

Cycling Holiday Competition Winners

Our congratulations to Catherine and Andrew who are the winners of the 2018 Fellow Velo Holiday Competition. It looks like they're going to have a great time in Provence later in the summer; they've even extended the trip beyond the prize element to create a great mix of more hidden Provence Verte with a little of the glamour on the coast.



London Bike Show

Fellow Velo will be back at the London Bike Show 23-25 February at the Excel. Come and see us at Stand LB974 to say hello, chat about cycling in France and, the chance to win a great cycling holiday in Provence in 2018.



**David Ginola in our latest
Fellow Velo Newsletter**

Fellow Velo
Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: Feb/Mar 2018
Thank You to all our France Show 2018 Fellow Velo Visitors

Our January special with another France Show at Olympia, as ever it was a great show, with a really friendly and relaxed atmosphere and lots of French looking people. The collage above features just a few of the visitors to the Fellow Velo stand; Bert is a great showman, Peter May was a show guard on the Friday, David Collins was a welcome public visitor to the show on the Sunday, Alex came to interview Jane in French for one of her online broadcasts, the Inspector from the Met is planning a charity ride to Nice for C.I.P.S. (www.cips.org) and, we'll have proper introductions to Monsieur Erik and Larry for another time (you can find out a bit more about Monsieur Erik online at www.frenchlanguagegift.com).

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Win a Fellow Velo Holiday

Win a Fellow Velo four day cycling holiday for two in Provence in Autumn 2018. From your local at first in Eastern Provence, we will transfer you into Provence where for up to four great cycling days between the villages of Tourtour, Cagnes and Lorgues, staying in some of our very fine rural chambres d'hotes. We will tailor the cycling days to your own ability and we'll see you, they can be built around your local arrival and departure times. Of course you could add more days to the tour and more books for friends and family to join you on the holiday. So the cycle on the 20th February 2018. See the entry details here: www.fellowvelo.com/win-a-cycling-holiday
Good Luck!

Fellow Velo Christmas Presents
Last year we had a bespoke cycle tour booked from a lovely family from Molen, Idaho who rode it all between the quiet beauty of Provence Vels and the quiet beauty of the Mass. It never dawns that they have set us a homework task to learn what we can about Boise and Idaho as, on their recommendation, we have had a little cluster of four bookings from the area for cycle tours this summer.

Through the Fellow Velo part, of what must have been some pretty special Christmas Eve present openings, they have been just one element of what seemed like amazing big gifts to France, we are really looking forward to welcoming them all to Provence through June and July.

Of course we have yet to meet the families but, that's some of them above in the main photo.

Fellow Velo Holiday Availability
Our cycling season calendar is booking up but, we still have some dates available, particularly in Provence in May, August and October. If you are thinking of a cycling holiday in France this summer (and don't want to leave it to someone else's holiday competition), just give us a call or send us an email: Jane and Andy, Fellow Velo

Pedalling Poetry or Prose . . .
The bicycle has made the world a smaller place by the way of it.
— Christopher Morley

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Our Christmas Newsletter

Merry Christmas From
Fellow Velo
 Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: Christmas 2017

Merry Christmas to all our 2017 Fellow Velo Customers and to All!



Thank you to all those who chose to cycle with us during this year, for the company, the fun and, some great memories that our best wishes to all who we know or will see in 2018 and, for those who may be thinking of joining us soon.

From Steve and Andy @Fellow Velo

Fellow Velo Website

Our website has now been updated for 2018 with some new route info and it also includes another opportunity to win a cycling holiday for two in Provence (see Page 2 for more details). We had a wonderful guided tour to the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix this year and, with the French Grand Prix returning to the calendar in 2019, after a ten year absence since 10 years since it was last run at the Circuit Paul Ricard, we have added a new tour in June to celebrate the event. Monaco obviously sits on the main calendar for us, it really looks like this year's racing has found another spiritual home around the South of France.

Places on this tour are limited and, even this far away from the race dates, prices are already rising for accommodation so that word is out about the race coming to town.



The cycling journey on this tour will cover Provence from top to bottom, starting along the spectacular Gorges du Verdon before winding its way through Provence north and over the Massif des Maures to fly your cycling tent in the sea before transferring to your base for a weekend of high-sea fun.

Website for 2018 now live!

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THE FRANCE SHOW 2018
 26-28 January | Olympia, London
 The best of France in a day

Un Grand Merit to our members of honor partners at Cite Chateaufort, La Litterie and Villa Josephine for their support to our cycling holiday competition in 2017. Their wonderful welcomes to so many Fellow Velo customers is always greatly appreciated.

