

Fellow Velo Oct/Nov 2019 Newsletter

Fellow Velo

Cycle... Friendly... France

Their first ever cycling holiday . . .

Newsletter Issue: Oct/Nov 2019



Great cycling weather runs long into the Provence summer and, so it was for a really engaging couple who joined us for their first ever cycling holiday. They were very clearly keen and proficient cyclists but, had never previously taken the little leap to make it the focus of a holiday. Having said that, they certainly picked a great route for their first cycling adventure; starting from high in the Gorges du Verdon, they rode through the whole of Provence Verte, over the Massif des Maures and finally along the Mediterranean coast to Saint Tropez and Sainte Maxime.

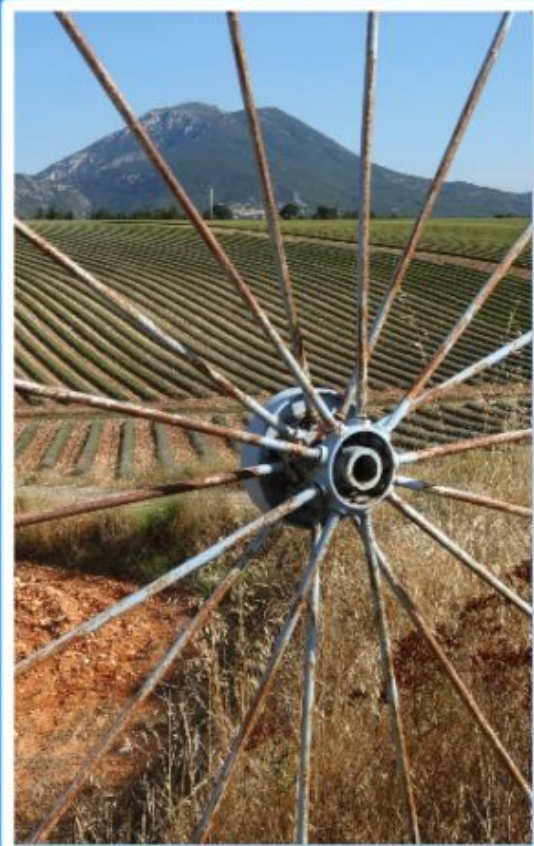
It was to be a wonderful week of varied landscapes; from the rugged and beautiful gorge, skirting the lavender fields of Haute Provence (though no longer in bloom, they retain a certain character at this time of year and, it's always good to leave something to return for in the future), through the cork oak woodlands, passed vineyards which invited the occasional stop for a tasting and finally, the opportunity to dive into a warm sea.

Barely an hour into day one we received a message from Stephen, just letting us know that this was already the best ride of his life; warm sunshine, an exhilarating landscape, shadowed by eagles soaring alongside them as they rode the rim of the gorge.

They were also delighted to discover some of the hidden treasures of Provence Rosé; something they would definitely be passing on to one of their daughters back home – a lone Rosé fan, among friends who had yet to see the light!

Janice told us that she only got her first personal bike at the age of forty; that may be later than for most people but, it should still leave plenty of years with adventures on two wheels yet to come – as many people may know, each of our Fellow Velo bikes is named and, Janice was on Raphael (named after our oldest customer {so far} at 88 years).

When we see and hear people who are truly thrilled by their cycling adventures, it really does remind us how lucky we are to share in just a little of that experience.



