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Welcome to the March edition of the Via Nissa newsletter.



This month, Via Nissa was going to speak of its expansion into Jewish Genoa. However, due to the concerns about coronavirus and visiting parts of Italy, we will introduce Genoa in a future publication. The coronavirus is probably with us for a while and its shutting down a number of activities. Large conferences in Cannes are being canceled, festivals, semi-marathons and sporting events, even the final day of the Nice carnival, as authorities are trying to prevent a large number of visitors from coming here.

For most of us, the biggest risk of travel today might be being stuck somewhere. Robert Levitt was in Berlin this past week for conferences and several meetings, and everything was cancelled. Except, of course the bills for the hotel, the flights and the conference! (And no, travel insurance doesn't help either because it doesn't cover "fear" or epidemics.) Cruise ship visitors are being turned away from ports of entry and those in the Diamond Princess remain still in quarantine for another month in America. In Wuhan, the center of the virus, they force isolation with some reports showing they put people back in their apartment building and then they weld the doors shut. In South Korea, they have mobile checkpoints, something like ticket checks on the tram, where they test you for free and take those who are ill or have a fever are taken into quarantine.

So far, incidents in Nice are rare and mostly we go on like normal. Schools are open and the children have returned. So if travel is not possible, why not wash your hands and consider a staycation? Take the time to get to know your own city? Via Nissa will be introducing several Saturday dates when we will be running special visits in the Old City (Vieux Nice).

Read about this visit in the following paragraphs and stayed tuned to Via Nissa's latest updates on our [Facebook page](#).



Vieux Nice (The Old Town)

These special visits that Via Nissa are launching are designed to introduce you to places and secrets of the Old City which have probably escaped your attention and we will explain what their significance is. We will also be focusing on instructing you during these visits on how to read a Renaissance city. As you may be aware, Vieux Nice can date back to the fourteenth century, and parts even further, but the bulk of what you see today comes from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This was when the decision was taken to move the original city from the upper town on what we call the Colline du Château to the lower city. The upper city was to be used only for military and defensive purposes. As the upper city converges on the lower, the medieval nature of the city was converted to a renaissance native one. Our visits, therefore, over the next month, will be designed to introduce you to that Renaissance city and how to read what remains, which is a significant part of the city. These visits will be bilingual, French and English, and will be led by one of two of Via Nissa's leading experts on the Old City. We will be posting the dates of the visits and we suggest you consider experiencing the city through the eyes of both our curators, who will through their long personal experience, likely provide a very different viewpoint from each other. If you are going to stay put in Nice, you might as well take advantage of the time to explore much deeper. You will never walk the streets of the old City the same way again.

You can find out more about the visit [here](#).

[Join](#) Via Nissa on a tour of Vieux Nice.



Menorah in Nice

Hidden in a private cellar on the rue Benoit Bunico, the former Jewish ghetto in Nice, which may date back to the 15th century, well before the ghetto of Venice, has been found an ancient Menorah carved into a rock placed into the wall. When most people think of a Menorah, they think of what is really something else, a candle-stick holder used for the Jewish feast of Hanukkah. This candle-stick holder has eight branches, for the eight days of Hanukkah. But notice our Menorah carved into the ancient ghetto. It has only seven branches.

Find out why [here](#).



Adrian Leeds, the superstar American real estate broker who operates in France joined Via Nissa for a short city visit after the cancellation of the final days of Carnival. Adrian writes a publication called [Parler Nice](#) (as well as [Parler Paris](#)) in which she shares her experiences of daily life in France. They are always enjoyable to read. The latest, which she calls a Nouvelle lettre mentioned Via Nissa. *"There is no tour guide as accomplished or as knowledgeable of Nice's Jewish History as Robert Levitt who lives and breathes his love for Nice and it's colorful historical past. I felt honored he agreed to accompany me."* Adrian Leeds, Parler Nice

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Sinagoga di Cherasco
and
The Pope's Jews

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This newsletter was edited by Evgenia Mokhireva



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