

THE EARFUL TOWER GUIDE TO PARIS: 2023



Oliver Gee

Hello there!

Welcome to the sixth edition of The Earful Tower's guide to Paris.

If you're new around here, this is our annually updated collection of Paris recommendations, with new additions from the previous year of podcasting, YouTubing, and blogging.

This 2023 edition includes our findings from the mammoth Paris Countdown season, where we spent a full day in each of the 20 arrondissements, seeking out the best bars, restaurants, cafes, and things to do.

What does this mean for you? Well you can rest assured that we have recently visited all the places in this PDF, and haven't just churned out old repeats like so many other city guides.

All the photos you'll see were taken by Augusta Sagnelli, who joined us for the Paris Countdown.

As usual, this PDF remains free for the Patreon members of The Earful Tower, and some of the video replay links will only work for them. If you wish to join these members, [here's the link](#), where you can unlock a world of bonuses for as little as \$10 a month helping The Earful Tower to grow and thrive.

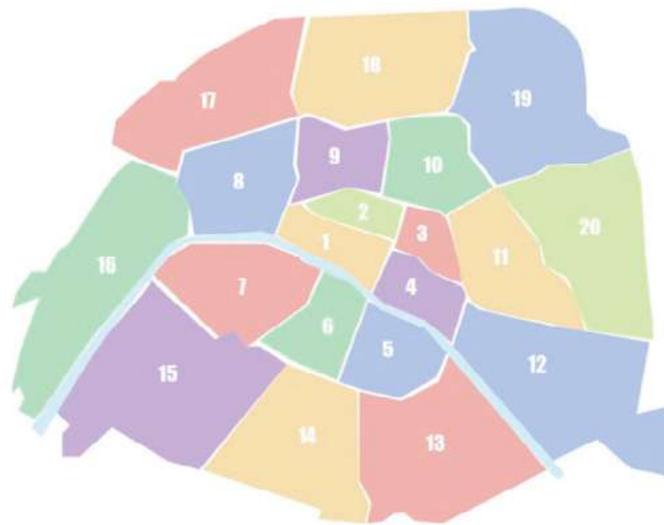
Lastly, if you're looking for a walking tour of Paris, please get in touch on contact@theearfultower.com. Our excellent guides offer entertaining "discovery walks" that are private to your group, and start at 100 euros per person. We will show you the Marais, Montmartre, the Islands, or the seventh arrondissement like you've not seen them before.

Ready to discover Paris? Let's do it.

But first, what's an arrondissement?

Paris is neatly divided into 20 arrondissements, sometimes referred to in English as districts or municipalities. But whatever you call them, they're a very handy way to split up your exploration of this city.

These arrondissements are arranged in numerical order, starting in the centre of the city with the 1st and then they spiral clockwise in a snail-shell formation until number 20. Here's a map in case I've already lost you.



So you see, if you're staying in the 10th arrondissement, you're quite logically surrounded by the 9th and the 11th. But you're also bordering the 2nd, 3rd, 18th, and 19th. You're even touching the corner of the 20th, on the eastern point.

Now, of course, you can't possibly be expected to remember all this, especially not if you're just visiting. The Parisians fare better, but that's because their whole life is made up by complicated rules and baffling administration, so they're very used to it.

Now, on with the guide!

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Start with The Louvre Museum



Rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris

This museum is the busiest in the world and needs no introduction. File like cattle past the Mona Lisa, sure, but why not head downstairs and find the ancient city walls of Paris and its castle foundations?

Traverse the Pont Neuf

The oldest bridge in Paris and one of the best views of the Seine River. You can see the Eiffel Tower in the distance and you can peer over into the beautiful little Square du Vert-Galant park. Or head slightly east and discover the delightful little Place Dauphine.

La Samaritaine

As you've surely heard, the department store La Samaritaine reopened in 2021 after a 15 year closure. But did you ever go before it shut down? I heard almost mythical stories of the mish mash of objects on sale there, and it sounded about as far from today's luxury shopping mall as you can imagine. So needless to say, just like everything new in Paris, La Samaritaine opened to mixed reviews.

But who cares, I say. After the grand reopening, I visited to marvel at the building itself - and I wasn't disappointed. A mix of Art Deco and Art Nouveau, a glorious wrought iron staircase, and frescos on the top floor that would impress even the harshest critic. Also, the five-star Cheval Blanc Paris hotel that's attached sounds magnificent with its views of the Seine river.

Sure, there are top-of-the-range luxury shops and a beauty section that's apparently the biggest in Europe, if these are what you're looking for. And one of the floors has been totally dedicated to bars and restaurants. There's surely something for everyone here... but if you're like me, go for the building itself and you'll surely be amazed.

Address: 9 Rue de la Monnaie, 75001 Paris

Shop along Rue Saint-Honoré

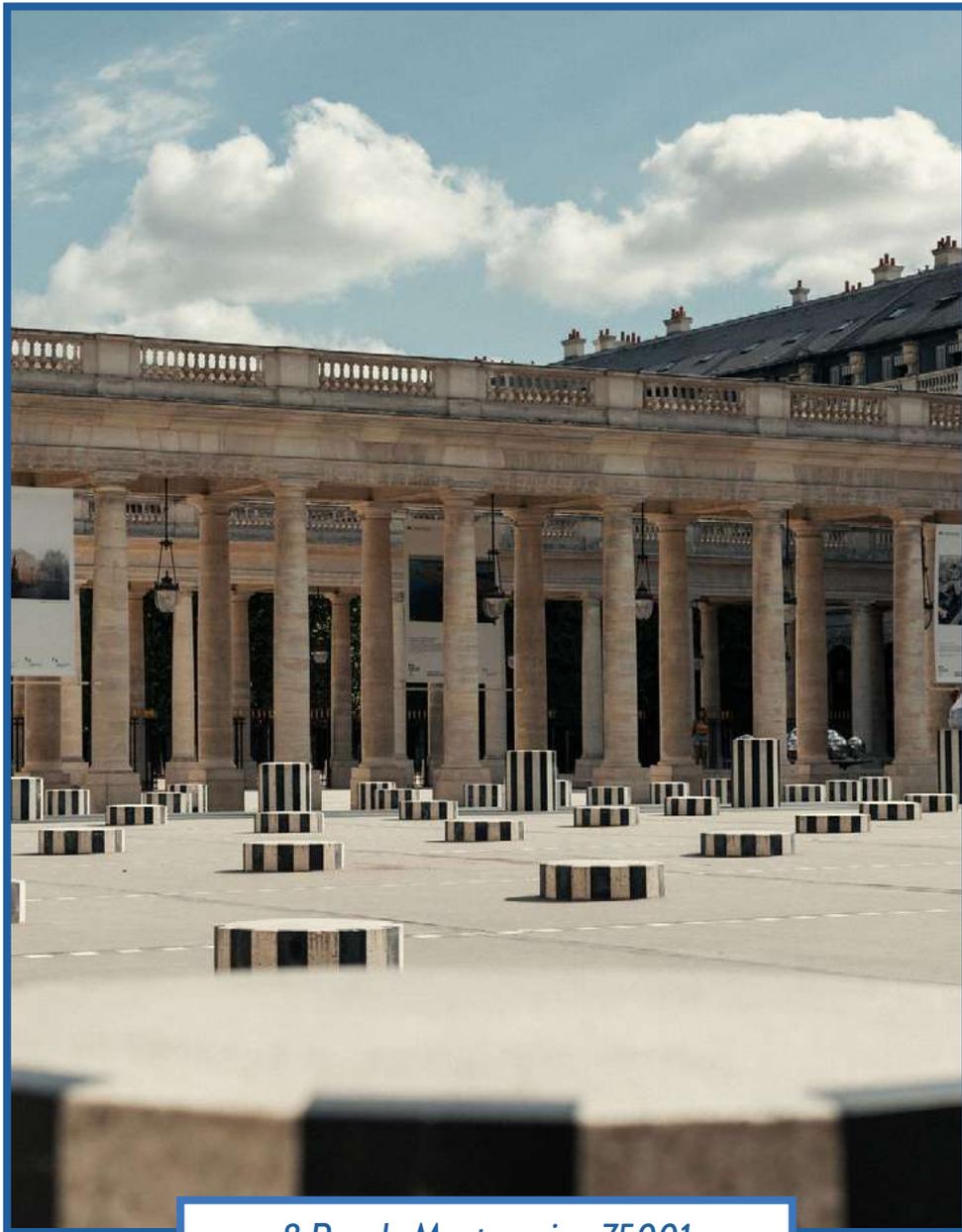
It starts super chic down by the Champs-Elysées and Place de la Concorde and includes loads of top-class shops and great people-watching.

Cocktails at Le Meurice

Legendary Paris hotel Le Meurice has an extremely lovely cocktail bar. Why not treat yourself?

Address: 228 Rue de Rivoli 75001, Paris

Seek out the Palais-Royal



8 Rue de Montpensier, 75001

It's like a hidden garden tucked behind the Comédie Française theatre, perfect for a quiet moment while you're in the middle of a busy neighbourhood. Don't miss the excellent photo opportunity on the black and white striped pillars. Maybe grab a coffee at [Bonjour](#).

La Bourse

I'd often looked at the massive dome by the Saint-Eustache church and wondered what was inside. I knew that it was called La Bourse de Commerce and had been a commodities exchange for the last century. A little research showed that it had been a hub for grain trade in the mid-eighteenth century. But I didn't know what would come from the seemingly never-ending renovation job. There were whispers of a French billionaire, a museum, a mural around the cupola that was simply to die for...

I tucked away the idea of a visit for my Paris Bucket List, and was delighted to score an invite to the grand reopening. I couldn't get there quick enough when the doors opened in May 2021. And I was met with a fascinating and beautiful space. I was struck by the main hall, lit naturally through the magnificent glass dome above. Inside, a minimalist collection of wax statues that were slowly melting before our very eyes.

The building has been transformed into a modern art gallery, home to the collection of French billionaire Francois Pinault. While the art will surely delight the culture vultures among you, I was much more impressed by the breathtaking 360-degree mural. It depicts French trade through the ages and across the world - and it's impossible to capture in just one photo (I tried).

Turns out Pinault got a 50-year lease on this place for the cool sum of 15 million euros. Just one more thing to marvel over, perhaps while you're grabbing a bite to eat at the restaurant on the top floor, which boasts views over Les Halles and the Saint-Eustache church.

Address: 2 Rue de Viarmes, 75001 Paris

Three excellent museums

Sainte Chapelle

This church has glorious stained-glass windows. There's often a massive queue here so plan accordingly. Tip: The Palace of Justice next door is grand, and if you're lucky you can simply waltz in there as a member of the public.

Address: 8 Boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris

La Conciergerie

This is where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned before her death. The hallway is visually exceptional, much more so than the rest of the museum. You could go for the hall alone.

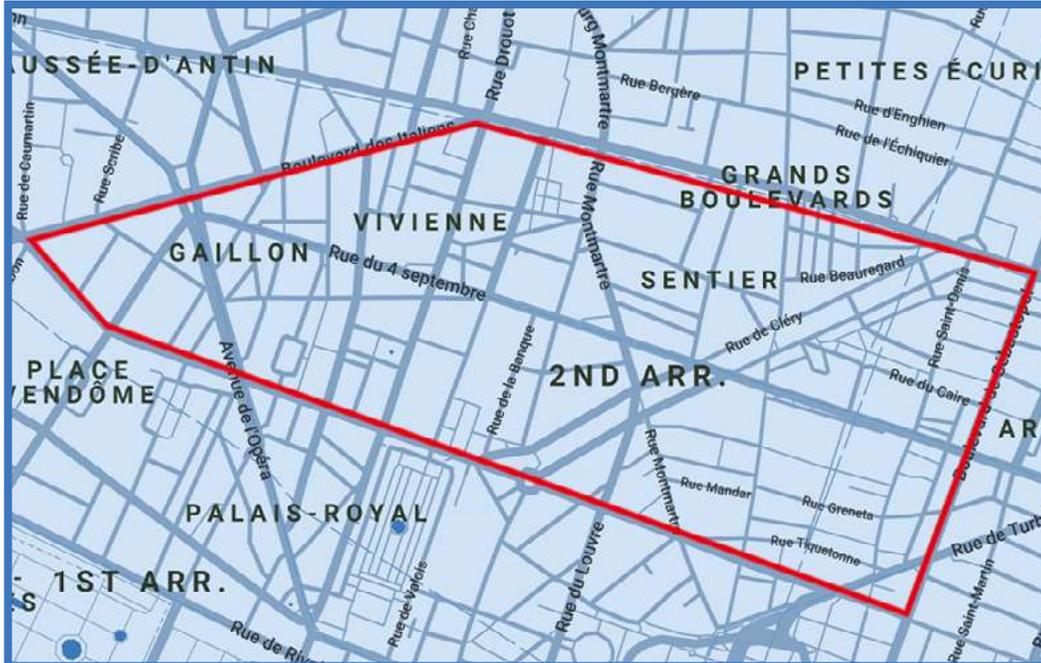
Address: 2 Boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris

The Orangerie

Here you'll find big Monets and bigger crowds. Unfortunately the masses ruined it a little, Monet said that the paintings were meant to transport you to a place of peace and tranquility and that wasn't the case... but this place is a must for Monet fans.

