



France – French Riviera and Lyon Trip Notes June 18 – July 2, 2019

Headlines

- Hot Hot Hot. Hottest weather on record and there we were.
- A return to a favorite of Tom's – the Mediterranean
- Something new for Diana – Lyon
- Still no working computer so trip notes are loose and limited.



We were just two old dogs trying to survive the heat!

June 18

Some places are worth going to again. Off we go and then home again on July 2.

Tom knew the Côte d'Azur, also known as the French Riviera, from the 60s when he lived in France with his first wife. Then in the early 70s when we moved to French speaking Belgium, I signed up for a one-month total submersion French language school in Cap d'Ail, one kilometer outside of Monaco. It was on the middle Corniche/road within a very short walk down to the water's edge. Tom already had a good working knowledge of the French language but couldn't resist and was able to get the month off work and came along. (So much for the French suggestion that one would learn French quicker with a "French pillow").

We have been to the area many times in the years since and last February were in Nice at the famous Hotel Negresco. Maybe it was just a year before that we were in the same apartment that we head to now. Tom has returned to the school in the past, we've had an apartment in Nice, hotels in Nice, and once a big house with a pool very close to the language school.

Yet some of us also like to explore new places so after a week in the Cap d'Ail apartment, we go to Lyon, some say the eating capitol of France, for five nights.

But first, the main draw for Tom is sitting on the huge balcony hanging over the Azure Mediterranean watching the waters flow by.

From the VRBO site: <https://www.vrbo.com/1297013ha> -

Exquisite waterside apartment, 3 mins Monaco, direct access to sea from garden. Luxury apartment, for a truly wonderful holiday on the French Riviera.

Waterside apartment - Literally Next to the Sea 'Pieds dans l'eau' and only 3 minutes to Monaco by train...station 5 minutes away on foot...the best of all worlds.

This is our luxury home from home that sits right on the Mediterranean, only a short glorious walk along the foreshore to Monaco, or a three minute train ride from arguably the train station with the most beautiful view in the world!

With multi million pound villas on either side of us, this is a very rare apartment on the top floor of the building, which gives spectacular sea views out of every window.

See the Youtube video here - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpxxiWngg1E>

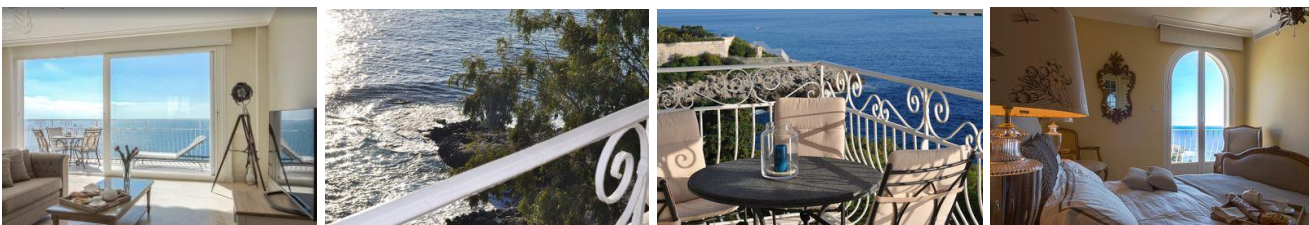
There is nothing more relaxing than falling off to sleep with the sound of waves breaking with a light breeze coming in through the arched French windows.

Complete renovation - We have only just finished completely refurbishing this apartment to a very high standard, as it's our intention to live in the apartment once we reach retirement in a year or two. We have tried to incorporate everything that we wish for ourselves- top of the range smart Sonos sound system with Amina invisible speakers throughout to keep the apartment clutter free, smart television with Wi-Fi, stone tiled luxury wet room, exquisite kitchen with high end appliances including a steam oven and combination oven, and Nespresso coffee machine. The balcony is a super place to watch the yachts and super yachts sail by, relaxing with a book and a glass of excellent Rose wine, either sitting at the wrought iron table or stretched out on the sun bed. The whole apartment is furnished with handmade bespoke furniture imported from England to fit the apartment. We have also installed double electric blinds inside and out for year round comfort. Everything that you would want in your own home from home!

