



OUVERTURE

BASSE SAISON

Décembre, janvier, février
Du mardi au dimanche de 10h à 17h

MOYENNE SAISON

Mars à juin – octobre et novembre
Du mardi au dimanche : 10h-18h

HAUTE SAISON

Juillet, août, septembre
Tous les jours : 10h-19h - lundi : 10h-21h

FERMETURE

1^{er} mai, 1^{er} juin, 17/05, 25/12, 1^{er} août - 15/02,
15/11 - 30/11

Pour public scolaire, les horaires ci-dessus et accueil possible les jeudis et vendredis
dès 9h sur réservation hors vacances scolaires.



FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL CHORAL – 4 – 28 JULY

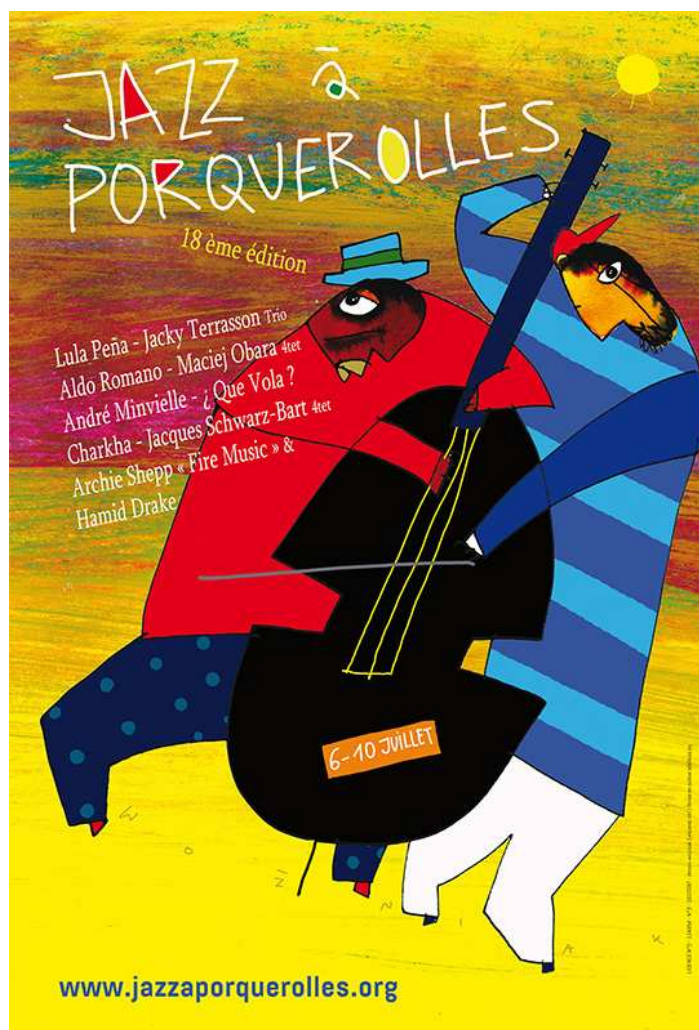
Unique in its kind, this festival hosts high quality French and foreign choirs, for a concert tour throughout Provence. The festival hosts choirs from France, Brazil, Italy, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania, Belarus, Switzerland and Denmark. **Internationally renowned**, it is considered a must-attend event whose artistic quality and organization are hailed by critics every year. This year it offers 40 concerts in 29 cities. Unless otherwise stated, entries are free.

www.choral-events.com



JAZZ FESTIVAL TOURRETTES 5 & 6 JULY

5 July - 20h30 : NICOLA SABATO et JACQUES DI COSTANZO Quartet, 22h30 : GENE KRUPPA PROJECT
6 July - 20h30 : SWALLOW "Tribute to Ray Charles" - RITA PAYES Quintet, 22h30 : RITA PAYES Quintet
FREE



JAZZ A PORQUEROLLES – 6 – 10 JULY

Lula Pena, Jacky Terrasson trio, Aldo Romano, Maciej Obara Quartet, Andre Minvielle, Que Vola, Charkh, Jacques Schwarz-bart Quartet, plus Archie Shepps, veteran of the event, and Hamid Drake.



<http://www.jazzaporquerolles.org>



FESTIVAL CUBAIN BAYAMO 9 21 JULY - TOULON LA SEYNE

Tuesday 9 July - 18h30 - Villa Tamaris Centre d'Art
Expo of works by 'artiste cubaine ACONCHA Soiree continues
with concert on the terrace with Cana Santa - Free

