

Témoignages Réunion Promotion JJR-MC69 à Porquerolles (16-19 Septembre 2013)



Bé Đức Việt JJR69 (USA)

It was our most memorable reunion, and we wish to thank the Organizing Committee for a herculean job well done. The location was perfect, the friendship as warm as can be, and the weather...acceptable (due to the mistral). The opportunity allows all of us 3 days to immerse in the territory, to chat with friends, and to explore, and explore....

I have to personally thank Can and Thuan for being such gracious host and hostess, starting with the pre-reunion dinner at Foyer Mon Vietnam. It was an experience we will not forget. I will also remember my conversation with Nguyen Minh Khanh over a cup of coffee in Paris. I wish we had more time.

The island and the format this time allowed me to meet old friends, see Buu Hoang Nam again after so many years, and to sit at the beach with Thu & Lan, Dung & Mrs, Ho Vo Tuan & Giao, Chinh, etc... to discuss life, philosophy, face to face. HVTuan proved to be a great philosopher and wise man.

It was an emotional time for me personally too, as I visited the Memorial of the War in Indochina in Frejus. Everywhere we went, the French people we met were warm and most helpful, especially the first night in Provence when I knocked on the door of a house in Aubignan after being desperately lost in the dark with the GPS pointing me the wrong direction. The couple let me inside their home, use their computer and telephone to contact the Bed & Breakfast for directions. Merci, merci, un grand merci a vous tous.

And Here's a photo of the group that hiked to the appropriately-named MOULIN DU BONHEUR. IT WAS 3 DAYS OF JOY AND HAPPINESS.

Viet, Dorothy, David, & Mary

Phan Thế Khải JJR69 (Australie)

Many thanks to Can and the Organising Committee for a very successful Reunion. We had a wonderful time, connecting with old friends and making new ones. We greatly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the many times we were together, over breakfast, lunch, dinner and the many group activities, in particular, we had the opportunity to learn new things, like yoga, tai chi, tango, calligraphy, etc. In addition, the resort provided excellent services and very good value for money, only 100 Euros per day for very acceptable accommodation and 3 good buffet meals, I don't think you can beat that anywhere else in France. We were a bit unlucky with the strong mistral wind which led to the cancellation of the cruises around the island and discouraged me from taking a dip in the sea (others, more hardy than me did, but someone managed to lose his glasses in the process). We had long walks around the island and this was pretty tiring, someone managed to lose his way and ended up taking twice as long to get back to the village, someone else had cramps whilst biking and had to be carried back to the hotel and treated by our many doctors ! However, all ended well in the best of worlds and I think we did not have any serious casualty during our stay.

Once again, many thanks to the Organising Committee and the many photographers who tirelessly took our pictures, in particular, Nga, Nam, Chinh, et al.

I also wish to personally thank Can and Thuan for organising the visit at Avignon prior to the Reunion, without their help, we would not be able to discover and enjoy the charms of Avignon and its surrounding countries. In particular, Thuan organised our accommodation in the most romantic setting and drove us around for 3 days on the tortuous and narrow country roads, managing to park the rented mini van in the most difficult parking spaces. I did rent a car at Avignon but, after the fairly nerve raising drive from the train station to the hotel (I did not use a manual car for 30 years and, coming from Australia, also had to adjust to driving on the right side of the road instead of the left), I decided to hitch a ride in Can's car for the rest of the Avignon visit.

Well, it was decidedly a very memorable Reunion and we hope to see you all at the next one in San Jose.

Khai and Chi

Nguyễn Hữu Lễ JJR69 (USA)

Thank you Khai for the executive summary!

I have to say that this reunion had an unbeatable formula: keep people on an island, provide opportunities for lots of activities, yet with enough time for old and new friends to have private conversations. The daily meals were good and also gave me the time to sit at different tables so I could visit and pick up the latest gossip/stories.

I have to admit that I was not used to the French way of a small aperitif before meals, then wine with dinner, sometimes followed by a digestif. That is a lot of spirits for my two weeks in France!

The Hotel du Parc in Hyeres will remember our group for quite some time since a lot of us stayed at that hotel.

We milled around the tiny lobby to meet and greet. Our first dinner together happened at this hotel,

and we basically took over their whole dining hall. It was a zoo with friends running around for greetings and photos. The staff was so overwhelmed that it was close to midnight when the last dessert was served.

There was even a small table for the singles, but quite a few MBAs squeezed in there also...