Easy access - We chose this secluded apartment for ourselves because of its wonderful position, not only in relation to its breathtaking views, easy access to the sea, and sand at Plage Mala just around the corner where you can hire Jet Ski's, kayaks or day boards etc, but also because of its ease of access to the whole of the Cote d'Azur, Nice, Monaco and the French Riviera. The train station is only a five minute walk away, also overlooking the Mediterranean, with frequent services to Monaco (3mins), Nice (18mins), Cannes (55mins) Ventimiglia, Italy (30mins). Both the train and bus rides are inexpensive and afford stunning views of both the sea and the Corniche.

Artists - The light in this part of the world has drawn so many artists over the years because of its amazing intense quality. You only have to mention Picasso, Matisse, Chagal amongst many others. Consequently there are many fine art galleries and museums displaying their work. The Villa Rothschild in Cap Ferrat is well worth a visit and is only 12 or so minutes away on the train. We enjoy walking in the Alpes Maritime in the spring and autumn; it's a bit too hot in high season for us oldies!

There's a little of everything here from the peace and serenity of the apartment to the bustle of the markets and night life in both Monaco and Nice and the small towns in between. It goes without saying that there is a lot of high-class designer shopping in this region if you wish it! End.





On the way - The Polaris Club in Newark even offers an interesting menu. The Swiss Club in Zurich was as nice but no table service and no Prisoner wine. They made up for it with calvados, the French apple brandy!

June 19-22 still in Cap d'Ail.

Our flight from Zürich to Nice was a separate ticket saving us loads of money but giving us an economy seat with plenty to write about. Two little toddlers sitting in the seat in front of us was the best or worse depending how you look at it. Precocious, cute, and obnoxious all at once. Dirty diapers included. We were well inebriated from the lovely Swiss Air lounge in Zürich so it was fine.



Arrival in Nice wasn't without stories either. We had to taxi 36 Euros away to a downtown rental location where it took forever for Tom to get his huge luxury Mercedes. The tiny narrow curvy roads, coupled with detours, caused me to declare that I did not want to drive at night. Tom does not. Our half hour drive to the apartment became 1 3/4 hours. Landlord was none too pleased and proceeded to tell me about his recent cancer diagnosis with 1-2 percent survival rate and by the way would we drive he and his girlfriend to go to Beaulieu-sur-Mer. We were actually pleased to do so despite being so late in the day as it took us to a uniquely good supermarket. Yet we have never flown all night and stayed up so late the next day and finally collapsed by 10:30 PM.



Hey. Others like the south of France too: Picture this Obama family: *"June in Provence in the south of France. Warm sun, great wine, food and art, fascinating history. What could make for a better vacation for a history-loving ex-president and his family? There's even a crowd of excited tourists cheering and waving their cellphones. Just like the old days in the White House!"*

From travel and leisure listing the most romantic spots in the world: Côte d'Azur - *"My wonderful husband is not a romantic guy, but on the day he asked me to marry him 20 years ago, even he couldn't deny the romance of the Cote d'Azur. We were lucky enough to be staying at the [Chateau de la Chevre d'Or](#) in Eze. We had breakfast on the balcony overlooking the sparkling blue Mediterranean — it was one of those moments you never forget. This jewel of a hotel is positioned on a hillside in a medieval village, and comes with impeccable, discrete service. If you're feeling philosophical, you can tackle the Nietzsche Path down to the ocean!"* (Picture at the end). By Kathy Stewart of Butterfield & Robinson.