Saturday 13 July : Maison Jean Bouvet

9h à 12h et 13h30 à 16h30 : stage de salsa – niveau 1

Thursday 18 July - Fort Balaguiet - 20h30 : **Alternativa**

22h : **Vocal sampling** - Minuit : After avec DJ fab el calvo

Friday 19 July - - Fort de Balaguiet - 20h30 : **Alternativa**

22h : **Anacaona** - Minuit : After avec DJ fab el calvo

Saturday 20 July - Maison Jean Bouvet - 9h à 12h et 13h30

à 16h30 : stage salsa niveau intermédiaire - Fort Balaguiet

20h30 : **Alternativa**

22h : **David Calzado y La Charanga Habanera**

Minuit : After avec DJ fab el calvo

Sunday 21 July - Maison Jean Bouvet - 9h à 12h et 13h30 à 16h30

: stage salsa niveau intermédiaire ou avancé

<http://www.bayamo.fr>



LES NUITS MUSICALES DE MAZAUGUES – 11 JULY – 7 AUGUST

Thursday 11 July– 21 heures / Théâtre de Verduze

Sonia Wieder-Atherton (Violoncelle) (*Bach*)

En avant-soirée, Une heure avec ... –

17 heures 45 / Église de Mazaugues : **Jean-Baptiste Maizières**
(*Violoncelle*) **Maël Floch (Violoncelle)** (*Bach*)

Tuesday 16 July– 21 heures / Théâtre de Verduze

Quatuor Zaïde (*Haydn – Mozart – Clara et Robert Schumann*)

Monday 22 July– 21 heures / Théâtre de Verduze

Philippe Cassard (Piano) (*Brahms – Mendelssohn – Liszt –*
Schubert – Fauré)

En avant-soirée, Une heure avec ... – 17 heures 45 / Église de
Mazaugues : **Alexia Garcia (Accordéon classique)**

Franck Pantin (Piano)

(*Bach*)

Wednesday 7 August 2019 – 21 heures / Théâtre de Verduze,

Duo Darius Milhaud (Deux pianos)

(*Debussy – Ravel – Saint-Saëns – Fauré*)



FESTIVAL JAZZ VERDON

Seven nights, seven villages, seven jazz concerts to enjoy! Free
entry.

10 July Aups

11 July Toutour

12 July Regusse

13 July Baudinard

14 July Aups & St Antonin

15 July Quinson & Aiguines

16 July Moissac

17 July Villecroze



FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE DE TOULON & SIX FOURS 10 – 21 JULY

<http://www.festivalmusiquetoulon.com/> See webpage for programme

JAZZ AT CHATEAU DE BERNE – LORGUES 12 & 21 JULY

Friday 12 July - Jazz aBerne with Andrew Manoukian & China Moses, - 21h. On site catering. Tickets 45€ free fpr imder 10s www.jazzaberne.com

Sunday 21 July – Jazz a Berne with Thomas Dutronc – SOLD OUT



FESTIVAL GLORIANA – LES ARCS & BORMES LES MIMOSAS

16 JULY – 2 August

L'INVITATION AU VOYAGE Tuesday 16 July 21H Château Sainte Roseline - Les Arcs sur Argens

LA NUIT DU PIANO Friday, 19 July 19:00 Château Sainte Roseline - Les Arcs sur Argens

UNE SOIRÉE A VIENNE Monday 22 July 20:00

Château Sainte Roseline - Les Arcs sur Argens

OPUS 4 - Concert Jazz Manouche Wednesday 24 July 20:00

Château Sainte Roseline – Les Arcs sur Argens

UNE NUIT A L'OPÉRA Friday 26 July 18h30 - Château Sainte Roseline - Les Arcs sur Argens

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



JAZZ A TOULON – FREE CONCERTS ALL OVER 19 - 28 JULY

Friday 19 Juillet 21h30 - MANU DIBANGO

Place De La Liberte A Toulon

Saturday 20 Juillet 21h30 - RANDOLPH MATTHEWS

Place L'equerre A Toulon

Monday 22 Juillet 21h30 - MANU GUERRERO

Place Bouzigue A Toulon

Tuesday 23 Juillet 21h30 - AGATHE IRACEMA

Place D'armes A Toulon

Wednesday 24 Juillet 21h30 - THEO CECCALDI

Place Saint Jean Du Var A Toulon

Thursdy 25 Juillet 21h30

ORCHESTRE DE L'OPERA DE TOULON PROVENCE

MEDITERRANEE / RICCARDO DEL FRA

Place Louis Blanc A Toulon

Friday 26 Juillet 21h30 - TONY ALLEN

Place Martin Bidoure A Toulon

Saturday 27 Juillet 21h45 - KENNY GARRETT

Plages Du Mourillon A Toulon

Sunday 28 Juillet 20h00 - PHILIPPE PETRUCCIANI / LOUIS PETRUCCIANI

Place Victor Hugo A Toulon

30 Years of free Jazz in Toulon, look out website for all details of afternoon as well as evening concerts !!

www.jazzatoulon.com



FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE ANCIEN DE CALLAS - 18 – 25 JULY

18 July – 21 h - Callas - Église N.-D.-de l'Assomption - Venise rayonnante - ENSEMBLE UNISONI, - 1 sopraniste & ensemble instrumental