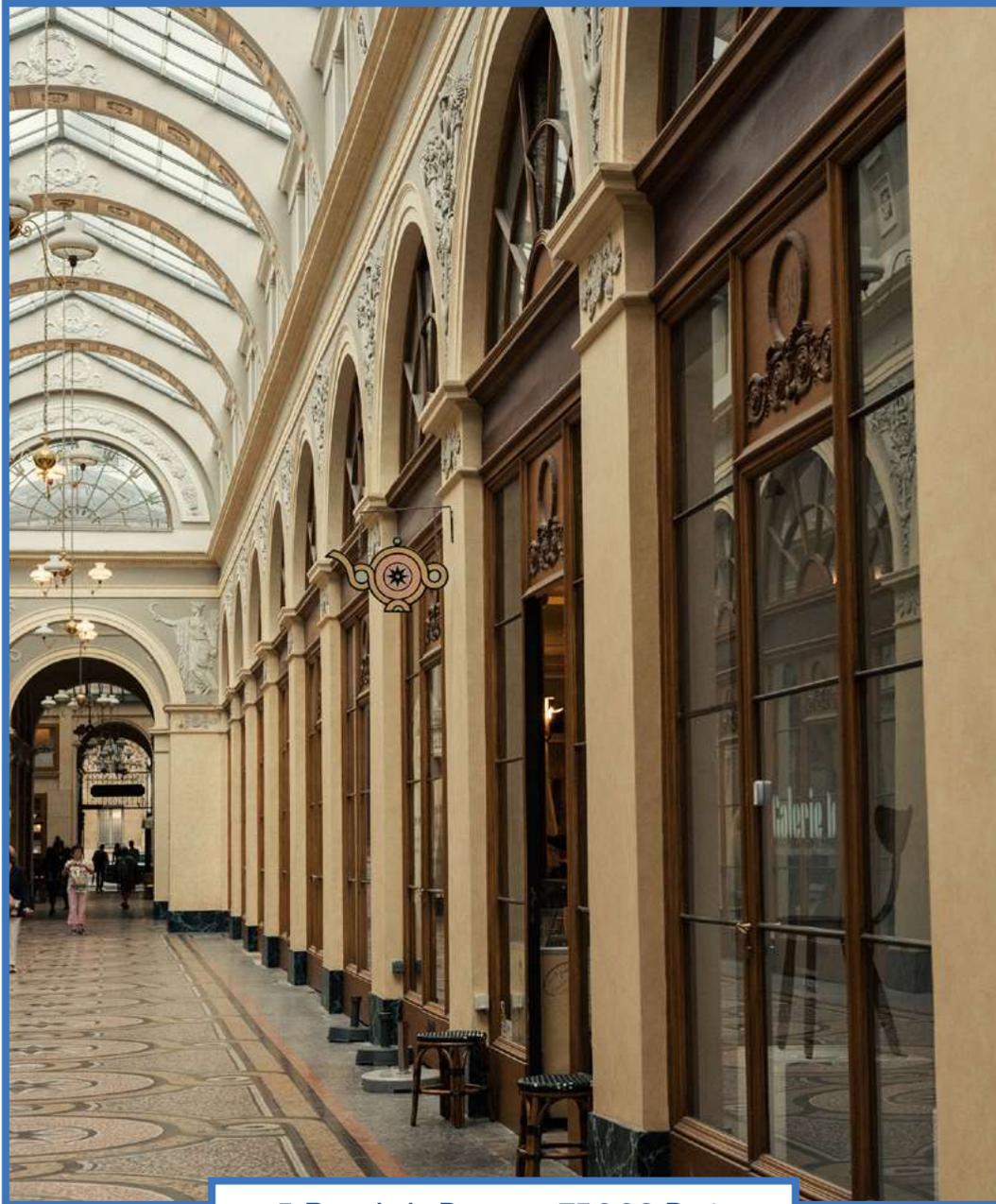
Address: Jardin Tuileries, 75001 Paris

The Strollable Second



This is actually the smallest of all the Paris arrondissements at under one square kilometre. You'll find banking headquarters dotted around the edge of this textile district, but it's full of small treasures too. And this is a particularly good arrondissement for a rainy day as there's plenty to see indoors.

Wander through the Galerie Vivienne



5 Rue de la Banque, 75002 Paris

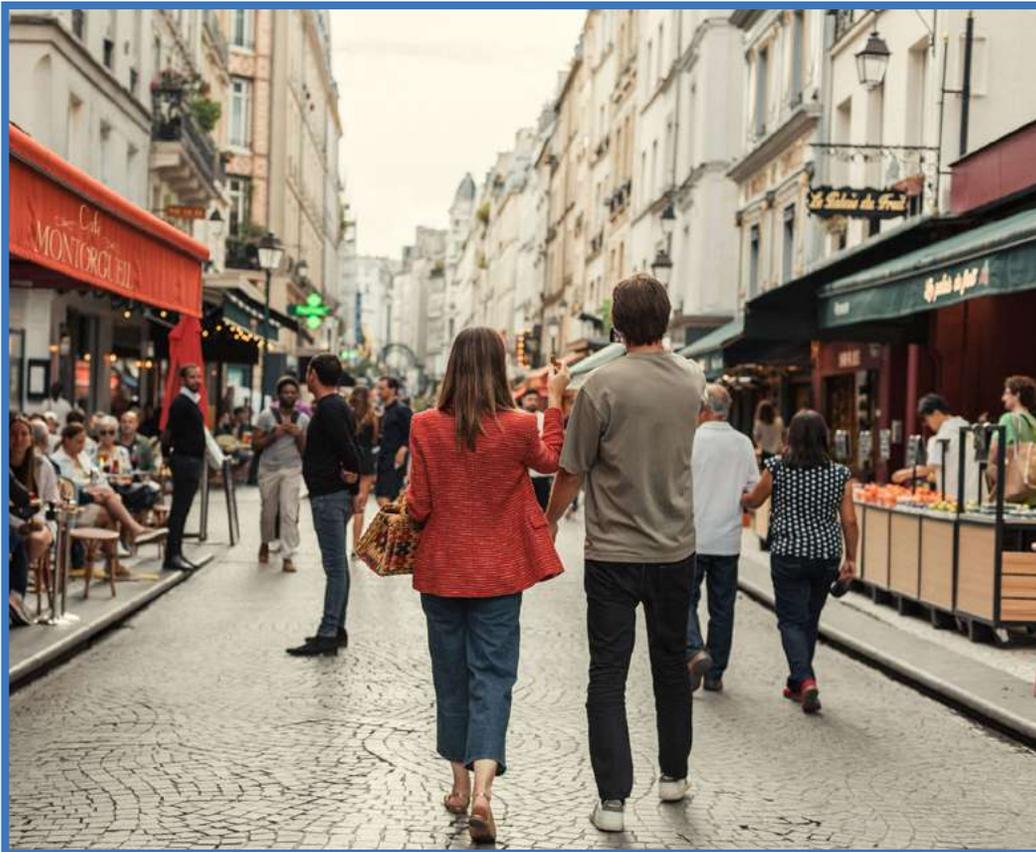
The covered passages are some of the best hidden gems of Paris and Vivienne is the crème de la crème. There used to be up to 150 of these passages in the golden age in the 19th century, now there are only about a dozen left. [Here are our five favourite passages.](#)

Try the world's first Bloody Mary at Harry's New York bar

They claim to have invented the Bloody Mary, and whether it's true or not, you're going to enjoy your drink at this American-themed bar. It's a bit like the Bar Hemingway at the Ritz but a grittier, cheaper, friendlier, and more accessible version.

Address: 5 Rue Daunou, 75002

Stroll along Rue Montorgueil



This is one of the best streets in Paris. Fishmongers, cheesemongers, flowermongers, and more cafes and restaurants than you could probably visit in a month. Best enjoyed with a croissant from Stohrer, the oldest bakery in Paris. Monet himself liked this street so much he painted it in 1878.

Enjoy a donut

Long-time friends of the show, the team at Boneshaker opened a second, bigger space in 2021, just down the road from their original spot. Pop in for great coffee, legendary donuts, and enough space to sit down and enjoy it

Further Listening: [Click here for the episode with the owner, Amanda](#)

86 Rue d'Aboukir, 75002

Grab a flat white at Matamata

Friendly staff and good coffee in a surprisingly quiet part of central Paris. Grab a newspaper, snag one of the few terrace seats, and watch the locals in the second live their daily lives.

Address: [58 Rue d'Argout, 75002 Paris](#)

Have dessert at Le Grand Colbert

We stopped for a dessert at the “We were featured in Something’s Gotta Give!!!” restaurant and it was excellent. The restaurant itself is marvellous, the same tiles from the nearby Galerie Vivienne, and the waiters put on a grand show.

Address: [2 Rue Vivienne, 75002](#)

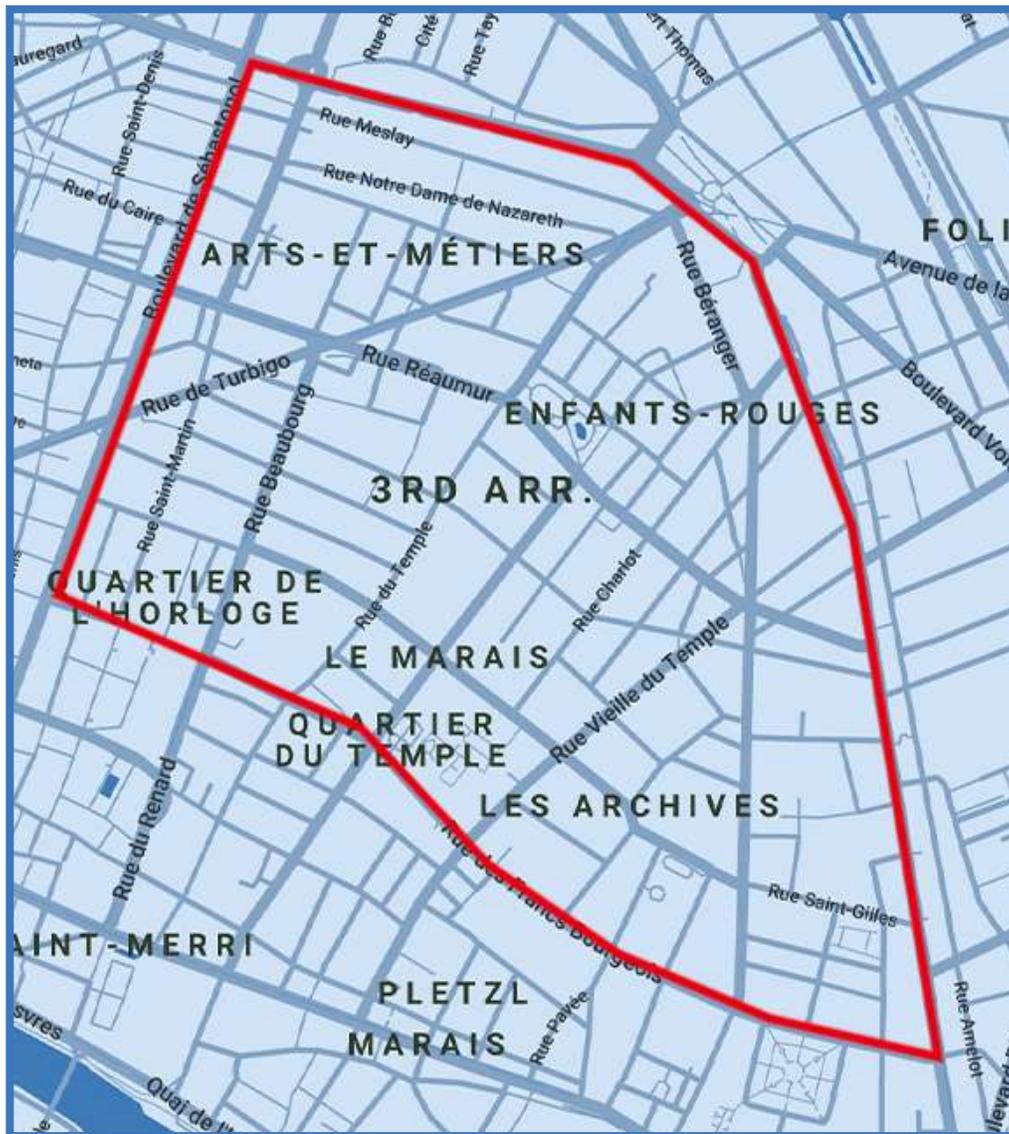
Find the most beautiful Starbucks in the world



3 Bd des Capucines, 75002

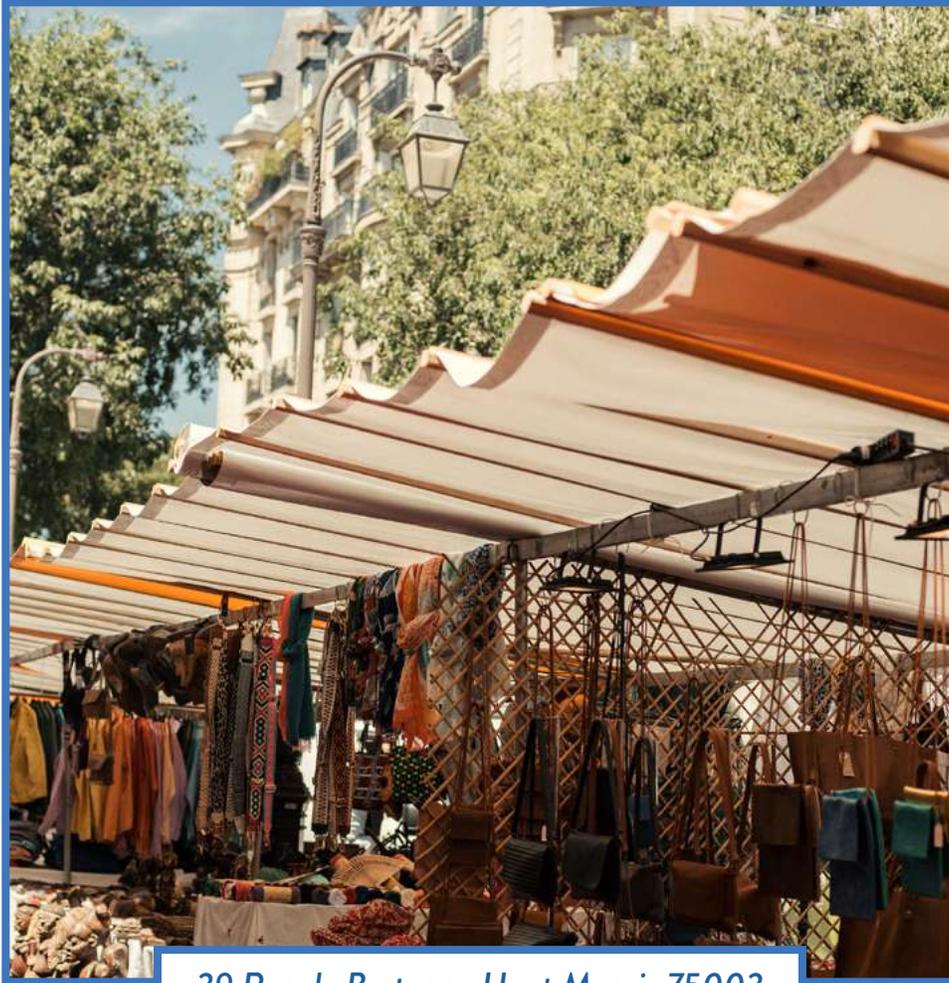
There surely can't be a more stunning Starbucks on this planet, the interior looks more like a room for Marie Antoinette than for hipster coworkers.

The Historic Third



Chic models strutting down the famed Rue Bretagne, antique street markets, and intriguing little shops dotted about the Marais (more on the Marais in the next chapter). The third is where the most ordinary streets can hold the most extraordinary secrets...

Visit the markets



39 Rue de Bretagne Haut Marais 75003

Wander through the covered market Le Marché des Enfants Rouges. Even if you're not going to eat or buy anything, you can simply visit to experience a market in central Paris with a local feel.

Watch Paris wake up over a coffee

Forty Six and Third cafe offers a beautiful and surprising brunch (popcorn on avocado toast!) and great coffee, best enjoyed from the terrace in the morning so you can see Paris waking up.

Address: 46 rue de Turbigo, 75003

Le Carnavalet

If you're a fan of Paris... and I can only assume that you are... then you simply must head immediately to the Carnavalet museum. It's the oldest museum in Paris, dating back to 1880, and is now home to over 600,000 pieces. But what's especially cool is that this place underwent significant renovations over the past four years and has finally reopened looking sleeker than ever.

On the podcast, my guests have often ranked this museum as the best in Paris, so I was especially excited to be invited to visit before it opened to the public in May 2021.

I broke away from the guided tour and explored the entire museum by myself. Old maps, 2,000 year old relics, Paris jewels and memorabilia, history, paintings and more. Seeing it all, totally alone, was one of my best Paris experiences. I can only hope it's even remotely as empty when you visit.