Our first full day, per Tom: *"Our start didn't go as planned. I had made a reservation for lunch our first full day at the Saint Paul Hotel in St. Paul de Vence - up in the hills above Nice - we'd always wanted to lunch on their beautiful terrace overlooking the picturesque surrounding mountains but the timing never worked out. This time it was my usual day after post-long flight stomach queasiness (meaning no appetite). And it is a perfect day too!! So no trip and I spent most of my day in bed. Comfortable but no watching water yet. It's now 3:50 and I'm up, feeling 95% normal and Diana even cooked for*

me by making me her trademark scrambled egg and cheese grilled sandwich. She makes it for herself at home from time to time but this is a first in fifty years for me. Just hits the spot and my prognosis is survival (and with a perfect view).”

Alas, we tried Saint Paul de Vence for the next day but the Restaurant being a Relais et Chateaux was fully booked. We walked thru town and enjoyed an ok meal elsewhere, a place we knew from before. The drive home was less than desirable and Siri clearly had no idea where we were either. Plus getting “home” is quite the challenge. There are Rolls Royce, Bentleys, Ferraris, etc. in this neighborhood but I really think they should helicopter in instead. The roads are unusually curvy and any quick medical evacuation would require a helicopter. We watched the adjoining “The Rock” which used to be home of Greta Garbo accept residents by boat.

Weather? It has been perfect. Yet soon we could hit record temperatures of 104°. (Later we got even worse heat.)

I will add a few pictures here and will soon put all of my pictures onto iCloud shared for anyone who requested.



This is what he came for. We’ve had a couple of dinners of my favorite which is country pate and French cheese with a fresh baguette. Tom had his Foie gras pate. The hilltop town of Saint Paul de Vence is full of art shops, some good and some amusing and many conversation pieces, with lots of little cafes. We have been many times.



More hilltop towns. More food. Then the roadways offer numerous bits of art, if you can call it that.

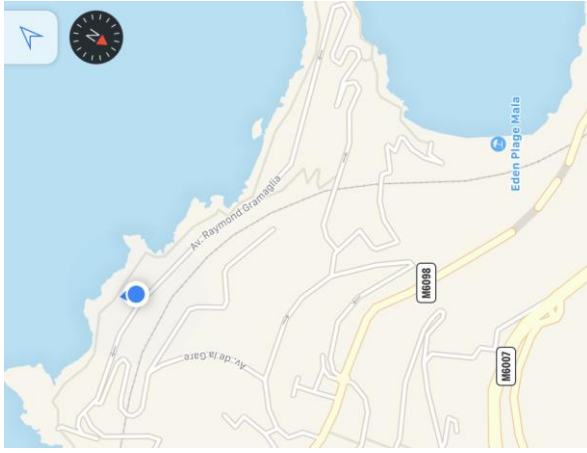


The drive from Nice to our apartment is along the lower Corniche. I really like the rock ways and tunnels; Tom especially likes the blue of the Mediterranean.

This hilltop village is Eze Village. We drive along Eze sur Mer but have not been up to the top for the last couple of trips for the strenuous climb it takes. Cars can only go so far.

The leftover pate with some Sauternes.

From the bedroom. Good night.



The map shows the very circuitous route one must take to get to the apartment off the main drag.

Miss your destination and you're in for another 15 to 20 minute loop if you were lucky enough to not go down a One Way Street and have to back out. We have. The streets are very narrow and the curve is so tight and usually requires some backing up and trying again. It might be easier in an European size car and not the biggest Mercedes they make. Smile!

Eze Village picture from the web.

June 23 - 25 still on the Riviera

The apartment is interesting. It was custom built with the best and definitely in the best location. The top floor balcony is huge and literally hangs over the crystal blue water with a rock-way path right on the edge. The sailboats and yachts flow by. The gardens are amazing and some of the local villas are out of the movies. Famous towns are on either side. Monaco and Nice.

A neighbor: The Rock - <http://www.czech4home.cz/en/detail/vila-the-rock-at-cap-dail-france/2262eng.htm> - Called the Greta Garbo home but now either listed for sale or rent.