21 July – 18h. - Figanières - Église Saint-Michel, The Fairy Queen ENSEMBLE BAROQUE DE MONACO

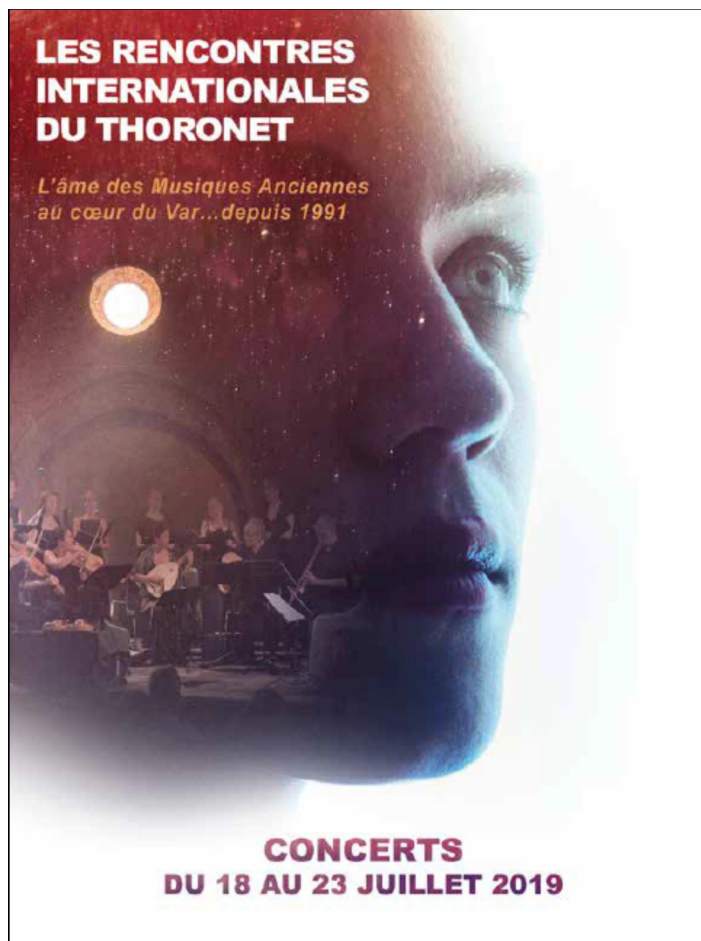
10 chanteurs solistes & 9 instruments / Direction Matthieu Peyrègne – Henry Purcell

23 July – 21h - Clapiers - Église Saint-Sylvestre -Il Canto Alla Viola Da Gamba ENSEMBLE COMET MUSICKE

1 soprano & 4 musiciens 2 chanteurs. Chanteur, violiste et altiste, CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

25 July – 21h Callas - Église N.-D.-de l'Assomption Eros, Héros et Héroïnes COMPAGNIE BAROQUES GRAFFITI - soprano, contre-ténor, clavecin et violoncelle baroque Extraits d'opéras de HAENDEL, CAVALLI, GLUCK

FESTIVAL DE NEOULES – BASTIDE DE CHATEAULAIN – 18, 19 & 20 July



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES DU THORONET – 18 – 23 JULY

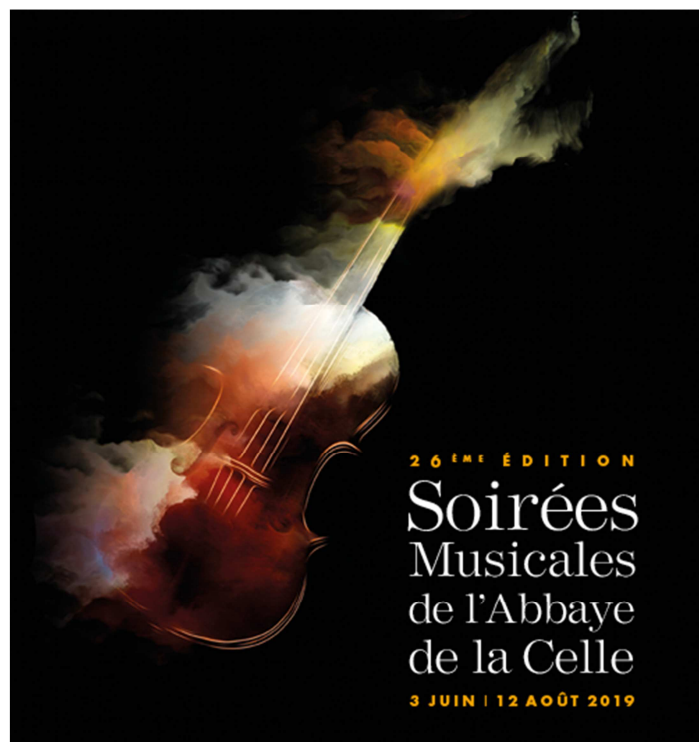
Thursday 18 July 21h, Abbaye du Thoronet – Sofia Labropoulou, Domique Vellard & Pierre Rigopoulos – Conversations Modale
 Friday 19 July 21h – Abbaye du Thoronet – Uzorika – Chants ancien et traditionnels Russes
 Saturday 20 July 21h – Abbaye du Thoronet – Ensemble Cinquecento, L'homme arme
 Monday 22 July – 21h. – Place de la Mairie du Thoronet – The Curious Bards – the Celtic Voice
 Tuesday 23 July 21h – Abbaye du Thoronet – Ensemble Gille Binchois, Le printemps, Claude le Jeune .



