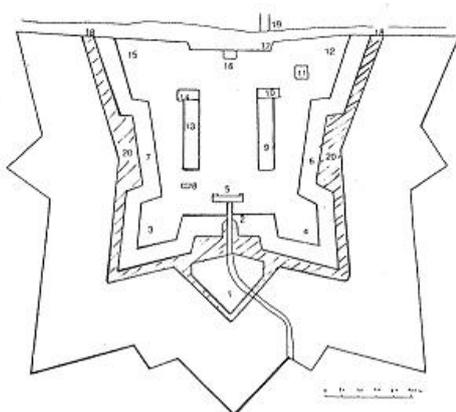


## EUROKAT 5 REPORT

The Club Katana France reunited the Katana fans from all over Europe - and beyond! - for the fifth European Katana meeting "EuroKat 5" on the 17, 18 and 19 August 2012, at Fort Médoc, Cussac.

The Fort Médoc is a typical Vauban fortress, built in 1690 to defend France in times of war, which became for the weekend the most welcoming place for our foreign Katfriends!



LÉGENDE

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Dami-lune Royale                  | 11 Magasin à poudre                   |
| 2 Porte Royale                      | 12 Bastion du Dauphin                 |
| 3 Bastion du Fle                    | 13 Caserne du Nord                    |
| 4 Bastion Saint-François            | 14 Joulangerie                        |
| 5 Corps de garde de la porte Royale | 15 Bastion de la Giroude              |
| 6 Courtille Sud                     | 16 Corps de garde de la Giroude       |
| 7 Courtille Nord                    | 17 Puits                              |
| 8 Citerne                           | 18 Ecluses                            |
| 9 Caserne du Sud                    | 19 Pont de débarquement de la Giroude |
| 10 Chapelle                         | 20 Fossés                             |



67 people turned up for the whole event, with 42 bikes - being ridden from Germany, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and France of course! That is without counting the visitors who only came to say hello according to their schedule. Biggest contingent was UK with 29 members, followed ex-aequo by Germany and France with 23 persons, plus 3 Italians and 1 Canadian! Here is a record of how impressive the Katana line-up was:



(Picture by Stéphane Poulard)

The festivities began on Friday evening, with a ride to the City of Bordeaux's Drag Strip, the "Piste d'Accélération de Labarde". Steve, our British drag specialist, would have tried to break his record time had he come by bike - but as he had travelled with his family, no one dared let him demonstrate his skills on a borrowed bike on the strip! Nina from Germany was willing to prove her worth, too, but only if her opponent was another GSX1100S, so no Katana raced that night. Next time for sure, the Kats will show their superlative power!



(Picture by Catherine March)

Saturday saw us visiting the marvels of Médoc on its beautiful twisting roads joining riverside fishing huts, hill and forest sections, and, of course, historic places and wine castles – here are our Kats in front of Château Pichon Longueville:



(Picture by Catherine March)

While in Pauillac, we had a picnic by the Gironde estuary, under the delicious shadow provided by the plane and linden trees – delicious indeed, as the outside temperature was nearing 40°C!!! We then split into two groups, as a few people wanted to go to the beach to get a suntan under the scorching sun. The bigger group headed to Château Loudenne to taste their famous Médoc wine and discover how the local specialty is made! We all felt very comfortable in the castle's shed, as the wine barrels remain at a cool temperature all year round.



(Pictures by Catherine March)

We then headed to Saint Estèphe to admire its incredible 18<sup>th</sup> century church, featuring a unique baroque interior – have a peek!

Continuing on the twisting roads of Médoc, we halted in Vertheuil to visit its impressive abbey and enjoy the art and photography exhibition.

It was now time to go back to our Fort to have a luxury dinner with Foie Gras and Duck Magret! Let's thank Serge and Ginette, our cooks, for their tremendous effort, by the way!



(Picture by Catherine March)

Before dinner, the best bikes in show had been selected by Fossie (representing UK), Johannes (for Germany), Alexandre (France) and our special guest Ted from Canada for an impartial vote.



(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)

The jury chose Timo's Rivet Bike (Germany) as *Most Individual Bike*. Timo received a Katana model kit and picked up his favourite watercolour painting among the beautiful selection made by our local artist Sylvie. She is Laurent's sister –Laurent is a member of the organising team and author of the event's map.

