

CLUB NEWS 2024

July edition, Nr. 3

Dear Members,

Our third "Club News" of the year documents the activities of our Club between April and the end of June 2024. The CAI was very active during this period and went to Seville, among other places. As usual, the photos of each event are documented under the "members" section on our website, which you can access with your password. **Please note: the many photos of our Gala on July 17 are already on our website.** We hope you enjoy reading it.

OUR EVENTS

**Reception in honour of Ambassador Stephan Steinlein
Hotel Metropole, Foyer
10 April 2024**

On learning that the new Ambassador of Germany in Paris, H.E. Mr Stephan Steinlein, who is also responsible for Monaco, was going to be accredited by Prince Albert II to the Principality, the CAI organised a reception in the Foyer of the Hotel Metropole. The Ambassador was able to get to know several of our members. His career is exceptional, as he was Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic in Paris during the last days of the latter, then recently appointed Ambassador again in Paris, this time for the Federal Republic of Germany. In between, Mr. Steinlein held several important positions with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier.



Rolex Masters Tennis Final, Monte-Carlo Tennis Club April 14, 2024

Our members met at the Tennis Club restaurant, on the Terrace, where two tables had been reserved by the CAI. After a lunch in a good atmosphere, we moved to the stands to watch the final of the tournament, which pitted the Norwegian Casper Ruud against the Greek Stefanis Tsitsipas. It was the latter who won, for the third time in Monaco, after a fairly clear match, and who therefore received the victory cup from Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene.



Excursion to the Principality of Seborga with a stop at the Villa of Titus and Penda Gebel in Bordighera for a liqueur tasting April 19, 2024

It is not every day that our Club is received by a Princess, its Minister of External Affairs, a cannon shot and the national anthem. Yet this is how we were welcomed in the Principality of Seborga, located in the heights, 15 minutes from Bordighera. The small and charming Italian village of Seborga, with its 300 inhabitants, has never been formally integrated into Italy and therefore considers itself independent and still a Principality with 900 years of history.

The current Regent, who must be re-elected every 7 years, is Princess Nina, of German origin and also living in Monaco. She was the one who guided us through the small streets of the village, its church, its monastery and its museum, to finish at the restaurant Osteria di Coneglio, where we were served a very good traditional meal. The Principality has its own currency, the Luigini, and issues its own passport, which has also been distributed to our members.



Following this visit, we then went to the home of Penda and Titus Gebel, in their beautiful Villa Nobiria in Sasso di Bordighera. There a surprise awaited us: the tasting of different apple juices (a science that resembles that of wines) and different fruit liqueurs, organized along different stations in the garden of the Villa by a professional team. Then the afternoon ended

on the Terrace of the Villa, with a magnificent view of the sea and the surrounding hills. Thank you to Titus and Penda for this great initiative and their very friendly welcome.



