



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

Dear members and friends

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

#### Thursday 13 September, Lauris and Sarrians, Vaucluse

##### A visit to two private gardens



We have been invited to visit the garden of Arlette and Alain, in the pretty village of Lauris, on the southern slopes of the Luberon massif. The couple commenced planting in the garden in 1990 on a soil which is heavy and chalky. This is a 'dry' garden with cypresses, olive trees and some old oak trees. After a picnic lunch we'll drive to Sarrians where we'll visit a garden (part of the Open Gardens / *Jardins Ouverts* scheme) being developed on a hectare of drained marshland.

Photo: The garden in Lauris

There are still a few places left for this visit. To book a place contact Chantal Guiraud:  
[chantal.gouverner@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.gouverner@gmail.com).

#### Tuesday 2 October, Eguilles (near Aix-en-Provence), Bouches-du-Rhône

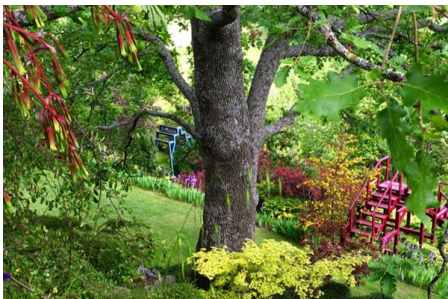
##### Annual planning meeting chez Michèle Bailey and Ian Davis

Come with your suggestions for activities next year and with a dish to share for lunch. Coffee from 10h30, meeting starts 11h00. After lunch, Nina Guichard of [NR Landscaping](http://NR Landscaping) will give a demonstration of planting up an ornamental pot for a hot dry place. Then you can wander round Michèle and Ian's new garden, intended to be wildlife-friendly as well as economical on watering.

For more information and to book: [Michèle Bailey](http://Michèle Bailey)

#### Friday 5 October, 10.30 Coursegoules, Alpes-Maritimes

##### A visit to the garden at Le Vallon du Brec



Martin Smith has arranged this visit to Vallon du Brec, a *jardin remarquable* situated in the hinterland of Nice at a height of 1000 metres. It was created in 1992 by a painter and photographer and after a period of neglect, the new owners have breathed life back into the garden. It overlooks a small valley and contains plants from China, Japan and North America as well as indigenous ones. The planting is enhanced by painted wooden structures... pavilions, staircases and arches, redolent of Japan. In October the garden should be showing its autumnal colours.

[www.le-Vallon-du-Brec.com](http://www.le-Vallon-du-Brec.com)

We hope to arrange lunch at a local restaurant. Numbers for this visit are limited.

To book a place, contact Nicola D'Annunzio: [mgfnicola@gmail.com](mailto:mgfnicola@gmail.com)

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

For a full list of international events, go to the [MGF website](#).

**19 and 20 September - Napoli and Caserta, ITALY**

**Palaces and Historic Gardens in and around Caserta – organised by MGS Italy**



This trip includes a visit to one of the marvels of Italy – La Reggia di Caserta, with special access to the royal apartments and the court theatre, plus visits to two private historical residences and gardens in the area: the Giardino Dei Duchi Guevara di Bovino and Palazzo Mondo with its historic courtyard garden typical of southern Italy. Also included is a visit to the renovated royal silk factory at Casino Reale del Belvedere and its terraced Giardini del Belvedere with panoramic views of La Reggia, Vesuvius and the entire Bay of Naples.

Contact : Angela Durnford: [angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org](mailto:angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org)

**21 - 28 March 2019, southern Peloponnese, GREECE**

**Plant hunting in Greece – a trip organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens**



Professional horticulturist John Fielding will lead a one-week trip to see the great variety of wild plants in flower in spring in the beautiful contrasting habitats and landscapes of the Peloponnese. Participants will stay in hotels in Sparta and Kardamyli, and the itinerary will comprise a mix of plant hunting and sight-seeing including visits to historic Mystras, the slopes of Mount Taygetos, and the valleys and hillsides above Kardamyli, together with Monemvasia, the slopes of Mount Parnon and the Outer Mani.

Contact: Maddy Hughes: [madalynhughes@aol.co.uk](mailto:madalynhughes@aol.co.uk)

**2 – 7 April 2019, International Spring Conference, Évora, Portugal – organised by MGAP**  
**“Bringing the Mediterranean Landscape into your Garden”**



Rosie Peddle writes:

We extend a warm invitation to all MGf members and friends to join us in Portugal for a very special spring conference featuring Olivier Filippi and James Basson as keynote speakers. We are working on a programme of visits to private gardens, vineyards and historic gardens in the Algarve and the Alentejo as part of the core weekend and the pre-conference tour. We hope this will be an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful gardens of Portugal and to meet and socialise with fellow Mediterranean gardeners from around the world.

