

Thursday 28 March 2019

Welcome speech given by Marie-Pierre Gramaglia  
at the official opening of the temporary garden  
*"A Balcony on the Mediterranean"*

Vice-President of the Alpes-Maritimes Departmental Council and Mayor of Cap d'Ail,  
Member of the National Council,  
Deputy Mayor,  
Yves Piaget,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Friends,

I would like to thank you for being here this morning as we unveil *"A Balcony on the Mediterranean"*, the landscaped garden created by the Department of Urban Amenities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Côte d'Azur Garden Festival.

I welcome this wonderful initiative from our neighbours and friends in the Alpes-Maritimes Department, and the Principality is delighted to be involved.

I would like to congratulate the talented designers of these temporary gardens, who invite us to enjoy unique strolls through worlds which have been specially created for the festival.

This event also illustrates our common interest in preserving a biodiversity which is too often abused.

I believe that it is essential that we conserve and maintain this natural heritage that we share.

I also hope that everyone who visits this temporary garden in the Principality will take advantage of the chance to discover our often overlooked green spaces.

With this in mind, at the initiative of the Tourist and Convention Authority, to which I am grateful, we are presenting a tour of our gardens, including those on the Rocher de Monaco, the Rose Garden with its 300 species and 8,000 rose bushes, Princess Antoinette Park, and the Exotic Garden.

A walk through these gardens could also be combined with the Heritage Trees Trail.

For our part, we will all be equally delighted to discover the other gardens involved in this festival and the original creations to be found between Menton and Grasse.

Before I hand over to Jean-Luc Puyo, the Director of Urban Amenities, I would like to congratulate him and his teams on what they have achieved, and on the work they do throughout the year to ensure that our beautiful Principality blooms.

Thank you.

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