

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.

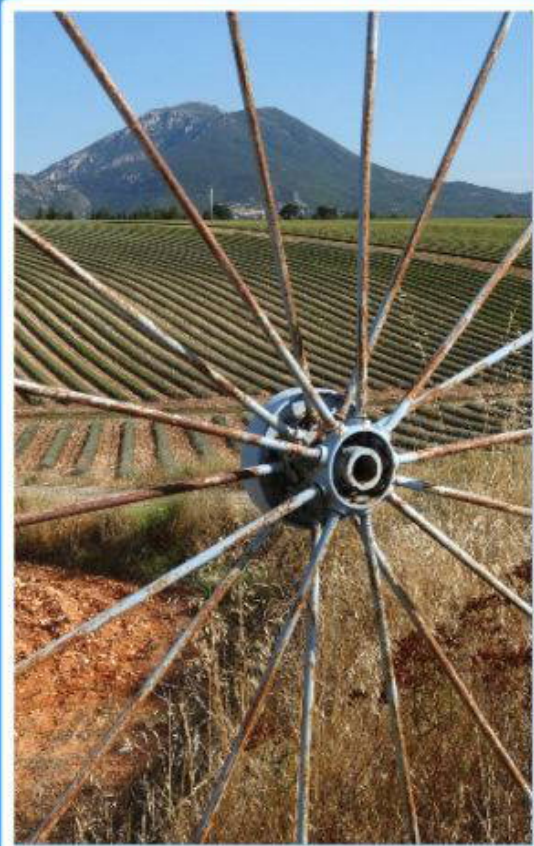
It was to be a wonderful week of varied landscapes; from the rugged and beautiful gorge, skirting the lavender fields of Haute Provence (though no longer in bloom, they retain a certain character at this time of year and, it's always good to leave something to return for in the future), through the cork 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