Address: 23 Rue de Sévigné, 75003

Find the angel

The Angel of Turbigo: If you find yourself on Rue Turbigo, find number 57 and look up at the wall. There's a gigantic, winged and smiling angel that spans three storeys. Some call it the biggest caryatid in Paris, although, considering she is just decoration and not actually a pillar, others would disagree that she is a caryatid at all. Whatever she is, you can't deny that she is a sight to behold.

Address: 57 Rue de Turbigo, 75003 Paris

Have a cocktail at one of the 'best bars in the world'

The Cambridge Public House has landed on the Top 50 Bars in the World list and that's no surprise, it really is an excellent spot for a cocktail. Extra friendly staff members and a wonderful ambience.

Address: 8 Rue de Poitou, 75003

Picasso Museum



[5 Rue de Thorigny, 75003 Paris](#)

This is 5,000 original pieces, an exquisite building, and it's bang in the centre of the Marais. For a deep dive behind the scenes, check out my chat with the curator [here](#).

Seafood at Le Mary Celeste

Feel like some people watching? Check this place out, it's just off one of the hippest streets in Paris. Expect great cocktails and wine mixed with oysters and seafood.

Address: [1 Rue Commines, 75003 Paris](#)

Explore Musée des Archives Nationales

Be sure to go upstairs to see Napoleon's handwritten testament and a letter from Marie Antoinette.

Address: [60 Rue des Francs Bourgeois, 75003](#)

Relax at Square du Temple

This square is on the site of the former European headquarters of the Knights Templar and features an English-style landscaped garden. Be sure to look down on the street outside the nearby Town Hall to see markings from the original towers of the Knights Templar's fortress.

Address: [64 Rue de Bretagne, 75003 Paris](#)

Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature

This hunting museum is like an old mansion. Check out the stuffed animals, which include everything from tigers to polar bears, but don't miss the decorations, the wallpaper, the light fittings... it's all amazing.

Address: [60 Rue des Archives, 75003 Paris](#)

The most stunning doorways

Wander down [Rue de Turenne](#) to admire some of the most beautiful doors in all of Paris. Be sure to take plenty of photos, you don't get 'em like this anymore!

Explore the wall with me

Regular listeners to the podcast know that I'm obsessed with the Philippe Auguste medieval wall. Many of its remaining vestiges run through the Marais, and [on this link](#) you can track down the seven remaining towers.

Go back in time

Find the oldest stone house in Paris at [51 rue de Montmorency](#). The building is 600 years old and was the first home of writer Nicolas Flamel, the alchemist who was said to have created the Philosopher's Stone - "a legendary substance, allegedly capable of turning inexpensive metals into gold".

Check in on Notre Dame

The Notre Dame's spire rooftop may have burned to the ground, but it's a historic time for the cathedral as it's under repairs, so why not check in and see how they're going. The north side has detailed information in English and French about the renovation, with fascinating pictures to match. The City Hall plans to open the interior in time for the 2024 Olympics, but the outside - especially the western facade - remains as beautiful as ever.

Address: 6 Parvis Notre-Dame - Place John Paul II.

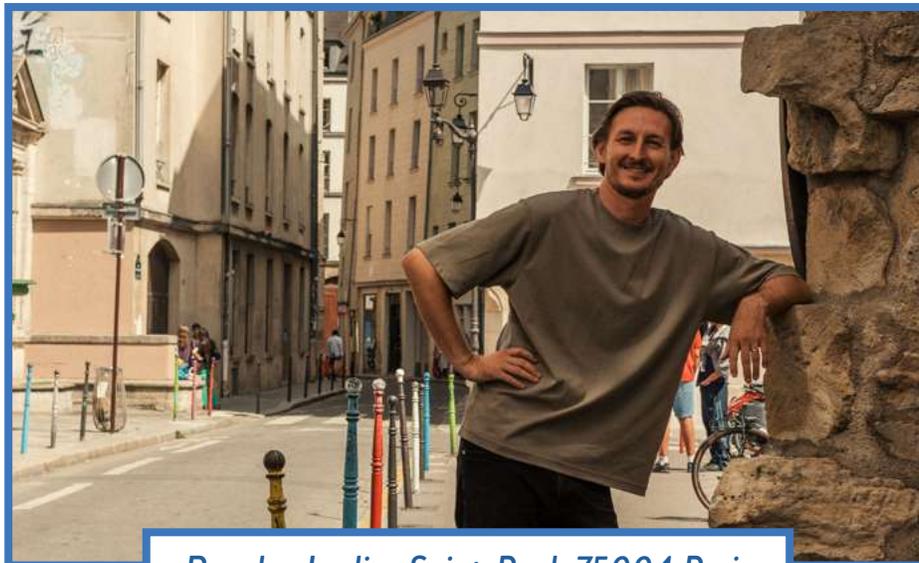
Further listening:

Notre Dame: the past, the fire, the future

Notre Dame fire: What happened and what next?

Notre Dame fire update with the Marais Mayor

Find the ancient Paris wall



Rue des Jardins Saint-Paul, 75004 Paris

Alongside an outdoor basketball court, you can find the 70-metre length of the Philippe Auguste wall - it's the longest remaining stretch of the old City Wall. You can still find traces of this wall, which was built around 1190, all over Paris. [Here are my inside tips to find all the vestiges.](#)

The Victor Hugo museum

Of course, this isn't a new museum. And it's far from a new building. In fact, the Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné was built in the 19th century. But now the Maison de Victor Hugo - his old home where he wrote *Les Misérables* - has reopened to the public after a two-year renovation.

If you have visited before, you will be now treated to restored works, some new acquisitions, and a brand new courtyard. It might sound crazy that a Paris building can get a new courtyard... but it's true. The museum acquired it from the school next door, then added a garden and a cafe.

If you're totally new to this place - like I was when I got invited to the pre-launch in 2021 - you'll surely be impressed to see just how prolific Victor Hugo was. I had no idea he painted so much, for example, and there are whole rooms dedicated to his paintings.

You can also see his deathbed, great views of the Place des Vosges, and an intriguing room designed in a Chinese style with furniture that the great man made himself. Who knew!?

Address: 6 Pl. des Vosges, 75004 Paris

Explore the Île Saint-Louis



Oh how I love the Île Saint-Louis. I spent one glorious month here in 2021, and became rather obsessed with the doors. Be sure to check out this marvellous island in the middle of the Seine River, and spend a few hours as a flâneur or flâneuse (as in: wander aimlessly). Tip: Make sure to take the steps down to the water's edge, where you can almost walk around the whole island with the Seine lapping at your toes.

Further listening: [*The Pearl of Paris: A closer look at the Île Saint-Louis*](#)

Further Reading: [*The 100 best doors in the Ile Saint-Louis in Paris*](#)

[Click here to watch Oliver walk around the island](#)

Grab a drink at Le 1905

This is kinda like a speakeasy, go up the steps behind the fairly innocent-looking entryway, and find yourself in a bar from yesteryear. Tiny little outdoor terrace, very charming interior with leather couches and cosy corners.

Address: [25 Rue Beautreillis, 75004](#)

Lunch at Miznon



22 Rue des Ecouffles, 75004 Paris

Miznon has a roasted cauliflower pita sandwich that's incredible, as is most of their food, to be honest. Expect a queue - or head to their newer restaurant on the Canal Saint-Martin to skip the line.

Saunter down Rue des Barres

Great for an afternoon glass of rosé on a sunny day, with colourful facades as a backdrop and the River Seine just a stone's throw away.

Meet the team at *Le Peloton*



17 Rue du Pont Louis-Philippe, 75004 Paris

This place is regularly mentioned on The Earful Tower and for good reason: the baristas are the friendliest in Paris and the coffee is delicious.

If you see Paul or Christian, the owners, be sure to say hello!

Further Listening: Paul the owner was on the podcast, [listen here](#)

Hotel Dieu

This place is a hospital and the guards will only let you in as far as the inner courtyard, which is pictured left. But if you're feeling rather daring, go exploring. That's what I did. Obviously I didn't go into any rooms, just corridors and stairwells, and I ended up on the rooftop with this amazing view. Best of luck if you decide to do the same, just don't say I sent you.

Address: 1 Parvis Notre-Dame - Pl. Jean-Paul II, 75004 Paris

Another ancient house

It's a 14th century building that'll make you feel like you're walking in the Paris of yesteryear. Once home to a swingers' club, this has calmed down a bit in recent years and stands out among the other buildings of the Marais.

Address: 11 rue François Miron. 75004 Paris

Dine in a Belle Époque paradise

Bofinger might sound like a James Bond-themed restaurant, but it isn't! It's a charming French diner with traditional food (lots of seafood especially) and a very photographable interior.

Address: 5-7 Rue de la Bastille, 75004

Five hidden gardens in the Marais

Jardin de l'Hôtel de Sully

This charming square is next to the famed Place des Vosges, one of the grandest parks in the city. But most people don't bother to check out this little gem on its south-western corner. Enter via the Hôtel de Sully off Rue Saint-Antoine and enjoy its excellent courtyard on the way.

Address: 5 Place des Vosges, 75004 Paris

Jardin des Rosiers-Joseph Migneret

Right off the bustling Rue des Rosiers, this park has a sizeable tower from the Philippe Auguste Wall, near an enormous old fig tree. Grab a falafel from one of the numerous nearby restaurants, sit back, and enjoy the peace.

Address: 10 Rue des Rosiers, 75004 Paris

Jardin Francs-Bourgeois-Rosiers:

Pass the security guards at the National Archives then turn right to find this little sanctuary. Bring a book, find a bench, and take it easy, armed with the knowledge that Paris is bustling away on the other side of the wall.

Address: 10 Rue des Rosiers, 75004 Paris

Square Saint-Gilles du Grand Veneur:

This one is a pretty spectacular garden, especially if you're there when the roses are in bloom. It's a residential spot, so don't bring your boom box!

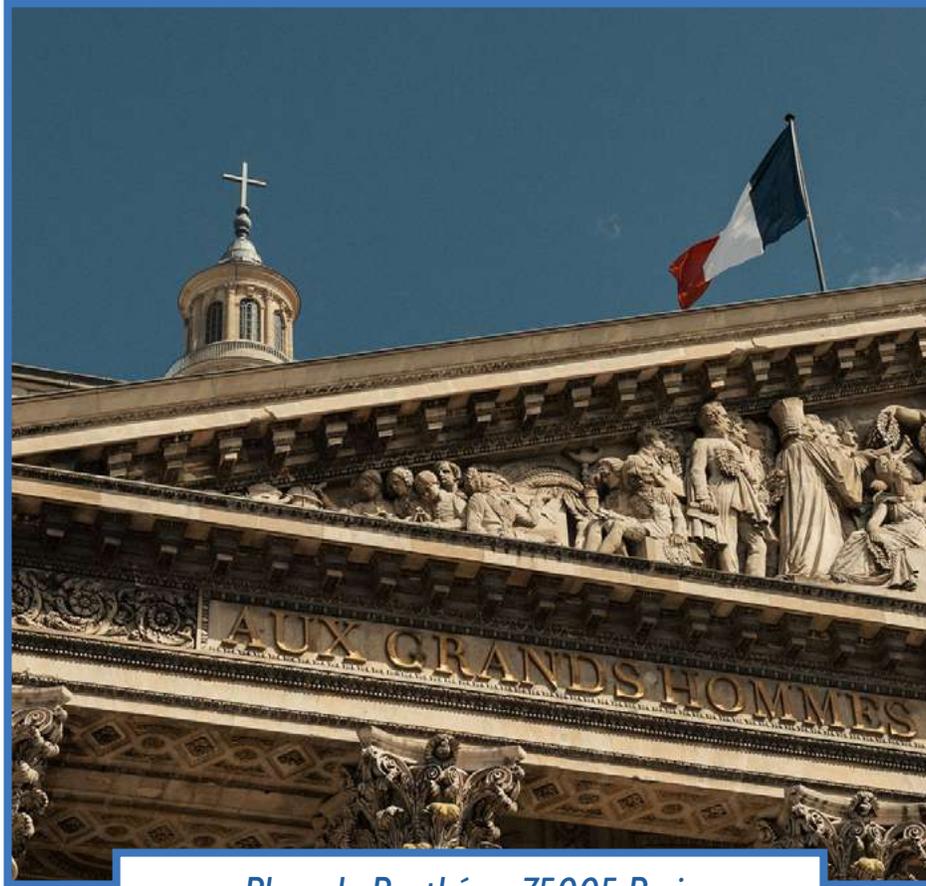
Address: 9 Rue du Grand Veneur, 75003 Paris

Jardin Anne-Frank:

You'll have to tackle a urine-smelling passageway to get to this park, but it's probably the best hidden of them all. It's also big enough to feature a play area for the kids.

Address: 14P Impasse Berthaud, 75003 Paris

Marvel at the Panthéon



Place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris

The magnificent Panthéon, the final resting place of distinguished French citizens. Prepare to be blown away by this one. This place has the best museum doors in Paris, maybe in France. The tombs downstairs are cool, but not nearly as jaw-dropping as the upstairs architecture.

Visit yesteryear at the Cluny

Also known as the National Museum of the Middle Ages, this is an exceptional and newly-renovated museum. The Roman ruins are the dream of ancient history fans, while the tapestries (especially The Lady and the Unicorn) will get your imagination going.

Address: 28 Rue du Sommerard, 75005 Paris

Drink tea at the Grande Mosquée de Paris

A great spot for a cup of mint tea, which we had chilled. Apparently it's a top spot for a massage too, but remember: they only treat women.

Address: 2bis Pl. du Puits de l'Ermite, 75005

Maison de Verlaine

It's all about the story. Typical French food in the building where French poet Verlaine once lived.. and where Ernest Hemingway once lived too!

Address: 39 Rue Descartes, 75005 Paris

Flower power at *Jardin des Plantes*

Originally built as a medicinal herb garden for King Louis XIII, Jardin des Plantes is currently home to a manicured garden, the National Museum of Natural History, and a zoo that was the inspiration for Roger the Liger's Paris home.

Address: 57 Rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris

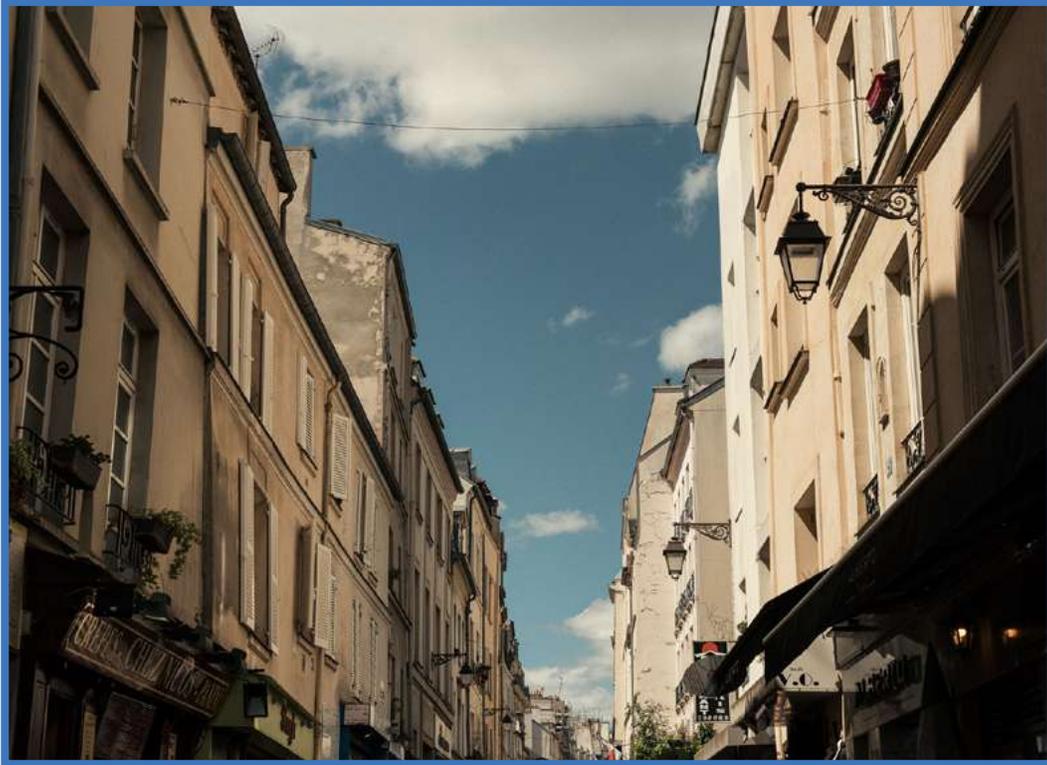
Shakespeare and Co

The most iconic bookshop in Paris. Head here early to avoid the queues - and why not grab a souvenir from the shop. Their children's book section is excellent... hint hint.

