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## Welcome to the September edition of the Via Nissa newsletter.

We have added a number of blog posts which we list below, as well as detail to a great extent our Jewish Heritage visit to Nice, something which is rich in history, but not very well known.



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## Jewish Heritage Tour of Nice

This Three hour walking visit is of Jewish Heritage in Nice which has a long and rich history in both the medieval period as well as during the Second World War. As a part of the County of Savoy, unlike those in France or Italy, the Jews of Nice were particularly impacted by changing territorial borders. On this tour, led by a Medieval Historian, we will visit the Grand Synagogue, the underground areas of the medieval Jewish ghetto, the Jewish Cemetery, well known Jews in Nice historically as well as examine the contradictions between anti-semitism and the reality of the experience, both historically and today. We

will also discuss many of the causes of anti-semitism which arose during the middle ages. If there is time, we can visit the Hotel Excelsior and/or the Ashkenazi synagogue, Ezrat A'him. It is also possible to visit some of the communities in Nice which still speak the Judeo-Espanol dialect, spoken in Spain in the Middle Ages.

There is a rich history of Jews in Nice. This three hour tour requires advanced notice. Certain areas we will visit are privately owned and access cannot be guaranteed at all times.

You can read more about our Jewish tour [here](#).



## **Vineyards of Bellet**

September is the time of the wine harvest and cooler weather and we are pleased to be able to visit the vineyards of Bellet on the 22nd of September, most likely during the vendange, or grape harvest, when the vineyards are in full swing. Bellet, in the hills of Nice has been a wine region for hundreds of years. In fact, it was America's third President Thomas Jefferson who promoted

the wines in the United States and would buy hundreds of bottles each year to be shipped to him in Virginia. Jefferson left in his archives, now at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and accessible online letters to merchants back and forth regarding the quality of the wine and the tastes of his countrymen. Visiting the vineyards is always fun, particularly because of the wine tasting, but to our interests, seeing a bunch of clean vats and barrels is not nearly as interesting as seeing the vineyards in action during the harvest.

For Bellet, this usually occurs in mid to late September. So for the past two years, Via Nissa has been lucky to bring its clients to the vineyards at this most interesting time, and then taking advantage of the good weather, to enjoy a traditional three or four hour lunch in the vegetable gardens of *La potager de Saquier*. The potager is not a restaurant, but a vegetable garden producing for the finest restaurant in the region. But once a year, they open up their gardens to Via Nissa for a picnic with local provençal music and dancing, the kind of event you may have seen in the movies, but it is rare to ever find this kind of experience today. Add in bottles of wine and the afternoon looks to again fulfill our highest expectations.



**Beijing - Nice**

Beginning the 15th of September, Via Nissa will be participating in a program of the Aeroport of Nice catering to the Chinese. Direct flights from Beijing to Nice began in the beginning of August and soon Shanghai will be added followed by Ghangzhou. This program means Via Nissa will be promoted to the Chinese visitors as they arrive in the airport. We are unsure how this will work out, but we know the City of Nice is targeting 250,000 Chinese visitors a year.

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## **Visit of Grasse**

While it doesn't bloom until next June, the lavender fields are always popular for visitors to the Côte d'Azur and Via Nissa is pleased that our visits to the Lavender fields as well as to Grasse, the Perfume Capital of the World and now a UNESCO World Heritage for immaterial patrimony in the know-how of perfume production will be led by Mathilde Cocoual, PhD in modern history, whose doctorate was written on the history of the perfume industry in Grasse. Mathilde is not only an expert in perfume, but she has the knowledge of Grasse and its history as well as a rolodex of addresses of those who in the perfume industry. Mathilde can also customize a visit for multiple days for those whose interest in perfume extends beyond the short time normally allocated to Grasse. Join Via Nissa and Mathilde on a visit to Grasse or the Lavender fields.





Mathilde Cocoual will be leading excursions for Via Nissa into the perfume regions. Bilingual in French and English, Matilde earned her doctorate in analyzing the history of the perfume industry in Grasse.



## Nice Matin

It should be fun as our own [Robert Levitt](#) has joined the team at Nice Matin writing about Vieux Nice. You can follow the blog on [Facebook](#). Robert may be writing in either French or English and will concentrate on stories in the Old

You can also visit our [blog](#) and know more about

[Beaches in Nice](#)

[Nice Midday Canon](#)

[American Tour of Nice](#)

[District of Marble Cross](#)

[Friedrich Nietzsche](#) and [Thomas Jefferson](#)

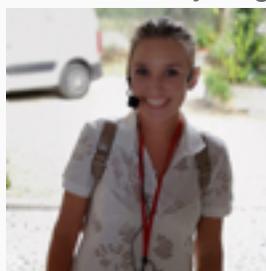
And also find answers to questions

[How old is Nice?](#) [Was Nice ever Italian?](#) [Do you need umbrellas in Nice?](#) [Who made Nice the summer paradise?](#)

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This newsletter was edited by Evgenia Mokhireva



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