But. And we knew what we were getting into but chose it anyway. The techie features of the kitchen make it near impossible to use. The huge entertainment system is too much of a challenge to try. The road to get in is tough to negotiate yet some big money chooses to do so. When the wind doesn't blow the mosquitos eat me alive.

Tom can sit for hours on the balcony watching the water go by. Especially on the weekends, there is a flotilla of sailboats, yachts, and those surfboards that people paddle. Nearby is a noted restaurant that appears to be taking up our parking spots on the weekend or maybe it is the nearby beach goers.

The better place to watch the world go by is sitting in the Café de Paris in front of the casino de Monte Carlo. The people and the cars are extreme. I am often times saddened by the extremes of wealth where there is also so much poverty. I used to think that everyone had similar opportunities yet within the last couple years I've changed my mind. In the era when I was a young divorcee and could've made more money if I collected welfare, it was true that people could lift themselves up. I don't think those opportunities exist so readily any longer. The owner of the \$3 million Bugatti might be giving to charity, but this is not democracy for the rich to decide where the money goes. Our life is good and those around us have good lives, but i've been reminded that I and many around me live in an

artificial environment. There's not much more Artificial than Monte Carlo. \$36 Aperol spritzs are only part of it.

I love France. I really do and pretty much all the time. But Siri? Not so much. I've been truly pissy about the goose chases she has given us and I can see where one can get brain dumb by listening vs thinking. Life on the road was less stressful if not easier with maps and without Siri. (yes, Tom updated his Garmin before we left - she still had old roads.)

Back to France and the French. If you see a fatty, chances are it's an American. Rough clothing? Probably an American. The good looking slim vibrant ones have a good chance of being French or Italian. Remember that most of the Riviera used to be Italian and the influence is still here. As well as the good lookers.

Another day we were on our way to Cannes but then decided maybe that was a bit artificial and instead we spent a day in Antibes. We had been through but never spent any time and it is a lovely little town with an old village and surrounded by ramparts. It's bay and Yacht Harbor is noted. We had one of our better meals and a most enjoyable day.

Should we return to the Riviera and not stay in Nice, I would be receptive to looking at Antibes. For lots more info and pictures: <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antibes>

And in between Monaco and Antibes we refreshed our acquaintance with La Turbie. It is way up on the mountain even above the Grande Cornish with an amazing view from an old stone ancient Village most picturesque.

The predicted heat was just beginning but with a bit of breeze and staying in the shade we just managed to survive. But how will we do in a couple days when it is 104°? To be seen. Wednesday we leave the Riviera to Lyon where the record heat might happen.



In the Gardens of Monte Carlo facing the casino.



There are many Sweet Streets in La Turbie. Way up high in the mountains.

This family-run Italian pizzeria reminded us of grandma's meatballs in Florence. Father is the cook, and at least two of his children waited on us.

Yes that is one of the curves on the roadway getting into our apartment. Most cars require two maneuvers to make this turn. And finally, our apartment building looking like two stories but in fact it is four stories because it is built on such a steep hill.



3. Musee Picasso: Picasso Museum



From our balcony.

Into Antibes with the ramparts just behind. Loads of yachts and sailboats.

This little puppy was owned by our waitress and just the sweetest thing. If you subscribe to my iCloud share drive you will see it in movement.



We were very happy with our meal, starting with fish soup and a mozzarella and tomato salad. Tom had a pot of moules.

Maybe our final tourist attraction on the Riviera for this trip is a street scene in Antibes.

Lyon here we come!

Long drive. Nice car. Efficient but pricey toll roads. Pricey fuel. We drove and we drove but actually it was probably only about five hours. Our route took us Cannes, Aix-en-Provence-Alpes-Côte, many mountainous parks and preserves, acres of lavender, the towns of Orange and Avignon, and finally into the Lyon main airport to drop the car and come face-to-face with the over 100° weather.

From Judy: Maybe Tom will rent or test drive one of these! This S\$752k Mercedes-AMG is aimed at those who 'win at life'.

