

RENDEZ-VOUS AUX JARDINS

rendezvousauxjardins.fr
#RdvJardins

LES
ANIMAUX
AU
JARDIN

7-8-9 JUIN 2019



RENDEZ VOUS AUX JARDINS 7 – 9 JUNE

For passionate gardeners, their perfect event of the year, Hundreds of gardens, public and private open to visitors. Just go into the very interactive website map, and find out where is the nearest, most wonderful, or most interesting garden to see, and the prospect is just huge stretching from beyond Marseille to over the Italian border, and in fact all over the world. You will be spoiled for choice.

Plus all the gardening shops will be trying to entice you with furniture, seeds, plants, everything. In addition, remember that the Gardens of Menton will have reached their zenith this month, the whole of June is the time to visit this celebrated group of gardens, the majority of which were started and cultivated by British gardeners who fell in love with the temperate climate offered by this region. Gardens like Serra Madonna, etc. many of which are now closed to visitors, so do take advantage. There will be organised visits, lectures, etc. Just consult the Menton website for details.

<https://rendezvousauxjardins.culture.gouv.fr>

**CONCERT LA CAMERATA VOCALE –
CELEBRATION OF FRANCIS POULENC –
DOMAINE DU DRAGON – DRAGUIGNAN –
SATURDAY 1 JUNE – 19H FREE**

**CONCERT - CHAPELLE STE. BARTHOLOMY
– MONTAUX – SUNDAY 2 JUNE – 16H
INFO: 06 88 64 11 34**



**FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE DE TOULON –
12 JUNE – 10 JULY
& SIX FOURS – 17 – 21 JULY**

12 June – PIANOS SAUVAGE – from 11 am to 18 hpm – Place Dr. Aubert, Carre du Port, Centre Mayol, Place Puget



12 June – Recital 2 Pianos – 18h45 – 10h. with Frantz Baronti, & Bertrand Massei, free, Place Puget

Programme, Milhaud to Saint-Saens, to Ravel

14 June – Eglise St. Jean Bosco – Charity Concert, with Choeur de Chambre Kalliste, Ensemble Instrumental de Toulon & du Var,

21 June, Fete de la Musique – Le Faron, Toulon – Concert des Elèves des Classes de Cuivre du Conservatoire TPM

<http://www.festivalmusiquetoulon.com/>

Concert
Le moulin des Arts
présente

Jazz au moulin
avec
Trio Philippe LeJeune
Toulouse

Philippe LeJeune piano
Jean-Jacques Patacchini guitare
José Fillatreau batterie

ENTRECASTEAUX
samedi 15 juin 2019 à 20h30
dimanche 16 juin 2019 à 16h00

Prix des places 20 €
adhérents 15 €
le verre de l'amitié inclus
Réservations 04 94 69 58 07
ou par e-mail : mrkucko@yahoo.fr

Ancien moulin à huile
17, rue de Lubac
Entrecasteaux

lemoulindesArts

JAZZ AU MOULIN – ENTRECASTEAUX – 15 & 16 JUNE

With Jazz Trio Philippe LeJeane – Saturday 15 June 20h30 &
Sunday 16 June 16h00. at the Moulin à l'Huile, 17 rue de Lubac,
Entrecasteaux. 20 € – 15 € verre de l'amitié inclus

Seats limited Please Reserve :

Tel : 04 94 / 59 94 03 (Jean-Paul et Helen Walde

e-mail à jph.walder@gmail.com

TRAVELLING BOOK SWAP 19 JUNE - ENTRECASTEAUX

chez Sue & Andrew Mackie, 1701 Chemin de Sainte Anne, 83570
Entrecasteaux. Travelling Book Swap Summer Party. 09 80 74 78
66. 10h00-12h00. Contact Mim Kay on mimi4opp@gmail.com or
04 94 04 78 94 for further directions. Car share if possible

FRÉJUS
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ACCOMPAGNÉ DE SA TROUPE DE DANSEUSES

PRÉSENTENT
Places en fête
« PREMIÈRE »

