

Concert
Le moulin des Arts
présente

Jazz Hommage à
au **Grand Jas** Django Reinhardt

avec
Jo Labita
Le Quartet Swing du Sud

Jeudi 1^{er} août 2019 à 21h00
Château du Grand Jas
Route de Cotignac - Entrecasteaux

Prix des places
inclus le verre de l'amitié
adultes / 20 €
+ de 12 ans / 10 €
- de 12 ans / gratuit

Billets uniquement en vente sur place le soir du concert
à partir de 20h00
En cas d'intempéries le concert sera annulé

lemoulindesArts

**JAZZ CONCERT – ENTRECASTEAUX –
CHATEAU DU GRAND JAS
JO LABITA & QUARTET DU SUD –
21H00**

Tickets €20 – available night of concert from 20h.
Route de L'Entrecasteaux



**FESTIVAL GLORIANA – LES ARCS &
BORMES LES MIMOSAS
1 & 2 August**

GRANDS AIRS POUR VIOLONCELLE ET ORGUE
Thursday 1 August 21:00 - Chapelle Saint-François-de-Paule -
Bormes-les-Mimosas
GRANDS AIRS POUR VIOLONCELLE ET ORGUE – Friday 2
August 20:00 - Chapelle Sainte Roseline - les Arcs-sur-Argens

**HAENDEL
ET SON TEMPS**

CONCERT DE MUSIQUE BAROQUE
AUTOUR DE HAENDEL ET DE SES
CONTEMPORAINS

PAR L'ENSEMBLE ORPHEUS

Avec
Christian MENDOZE - FLUTE À BEC
Myrrha PRINCIPIANO - ORGUE
Audrey SABBATIER - VIOLONCELLE



**JEUDI 1^{er} AOUT 2019
À 21H**

Temple protestant
22 bis rue Picot - Toulon

AU PROGRAMME :

- Sonates de Haendel pour flûte à bec et basse continue (orgue et violoncelle),
- Sonate pour violoncelle de J. Barrière,
- Pièces d'orgue de G. Böhm

BILLETS SUR PLACE

- Normal : 12 €
- Gratuit pour les moins de 12 ans
- Un CD offert pour 2 places achetées (dans la limite des disponibilités)

RENSEIGNEMENTS ET RESERVATIONS

Musiques en Provence
04 94 61 20 87
06 22 66 49 37
musiquesenprovence@gmail.com




**LES MUSICALES DANS LES VIGNES
DE PROVENCE 2 – 30 August**

Friday 2 August : L'Escarelle à la Celle
Jazz manouche-Michel Pellegrino-Swing du Sud
Thursday 8 August : Château Barbebelles Rognes
Jazz musette - Swing musette Quartet
Friday 9 August Château St Martin Taradeau
Tango argentin-Fernando Maguna-Diego Trosman
Saturday 10 August : Tour de l'Evêque Pierrefeu
Tango argentin-Fernando Maguna-Diego Trosman
Tuesday 13 August La Cavale à Cucuron
Blues - Suzanne Wognin Quintette Blues
Wednesday 14 August : Bertaud Belieu à Gassin

Les Quatre Saisons Vivaldi-Alain Arias Quintet
Thursday 15 August : Château Saint Maur Cogolin
 Blues - Suzanne Wognin Quintette Blues
Friday 16 August : Domaine Frégate St Cyr
 Standards du jazz - Michel Pellegrino Quartet
Saturday 17 August : Château Roubine à Lorgues
 Jazz manouche, tzigane, Klezmer - Basilic Swing
Friday 30 August : Fonscolombe Le Puy Ste Réparate
 Tango argentin-Fernando Maguna-Diego Trosman



JAZZ A BERNE

DU 12 JUILLET AU 25 AOÛT 2019

VENDREDI 12 JUILLET
ANDRE MANOUKIAN & CHINA MOSES

DIMANCHE 21 JUILLET
THOMAS DUTRONC

JEUDI 8 AOÛT
THE SHOESHINERS BAND

DIMANCHE 25 AOÛT
COTTON CLUB BY BIG BAND 13

CONCERT À PARTIR DE 21 H
 PRÉVENTES
www.jazzaberne.com
 06 74 78 69 92

restauration sur place
BISTROT
 04 94 60 43 51

Théâtre de verdure. Château de Berne
 Chemin des Imberts, 83760 FLAYOSC
 NEWSLETTERS
www.chateauauberne.com

CHATEAU DE BERNE
 EN PROVENCE

f i chateauauberne

JAZZ AT CHATEAU DE BERNE – LORGUES

Thursday 8 August – the Shoeshiners Band
 Sunday 25 August - Cotton Club & Big Band



LES NUITS MUSICALES DE MAZAUGUES – 7 AUGUST

Wednesday 7 August 2019 – 21 heures / Théâtre de Verduze,
 Duo Darius Milhaud (Deux pianos)
 (Debussy – Ravel – Saint-Saëns – Fauré)