JAZZ A BRIGNOLES 25 – 27 JULY

All at Place Caramy - FREE
 Thursday 25 July – 12h - Angelique Nicolas Quintet
 21h30 – Daniel Huck Quintet

Friday 26 July – 12h – Hommage o Erroll Garner
 21h30 – Fabien Mary Quartet
 Saturday 27 July – 11h30 – Nomad Project
 21h30 – Tribute to Benny Goodman & Lionel Ham



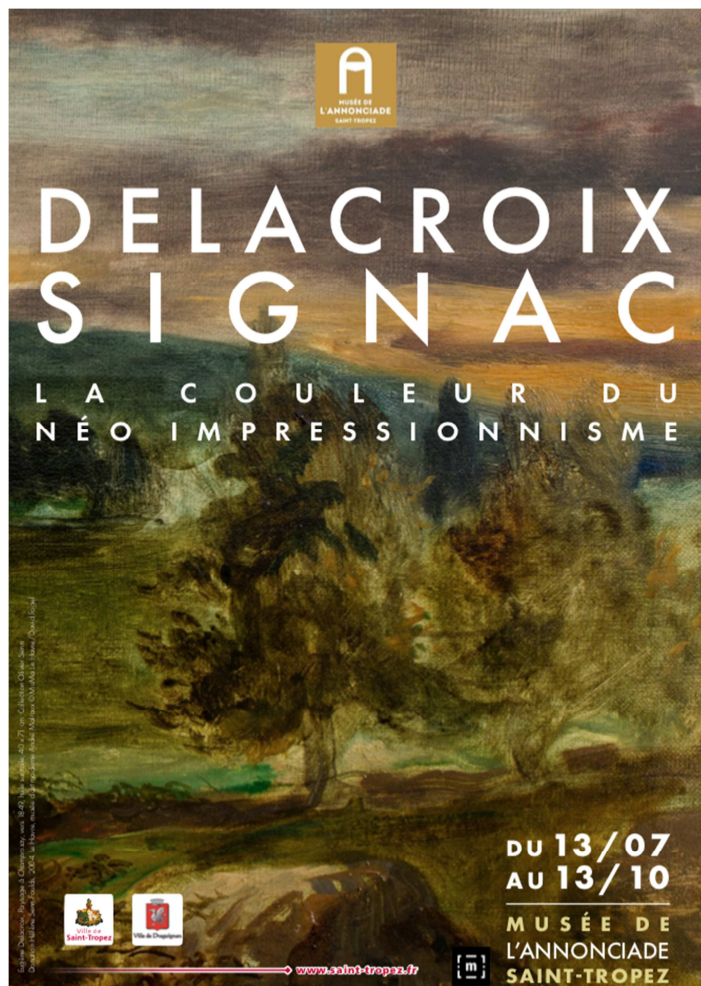
CONCERT ABBAYE DE LA CELLE

Friday 26 July – 21h – Cloître de l'Abbaye – Inspirations, Thibaut Garcia, guitar, works by Bach, Barrios, Albeniz.
<http://www.soireesmusicales-lacelle.com/>



FILMS IN VO – LORGUES

Thursday 4 July – 19h Royal Opera – Romeo & Juliette
 Sunday 7 July 19h – Tolkien
 Sunday 14 July 19h – Tee Spirit
 Thursday 18 July 19h – Men's in Black
 Monday 22 July 20h – Men's in Black
 Sunday 28 July 19h - Yesterday



MUSEE DE L'ANNONCIADE – 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.

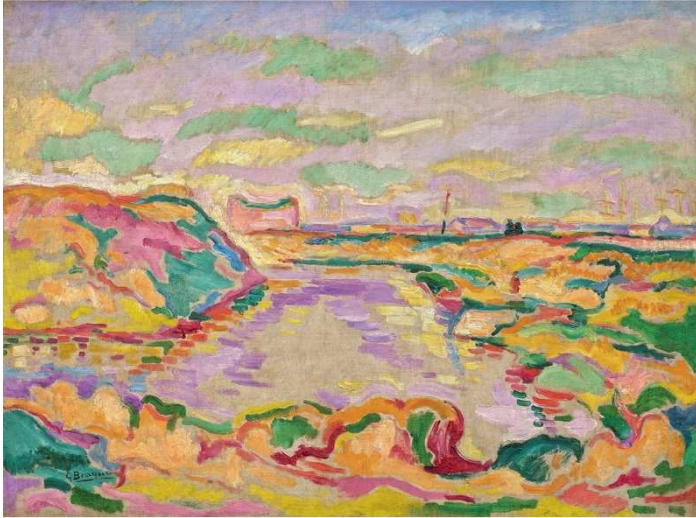


The clouds, suns, and portraits, represented in the artist's unique style, come to life on walls that are more than fifteen metres high, evoking the artist's boundless, chaotic, and poetic interior world. Via a thematic itinerary relating to the various phases of his life—his time spent in Arles, Paris, 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 Siccardi, 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.