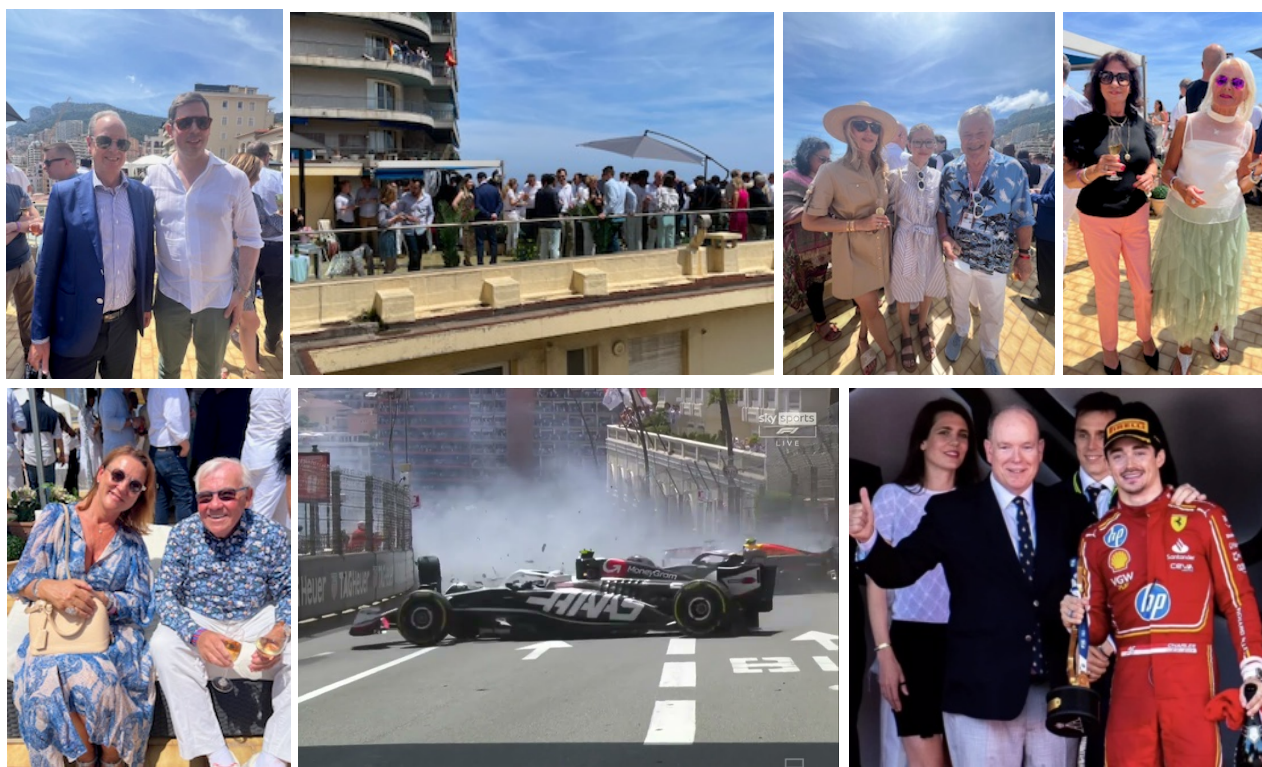
Excursion to Théoule-sur-Mer and visit to the Villa "Le Balcon"
With a meeting with filmmaker Robert Dornheim
May 9, 2024

A large group of members went by bus to Théoule-sur-Mer to visit the splendid and spectacular Villa "Le Balcon", located on a cliff by the sea. Its owners, the sisters Kinga and Cecilia Kazai welcomed us for a country lunch and showed us around their property, in the presence of the famous filmmaker and producer Robert Dornheim, a man of the world, who shot films with Grace Kelly and many documentaries at the beginning of his career. He took the time to tell us about his life, his films, his vision of the world and answered all our questions.



Grand Prix on the Terrace by Urs Fährndrich **May 26, 2024**

As every year, Urs Fährndrich generously invited many friends, including many members of the CAI, to follow the Formula 1 Grand Prix from his large terrace, this time under a blue sky and a pleasant temperature. The race was marked at the beginning by a spectacular accident caused by the driver Sergio Perez, and involving three cars, fortunately without injuries, and by the long-awaited victory of the Enfant du Pays, Charles Leclerc, congratulated with emotion by Prince Albert II.



Participation in the shooting of a Vengorov film **Salle Garnier** **June 7, 2024**

On the initiative of our member Gérard Weinberg, some of our members were able to participate in the concert-shooting of a film about the famous violinist Maxim Vengorov. It was a question of taking several stages with an audience applauding enthusiastically. Vengorov was on stage and played a violin suite by Bach with great passion. Unfortunately, the organization of the filming was chaotic and started very late.