Peddaling Poetry or Prose ...

Personal Best



The autobiography of **Beryl Burton**

In 1981, Beryl overtook Mike McKinnare in an Oleg CC 12-hour time trial on her way to setting a women's record of 277.28 miles in the net time. Mike's own distance of 276.81 miles in the same event was itself a new men's record.

When Beryl overtook him during a race, they could almost expect a quietest welcome or word of encouragement. When Mike overtook McKinnare she resolutely offered him a hip-throw attack.

Win a Cycling Holiday in 2018

Details have now been posted on our website about a competition to win a 2018 Fellow Velo cycling holiday in Provence ...

... 6-8 day cycle tour, including bike hire and 2 nights in some of Provence's wonderful chateaux. Or, for two, weekend or two night weekend could be added to a winter cycling holiday package.



Andy and Andy were our 2017 winning Competition Winners - as well as great cycling days, they were social awfully, dominated by the odd round along the road.

Contact Us!

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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 Terror.

Our vineyard routes come with very obvious pleasures along the way. We often end up building a 'guided' cycling day into otherwise 'self-guided' routes 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 Terror will be coming to our website soon, as will Provence 'V' is for ... (see Page 3).

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Our plans for Trails Through the Terror 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 Provencal countryside.

One of the most enjoyable parts of our work comes in those late 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 blunder 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 v' (sic).

It became 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 your 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.



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Provence: 'V' is for ...
... Ventoux, Vidoubre, Vercois 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 Ashly duver and Ashly-guiled 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 the 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:

- the spectacular Gorges du Verdon, Europe's longest gorge;
- a circuit of Mont Sainte-Victoire, the mountain that inspired Paul Cézanne;
- the awesome and scenery-rich river-riding climb of Mont Ventoux;
- the Hautes-Alpes wonderful Gorges de la Neige 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.

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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 Flo joined our family of bikes in 2017.



In our last newsletter, our youngest customer (George aged 2) had a special request and, to balance matters across the generations, we wanted to give a similar member to Rafael (8), granddad, cyclist and professor (and probably touched that his grandchild chose Esther as the name for a Fellow Velo bike).

THE FRANCE SHOW 2018
20-26 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).

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

Next Time ...
More on the France Show at Olympia including Fellow Velo games and prizes in the machine. Happy Cycling.

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New Trails for 2018



Out this morning between some Self-guided Tour support in Provence; we managed to sneak off the beaten track for some Fellow Velo exploration towards our new routes and bespoke ideas for 2018 tours – look out for ‘Trails Through the Terroir’! There’s a notion of a ‘Hidden Provence’ and then, if you want to explore even deeper, there’s a ‘Secret Provence’ that can be found in the networks of (as one of our customers once called them) the ‘chemins de this ‘n’ that’. This and more to come to the website this autumn and, in our next

newsletter in a few weeks time.

Family Friendly Newsletter – Aug/Sept 2017



Newsletter Issue: Aug/Sept 2017

Our Fellow Velo Summer started hot and then... got hotter!



Cycling holidays for families, especially ones with very young children, might seem like a more difficult option but, with some careful planning and a cycling company that is more than happy to design a tour around your needs, there's no reason why great adventures on two (and even three) wheels can't be experienced by the whole family.

We have had more family tours this summer than ever before and a few pictures of just two of those families are featured in this newsletter: that's Chanty and George above riding through the lavender fields of Haute Provence on the Mithos, George is our youngest Fellow Velo rider so far, at two years old and, providing he had a ready supply of softies in his Mithos side pocket, he loved being out on the trail.

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To make the holidays a little easier for some families, we plan their tour from a single accommodation base and then, design a series of day rides for which we can provide extra support. So you could be cycling on a loop from your base, cycling away from breakfast to a planned pick-up later in the day or being transported to a viewpoint (a landscape for a spectacular ride back to your Chateaux d'Indes for a quick shower and a dip in an inviting pool. You could even opt for a child on a great family friendly tandem and have a well earning soar to help your budget stretch a little further.

For families with children who are ready for a slightly longer adventure than, the more traditional longer distance cycling holiday tour is, for an option, whether on the scenic terrain of the great canal based tours or a carefully charted course through the rolling countryside of Provence.

We have had some pretty impressive customers so far this summer: there have been the long distance solo racers, the Mont Ventoux climbers and the Anglo-Dutch-Australian team that flew through Provence in an incredible time, leading us in awe as they descended the Col des Minimes but, of all those cyclists and more that we have seen on Fellow Velo tours, our standout performance has come from 2 year old Freddie who, on a small 20" bike, completed a tour along the Canal de Garonne with cycling days of up to 25km (that's greater than the average daily distance of most of our cyclists).