From Tom: Well, being a simple guy with simple needs....I'll probably stick to a simple MB E Class or maybe an S Class for rentals but at home my Lexus LS 460 (2007) is still the best car in the world (for me anyway). I love seeing those ultra-cars though and in front of the Monte Carlo Casino is one of the few places such a collection can be seen all at the same. Fascinating! For a car guy.

Diana told Alayna I always go for the big car. Not exactly. I do go for the luxury car. And some are pretty big but luxury is my goal. We've had this E Class a few times and it's a nice car. I like the S class the best though (they use it here as a limo). It's very luxurious. I only had one once but it spoiled me and that came as a free upgrade because they didn't have the car I'd reserved. But I'm not deprived though (depraved maybe).

Anyway - All y'all would love what we're seeing. But you wouldn't like the heat wave we're experiencing and looking to get worse as we move on to Lyon. End

Hot weather warning: Europe prepares for heat wave with public cooling rooms and health warnings - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/25/world/europe-weather-heat-wave-preparation-grm-intl/index.html>
Europe heat wave: Melting Autobahn, jaguars in pools, naked men on scooters - https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/melting-autobahns-jaguars-in-pools-naked-men-on-scooters-europe-faces-an-early-summer-inferno/2019/06/27/cf6597d4-9821-11e9-9a16-dc551ea5a43b_story.html

But we are in Lyon and plan to see some of it no matter the weather. That is if we are able.

Why Food Lovers Should Visit Lyon This Fall - A new hotel and an upcoming food museum are game changers for France's culinary capital - <https://apple.news/A2BykecOXRgmK0MEOHR3FyA>

Bouchons: Old style French restaurant. Simple. Top bouchons recommendations! - <https://jadorelyon.com/bouchon-in-lyon/>

Only coincidentally we ended up eating in one of these. In Daniel & Denise we probably had the same table.

In restaurants. The French have a way of whispering in restaurants. It is so civilized making the Americans and their loudness seem even worse. The children act like a French adults which we find quite commendable. Tom even took the time to commend some parents.



Arriving in Lyon airport to turn in our rental car it was painfully over 100° and humid.

We are in a Marriott in a lovely little Junior suite. First they gave us an upgrade to the Royal suite but in fact what we reserved turned out to be better. Dinner in the hotel as it was late. Sitting on our bed in the car all day and then dealing with the heat pooped us out.

The hotel sits on the edge of a huge park that we would have liked to see but not in these temperatures. But the view from the restaurant was good.

Heat or no, we didn't want it to spoil our five days in Lyon so we took a taxi into the old village.





We knew we would like the restaurant as much because it was air-conditioned. Many if not most are not. Yes Mr. Burton had two desserts.



Then after far too much walking for one of us and certainly far too hot for both of us we decided to get a taxi. Not. Even residents calling for a taxi gave us nothing. We stood in front of this building with a taxi stand for a very long time. I guess the hot weather gives as much trouble as rainy days for getting a taxi.

Thus the decision to retire for the day and hire a car and Tour Guide for the next day. Coming up.

In Lyon - where the rivers might start boiling!

Yes it's hot. Yes we've found ways to be tourists and enjoy Lyon no matter the record temps. We've popped in and out of semi climatized shops. We've hired a tour guide with an air-conditioned vehicle. We've avoided the lovely little bouchon-family run restaurants without air conditioning, etc. Yet we've sweated a lot and downed bottles of water.

From the web: Lyon is one large World Heritage Site, with a big renaissance old town, Roman ruins, historic industrial districts and the regal 19th-century Presqu'île quarter. The city was founded 2,000 years ago at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône Rivers, and built its fortune on the silk trade. This industry furnished it with beautiful renaissance architecture in Vieux Lyon, where semi-hidden passageways called Traboules connect courtyards with the Saône.