EXPOSITION
 Entrecasteaux

Le moulin des Arts a le plaisir de vous présenter l'exposition de

Yiu Wah Leung

peintures et sculptures (à la poursuite de la pomme d'or)

du 09.08.2019 au 18.08.2019

Vernissage le vendredi 09 août 2019 à 18h00

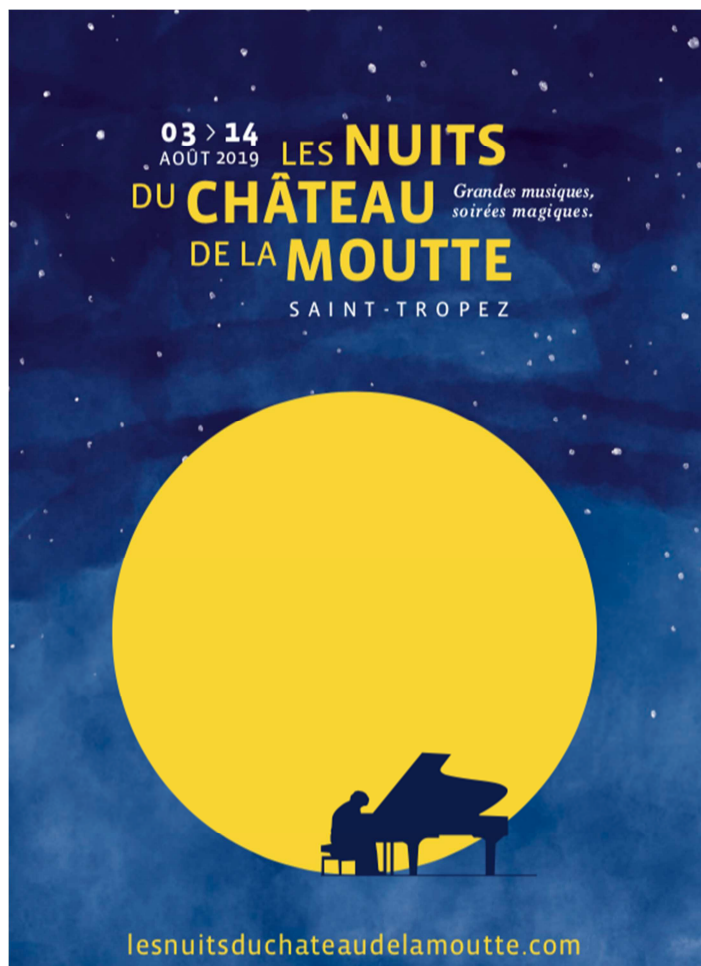
Ouverture les mercredis, vendredis, samedis et dimanches de 16h00 à 19h00

Ancien moulin à huile
 17 rue de Lubac
 83570 Entrecasteaux
 04 94 59 94 03

lemoulindesArts

ART & SCULPTURE EXPO – MOULIN DES ARTS – ENTRECASTEAUX – 8 – 18 AUGUST – YIU WAH LEUNG

Ancien moulin à l'Huile , 17 rue de Lubac, Entrecasteaux



LES NUITS DE CHATEAU DE LA MOUTTE – ST. TROPEZ

3 – 14 AUGUST

Saturday 3 August – Palmeraie – 21 h – Flamenco with Guerrero dancers

Monday 5 August – Plage des Canebiers – 21h – Stars at Canabiers, Pinao jazz a la Plage, Thomas Enhco

Wednesday 7 August – Chateau de la Moutte, Cour – 21h

Great music for young & Old, concert

Friday 9 August – Chateau de la Moutte – 21h

Great Russian soloists

Sunday 11 August – Chateau de la Moutte, Cour – 18h

Piano duo de prestige

Monday 12 August – Chateau de la Moutte, Palmeraie – 18h

Conference

Monday 12 August – Chateau de la Moutte, Palmeraie – 21h

Jazz Mythique, Rhoda Scott Ladies all stars

Wednesday 14 August – Chateau de la Moutte, Cour 21h

Lyric recital

Infor : 04 94 997 45 21



FESTIVAL MUSIQUE CORDIALE – SEILLANS 9 – 14 August

Friday 9 August Seillans - Église Saint Léger, 19h00

CONCERT D'OUVERTURE DU FESTIVAL - Concert

Symphonique

Saturday 10 August, Seillans, Place du Valet, 21h00 – Soiree Jazz & Cross over Classics

Sunday 11 August Seillans, Eglise St Leger, 19h00 – Concert

Baroque & Stabat Mater

Monday 12 August Seillans, Domaine Val d'Iris, 18h00 – Soiree

Musique au Vignoble

Tuesday 13 August, Fayence Theatre de Verduze, 21h00- Concert Symphonique

Wednesday 14 August, Montauroux, Eglise St, Barthelemy,

19h00 – Concert a Capella, Les Voix sublimes du Festival

Off events, master classes etc.