SAMEDI 15 JUIN 2019
19H00
PLACE FORMIGÉ

RESTAURATION SUR PLACE
PARKINGS GRATUITS

Fréjus
VILLE DE
ENTRECASTEAUX

Fréjus
Cœur d'Azur

CONCERT – FREJUS – 15 JUNE -19h00



LORGUES CINEMA – FILMS IN VO

Sunday 2 June – The Dead don't Die, 19h00

Thursday 6 June – Royal Opera – Faust – 19h00

Sunday 9 June – Edith – Movie in Preview – 19h00

Sunday 16 June – Rocketman (Elton John Bio) 19h00

Sunday 23 June – I can't Imagine – 19h00

Sunday 30 June – Long Shot – 19h00



FETE DE LA MUSIQUE 21 JUNE – ALL OVER

<https://fetedelamusique.culture.gouv.fr/Espace-Presses>



LES MUSICALES DANS LES VIGNES – JUNE

Friday 21 June - Domaine La Cavale Cucuron

Récital Chopin Litz - Stéfan Cassar

Saturday 22 June Château Roubine Lorgues

Airs célèbres d'Opéra Chloé Chaume Soprano Stéphanie

Humeau pianiste concert présenté par Marie-Automne Peyregne

Sunday 23 June Château des Marres Ramatuelle
Standards du Jazz - Michel Pellegrino Quartet

Friday 28 June Clos des Roses à Fréjus

Jazz manouche, musique tzigane - Basilic Swing

Saturday 29 June Château du Seuil Puyricard

Jazz manouche, musique tzigane - Basilic Swing

Sunday 30 June Domaine Sainte Marie Bormes

Jazz manouche - Tzwing Trio



FESTIVAL CELLO FAN 28 – 30 JUNE – CALLIAN

28 June – Chapelle des Penitents, Callian – 18h

Tutti Celli – Eglise de Callian – 20h30

29 June – Matinee Musicale, Chapelle des Penitents – 11.30

Dynastie – Eglise de Callian – 16h00



Eglise de Callian – Cello fan en Fete – 20h

Les Couperins en Concert – 22h15

30 June – Chapelle St. Donat – Classic Impro – 11h30

Pique-nique avec les Musiciens – 12h30

Chapelle St. Donat – Bach to

<http://www.cello-fan.com/>



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.

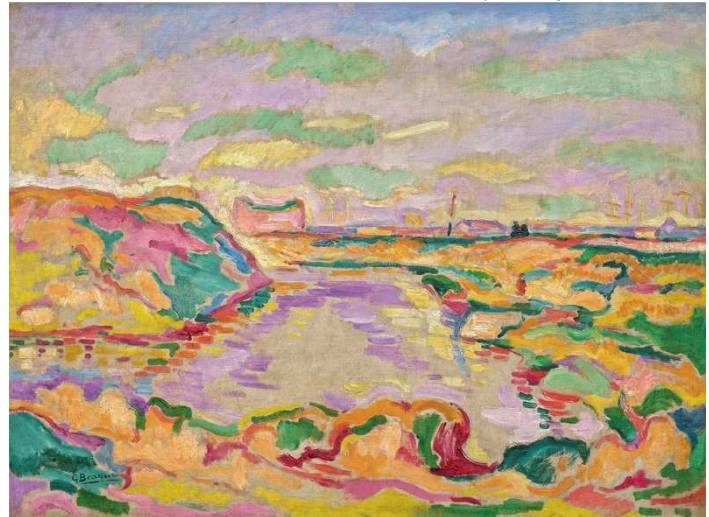


The clouds, suns, and portraits, represented in the artist's unique style, come to life on walls that are more than fifteen metres high, evoking the artist's boundless, chaotic, and poetic interior world. Via a thematic itinerary relating to the various phases of his life—his time spent in Arles, Paris,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