You can't talk about Lyon without mentioning the food, as the gourmets agree that Lyon is the world's culinary capital. It's the city of the chef, Paul Bocuse, revered as a god of French cuisine.

Best of Lyon - <https://www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-lyon-france/> - We've seen most all of these or will.

Our park in Lyon - adjoining our hotel -

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parc_de_la_T%C3%AAted%27o -

Parc de la Tête d'or ("Park of the Golden Head"), is a large urban park with an area of approximately 290 acres. Located in the 6th arrondissement it features a lake on which boating takes place during the summer months. Due to the relatively small number of other parks in Lyon, it receives a huge number of visitors over summer, and is a frequent destination for joggers and cyclists. In the central part of the park, there is a small zoo, with giraffes, elephants, deer, reptiles, primates, and other animals. There are also sports facilities, such as a velodrome, boules court, mini-golf, horse riding, and a miniature train.

Confluences - where two rivers meet. Two colors of water. A huge weird

museum. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mus%C3%A9_des_Confluences

The Musée des Confluences is a science centre and anthropology museum which opened in 2014 in the 2nd arrondissement. It is located at the southern tip of the Presqu'île at the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône, adjacent to Autoroute, and comprises part of a larger redevelopment project of the Confluence quarter of Lyon. The deconstructivist architectural design, said to resemble

a floating crystal cloud of stainless steel and glass was created by the Austrian firm Coop Himmelb(l)au.

Murals of Lyon - <https://www.francetoday.com/travel/the-murals-of-lyon/> In Lyon the walls tell stories, mostly very tall tales. While painting on walls is as old as time, the city has taken the art of modern urban wall painting to new heights with nearly 60 outdoor murals. Some are breathtaking flights of fancy; others are marvelous examples of trompe l'oeil, depictions of everyday life so realistic you could almost walk into them. More at web link above.

The Wall mural - <https://citecreation.fr/en/realisation/the-lyonnais-fresco-trompe-loeil-wall-mural-lyon/> My included picture covers a surface area of 800 m² on what was formerly a real urban eyesore. It depicts 30 of the famous men and women who have forged the history of Lyon, from the Roman emperor Claud, born in Lyon, to Father Pierre and Paul Bocuse, the Pope of French cuisine, all placed at the windows, doorways and balconies of this monumental trompe-l'oeil. They meet each other through the centuries. Also evoked are the techniques of Jacquard and the Lumière brothers, adventure with Claude Martin and Verrazane, the sciences with Claude Bernard, literature with Louise Labé, Maurice Scève, Saint-Exupéry and Frédéric Dard, research with Marcel Mérieux and Ampère, and humanism with Pauline Jaricot. The work can be savoured like a good book. It attracts more than a million tourists every year, many of whom take selfies of themselves in the good company of the characters in the fresco. Read more on above web link.

Waters and weather. From Steve who read that Tom could watch the waters of the Mediterranean all day: Hi to Tom. Tell him a watched sea never boils, except once a while in France in late June. From Tom while on the Riviera, subject Yacht envy - The value of these wonderful boats passing within my purview while looking out from the balcony of the fourth floor apartment out onto the Met has been fascinating and must be worth zillions.



Two rivers. Lots of bridges and many just for pedestrians.
A view from the basilica to the cathedral. Or do I have those names backward?





Lyon was known for making silks. This shop produces for art museums around the world. Had the scarf prices not been in the €200-€700 range, I would've had one or two. The miniatures museum where creations are used in many well-known movies.



Pate de foie gras of course!
 The Lyonnaise salad. I could have stopped there before my quenelles.
 Web picture of the trompe l'oeil building. Read above.
 Museum of Confluences where two rivers merge. A cloud? Gehey would be proud of this architect. It'll take some getting used to.

The Lyon of Paul Bocuse.

But first, the weather: Two old dogs trying to survive the heat. See first pic. I relate. 46° in Avignon today and that is 114.8°F. Per our taxi driver and this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-48795264>

The highest temperature ever ever ever recorded in France. Climate change? Where? What? Smile.

