

Nice,

press kit 2013

a sporting dynamism



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NICE 
La lumière naturellement
A natural brilliance

Nice and sports

France's 5th largest city, Nice is situated at the heart of an urban area of over 1 million inhabitants and is the 2nd biggest international tourist centre after Paris. The capital of the French Riviera and the leading Metropolitan Area in France, it has managed to become a modern, active city while still retaining its art of living.

The territory it covers is made up of 80 % mountains and extends from the shores of the Mediterranean to the ski resorts in the Mercantour national park, offering an outstanding playground.

On the basis of these strengths and the award of "European City of Sport" status in 2011, the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Area has for many years expressed its determination to place sport as one of its priority areas for development, through support for sports centres, high-level sportsmen and women and Nice's many clubs, the creation of modern, innovative facilities and the introduction of a sports event policy ... After 200 years of excellence, Nice has embarked on a new cycle, a new strategy, in which sport plays a leading role.

A BRIEF HISTORY...

In 1898, Nice was already hosting one of the very first tennis tournaments. Suzanne Lenglen, the first star in the history of tennis, was one of the most iconic female winners. In 1971, the tournament was renamed as the Nice Open and, for 14 years, welcomed the greatest names in world tennis (Ilie Nastase, Manuel Orantès, Björn Borg, Guillermo Vilas, Henri Leconte and Yannick Noah – trained in Nice...).

In 1933, to establish a link between his two newspapers and show off the charms of the French Riviera to his readers, the owner of the Petit Journal Parisien and the Petit Niçois founded an innovative cycle race, the "Six Jours de la Route". Renamed "Paris-Nice" in 1954, the race takes place every March. Following on from the great names in cycling such as Raymond Poulidor, Eddy Merckx and Laurent Jalabert, the Australian Richie Porte won the 2013 event.

A FEW GREAT NAMES IN NICE SPORT

Swimming: At the 2012 London Olympics, Nice's swimmers won 9 medals, making Nice the city that won the highest number of medals at the Games:

- **Camille MUFFAT** (23) Olympic Champion, 400 metres freestyle,
- **Yannick AGNEL** (20) Olympic Champion, 200 metres freestyle and 4 x 100 metres freestyle,
- And also **Clément LEFERT** and **Charlotte BONNET**.

Sport in Nice also includes internationally-famous athletes competing in a wide range of disciplines:

Sailing with Jean-Pierre DICK (Vendée Globe)

Skiing with Nastasia NOENS and Margot BAILET (French skiing team)

Karaté with Christophe PINNA

Motorcycling with David CASTEU (Paris Dakar) and our mayor and MP Christian Estrosi, who was a Grand Prix rider in the 70/80s.

Formula 1 with Jules BIANCHI, who took part in his first Grand Prix in Melbourne in March this year.

Tennis with Yannick Noah, winner of the Roland Garros tournament in 1985.

Football, with OGC NICE, the city's main club, founded in 1904 and the driving force behind high-level sport in Nice for many years, and Hugo LLORIS, current goalkeeper and captain of the French football team, who was trained in Nice.



Christian Estrosi welcomed the London Olympic Medal winners on the Promenade des Anglais: Yannick Agnel, Camille Muffat, Clément Lefert, Charlotte Bonnet, Anna Santamans and their trainer Fabrice Pellerin.

A region dedicated to sporting events

THE MAJOR ADVANTAGES OF THE DESTINATION *as a host for major sporting events*

- The international dimension of the city, which looks outwards towards France and abroad. Its airport is the second biggest in France in terms of passenger numbers, after Paris.
- High-quality hotel accommodation with over 10,000 rooms divided between 200 hotels, from 1 to 5-star.
- Modern, efficient infrastructures.
- And regarding snow sports, excellent snow cover capacity in the Alpes-Maritimes ski areas.

All of these points justified Nice's application to host the 2018 Winter Olympics. Although the project was not chosen, it helped to create a new sporting drive within the city, which aims to become a key destination for major events and competitions in a range of disciplines.



RECOGNISED KNOW-HOW

The world figure skating championships were held in Nice in spring 2012, while the French handball, volleyball and women's football teams have played in international competitions here.

- in 2009, France-Portugal handball, France-Argentina volleyball and Louis-Vuitton Trophy (sailing)
- in 2010, the Nice Côte d'Azur Tennis Open returned to Nice (ATP)
- in 2011, the athletics "Décathlon" and Extreme Sailing Series
- In 2012, the world figure skating championships, the Nice Spring Tour (horse-riding), Extreme Sailing Series.

Major annual events

Every year, Nice hosts major sporting events such as:

- The **Paris-Nice cycle race**, which takes place in mid-March every year, covers a distance of 1307 km, with stages alternating between the plain and the uplands. The 8th and final stage follows a route around Nice to arrive on the prestigious Promenade des Anglais. The race traditionally signals the start of the international season (March).