Further Listening: Oliver had the bookstore's event coordinator on the show. [Click here to listen.](#)

Address: 37 Rue de la Bûcherie, 75005 Paris

Become a local at Rue Mouffetard



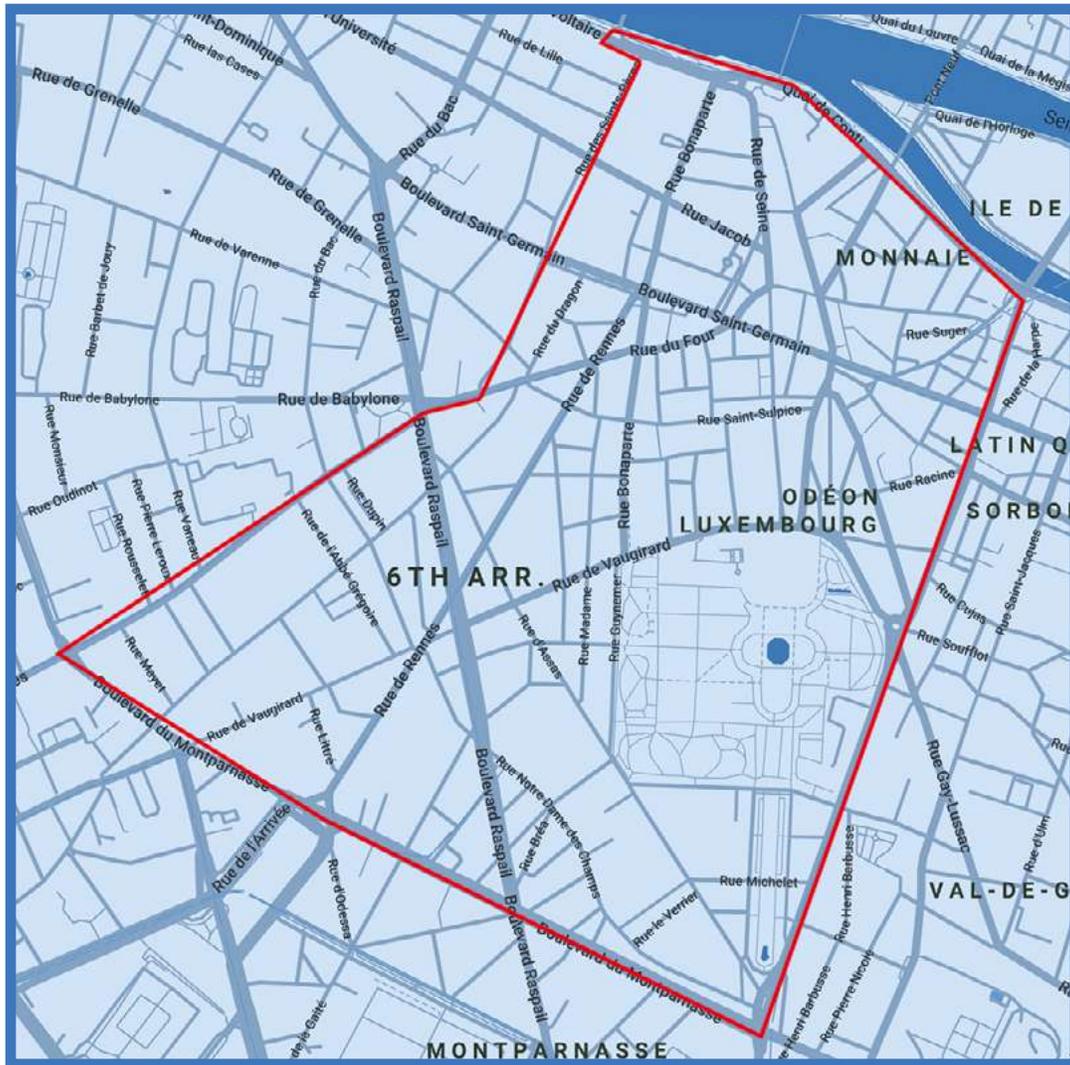
This lively street is a great insight into old Paris. If you can time it so you visit when the markets are on, then you've nailed it. If not, no matter, there's so much going on each day that you're spoilt for choice. Walk from one end to the other and get lost in the smells, sights, tastes, and sounds. You can [watch a trailer](#) of the Rue Mouffetard walk for an idea.

Go dancing at Le Caveau de la Huchette

You may recognize this jazz club from the smash hit *La La Land*. It's a fun surprise, this place, especially on your first visit. Through the front door, past the bar, and then down, down, down to the cave with the lively jazz scene and the dancers putting on a show.

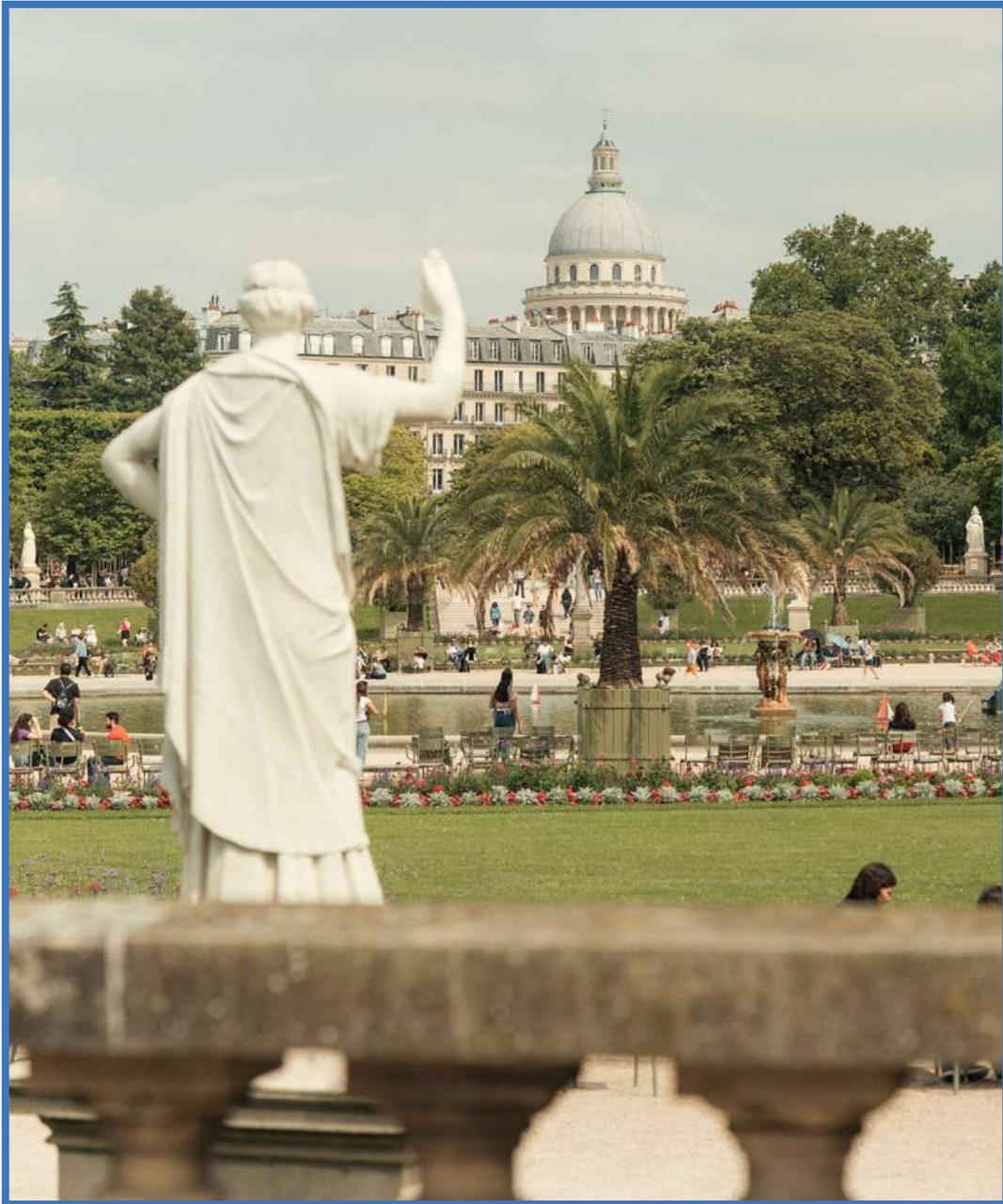
Address: [5 Rue de la Huchette, 75005](#)

The Stunning Sixth



When you imagine the streets of Paris, chances are that you're imagining the sixth arrondissement. Dotted with centuries-old churches, parks, and buildings, this is the cradle of Paris and the crown of the Left Bank. Bring an oxygen mask because it's so staggering that it might take your breath away.

Meander through the Jardin du Luxembourg



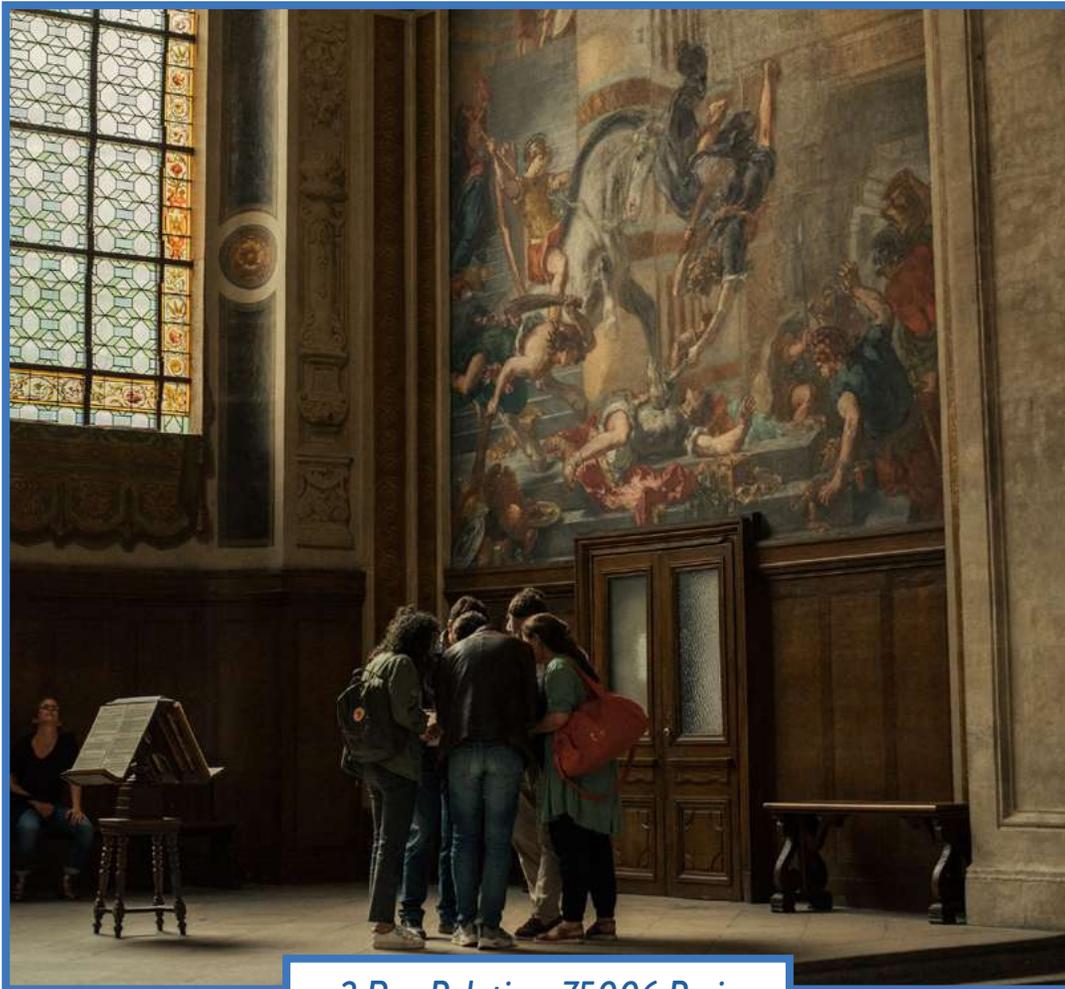
This park is surprisingly big, so set aside at least an hour to take it in properly. Do as the Parisians do and bring a baguette and some cheese from a nearby shop and have a picnic by the pond.

The most colourful church in Paris

The Abbey of Saint-Germain-des-Près is the oldest church in Paris. And don't judge this place by the outside, the colourful interior will surprise you.

Address: 3 Place Saint-Germain des Près, 75006 Paris

Crack the Da Vinci Code



2 Rue Palatine, 75006 Paris

The Saint-Sulpice church was even featured in the Hollywood blockbuster The Da Vinci Code. Look out for the huge murals from Delacroix and be sure to check out the huge shell full of holy water.

Lunch and laughs at Treize au Jardin

The Treize au Jardin cafe is absolutely lovely, nestled alongside the Luxembourg gardens, with some of the friendliest staff in Paris. Meet the owners on this fun episode of the Earful [here](#).

Address: [5 Rue de Médicis, 75006 Paris, France](#)

Discover the Place de Furstemberg

A quiet little square tucked away not far from the Seine River. Author John Baxter, another past guest, says: “Almost every day there’s a Vogue model draped over the central light fitting, it’s just so elegant”.

Visit an artist’s home

[The Delacroix Museum](#) was once home to the artist Eugène Delacroix, who lived there when he was painting the incredible murals for the Saint-Sulpice church.