At Nearly 115 Degrees, France Experiences Its Hottest Day on Record:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/28/world/europe/europe-heat-wave-wildfires.html>

Where did we go - that wasn't on fire? Halles Market of Paul Bocuse: <https://thisislyon.fr/food-and-drink/markets/les-halles-de-lyon/>

Paul Bocuse <https://www.bocuse.fr/en/paul-bocuse.html>

Original Paul Bocuse restaurant <https://www.bocuse.fr/en/>

Tom seems absolutely certain that we ate at the original Paul Bocuse restaurant in the 70s. It is certainly possible because while we lived in Belgium the American dollar was most favorable and we traveled the Michelin starred restaurants. I wouldn't dream of paying for a three star Michelin restaurant now.

Even IF I were a gourmand. . . . Tom is the gourmet/gourmand I used to participate and did all the cooking until the mid-80s. Now I only eat. I was an aficionado of Julia Child.

<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/you-can-now-learn-to-cook-at-julia-childs-provencal-home/amp->

This is where friend Ginny and daughter are going! Very exciting. I heard of this home of Julia Child's that is now a cooking school and I think in early days it was listed for rent.

Forever ago when we lived in Belgium I used to cook. Smile. One of the more important books I read was a compilation of Julia Child's television programs. Each was a recipe but with full description of what and why. It was better than reading a novel. I still have that pocketbook.

I later bought her cookbook of more simplified recipes but never found much fun in that. In Washington DC one of the museums has Julia Child's kitchen. Marie was enchanted and now some years later she is really into cooking along with her boyfriend.

Another person famous for eating and cooking (other than Tom): Anthony Bourdain Quotes That Will Inspire You to Travel More, Eat Better, and Enjoy Life <https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/celebrity-travel/anthony-bourdain-travel-food-quotes>



Two hot and tired old dogs. We related. Into Bocuse Food Market with gorgeous displays. Shucking oysters. The Europeans sure do like their seafood. Platters started at €50 and went up to a few hundred euros.





This pencil looking building is now a Radisson Blu. At €18 each, again, we had an aperol spritz while looking at Lyon from the 32nd floor.

We return to the market Hall where the fellow had been checking oysters. Tom had wanted Coquille St Jacques. Mine was a dorado maybe known as sea bream. It was all just ok.

The wine was good and refreshing but what wine isn't good?

Tomorrow is Sunday and our last day in Lyon. It will be no cooler in Paris where we just pass through for the day and night. Home on Tuesday.

We spent our last day in Lyon at their Art Museum, said to be the largest collection in France after The Louvre. I didn't send pictures or any report. We reverted to the cool air conditioned hotel restaurant for our final meal in Lyon. The next day took us to Paris but only to the Marriott at CDG airport, where we've stayed a number of times and enjoy their bar and restaurant. I don't even remember what we ate

Itinerary

Tue Jun 18

6:35pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#134 -7:55 hours flight

Wed Jun 19

8:30am Arrive Zurich ZRH

12:50pm Depart Zurich ZRH via Swiss Air #LX568

2:05pm Arrive Nice NCE

3:00pm Rental car - Sixt – from Nice downtown
3 Avenue Gustave V, Nice, France 06000
Drop off at Lyon (LYS) Airport at 4pm Wednesday June 26

Cap d'Ail apartment – 7 nights

<https://www.vrbo.com/1297013ha>

Exquisite waterside apartment, 3 mins Monaco, direct access to sea from garden.

Luxury apartment, for a truly wonderful holiday on the French Riviera.

Waterside apartment Literally Next to the Sea 'Pieds dans l'eau' and only 3 minutes to Monaco by train...station 5 minutes away on foot...the best of all worlds.

This is our luxury home from home that sits right on the Mediterranean, only a short glorious walk along the foreshore to Monaco, or a three minute train ride from arguably the train station with the most beautiful view in the world!