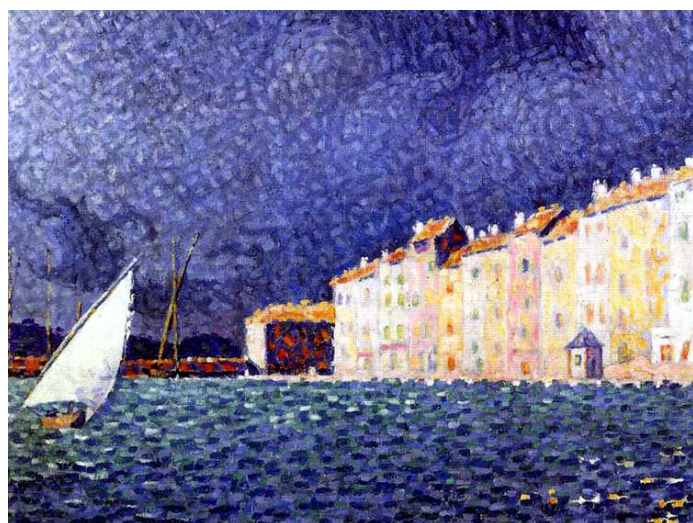
And of course one can make a visit to this Museum a complete day's outing, housing as it does a very sophisticated collection of 18th c artefacts, pictures, furniture, tapestries, everything that complimented life in that era, plus there is a charming courtyard, gardens, and café cum restaurant serving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

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

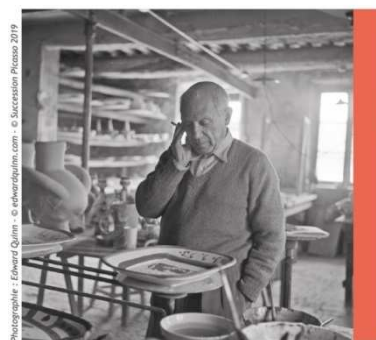
located just a few steps from the Cours Mirabeau

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

3 rue Joseph Cabassol 13100 Aix-en-Provence



Annonciade Museum – ST. TROPEZ Picasso Exhibition February – 16 June



PICASSO-
MEDITERRANÉE
2017-2019

DES **P**ICASSO
Choix d'un collectionneur

ÉDITIONS DE
CÉRAMIQUES
ESTAMPES
PHOTOS

du 16 FÉVRIER
au 16 JUIN 2019

A unique exhibition has just started at the Annonciade Museum in Str. Tropez, featuring scarves, drawing, and pottery works of Picasso. The collection owes its existence to two private collectors Dominique and Guy Ludovissy, long time St. Tropez residents, some of the works have only recently been acquired. It features numerous works Picasso made at Vallauris, plus others, including works devoted to bullfighting, one, with peace, his favourite subject.



It would be a good idea to visit before the crowds hit St. Tropez. The Annonciade Museum in St. Tropez is one of the treasures of the Riviera, housing as it does a superb collection of post impressionist works by the principally Fauvist (savage) artists of the day – below one of my favourite fauvist works, of St. Tropez harbour!. It is my favourite Museum, which I can visit with pleasure time and time again. It has not staged any new exhibitions for a while, one suspects due to budgetary concerns, not only are they expensive to mount, but the insurance is prohibitive - but its collection is such that every visit yields more pleasure. Musée de l'Annonciade, Place Grammont. St. Tropez Closed Mondays. Entry 6 euros.

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.



When It Works It is Amazing

BY TRENCHMAN

We recently set out on a trip to Greece, well, to the islands to which I had an urge to return after a long absence. So, along with a few likeminded chums we bought an old boat with pretensions of comfort, and settled it in the islands with the intent of visiting them all over a two year period before setting off up the Adriatic with all that offers. I have no doubt that I shall return to this subject from time to time.

But to our first trip. A journey of 1000 miles starts out with a one step, and in our case it was to get to Marseille airport, but I was determined that our adventure should start before even that, and so I reserved lunch in Aix.

I have written about the Chateau Pioline before, and of its splendid restaurant under the careful eye of Pierre Reboul. I have mentioned their remarkable set lunch for €54, remarkable because this is a Michelin starred (one) restaurant.

She who has a palate for fine food, would, I knew, enjoy this slightly extravagant start to our Odyssey. So I booked.

The restaurant is housed in quite a grand château of the XVIII century and is hidden away behind a zone commerciale where cheap tyres sit glumly alongside expensive cars. If your sat-nav is leading you here you will begin to lose confidence and feel that you are on a wild goose chase. Persevere, it will be worth it.

I admire the dedication required to achieve real Michelin recognition, although I sometimes feel that it is style over substance and a touch of the emperors new clothes, but there are some remarkably talented chefs out there and when they get it right, it can be special.

It was a beautiful day and so we were seated in the wonderful garden and attended to by dedicated and well informed staff.