It, like the Tour de France, we had a white jersey to award to the best young rider then, there's no doubt that Freddie would be on the podium (in the foreground of the below right photo in the collage above).

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Mont Ventoux

The Challenge of Mont Ventoux

Katy and Nick haven't been our only customers to take on the challenge of Mont Ventoux this season but, we felt that they deserved a special mention in our newsletter. They were a lovely and wonderfully engaging couple, one long-term committed cyclist sharing his passion with the partner, and, the partner desperate to see that committed cyclist have his dream of climbing Mont Ventoux come true (whatever the pain she had to endure to be there with him to see it through).

If we had a Queen of the Montvoux Jersey...

Next Time...

We already have a huge variety of day and much (much) longer tours in France and particularly in Provence but, we're already looking at new routes and bespoke ideas for next season. Look out for news on valleys and vineyards of the Var and much more in our next newsletter: Happy Cycling



WATER
WASHES
THE BICYCLE
deserves
the touch of
HUMANITY.

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Fellow Velo June/July Newsletter

Fellow Velo
Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: June/July 2017

Our Fellow Velo Summer has started and it's a hot one!



Our season kicked off with our Paris by Pedal Power Tour. It started on the docks at La Havre, with day one including crossing the Pont du Normandie. This trip takes in Honfleur, Bec Hellouin and many other beautiful places along the way. Staying in some lovely chateaux & lodges, thanks to Capucine, Les Granges Mesloisnes and La Prairieuses. The tour ended by circling the Arc de Triomphe and pedaling down the cobble of the Champs Elysees for a triumphant snack on the Place de la Concorde. Bridget and Steve were celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on this trip and we wish them every more anniversaries together.

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Monaco P1 GP

It doesn't seem so long ago that we waved goodbye to the group that cycled from St. Tropez to the Monaco Grand Prix. Profound weather prevailed to accompany the beach picnics and afternoon swims. They were a wonderful group and it was lovely to share this experience with them. Here are some of their kind words: "Thanks so much to the great Fellow Velo team in addition to the great food, guidance, and cycling support, they have provided amazing logistical support throughout our trip. Jane, how you got the van to so many inaccessible places I'll never know. Getting all of our kit to the right places and having great accommodation - not the photos of our nice apartment will no doubt follow." - thanks Diane.



As well as Monaco P1 GP we plan to cycle to the Monaco Grand Prix in Monaco, usually 2 weeks before the P1 event. This trip can be done as 3, 5 or 7 days. If they bring back the French Grand Prix to Paul Ricard we may do that as well, let's see

Huge congratulations to Natalie and Kevin, customers from last year who welcomed baby Jackie into the world in February this year. We're claiming him as Fellow Velo's first baby. His chance awaits whether it be back in Provence or en route to Paris by Pedal Power that seems to have been added to Kevin's bucket list!



(Jackie with Grandpa Jackie)

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Supporting people with Learning Disabilities

Fellow Velo Photo Competition

For our 2017 cycling season, we have introduced a photo competition open to all our customers during the year. Just send in an entry with the three photos that best capture the experience of your Fellow Velo holiday.

The best adult entry prize will win a 5% discount on the price of any Fellow Velo 'tour taken in the 2018 and/or 2019 cycling seasons (for a minimum booking of two persons). The best younger entry prize will receive a £20 voucher for an outlet of their choice. (Terms and Conditions apply and will be e-mailed at the time any holiday booking.)

Peeling Poetry or Prose ...

After your first day of cycling, one dream is inevitable. A memory of rubber soles in the muscles of your legs, and round and round they seem to go. You ride through Dreamland on wonderful dream bicycles that change and grow. (N G Wells)

Our next newsletter will feature cycling tours with young families and some of our longer tours that sit comfortably on the road. ... This month we have a solo rider cycling from Paris to Lourdes and two long group tours from Geneva and the Rhone Valley heading to the Mediterranean.

Get ready to watch the Tour starting on the 1st July. Le Grand Colobrier appears on Stage 9 with the awesome Divesseime climb with gradients up to 22%. We have customers on the road now who passed by with the luxury of just 'looking up the face'.




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Monaco GP Tour Snapshot



We're about to head off to support a few long distance tours with trips to Geneva, Lyon and Lourdes but, just a little snapshot here of the Monaco GP Tour of a couple of weeks ago. Great people, great weather, great coastline and a great spectacle to Cap (d'Ail) it off!