- The **Nice International Half-Marathon**, which has made its mark as one of France's top 5 races in terms of the number of runners and the level of performance achieved. The Nice half-marathon is a French Championship qualifying race. (April)

- The **International Indoor Trial**, which attracts the world's top riders in the discipline to the Palais Nikaïa every year. (April)

- The **Nice International IRONMAN Triathlon**, which has forged a reputation among the federations as the world long-distance championship, is a key event in the world calendar. It is now the world's biggest "Ironman" and, for over 25 years, has attracted over 2,500 French and international athletes to each event. A major sporting event in Nice in June!

- **Europétanque d'Azur**, an international "pétanque" competition attracting 1,500 players and over 3,000 spectators. (July)

- **Extreme Sailing Series**, a sporting concept in which professional sailing teams from all over the world compete on an equal footing in Extreme 40 monotype catamarans. These fierce, highly technical races take place just a few yards from the shore, offering the public a unique spectacle (October).

- The **International Figure Skating Cup**: High-level teams from the top skating nations, individual and pairs competitions with up-and-coming ice stars and experienced champions. (October)

- The **Alpes-Maritimes Nice-Cannes Marathon**, covering a distance of 42.195 km from the Promenade des Anglais to the Festival Palace in Cannes, along one of the world's most beautiful coastlines. (November)

- The **Henri Deglane International Wrestling Challenge**, freestyle wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling and sambo. 20 nations are represented at each event (November)

- The **Nice International Regatta**: France's biggest regatta was founded by the "Club Nautique de Nice". (December)

- The **Prom'Classic**: since 2000 it has attracted thousands of runners along the famous ribbon of the Promenade des Anglais. (January)

Major events in 2013



100th TOUR DE FRANCE 2013, 2nd and 3rd July, Nice Côte d'Azur

The world's 3rd biggest sporting event after the Olympic Games and the World Football Cup, the Tour de France is broadcast to 190 countries and 3.5 billion TV viewers.

This will therefore have incredible repercussions for the city, which is set to host the 4th stage on 2 July with the special 25 km "team time trial" along the famous Promenade des Anglais and around the Allianz Riviera stadium, which is just being completed. The 5th stage is due to start from Cagnes-sur-Mer.

"Nice celebrates the Tour": Nice will also be the support base for the Tour during the first 3 stages in Corsica. For 5 days, from 29th June to 2nd July, cycling will be celebrated in Nice through a range of sporting and festive activities. A village will be set up on the Quai des Etats-Unis and cycling fans will be able to try out the time trial route from 30 June.





The 7th « JEUX DE LA FRANCOPHONIE »

(Games for the French-speaking countries)

6 to 15 September 2013

- **55 countries** out of the 75 nations in the French-speaking world are already committed, which is a record turnout.
- **3,000 participants** are expected for this great international event.

The French-speaking world has 870 million inhabitants, including 200 million French speakers worldwide; it is therefore a major issue in these days of globalisation, particularly for the African continent.

Solidarity, diversity and excellence are the values underpinning this unique event, which combines sport, art and culture. The “Jeux de la Francophonie” are finally the very essence of the Games as Baron Pierre de Coubertin had imagined them.

100 years ago, at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, artist “athletes” won medals in music, painting, sculpture and literature.

The sports: football (under-20s), women’s basketball, judo, wrestling, African wrestling, table tennis and athletics, which will include athletic events for the disabled and cycling.

The arts: Songs, Tales, Creative dance, Literature, Photography, Visual Arts and Street Art, along with 2 demonstration events based on Digital Creation and Ecology.

AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2015 - 2016

- In 2015: European Masters Games championship
- In 2016: (UEFA) European Football championship

« Together, let’s help Nice to become once again the great sporting city that it was and should have remained. »

Christian Estrosi



Flagship projects

In recent years, Nice Council has embarked on a number of flagship projects aimed at creating or renovating sports infrastructures to provide the Metropolitan Area with structuring sports facilities and thus help to widen its influence and maintain its resident sportsmen and women at the highest level.

THE ALLIANZ RIVIERA STADIUM

(to be delivered in September 2013)

Situated in the heart of the Eco-Valley, it meets one of the Council's priorities, which is to make Nice into a leading city in terms of sustainable development. The stadium therefore had to be environmentally friendly and satisfy strong sporting, social and economic ambitions.

It incorporates the most innovative technologies, which will make it one of the world's first Eco-Stadiums. Everything has been designed to achieve a more than convincing project: this multi-purpose 35,000-seater stadium is dedicated to football but may also be used to host rugby matches at the highest level, and also houses a national sports museum.



A FUTURE GREAT AQUATIC STADIUM with an Olympic pool to the west of the city (late 2013).

Nice's swimmers have distinguished themselves on podiums throughout the world, but have not limited themselves to being the pride of the entire city... They have also speeded up the project to build a great Aquatic Stadium containing an outdoor and indoor Olympic pool. With this great Aquatic Stadium, the Metropolitan Area hopes to attract swimmers from all over the world to train on the French Riviera and turn the city into the swimming capital of France.



INFORMATIONS

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