<http://www.caumont-centredart.com/en>

located just a few steps from the Cours Mirabeau

Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

3 rue Joseph Cabassol 13100 Aix-en-Provence

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.



CHANGE MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND

BY TRENCHERMAN

When, about forty years ago, we, that is :I the captain, my first mate, the first mate and a motley crew of two young children and a goddaughter, began our first odyssey around the Aegean Sea, things were different. Our boat was small and under equipped, I remember showing a chart I had brought with me to a Greek fisherman and he had never seen anything like it!

Almost nobody spoke English and we knew no Greek. Tavernas did not have menus, so upon arrival it was normal to go into the kitchen , lift pot lids, look into the fridge, hum and haw and with a few gestures, order a meal.

The cooking was good and simple, it was home cooking, Ma in the kitchen Pa out front and maybe two small children who ran around and served. A perfect equipe to keep a loyal local customer base happy. Everyone knew everyone and we travellers were greeted like explorers and valuable guests.

We proceeded as such for several years, very happily.

Now, in a larger, perfectly equipped yacht and after a month of different islands, ports, coves and creeks, it is clear that much has changed.

To start with almost everybody speaks excellent English and all we have done is learn the Greek for hello, please and thank you. Whilst not a conversation, they do help and bring a smile to our hosts.

Tavernas now have menus and together with Moussaka, Tzaziki, taramasalata , souvlaki, stuffed peppers and tomatoes and the great Greek salad and more, there is "The full English breakfast", "Spaghetti Bolognese", "Penne with salmon", and more, and more. I don't say this is bad, but it is different from what we got used to and fell in love with.

There are still gems to be found, the little fish restaurants in the fish market in Aegina town; the perfect taverna, pieds dans l'eau in a perfect bay on Kithnos, we sat a metre away from the holding pen in the sea which was inhabited by large Crayfish (which they call lobsters) and Balmain Bugs (a long way from home). You pick, they cook, you eat with a smile creeping across your face. It was with reluctance that we left, but adventurers we are. Onwards ever onwards.

An observation I offer you is that the smarter a restaurant looks, the less likely the cooking will please. One of the things that hasn't changed is that family tavernas are still likely to be the best.

On the small island of Levithia in the Small Cyclades, an enterprising farmer and his family (the only inhabitants of the island) have laid 10 mooring buoys in a perfectly protected bay where if you do not want to pay the mooring charge of 8€, you can eat in his taverna (his home) and indulge in the wonderful lamb, island bred, or his goat stew from semi wild goats on the island and after a mezze of traditional starters and finishing with traditional desserts and washed down with a couple of litres of good fresh wine, four of you can eat for under 90€.

So a lot has changed but one thing that has not is the welcome you receive and the odd evening when, with a crew of a sponge boat, you might indulge in some traditional dancing. We shall plough onward ever onward and there are many more islands to revisit yet.

On a quick trip home to feed the cats (as if in the islands my first mate does not feed enough) we went to the semi-opening of a new restaurant in St Tropez.

It is in the Pastis Hotel at the entrance to St Tropez and the restaurant (open only in the evenings) is clustered around the swimming pool and serves light refreshing food and offers some very good wine at prices not often seen in elegant restaurants.

I have long had a problem with drinking expensive wine in restaurants and not just because I am a cheapskate, but because the labour required to open an expensive bottle is the same as opening a cheaper one but the service charge involved just assumes you are stupid enough not to notice, and it rankles with me. So, John, the fine upstanding English proprietor of the Pastis Kitchen (the new restaurant) has introduced good wines onto his list which are not marked up in the traditional way Long may his strength be with him.

Maybe some change is good?

Pip, pip

COMMENT FROM HOLLAND ON BREXIT

Five years ago, the Dutch Freedom Party PVV commissioned the independent research company Capital Economics to assess the economic impact if the Netherlands should leave the EU (NExit). The findings were very clear. Regardless of the outcome of any Netherlands-EU trade negotiations, in every scenario, Dutch gross domestic product was shown to be between 10 and 13 per cent higher by 2035 than it would be if the Netherlands continue as a member state of the EU.

Leaving the EU allows a country to reduce the cost of doing business by reducing burdensome regulations in areas currently under the jurisdiction of Brussels. It also improves public finances by opting out of costly EU spending programmes. It reduces public expenditure through revising immigration policy. It increases exports to booming non-European markets through mutually advantageous bilateral trade deals. And it stimulates the national economy by having the freedom to set one's own monetary and fiscal policy, without being tied to common one-size-fits-none policies.

These reasons apply not just to the UK and the Netherlands, but to all the net contributing EU member states. International investors know this. They are not at all deterred by the prospect of a country leaving the EU. Last year, foreign direct investment in the UK was bigger than that of France and Germany combined. The German supermarket chain Lidl just unveiled a huge £500 million investment in London – hardly the thing one

would do in a country that according to Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit negotiator, is on the brink of chaos.