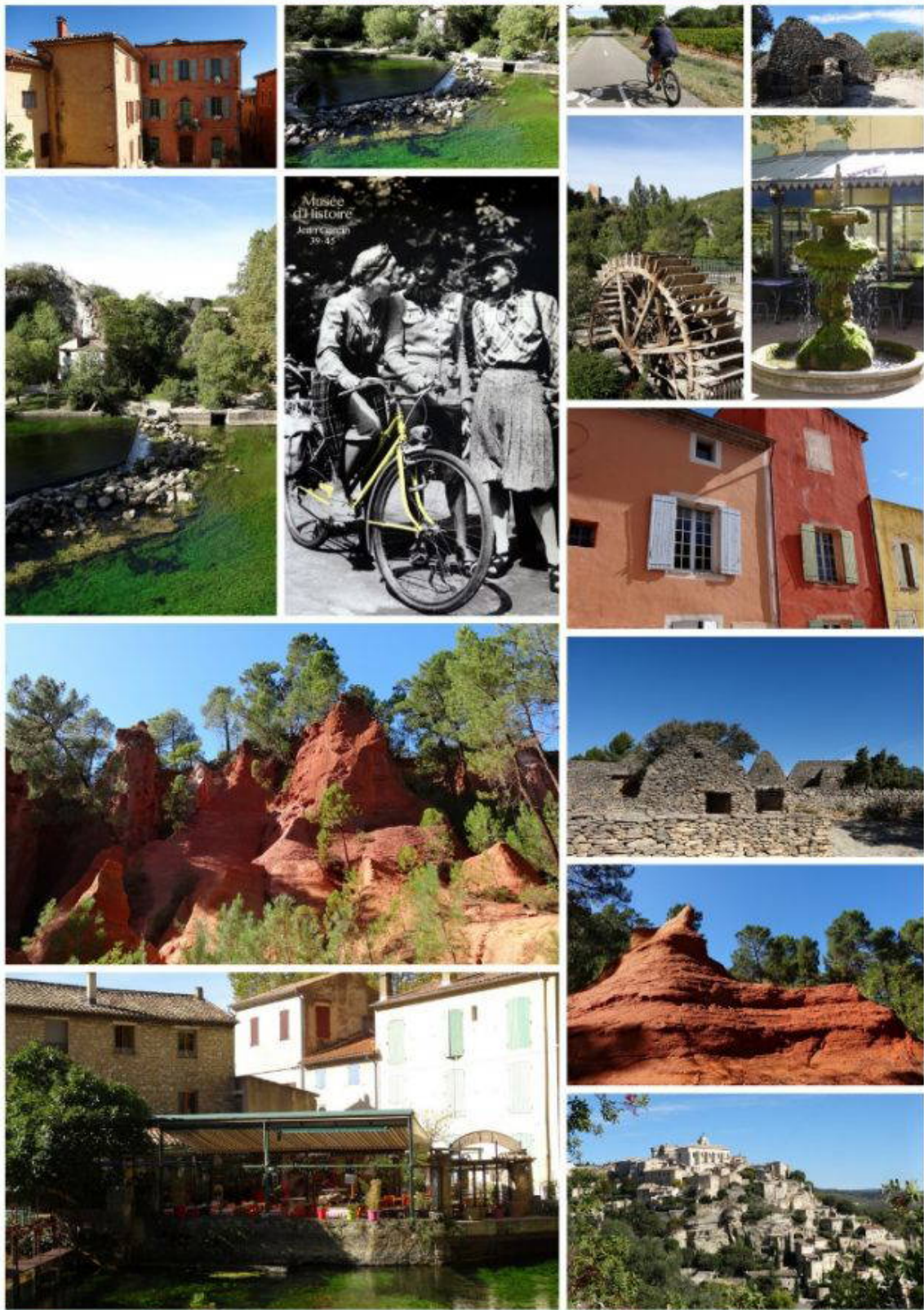
The sky and the sea are still clear and blue here but our 2019 cycling season in France is nearing its end. We finish just a little later than normal this year, courtesy of a booking into November in the Vaucluse (see some photos on Page 3) but, shortly after that we return to the UK for our final cycling 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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Our Aug/Sept 2019 Newsletter







We started up the hill and we soaked up the atmosphere too. We sought shade and we shared our refreshments. We were showered with gifts by the Carpentier then, we were showered again. We looked down with them more and on the road as we chased the stage. We shared the roadside with more than 12 million spectators and... we had a fantastic experience out of the saddle!

The Bespoke Tourist Experience
Andy and Jane were our personal guides for two days of the Tour de France. This was arranged by my daughter as a birthday gift. We were impressed by the friendly professionalism and the in-depth knowledge of and logical expertise relating to this prestigious race. Andy and Jane are passionate about all related cycling matters and I can wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone contemplating a cycling experience.



Next year the Tour de France is scheduled to start in Albi, the full race calendar will be published later in the autumn. If you would like us to help you share the experience then we need to start in working from you soon.

Page 3 of 4

Bespoke Cycle Tours

It is not unusual for us to have several requests for cycle tour itineraries and, as a small family company, we aim to be as flexible as possible to help bring people's holiday plans together. So, if you have an idea about a cycling holiday in France but you aren't quite sure how to make it happen then, please feel free to ask – we would love to help you realise your dreams. Below is just one example of a bespoke booking from this year's calendar.

Canal du Nivernais



We were contacted by a group of seasoned cycle tourists with decades of cycle-riding experience, who now wanted to revisit a trip they'd taken years ago but this time, with the comfort of a tent and a solid roof over their heads at the end of each day. Though they knew the route very well, they were looking for someone to take the heavy out of planning and booking their period of accommodation along the way. The organisation that followed on from the initial enquiry now means that they have a year that includes just a little new adventure linked to the comfort of places to be revisited.