Gala Concert of the Rainier III Academy of Music
Auditorium Rainier III
June 12, 2024

The traditional gala concert of the Rainier III Academy of Music took place in the presence of Princess Caroline and several members of the Prince's Government. As every year, the best students of the different sections performed a series of well-known plays, often accompanied by the OPMC. A flute concert, Mozart's Don Giovanni overture and Ravel's Bolero, played on four grand pianos and 16 hands (two pianists per piano), as well as the finale with all the participants on stage were particularly applauded.



Festival International de la Television
Opening Ceremony and Award Ceremony
June 14 and 18

The Monte-Carlo Television Festival opened its doors with the traditional opening ceremony, during which the jury of the Golden Nymph was presented. On the red carpet came actors, directors and producers from the most popular series in the world. The series "The GRAY HOUSE", produced by Norman Freeman, had its world premiere. Morgan Freeman himself was also awarded the Crystal Nymph Prize by Prince Albert II.



The award ceremony took place in the presence of the Princely couple. In the fiction category, the Golden Nymph for Best Film was awarded to *Little Did I Know*, a Swedish fiction that describes the escape of two women in search of love and in search of themselves. The Golden Nymph for Best Series went to the British thriller *The Gathering*, which looks back at the savage assault of a student at a rave party. The Audience Award went to the German post-apocalyptic dystopia *Helgoland 513*.



After the prize-giving ceremony, the members of the CAI went to the Avenue 31 restaurant, where a pleasant evening awaited them.

TRIP TO SEVILLE

April 25 to 30

The fact that our trip to Andalusia was able to take place is a bit of a miracle, as the French air traffic controllers announced a one-day strike on the very day of our departure. 60% of the flights were cancelled on April 25, but miraculously, not the one leaving Nice to Barcelona in the morning, nor the one leaving Nice to Madrid at noon, nor those leaving from Germany or Switzerland and flying over France to Madrid, Malaga or Seville!

First day

All our participating members met punctually and in a good mood at the bar of our beautiful Hotel Alfonso XIII, built in 1929 in Mudéjar style, to start the visit of the city. The first evening, we were able to discover the banks of the Guadalquivir River on a private boat for our group, then go directly to dinner in a private room with a view of the Rio Grande restaurant.



Day Two

In the morning, we discovered the Alcazar of Seville, a palace with Arab origins and remodeled over the centuries in Mudejar style, and its beautiful gardens. Afterwards, we received a snack in a small park in the old town, and then walked to the cathedral, the third largest in the world, where there is also the tomb of Christopher Columbus and a magnificent altar all in gilding. Leaving the Cathedral, 6 horse-drawn carriages were waiting for us, which took us to the spectacular Plaza de España, built in a semicircle for the 1929 exhibition, and its surrounding gardens, to finish at the Casa Osama restaurant, with a traditional Andalusian lunch.



After a short nap at the hotel, we went to the Triana district, to a real popular flamenco venue, where we were introduced to the different components of this traditional Andalusian dance: guitar, tap dance, shoes, songs, "tablero", way of dancing, percussion, with motivated participation of our whole group. The evening ended at the restaurant La Quinta



Third day

A bus took us to Córdoba, an hour and a half from Seville. When we arrived heavy rain was falling, and umbrellas had to be bought urgently. But barely ten minutes later, the sun reappeared. We visited the spectacular and gigantic Mosque of Córdoba, which could hold 30,000 people, with its 19 naves and 365 arcades, and its large baroque church, absurdly planted in its center. After a hearty lunch in a typical restaurant, we were able to take in the fresh air on the very green garden of the Alcazar, with its symmetrical lakes and long alleys before heading back to Seville.



In the evening, we ate in one of the best restaurants of Seville, the Recoveco, located on a roof top, in a room privatized for us and with a magnificent circular view of all the illuminated monuments of the city.

Day Four

The fourth day began with a visit to the private palace of the Dukes of Alba, one of the noblest families in Spain, with its garden and patios. Then our group went to the Plaza de Toros, where a former Toreador explained the secrets of bullfighting to us and served as our guide, answering the many questions of the participants and showing us lots of interesting details in the arena.