And Brussels knows it, too. That is why, despite French President Macron's recent declaration that October 31 is the final deadline for Brexit, the European elites will do everything they can to stop it. They are aware that Brexit will prove to be a big boon to the United Kingdom and that once this becomes clear to the peoples from the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, even Germany, they will want to follow the British example.

The British leader who takes his country out of the EU, will be changing the future not just of his own country, but of the whole of Europe. It will not be the first time in history that liberty for the European continent comes from across the English Channel. Liberating Europe from tyranny seems to be the Englishman's burden.

Indeed, the Brexiteers stand in the tradition of their compatriots who, while every other nation in Europe surrendered, refused to give in to an undemocratic and totalitarian moloch. In 1940, Denmark surrendered after two hours, the Netherlands after five days, Belgium after eighteen days, France after six weeks. But Britain fought on, even when all seemed lost, especially when all seemed lost. And in doing so, it was able not just to save itself, but also to liberate the rest of us. This time it will be no different.

The Eurocrats in Brussels want to prevent Brexit by refusing to entertain any leaving terms short of the ruinous. What Britain lacked so far was a leader in the mold of Churchill. No Chamberlain eager to appease, no Halifax ready to compromise, but someone who refuses to renounce an inch of Britain's independence and sovereignty. In doing so, he will not just save Britain, but the whole of Europe.

Paul Belien is a Flemish writer who works in the European Parliament. From 2010 to 2018 he was chief of staff to Dutch politician Geert Wilders MP, leader of the Dutch Freedom Party PVV. He is the author of the book *"A Throne in Brussels"*



ITALY DIGS ITS HEELS IN.

Italy's radical coalition has opened a second front in its running battle with the EU authorities and its own pro-EU establishment, pushing ahead with plans to bring the Bank of Italy under political control. The ruling Lega and Five Star parties have drafted a bill in the Italian parliament that would strip the central bank of its sacrosanct status. The governor and deputy would be appointed by the prime minister and other officials by the Italian Camera and Senate in secret votes.

Matteo Salvini, the Lega leader, has made no secret of his aim to "completely purge" the upper echelons of the venerable institution - a fiefdom beyond meaningful democratic control. **The bill buttresses moves over the past month for a "minibot" scrip currency to fund the payment of €53bn of state arrears to contractors and households** - an ambiguous instrument that could evolve into a parallel currency and a "lira-in-waiting".

Italy's eurosceptics have studied the debacle of Greece's confrontation with the EU in 2015, concluding that they must never risk facing the same vulnerable predicament.

Yanis Varoufakis, then finance minister, says the Greek central bank acted as the enforcer of the ECB and the EU power structure against the elected Syriza government. It choked off emergency liquidity to the private banks and brought the country to its knees.

He accused the institution of launching an assault on Syriza's anti-austerity policies even before it had taken office, setting off a run on Greek markets as a pressure tool. The bitter confrontation lasted months. There were failed plots to oust the governor, even to seize the national mint.

In the end Mr Varoufakis was unable to pursue "guerrilla warfare" against the ECB or activate his parallel currency as long as the central bank was essentially working for the other side.

Officials at the Greek central bank insist that they were merely fulfilling their legal patriotic duties. Yet the episode raises a fundamental question over the role of central banks in a monetary union. **Should their first loyalty be to parliament, or to the EU authorities?**



AND GUESS WHAT – THE SWISS ARE DIGGING THEIR HEELS IN TOO!!

Switzerland will ban European Union stock exchanges from trading Swiss shares in retaliation for Brussels freezing its bourses out from the EU market.

The European Commission refused to grant Swiss stock exchanges access after its patience ran out during negotiations over a long-delayed partnership treaty.

"Equivalence", the system of regulatory recognition used to govern access for financial services in non-EU countries, will now lapse on July 1.

In retaliation Bern said it would withdraw recognition from trading venues in the EU from July 1 to "protect the Swiss stock exchange infrastructure in the event of non-extension."

"Trading venues in the EU would thus be prohibited from offering or facilitating trading in certain shares of Swiss companies from that date," the Swiss government said.

In a row that has echoes of the Brexit negotiations, the EU sees the plethora of different agreements as "cherry-picking". British and EU negotiators have agreed that the same system will be used after Brexit, if the Withdrawal Agreement is ever ratified by the House of Commons. Equivalence will replace the EU passport financial services firms previously enjoyed. It is unlikely in the short term that Brussels would attempt similar hardball tactics with the City of London because of its larger size and the EU's greater exposure to it. But the Swiss example will serve as a warning that the EU is not willing to compromise on its red lines, even if that means a "no deal" with Bern.



The EU will come to regret its economic blackmail of Switzerland

The Swiss have become mere collateral in the EU's desire to cow Britain into submission

While Brexit negotiations have stalled, tensions between the European Union and Switzerland are ramping up.