With multi million pound villas on either side of us, this is a very rare apartment on the top floor of the building, which gives spectacular sea views out of every window.

See the Youtube video here - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpxxiWngg1E>

There is nothing more relaxing than falling off to sleep with the sound of waves breaking with a light breeze coming in through the arched French windows.

Complete renovation - We have only just finished completely refurbishing this apartment to a very high standard, as it's our intention to live in the apartment once we reach retirement in a year or two. We have tried to incorporate everything that we wish for ourselves- top of the range smart Sonos sound system with Amina invisible speakers throughout to keep the apartment clutter free, smart television with Wi-Fi, stone tiled luxury wet room, exquisite kitchen with high end appliances including a steam oven and combination oven, and Nespresso coffee machine. The balcony is a super place to watch the yachts and super yachts sail by, relaxing with a book and a glass of excellent Rose wine, either sitting at the wrought iron table or stretched out on the sun bed. The whole apartment is furnished with handmade bespoke furniture imported from England to fit the apartment. We have also installed double electric blinds inside and out for year round comfort. Everything that you would want in your own home from home!

Easy access - We chose this secluded apartment for ourselves because of its wonderful position, not only in relation to its breathtaking views, easy access to the sea, and sand at Plage Mala just around the corner where you can hire Jet Ski's, kayaks or day boards etc, but also because of its ease of access to the whole of the Cote d'Azur, Nice, Monaco and the French Riviera. The train station is only a five minute walk away, also overlooking the Mediterranean, with frequent services to Monaco (3mins), Nice (18mins), Cannes (55mins) Ventimiglia, Italy (30mins). Both the train and bus rides are inexpensive and afford stunning views of both the sea and the Corniche.

Artists - The light in this part of the world has drawn so many artists over the years because of its amazing intense quality. You only have to mention Picasso, Matisse, Chagal amongst many others. Consequently there are many fine art galleries and museums displaying their work. The Villa Rothschild in Cap Ferrat is well worth a visit and is only 12 or so minutes away on the train. We enjoy walking in the Alpes Maritime in the spring and autumn; it's a bit too hot in high season for us oldies!

There's a little of everything here from the peace and serenity of the apartment to the bustle of the markets and night life in both Monaco and Nice and the small towns in between. It goes without saying that there is a lot of high class designer shopping in this region if you wish it!

A word of caution - A number of properties are listed on Home Away as being in Monaco when in fact they are not, Beausoleil, for instance is not close to the sea and is in France. I have noticed one listing where they have moved the property on the map to the beach! We take great pride in listing our apartment accurately in description and on the map.

Wed Jun 26

Late am Drive from Nice to Lyon to turn in rental car around 4pm – 4:50 hour drive

Hotel Lyon Marriott Hotel Cite Internationale – 5 nights
70 Quai Chales de Gaulle, Lyon 69463 France Tele: +33 4 78 17 50 50

Mon Jul 1

2:20pm Depart Lyon LYS via Delta/Air France #AF7643
3:30pm Arrive Charles de Gaulle CDG

Hotel Paris Marriott Charles de Gaulle Airport Hotel – 1 night
5 Allee du Verger, Zone Hotelier Roissy en France, 95700 Tele: 33 1 34 38 53 53

Tue Jul 2

9:45am Depart Charles de Gaulle CDG via UA#56 – 8:05 hours flight
one ticket still waitlisted as of 5/28/19 but 18 of 44 seats available
11:50am Arrive Newark EWR

Use Uber

Rick Steves on Lyon: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/2019/04/22/rick-steves-lyon-france/3538760002/>

Emergency numbers:

Registered with STEP at www.travel.state.gov

Emergency Assistance Plus Program – 24/7

United Mileage Plus member #0186014 (card in file and in D's Wallet)

Tele: 866 816 2073 or 60 328 1752 collect

American Embassy and Consulate

2, avenue Gabriel - Paris 8th. Metro: Champs-Elysées

Tele: 01 43 12 22 22