and Germany in fourth place.

Hooligans on decline

PUBLIC acts of delinquency dropped by 10 per cent in August. Incidents of crimes including mugging, assault and burglaries have all decreased in the last year.

BRITS BACK FUNDRAISER FOR FIREMEN'S FAMILIES

Var benefit concert to feature Moody Blues' Justin Hayward

RING OF FIRE... reader Paul Vernon snapped this picture as the wall of flame closed in

A BENEFIT concert is being held in Cogolin on Saturday evening to raise money for the families of the three firemen who died in the Var fires last week, and top of the bill is Moody Blues star Justin Hayward.

"It will be a Bal Populaire, an event for the whole family rather than a pop concert," organiser Paul Vernon, a Cogolin resident, told The Riviera Gazette.

"There will be stalls selling food and drinks contributed by local residents. It should be a gourmet experience with everything from couscous to Provençal dishes and wines from the region.

"All money raised will be paid into the fund set up by the firemen for this very good cause."

Moody Blues singer and local resident Justin Hayward is set to perform the band's international smash hit Nights in White Satin and other acts include the Fred Davies Band, the Euros, Steffan Silas with a sound and light show, Latin jazz from Los Lodgerios and Marc Esteban playing country and western. The evening kicks off at 6:00pm.

Paul was moved to get involved after being rescued by firemen during the fires. "My friend Jack rang up in a panic. I went over to get their animals into his house as the fire was only 30 metres away.

They have a dancing horse who used to perform at the Camelot theme park in the UK. We had to put the horse in the lounge. The other animals were herded into the garage under the house.

"I thought I heard the roar of a fire truck coming up the hill but when I ran out it was a wall of fire and I was hit by incredible heat. We were all pretty scared but the pompiers found us as we were flashing SOS from the balcony. They brought the truck up just in the nick of time.

"Those guys died in very similar circumstances, not far from the house. They were incredibly brave, and we must do what we can for their families."

Mind the Gap



FALL GUYS... free-falling sky divers link up over Gap this week

THE SKY over the high Alps town of Gap has been filled with over 1,500 parachutists this week - all competitors taking part in the French Federation of Sky Diving's annual 'Le Mondial' competition.

Sky divers from 45 countries are taking part, and the competition is being watched by 50 to 60 thousand spectators. Highlights include sky-surfing, where divers jump into freefall and surf the air on boards, and formation sky-diving, where five to seven divers jump from 7,000 feet and link up as they fall at over 200km/h to form patterns.

"The event has been awesome so far," Catherine Gallet, a Mandelieu-based member of the French team told The Riviera Gazette. "We're competing against a very high standard of entries, but we do hope to win something by the end of the week. The team as a whole is strong."

Le Mondial runs until Saturday. For further information call 04 92 54 15 20.

35 hour week debate

THE French 35-hour working week is up for debate after this summer's heatwave coupled with annual leave put 'insurmountable pressure' on hospitals.

Speaking in Le Figaro, prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin underlined the importance of re-examining the length of the working week. The move comes as the government is considering abolishing a bank holiday to pay for healthcare for the elderly.

Maigret versus Ferry

A LIVE television debate featuring Luc Ferry, the education minister, was interrupted by protestors on Monday. The debate, held in the Sorbonne in Paris and shown on TF2, was off air for half an hour while the mainly student protesters were removed. An episode of detective drama Maigret replaced it but was promptly cut short as the debate resumed.

Monaco joins Europe

MONACO may be eligible to join the European Council by October. The process was initiated five years ago but the principality was required to implement several constitutional reforms and changes in its financial dealings before being allowed to join.

Grants for homes using solar power

THE government is offering an incentive of up to €1,400 for people installing solar panels to heat their water. Anyone who installs at least two square metres of solar panels is eligible for the grant. For further information call 04 91 47 53 73.

Public schools shun

IN a recent survey nearly a third of parents questioned were considering private schooling for their kids. The move towards the private sector comes after schools were disrupted by strike action earlier this year - and as more is threatened.