Since 2014, Switzerland and the EU have been trying to amalgamate their existing 120 bilateral treaties into a single agreement. Yet the Swiss refused to concede to EU terms without clarification on certain issues; in response the EU now looks likely to cut off Swiss stock exchanges from the Single Market within days in retaliation for their failure to ratify the treaty quickly enough.

As a leak last week revealed, their reasons for doing so are, quite transparently, to make an example of Switzerland "in what is probably the decisive phase regarding Brexit", according to the commissioner in charge of the talks. In other words, Switzerland, a member of EFTA and Schengen, a country that has paid billions into the Brussels coffers over decades, and enjoyed a largely amicable trading relationship, has become mere collateral in the EU's desire to cow Britain into submission.

But the Swiss are refusing to back down, threatening to retaliate by banning EU stock exchanges from trading Swiss shares.

About 30 per cent of trading in Swiss blue-chips takes place in London. Opposition is not only coming from the right-wing populist Swiss People's Party, but also from trade unions.

The Swiss Parliament has instructed the government to return to the negotiating table.

For the EU, these problems date back to the 1980s, and an initiative by then-Commission President Jacques Delors, who inspired the legendary Sun headline "Up Yours Delors!" following one of his clashes with Margaret Thatcher. Delors, keen to design a uniform system to deal with neighbouring "third countries", proposed to grant them full access to the single market, but only in return for adopting all the EU's rules and

standards. Lack of a veto over these rules inspired Jens Stoltenberg, the PM of Norway, which did adopt this arrangement, to brand his country a “fax democracy”. It didn’t take sovereignty-loving Swiss voters long to figure this out, and they rejected a similar arrangement in a referendum in 1992. Back then, the EU respected this outcome and went on to negotiate a package of bilaterals, granting the Swiss selective market access in return for selective rule-taking. Today, however, the EU dismisses this arrangement, which closely resembles the government’s “Chequers plan” for the future EU-UK relationship, as “cherry picking”.

There are many parallels between Brexit and the EU-Swiss relationship, and in fact the British government should be ramping up coordination with Switzerland, to counter the EU’s attempts to increase its regulatory powers on the back of disrupting business.

The proposed framework agreement between the EU and Switzerland contains two issues that would be troubling not just for Swiss politicians, but could be rejected in the Swiss public referendum which will follow if their government concedes to the EU terms. First of all, the agreement introduces an arbitration mechanism, with a role for the European Court of Justice, into the Swiss-EU relationship. Until today, that wasn’t the case - all previous disputes were resolved by politicians. The arbitration mechanism anticipated in the framework agreement is effectively the same as that agreed by Theresa May with the EU in November. The Swiss government seems to have conceded on this issue, but whether it will survive its own direct democracy is another question.

Secondly, the EU favours “dynamic alignment”, which means that the Swiss would be forced to accept updates of the EU rules they have aligned with in return for market access. It is a long-standing EU frustration that this wasn’t negotiated in the 1990s. The reason was of course the deep Swiss attachment to democracy and suspicion of agreeing to accede to EU rules that aren’t properly understood.

All in all, the Swiss-EU relationship has been so smooth that the EU’s ultimatums and threats to restrict trade look disproportionate and uncharitable in the extreme. Switzerland has contributed billions to EU projects, and granted free movement, so that today almost one in four inhabitants of Switzerland does not have Swiss nationality, 80 per cent of whom are EU citizens. In short, how can the EU treat a friendly neighbour in this way?

In 2018, eleven EU countries, including Germany and the UK, opposed the EU Commission when it suggested cutting off access for Swiss stock exchanges. Now the Commission is getting its way, ignoring warnings from Business Europe, the confederation of European industry, not to escalate.

One EU diplomat told the FT that because “we’re not going to treat the Brits any worse than Switzerland”, hinting that failure to punish Switzerland with loss of market access for refusing to bow would be seen as a dangerous precedent. Though Switzerland will likely manage to mitigate the damage through its protective measures, it would signal that the EU is willing to restrict market access when it fails to increase its regulatory control over a trading partner.

Given the deep seated love of self-government in both Switzerland and the United Kingdom, two of the oldest democracies in the world, self-destructive attempts to hurt trade in a bid to gain more regulatory control will only fail. When

faced with a European country that does not seek to belong to the customs union or single market, yet nevertheless enjoys a smooth trading relationship with the bloc, the EU should not abandon the flexibility that has driven prosperity on both sides, over decades. Instead, it should channel some of its past pragmatism in approaching its future relationship with the United Kingdom.

Pieter Cleppe represents independent think tank Open Europe in Brussels



MEANTIME BACK AT THE RANCH IN BRUSSELS –

They are all hard at it, totally disagreeing as to who gets the top three jobs in the EU. Merkel, up to now, fiercely defending her candidate Manfred Weber, has had to abandon him in face of the opposition from mainly Macron, and other, less important EU members, to the previous ‘Spitzenkandidat’ process. Oh Dear. How many of the most fanatical Remainers in Britain can actually explain how the EU appoints its top jobs? Do they understand what the “Spitzenkandidat” process is, and are they aware of how it has unravelled in recent days? If, as we suspect, the answer is no, then they are in love with the idea of an EU, not the undemocratic, bureaucratic madness that is the actual EU. Take the president of the European Commission, the job currently held by Jean-Claude Juncker and that comes with a staff of over 30,000, a salary of around 300,000 Euros and other perks including, of course, an entertainment budget. Does every Remainer understand that this post isn’t even directly elected? That his or her name must have the support of a large majority of EU leaders and only then is put to the EU parliament? Or that Manfred Weber, the candidate whose party got the most seats in the recent European elections (a man who almost no UK Remainer has ever heard of), has been discounted for lack of experience?

