



PEOPLE FROM IBIZA

Bernard Clavière

Written by Lorraine Bohle

A man born with a "vision" in life, Bernard is an active part of the new consciousness sweeping across the planet. Ecological, social and health issues are at the heart of this man. He is politically engaged in a grass-roots, Green campaign promoting peace, justice and a clean world.

Born in Bacchus' backyard, between St. Emilion and Sauternes, Bernard chooses not to drink alcohol, or for that matter smoke or eat meat. "I can do these things but I am a free man so I don't." Living in the countryside of Bordeaux allowed him to enjoy what is surely everyone's basic right, that of fresh air. He admits to feeling suffocated in towns where noise pollution and visual pollution, such as unfinished buildings and rubbish thrown on the streets leave him feeling physically pained.

An activist from an early age Bernard was the pupil representative involved in most things; he is convinced that tomorrow will be better, that teachers today are more aware, pupils more positive and that the future will be brighter. After taking a degree in business administration Bernard travelled to Hawaii, then on to the States where he bought a T-Shirt printing machine. He shipped it back to Europe and went into business for himself. He rented a shop in San Antonio, which he later bought, expanded to the mainland and enjoyed the fruits of his business acumen. "Although I am not money-minded I accept that life is business, exchanging ideas, selling yourself and your ideas is all part of it. My university training helped me a lot." Bernard's latest venture, the Car Boot Sale at the Hippodrome San Jordi (on the road to the airport), is a great place to visit on a Saturday morning. Everything from furniture to CD's, fresh-farm products to clothing, old car parts to hand-made jewellery, the place is a hive of activity which tends

to buzz a bit more out of season than in the heat of August. But its definitely top of my list of places to visit.

Coming from three generations of antique dealers, it was a natural thing for Bernard to turn his hand to.

Another of his ventures is the voluntary non-profit making scheme. *El Plan*, where people in the community trade their skills and services; the Green Money Alternative.

During his childhood Bernard was weak and sickly. This put his parents through hell, a lot of money and many different doctors - all of whom offered treatments but not cures - in his late teens, he looked for alternative methods of better health, this meant changing his diet and stopping all medication. He became a follower of the Maharishi (Guru to the Beatles, Mia Farrow, Clint Eastwood). He trained to become an instructor and was sent to Tunisia and Morocco to carry on the teachings. "This opened up a new way of life for me: preaching yoga, eating healthy food (no meat), becoming spiritually aware. All of this is a life long process, which has led me to Sai Baba. I am not claiming to be perfect, that takes a while to achieve."

This friendly, open, witty man who has had a few love stories scattered through his life remains a child-free (as far as he knows) bachelor, content with and never bored by his own company. - The lesson here is first be happy with yourself, then who knows what will follow.

Ambitions? Yes, but not in the general sense of the word. I am not looking for recognition, life is too precious. I believe that when we are born our life plan is already set out (*Dharma*). If one can become aware of and fulfill this plan, by being in the right place at the right time, and by doing what is right for yourself, then it is possible to achieve. Who are the masters, who are the gurus? I know that Christ - it is after all a job - is here on Earth, he is called Maitreya. God is Sai Baba.

Hobbies? Playing the piano. I used to play in restaurants and hotels. Flying is also great. I take people up to view the island or over to Palma, by doing this I offset

the costs of running a plane.

Regrets? Philosophically, nothing can be regretted. You have to love your past. So, it would be wise to say no, but I must admit that there are still certain situations that are disturbing.

Best thing about Ibiza? The island still allows you to lead a relaxed life far from entropy and stress, especially if you live in the countryside.

Worst thing about Ibiza? Although political changes are imminent the old hierarchy still have the power. The governing P.P. are people from a forgotten era. They are suspended in their own time warp. They are



Car Boot Sale at San Jordi

socially and environmentally unconscious. Their prime concern is materialism, their big houses with the Mercedes parked out front, the show-off brigade!

What would you change if you could? I believe that progress must come with time. God has created time and we must go with it. I am changing what I want to change; people are becoming more aware of natural preservation. When you know what life is you can't do wrong. Life is sacred it's divine, believe this and the rest will follow naturally.

Most endearing quality in your friends? I wonder at humility, it is a quality I revere. Truly humble people fascinate me; I can't abide phony people.

Who would you like to be stranded with on Es Vedra? A practical resourceful person, highly trained in survival skills.

What do you think about the future of tourism? Anyone who books a charter holiday to anywhere must be a deeply unsatisfied person.

I would like to change people's views about their working and social lives. It is a consequence of a foolish society to believe that two weeks in an apartment or hotel anywhere will change anything. I would like to change society.

The most important thing that happened to you? Sai Baba created me. The day that I first realized he existed was the most important moment of my life.

Favourite Food or restaurant? I don't eat or drink anything at all during the day (permanent Ramadan), only once in the evening. I prefer Italian or Indian restaurants.

Favourite place on the Island? My house

Favourite music/composer? Melodies from the 60's, Elton John, Lionel Ritchie, Dylan.

Birth sign? Gemini (Ruled by Mercury, the God of communication)

If you had a time machine, when would you travel to and why? I belong here, but out of curiosity I'm inclined to say the future. There are amazing changes all around us. I believe in a bright future and that the world will become a better place.

How do you think the human race will evolve? Humanity, as a whole, has a golden future. However, a lot of suffering and death will pre-empt this. There is a powerful, social consciousness awakening. There is a strong desire to move in the right direction. Look at what has happened locally with the protests which have stopped the overhead cables through the Morna, and the development of the Es Vedra golf course.

Why Ibiza? I fell in love with the place. It was clear to me from the first day that I would stay here.

Here for life? Who knows! I don't know what would make me leave, unless it was the allure of another island.