Other winners included Christian from Germany for *Best Modified Bike* – the chrome bits on his bike were dazzling! He too got a Katana model as well as a unique painting.



(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)



(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)

*Best Paint Job* was awarded to Jean-Jacques (France) for his unique Katana33 bike. Incidentally, JJ is also member of the organising committee and was totally surprised to win!

By the way, on this picture you can see this committee: (L-R: Jean-Jacques, Fossie (hidden by JJ), Laurent and Alexandre.

*Best Tailor-Made* went to Flo's (UK) 1170 modified Katana. Her husband John lovingly adapted the heavyweight Katana to allow Florence to ride the bike tirelessly over Europe. Cute, isn't it?



(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)



*Best Lost in Time* prize was awarded to David's (France) 1100 – its equipment gave a "Totally Eighties Groove", mixing typical multicolour stripes to a double-deck Giuliani seat in white. Flashy!

(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)

Last but not least, *Best Daily Driver* was awarded to Paul's Pop-up, whose condition definitely convinced all the jury that the bike was ridden every day (and never washed!).

Paul was in olympic shape on collecting his prize!



(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)



The jury also awarded Ita from Ireland a special prize for fighting spirit, as she reached Fort Médoc in spite of tiredness, sweat and mechanical woes just to be with us.

She invited everyone present to visit Ireland in May 2013 for the VJMC show!

(Picture by Ted Cymbaly)

Chloé from UK offered a delicious flag to the Club, as France was the only country without its flag on display (shame!), so we offered her a set of friction toy Kats. Suddenly a duo of crazy samurai fighters kidnapped her and frightened every kid around!

Luckily, thanks to Shuji from KOC Japan, we had miniature Katana models to offer each of them for relief!  
Domo arigato gozaimashita Shuji-San!



(Flag made by Chloé March)



(Picture by Catherine March)



In the meanwhile, her brother Toby demonstrated the superb helmet that was generously donated to EK5 by Jaja-Uma (the official Suzuki Owners' Club from Germany), and expertly put to auction by the President of Great Britain, Fossie himself!

Jaja-Uma offered us a parcel full of great gifts that was kindly forwarded to us by KOC Deutschland.

Danke sehr Jaja-Uma and KOC Deutschland!



(Pictures by Catherine March)

Time for action on the dance floor thanks to Cap Groove, a local pro band who played exactly the tunes we like. You can see the atmosphere for yourself!



(Picture by Catherine March)



(Picture by Laurent Pallier)

All good things must come to an end, though, and after a short night's rest, it was time for a late breakfast on Sunday. KOC Japan had made another incredible gift for us – a set of Katana tea cups for everyone, so we could all raise our tea cup in honour of our Japanese Kat friends. Domo arigato KOC Japan, and Kampai!



(Picture by Alexandre Godard)

Before leaving Fort Médoc, we all gathered in front of the Royal Door for a family picture:



(Picture by Catherine March)

The Club Katana France wishes to thank all the participants for the wonderful atmosphere. We were very honoured that you travelled so long to have fun with us!

A big THANKS also to you all who helped us accomplish what seemed like a crazy and impossible challenge when we created CKF : Serge & Ginette in the kitchen, Christophe & Didier for the mobile fridge, our families for logistics, little hands and support (Laurent's and my parents, Valérie, Florent and Axel, Sylvie...), the city of Cussac Fort Médoc and the Fort Médoc Friends Association, the cities of Pauillac, Vertheuil, St Estèphe for their welcoming, Château Loudenne for hosting us...

A special thanks for the generous friends who made helpful donations to the club!

And a wink to those who tried to come but could not make it – we missed you!

*Alexandre, Jean-Jacques & Laurent*

Find all the photos of the event on these pages:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Suzuki-Katana-Owners-Club-UK/141571262558444>

<http://www.facebook.com/stephane.poulard>

<http://www.facebook.com/loran.pallier>

<http://www.facebook.com/katana33>

<http://www.facebook.com/suzuki.katana.666#!/KatanaWorld>

Visit the clubs on:

JP : <http://www.toyclub.com/katana>

UK : <http://www.katanaownersclub.co.uk> & <http://www.vjmc.ie>

DE : <http://www.katanaownersclub.de> & <http://www.suzuki-club.eu/>

US : <http://www.classickatanaownersna.com>

FR : <http://katana.france.pagesperso-orange.fr>

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