In the evening, seated at an imperial table, we dined in the beautiful Cartuja Hall of the Hotel Alfonso XIII, accompanied by a tenor and a soprano, who sang famous opera arias that take place in Seville, from The Barber of Seville, Don Juan to Carmen. We even all sang in chorus the song of Bizet's "Toreador"! And each lady received a red rose.



Fifth and sixth days

While half of the group was already taking the plane home, the other half took the bus to Granada. After an excellent lunch at the Hotel Palace, with a beautiful view of the city, we visited the Alhambra, ancient fortress, city and palace of the Nassrim dynasty, with its gardens and fountains and its Arab architecture all in carving, unfortunately under an intense rain. In the evening, we were first invited to a cocktail offered by the Ambassador of Monaco to Spain, H.E. Mrs. Catherine Fautrier, before having a last meal in a restaurant with a magnificent view of the illuminated Alhambra.



The next and last day of our stay, the bus took us directly back to Seville airport to return to our respective destinations, happy to have discovered the beauties of Andalusia, but with a few extra kilos!

JOUR FIXES

May 2 and June 6 at the Café de Paris

The Jour Fixe on May 2nd was held at the invitation of our member Jutta Ehle, who invited all our members for an aperitif and a glass of champagne at the Café de Paris. As a thank you, she received a beautiful scarf.

On June 6th, Gracia and Marinus Kerssens also invited our members. For them, it was an opportunity to celebrate with the Club a very special occasion: their 50th wedding anniversary. They received five small pieces of porcelain from the Manufacture de Monaco, one for each ten years of marriage.



We would like to thank Jutta Ehle for her generous invitation and wish Gracia and Marinus Kerssens many more beautiful wedding years!

CHARITY: AWARDS AND STUDENT TRIPS

Prize-giving ceremony for the best students learning German

As every year, the best German-language students in Monaco's middle and high schools were rewarded by the CAI. This year, the CAI decided to extend its prizes to the three best students of each school year, from the 6th to the Terminale. 21 students were therefore awarded, out of the 200 or so students learning German in the Principality.



In addition, we also offered prizes to the most deserving students of the Rainier III Music Academy (two seniors at the end of their cycle and two younger talents), as well as to the best students of the Rainier III High School (former Hotel and Technical High School).

Student trips to Berlin

The CAI contributed to the financing of two trips by students from the Lycée Albert 1er and the FANB Institute in Berlin. Both trips were a great success, and each class was able to visit the monuments and historical points of Berlin. We have received many thank you cards and letters from the students who were able to take part in these trips, which are important for developing closer ties between Monaco and Germany.



MEMBERS

New members

We warmly welcome 3 new members:



Lisa Lotz was born in Darmstadt and is a German and Swiss citizen. She currently lives near Zürich. In the past, she regularly frequented the Côte d'Azur, where she and her husband owned several estates. She also lived in South Africa for a long time, where she also worked as a stylist. She is the mother of two children aged 18 and 23. She knows some of our members well, such as Iman Greilsamer and Raquel Mercedes Ockenfels, who will be her godmothers. She plans to be in the region more often and hopes to make many acquaintances through our Club. She speaks English and German and enjoys travelling, sports, art and psychology.



Ingrid Kampmann was born in Wuppertal as the daughter of a textile industrialist. She spent her childhood between Saarland Pfalz and Switzerland. After her Abitur, she studied at the Louvre School in Paris and worked in the art trade. She is the mother of 4 children. She lives between Germany, Switzerland and France, where she lives in Antibes. She enjoys theatre, arts, sports and travelling. Jutta Ehle and Lilia Thorbecke are her sponsors.