Their accommodations are now all booked ready for their tour next month and, when the route has been taken away from familiar territory, we will be providing detailed navigation notes to supplement the route knowledge that they already have. A little more unusual for us with this booking is the fact that we may never meet our customers. They have been stored with family in Paris and so, all of the arrangements and information for their tour can be covered remotely. They sound like really lovely people and it's a shame that we can't be there with them to share a celebratory glass of Chablis at their journey's end. Whether you are looking for a fully guided, self-guided tour or more remote touring adventures, we enjoy the challenge of building a cycling holiday plan that really does meet your individual needs and wishes.

Have you booked your 2020 holiday yet? Even people here, and there you.

If you fancy a cycling holiday next year then it's coming on, the earlier the better for the best prices, best accommodation and time for careful route planning.

If you are still to go on your 2019 holiday, then have fun wherever you are doing and, we can't wait to meet the rest of this year's customers and to see some familiar faces from last year.

Meeting Forty at Proulx

Get out Thomas on Open General of the Tour de France 2019.

"It's the first of many," Thomas said. "Again, I just been improving all the time and now born to go again. It's a fantastic guy with a very bright future."

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Page 4 of 4

An Autumn in Provence Cycling Offer



An Autumn in Provence Cycling Offer and, our June/July Newsletter.

Holiday Competition Winners

Our Fellow Velo Cycling Holiday Competition Winners are Bridget and Steve from Dorset; pictured here looking a little more wrapped up than they'll hopefully need to be when they arrive in Provence this September ☐

Our Spring Newsletter

Fellow Velo
Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: April/May 2019

Spring Newsletter – Let the holidays begin...



Jean-Claude, the Dorn Man, ready to travel for 2019...

We're not entirely sure where all our UK winter months have gone but, we did manage to add a few experiences (and our all cycling related) before we found ourselves back in planning mode for a cycling season in France once more. We've managed to catch up with some old friends, met a few former customers, with another Australian couple to welcome to before we depart and, at least one of us branched out on the activity front when they found themselves almost accidentally drawn into an Olympic dedication trip at the Harzberg track in Austria. However, now it's back to the Fellow Velo world and, Jean-Claude is getting ready for his return to La Belle France – Spring is in the air!

Page 1 of 2



The quick short break in Innsbruck came with plenty of little and, thankfully, no real. At 10:00 Timp on a vertical wall, pulling up in one of the tents, wrapping up the first. Looking back might have felt, it was probably no real thing that we left the driving to the professional. The trip all started with a 'something' called that over a beer before Christmas with an old friend who was on the lookout for someone willing to support his plan for a new experience. The hope was that, in any, it would be a little better and better. You can read that and there's a link to the story.

Back on Terra Firma



Our final experience of the first few months was a short escape to Dorn. Having all across France is truly wonderful and we definitely wouldn't change that plan for Fellow Velo but, it's also great to find some of our friends for to go with friends. We had amazing weather for a few days in March and, as well as some lovely North Devon beaches, found ourselves exploring the Tarka Trail and visiting the eclectic Broomfield Sculpture Garden – a network of garden paths, growing with art and sculpture.

Page 2 of 2



Fellow Velo Holiday Winner

This week we contacted our 2019 Holiday Competition Winner and will hopefully be finalising the details of their cycling adventure in Provence soon. We shortlisted our favourite 20 entries from the hundreds that we received and then, gave a winner from the list. The winning words were:

"Cycling in Provence... Perfect... Lavender... Bliss!"



Peddling Poetry or Prose...
T.E. Lawrence can join London but, bicycles and mountains too. The Man, enjoy the best of the open road.

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Page 3 of 3

Our Valentine's Newsletter



Our February/March Newsletter – just in time for Valentine's Day. We know that our tours have featured in Christmas presents but, we're not sure one has been a Valentine's present yet . . .