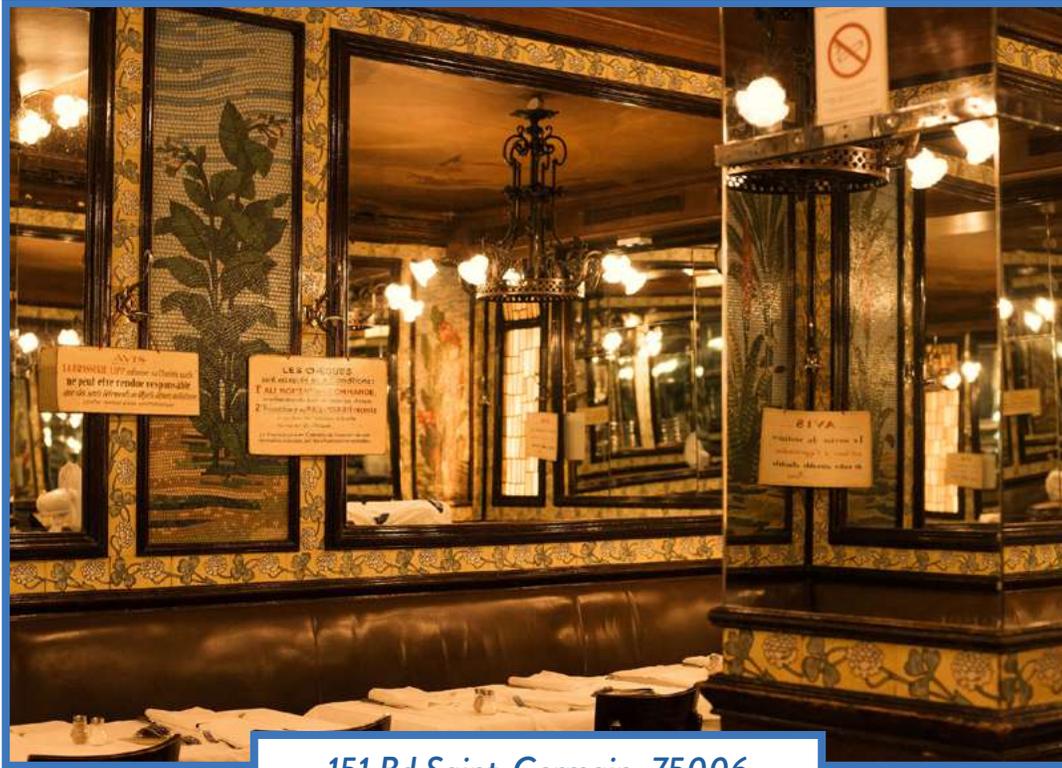
Address: [6 Rue de Furstemberg, 75006 Paris](#)

Cocktail at Prescription Cocktail Club

A cool and newly renovated cocktail bar that makes for a welcome contrast to all the classic Parisian bistros and bars. There’s an unusual cosmic/1930s/theatrical vibe, but it works, and the bar describes its cocktail menu as “an invitation to a maiden voyage of creations inspired by the spirit of the otherworldly”.

Address: [23 Rue Mazarine, 75006](#)

Dinner at Brasserie Lipp



151 Bd Saint-Germain, 75006

Another classic spot, across the road from Cafe de Flore. There's no messing about in this beautiful restaurant. Waiters zip around with classic French dishes for their customers, putting on a show that's perhaps more impressive than the meal itself.

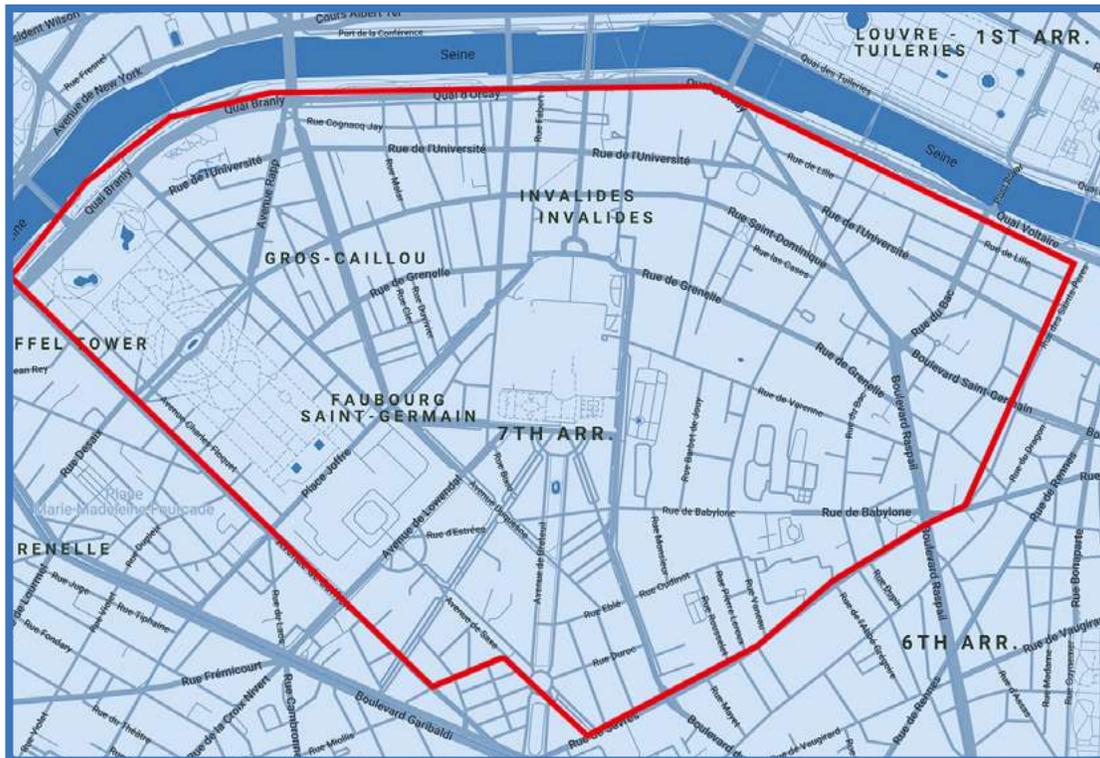
Dessert at Lapérouse

Iconic to say the least. This restaurant describes itself as if it was a high class brothel, with its website calling it a “discrete house of pleasures”. Over the centuries, diners have included everyone from Proust and Victor Hugo to Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway.

We went for just two desserts and an espresso, which cost over €50 (!). But if you can afford it, you should do it!

Address: 51 Quai des Grands Augustins, 75006

The Touristy Seventh



There's a reason I've dubbed this the tourist's arrondissement - there are just so many tourist hits (including the Eiffel Tower). But don't be fooled, it's an excellent spot for locals too - and I should know - I live here now!

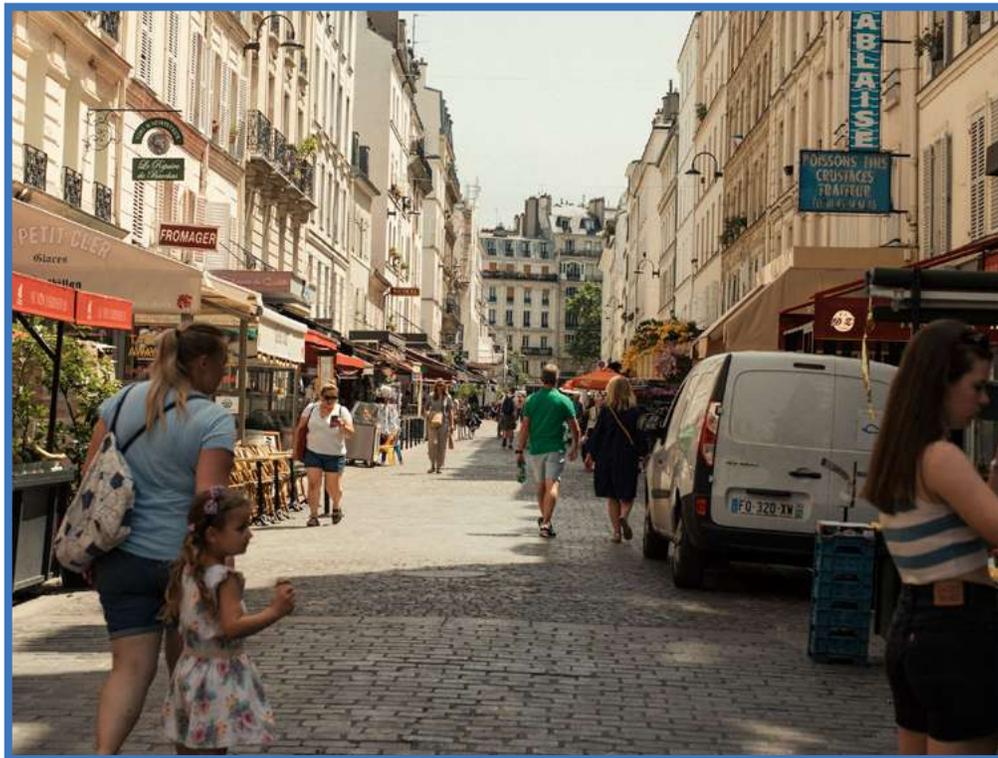
And you've been warned - you could easily spend a whole week in this area without seeing it all.

The Musee d'Orsay

This museum used to be a train station and the interior of the building is outstanding in its own right. As for the art, you can expect works from Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, and Van Gogh (and much more) - not to mention eye-watering views of the city.

Address: 1 Rue de la Légion d'Honneur, 75007 Paris

Amble along Rue Cler



Rue Cler is a pedestrianized street that captures many of the sights and sounds of the seventh arrondissement. It's full of little shops and specialty food markets and is perfect for people watching. I'm quite convinced it's the most charming street in Paris.

Further listening: How to visit rue Cler: the most charming street in Paris

Coffee on the left bank: Coutume

This place is simply the Godfather of the Paris coffee scene.

Further listening: Tom Clark of Coutume was a guest on the show

Address: 47 Rue de Babylone, 75007 Paris

Rodin Museum

Super sculptures and a superb garden.

If you can get there on a sunny day you're going to love it. Sit in the garden and have lunch. But even on a rainy day it's worth it for the interior alone.

Address: 77 Rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris

Musée de l'Armée

Napoleon's Tomb is in one of the most sublime buildings in Paris. Not a queue in sight, and while the tomb itself didn't floor me, the architecture did.

Address: 129 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris

The Paris Sewers Museum

This is not for the faint-hearted. It really stinks down there. But there's no doubt that it's interesting, you can get a really good sense for how the city was built from walking through those smelly tunnels.

Address: 93 Quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

A cosy cocktail at Fitzgerald

A hidden bar that's unmarked behind a restaurant, press the wall and go through. It's intimate, bring a date.

Address: 54 Boulevard de la Tour-Maubourg, 75007 Paris

The most beautiful facade in the city

The art nouveau building at 29 Avenue Rapp, from 1900, was once voted the most beautiful facade in the city. Check it out when you're done with the Eiffel Tower - it's just around the corner.

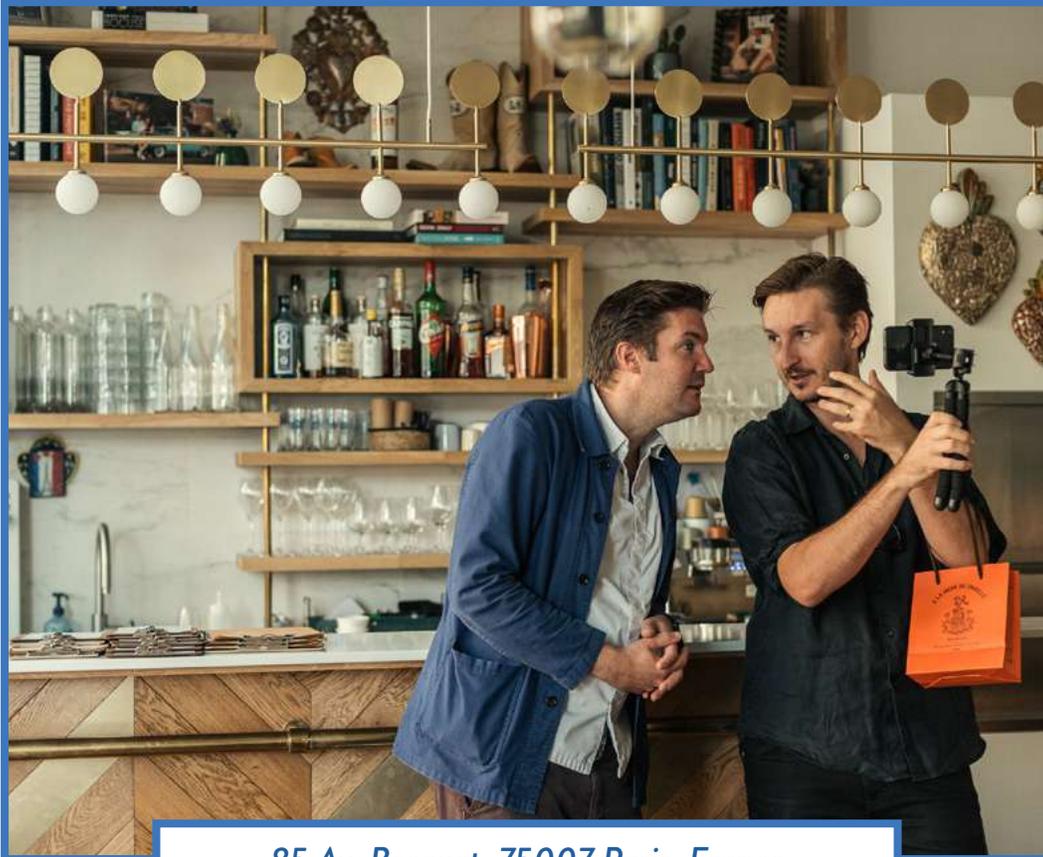
[Click here to watch a teaser of what's behind the door](#)

[Click here for a members-only art nouveau tour of the 7th arrondissement](#)

Rue de Varenne

It's hard to explain how pleasing the doorways are on this street, so I made a live YouTube video literally walking the entire length of the street. See for yourself.

Great restaurant: Milagro



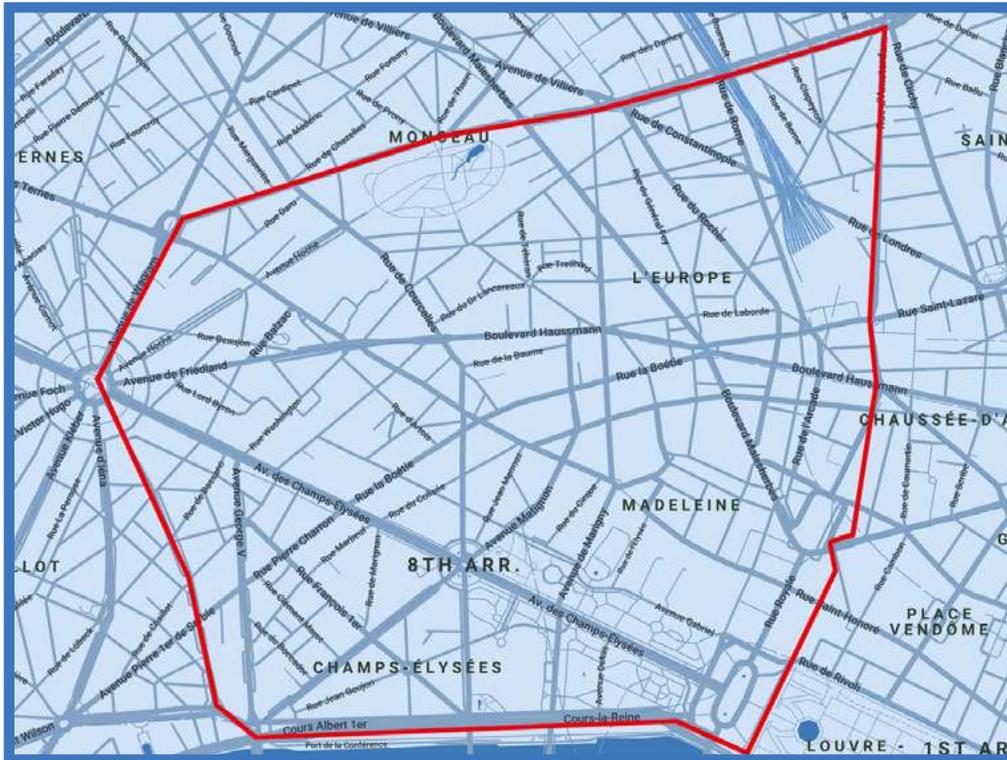
85 Av. Bosquet, 75007 Paris, France

Regular listeners will remember chef Justin Kent showing us inside this restaurant when it was nothing but a gutted series of rooms. And now: it's one of the hottest restaurants on the Left Bank!