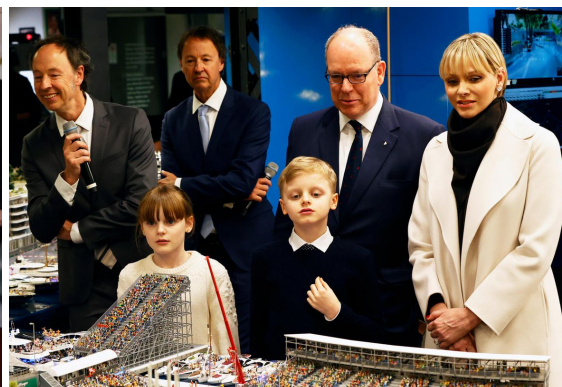
Freddy Caspers was born in Koblenz, Germany and resides in Monaco. After graduating from the University of Paderborn, he worked as a Marketing Manager at Johnson & Johnson, earned an MBA from Kellogg's University and was General Manager of Pepsico in the USA, Poland and Turkey. He has been CEO of several companies and has lived in South Africa and Singapore. He is currently active as a Private Investor and Senior Advisor at EQT Partner. Freddy Caspers is a passionate golfer and is also interested in culture, art, sports and good food. His sponsors are Markus Studer and Patrick Wetzel.

Inauguration of the Miniwelt Hamburg and donation by Heribert Diehl

Miniatur Wunderland is an exhibition of about 1600 m² that covers several regions and cities on a scale of 1:87. It is located in Hamburg and welcomes more than 1.5 million visitors every year. It was founded in 2000 by twin brothers Frederik and Gerrit Braun, initially conceived as a huge "miniature railway", which, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is currently the largest in the world with more than 16 km of track and 10,000 wagons. The installation has been expanded with replicas of different cities and regions, such as the city of Hamburg, the Swiss Alps, Venice, Rio de Janeiro or Patagonia. In total, it houses 5000 houses and buildings, 10,000 vehicles, 290,000 figurines and 500,000 LED lights.



Most recently, on 25 April 2024, the Monaco section was inaugurated after six years of work by Prince Albert II, Princess Charlene and their children Prince Jacques and Princess Gabriella. In particular, there is a very faithful replica of the Formula 1 Grand Prix circuit, on which real Mini F1 cars can drive and compete, as well as the "Rocher" including the Princely palace. All in all, it covers an area of 40 m². The inauguration ceremony was organised with great commitment by Monaco's Ambassador in Berlin, H.E. Mr Lorenzo Ravano, his wife Claudia and the Embassy team.



Two videos are available on this subject:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwLr4LOgi_U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqT0u6QDJtg>

Our honorary member Heribert Diehl took advantage of the Prince's visit to Hamburg to organize a reception with dinner on the same day and to make a large donation to the "Foundation of the Friends of Prince Albert II", under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Alexander Liegl. This initiative made it possible to donate 250,000 euros to the Foundation. We congratulate Heribert and Lui Ming Diehl for this impressive and generous achievement.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

August

Saturday 17 August: guided tour of the "Turner" exhibition at the Grimaldi Forum, followed by dinner at the Avenue 31 restaurant

September

Thursday 5 September: Invitation of Patrick and Yu-Ra Wetzel for a visit to the old village of Mougins and a lunch at the restaurant "Le Marché de Mougins"

Friday 13 September: Boules tournament at the Club Bouliste du Rocher, with dinner, at the invitation of Silke and Stephan Meyer

NEW: Thursday, September 19: Francesca Rava Foundation Charity Gala in the Salle Empire of the Hotel de Paris, with dinner prepared by Italian starred chefs and show. The CAI will arrange one or two tables for our members.

October

Thursday, October 3rd: Jour Fixe and German Unity Day

Friday, October 11: Musical "Mamma Mia" at the Grimaldi Forum

End of October: Oktoberfest at the YCM

November

Thursday 7 November: Jour Fixe

Monday 18 November: Reception and dinner on the occasion of Monaco's National Day

December

Thursday 5 December: Jour Fixe and celebration of the Advent

Wednesday 25 December: festive Christmas dinner in the Belle Epoque Room of the Hotel Hermitage

Tuesday 31 December: New Year's Eve Gala at the Yacht Club de Monaco