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The sea and the friends  
we make from it

## Nice, French Riviera, from 7 to 12 March 2017

### **9<sup>th</sup> European Sailing Winter Meeting in the Mediterranean organised by Société des Amis de la Grande Aventure in the framework of its affiliation to the International Council of Cruising Yachts**

#### Invitation as of 5 November 2016

We kindly invite you to attend our 9<sup>th</sup> 'European Sailing Winter Meeting in the Mediterranean', due to take place in **Nice** from Tuesday 7 March in the late afternoon to Sunday 12 March in the morning, i.e. 5 nights and a little more than 4 full days.

In the late October and in the early days of November, Dominique et Isabelle Paulian undertook two 'reconnaissance' journeys of 36 hours in order to check the place out, establish the necessary contacts and make arrangements for fruitful meetings and places to discover, taking account:

- of the exceptional epitome of history, buildings, works of art and 'art of living' bequeathed to us by the European civilization in this city, from the Greek times to the present day;
- of the unmistakably European, both maritime and 'transnational' identity of Nice as the capital town of the 'Nice County' and of the 'Sea Alps' throughout the trials and tribulations of its turbulent history and under all 'foreign' rules (the Romans, the Earls of Provence, the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia, then France); this singularity is shown by its own language (called 'le nissard'), an anthem, an attitude of 'Glory and Courage' of the 'civitas fidelissima' (the city's motto) and... a fragrant gastronomy;
- of the harsh beauty of its natural surroundings, opened onto the sea alongside the 'Baie des Anges', from the Var river to the Mount Boron, against the backdrop of the Mercantour National Park.

The numerous contacts established with the pilots of Nice harbour, with the *Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer* (National Sea-Rescue Association) as well as with the Sailing Society of Nice (CNN) which is ideally located in the outer harbour, augur well for the success of the nautical aspect of the 'event' (meeting the local seamen, exchanging pennons, having a cosy dinner in the CNN clubhouse).

We will stay in an ideally situated hotel, in the immediate vicinity of the 'Promenade des Anglais', of famous 'Cours Saleya', of the 'mountain', of the 'Castle' and of Nice harbour, very close to the Old Town and the main buildings: Nice Cathedral (called Sainte-Réparate), the Palais Communal, City Hall, the courthouse, the Prefecture (an ancient palace dating back to Genoese times), the Massena Palace, the Opera House, the Lascaris Palace....

Our guided walks and rides, either on foot, by the 'little touristic train', using public transport or onboard our private coach, will take us through different periods of history and styles, from the Russian orthodox Church (Saint-Nicholas), a legacy of the times when the imperial court of Saint-Petersbourg stayed in Nice during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, down to the *Belle Epoque* and pieces of fantasy like the 'Château de l'Anglais' (who was Colonel Robert N. Smith), not to forget the Regina Palace, where Queen Victoria had her appartments while staying in Nice.

Apart from 2 full days entirely devoted to discovering Nice (with half a day at your free disposal), our stay will consist of a trip to Villefranche-sur-Mer (the roadstead, the Old Town and the citadel), to Eze (a hilltop village) and to La Turbie (The 'Trophée des Alpes' (Victory Monument of the Alps) built in honor of the emperor Augustus to celebrate his victory over ancient tribes). Another day will be spent discovering the Provence hinterland of Nice, towards the city of Grasse, the perfume capital of the world.

A gala dinner will close our stay. This will take place either in the clubhouse of the CNN or in any other emblematic venue for Nice.

The price will be 1800 Euros for a couple and 1000 Euros for people coming alone. This amount covers 5 hotel nights, transportation and transfers, guided visits in English, German, Italian and French, admissions to museums, the gala dinner and 7 meals (another meal being left to your own discretion).

This amount will be payable in 4 instalments of 25%, on the bank account of SAGA:

- first instalment: together with your registration, not later than 20 November 2016;
- 2d instalment: on 20 December 2016;
- 3d instalment: on 20 January 2017;
- 4th instalment : 20 February 2017.

**Notice :**

If we do not register at least 30 participants by 25 November, we reserve the right to cancel the project. You will then be immediately informed of our decision and the amounts paid will be returned without delay.

Do not postpone your registration however, but wait until the end of November for confirmation of the project before booking your flights.

Looking forward to registering your participation soon and embarking with you on this new adventure of friendship born from the sea,

**SAGA**