Justin and his team serve international cuisine that's made with seasonal ingredients, and backed up with a thoughtfully curated wine menu. He says it's a blend of "immaculate technique and culinary creativity".

I say it's delicious. [Listen to Justin](#) talking about opening this restaurant, his background at the famed Arpege restaurant, and his upbringing in the US. And if you're a Patreon member, [click here](#) to see my two walk shows with Justin in the 7th arrondissement.

The Elegant Eighth



Charming Haussmannian homes, wide tree-lined avenues, and chic locals walking around in designer clothes with their designer dogs at the end of their designer leashes. In case you've not picked it, this arrondissement is not for those on a tight budget. We once made a podcast episode while scooting through this district and sampling its delights - and the episode caught the attention of the New York Times!

The best museum you've never heard about



63 Rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris

Nissim de Camondo – private art collection in a fantastic townhouse. The staggering wealth was almost sickening, but the collection was magestic and so was the house. Don't leave Paris without seeing it.

Top spot for a macaron

Check out the Pierre Hermé spot 86 Champs for some of the best macarons in town. Just don't get "macarons" confused with Macron, the French president.

Address: 86 Av. des Champs-Élysées, 75008 Paris

American Cathedral

Free to visit, no matter if you're American or religious. The building is lovely, the Vesper jazz sessions are great, and the canon Nat Katz is charming.

Address: 23 Av. George V, 75008

Galleries Lafayette

One of the only shops we visited on the Champs-Élysées, but it covers a lot. It's like a big concept store, imagine the cool little sister of the bigger Lafayette department store in the ninth arrondissement.

Address: 60 Av. des Champs-Élysées, 75008

***Bonus: Why not send The Earful Tower
a letter at #34 Avenue des Champs-Élysées?***

A simply sublime park



35 Boulevard de Courcelles, 75008 Paris

Fill your lungs with fresh air at the best park in Paris – Parc Monceau. You'll find old ruins, masses of space, pristine lawns, and breathtaking backdrops... what's not to love? Just remember that if you go jogging with the others, do it in an anti-clockwise direction or risk chaos.

Visit the park with me

Tour guide Boris from Paris in Person explained the Park Monceau better than anyone else could do it. Join us for a walk around the entire park.

[Member-only link here](#)

Be awed by the Petit Palais cafe

The hidden café at the Petit Palais. It's free to head into the interior courtyard, and while the coffee might not win any awards, the setting is a real treat.

Address: [Avenue Winston Churchill, 75008 Paris](#)

Dodge traffic at the Arc de Triomphe

At the Arc de Triomphe be sure to pay for a ticket and get to the top for gobsmacking views of Paris. Or, just do as the majority of the tourists do and take a selfie from somewhere nearby.

Address: [Place Charles de Gaulle, 75008 Paris](#)

Dinner at Maxims

This art-nouveau restaurant is a place where you will be paying for the experience and the story, perhaps just as much as the food. We thought the meal was great, but I was much more impressed by the building and its colourful history as a hotspot for celebrities (especially American celebrities) throughout the decades.

Address: [3 Rue Royale, 75008](#)

Admire the restoration at Hotel de la Marine

Here's another huge restoration job that finished in 2021. Right on the corner of the Place de la Concorde, you'll see a superb building that dates back to 1774. No, not the Crillon hotel, this is its twin building, the Hotel de la Marine.

Never heard of it? That's OK, you're not alone. And anyway, it has never been open to the public before. Until now...

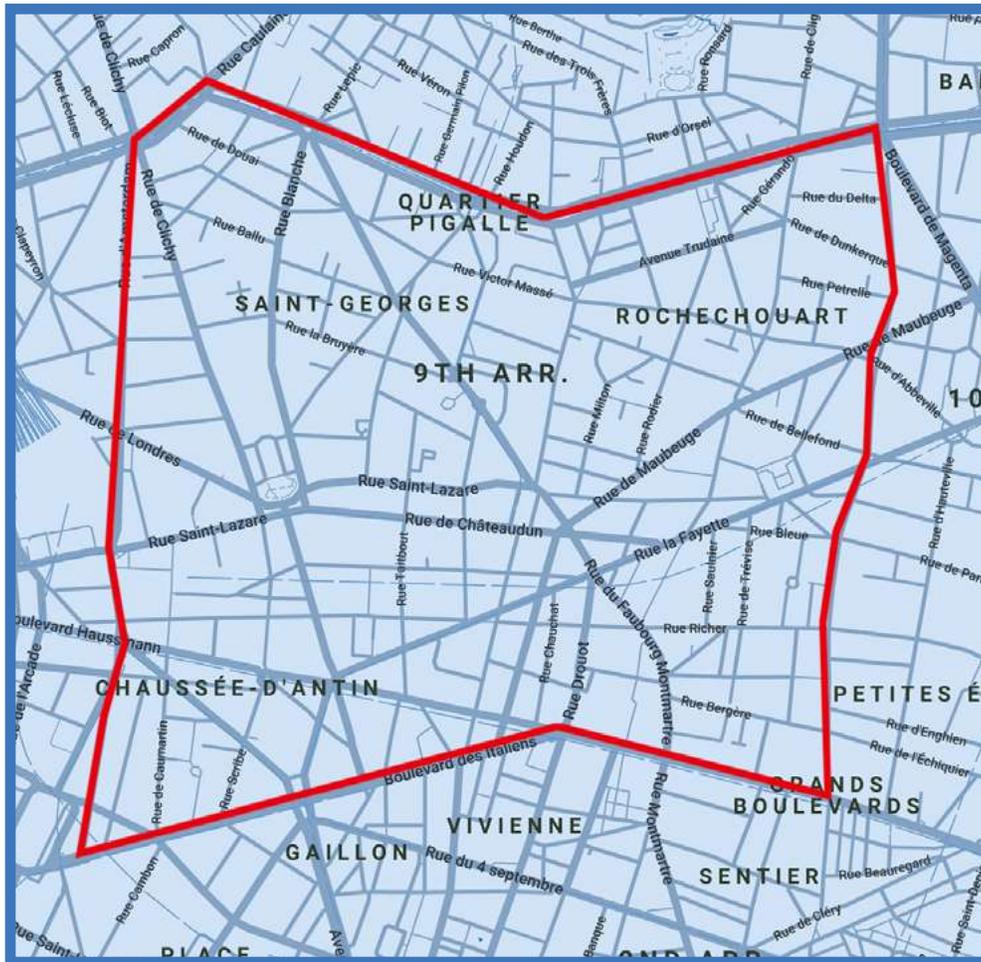
A quick history lesson: this hotel once belonged to the crown, then housed the naval ministry, and later the naval forces of the Nazis, before returning to the hands of the French naval staff. In 2015 the restoration plans began, and it finally opened in 2021.

Now, for just 13 euros you can walk through the gilded halls, observe the wild traffic of the Place de la Concorde from the splendid balcony, and imagine the centuries of history that has played out in front of this very building.

I can highly recommend the audio guide, which is way more interactive than I had expected. And don't forget to take a photo or two of the grand staircase by the entry. Simply wonderful.

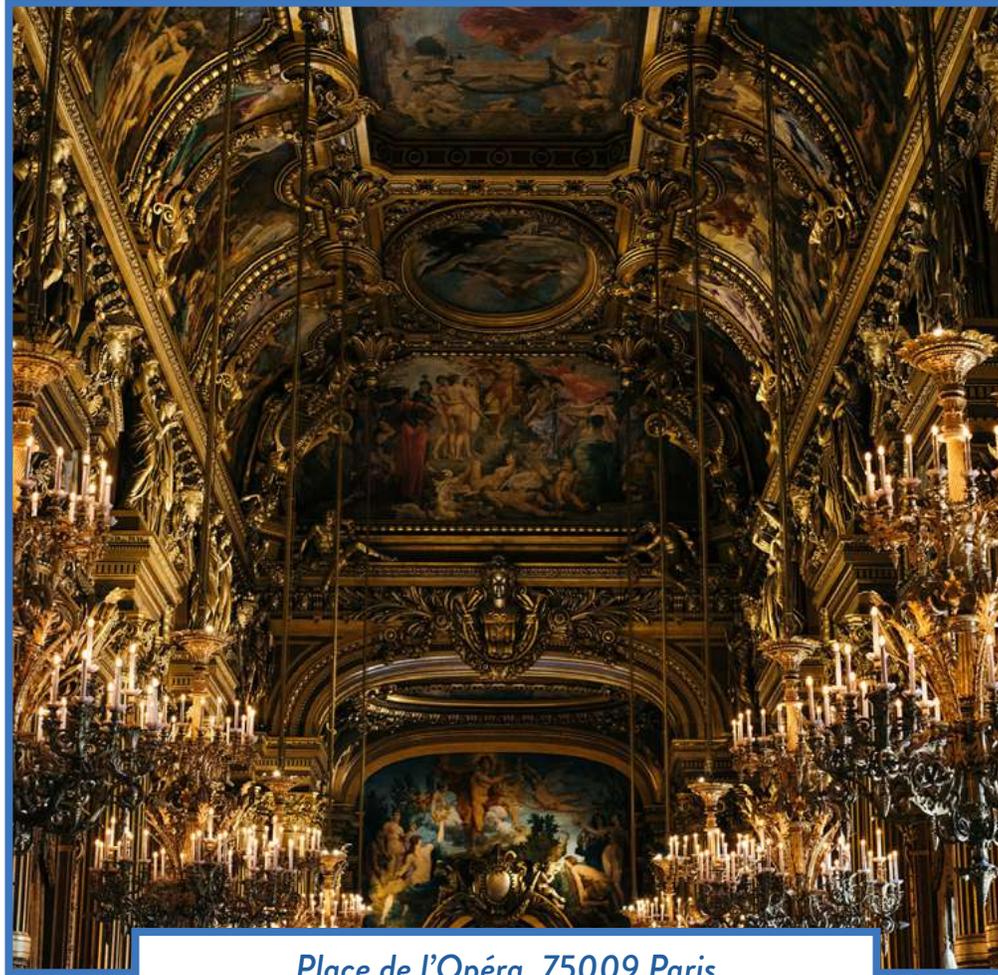
Address: 2 Pl. de la Concorde, 75008 Paris

The Naughty Ninth



There's a reason I called this one the naughty ninth, and - besides the alliteration - I chose this name because of the red light district. Of course, there's a lot more to the arrondissement than that - it's a rather large area after all. So be sure to take in all this district has to offer, just make sure you don't book your hotel in the red light district, unless you're into that kind of thing, of course.

Seek the Phantom of the Opera



Place de l'Opéra, 75009 Paris

Visit the Opera house. It's only €11 to get in and you're free to roam about. You've got chandeliers, painted ceilings, marble staircases, and the origins of the Phantom of the Opera.

Fancy cocktails at Maison Souquet

Once a brothel back in the early 1900s, this five-star hotel offers a quiet spot with great cocktails, perfect for a quiet date night, perhaps before visiting the Opera.

Address: 10 Rue de Bruxelles, 75009

See all of Paris at once

Get a birds' eye view of Paris. It's not all big spending at the Galeries Lafayette department stores. Keep taking the escalators upwards until you can't go any higher...then voilà... you've just found one of the best free views in the city. You can see a million rooftops, the Eiffel Tower, and the Opera House on the doorstep.

Address: 40 Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris

Coffee and people watching at KB

KB Cafe Shop is a favourite spot for people watching over a coffee. It has a sprawling terrace, good snacks and sandwiches, and a lovely carousel right out the front. Hear Nico from KB Cafe Shop talk about his neighborhood and the ever changing Pigalle district here.

Address: 53 Avenue Trudaine, 75009 Paris

Classic Paris at Le Bon Georges

Acclaimed food critic and past pod guest Alec Lobrano recommended this place for some of the best classically Parisian food the city has to offer. Bonus: The restaurant is near the intricate facade of Place Saint-Georges.

Address: 45 rue Saint-Georges, 75009 Paris

Looking for antiques?

The Quartier Drouot is a great collection of stores for buying second hand goods. Feel free to haggle for better prices, but the shop owners are very experienced at the game - so good luck.

Find the staircase at Gustave Moreau

Musee Gustave Moreau: Another townhouse turned art museum. This one was a surprise package, the central staircase alone is worth the price of admission.

Address: 14 Rue de la Rochefoucauld, 75009 Paris

Speakeasy delight No Entry

Downstairs at the Pink Mama restaurant, find the cold storage area and you will stumble upon a hidden cocktail bar. Tip: Try the martinis.

Address: 20 bis Rue de Douai, 75009 Paris

Classic French bar Le Mansart

An excellent spot to be, according to past guest Caroline de Maigret. She says it's a classic French café where the music is always super cool.

In fact, you can spot this bar behind me and Caroline at the start of this video, where she shows us around Pigalle.

Address: 1 Rue Mansart, 75009 Paris

A great meal at Dumbo

On the other end of the dining spectrum is the wildly popular Dumbo. The menu only offers cheeseburgers and chips. In fact, it's not even a restaurant, just a hole in the wall serving up some of the best takeaway food in town.

