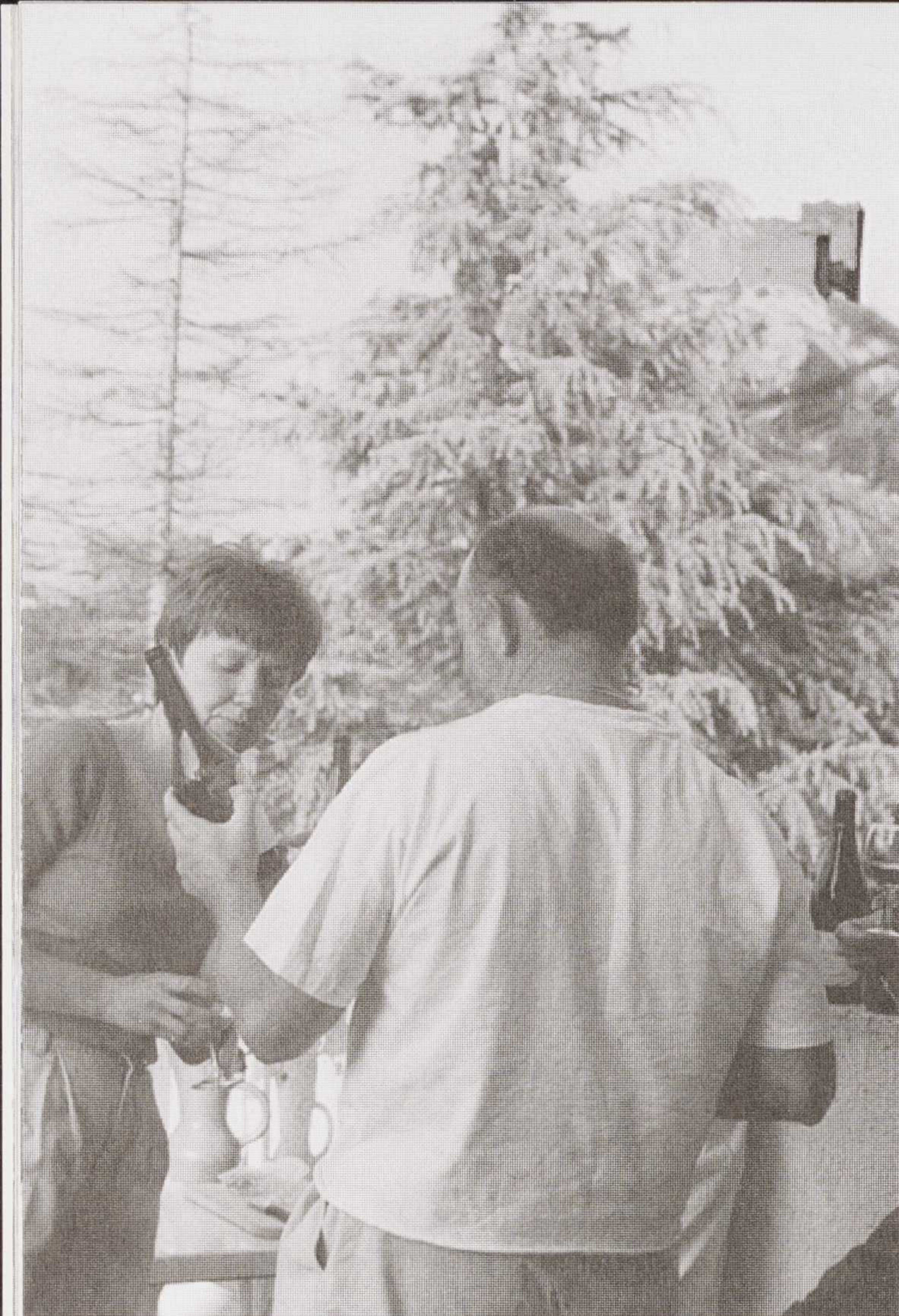




The Mistral

Bike in southern France

River gorges, wine country, and a rendezvous with ancient Rome

7 days. Begins and ends in Avignon

June 12 to 19, 1998: \$1395

(Single supplement: \$250)

Oct. 5-12, 1998: A trip for gay men.

\$1495 (Single supplement: \$300)

What's included: Please see page 27.

Is this the right trip for you?

Basic cycling days are 30 to 40 miles, with rolling hills and spectacular vistas. *The Mistral* is more challenging than our *Provençal* trip, but if you've biked a 40-mile day in the past year or so (or 50 miles on flat terrain), and are ready to devote a few weekends to preparatory rides, you're all set for the week of a lifetime.

The countryside north of Avignon boasts magnificent scenery. Our first day of cycling takes us along quiet roads to the turreted medieval duchy of Uzes. Then we're off to the Ardeche Gorges, heading up a road sometimes carved right through the limestone cliff. After a night on the Rhone, in the ancient town of Pont St. Esprit, we'll visit Vaison-la-Romaine, taking a moonlit stroll to its ruined hilltop castle. Finally, stop for a wine-tasting in celebrated Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

- ★ Roam Avignon, an ancient city of stone ramparts and belltowers. Explore the mazelike 14th-century Palace of the Popes.
- ★ Enjoy a memorable picnic at the Pont du Gard, the 2000-year-old Roman aqueduct considered one of the 7 surviving wonders of the ancient world.
- ★ Relax with a game of boule by a village stream.
- ★ Cruise the rim of the Ardeche Gorges, as kayakers battle the brawling rapids a thousand feet below.
- ★ Hike past rock climbers to the top of a soaring rock formation known as the Dentelles.
- ★ Tour the world's best-preserved Roman amphitheater.
- ★ At the end of your day, savor a well-earned three-hour gourmet dinner.

"All my senses were showered with pleasure on The Mistral. Mix in a group of friendly, funny, flexible gay men and lesbians, and you end up in heaven. This trip really was heaven."

Claire Levine, Cambridge, Mass.