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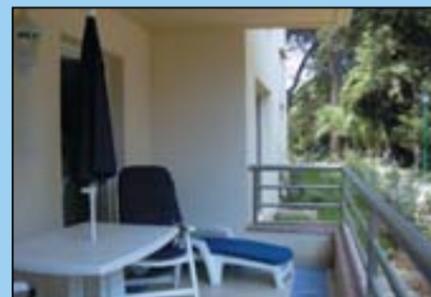
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News

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Dole queues lengthen

AS THE number of people out of work rises on the Côte d'Azur the government is making swingeing cuts to unemployment benefit entitlement in an attempt to reduce the country's budget deficit, writes Jenny Paul.

ASSEDIC, the French dole office, is shortening the amount of time unemployed people can claim benefits.

But the changes have been introduced as it was revealed that long-term unemployment has risen by 16 per cent.

According to figures released this week the jobless total for the Alpes-Maritimes has increased by four per cent in the last year and now stands at 41,609.

"I went into the ANPE office where they help you get a job and they casually mentioned that my benefit entitlement runs out at the end of the

year, not in April as I had thought," a reader, who did not wish to be named, told The Gazette.

"So I went into the ASSEDIC office, who confirmed it. They haven't even sent out letters to tell people yet. What you are entitled to all depends on how long you've worked in France. I had planned around my entitlement, but now they've moved the goalposts without warning.

"I now have the stress of looking for a job in a market which isn't very strong and worrying about what I'll do if I don't find a job before my benefit runs out at Christmas. I'll have to take whatever I can find, rather than holding out for the right one."

"We'll be OK, though - we're just going to downsize for the time being," he concluded.

Unemployed readers unsure about their entitlement should call their local ASSEDIC office.

Government gets winemaker's goat



CHEESED OFF... goat protesters

A SOUTH African wine producer is hitting out at French authorities who are planning to sue him over the use of his trademark names Goats do Roam and Goat-Roti.

The Institut National des Appellations d'Origine (INAO), a government body, claims that the trade names unfairly resemble the controlled appellations of Côtes du Rhône and Côtes Rôtie wines.

But vintner Charles Back claims the tongue in cheek names are a tribute to the goats that roam his Fairview Estate.

In protest at a trademark battle in the US, Back and his supporters staged a picket outside the French Chamber of Commerce and Industries and French Trade Commission in Cape Town.

Some of the protesters donned goat masks and were armed with placards to reinforce their message, which included 'Save our Goat', Support our Bokke (goats), Don't buck our Goat and Bok Bok staan Styf (Goats stand Firm!).

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS SUNDAY...

HUNTERS will be heading into the region's forests some three weeks later than normal as the season opens in the Alpes-Maritimes this Sunday.

Hunting season normally starts on August 17, but the forest fire crisis has led to a delay this year.

Wild boars are expected to be easy pickings as the population has concentrated inland after the bush fires and the lack of food during the heatwave.

Game birds are also high up on the list. "Last year pheasant

numbers were down due to cold weather, but this year promises a bumper season," Bernard Baudin, president of the local hunting association, told The Gazette.

Other animals that would be well advised to hide include stags, roe deer, hares and chamois - as well as humans who like walking in the countryside; each year brings a number of shooting accidents as trigger-happy hunters mistake walkers for game in the region's woodland.



WOULD-BE boulevard cruisers can now hire Harley Davidsons by the day after the US-based EagleRider motorcycle rental franchise opened this week in Antibes and Cannes. "You can rent a Harley from €140, with everything included - but of course you must have a bike license," manager Roger Harding (pictured right) told The Gazette.

EagleRider's founder and president Chris McIntyre (left), who flew in from Los Angeles for the launch party, said "We've got 35 locations worldwide, and a fleet of 1,500 bikes, all less than a year old. We're Harley Davidson's biggest customer. These bikes are all about relaxation and enjoyment of life, and we're really pleased to be opening our first French hire centres here on the Riviera, where the weather is perfect for cruising."