We started, as is now de rigueur with a selection of Amuses Bouches. Often used as a magician might, to distract you from the sleight of hand, and when a rack containing test tubes was placed before us, I was ready for the explanation: "This is a ham sandwich!" What I was not ready for was it tasted like the best ham sandwich I had ever had. The spoon with a sphere of jelly like substance was a "moules marinière" and by golly, it was. I think that when the small but perfectly formed crème caramel arrived with caramel sauce just running down the sides, had I

been told it was a four course Xmas dinner, I might have been ready to suspend my disbelief, but as it was, it was merely an ethereal "mousse de canard".

She who delights in treats suggested that we pay up and leave as it was not going to get any better. But it was a few hours before our flight and I was still quite hungry.

I chose a Foie Gras, Sardine and Cassis compilation on the basis that I liked all the ingredients but had never imagined them together. It was quite delicious. She, who also has an adventurous mind, chose the "Esquimau", another compilation, this time of crab, lobster and fennel. This too met with approbation.

My main course was a Canette with Celery and Pikachu. I had not heard of Pikachu before but am reliably informed it is a Pokemon detective mouse? I did question the very helpful Maitre D, but his explanation was above my pay grade, all I can say is that the duck was properly cooked and not like the magret which bleeds on plates all over France. She who likes a nice piece of fish, chose a Daurade Royale with spinach and parmesan, it was greatly appreciated. Desserts came and the one that contained grapefruit and aloe vera and tasted like a gin and tonic got my vote over the chocolate, coconut and lime. I won. We got to Marseille and thence to Athens where we were to spend a couple of days. I had been several times in bygone days but my travelling companion had not.

As a city it has clearly not recovered from the tragic financial downfall and graffiti is everywhere, no doubt with a message, and unfinished buildings left with their debts, are legion. My little tourist was keen to see the Parthenon and to look over the old town. Being a clever clogs, I took her to lunch on top of the Hotel Grand Bretagne where the roof terrace restaurant provides a splendid view of the Parthenon and if you lean over the retaining wall, you can look over Athens.

The next day with the Saronic Gulf as a destination and Tavernas aplenty to feed us, we set off south.

Pip, pip

THE SHIT HITS THE FAN - Brussels Wise



An epic clash is brewing between Italy's exultant Salvini and Brussels

The eurozone elites are looking straight down the barrel of an Italian economic revolt and a parallel currency. Subversive "minibot" treasury notes are back in play.

"I don't govern a country on its knees," said Matteo Salvini after sweeping the European elections even more emphatically than the Brexit party. Note the majestic 'I'. He is already master of Rome.

The Lega strongman can no longer be contained, even by Italy's ever-ingenuous mandarin class. His party commands 40pc of the country together with eurosceptic confederates from the Brothers of Italy. It has erupted like a volcano in the Bourbon territories of the Mezzogiorno, now on the front line of migrant flows and left to fend for itself by Europe. Salvini can force a snap-election at any time.

By some maniacal reflex the dying Commission of Jean-Claude Juncker has chosen this moment to draw up the first indictment letter of the revamped debt and deficits regime. Italy faces €3.5bn of fines for failure to tighten its belt. It has 48 hours to respond.

"We're not Greece," said Claudio Borghi, Lega chairman of Italy's house budget committee. "We are net contributors to the EU budget. We have a trade surplus and primary budget surplus. We don't need anything from anybody. And we are in better shape than France."

Lega strategy is to offer EU leaders a choice: reform the EU treaties to enable fiscal expansion and allow the European Central Bank to act as lender-of-last-resort; or face the consequences.

Brussels says Italy has failed to make "sufficient progress" on debt levels even though the chief cause of slippage was recession and a world trade slump. Its demands are macro-economic vandalism. It is ordering a country already in slump to tighten budget policy violently by 1.5pc of GDP. It is doing this after the withdrawal of monetary stimulus from the ECB.

The prescription is futile even on its own crude terms. Italy's nominal GDP will deflate. The public debt ratio will ratchet higher through the denominator effect. But law is law - at least for Salvini's Italy, if not for Macron's France.

"I am not going to hang myself for some silly rule," said Salvini. "Until unemployment falls to 5pc we have a right to invest. We have regions where youth unemployment is 50pc. We need a Trump cure, a positive fiscal shock to reboot the country." His plan is a €30bn boost led by a flat tax of 15pc.

