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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

NICE, FRANCE: Between our visits to Paris and London, my family and I came to the conclusion that we wanted to find a place that provided us with the opportunity to sit at a lovely beach by day and

enjoy a lively and fun atmosphere in the evening. Nice (<http://en.nice-tourisme.com>), located on the French Riviera, was the logical choice. Be sure to check out the Cours Saleya
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A SAPLING GROWN FROM THE TREE THAT Anne Frank wrote about while in hiding was celebrated recently at the U.S. Capitol as a "living testament" to one of the Holocaust's most cherished victims. The small, leafy chestnut planted on the Capitol's west front lawn is a sapling grown from the original tree that entranced Frank outside the Amsterdam building where the famed diarist and her family hid from the Nazis. "Our chestnut tree is in full blossom," the girl wrote on May 13, 1944. "It is covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year."

TRAVEL TALES

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Flower Market, the Matisse Museum, ancient Roman ruins, the Russian Cathedral and more. We loved Old or Vieux Nice, which is downright dripping with atmosphere. Its narrow streets are a one-stop shop for take-home finds, such as Provençal wares, household items, wine, gourmet gifts, hip clothing and more. There are numerous restaurants in the area, as well as several fun bars and night-clubs. Be sure to stop off for a delicious ice cream in this neighborhood. We went there twice and really soaked up the atmosphere.

JEWISH NICE: Nice has a small Jewish community and a few restaurants and kosher shops. Check out Le Kineret, where you can pick up croissants every day. They also carry other breads, pastries, and takeout and have a small (meat) restaurant in the back. There is also Le Leviathan, noted for its pizza, tuna steaks and salmon fillets. Lechem Chamaym is a Chabad restaurant. For those in need of ice cream, there is a Haagen Dazs cafe in a pedestrian zone on the corner of Rue Massena and

Rue Magenta that has a freezer with packaged bars that have an OU.

WHERE TO STAY: We spent considerable time researching where to stay and the Radisson Blu (<http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-nice/location>) won out for its beautiful seaside location. There are 331 rooms and suites and amenities such as free high-speed, wireless internet access and complimentary entrance to the on-site health and fitness club. You can dine at the Bleu Citron or La Terrasse, both well known for delicious international and regional cuisine, or relax on the rooftop terrace with a refreshing cocktail. This Nice hotel, located at 223 Promenade des Anglais, also offers premier services, such as a rooftop pool, sauna and sophisticated meeting facilities. It is only four kilometres from the airport and five kilometres from the train station. We truly appreciated the free seasonal double decker bus shuttle service to Old Town, which operates in July and August. We stayed in a picturesque sea view room and let me tell you there is no better sight than opening your blinds each morning, stepping out on a balcony and looking out at the beautiful water and beach front. Our rate included a generous breakfast buffet at the "Bleu Citron" Restaurant. In order to store some perishables we asked the hotel to empty the mini bar for us, which they did at no charge. The hotel has its own exclusive private beach, open from April to October. For a fee we secured sun lounges for the days we were there.

DINING OUT: Where to dine in Nice? There are a lot of choices and we spent a significant amount of time researching

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

the best options. Our search first brought us to Le Grand Balcon (www.legrandbalcon.net) located at 10 rue St. François de Paule near the opera house. The food is all fresh and homemade. Our meal was absolutely spectacular and I would recommend you place this first on your list of dining choices. It is located on the main drag in Vieux Nice. When we arrived for dinner there were a few tables set up on the outdoor terrace. As we dined, we noticed the staff starting to add more. Within minutes the capacity had more than doubled and in no time at all every spot was filled.

The menu is neatly set up like a stage presentation and has some wonderful fish choices for those who want to avoid meat. I personally recommend the Norway salmon with lime, fennel and dill and the chocolate delight with home-made caramel and passion fruits and a black truffle and salted butter caramel éclair for dessert. This was definitely the best restaurant we experienced in France, topping anything we tried in Paris.

We were excited to learn that there was a Hard Rock Café (<http://www.hardrock.com/cafes/nice>) in Nice. In fact it only opened up last November. The atmosphere was great from the moment we walked in. Located at 5 Promenades des Anglais, the multi-level Hard Rock Cafe Nice is nestled near Vieux Nice, along the Mediterranean Sea on the Promenade des Anglais, and is a must-see for both visitors and locals. It has nearly 6,000 square-feet of space, including seating for 200 guests with 30 seats on a prominent outdoor dining patio. Additional features of the Nice location include a late night bar and Rock Shop filled with iconic Hard Rock merchandise. The menu has an endless array of choices. In Nice the Hard Rock Cafe pays homage to the city's ethnically diverse culture. It is accented by upscale design features and innovative technology featured throughout the cafe's indoor and outdoor dining areas.

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