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Mine destroyed

FIREFIGHTERS on a diving training exercise found a sea mine dating back to WW2 in the bay of Villefranche last week.

They called in Toulon's naval bomb disposal team, who rushed to the scene at Darse beach. An exclusion zone was placed around the potentially lethal bomb, which was then detonated.

There are likely to be more as German soldiers who set up army barracks in Villefranche's old port during WW2 are known to have booby trapped the bay.

Medics hit back

ANGRY doctors hit back this week after a government report blamed them for the nation's heat death crisis.

The report said doctors' annual holidays had been a significant factor in the crisis. But the medics don't agree. "It is incongruous to reproach a doctor for going on holiday in August when doctors are among those who work the longest hours - an average of 59 hours a week," Dr Michel Chassang, president of the CSMF (Confederation of French Doctors' Unions), told reporters.

Reality show axed

A RESOUNDING 'Non!' has been given to a government minister who planned to star in a reality TV show on TF1.

Advisors to prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin unanimously voted against ministerial participation in the programme after seeing a pilot episode of the show.

Jean-François Copé was to star in the first episode of 36 Hours, in which cameras would have spent a week with a politician. The channel says the show would be a way of making politicians less detached from voters.

Knives and guns 'just not cricket'

AS the Monte Carlo Cricket Club heads for Paris to take part in the French cup finals, team members are wondering who their opponents will be after the suspension of two Parisian sides for violent conduct, writes Steve Greenwood.

Monaco captain Gilbert Clarke told The Gazette, "the suspensions centre around an incident involving the use of knives and another where one player shot his team mate. Many of the teams' players are of Pakistani or Sri Lankan origin and they take their cricket very seriously. It doesn't take much for passions to run high."

The national cricket board handed down suspensions to both teams, creating confusion over who exactly Monte Carlo will face in Paris, as both sides had already qualified for the finals stage.

An appeal has been lodged by the two sides and will be heard this week. But the situation is delicate, with the predominantly Asian sides citing racism as the reason for their suspension.

After entering the National Cup competition for the first time in the club's history, and beating off local rivals Cabris, Entrecasteaux and Provence, Monte Carlo will fly to Paris with high hopes of bringing the cup home.

"The team has the batting strength to complete the job. Top order batsmen Nic Thomas, Chris Tettley and Shay Parnell are all on good form. I'm confident our bowlers, led by Mark Obrien and Earl Sorrensen, are going to play some first class cricket," says Clarke.

Having a splashing time



MAD DASH... 266 hardy swimmers braved below average sea temperatures to take part in the annual 'red bonnet' 3,000 metre swim across Villefranche bay last Sunday. Morgan Lhermitte, 25, won the open class and Quentin Lahana, 21, scooped first overall

Stretch limo heralds arrival of pan-European tour

STRETCH limousines are a common sight on the Riviera, but on Saturday a previously unseen model rolled into Nice – a 22 foot (6.7m) Triumph Herald.

Owner David Pearson, 41, told The Gazette that the car was built in just two weeks to win a £50 bet, and was welded together out of spare parts including three Herald bodies and five roofs.

David, who runs UK-based Triumph parts specialists Canley Classics, continued "It's got a 2.5 litre engine, and we've been cruising at a steady 100km/h on the way down. The fuel economy isn't too good,

though." The car was in town as part of the UK Triumph Club's inaugural 'ten countries run', where competitors tour around Europe over a weekend.

Fifteen cars set off from London last Friday morning and headed through France for a Saturday night stop-over in Nice.

On Sunday the intrepid tourists took to the road again for a non-stop blitz back to the UK via Monaco, Italy, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium and France to arrive at Enfield on Monday afternoon.



FULL STRETCH... The unlikely limo near Nice with drivers Craig Gingell, David Pearson and Jason Chinn

University of Taste

A UNIVERSITY of Taste is opening in Reims, in the Champagne region.

Government minister Renaud Dutreil announced on Saturday that "it will be a multi-discipline facility which will gather historians, researchers, sociologists, doctors and dieticians."

The idea is to make it possible to obtain an internationally recognized degree, on a par with a Harvard MBA.

Rambo gets sloppy

RAMBO star Sylvester Stallone was in St Tropez last week. After lunching at Club 55 at Pampelonne beach with wife Jennifer Flavin, the couple went for a stroll in the town and stopped for a romantic kiss outside one of the local boutiques.

Stallone stopped in St Tropez on his way to the Venice film festival where he is promoting his latest film, Spy Kids 3.

Kylie pulled over

KYLIE Minogue and French boyfriend Olivier Martinez were stopped by gendarmes in St Tropez on Tuesday after their chauffeur driven limo was spotted speeding. The driver didn't have his licence with him and was detained, but the Aussie pop princess and boyfriend were released after chatting to cops and signing autographs.

Sick patient

A PATIENT who took advantage of his stay in a Montpellier hospital to burgle a doctor's office was given a one year suspended prison sentence last week.

The 39-year-old got up from his sick bed to relieve the physician of his computer, an overnight case and two of his fountain pens.

Ozone groan

THE highest ozone pollution levels for 12 years were recorded during August. Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur was the worst affected region nationally, where 239 microgrammes of ozone per square metre of air were recorded.

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UPDATE

FRENCH INHERITANCE LAW – WHO BENEFITS?

Planning for the distribution of your estate when you die can be a daunting and emotive task, but it is a hugely important part of tax planning and should not be ignored.

This is a particularly important issue for UK residents and UK expats who own French property. Many incorrectly assume that if they have a UK will that deals with worldwide property it will adequately deal with their French property too.

In France, however, immovable property (land and buildings) is subject to French succession law. This applies regardless of the residency of the owner and regardless of any specific distribution of property they may have outlined in their UK will.

UK residents are familiar with an inheritance system that allows them to leave their estate to almost anyone but

the system in France is very different. As it suggests, succession law dictates who can benefit from a person's estate. Additionally, the amount of inheritance tax paid is determined by the relationship between the beneficiary and the deceased, and the size of each individual inheritance – not the size of the whole estate.

Assets are divided into two portions: a reserved portion (reserve légale) and a disposable portion (quotité disponible). Blood relatives called 'protected heirs' have rights to a compulsory share of the reserved portion – these are usually a person's children. Crucially, a surviving spouse or other chosen beneficiary is not a protected heir.

If there is one living child the reserved portion is half the estate; for two it is two-thirds, and for three or more living children, it is three-

quarters. All portions must be equally divided. If a son or daughter dies before the testator, their share will be distributed equally among their children.

If there are surviving parents or grandparents in both the maternal and paternal lines but no children, the reserved portion is half the estate; with surviving parents or grandparents in one line only, the reserved portion is a quarter of the estate. Both must be divided equally.

The disposable portion is the share that remains. This can be distributed as the testator wishes but the more distant the relationship between the testator and the beneficiary the higher the inheritance tax liability.

Let's look at an example. Mr X is a UK resident with a child, Ms Y, from his first marriage. He marries again and buys a €400,000 villa in France as a

holiday home. He makes a will in the UK and leaves the French property to his new wife Mrs X.

When Mr X dies, his will is administered in the UK. He has not planned for the effects of French succession law and his new wife Mrs X now finds that half of the villa passes to Ms Y.

Ms Y could, by law, renounce her rights to her reserved portion of Mr X's French property, but she would lose her personal allowance and so the French inheritance tax liability could rise. In any case Ms Y does not like Mrs X and has no intention of surrendering her half of the villa.

Without proper planning French succession laws can easily lead to family arguments and difficulties such as these. Mr X, like many UK residents, assumed that his UK will would be sufficient but has now left a messy situation for his family to sort out at a time when they are already emotionally vulnerable.

Mr X could have avoided the effects of French succession law by purchasing his high-value property through a

société civile immobilière (SCI) – a French property holding company. He would then have owned the shares in the SCI, which are classified as personal property and therefore not bound by succession laws.

Owning property through an SCI means that you can dispose of the property as you wish but it will not mean the beneficiaries are able to avoid inheritance tax. In next week's **Sovereign Update** we look at structures that can be used to mitigate tax in addition to avoiding French succession laws.

Plan ahead, get advice and make sure your assets are distributed to the people you choose. If you would like further information regarding tax planning or corporate ownership, please contact us.

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My Riviera

Photo journalist **Nick Danziger** tells Jenny Paul about travel diaries, Tony Blair and what Brits do on Saturdays...

“AFTER University in 1982 I won a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship and used it to spend 18 months following ancient trade routes to the centre of China, disguised as a local muslim, because I didn't have the right visas.

I travelled on foot or used traditional local transport from Turkey to China and documented my adventures in diaries.

The diaries and photos formed my first book, Danziger's Travels. When it came out it went straight on the bestseller lists.

Since then I've travelled around the world taking photographs. In 1991 I made my first TV documentary in Afghanistan called War, Lives and Videotape, based on children abandoned in the Marastoon mental asylum in Kabul.

It was shown as part of the BBC's Video Diaries series and won the Prix Italia for best television documentary series.

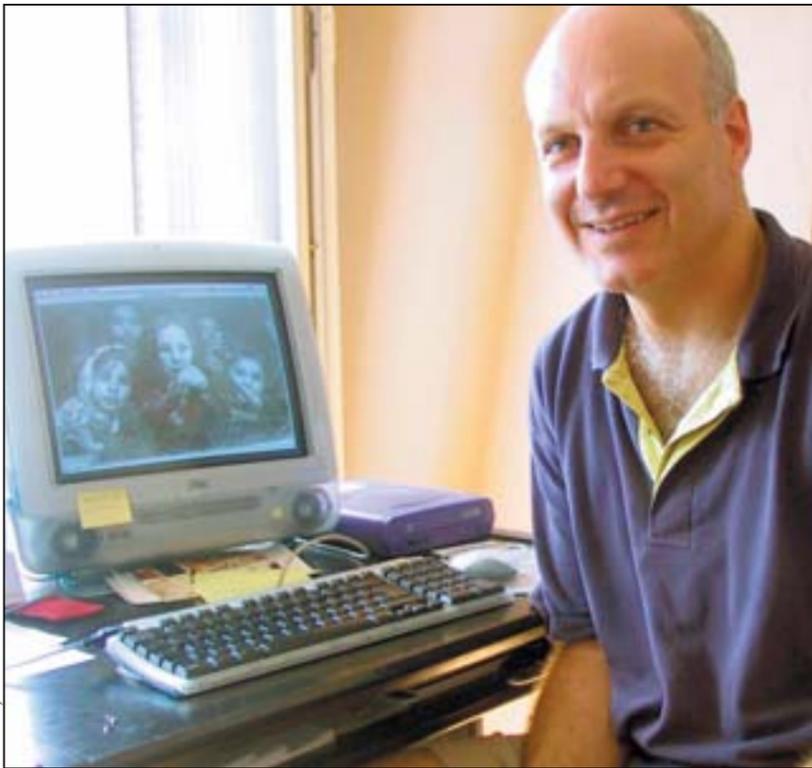
After that I adopted three Afghan children and decided to move back to Monaco as it's such a secure place. I spent five years in Monaco when I was a child and had very fond memories of the place.

It was completely different in those days as there were no high-rise buildings and there were donkeys in the place du Casino. My brother and I used to go up and ride them around a sandy track.

Nowadays, because of the children, I try not to be away for more than three weeks at a time but I am very busy. It's a bit easier now as I got married recently.