INDIE ELECTRIC FESTIVAL – CITADELLE ST. TROPEZ

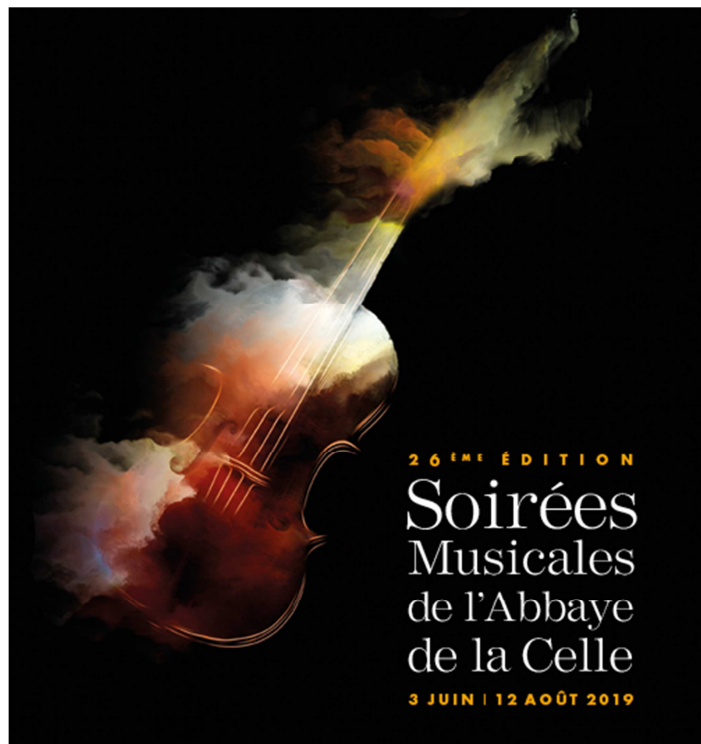
10 – 12 AUGUST



JAZZ AT RAMATUELLE 16 -20 AUGUST

See website for details, Jazz events on and off, Theatre de verdure, master classes, et.

<http://jazzaramatuelle.com>



SOIREE MUSICALES ABBAYE DE LA CELLE 4 – 12 AUGUST

4 August 19h – Conservatoire Varois, Pique Nique ,
21h. Jazz

6 August – Cloître de l'Abbaye, 21h Seranades

10 August – Cloître de l'Abbaye, 21h, Chopin to Aznavour

12 August – Soiree Gospel

<http://www.soireesmusicales-lacelle.com/>

SOIREES ROMANTIQUE AU JARDIN DE RAYOL CANADEL

12 August – Groupe Rebietien – 21h.



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN THE VAR – 13 – 16 AUGUST

Now this year, the 75th Anniversary, will see very few Veterans returning, many, many of them have done so over the years, many to salute their fallen comrades, who never made it, but this

year might yet just see a few, who will be celebrated, welcomed and feted by the local French villages and the military authorities. There are plaques marking the landings all along the coast, from Toulon to St. Raphael, a large one in St. Tropez dedicated to the American General Patch - and wreaths will be laid. There will be celebrations in all the main villages, particularly le Muy, and La Motte, who host a troupe of "re-enactors" who will all parade in their World War II gear, their jeeps, their retro costumes. Its really worth looking out what might be happening in your village, and making an effort to take part.

14 August :

Callas. À 18h, stèle Ricard RD 562.

Callian. À 16h30, plaque Honoré Bourguignon devant l'église.

La Motte. Rendez-vous à 11h au Mitan, puis buffet campagnard.

Conférence à 14h à la salle du conseil par Michel Delannoy. Piquet d'honneur à 18h au mémorial du Mitan, en présence des autorités civiles et militaires. Enfin, à partir de 21h devant la mairie, bal rétro avec défilé de véhicules militaires par les associations du souvenir.

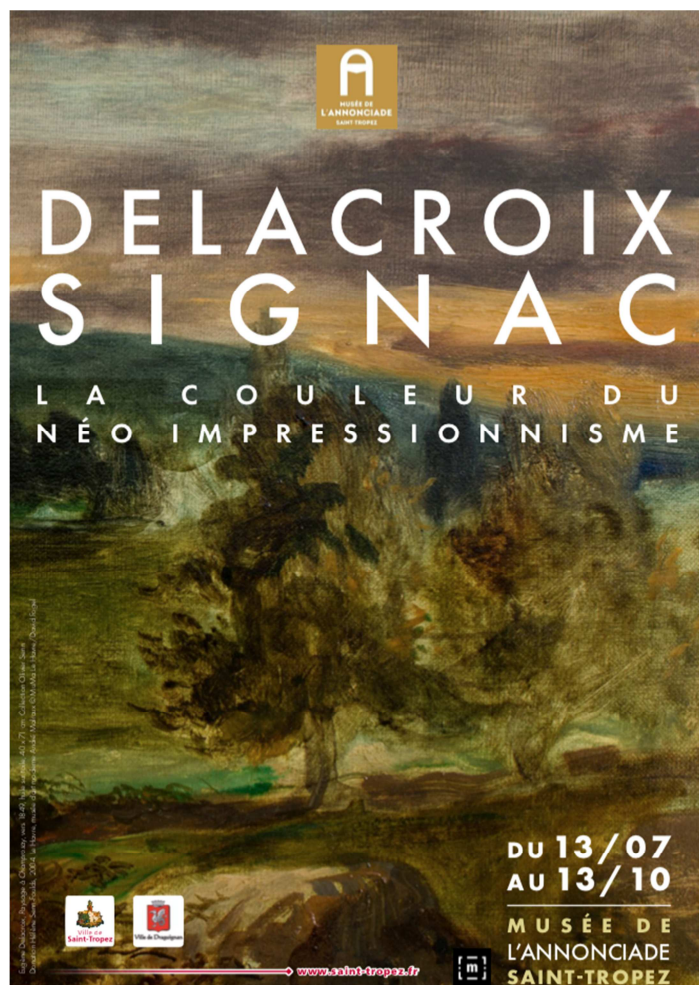
Mons. À 19h45, stèle Georges Kireff. À 19h50, stèle Maquis du Malay.