If it all sounds less than democratic then that’s because it’s supposed to be. The European model is essentially Platonic: a veneer of democracy kept in check by divided powers and a self-selecting political class. It’s a constitutional framework drafted by politicians who didn’t trust their own populations. It is a million miles from the British system, where the government is formed from MPs elected directly by the people, and in which Parliament is sovereign and the voters understand who is in charge and the limits of their power.

Democracy – oh dear, a new idea to the EU.

Sponsored by

BLEVINS  FRANKS
INTERNATIONAL TAX & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

A Fresh Start ?

(article written by journalism student, Tom Eveleigh)

As rugby fans and players alike turn their attention to the upcoming World Cup, the domestic curtain falls on what has been a breathtaking season.

The 2018-19 edition of the French Top 14 saw Toulouse secure their 20th title, but, of course, not every club enjoyed the same fortune. For example, as far as Toulon are concerned, it has been a year to forget.

Long gone are the days of back to back European cups and domestic finals. The era of Jonny Wilkinson and Matt Giteau, a distant memory.

The club from the Var has to deal with the fact that French rugby is moving on and they have been left behind. Club president Mourad Boudjellal, as ever, doesn't hide his feelings: "After the defeat at Edinburgh I saw us playing in the second division next season". This quote dating back to January says a lot about the team's current situation. A team who found themselves in 11th place and only a mere 7 points above the danger zone at the beginning of the new year.

A disappointing season

Finishing 9th in the league and failing to qualify from the group stages in the European Champions Cup; it has been a year of disappointing results to say the least.

Toulon pride themselves on their capacity of winning trophies and going deep into competitions. 2018-19 has been quite the opposite.

With a win ratio of only 46 % and a team struggling to win on the road, the statistics talk for themselves.

For the fans who are used to seeing their team win it was a shock to the system. A Mayol stadium usually packed every weekend seemed eerily quiet at times.

Losing became a habit with heavy defeats to the likes of Racing (25-9), Toulouse (39-0) and Stade Français (37-10). Defeats against struggling Grenoble and Agen adding salt to the wounds.

Not is all negative and some decent performances are to be worked upon to progress in the upcoming season. A 40-7 win over semi-finalists Lyon and a 25-10 win over champions Toulouse at the Vélodrome being the stand out games.

Out with the old and in with the new

Last year was a year to forget both on and off the pitch. Poor performances and a team that just didn't seem to gel were the common factors throughout the season. A contrast with the Top 14 winners, Toulouse, who played as a unit even when losing key players to international duty.

Julian Savea, maybe the biggest disappointment of them all. The 28 year old New Zealand winger arrived in the south of France as a hero, his 2015 World Cup performance against France still fresh in the fans' memories. The reality was unfortunately very different.

Released by the Hurricanes in the summer of 2018, he struggled to find his feet at his new mediterranean home. Problems off the pitch and a public spat with Boudjellal seem to sum up Toulon's year.

The new season will come as a fresh start for Toulon who will be looking to reestablish themselves at the top of European rugby. The transfer window is always busy down on the "Rade" but this time it's more important than ever to get it right.

François Trinh-Duc, Mathieu Bastareaud and Josua Tuisova are all leaving to find new homes. Some further than others, with Bastareaud jetting off to play for the Rugby United franchise in New York.

Amongst the arrivals, big names have signed; Cristopher Tolofua from Saracens, Baptiste Serin from Bordeaux, Eben Etzebeth from the Stormers and Nehe Milner Skudder from the Hurricanes

Light at the end of the tunnel ?

Toulouse proved yet again that you don't need to splash out on big names when you have got young players who are just desperate to prove their worth on the big stage.

Ntamack, Dupont, Ramos, French youngsters who can do the job just as well as any foreigner.

Every cloud has a silver lining they say and this terrible season could be exactly what the club needed.

With the French under 20's winning back to back World Cups and the Toulon youth academy being crowned French champions, there is no lack of young talent

Erwan Dridri, Louis Carbonel, Jean Baptiste Gros, names that might not be familiar yet but could be the answer to the club's problem.

Be it with big names from abroad or young prodigies in their back yard, Toulon have all the weapons to get back to winning ways. It's in their hands.

Enjoy the summer break, although with World Cup warm up matches throughout August (including France v Scotland at Nice on 17th), there will be no shortage of action.





Tax-efficient wealth management solutions for expatriates in France

Contact your local Blevins Franks adviser, Simon Eveleigh