



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

NOVEMBER 2018

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Wednesday November 21st 2018, 10.00.

Visit to [Commanderie de Peyrassol](http://Commanderie-de-Peyrassol.com), 83340 Flassans-sur-Issole.



Jean-Jacques Tosello : Templier

The Commanderie de Peyrassol was founded by the Knights Templar in the 13th century. Of the 850 acres, 93 are devoted to growing vines, the remainder being oaks and olives. Owing to its convenient location it was a favoured staging post and a place of rest for pilgrims on their way to the holy land.

Today, Peyrassol makes top quality wines and has also created a magnificent sculpture park, bringing together more than 50 top artists from around the world. At the domaine there is also a new indoor gallery with a permanent art collection and a fantastic 'potager'.

The cost of the visit is 15 euros and we are arranging lunch at a nearby restaurant which will be about 30 euros. Peyrassol is located off the DN7, about halfway between Le Luc and Flassans-sur-Issole. If you are coming from Le Luc the signage and the turning, together with that to Aoubré l'Aventure Nature, is on the left hand side. The route is well marked to the Domaine. Telephone : 04 94 69 71 02

Please let June Grindley know, ingrindley@btinternet.com, if you would like to attend. As a booked restaurant is involved in this trip, we will be closing requests by 14th November.

Saturday 26 January, 15.00, La médiathèque Albert Camus, Clapiers, Hérault

A talk by Olivier Filippi



This event has been organised in conjunction with our partner association, Hortus. Olivier has yet to decide on the subject for his talk, but put the date in your diary because his talks are always informative and thought-provoking.

To register an interest and to receive more information when it is available, contact Chantal Maurice: hortusacl@orange.fr.

Thursday 28 March, Malaucène, Vaucluse

Atelier de taille

Chantal Guiraud has arranged for Valérie Guillaud, professional teacher at the CFPPA de l'Hérault (Centre de Formation Professionnelle et de Promotion Agricole), to give MGF members a pruning demonstration. This practical workshop will take place in the garden of Christine Daniels who has recently moved house in Malaucène and now has a walled village garden, with many somewhat neglected mature shrubs and small trees. More information will be available nearer the time.

To book a place, contact Christine Daniels: christine@christinedaniels.com

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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



1 – 8 April 2019, International Spring Conference, Évora, Portugal – organised by MGAP “Bringing the Mediterranean Landscape into your Garden”

The 2019 international event is now open for booking.

1 – 4 April: Pre-Conference tour based in Armação de Pera, Algarve



Activities will start with welcome drinks on the evening of Monday 1 April and on Tuesday and Wednesday will include visits to private gardens, a guided walk through developing native forest and a coastal wild flower walk along part of the [Rota Vicentina](#). On Thursday there will be a guided visit to the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal's botanic garden at Silves, which is dedicated to the native flora of the Barrocal region. In the afternoon participants will travel by coach to Évora.

Photo: Wild flowers in the Barrocal botanic garden

Accommodation in Armação de Pera will be in the Holiday Inn Hotel, which has views over the ocean and direct access to the beach. Armação de Pera is a traditional seaside resort and fishing village and one of the last places in the region where fishing boats are launched directly from the beach. The closest airport is Faro (approx. 45 mins drive). Pre-booked taxi transfers can be arranged.

5 – 8 April: Évora



Évora, capital of Portugal's south-central Alentejo region, is a lively university city, and classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. In its historic centre stands the ancient Roman Temple of Diana and nearby, whitewashed houses surround the cathedral, a massive Gothic structure begun in the 12th century.

Photo: The university of Évora

On Friday, participants can choose to either spend a free day exploring Évora, or join a guided visit to the private garden of Conde de Monsaraz, followed by a boat trip to Alqueva Lake for an island wildflower walk and a visit to hill top mediaeval town of Monsaraz. The conference will start on Friday evening with a pre-dinner talk on the history, culture and ecology of the Montando cork oak forests, then on Saturday and Sunday there will be talks in the mornings and outside activities in the afternoons. Speakers include James Basson and Olivier Filippi. Visits will include guided walks and jeep tours of the Montando cork oak forest where there will be many spring flowers in bloom and visits to private and historic gardens.

The Gala Dinner on Sunday evening will mark the end of the conference, but for those who can stay another day, Marion and Arnold ter Horst have organised a day out in the Alentejo region, to include visits to the Quetzal Winery and restaurant, the Alcáçovas Garden and Paço dos Henriques and an organic herb nursery.

The conference base in Évora will be M'Ar de Ar Muralhas Hotel in the historic heart of the city and set on the ancient city walls. The closest airport is Lisbon, 1h 20 min drive from the airport. An airport and rail shuttle service can be reserved via the hotel.

Full details of the various elements and a Booking Form can be downloaded from the [Mediterranean Gardening International website](#). Any questions, contact Rosie Peddle: rosie@thebtfnet

There is currently a Ryanair flight from Marseille to Faro scheduled to leave on Monday 1 April at 13.20, arriving at 14.40, with prices starting at €62.21. Flights from Lisbon to Marseille by Ryanair are daily, leaving Lisbon at 14.00 and arriving at 17.20, with prices from €62.21. TAP Air Portugal also has reasonably priced daily flights from Lisbon to Marseille.

Monday 6 – Thursday 9 May 2019, Liguria, ITALY
An MGF trip to the gardens of the Italian Riviera



Monday May 6th

Morning visit to Villa Boccanegra, created by Ellen Willmott and now nurtured by Ursula Picenza.

In the afternoon, a visit to [Phytotrend](#), Maurizio Casale's grasses nursery (pictured) with its superb display garden.



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 [here](#) 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.



Thursday May 9th

A visit to [La Mortola](#), the Hanbury garden, including a talk and lunch with Carolyn Hanbury

This will be followed by a visit to either plantaholic Roberto Paniccia's garden, or to [Cactusmania](#).

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

Cost for each day including lunch and entrance fees but not including dinner will be around 60 euros. We have an option on rooms at [Hotel Villa Elisa](#) in Bordighera see with a Band B rate of 45 euros per person per day for double rooms and 55 euros for singles.

To book, contact June Grindley: jngrindley@btinternet.com.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

15 November	Floris'Tic (rencontre autour de la botanique et du numérique) inscription obligatoire	Montpellier (Agropolis)
24- 25 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard (Gard)

Hortus Programme

3 November	Bourse aux plantes d'automne	Devezou, Montferrier (Hérault)
1 December	Causerie 'L'Encyclopédie des plantes alimentaires' par Mr Chauvet	Médiathèque Albert Camus de Clapiers (Hérault)
26 January	Conférence d'Olivier Filippi	Médiathèque Albert Camus de Clapiers (Hérault)

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.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Mediterranean Gardening France website

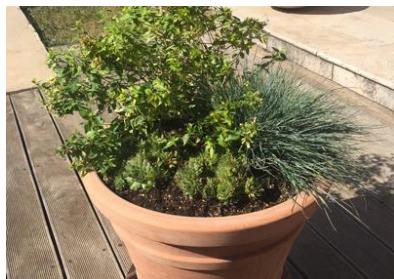
The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently.



In 'Past Activities' read Chantal Guiraud's account of our September visits to [gardens in Lauris and Sarrians](#).



'In the [Seed List](#), nectariferous and polleniferous plants which will attract bees are now marked with a bee symbol'



In 'Gardening', an article '[Planting up a pot for a sunny position](#)' based on the demonstration given by Nina Guichard and Romain Pfister of [NR Landscaping](#) after the October planning meeting at Ian and Michèle's house. Nina has prepared an information sheet '[Composer une potée de plein soleil](#)'.



Demonstration of how to train an ornamental tree

Nina Guichard and Romain Pfister write:

"Call for applications! We are looking for a host garden to organise a demonstration in November 2019 of how to prune a +/- 5 meters ornamental tree. We will come with the necessary hand tools and will take care of all the organisation but the disposal of green waste will be your responsibility. Depending on the amount of work, we will prune one or two trees, ideally deciduous so it is easier for the audience to see the structure. If you are interested, please send photos to contact@nrlandscaping.fr so we can discuss it."

What's new in the [members' Forum](#)

- How to grow *Centaurea ragusina* from seed?
- Where to buy rhizomes eg *Anigozanthos*
- Glyphosate, the latest news
- Chlordecone another environmental disaster

The quote of the month

"A good gardener always plants 3 seeds –one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for himself."
Leo Aikman (American historian and columnist, 1908-1978)

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: rolandlec@wanadoo.fr