Montauroux. À 17h, plaque Justin-Blanc place Justin-Blanc, au centre du village. À 17h30, stèle Baptistin Ramonda, au rond-point La Colle Noire.

Saint-Paul-en-Forêt. À 18h45, stèle Pierre Avelin, au bord de la RD 562.

Saint-Tropez. À 15h30, défilé de véhicules militaires. À 21h, bal place du Portalet, suivi à 23h30 du feu d'artifice.

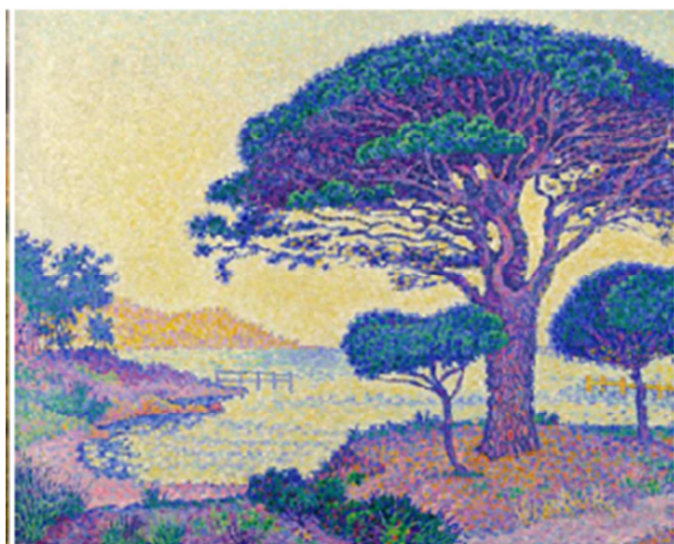
Fireworks all over, and very likely retro 40's style dances in places like Vidauban and Le Muy. Plus a Sherman Tank in Dramont. Look out for information.



MUSEE DE L'ANNONCIADÉ – ST TROPEZ – NEW EXHIBITION –

13 JULY – 13 OCTOBER

Eugène Delacroix et Paul Signac (1798-1863) (1863-1935)



The Annonciade Museum has a new exhibition starting 13 July devoted to Eugene Delacroix and Paul Signac. Signac was the artist who first discovered the delights of the coast and brought many painters to share in his joys. The Museum has a wonderful and wide collection of paintings by Signac donated by his family. A show well worth going out of one's way to see.



NEW EXPO – LES CARRIERES – LES BAUX – 1 March 2019 – January 2020

An immersion in Van Gogh's finest masterpieces!

Since March 2019 (to January 2020), the Carrières de Lumières are exhibiting the work of the genius painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890), who only achieved fame after his death. Spanning the 7,000 m² of the Carrières, a visual and musical production retraces the intense life of the tormented artist, who, during the last ten years of his life, painted more than 2,000 pictures, which are now held in collections around the world.

Van Gogh's immense oeuvre—which radically evolved over the years, from the *Mangeurs de pommes de terre* (The Potato Eaters, 1885) to the *Nuit étoilée* (Starry Night, 1889), *Les Tournesols* (Sunflowers, 1888), and *La Chambre à coucher* (The Bedroom, 1889)—will be projected onto the giant stone walls of the Carrières.

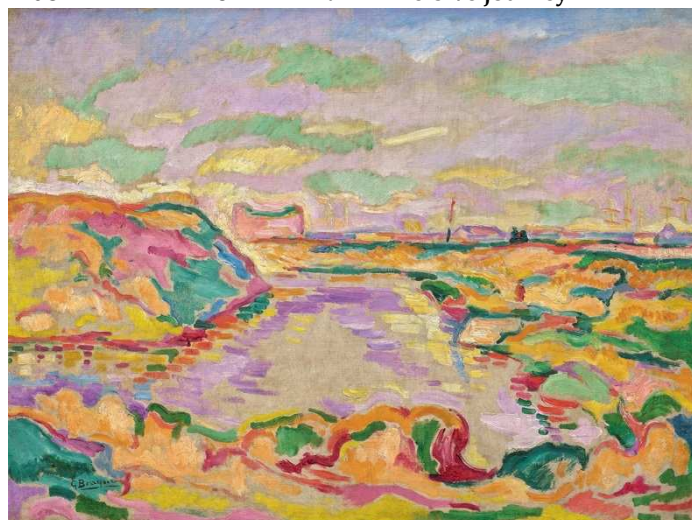


The clouds, suns, and portraits, represented in the artist's unique style, come to life on walls that are more than fifteen metres high, evoking the artist's boundless, chaotic, and poetic interior world. Via a thematic itinerary relating to the various phases of his life—his time spent in Arles, Paris, and Saint-Rémy-de-Provence—visitors will be immersed in his first works and those of his later years, from his sunny landscapes and night scenes, to his portraits and still lifes.

The Dutch painter's expressive and powerful brushstrokes produced works with bold colours and an unrivalled style that highlight a permanent dialogue between light and shadow. The visual and musical experience produced by Culturespaces and created by Gianfranco Iannuzzi, Renato Gatto, and Massimiliano Siccaldi, highlights this chromatic richness, as well as the power of the artist's drawings and impasto.



Plus – DREAMED JAPAN – an Immersive journey



ART EXHIBITION - HOTEL CAUMONT – AIX EN PROVENCE

1 May- 29 September

Masterpieces from the Guggenheim - Monet to Picasso

The Hôtel de Caumont Art Centre will be presenting masterpieces from the Justin K. Thannhauser Collection, bequeathed in 1963 to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York.



For the first time, around fifty major works from this prestigious collection will be presented in Europe in an itinerant exhibition that began in the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum: paintings and sculptures by the masters of Impressionism and post-Impressionism, as well as the major figures of modern art, from Manet to Picasso, and Degas, Gauguin, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Braque, and Matisse.

Justin K. Thannhauser (1892–1976), a leading figure in the dissemination of European modern art, was the sponsor, friend, and promoter of innovative artists who transformed Western art at the end of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. In his youth, he helped his father, Heinrich Thannhauser, to run the famous Moderne Galerie, which was founded in Munich in 1909. Father and son developed a remarkable programme of exhibitions that featured the work of French Impressionists and post-Impressionists, as well as contemporary German artists. The gallery also held one of the first major retrospectives of Picasso's oeuvre in 1913, and this helped to forge a long and close friendship between Justin Thannhauser and the artist.

In 1941, Justin Thannhauser moved to New York and soon established himself as an art dealer in the United States. As he had no successor, he bequeathed the major works in his collection to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York. They have since become some of the most important works in this major museum, where they are displayed in a gallery that bears the name of their legatee. This bequest considerably enriched the body of works by Cézanne in the New York museum, which until that point only had a single work by the artist: *l'Homme aux bras croisés* (*Man with Crossed Arms*, circa 1889). The collection of works by Cézanne owned by Thannhauser will be displayed at the Hôtel de Caumont, and includes the work *Bibémus* (*Bibémus Quarries*), which will return for the first time to Aix-in-Provence, where it was painted circa 1894–1895.



The exhibition brings together other emblematic works: major paintings by Picasso such as *Le Moulin de la Galette* (1900), an exceptional loan from the Guggenheim Museum, as well as masterpieces by Van Gogh and Manet, which have been restored to their former splendour, thanks to a recent restoration campaign that was conducted specifically for this exhibition. The exhibition also gives visitors a chance to retrace the history of the galleries and the Thannhauser Collection via photographs, inventory books, and other archive documents held in the gallery's collection, which illustrate the relations between the Thannhauser family and the avant-garde artists, collectors, and dealers of the time.

This exhibition must be a real feather in the cap for the Caumont, the insurance costs must be sky high! So enjoy



And of course one can make a visit to this Museum a complete day's outing, housing as it does a very sophisticated collection of 18th c artefacts, pictures, furniture, tapestries, everything that complimented life in that era, plus there is a charming courtyard, gardens, and café cum restaurant serving appetising snacks lunches an immersive experience, total culture.



Musée Bonnard – Le Cannet

Another lovely Museum to visit not too far away is the Bonnard Museum in Le Cannet, just up from Cannes, housing as it does a fine collection of Bonnard works.

Pierre Bonnard lived in le Cannet from 1922 to 1947, eventually acquiring the villa Le Bosquet, up on the heights of the town.



HOORAY FOR BORIS – UK'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

I've deliberately chosen a photograph of a young Boris, at Eton, a scholar, to attack and dispel the notion that he comes from the elite privileged class, Born in the USA (he relinquished his dual citizenship some while ago,) yes his father worked for the World Bank, later for the EU, the family moved fourteen times as he grew up to a cosmopolitan background. He worked in Brussels for the TELEGRAPH eventually becoming Political Editor, and also edited the Spectator magazine.

He went first to school in North London, a good public (not private school) alongside David and Ed Miliband, from whence he won a scholarship to Eton, They did not. From Eton he won another scholarship to Oxford to study Classics, Greek and Roman history, from which our democratic principles are derived in most part, and about which he is passionate.

So why do so many people go in for Boris Bashing, is it envy, jealousy, of his intelligence, intellect, combined with his meriocratic ability to connect with anyone, for that is what he does at all levels, and why the Conservative grass roots supporters, voted overwhelmingly, virtually two to one, as against the rather precious Jeremy – I was an entrepreneur – Hunt. More on the subject later ...maybe.

As far as I am concerned The sun has got its hat on. Hip Hip Hip Hooray, the sun has got its hat on and its coming out today.

If anyone can pull the UK out of its present dire mess, the dire stinking mess of shit that that Maybot left it in, Boris can.

"As Reagan showed, optimism is not the same as blind hope – but an essential precursor to success. "Over the years," he once quipped, "I've been described as an inveterate optimist, an eternal optimist, a born optimist, a canny optimist, a cagey optimist – even as defiantly optimistic... It just goes to show there's no word that cannot be turned into a pejorative if the pundits work hard enough at it." Too right.