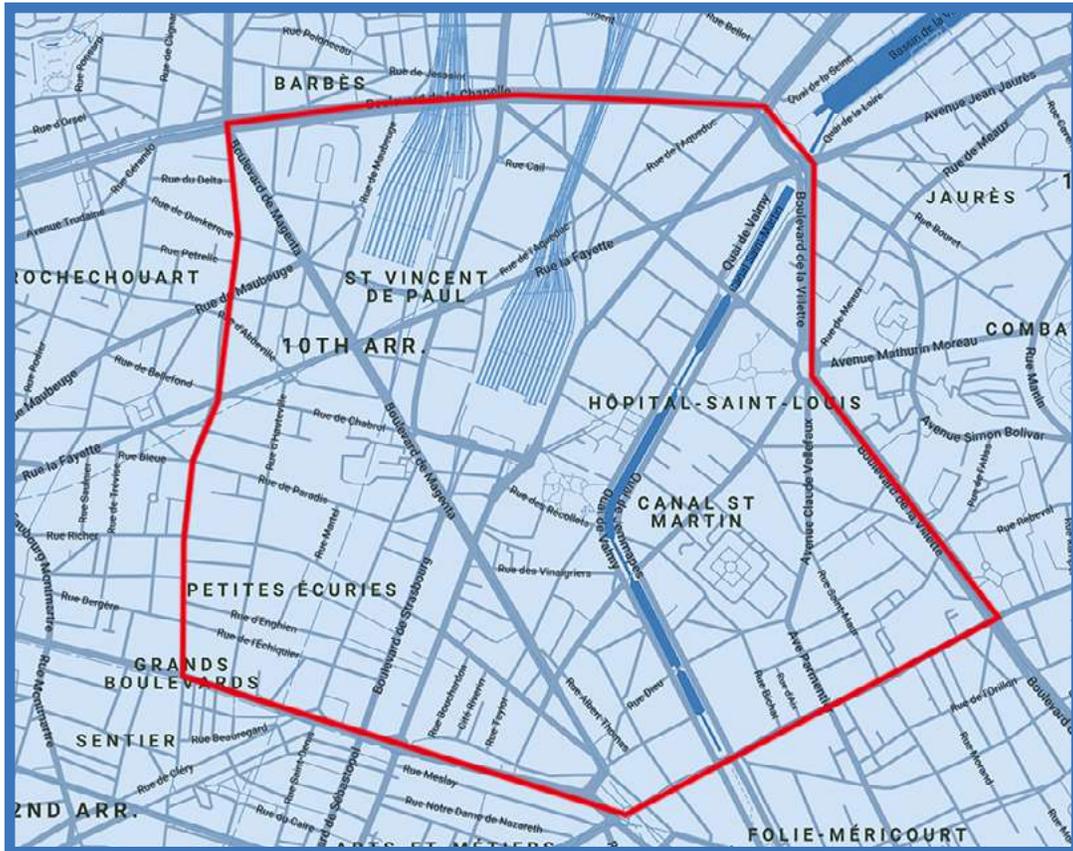
Address: 64 Rue Jean-Baptiste Pigalle, 75009

Do you like Paris curiosities?

Every so often, the team at Lucien Paris auction house sell off amazing collections of Paris memorabilia. It's everything from ancient street signs, Paris lampposts, metro seats, and paintings. And once, the head auctioneer took me around the display room to show us all what was on offer.

[Member-only link watch here](#)

The Hipster Tenth



It's no secret that the hipsters of Paris unite in the tenth arrondissement, attracted like moths to the flame of the Canal Saint-Martin. But don't worry, there are some classics in here too for those who prefer the Paris of yesteryear.

Avoid the crocodiles...



Stroll along the Canal Saint-Martin. If you're lucky enough to be in Paris in the summer, you'll find countless young locals flocking to the canal side for a picnic and a bottle of wine. Why not do the same? Just be warned:

There may be crocodiles in the water.

Find the Paris gateways

See the old gateway arches to Paris. There are four of these in the city, and two are practically right next to each other on the Boulevard Saint Martin. These arches are remnants of King Charles V and once marked the entry passage into Paris when the city was a lot smaller. The other two arches are the Arc de Triomphe, of course, and another at the eastern end of the Jardin des Tuileries.

A hipster cocktail bar: Copperbay

This place feels new, clean, cool and hip - all at once. Not to mention the unusual bit downstairs, about which I shall reveal no more. And it has a secret menu. Ask for it on a quiet night and discover it on your own.

Address: 5 Rue Bouchardon, 75010 Paris

A bar like no other: Comptoir Général

The Comptoir Général is hidden behind a nondescript alleyway. Even if you're not in the mood for a night out, you've got to head inside to see it. It's an African-themed bar with an enormous wooden boat inside.

Address: 80 Quai de Jemmapes, 75010 Paris

Musee de l'Eventail

Here's something off the beaten track! The fan museum is a delight tucked away in what was once a (huge) Paris apartment. It's a functioning atelier too, meaning you'll likely see people making the hand-held fans as you explore the museum.

Address: 2 Bd de Strasbourg, 75010

Coffee for a stroll

Ten Belles has just reopened after a serious makeover. It's twice as big as before and just as lovely. Perfect place to grab a takeaway coffee to drink beside the canal.

Address: 10 Rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 Paris

Crispiest croissants

Head to Du Pain et Des Idées, which according to past guest David Lebovitz is where to go if you like your croissants crispy and crunchy.

Address: 34 Rue Yves Toudic, 75010 Paris

Pancakes at Holybelly

The new Holybelly has become an institution. Believe the hype, but be prepared to wait in line for your pancakes. They have the original restaurant down the road at number 19.

Address: 5 Rue Lucien Sampaix, 75010 Paris

Further listening: Hear Holybelly's Nico talking about coffee, brunch, and Paris here.

Bouillon Julien

This restaurant's interior is an art nouveau wonder of Paris. A truly beautiful old brasserie with surprisingly affordable food. Go for the experience, rather than the dinner, and you'll be satisfied.

Address: 16 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, 75010

Two VERY hidden bars

Baranaan

In an Indian-themed tea room, ask if you can step into the back room. They'll lead you into a dark bar where the walls have TVs showing what you might see out a window on a train in India. Escape Paris with a drink in hand.

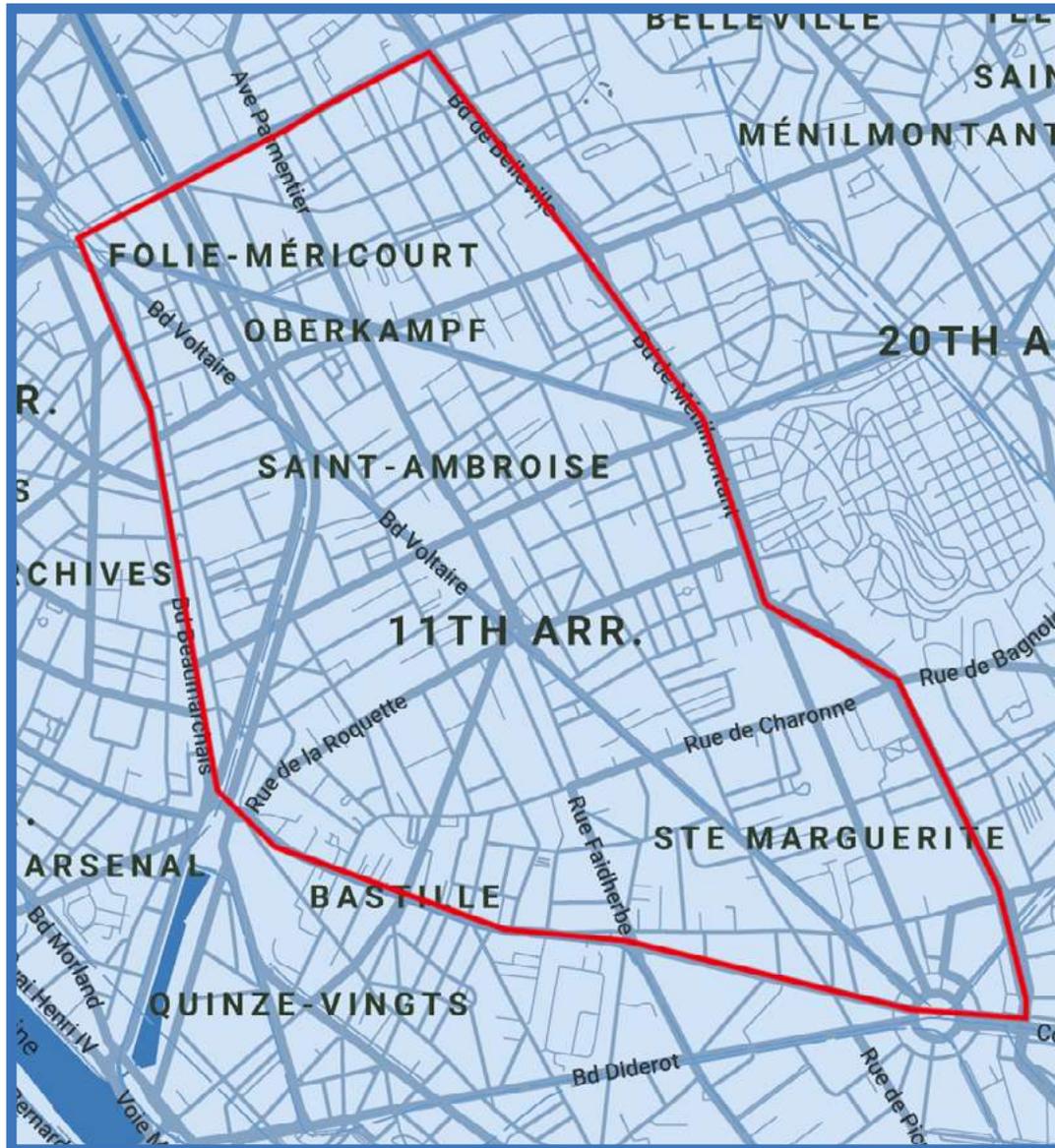
Address: 7 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Martin, 75010 Paris

Lavomatic

It feels like you're in a typical laundromat, until you open up a washing machine by pressing the start button. The whole wall opens and you'll find a staircase going up to a cocktail bar.

Address: 30 Rue René Boulanger, 75010 Paris

The Trendy Eleventh



If you've never been to the 11th then you better hurry. It can't be trendy forever. New restaurants and cafes are opening by the dozens. Now, there aren't many tourist attractions here, but it's a top notch spot to explore - especially if you're hungry or in the mood for a coffee.

Paris with the birds at Perchoir rooftop

Admire Paris from the Perchoir rooftop bar. The bar itself is harder to find than you might think. There are no signs. Head to the address above and walk inside the courtyard, then take the elevator to the top floor. Be sure to look at the view from the bathrooms too.

Address: 14 Rue Crespin du Gast, 75011 Paris

Ateliers des Lumières

Opened in 2018, this is one of the newest museums in Paris and it's well worth a visit. You can see classical works of art from the likes of Dali, Van Gogh and Cezanne projected on the expansive industrial museum walls. You've not experienced a museum like this before.

Address: 38 Rue Saint-Maur, 75011

Relax at Square Maurice-Gardette

Another intimate garden, this is a leafy public square with large trees, benches, and a dedicated court for boules, a favourite French pastime.

Grab a takeaway coffee from the nearby Beans on Fire.

Address: 2 Rue du Général Blaise, 75011 Paris

Prohibition era at Moonshiner

Pass through a busy pizzeria, go through an unmarked door, and you'll get into a passageway with a refrigerated area. Keep going, it gets dark and sexy real quick, you'll feel you're back in the prohibition era. You can even find cocktails in a flask hidden in a hollowed-out book.

Address: 5 Rue Sedaine, 75011 Paris

Shop like a local at Richard Lenoir

Richard Lenoir markets. These markets are just off Place de Bastille and are open on Thursdays and Sundays. There, you can find everything you can imagine. You might even bump into chef David Lebovitz...

See the cool kids on Rue Saint Maur

The 11th is changing by the day, and this street is a really good example of it happening before your eyes. There are lots of cool bars and cafes, but also more traditional shops and bistros all fighting for your attention. Stroll from one end to the other and keep your eyes peeled for interesting side streets.

Brilliant brunch at Cafe Méricourt



22 Rue de la Folie Méricourt, 75011 Paris

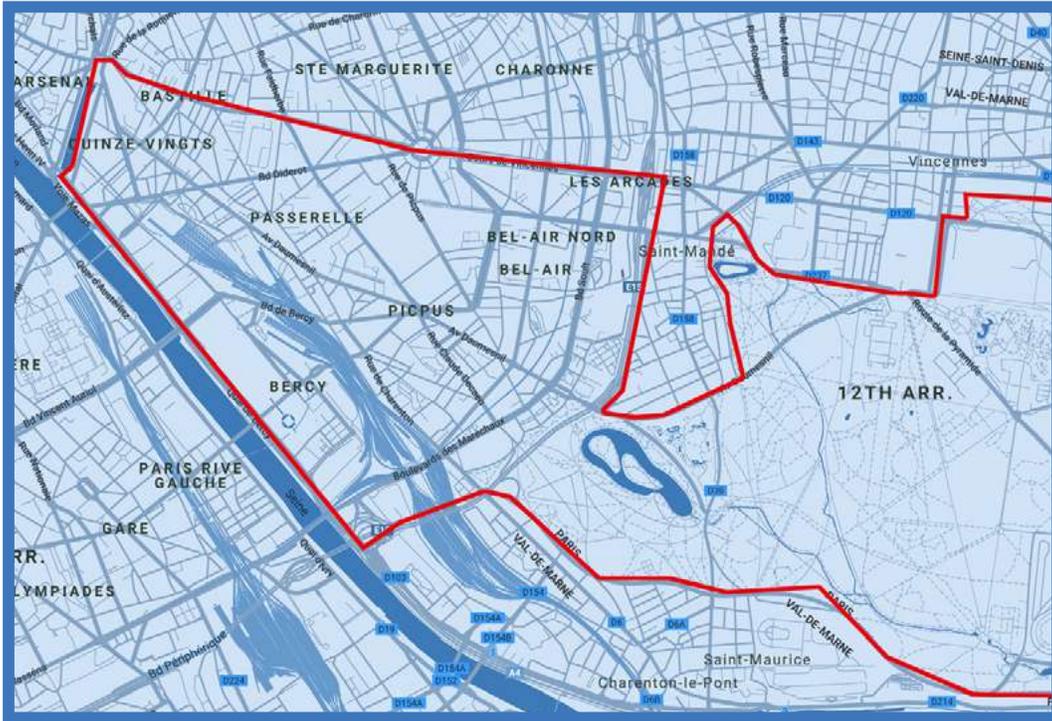
The cafe is filled with natural light from the windows and also from the owner, Guy. The coffee is top-of-the-range and the meals are delicious and beautiful.

Explore the hidden passageways of the 11th arrondissement



The 11th is full of old alleyways which were once teeming with artisans. Furniture makers, frame fixers, handymen and more. Nowadays, the passages are still there, but it's often residents or office workers inside the buildings. If you know where to look, you'll find stunning oases of calm and sometimes an artisan from today plying their trade. A good one to start at is Passage de l'Homme. [Here are our full findings](#) and many more pictures. If you're a Patreon member, [here's](#) a video showcasing these passages.

The Fresh Twelfth



Why call it the Fresh 12th? Well, because this arrondissement boasts the freshest air, thanks to the lungs of the city at the massive Bois de Vincennes forest at the city edge. There's also fresh air on the elevated walkway - and plenty of fresh fruit at one of the most popular markets in town.

Bois de Vincennes

Some might argue that this park isn't in the 12th as it's on the other side of the Périphérique (the ring road that surrounds Paris). But while it may be outside of the city, it's still technically part of the 12th. Others would argue that it's a forest, not a park, and they're technically right too. But it's just so beautiful with the lakes, boats, and weeping willow trees that it deserves top billing on this list.

While you're there don't forget to find the [abandoned human zoo](#).