Win a Cycling Holiday in Provence



Would you like a short break, cycling in Provence in the

Our Autumn 2018 Newsletter

[illegible]

Vis for Visitation

During our summer cycling season we held a very kind invitation from the Visitation Department to join a summer sponsored programme, highlighting the treasures of our part of Provence, particularly the ageing villages and adventures on two wheels! It was a great experience and an interesting time with nature really, friendly and knowledgeable local people, looking for tourist partners who would be keen to spread or enhance their knowledge in the southern state of Provence.

Youngest we already deliver from in the Visitation, Mark Webster being a great example, it was a great opportunity to learn more about this part of Provence and, we will certainly be looking to add more featured rides to our website to take advantage of our time there this September!

A huge thanks goes to all of our Visitation Provence Ambassadors and to everyone who shared time with during the programme.

Cycling Poetry

In a world thought to be all new Portugal, Dragon warriors this summer, a power from Willow Stafford, named Post Luscious of Dragon in 1973.

Mobile State on M. Bille

I know, and the mountain lakes have been taken care of these winter nights only the south are needed to take their own guide and turned out clear, in their endless morning (blue).

And I have thought maybe alone on my bike, specially on a mild morning waiting patiently. There's a splendor of our life, its common embrace on these mountains, the sunnier sun lines.

Citizens of our great country

It is a great idea that we should be able to learn by the great views and scenery of air so bright the landscape never to be seen in the shade but to have it all for their

Willow Stafford

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Follow a life of a

Our Summer Newsletter



Some lavender colour to match the fields through which a great tour ran last month; lovely people exploring a beautiful landscape.

Our April/May Newsletter



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Spring Newsletter – Let the holidays begin....



Congratulations to Cat and Andrew who have won this year's competition. They will be coming out to Provence in September to cycle some of our favourite routes. Thank you to all who entered the competition and a big merci to Bernadette & Eric at Le Livron, Calixte and Joanne & Jean-Marc at Villa Josephine, Lorgues for their support for this competition. (You should have heard the vociferous message Cat left when she found out she had lost... she was a little sad but it's a little away yet, however they are looking forward to swapping the grey skies on this photo for blue ones in Provence, a bientot... jolly the cute little pouch is not coming...)

Spectacular riding does not always have to be as challenging as it looks, we can transport you to ride the best routes and help you up the hills if needed.

This wonderful group from Australia last year needed no such help as they were used to it. This year we are taking a number of groups to cycle the impressive Gorges du Verdon.



(continued)

Page 1 of 2

We are also taking groups to the Camargue, pretty flat riding in a variety of beautiful landscapes, to coastal rides by the Mer, inland, hidden Provence (ride with its pretty villages and, in the spectacular lavender fields of the Luberon plateau - these are just some of this year's gems. June sees a new trip - cycling from the Gorges du Verdon to the French Grand Prix at Paul Ricard for the race, we are really looking forward to this one.





V is for Ventoux

At the quiet end of what we can offer, we are offering a few supported trips to the South of France. We can tailor make your Ventoux trip, to include training rides, vehicle support, along with the usual accommodation, shoes and kit etc. and we are with you almost every turn of the wheel on this spectacular mountain. It is an action to witness people fulfilling their dream of cycling up this iconic climb and, to witness their celebrations (and relief) when they get to the top.



(Mass Ventoux)

Have you decided your holiday yet?

If you are thinking about a cycling holiday with us this year, we have a few gaps, weeks commencing 1st July, 1st August, 2nd October and a few other dates for Provence, call us to find out.

If you are thinking about a cycling holiday for 2019 then watch out for our next newsletter in June, where you will find details of our "early bird" booking offer for 2019.

Whatever you are doing for your holidays, have fun....

Predicting Poetry or Prose

Renowned geneticist, Professor Steve Jones, once argued that the bicycle was the greatest invention to combat genetic disorders, on the grounds that it resulted in more genetic mixing as a result of marriages between people living in different towns.

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Page 2 of 2

Our April/May Newsletter, just in time for the start of the 2018 Fellow Velo cycling season.