'Mr Hammond will be leaving No 11 soon. I'm going to miss all the merriment and the sound of his infectious laughter'

A recent study by the respected German Halle Institute revealed 12,000 jobs at risk in the UK from a no-deal Brexit. Whilst the equivalent figure for the EU was an astonishing 422,000 jobs at risk, including 100,000 Grman jobs, and 50,000 French jobs!

Considering that the EU huge trade surplus is now running at £93 billion a year, a deal would be sensible.

France's horror at the prospect of prime minister Boris

Came across this interesting piece re French Newspaper reports. I'd previously taken Le Monde to be a serious and profound newspaper

""Should Boris Johnson become Prime Minister it would be a calamity for his country and for Europe. That's the view of *Le Monde*, a newspaper that declares it's time for France and the rest of the continent to stop 'regarding him as a buffoon'.

In an editorial headlined 'Boris Johnson at the head of the UK? No thanks!', the left-wing paper said that Britain's answer to Donald Trump is a danger to European stability, although clearly not as much as the Brexit Party. Since the party's formation earlier this year, *Le Monde* routinely describes them as 'extreme-right', which must come as something of a shock to Claire Fox and millions of other British lefties and their old-fashioned belief in democracy.

If there's any buffoonery in Europe, it's surely to be found in the editorial office of *Le Monde* which in recent years has followed a similar ideological intolerant trajectory to the *Guardian* and *New York Times*. This is the paper that, when it wants the British view on Brexit, turns to that paragon of probity, Denis MacShane, described in his byline as a former Labour MP and minister of State for Europe. Perhaps it didn't have enough space to include his six months in prison for false accounting.

The challenge for *Le Monde*, like the majority of the tiresomely conformist French media, is to broaden its mind in an attempt to understand why the Brexit Party rose from nowhere, and why Johnson is the Tory grassroots' favourite. That the paper hasn't managed to accomplish that relatively simple feat is no surprise. Back in 2005, a few weeks after the French people voted to reject the proposed EU Constitution, *Le Monde* blamed the result on the 'Non' campaign's more adept use of the internet. I suppose we should be thankful that the paper didn't also whine about interference from those dastardly Russians, but it was a foretaste of the denial that was to be deployed a decade later when Brexit and Trump came to pass. Of course, it didn't occur to *Le Monde* that the 55 per cent of French people who rejected the Treaty might actually have studied the two sides of the argument and reached a reasoned conclusion. *Mais non!*

The other left-wing newspaper in France, *Liberation*, describes the Brexit Party as 'Europhobes', less offensive than 'extreme-right' but still a wilful misinterpretation of the movement.

As for Johnson, *Liberation* says he is attractive to Tory grassroots because of his engaging manner and 'warlike rhetoric on the past glory of the British Empire.' The grassroots, for their part, are 'mostly, male, white and over 60'. Incidentally, Denis MacShane has also written columns for *Liberation*. In his most recent column, written on May 10, MacShane declared that the majority of British citizens' no longer wished for Brexit.

The centre-right *Le Figaro* devoted a full page to Boris Johnson on Saturday, describing him as 'the big favourite' to replace Theresa May. The paper added that he was working hard to 'overturn a persistent reputation as a charlatan' and in their view, his endeavours appeared to be succeeding. *Le Figaro* also ran a brief eye over the other contenders in the leadership race, describing

Michael Gove as 'the king of the about-turn' and comparing Jeremy Hunt's image to that of 'the outgoing Prime Minister'. A Johnson victory in the leadership contest would certainly give the French press plenty to write about, and who knows, some of it might actually be considered.""

OTHER PERTINENT COMMENTS

""Much like Britain's archaic and unelected House of Lords, the EU often doubles up as a retirement home for politicians past their prime. Former Labour leader Neil Kinnock was appointed to the European Commission in 1995 after the British public rejected him in two elections. He resigned in 1999, with the rest of the commission, over a corruption scandal, before being swiftly reappointed and serving for a further five years.

Peter Mandelson, after resigning twice from the cabinet over corruption scandals, became an EU Commissioner in 2004. And just as von der Leyen joins the commission embroiled in scandal, her predecessor Jean-Claude Juncker was appointed only a year after being ousted from his role as Luxembourg's PM over a spying scandal.

All of this confirms what we already knew - that the EU is a cushy club for the elites, whose 'elections' are mere rituals that serve to disguise the fundamental lack of accountability. The sooner we are out, the better. This is a person who, as German Defence Minister, managed to massively overspend and oversee the construction of useless, leaky U-boats for the German navy and yet promised the EU Parliament the earth in a bravura performance of virtue-signalling. J

Scanning the left side and centre of the auditorium she, in turn, promised carbon neutrality, never mind the mass youth unemployment, an EU-wide minimum wage, gender equality but with no mention of racial equality. She promised to take away the powers of member states in relation to tax, to develop an EU defence structure and army, a visionary agenda of federalism, central control and more Europe, all within the term and timescale of the the new Commission, the next five years. A chilling agenda for the creation of a supranational, socialist state called the EU. She was approved by a margin of ONLY nine votes. In a secret ballot the Brexit Party voted against her. **Allegedly - and inexplicably - Conservative MEPs voted for her.**

In retrospect the result was probably a gift to our cause. Unashamedly and transparently, von der Leyen epitomises the EU project. No more dissembling and obfuscation, she is out there in the open. No longer can the UK establishment pretend that the EU is in any way benign. No more nation state, in its stead the choice is a technocratic, Eurocracy, a centralised super-structure.""

If you want to know more, just read the report published by the Gatestone Institute.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/14584/eu-top-down-powers>



The EU is a sham democracy, and its pitiful new leaders are the proof!!

As Andrew Neil observed: *“a failed German defence minister, a failed Belgian prime minister, a former finance minister found guilty of negligence in a multi-million pound Euro scandal, and a Spanish politicians who’s been a cheerleader for repression in Catalonia.” (plus caught with his hand in the till for Insider trading!)”*

The spectacle of the past few weeks with the EU elections has shown the EU’s big beasts at their ungaurded worst

“Thank you, Eurocrats, for being yourselves. The best cure for Europhilia is always to observe the EU’s big beasts at their ungaurded worst, wheeling and dealing in their natural habitat, unencumbered by any attachment to democracy, accountability or even basic morality.

The spectacle of the past few days made for compulsive watching: we witnessed rare footage of the secretive process that propels so many retreads and second-rate apparatchiks into positions of immense power in Brussels and Frankfurt, utterly disregarding public opinion.

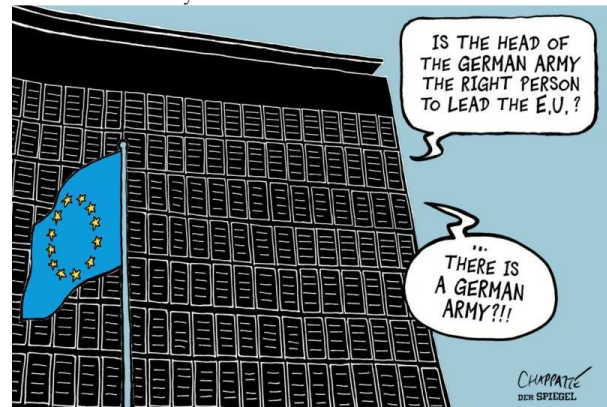
Peeking into Europe’s dystopia was certainly the right medicine for pre-Brexit Britain, guaranteed to convert erstwhile moderates into raging Brexiteers as they looked on, aghast, at the shocking disconnect between elites and people.

Everything that is wrong with the EU was shamelessly on display: a Franco-German stitch-up; smaller countries being bulldozed, especially Eastern Europeans; a constitutional coup which sidelined the (useless) European Parliament; the fact that so many of the new generation of EU leaders have had brushes with the law that would have terminated their careers in the US or UK; their explicit commitment to a “United States of Europe” and a “European army” (about which we keep being lied to); and the singing of a national anthem we were promised wouldn’t exist when the European constitution was voted down.

For the past three years, the debate in Britain has missed the point: Brexiteers argue that we must leave because we voted to do so, rather than because the EU is bad; Remainers that we musn’t leave because it’s too risky, rather than because the EU is good. But we’ve forgotten what unites 65 per cent of the public, including many Remainers: a profound dislike of the EU as it actually is, of its preposterous schemes, its authoritarian nature, its commitment to harmonising and centralising everything. At times like these, it is obvious that there is no – and can be no – European democracy. For that you would need a genuine

demos – a people – and to give them real power – kratos, in Greek. But almost nobody feels primarily European, and the average Sicilian has little in common with a random Finn. There is a such a thing as a metaphysical, abstract Europe; but in practice, no workable common European nation. While the EU apes some of the rituals of democracy, they are a sinister sham, and will always be. The EU is a technocratic empire, and can be nothing else. We must either give up on centuries of democratic, inclusive political progress, or leave.

In any case, as imperial ruling classes go, Europe’s is pathetic. Ursula von der Leyen, the Commission president-designate, herself the daughter of a Eurocrat, has wasted many depressing years as German’s defence minister, presiding over a decrepit and underfunded Bundeswehr. A devastating parliamentary report earlier this year exposed planes that can’t fly and guns that don’t shoot. Fewer than a fifth of its helicopters are combat ready.



It is almost impossible to find anybody in Germany who has a good word to say about von der Leyen, her appointment a clear case of rewards for failure. “Our weakest minister”, one said. It gets worse: a parliamentary committee has launched an inquiry into a spending scandal in her department, relating to massive contracts awarded to consultants

But she supports a United States of Europe, so what other qualifications are required?

Josep Borrell’s woes are equally recent, and haven’t prevented his nomination as foreign policy chief. Less than a year ago, as Socialist foreign minister in Spain, he was fined €30,000 (£26,900) for insider trading. The regulator ruled he had engaged in “a very serious violation” of securities law when he sold shares in Abengoa in 2015, “having privileged information on this company”. As champagne socialism goes, this takes some beating and he refused calls to resign. He also supports the disgusting clampdown on Catalonia, has made trouble over Gibraltar and agreed to set up a joint cybersecurity group with Russia last November – a move that won’t end well. Last but not least, he will be worse than useless on Iran: in an interview with Politico, he said: “Iran wants to wipe out Israel. Nothing new with that. You have to live with it.” His appointment will prove catastrophic.