But Italy is not America. It is not a sovereign economic country able to borrow in its own coin. His plan is impossible under the current structure of monetary union. All it took was a minor skirmish to push risk spreads on 10-year Italian bonds to a six-month high of 292 basis points on Wednesday. Stress begins at 300. The banking system spirals into crisis at 400.

Italian lenders hold €360bn of their own country's debt. Rising yields force them to mark down these assets. The International Monetary Fund says a "severe" shock would drive down the Tier 1 capital ratios of Italy's banks by 230 points, with a chain reaction quickly spreading through Portugal and Spain and morphing into a systemic threat to the eurozone. The "sovereign-bank doom loop" has not gone away.

Mr Borghi said the plan for minibot treasury notes is written into the coalition's solemn "contract" and will be activated to flank the tax reform package. This scrip paper creates parallel liquidity - akin to what Yanis Varoufakis wanted to do in Greece - to be used to pay €50bn of arrears to state contractors and households. "It is a way to mobilize credit that is badly needed and put money into circulation," he said. Once these short-term notes trade on the open market they would become a de facto currency, a new lira in waiting. Italy would have a split

monetary system. The euro would unravel from within. My guess is that the ECB would first ration and then cut off Target2 support for the Bank of Italy.

Mr Varoufakis says Italy would have to impose capital controls within days. **The country would wake up one morning to find that it was no longer in the euro.** That, of course, is what Mr Salvini wants. Currency sovereignty is a pre-condition of national self-government. "The euro is a crime against humanity," he once said, to me as it happens.

Will the poteri forti of the Italian deep state let him go this far? There was much bluster a year ago. It came to little. The Lega-Five Star alliance later capitulated in budget talks with Brussels. They were boxed in by the President Sergio Mattarella, an inheritance from the old order.

He used the constitutional powers of the Quirinale - rarely invoked under the Second Republic - to block their economic agenda. He vetoed appointments and installed technocrats in key departments. Imagine a Speaker Bercow taking charge of the Treasury and you get the gist.

The Lega's landslide election victory has changed the game. "We have far more bargaining power," said Mr Borghi. "We know will be stiff resistance at every level but this time we intend to impose our line."

The political battle will come to a head under the new Commission this Autumn when Italy's budget is sent to Brussels. Yet the writing is already on the wall. Germany and the northern block have refused to rebuild the eurozone on viable foundations before the next global downturn hits. They have rebuffed all proposals for EMU fiscal union and debt sharing.

Lorenzo Codogno, former chief economist of the Italian treasury and now at LC Macro Advisors, said EU leaders guaranteed the next Italian banking crisis at last year's December summit when they cleared the way for easier sovereign debt restructuring.

There can be no further rescues by the eurozone bail-out fund (ESM) unless debt is deemed sustainable. "Other European countries are preparing for Italy's default," he says.

The ECB may not legally buy Italy's debt until the country requests a formal bail-out under stringent conditions, requiring a vote in the German Bundestag. This would entail a 'Troika' take-over of Rome. Salvini would sooner have them arrested. Mario Draghi's "whatever it takes" has expired. The situation is even more dangerous than during the EMU crisis of 2012. There is no longer any firewall at all.

The actions of the European Commission at this juncture are astonishing. They have issued a crass ultimatum regardless of the immense financial risk. They are needlessly provoking the newly-triumphant leader of Europe's second biggest manufacturing power.

To say that Brussels had no choice under the strict rules of the US fiscal machinery (dubious) is to acknowledge the absurdity of the EMU construction. The project has taken Europe to this demented, this *cul de sac*. Should Salvini bring the whole temple crashing down on their heads, the retort will serve them right.

Salvini reposted to Brussels edict with:

"Gentlemen of Brussels, the time is over for little letters, reminders that say you are bad ... and should remain unemployed for ten years because that is the

European rule," Salvini said. "Let us recover our right to growth and the future," he said in Rome.



Uprising in Europe's wealthiest countries as Nordic nationalists vow to 'tear EU apart'

However things are not all that settled and unified in the EU, as the Juncker dominated EU Bureaucracy pretends. A new party has erupted, for example, in Finland.