But earlier this year I went on 28 flights in six weeks! I was working on projects in Morocco, Ethiopia and in Russia. Then every Saturday night I was flying back to the UK where I was putting together a book about what Brits do on a Saturday night.

I was up all night taking photos, mainly



TRG/Jenny Paul

TRAVELLER... Nick works in war zones, but likes to retreat to the security of his home in Monaco

of people drinking and not much else. It was astonishing.

After that I was asked to take photos of Tony Blair for his birthday. It turned out to be an amazing historical moment as the Iraq war was starting.

The access we had was incredible – we even went with him when he went to see Jacques Chirac and George Bush.

He spoke French when he met Chirac and he was pretty good. I was quite impressed.

At the moment I'm working with a

Monaco-based charity, Action Innocence, working to raise the awareness of the possible dangers of the internet to children.

We are looking for a sponsor so we can go into French schools and raise awareness there.

When I do have spare time I like to have a family picnic at the beach, or we go to La Grotte in Roquebrune. I spend a lot of my working life in war zones, so it's fantastic to come back to the peace and security of Monaco, especially in the winter when there's no crowds around. ”

Classifieds

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WANTED Baby equipment, cot, pram and other items. Tel 04 93 64 35 84

WANTED s/h drums, percussion, drum eqpt. Any cond considered, tel 04 93 24 11 68

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 30,000+ English-speaking readers. See order form in this section for details

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Jobs wanted

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LANGUAGE BARRIER? Call Irene, trilingual PA. English/German/French fluent. Area: Valbonne-Vence. 06 10 44 04 50, i.raffa@wanadoo.fr

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MOVIES

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

Le Casino

6 Ave 24 Aout, Antibes TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES Tue 20:30

Les Arcades

77 Rue Félix Fauré, Cannes DIRTY PRETTY THINGS Daily 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 21:50

Cinéma d'Été

Parking des Pecheurs, Monaco IDENTITY Sun 21:00 TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES Thu 21:00 TWO WEEKS NOTICE Fri 21:00

Cinéma Sporting

Place du Casino, Monaco PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL Fri, Sun, Tue 17:30, Sat 17:00, Mon 17:30, 21:15

Mercury

16 Place Garibaldi, Nice 25TH HOUR Fri 21:40 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN Mon 20:10 DOGVILLE Sat 21:15 FRIDA Thu 18:00, Sat 17:00, Tue 20:10 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE Sun 19:25 NARC Thu 20:10 SWIMMING POOL Mon 16:00 THE GOOD THIEF Sat, Tue 21:40 THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE Sat 21:40 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS Tue 21:30 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS Tue 21:40 THE PIANIST Mon 20:10 THE QUIET AMERICAN Sat, Tue 19:25, Sun 21:40, Mon 16:00, 18:00 UNCONDITIONAL LOVE Thu 20:10 WANDA Fri 21:40, Sat 17:00, Tue 19:25

UGC Rialto

4 Rue Rialto, Nice DIRTY PRETTY THINGS Daily 13:45, 17:50, 20:00 THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE Daily 15:50, 22:05 plus Sat, Sun 11:15

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PERSONAL

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Ref 8677 FOR SALE ANTIBES A selection of renovated apartments in very quiet area, prices from €225,300 to €310,300

Ref 7441 FOR SALE MOUGINS Fantastic apartment, three bedrooms, duplex, in residence with pool. €405,520 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

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Property for sale

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CHARMING 1 bed apt, old Nice, light, views, sleeps 3, quiet. Comfy beds, linen, 5mins sea. Nr pking, flower mkt. €350/pw inc. Short/long term. 04 93 62 54 07 or 04 93 20 30 33

DOUBLE room for rent in large villa on Cap d'Antibes. Available immediately. Contact gbgrf2001@yahoo.fr or call 06 25 07 28 36

STUDIO Antibes, Oct-May. Quiet res w/ pool, pking, cave, gdn. Nr sea, shops, trans. Sue, 0610935865

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TRAFFIC UPDATE

Roads

- Antibes Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RN7 until Sept 19.
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.
Le Tignet Traffic lights and 50km/h limit on RD2562 until Dec 19.
Menton Long-term delays on Blvd Carnot during road widening works.
Nice Voie Rapide closed from 11pm until 6am every night until Sept 30.
Pegomas Traffic lights and 50km/h speed limit on RD109 until Sept 26.
St Martin Vesubie RD89 closed.
Vence Traffic lights and 50km/h on RD2 north of the town until Sept 12.
Villeneuve-Loubet Long-term 50Km/h limit on the RN98 coast road.

