

Our November 2021 Newsletter

Plenty of photos in our latest newsletter – looking forward to our 2022 season.

Fellow Velo
Cycle... Friendly... France

A Little More Power Please... November Issue, Nov 2021

We managed a great half season this year so, a good bit more than in last year and looking, it seems that we haven't forgotten how to do what we love doing. It also means that we have been left with real confidence for cycle touring holidays in 2022. A slightly longer newsletter but, still more pictures than words... After each of our tours, Fellow Velo customers receive a collage homepage of their holiday tour. Some of these from this year follow in the coming pages (and, in their own words, the reviews from the people we met and shared some time with in Provence). Each of these tours had a 'find for us' - including with a tow for a disabled cyclist (the redoubtable Martin and Inga), our first Swedish customers who we called 'Five Guys Not Named Bo' (though one of them was) and, the charming Ritchie and Odine (they had a great trip and like so many customers, they said they'd be back - they were... 23 days later they became our quickest turn-around repeat customers).

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Martin and Inga's Fellow Velo Cottage

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Five Guys Not Named Bo - Fellow Velo Cottage

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Our Review from Martin and Inga

I was looking for a bike where - a kind of Tensing Hargay type to bring a sense of urgency in the wheelbar and his attached a handy bike about 90% with (with) forest and his partner Inga with her bike over some hills in the hinterland of St Tropez. We were looking for one and we got two - Andy and Jane! After some emails about the how and what we met and had a wonderful day - everything fell just right - like we have done the several times before. Andy has a natural gift to give others a feeling of being secured and relaxed and Jane has the ability to just appear there where you might think to need a bottle of cool water or a charged battery or a supporting wheel. The second tour with them along the scenic coast road from St Maxime to Cannes was like the first one - everything just worked fine and we had a perfect day. Andy built a wooden platform with a ramp for the wheelchair so I could get into the van - what a professional this too forward to next year for his other tour with Andy and Jane in the hinterland of the Côte Azur.

Our Review from the Five Guys Not Named Bo

We have taken a bike tour every year for over 20 years, in Sweden and in a number of other European countries. We have bought packages as well as organized tours ourselves. Now it was time for Provence, the fourth time in France. We decided for Fellow Velo and a bespoke tour to match it to our preferences. It was an excellent tour, one of the best, with a good combination of climbing, flat cycling and downhill, carefully selected by Jane and Andy. The first day started in the dramatic Verdon Gorge and we spent 4 days cycling in the mountain area. After that we had a transfer by Fellow Velo a motor to the coastal area, where we cycled for 3 additional days. A very good combination to see different parts of Provence. All the hotels were very good, small and personalized, which we appreciate. We also appreciated all the restaurant recommendations and knowledge we got. It was an excellent service by Jane and Andy to take care of us, beyond what you normally can expect. We highly recommend Fellow Velo to other cyclists. Specially for their excellent bespoke tours and for their outstanding service.

Our Review from Ritchie and Odine

We found Fellow Velo as we searched for a self-guided bike tour in France, and they are so glad we did. Andy and Jane were amazing and organized an unbelievable experience through Provence. The accommodations were great, the bikes were perfect and the support we received from Fellow Velo made this trip unforgettable. The routes that they chose really highlighted the best of Provence (vine and the French Riviera). The views were spectacular and the bike paths really compared. I don't know how we could have done this trip without them. We are intermediate bikers and managed to get to the places we wanted to see in bike territory that can be intimidating. Our trip was so good we are already planning our return next year. Thanks Andy and Jane.

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Rickie and Odie – So Good, They Rode It Twice

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Cycling Prose or Poetry

Who Was Major Taylor?

"Life is too short for a man to hold bitterness in his heart."
 Marshall W. "Major" Taylor

American bicycle racer Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor (1879-1932) was the world's first black sports superstar. He was world cycling champion in 1899, American sprint champion in 1900, and set numerous track cycling records. He was nicknamed "Major" in his youth in Indianapolis and later known as "the swiftest 100-meter" after his adopted hometown in Massachusetts. He was the second African-American world champion in any sport (after Canadian-born same-weight boxer George Dixon of Boston won his title in 1897), in the Jim Crow era of strict racial segregation. Taylor had to fight prejudice just to get on the starting line. He faced closed doors and open hostility with remarkable dignity in his retirement; he wrote his autobiography "The Fastest Bicycle Rider in the World."

Looking Forward to 2022

We are now looking forward to our 2022 cycling season in France and Italy, and our calendar is already booking up. We have many loyal customers who we are looking forward to seeing once more and many more who have been waiting through 2020 and 2021 for the cycling holidays that they had to put on hold.

At the same time, we do still have the capacity for new 2022 customers but, if you have a cycling dream for next year, this is a great time to really start your planning – the dreaming and planning is a wonderful part of the holiday experience as well.

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