

Billy Youth Theatre

Reach for the Stars

Gastro Tango Weekend



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When the words 'Argentine Tango' are mentioned, the first things that spring to mind are not necessarily delicious food and fine wine. But in May 2009, that is exactly what the lovely Bianca of the Rojo y Negro Club was delighted to find, together with 16 enthusiastic students - young and not-so-young, singles and couples - some of whom had flown in from the UK to especially join in the fun. All were warmly greeted at the beautiful venue of Les Soeurs Anglaises, nestled deep in the beautiful countryside of S W France, with a welcoming glass of sparkling wine followed by a delicious grande bouffe meze. There was just time after dinner for a brief 'dance intro' to establish everyone's abilities and dancing goals, before everyone headed for their rooms (ranging from simple to luxurious) in preparation for a full day of dance ahead.



Lessons began in earnest the following morning; Bianca opened by giving a précised history of the Argentine Tango whilst emphasising the importance of its passionate origins. Tango, she explained, is essentially walking with a partner - generally keeping your feet close to the floor, the ankles and knees brushing as one leg passes the other - but is, of course, much, much more. Each of the three days was broken up into a morning and late afternoon session, allowing time in the afternoons to relax around the heated pool, take languorous walks in the wonderful surrounding countryside, or to simply enjoy the amazing food (made, whenever possible, with organic produce from Les Soeurs Anglaise's own garden) and superb wines. An optional 'wine tasting' was organised one evening, as well as a meal at a charming local bar overlooking the whole valley.

Bianca has developed her own meticulously structured method of teaching Tango, informed by the wealth of her knowledge and vast experience in dance. She has taught literally thousands of students through weekly group classes, workshops and festivals as well as creating and running her own school. The combination of inspirational tuition, superlative accommodation, meals and wine, together with an opportunity to relax and make like-minded new friends, made this the perfect four day break, and everyone left for home feeling refreshed, well fed and committed to return this May for another Gastro Tango experience!

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