Trains

Coastal line closed from Menton to Ventimiglia until Jan 2004, except for long distance international services. Local passengers will be transferred by bus.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"A common mistake that people make when trying to design something foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools." Douglas Adams

What's On and Where To Go...

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The Riviera This week

Thursday 11

- **Stand up comedians** from the London alternative comedy circuit are performing tonight at Antibes' La Gaffe at 20:30. You can also catch them on Friday at Les Arbousiers on Lac St Cassien at 20:30, Saturday at Morrisons Irish Pub in Cannes at 22:30 and on Sunday at the Lodge in Port Grimaud at 15:00 and McMahon's Pub in old Nice at 21:00. Tel: +377 97 70 61 76.
- The **International Pleasure Boat Fair** continues in Cannes until Monday at the Palais des Festivals and in the port from 10:00 to 19:00 daily. Entrance is €10. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53
- Monaco's **Classic Week**, the Prada challenge for classic yachts, continues until Sunday. Tel: +377 93 10 63 06.
- Cagnes-sur-Mer is holding a **commemoration service** for the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack this evening at 18:30 in Place Gabriel Peri. The mayor of Cagnes, Louis Negre, and the Commander of the American Legion, Anthony di Pietro will attend. Tel: 04 93 20 61 64.
- St Jean Cap Ferrat's **17th antiques fair** starts today in the town's gymnasium. Opening hours are 10:00 to 19:00, with Saturday night late opening until 22:00. The fair continues until Sunday. Tel: 04 93 76 08 90

Friday 12

- The British Association of the Var is having a **Vendange picnic** at Domaine St Marc des Omedes at 12:00. Tickets are €23 for members and €24 for non-members. The price includes wine and a cold buffet but bring your own glasses, plates and cutlery. There will also be a raffle and book sale. Tel: 04 93 97 33 02.
- The 22nd **Nice Triathlon** starts today on the Promenade des Anglais with the world cup short distance race. The meeting finishes on Sunday. Tel: 04 93 92 83 71.
- Over 400 cats will be on show at Monaco's annual **International Cat Show** today and tomorrow between 10:00 and 19:30 at the Espace Fontvieille. Tel: 04 93 35 61 78.
- Tourrettes-sur-Loup's 4th **Flamenco Festival** is on today until Sunday with exhibitions, dance demonstrations, films and Spanish music in the main square. Tel: 04 93 24 18 93.
- Nice is hosting a **Nuits des Galeries**, an art gallery open evening, with 22 galleries all over the city open between 18:30 and 00:30. There will also be artists displaying their work on the Esplanade du MAMAC from 22:00. Tel: 04 93 80 34 57.
- A weekend of **jamming, salsa and jazz** starts tonight at Antibes' Bar-en-Biais at 21:00. Musician Art Johnson is performing tomorrow night. Tel: 04 93 74 10 98.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Prague and Stockholm and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today: the London comedians at Lac St Cassien, the Cannes International Pleasure

Boat Fair, Cap Ferrat's antiques fair and the Prada Challenge.

