



# Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

**September 2015**

Dear members and friends

## Programme of activities in France

### **Friday 9 October**

#### **Planning meeting, garden visit and plant exchange**

Unfortunately Graham and Julia are now unable to host this event as they need to spend some time in the UK to attend to family health matters. We are therefore seeking an alternative venue, preferably at a member's home. Could someone offer us a room for our meeting and a garden where we could picnic and hold the plant exchange? Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to help [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com).

### **Thursday 15 October, 11.45am, Le Barroux (84)**

#### **L'Aube Safran, guided tour and garden visit**

Frances Horne has organised this visit to a saffron farm at a date when the crop should be ready for harvesting. Looking to escape Paris, François and Marie Pillet fell in love with the countryside of the Vaucluse, bought a place on the outskirts of Le Barroux and decided to reintroduce the cultivation of saffron to the area. François will tell us all about growing and harvesting saffron and Marie will give us a tour of the beautiful garden which they have created. The visit will end with a "goûter" of saffron-based, organic home baking. We will meet at the nearby home of Jude Baker to eat our picnic lunches, then go to *l'Aube Safran* in the early afternoon. Maximum 30 participants, now fully booked but waiting list open.

### **Friday 16 October, 10.30am, Roquefort-les-Pins (06)**

#### **Visit to Pépinière Ezavin - Le Monde des Fougères**



A visit organised by June Grindley to Olivier Ezavin's nursery which specialises in ferns and plants for shade. Olivier will give a talk about ferns and shade-loving plants suitable for mediterranean gardens, followed by a tour of the nursery.

[www.pepiniereezavin.com](http://www.pepiniereezavin.com)

After the visit we'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant.

### **Wednesday 4 November, Le Puy-Ste-Réparate, (13)**

#### **Visit to Château la Coste**

A walk through a park of woods, hills, olive groves and vines to look at many installations of contemporary art and architecture. Cost 10€ for entry into the park and 30€ for lunch, including wine and coffee.

<http://chateau-la-coste.com/en/walk/>

Visit organised by Nicola D'Annunzio



To book a place for activities in France, contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

## International activities

### **5 - 12 April 2016, Mediterranean Plants and Gardens trip to Crete, guided by John Fielding**

The programme will depend on the weather and what is in flower at the time but is expected to repeat the 2014 trip described at <http://www.medpag.org/crete-trip-april-2014.html>

For more information and to book, contact Heather Martin [hma@clara.net](mailto:hma@clara.net).

## 19 - 25 April 2016, MGAP/MGi event in Sintra, Lisbon and the western Algarve, Portugal Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean 'an undiscovered diversity'

This event, organised by the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, in conjunction with Mediterranean Gardening International, will be in two parts.



19 - 21 April: A pre-conference tour based in the UNESCO world heritage town of Sintra, with two full days of guided visits to historic and private gardens in Lisbon, Colares and Sintra.

Photo: Monserrate Palace, Sintra

22 - 24 April: Travel to Lagos for the main conference weekend. The weekend will include a talk by Olivier Filippi, guided wild flower walks and garden visits. Lagos is close to the Cape St. Vincent Peninsula National Park, an area of immense botanical importance with numerous endemic and rare species. The area is also famous for bird watching on the nearby Sagres Peninsula.



25 April, return to Lisbon, with a garden visit in the Alentejo region, on the way.

For members travelling from southern France there is a daily Ryanair flight between Marseille and Lisbon, and TAP Portugal or Easyjet flights between Nice and Lisbon. If flight and train times remain as they are now, and you would like to take part in the whole programme, it would be best to travel out on Tuesday 19 April, returning on Tuesday 26 April.

Find [full programme notes](#) and a [booking form](#) by clicking on the link, or if you have questions, contact Rosie Peddle, [rosie@thebtf.net](mailto:rosie@thebtf.net).

For a full list of international events, look on the MGF website:  
<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

### Other dates for your Diary

#### Plant fairs and open gardens

12 September	Plantes d'Ailleurs, Jardins d'Ici, Mas de Payan	Tarascon (13)
13 September	Foire aux Plantes	Uzès (30)
13 September	Les Jardins du Redouneil	Assas (34)
19/20 September	La Soldanelle, Portes Ouvertes	Rougiers (83)
19/20 September	Journées du patrimoine - Domaine d'Orvès Book Fair focused on nature, gardens and cookery	La Valette-du-Var (83)
3/4 October	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel (83)

#### Hortus Programme

26 September	Visit to Jardin d'Aristée	St Christol les Alès (30)
24 October	Bourse aux plantes	

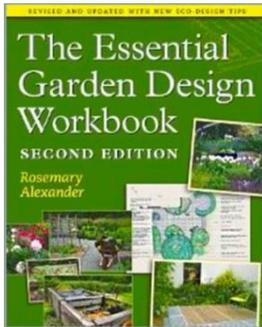
For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr) or go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

## News and information

### **Mediterranean Gardening France website**

Go to the [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page to see a summary of material added recently.

Highlights include:



Chantal Guiraud has updated our [library catalogue](#) to include books recently added...

and Anthony Daniels has written a [review](#) of the Second Edition of Rosemary Alexander's *The Essential Garden Design Workbook*. This book has been donated to our library by Timber Press.

There are some additions to our 'Recommendations' lists:

[designers](#) (Jean Mus & Companie and Jardinerie Nova) and [pépiniéristes](#) (Pépinières Pellizzaro and La Roseraie du Désert).

Photo: A pergola at La Roseraie du Désert showing off *Rosa* 'Marie Robert' and *Rosa* 'Parks Yellow Tea'



A [report](#) by Annie Nivière and Jason Spencer-Cooke on the recent botanical tour of Armenia, with hundreds of photographs contributed by Elisabeth Gratraud, Chantal Maurice, Annie Nivière, Hubert Nivière, Christine Savage and Jock Shearer.

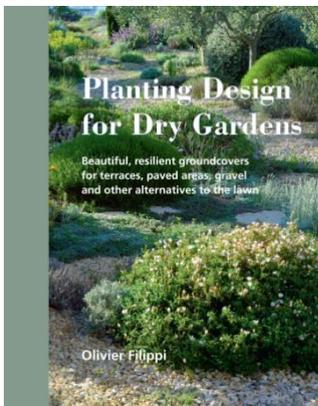
Photo: *Adonis aestivalis*

Hubert has also compiled a Picassa photo album of the Armenia trip, with the participation of Annie, Chantal and Elisabeth, entitled *Armenia 2015 - Discovery*. He describes it thus:

"The touristic part of the trip, some towns and villages, but also roads, churches and monasteries and especially the landscapes of this country of great diversity."

Here is the link to his Picassa album: [Armenia2015-discovery](#)

### **Volunteer wanted**



Olivier Filippi's second book, "Alternatives au Gazon" is being translated into English and will be published in February 2016 called "Planting Design for Dry Gardens". The publisher, Filbert Press, has offered us a review copy, so I'm looking for a volunteer to write a review for our website. The book will then go into the MGF library. Please contact me [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com) if you would be willing to write a review of this book which will be of interest to anyone gardening in a Mediterranean climate.

Best wishes  
Christine