

Language Corner: Ask George! Oct.2010

The Orient Express à l'envers ?

Who has not heard of **The Orient Express**... the most celebrated train in Europe: it used to run from west to east. It started in 1883 in Paris (with a London link), and **stopped twice in The Principality**—once in Monaco, and the second time in Monte Carlo—for we then had **TWO** distinct railway stations... one of them right next to the Casino. And then it went on to Venice, Vienna, Belgrade, Bucharest (nicknamed “Little Paris”!), to Constantinople, later Istanbul. So many writers set their stories on this famous train, from Graham Greene (with *Travels with my Aunt*) to Agatha Christie, to Pitigrilli, and to Maurice Dekobra with *La Madone des Sleepings*. Then, suddenly in 2009, it vanished; and in Monaco we have now Avenue Princess Grace on its very track.

The Russians Are Coming !

But as from the 23rd of September — that is NOW! — it is being replaced by **a new luxury train**, which runs regularly on the Moscow —Nice route. The No 17/18 train will run once a week, leaving Moscow on Thursdays at 4.17 p.m., and arriving in Nice on Saturdays at 7.12 p.m. (The train will leave Nice on Sundays and arrive back in Moscow on Tuesdays.) Its route is Moscow —Smolensk — Minsk — Warsaw — Katowice — Vienna — Linz —Insbruck — Bolzano — Milano — Genova — San Remo — Bordighera—Menton—Nice. (The official Russian Press Release makes no mention of Monaco or Monte Carlo.) An adult ticket will be between €306(second class), and €1,050 (luxury business class). Pets will be allowed on all carriages at no additional charge.

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