Saturday 13

- The British Association's Cannes branch is having **lunch at Les Arbousiers** on Lac St Cassien at 12:30. Lunch will be followed by a quiz and music for anyone wanting to dance. There will be the usual raffle – all are urged to bring a prize. The price for members is €26 including aperitif, wine and coffee, and €29 for non-members. Tel: 04 93 77 77 40.
- The **Cabris Cricket Club** is playing the UK's Troughton XI today and tomorrow at St Vallier de Thiey. The matches start at midday and are expected to finish by 19:00. Tel: 04 93 70 27 23.
- The British Association of Nice is having **dinner at the Blue Beach Restaurant** on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice today at 19:30. Call Josephine on 06 82 26 61 06 to book.
- The Forum is hosting tonight's **comedy evening** at Morrisons Irish Bar in Cannes. Tickets are €15 for the show only, €45 including dinner and €75 for show, dinner and accommodation based on two people sharing. Call Si on 06 16 81 90 09 for more information.
- Absolute Monaco starts today, offering a special weekend of **art, leisure and shopping** with extended opening hours. Ninety of the principality's restaurants will be offering a set lunch for €20. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16.
- The Antibes Yacht Club is holding its 4th **Clinicup**, a charity race in aid of local hospitals, today and tomorrow. Tel: 04 92 91 13 13.
- The world's top athletes will compete in 35 events at the **IAAF World Athletics Finals** today and tomorrow at Monaco's Stade Louis II, from 14:30 to 17:00 daily. Tel: +377 92 05 42 60.
- The Nice Opera is holding an **outdoor concert** in the old village at La Gaudie this evening, from 20:30. Tel: 04 93 24 47 26.
- Menton's 13th **Garden Days** festival is on today and tomorrow, with public and private gardens open to the public. Highlights include guided tours of the seven hectare gardens of Sierre de la Madone and the gardens of the Maria Serena village. Tel: 04 92 41 76 95.
- A benefit concert, **The Night of the Phoenix**, in aid of the families of the three firefighters who died in last week's wildfires, is being held in Cogolin town centre this evening from 18:00. See pages three and four for details.
- LOT flies to Gdansk, Warsaw and Wroclaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are Cannes' International Pleasure Boat Fair, the Prada Challenge, Monaco's cat show, Cap Ferrat's antiques fair, the Nice Triathlon and Antibes' Jazz and Salsa weekend.

• Antibes is holding its 14th annual **Procession of the Virgin Mary** with a traditional ceremony and mass starting at 15:00 followed by the procession to the St Roch car park. There will also be street entertainment and music from 18:00. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00.
- There is a **flea and bric-a-brac** market all day today at Antibes' Les Semboules.
- La Colle sur Loup is holding its **Festival of Traditional Crafts** from 9:00 to 19:00. Local craftsmen will demonstrate the art of working leather, glass blowing, book binding and blacksmithing. There will also be a market and street entertainment. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.
- St Paul de Vence is having a **flea market** at chemin Malvan – just below the old town – all day today. Tel: 06 89 88 90 72.
- LOT flies to Copenhagen, Gdansk, Kraków, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Warsaw at 16:30.
- Continuing today are the London comedians, the Cannes International Pleasure Boat Fair, the Prada Challenge, the Monaco cat show, Absolute Monaco, Antibes' Clinicup, Monaco's World Athletics Finals and the Menton garden festival.

Sunday 14

- St John's English Church on Avenue Carnot in Menton is holding a **Songs of Praise** evening, starting at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 57 20 25.

LOT Polish Airlines flies from Nice to Warsaw six days a week at 4:30pm, with onward connections to over 100 destinations in central and eastern Europe and worldwide. Find out more and book online at www.lot.com

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 11	Friday 12	Saturday 13	Sunday 14	Monday 15	Tuesday 16	SEPTEMBER IN NICE...
AM	16°C Sunny	15°C Sunny	16°C Sunny	17°C Sunny	17°C Sunny	17°C Sunny	Avg. high: 24°C Avg. sea temp: 22°C Avg. low: 17°C Avg. rainfall: 54mm
PM	25°C Sunny	26°C Sunny	24°C Sunny	24°C Sunny	27°C Sunny	26°C Sunny	Mornings and evenings are cooler. Daytime temperatures remain high, but with an increased chance of rain.

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