Đặng Vũ Trường JJR69 (FR)

Effectivement l'hotel du parc est tres petit et tout le monde arrive presque en meme temps , ce qui fait que la plupart de nous doivent rester discuter dans la rue : a Paris il ya les arabes qui font des prieres dans la rue , a PQ nous aussi , nous braillons allah..allanamite !! Nous braillons tellement fort que le ciel nous a bien entendus et nous a gratifiés de 3j de mistral cad pendant tout notre sejour . Je propose que pour la reunion en 2015 a SJ , nous devons venir avec le scotch sur la bouche pour éviter le declenchement de Big One. Le lendemain le bus nous amene tous a la Tour Fondue (d'apres la legende la tour n'arrive pas a s' elever car des qu'on monte , ca fond sous nos pieds , donc c'est une tour riquiqui de ..1,5m) Comme les bo^ lao di hoi nghi Dien Hong , remplis d'enthousiasme, nous crions en chœur : Quyet chie^m PQ (en majuscule svp sinon pq veut dire p. cul = papier de toilette WC)

sur l'ile , des repas pantagrueliques nous sont servis quotidiennement (l'gesa est un centre reservé en principe aux militaires donc le repas doit s'adapter a ces gaillards sans cervelles mais pleins de muscles) Malgré cela , les cuisiniers sont tres etonnés de voir l'exceptionnel appetit de ces petits annamites qui boulotent tout ce qui apparait sur le plateau a tel point que les retardataires de 1/2h ne trouveront plus rien a manger . Ce qui amene a un fait cocasse : tout le monde se plaint d'avoir le ventre trop rempli mais 1/4h avant l'ouverture du restaurant , on se bouscule devant le portillon; cưa trước, củ nghệ ta chen chúc đứng, cưa sau vùi củ hành tây lừa thừa đứng chờ, cưa mở, 2 bên xông vô xáp lá cà đâm chémauté de veau , lasagna etc., tout ça a cause d'une peur ancestrale d'avoir ..faim!

le jour du retour , le mistral s'est calmé , il faisait beau et chaud , le capitaine de la navette a mis plein gaz tellement content de retrouver la terre ferme , le bateau bondissant sur les vagues et certains se souviennent encore d'avoir des jambes flageolantes en descendant du bateau ; on se dirigeait a la gare de hyeres a 10h mais quel que soit la direction , vers marseille , nice ou paris , impossible de trouver un train plus tot que 13h30 et là, comme une armée en deroute , hagards et extenués(eh oui , 3j de musculation de la langue ca consomme beaucoup d'energie) on a complètement occupé toute la surface disponible de la petite gare provinciale de hyeres avec les valises (certaines dames voyageant seules tirent 2,3 enormes valises , de dos , ne les voyant pas , je croyais que c'etaient des valises automatiques qui roulent toutes seules) Soudain un cri de joie retentit : co' tiem pho ne . Ah les anami't , ils disent : mo'n Tay ngon mais des qu'ils sentent l'odeur de pho , ils courent tout de suite apres ; la gare s'est vidée instananement de moitié . Apres avoir consolé ceux qui restent attendre stoiquement a la gare , j'ai voulu rejoindre le groupe de pho pour leur dire au revoir mais je n'arrive pas a trouver ou est le restaurant , donc chapeau a celui ou celle qui a senti le pho depuis la gare

Nguyễn Bá Cường JJR69 (BE)

Première fois que nous participons à une Réunion JJR69! J'étais un peu perdu...

Quarante quatre années sont passées... Beaucoup d'images du passé sont perdus dans mon inconscient. Tout penaud je répondais souvent par un petit signe négatif de la tête.

De nouveaux visages... Certains me sont familiers. Tous souriants et pleins de gaîté!

Et puis... des visages provenant de copains d'enfance! Surtout Tue..! Je n'aurai jamais imaginé le revoir...

Cette première réunion a été magnifique. L'endroit est superbe,

L'organisation, l'accueil impeccable. Beaucoup d'activités et chacun était libre de faire ce qui lui plaisait. Moi c'étaient les méditations, les ballades et la sieste de midi..

Il faisait beau, un peu frais, tout juste bien pour les randonnées... Sur la route de sable rocailleux vers la plage Notre Dame, Ou sur le sentier vers les Calanques.

Nous marchons doucement sous le son des cigales. Et tout cela nous permettait de bavarder tout simplement.

La veille du départ, alors que la plupart dansait leurs derniers tango,

Sur le banc de la cour principale, Un paysage magnifique avec la lune comme vedette nous était offert!

