

The Riviera Gazette

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The Côte d'Azur's English-language newspaper

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Film Guide 'Long Island Expressway' is just one of this week's English language films, p7

What's On? Snowboarding, horse racing, jazz, an English play – and WRC rallying, p8

My Riviera Long-term resident Keith Meredith on his favourite Riviera haunts, p6

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Film Guide

18 English-language films showing in 12 cinemas this week, p7

CAROLINE TAKES TO THE SKY

Local radio beams in via satellite from Saturday

By ALISON CRADDOCK

LOCAL broadcaster Radio Caroline South will be available on the Sky Digital satellite service from this weekend.

Caroline South is produced on the Riviera and carried on Radio Caroline, the legendary pirate radio station, on Saturdays and Sundays between 19:00 and 01:00.

Listeners on the Côte d'Azur are promised traditional Caroline programming, with a Riviera twist.

"Our emphasis is on humans presenting programmes, and talking to them, not down to them", Caroline South founder and presenter Mark Dezzani told *The Riviera Gazette*.

"Our music is 70 percent classic rock, good R&B, soul and reggae, with 30 percent being new music; rock and rock-oriented dance, latest releases from popular and alternative artists.

"We are not heavy with news, but will be providing news about music and music events, both in the UK and locally on the Riviera – such as MIDEM in Cannes this week.

"Following our popular roadshows last year we are planning more music



MAKING WAVES... DJ Mark Dezzani at Radio Caroline South's studios in Seborga, Italy

events for the Riviera in 2003, with well known UK and local artists."

Caroline South is still broadcast on local jazz station The Breeze 88.4 FM at weekends, but transmitter limits mean that the station is not easily tuned into in Nice and inland. This will soon change, according to Dezzani, "For those who are tuning in to us on The Breeze 88.4, the signal is currently best received from Marina Baie des Anges through to Theoule,

and in Monaco. Nice listeners may have to wait until later in the year to pick us up, when a more powerful transmitter will be installed in Italy."

Dezzani came to the Riviera twenty years ago to work on Radio Nova, and went on to launch Sunshine Radio in Antibes. A stint on Riviera Radio followed before he persuaded friend and veteran Radio Caroline presenter Tom Anderson to join him to establish Caroline's Riviera outpost

in February 2001. Anderson is the DJ who famously continued to broadcast from the Mi Amigo as she foundered in March 1980.

Famous ex-Caroline presenters include Tony Blackburn, Tommy Vance, Dave Lee Travis, Johnny Walker – and Riviera Radio's Rob Harrison.

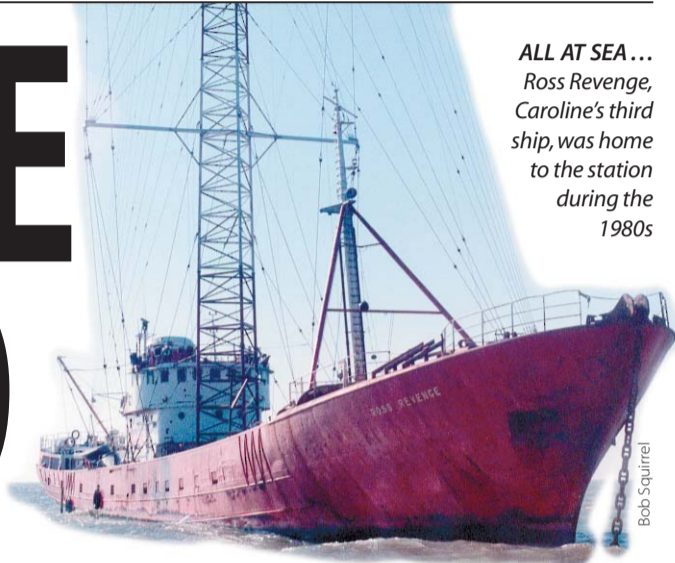
Radio Caroline was launched in 1964 by Irish music fanatic Ronan O'Rahilly.

Frustrated by tight broadcasting restrictions in the UK, O'Rahilly took advantage of the immunity of international waters by putting his whole operation on a boat anchored three miles off the British coast, outside UK jurisdiction. A long battle between government and the station followed, ending with raids on the ship and a law being passed that meant the armed forces could forcibly stop broadcasts from the ship and anyone injured would not be entitled to compensation. Later, as restrictions were loosened, Caroline moved to studios in Maidstone, Kent.

Radio Caroline's official Sky Digital debut is set for one o'clock local time this Saturday afternoon.

● **How to find Radio Caroline on your digibox** – see bottom of col 1, page 5

ALL AT SEA...
Ross Revenge,
Caroline's third
ship, was home
to the station
during the
1980s



The new WEEKLY Riviera Gazette: 11,000 copies distributed this week. Look for the next issue on Thursday January 23



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