A Taster Weekend



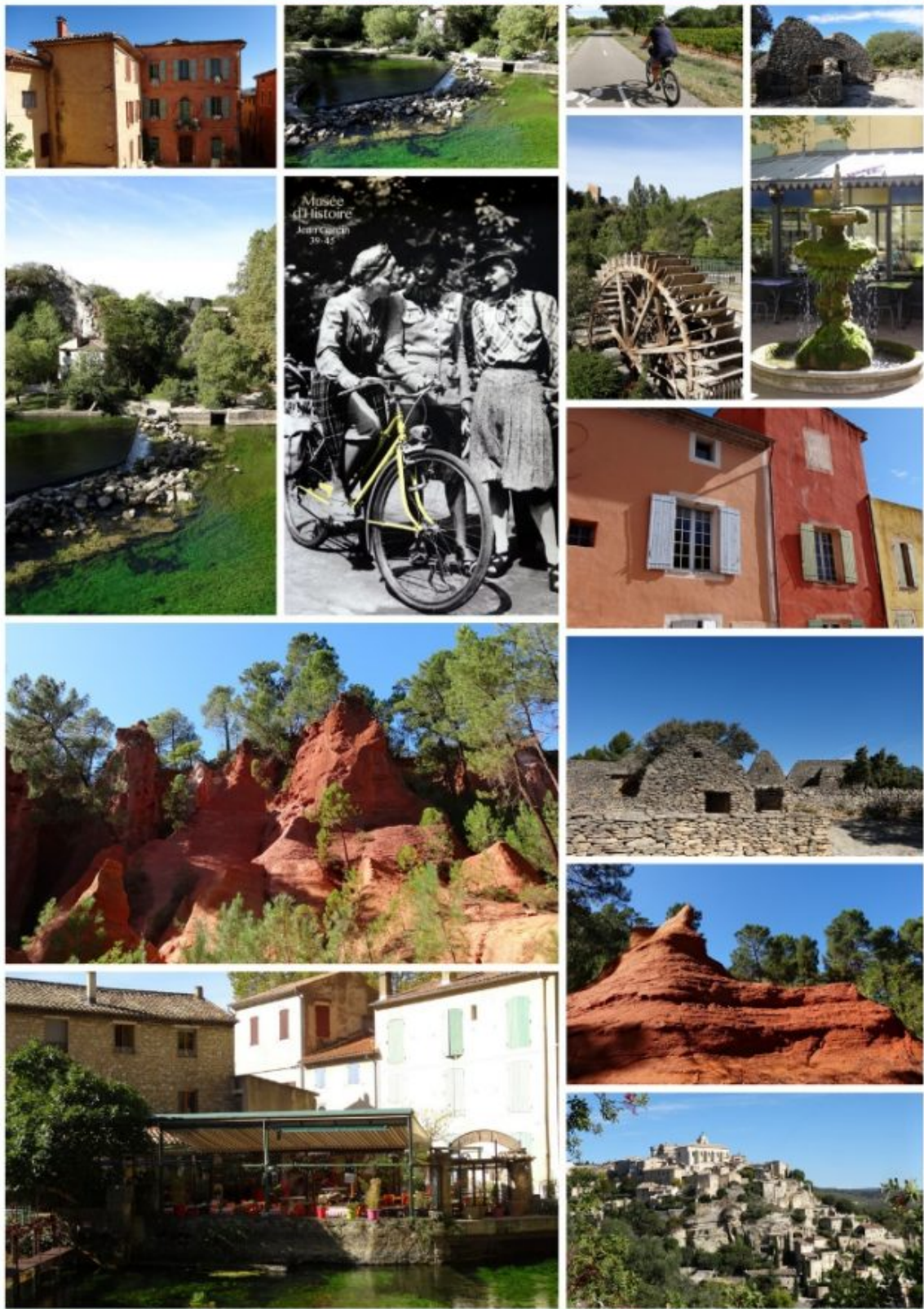
The sky and the sea are still clear and blue here but our 2019 cycling season in France is nearing its end. We finish just a little later than normal this year, courtesy of a booking into November in the Vaucluse (see some photos on Page 3) but, shortly after that we return to the UK for our final cycling booking of the year. Hopefully there will still be some leaves in 'leafy' Warwickshire for the taster weekend that we are delivering to a group of friends.

It's an easy way for people to have a bite-sized experience of a cycling holiday, starting on more familiar ground, so that they can get a little feel for how a full cycling holiday in France might be for them.

We will start the group with a little tour briefing just as we do for our customers in France and then introduce them to their individual bikes. On the Saturday, there is a fully guided day ride to make sure that everyone feels confident in the saddle and on the trails and, in the evening, there will be a tiny presentation to convey something of the experience they might find if and (hopefully) when they come to join us in France. Then on the Sunday, a shorter self-guided ride where they navigate a route for themselves with maps and notes provided by Fellow Velo.

A pub lunch stop should end a successful weekend and hopefully, inspire a further cycling adventure in France.

A taste of the Vaucluse in pictures . . . great cycling awaits!



Fellow Velo 2019 – Holiday Competition Winners

We recently hosted our lovely holiday competition winners in Provence Verte for their short-break cycling holiday. Bridget and Steve were fortunate enough to be able to add some cycling days to their trip and, were able to use their time with us to warm-up for a (successful) challenge on Mont Ventoux. A huge thanks from us to the chambres d'hotes partners, at **La Licorne** in Cotignac and **Villa Josephine** in Lorgues, who help us deliver this holiday competition – Merci à Bernadette & Eric et Jocelyn & Jean-Noel.



Poetry in Motion

Boy and Bicycle is the first film made by Ridley Scott. The black and white short was made on 16mm film while Scott was a photography student at the Royal College of Art in London in 1962. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4imP0iGlg0o>)

Although a very early work - Scott would not direct his first feature for another 15 years - the film is significant in that it features a number of visual elements that would become motifs of Scott's work. Shot entirely in West Hartlepool and Seaton Carew the film features the cooling tower and blast furnaces of the local British Steel North Works foreshadowing images in Alien, Blade Runner and Black Rain. The central element of the Boy and Bicycle is re-used in Scott's advert for Hovis of the early 1970s. The film features Scott's younger brother Tony Scott as the boy. "We were both experiencing the process that would fundamentally take us through our live together, in terms of making movies" Ridley Scott commented about the film and his brother.

Scott secured finance from the British Film Institute to complete the editing and sound in 1965 including a track by John Barry called "Onward Christian Spacemen". The composer was so impressed by the young filmmaker he agreed to produce a new recording for the film.

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