Que de beaux souvenirs, c'est cela que nous gardons de cette Réunion,
Merci au CO d'avoir pu organiser cette réunion, Merci à l'équipe IGESA de leurs prestations
et merci aussi à tous d'avoir créé cette ambiance chaleureuse et très amicale.
PQ est partie, Vive San Jose!

Tân Nhất Thiện JJR69 (USA)

Ola CO Reunion 2013! Thank you so much for working so hard planning for such a reunion that is really hard to top. Everything I want to say has already been said by other folks, so I just want to be brief on the subject of the PQ. Thanks everybody for making such an effort in showing up in such an incredible event. We all get to see and spend time to reconnect to long lost friends, for me to faces to names in the forum. I left JJR after Premiere therefore there are a lot I don't get to know, especially les filles, I really know none of them except those that I had the opportunity to meet in a few previous reunions. Anyway, the success is really beyond anybody's expectations.

From my personal experience, I have thought for months how the heck do I get to Hyeres? Looking and reading all the information that inundated the forum. Well, I thought if I have managed my way to the United States almost forty years ago, Hyeres should not be a problem. But it actually took me from the time I got to Dulles to the time I crashed on my bed in Parc Hotel, it was twenty one hours! I just braved my way through with my totally rusted French, not knowing how all the ticketing systems, schedules and machines work. I believe I have used just as much hand gestures as words to get people to understand and help me. Taking two legs of flights and hopping two trains, waiting for about an hour for taxi at the Hyeres train station and then when I got to the hotel, and finally greeted by a big sign " Ferme' " hung in front of it! I panicked, I was so tired and Parc Hotel is not a place to hang around at 10pm. I beg the taxi driver to help me; he called, the owner gave him the code, the key of my room was at the counter waiting for me.

Chi Tu Mai saved the rest of my trip by letting me borrow her extra socket converter.
Thanks to Ng Cong Trong, I had my very first session of meditation.
I am so moved that I could spread my passion to some of you. I just wish that we have more time.
When Can asked me who do I wanted to share room with, I told him anyone that is not PD la dc roi.
He said toi roi se biet. Thanks Can, BHN is not PD.

After PQ, Admiral Trong and family drove me up to Aix-en-Provence. A very pretty small town with all the big trees with their canopy over the small streets. On Saturday, it took me a few tries getting lost, taking the wrong bus and finally I got to the "Poles d'Activites d' Eguilles" taking bus 220. Boy! the bus went all the way out to the country side and dropped me in a village. I thought to myself what the hell am I doing here? I found a bunch of soccer players, none of them are local. I finally found one guy to provides the supplies for the group and he told me there is indeed a Tango school somewhere in there. I found the school just in time! There is a Madame Magali was opening its door, she is also from Aix. If I got there earlier, there would not anybody there at all. What a timing! Unfortunately, the teachers, Dario and Claire were in Marseille for competitions. So all the way from the States and I missed them just on that date! Nevertheless, I am so glad that I get to see the school. I was thinking about this for many months. A dream sort of come true. There is a milonga that night. Mme Magali offered to drive me back to my hotel so I stayed and danced a bit with the folks there. I was shy because I did not know anybody there and because they danced so well, all of them. I was like a wall flower, two dames dragged me out there to dance. They were lucky, I did not step on their toes. The people are so friendly, this is country side, remember. Ce soir nous avons un Americain ici, and I got a great applause and I hope they don't get confused.

On my way back, my flight home via Bruxelles got delayed so I missed my connection flight. I stayed in the Sheraton Bruxelles and had dinner for free. Early this morning I took a flight to Frankfurt and another flight home. They misplaced my luggage due to all these confusions of flights and airlines. Well I hope they gonna find it in a day or two, my dance shoes are in there!

Merci tous mes ami(e)s.

Đỗ Thuý Trà MC70 (FR)

Ce fut pour moi un bonheur à prendre part au temps des copains-copines JJR-MC 69 à Porquerolles, un endroit magnifique pour des retrouvailles magiques ...Merci au CO pour ce séjour, pour cette soirée de gala qui resteront unanimement mémorables !!

Ni le silence, ni la distance, ni le temps qui passe, ne peuvent effacer le souvenir d'une amitié véritable ! Quand on se retrouve, c'est comme si l'on s'était quitté la veille, bien au-delà du temps, comme un vent de fraîcheur, l'amitié reste et restera toujours présente...

Encore un grand bravo à anh Càn, à toute l'équipe - G.C.O., le soleil était dans mon coeur, et à une prochaine fois, sans doute !!

Thuy Trà