The conference weekend will be based in Évora from 5 to 7 April with a pre-tour (2 to 5 April) in the Algarve which will include visits to the Barrocal Botanic Garden, private gardens and wildflower walks. We are working closely with Évora University for this event and we hope to attract students on relevant courses to join us. Residential packages available.

Contact Rosie Peddle: [rosie@thebtf.net](mailto:rosie@thebtf.net) for more information and to register an interest.

**Monday 6 – Thursday 9 May 2019, Liguria, ITALY**  
**An MGF trip to the gardens of the Italian Riviera**  
**Provisional programme (costs will be specified in the next newsletter)**



Monday May 6th

Morning visit to Villa Boccanegra, created by Ellen Willmott and now nurtured by Ursula Piecenza. See Robin Lane Fox's article in the Financial Times: [Italy's Villa Boccanegra and the ghost of Miss Willmott | Financial Times](https://www.ft.com/content/b81fc80c-2a9a-11e7-9ec8-168383da43b7) <https://www.ft.com/content/b81fc80c-2a9a-11e7-9ec8-168383da43b7>

In the afternoon, a visit to Phytotrend, Maurizio Casale's grasses nursery (pictured) with its superb display garden [www.phytotrend.it](http://www.phytotrend.it) .



Tuesday May 7th

A visit to Dolceacqua, (pictured) a fascinating village in the Nervia valley, painted by Monet. There will be a short 3d film show of the area, including its native plants, in a lovely, tiny theatre, then a visit to the village, lunch at a local agriturismo restaurant and in the afternoon a choice of local wine tasting or a visit to other villages in the valley including the spectacular Apricale, and Perinaldo, the birthplace of astronomer Cassini (Saturn's rings etc.). See [www.dolceacqua.it](http://www.dolceacqua.it) for a brochure, available in French and English.



Wednesday May 8th

A morning visit to a new coastal garden (pictured) designed by Simone Ottonello. Lunch in Alassio.

In the afternoon, a visit to the gardens of Villa della Pergola, restored by landscape architect Paulo Pejrone.

<https://www.giardinidivilladellapergola.com/>



Thursday May 9th

A visit to La Mortola, the Hanbury garden, including a talk and lunch with Carolyn Hanbury [www.giardinihanbury.com](http://www.giardinihanbury.com)

This will be followed by a visit to either plantaholic Roberto Paniccia's garden, or to Cactusmania [www.cactusmania.it](http://www.cactusmania.it) .

Photo: *Doryanthes palmeri* - the giant spear lily, in Roberto Paniccia's garden.

For more information and to book, contact June Grindley: [jngrindley@btinternet.com](mailto:jngrindley@btinternet.com) .

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Plant fairs and open gardens

16 September	Salon du livre de jardin - Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (Var)
15/16 September	<a href="#">Journées européennes du patrimoine</a>	Everywhere in France
15/16 September	Expo - Art et jardin, Le Jardin Champêtre	Caunes-Minervois (Aude)
21 -23 September	Festival des jardins SEVE 3 Domaine de Grammont	Montpellier (Hérault)
23 September	Le Jardin sec de l'abbaye de Valsaintes	Valsaintes (Alpes de Haute Provence)
29 - 30 September	Portes ouvertes - La Soldanelle	Rougiers (Var)
5 - 7 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
6 October	Ornamental Grasses day, Le Jardin Champêtre	Caunes-Minervois (Aude)
6 -7 October	<a href="#">Gondwana</a> Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel (Var)
14 October	Foire aux plantes, Bambouseraie d'Anduze	Généralgues (Gard)
21 October	La Fête de l'automne	Sillans la Cascade (Var)
24- 25 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard (Gard)

### Hortus Programme

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the [website](#). To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr).

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **Mediterranean Gardening France website**

The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently.

### **Visit to Okanagan Xeriscape Association, British Columbia, CANADA**

Here is a [Link](#) to the description by Alfredo Unda, of MGChile, of a visit to the Okanagan Xeriscape Association in British Columbia, Canada, made last July. The article is in Spanish with a version in English below. Alfredo says that feedback would be appreciated and comments or questions welcome!

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq  
Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: [rolandlec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr)