New Ride to the French F1 Grand Prix



Fellow Velo are planning a tour option next June for the return of the French F1 Grand Prix to the wonderful Paul Ricard Circuit in Provence. Places will be limited on this tour so, if you are interested, just email jane@fellowvelo.com to let us know and, please share with any of your motor-racing fan friends. Full details of the tour will be coming to a new page on www.fellowvelo.com in just a few weeks time.

Fellow Velo Newsletter Oct/Nov 2017

Fellow Velo

Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: Oct/Nov 2017

Fellow Velo Late Summer Explorations . . .





Our 2017 cycling season still isn't quite over yet but we have been able to get out to work on some new route ideas for next year. We have started expanding our previous thoughts about *Valleys and Vineyards of the Var* and these have now morphed into *Trails Through the Terroir*.
Our vineyard routes come with very obvious pleasures along the way. We often end up building a 'guided' cycling day into otherwise 'self-guided' tours to add another dimension to those holidays. It means customers can have an even more relaxed day, with no pressure at all on their navigation skills (which of course might just suffer a little during the course of the day's ride after one, two or even more vineyard visits for tastings and tours).
Trails Through the Terroir will be coming to our website soon, as will 'Provence 'V' is for . . .' (see Page 3).

Our plans for *Trails Through the Terroir* are for a cycle tour that connects the huge range of great local wine production through a network of some of the most hidden trails and tracks of the Provençal countryside.
One of the most enjoyable parts of our work comes in those rare times when we get to do some new route investigations. We are always trying to find the quietest and most interesting ways through the landscape – places that really are off the beaten track.
A Fellow Velo customer from a couple of years ago, who would occasionally stumble over the words in their navigation notes, once summed up the approach to our quest for hidden trails as a constant search for *'les chemins des thir 'n' that'*.
Its become a phrase that has stuck with us and, we always think of that particular cycling group when we find a great new (to us) chemin that can be incorporated into one of our rides.



With new routes, we might cover hundreds of miles exploring just to develop one relatively short day's ride. We care about the trails that our Fellow Velo customers follow and, we hope they enjoy riding them as much as we enjoyed the process of finding them and connecting them together. Really good route development is about far more than Google Map searches, guidebook reading and following signposts. These elements and more can be a really valuable part of the process but, there are times when they can simply lead you astray or worse. In many ways, the most valuable thing that our customers are buying from us is that very detailed route knowledge (that's then added to a package of great accommodation and, the kind of cycle touring support that takes the stress out of the journey). If you just rely remotely on information from other sources like Google Maps for you planning, don't be surprised to discover that some of the trails that you hoped to ride don't actually exist and, some of the best ones out there may not become apparent until you are out there riding the trails for real.

Provence: 'V' is for . . .

. . . Verdon, Victoire, Ventoux and much more!





Inspired by the exploits of some of our 2017 customers who sought out riding at the more challenging end of the cycle touring spectrum, we plan to add the 'V' is for . . . itinerary for 2018.
It will be a flexible itinerary where it is possible to 'pick and mix' from some of Provence's most spectacular and more challenging rides. It will sit somewhere between our *Fully Guided* and *Self-guided* tours and, while we may not be riding with you for every turn of the crank, if you have ever dreamt of taking on a route like Mont Ventoux (and done even just a little research), you'll understand why a higher level of support to such a tour will be welcomed once you are in the saddle!

Let us help you meet the challenges that you choose for your tour from;
- the spectacular Gorges du Verdon, Europe's longest gorge,
- a circuit of *Mont Sainte-Victoire*, the mountain that inspired Paul Cézanne
- the awesome and seemingly never-ending climb of Mont Ventoux
- the Vaucluse's wonderful *Gorges de la Nesque* and,
- 'V' can still also be for Vineyards along the way.



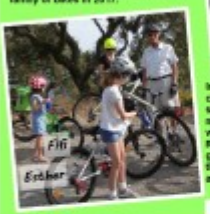


Of course you don't have to do them all in one tour; you can always return as you tick off any on your list or, like some Fellow Velo customers, just add one big ride to the rest of your cycling holiday. As with most of our tours, there is nearly always the opportunity to vary the itinerary eg. on some dates, you could make the Sainte-Victoire circuit a mixed off-road/on-road tour.

New Names in our Fleet

All of our bikes are individually named, with the names usually being linked to Fellow Velo friends, customers and partners. This summer some of our younger customers had the opportunity to christen their bikes, and so it was that *Pierre*, *Esther* and *Fifi* joined our family of bikes in 2017.





In our last newsletter, our youngest customer (George aged 2) had a special mention and, to balance matters across the generations, we wanted to give a similar mention to Rafael (88), grandad, cyclist and gentleman (and probably touched that his grandchildren chose *Esther* as the name for a Fellow Velo bike).

A long ride is the answer to a question you will soon forget.

THE FRANCE SHOW 2018

20-28 January | Olympia, London
The best of France in a day
www.thefranceshow.com

A date for your diary if you love all things French and, if you love cycling too, come and see us to share your cycling dreams and stories (and perhaps a glass of wine as well).

Next Time . . .
More on the France Show at Olympia including Fellow Velo games and prizes! In the meantime, Happy Cycling.

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