Finland is supposedly the happiest nation in the world - at least according to several surveys - with a coveted welfare system, globally renowned schools, stunning lakes and a sauna in every second home.

But in this May's European elections, one recent poll suggests the Finns, with their fierce rhetoric against **mass migration and Brussels rule**, were set to become the country's most popular party.

The surge in support for the Finns, which won 17.5 per cent of the vote in last April's national election, just a whisker behind the centre-left Social Democratic party, reveals how even Europe's most stable countries are not immune from populist fury.

And the same story is unfolding across the Nordic countries, with the Sweden Democrats and the Danish People's Party enjoying steady gains in the polls by capitalising on the same anxieties about immigration and EU integration.

Finland sits on the northeastern frontier of the EU, seemingly isolated from the turmoil of the refugee crisis that saw the arrival of more than a million asylum seekers.

While Germany welcomed around 800,000 asylum seekers at the peak of the crisis, and Sweden accepted more than 100,000, Finland received only 30,000.

But in a country of 5.5m people, where immigrants were once a rare sight, the presence of North African and Middle Eastern Men - a minority of whom are facing charges for a spate of sex attacks in the northern city of Oulu - has left many Finns feeling overwhelmed.

"In some parts of Helsinki, you think you are in Mogadishu," adds Ms Huhtasaari, who fears that her grandchildren will end up living in an "Islamic state."

For the Finns, the blame lies squarely at the feet of the EU and centrist political leaders who "often make decisions against Finnish interests to please the Europeans."

The party is calling for a radical downgrading of the EU, stripping away the Euro, free movement of workers, the

passport-free Schengen zone and political integration in favour of a basic trading bloc.

It is also set to join a populist alliance in the European parliament, led by Italian deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini, which aims to reassert national powers in Brussels. Or, as Ms Huhtasaari puts it: "It's payback time. We have to unite with the patriotic parties so we can start tearing the EU apart."

The economy of Finland, the only Nordic EU country to adopt the Euro, is growing steadily, while unemployment is at just six per cent compared to 13 percent in Spain and 18 per cent in Greece.

But some in this fiercely independent country, which fought valiantly in -40C temperatures against Russian invaders in 1939's Winter War, are concerned about being shackled to the economic turmoil unfolding in southern Europe.

"The euro is becoming a debt union which means we are responsible for others," says Olli Kotro, another Finns MEP candidate.

"It would be fair to create an exit mechanism for the euro - Article 50 of the euro if you want to put it that way - so there's a way to get off the boat before it sinks

Anna Maria Anders -Polish Senator and Secretary of State recently wrote the following:

""Three decades after the fall of the Berlin wall, Europe is once again at a crossroads. In 1989 and the years that followed, the Soviet Union ceased to exist and Germany was unified. The newly independent, once Communist states – including my home country of Poland – embarked on the road to democracy, free markets, and the rule of law. Poland was welcomed back into the European family, and we joined the ranks of Nato. But Europe now faces a threat to its hard-won unity.

The threat can be seen in the imminent departure of the United Kingdom, violent protests in France, and the rise of **insurgent political parties across the continent rebelling against arbitrary power concentrated in the hands of bureaucrats in Brussels.** These forces are fuelled by a litany of legitimate grievances, not least of which is the handling of the refugee crisis and voters' sense that their voices are not being heard by their representatives.

Many of the problems that bedevil Europe today originate beyond our borders and range from migration to energy and national security. A solution to those problems calls for a renewed commitment to European unity alongside the trans-Atlantic alliance that has ensured the continent's security for seven decades.

The path that Europe finds itself on today forces the continent's ancient nations to abandon their uniqueness and vital interests and submit to the heavy hand of unelected bureaucrats. It is a profoundly undemocratic path and many European voters no longer seem to accept it.

Poland strongly supports the European project and the ideals of freedom, equality, democracy, solidarity, and peaceful co-existence that inspired the creation of the Union.

The UK vote for Brexit is a symptom of our problem. It shows the consequences of the refusal to accommodate unique needs of a member state. Free people do not submit – they rebel even if the future is unknown. It is a tragedy that might have been avoided in a more responsive and democratic Europe that communicates,

debates and listens to its member states. A rift or an acrimonious separation is in nobody's interest – except Europe's enemies.

