

Duc/Cag Travels ... cont.

were replaced by the haunting, almost mystical spectacle of mist and long shadows towards evening. It was a very lonely feeling - a little scary, perhaps, of being so far from home, so vulnerable on the little Cagiva. The backdrop of the tall, jagged, snow covered mountains and the long, deep shadows between them, together with the thin road clinging to the edges of shear cliffs, would make anyone feel vulnerable. Traveling alone is a far different experience from traveling with someone else.

I made it into the Italian town of Aosta just after nightfall and found a nice little hotel on the outskirts of the city. I was exhausted by some 300 miles of switchbacks, hairpins, and endless climbs but I was also satisfied. A good dinner and another early night and I was fresh and ready for more the next morning.

The next morning I was a little sad as I set off towards Torino. I figured that the best riding was behind me and that only the scenery of the coast lay ahead. I was very wrong. Europe holds surprises for travelers around every bend. Just when you think you've done it all you find out that the best has just begun.

I took the Autostrada (Interstate) to Torino, a big industrial city that I had no interest in visiting. At Torino I left the Autostrada and headed south towards the town of Cuneo. The ride was rather flat and uninteresting and there was quite a bit of traffic. I was beginning to think that I was wasting my time heading for the coast when I approached the town of Limone. There before me the flatlands ended abruptly and some huge mountains blocked my path. A look at my map told me that I had arrived at the Maritime Alps. Although it was only 128 kms to Nice (about 80 miles) it would take me almost three hours to get there and that was riding as fast as was safely possible. The problem, or delight as it turned out, was that I had to climb over these mountains once, descend almost as low as I was when I started to a deep valley, and then climb over the mountains again.

I passed into France just south of Limone and began one of the most beautiful rides on earth. It was every bit as exciting and challenging as the wonderful rides I had through the Swiss Alps. For one thing these roads seemed a bit more challenging. At one point I counted some twenty switchback hairpin turns just in one small section and I must have spend at least 90% of my time traversing this type of terrain. Furthermore, the road often ran between sheer rock cliffs of hundreds of feet on either side as it followed a river down from the mountains. Views were spectacular. Snow was on the mountain tops, little villages nestled in tiny valleys, rushing rivers and waterfalls touched the road, the vegetation was quite varied and changing in the fall air.

Luckily, only a few leaves had fallen and so this did not present a hazard. The Cagiva was capable of incredible lean angles - a superb handling bike!

I arrived in Nice exhausted and exhilarated. I was anxious to push on to the principality of Monaco and its bejeweled city of Monte Carlo. I took the autoroute for ten miles or so. Surprisingly enough I encountered more mountains. As a matter of fact they continued on down to the sea. As a result, the coast was very rugged, similar to the area around Big Sur in California. The vegetation as well as the weather had a similar resemblance also.

At the exit for Monaco I took a small, winding, two-lane road down through many, familiar to me by now, hairpin turns. The road ended just short of the sea so I decided to head eastward towards Monaco.

As I approached Monaco I could see that the Principalities were populated in a series of coves along the coast. Monte Carlo, the only city in the Principality, was located in the biggest cove.

Monaco is a beautiful city full of elegant casinos, tree lined narrow streets, beaches, and gigantic yachts docked in its harbor. If you took the left bank of Paris, cleaned it up and set it by the ocean you'd have some idea of what Monte Carlo is like.

Tony Foster's

CAGIVA

PHONE 904-253-2586

**PERSONAL
CYCLE
SERVICE**

MOTO MORINI

115 EAST MASON AVENUE • DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32014

NEW CAGIVAS In stock and ready for delivery:

ALAZZURRA 650 - SAVE \$\$\$
ALAZZURRA SUPER SPORT
DUCATI F1 750 DESMO

DUCEATI

NEW MORINIS At big savings:

SILVER AND RED 350 K2's
WHITE AND RED 501 CAMELS



USED SPECIALS

1985 501 MOTO MORINI CAMEL	\$1795
1983 LEMANS 850	\$2595
1975 LAVERDA 1000, JOTA INTERNALS, SPARES	\$1695
1974 BMW R90S, BLACK, LOTS OF EXTRAS	\$2495
1969 AMERICAN EAGLE (LAVERDA) 750, 11K ORIG. MILES	\$ 895
SERVICE	REPLACEMENT PARTS
	ACCESSORIES

LOWERS FOR ALAZURAS AVAILABLE, CAGIVA RACING HATS, CAGIVA JACKETS, BRAIDED LINE KITS FOR F-1s AND ALAZURRA SPORTS.

HOURS:

MON: - FRI. 8 - 6

SAT: - 8 - 4

U.P.S. DAILY

CHOICE

DUNLOP

VISA

MASTER CARD