As for Christine Lagarde, the new European Central Bank head she is neither an economist nor a banker but a competition lawyer. Let’s hope that the era of boom and bust has miraculously come to an end, or else the euro could be in trouble. Having served (and messed up) as head of the IMF, a political position, is no substitute for hands-on understanding of financial

markets and economics. She was a full participant in the Project Fear anti-Brexit propaganda.

Worse, she too has been embroiled in scandal. She was caught in a row involving Bernard Tapie, a controversial businessman and politician who served time for fraud. While France's finance minister, she agreed to an arbitration panel to determine a dispute involving the tycoon which led to him being awarded a huge payout, since reversed. Investigators claimed that she approved the scheme because Tapie backed Nicolas Sarkozy's 2007 election campaign: this, they alleged, was a way of thanking him with taxpayers' money. She denied the allegations, which could have landed her with a one-year jail term. She was found guilty of "negligence" but, astonishingly, the Cour de Justice de la République waived any punishment or criminal record, citing her "international reputation" and role in dealing with "the international financial crisis" as IMF boss.

Who should govern us? Is it von der Leyen, Borrell and the others, none of whom any of us were asked to choose or are able to sack? Is it a group of apparatchiks with dubious pasts and almost no name recognition outside their own countries, operating in opaque, top-down bureaucracies? Or is it well-known, heavily scrutinised UK politicians, who can now be recalled if they engage in wrongdoing?

Brexitng won't be easy: the EU's latest leaders are hard-core federalists, and won't cut us any favours. But leave we must, and as soon as possible.



TASTY OR TASTEFUL BY TRENCHERMAN

I had a very dear friend, a restaurateur, who believed that the sad state of British restaurants in the 50s and 60s was due in part to WW2 and the post war rationing which left people with the need for nourishment and their taste memories lost, over run by the need for food rather than the taste and preparation.

Today we have some amazing chefs bringing taste to another level and presentation has become an art form; the eyes are vying with the tastebuds to see which wins.

I recently visited a very modern restaurant in Hyeres, architect designed and both welcoming and stylish. It is called L'Arum and is in the centre of this somewhat remodelled and stylish town.

The greeting was everything you could want and quickly seated and aperitifs provided, we had time to peruse the menu(s).

There are two, plus the 'à la carte'; one at 31€ and the second at 45€, they are sensibly short and tempting.

The cheaper menu offered 'Asparagus' or 'Mackerel' as a first course, I was tempted by the mackerel, a fish that I love, but for me it has to be fresh from the sea, spoilt from my holidays in

Ireland and Cornwall, where I caught, cooked and ate them with gusto.

So I chose the asparagus, sorted through the wine list which consisted of wines I knew not, Provençal, but not known to me.

Others at the table chose different things including the Menu du jour at 19€ (Main course and dessert).

My choice of main course that day was either local fish or Pintade. I chose the Pintade.

My Asparagus arrived, but I did not spot it immediately, the plate was masterclass in presentation, the detail was almost obsessive and I did not know whether to eat it or frame it. A small round mousse sat on a base of crumbs and a plethora of other elements carefully adorned the plate some what dominated by a perfect 'Cheffy swipe' of what looked like mushy peas, but was in fact the asparagus. The drive through July traffic to get to Hyeres had left me hungry and very soon I had cleared my plate.

Washed down with a very pleasant Bio white from a local producer, the memory of trying to find a parking place was slipping away from me.

The main course of pintade arrived, set majestically among seasonal vegetables exquisitely arranged amongst small mounds of foam. Another triumph of colour and creative presentation.

The pintade was a supreme which had been somewhat overcooked and was rather chewish the vegetables were crisp and delicious.

For dessert I had chosen Framboise et Pistache. She who is always modest in her choices, had taken the menu du jour at 19€ which had a Magret de canard as a first course. It comes saignant said our very helpful waitress, perhaps you would prefer it à point? She had clearly dealt with foreigners before.

The duck, when it arrived was not à point, but overcooked and it became a chewing match.

My summation of the food is that all that was left out was the taste, my first course I tasted the Mushy asparagus, my main course I could taste, but not chew, the pintade and my dessert was fine.

Style over everything. Sadly.

The previous week we had visited the Resto du Boucher in Vidauban. A carnivore's delight, not quite a hoof to head operation but as close as you can get.

I was seduced by the Os à Moelle served with a little pile of sea salt on the side and I followed that with tête de veau with a sauce gribiche. As hearty food goes this was up there, no pretensions, no frivolities and a meat dish to meet every desire.

For a serious beefeater there is even a 'tomahawk' a Côte with an extra long rib bone and cooked the way you like it, or rather the three or four of you who are going to share it, like it.

For the piscatorially inclined there is salmon, I would avoid it on the basis that it is farmed and probably contains more antibiotics that our local pharmacy, pastas are offered and desserts are substantial.

If you were to come here, bring your appetite and be prepared to look at your plate and say 'I can't eat all of that!' And then eat all of it.

Pip, pip.