The EU was never meant to be a Union governed by diktat.

Diktats do not cement cooperation, strengthen our unity, or solve problems. And we do have plenty to discuss among ourselves and with our friends and allies.

It is because of security concerns that Poland strongly opposes Nord Stream 2 pipeline from Russia straight to Germany that would bypass East-Central Europe. The project is advancing Russia's goal of dividing the EU, opening the continent's eastern flank to energy blackmail, and threatening Nato's access to sovereign fuel sources. With our unity and security at stake – and readily available alternatives in Northern Europe, the U.S., and the Middle East – the risk is hard to justify. **The decision makers in Brussels should be protecting the collective security of the EU member states, not the interests of Russia and its petro-economy.**""

So not everyone is happy with the present situation regarding the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, Poland for one, Denmark also, and very possibly the Baltic states, with Russia on their horizon, and regard Germany's, in the view of Chancellor Merkel's efforts to boot it through – as treacherous.

THE EU & EUROPE

North East MEP Brian Montieth denied being a hypocrite in an interview with local paper the Shields Gazette after it emerged he lives in France. Mr Montieth enjoyed an emphatic victory with 240,000 votes to Labour's 119,000.

"There's nothing hypocritical in being a European but not believing in the EU," he said, asked about his French residence.

Why, oh why, do people constantly conflate the EU with Europe, and being European?

""Even more striking, in the run up to the European elections, was the complete absence of any mention by M Verhofstadt and his fellow MEPs of their own voters. They never once even pretended to be interested in their constituents. I don't think the word "democracy" crossed their lips. Their identification with the purposes of the EU's machine, as opposed to its people, was complete.""

THREE WASTED YEARS – THREE WASTED YEARS!!!



British supermarkets admit their olive oils could be killing birds as they pledge to switch brands



British supermarkets have admitted that they could be selling olive oil produced in a way which kills millions of songbirds every year, as they promise to investigate their sourcing. Many harvesters across Italy, Spain and France suck olives from trees using machines, and do this at night, which means sleeping birds who think they have found sanctuary in the olive branches are dazzled by the bright lights and sucked to their deaths. These companies harvest during the evening because doing so is believed to preserve the aroma of the olives, due to the cooler air temperatures.

Birds including robins, goldfinches, greenfinches, warblers and wagtails are among the worst affected during the harvest season which is between October and January. Findings in the journal *Nature* suggested that over two million birds were killed in Spain alone in a year.

An investigation by *The Telegraph* found that British supermarket shelves are likely stocking olive oils produced in this ecologically destructive method.

Supermarkets including Waitrose, Tesco and Sainsbury's could not confirm whether the brands they stock are machine harvested at night. A Tesco spokesperson said the supermarket is investigating how it will pick olives for its oils this year after concerns were raised by shoppers.

They said: "All the whole olives that we sell are harvested during the day by hand or by using hand held tools. We won't be harvesting olives for olive oil until October.

"We're currently looking into how we pick these olives so, by the time it comes to harvest them, all the necessary changes will have been made." Waitrose and Sainsbury's spokespeople confirmed that their own-brand olives and olive products are hand-picked, but did not confirm whether the other brands they stock are similarly ethical.

A Waitrose spokesperson added: "All the olives that are either destined to be used in Waitrose table olives or Waitrose olive oils are either picked by hand or picked using a handheld tool."

Major olive oil brand Filippo Berio is investigating its olive sourcing after being contacted. A spokesperson said in a statement: "As far as we are aware, all the co-operatives that Filippo Berio buy olive oil from have mills that work during the day and clean-up at night. We will keep consumers updated as and when we have more information."

Consumers who want to make sure they are using bird-friendly olive oil should check for 'FAO GIAHS' on Italian olive oil brands – it stands for 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System' which means it's picked by hand.

Brands which confirmed they hand-pick their olives are mostly the smaller, more expensive companies. These include Clearspring, Donna Lucia, Kalios, Morocco Gold, Olivocracy, Oro del Desierto, Terre di San Vito and Zaytoun."

Bearing in mind the chief cropping season is from November to February, one wonders why this night time system is necessary. I checked into this story, and if there is any doubt the following photo bears it out.





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