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Welcome to the December edition of the Via Nissa newsletter.

Here is a snapshot to what Via Nissa has been up to over the past month.



There are two sides of Via Nissa in terms of excursions. The first is simply information about Nice and its environment. The second is unique experiences which we can create. Visitors to Nice and elsewhere are increasingly seeking

experiences that go beyond the ordinary. Those experiences which cannot be bought and are not available to everyone. This is the focus of the bulk of our work here in Nice. Whether it is individual historical and archival research, or whether it is creating a unique experience for you and your friends, let Via Nissa help. We know how to gain access into the places you want to see, and we know how to gain access to the people you want to meet. The concept of engaging with the local history or your own country's history in Nice, the culture, the cuisine and the people of Nice provide a travel experience that connects you on a personal level.

We recently had a cruise ship visitor who came to Nice during a French national holiday. As most of the main attractions of the city were closed, we created an intimate lunch setting. Lunch was held in a private home with a home cooked local meal and we invited a novelist who writes on the exact topic which our client was interested in, as well as several other experts. This is the kind of event which becomes unforgettable and goes well beyond a normal curated visit.

Our « job » is to focus our efforts on getting to know the « clients » of the firm. We try to penetrate their desires, to understand their tastes, their conceptions and their tendencies, to guess the reasons for their admiration, their enthusiasm, their joy or discontent about a proposed agenda. In this way, the visitor leaves our city with something which has left a lasting impression.



The story of Monaco is an American story!

This is the story of a beautiful commoner and a handsome prince. The young woman was renowned and glamorous, but without royal blood. The handsome prince when he first saw her was spellbound. She was a dazzling blond in her twenties and had the most eligible bachelors around the world seeking her hand. The prince, by contrast, was a quiet man. The gossip columnists were having a field day. They knew the prince was infatuated, but would he break his country's longstanding tradition and marry as his princess was not only a commoner but a foreigner? The answer was yes!

The marriage was attended by the elites from all over Europe. And while the princess was well known before, she became one of the brightest magnitudes. Well, you have already guessed correctly that the woman was an American and the Prince was from Monaco. We are not referring to Grace, it was another American princess. The story gets more interesting...

Find out the end of this story [here](#).



Exploring Jewish Nice

While working in the archives of the Alpes-Maritimes in Nice, sorting documents from a 20th century politician, Robert Levitt ran across a letter from a constituent which gripped his attention like no other. The letter was one of palpitating fear. You could almost feel the sweat dripping with each word as the writer, processing the horror of his circumstances, tried to convey to the Vichy Councilman that he was about to be deported by the Gestapo. They were convinced he was Jewish, when in actuality he was not. Due to the war in North Africa (the Allied Armies were advancing towards Sicily), he could not obtain his original documents and now he had nowhere left to turn. Perhaps by this time, Jews had come to know or at least envision what was in store for them if they were caught, but this non-Jew spoke of the terror of the unknown: first realization of what Jews had been feeling for several years or perhaps even centuries. It was the sort of letter which shook Robert from a stupor to realize that he had moved to one of the most important Jewish cities of WWII, the last refuge in Europe for Jews. This letter drew Robert to study the subject

of Jewish Nice. As a Medieval historian, reader of Latin, and with a great deal of archival experience, he began to discover and explore the extraordinary rich Jewish heritage in the city of Nice.

The Jewish heritage in Nice is not about places which “used to be” something else. Its Jewish heritage remains in full view, although it takes some interpretation to see and understand it. Today, two of the functioning synagogues date from the end of the 19th century. It has an active Jewish community where Robert Levitt has participated in learning both Judeo-Espanol or Ladino, the language of the Sephardic Jewish diaspora (Sepharad is the Hebrew name for Spain and Portugal) as well as Yiddish, the language of the Ashkenazi diaspora. It is a place where you can still appreciate the horror and fear in the story of a building being illuminated from outside, shortly after midnight, and the sound of the heavy boots of Gestapo soldiers racing up the stairs.

Read more [here](#).

[Join](#) Via Nissa on a tour of Jewish Heritage in Nice.



Was Garibaldi asked to lead the troops of Abraham Lincoln?

[Robert Levitt](#) wrote an article in Nice Matin blog about Giuseppe Garibaldi who was an Italian General, «Hero of Two Worlds» taking part in revolutionary movements in South America and the hero of the Italian unification movement known as Risorgimento (Resurgence). We know that he was born right here in Nice. His name is featured in one of the city's two principle squares, the Place Garibaldi. But have you heard that Garibaldi was asked to lead the Union troops of American President Abraham Lincoln in the American Civil War?

The story goes that Lincoln asked Garibaldi to take total command of all the American Union army in the summer of 1861, and Garibaldi said he would, under the condition that the war would be about the emancipation of the southern slaves. Was this true? Garibaldi had lived in America (Staten Island)

in 1850, and supposedly even held an American passport. And yes, it all began apparently by an informal offer made by a self- seeking American consul in Antwerp named James W. Quiggle, who without any authorization from the White House or the State Department told Garibaldi that he would be the Commander in Chief of the Union Army, the side of Lincoln.

Read the English version of the article [here](#).

You can also visit our [blog](#) and know more about [Alfred Nobel in San Remo](#)



This newsletter was edited by Evgenia Mokhireva



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