A very local market

The [Aligre markets](#) which are open every day except Monday. This was the top market tip when chef David Lebovitz was on the show. He said: "I arrive and look at everything, including the boxes where everything's just 50 cents. I sometimes have a glass of wine at Baron Rouge, then I go to different stands for different things, everything from oranges, herbs, baguettes, and cheese."

Address: [Rue d'Aligre et, Place d'Aligre, 75012 Paris](#)

Further listening: [Hear David tackle the A to Z of French food here](#)

Walk through the sky

Take an elevated walk at the [Promenade Plantée](#). Yes, this one inspired the one in New York. Once a railway line, this stretch was turned into a 4.5 km walk through flowers and greenery - all with a view. Find the entrance near the Bastille roundabout and keep going until you're at ground level again.

Address: [1 Coulée verte René-Dumont, 75012 Paris](#)

Hotel Paradiso

A movie-themed hotel. Each room has its own big screen, popcorn in the minibar, endless films on offer... and a rooftop cinema terrace.

Perfect if you want (or need) to chill out while in Paris

Address: [135 Bd Diderot, 75012](#)

The very best croissant

Head to Blé Sucré, according to chef David Lebovitz. “They put a bit of extra salt in their croissants, it makes you salivate a little,” he said.

Address: 7 Rue Antoine Vollon, 75012 Paris

A spooky museum

The Musée des Arts Forains is excellent! If you’ve seen *Midnight in Paris* you have seen inside one of the rooms, where Owen Wilson is dancing near the carousels.

There really is a lot to take in here, amazing that it’s not more well-known!

Address: 53 Avenue des Terroirs de France, 75012 Paris

The most colorful street in Paris

Rue Crémieux

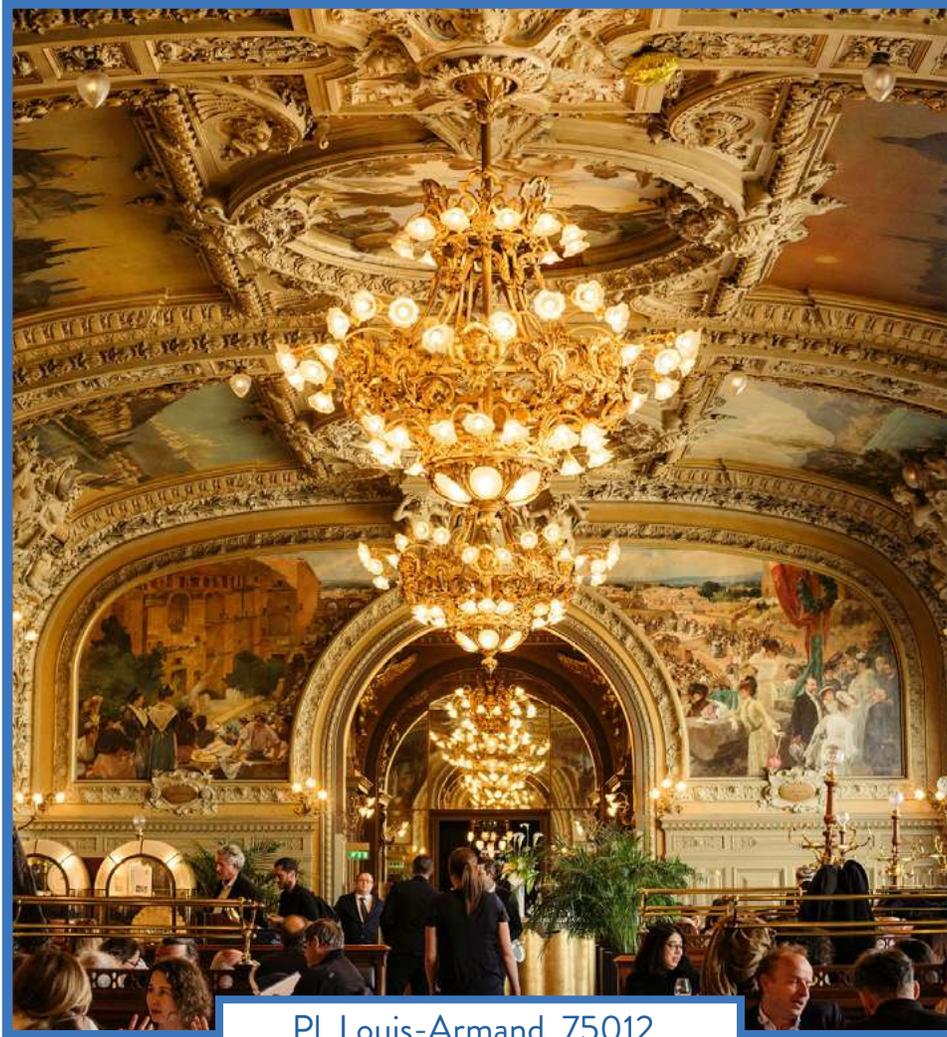
Head to the Rue Crémieux, a street west of the Gare du Lyon with the most colourful facades in the city. But be warned, the residents are getting sick of tourists and all the incessant Instagramming. Be discrete!

Ground Control

This is a massive indoor/outdoor food court with a young crowd. Laid back energy, several bars, and a wide variety of simple dining choices.

Address: 81 Rue du Charolais, 75012

Fancy some fine dining?



Pl. Louis-Armand, 75012

Le Train Bleu. An icon and nothing less. This restaurant is simply the standard by which Paris restaurant experiences should be measured. 10/10. [Here is a link](#) to more info and many more pictures from our visit.

Bartenders in boxer shorts

[Le Calbar](#) is a cosy locale where the bartenders are in their boxer shorts! The drinks were great, these guys know what they're doing.

Address: [82 Rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris](#)

Visit mini-Montmartre

Check out the Buttes Aux Cailles neighbourhood. It's unknown even to some Parisians and is referred to as a "mini-Montmartre" by those who've explored it. Expect a charming little village on a hill, crowded with a true Paris vibe, restaurants, bars, and street art on every corner.

Chinatown in Paris

Explore Chinatown in the southeastern part of the arrondissement. This is where to go to see another side of the city, brimming with fresh Asian groceries and the best restaurants for when you're done with French cuisine.

See the magnificent globes

This was the highlight of the whole district. If you head into the François-Mitterrand Library you can find the enormous Globes of Coronelli, seemingly suspended in a dark room. Each is about four metres in diameter (over 13 feet!). One shows the Earth as far as it had been explored in the 17th century, the other shows celestial star formations.

Address: Quai François Mauriac, 75706

An antique map store

Librairie Loeb Larocque – maps & books: You can only visit this shop by appointment, so plan accordingly. Untold treasures are within, including a rare example of the enormous map known as "Turgot's monumental plan of Paris".

Address: 31 Rue de Tolbiac, 75013.

Café Cayo

Check out the new kid on the block! This coffeeshop opened in 2022 and has friendly staff, great speciality coffee and a selection of cakes by the counter that hit the spot. Grab the lemon cake, you'll be in for a real treat.

Address: 9 rue du Chevaleret, 75013

A floating bar: Bateau El Alamein

This old boat features a bar downstairs and a lovely botanical display on the deck. On Monday nights it's amateur hour – where people can change the lyrics to famous French songs and sing to a very patient and friendly crowd.

Address: 10 Port de la Gare, 75013

Track down the Bievre river



Centuries ago, the river Bievre flowed through the 13th arrondissement and into the Seine. As Paris grew, the river was gradually built over, so much so that you can't find it in the city anymore. But traces of its path do still exist.

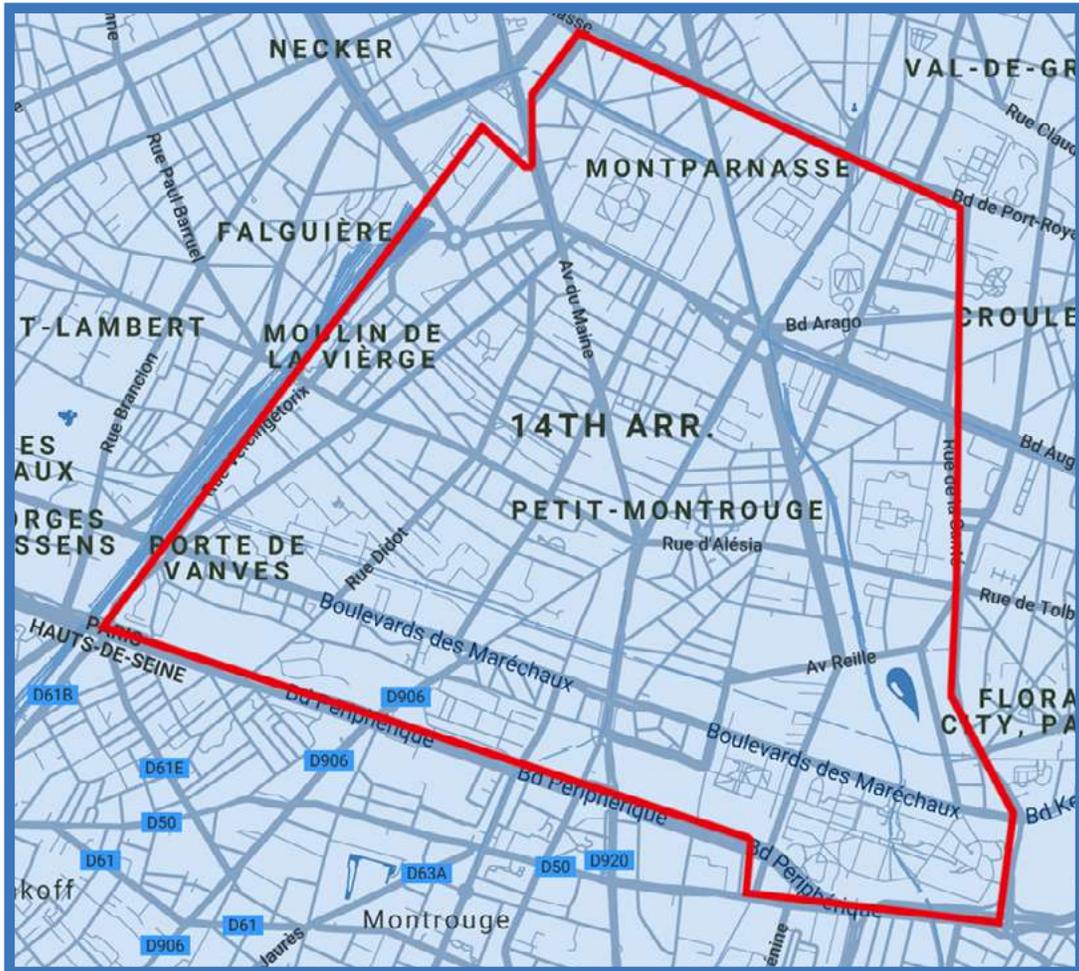
You can find medallions on the footpaths marking out its path, and some park and street signs bear the name Bievre.

OFF Paris Seine

How often do you get the chance to sleep on the Seine River?! Well here's how to do it. The Off Paris Seine is a boat hotel, featuring a built-in swimming pool. We booked the orange room. It was surreal to wake up and see the river so close, and quite relaxing to watch the trains run over the nearby bridge.

Address: 86 Quai d'Austerlitz, 75013

The Underground Fourteenth



The 14th is often avoided by tourists because it's not known for its attractions. But if you dig a little deeper underground, you'll find a whole lot of treasures. The first of which is quite far underground indeed...

Head into the catacombs

You've got to visit them when you're in Paris, unless you're claustrophobic or afraid of bones. There's a mile's worth of tunnels to see, but consider paying to skip the queue, otherwise you'll be waiting for an hour in what seems like a mile's worth of lines, no matter what time of the day you arrive.

Address: 1 Avenue du Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy, 75014 Paris

The (illegal) Catacombs

OK, this is a very hard one to find. You'd probably need to hire a guide, like I did. But it was one of the wildest experiences I had in Paris. I have been sworn to secrecy over the address, but the entrance is indeed in the 14th arrondissement.

Find Serge Gainsbourg

The Montparnasse cemetery. This is a much more manageable graveyard than the popular Père Lachaise in the 20th, and it includes the tomb of famed French singer Serge Gainsbourg, where people still leave Metro tickets in his honour to this very day. Why? Because he once sang about being a Paris ticket collector. The song: *Le poinçonneur des Lilas*.

Address: 3 Boulevard Edgar Quinet, 75014 Paris

Église Notre-Dame-du-Travail

Have you ever seen this much metal inside a church? It was stripped from one of the Universal Expositions and put to good use in this intriguing church.

Address: 59 Rue Vercingétorix, 75014

Rue des Thermopyles

What a magical alleyway. If you get this place to yourself in good weather, you'll think you're walking down some kind of quiet street in Provence.

Picturesque, quiet, quaint, and lovely.

Hotel Cabane

What's not to love? This is a gem of a hotel, where the main suite is a cabin in the woods. Well, it's a wood cabin with a private garden. You'll feel like you're somewhere in Sweden. The staff members are incredibly friendly and the common areas are tastefully designed. Perfectly located for exploring the 14th.

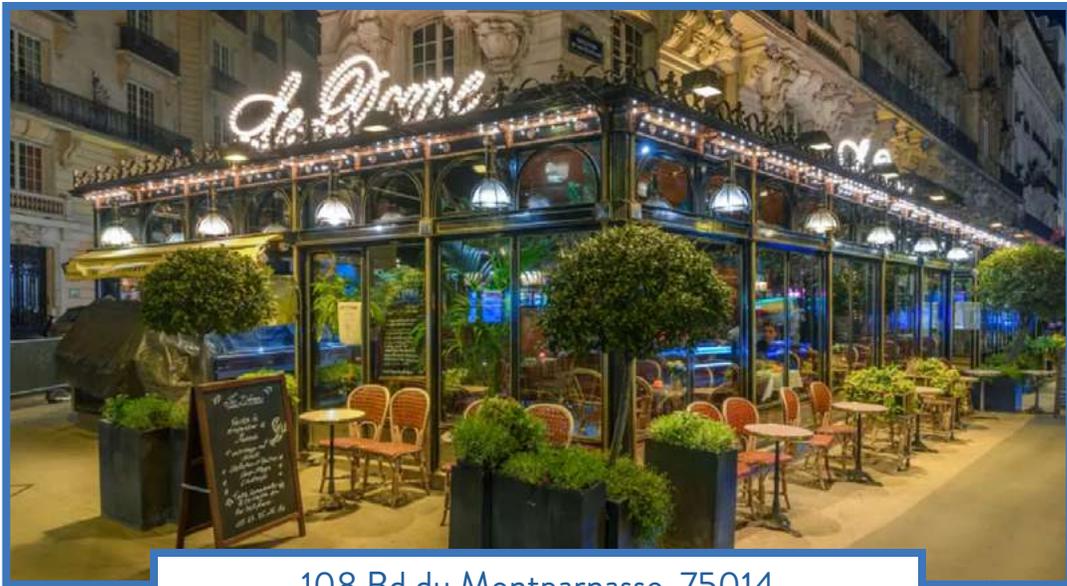
Address: [76 Rue Raymond Losserand, 75014](#)

Reflect over a drink: Rosebud

It's an old classic French bar where all the philosophers used to hang out - and it hasn't changed a bit.

Address: [11 Rue Delambre, 75014 Paris](#)

Le Dôme



[108 Bd du Montparnasse, 75014](#)

This iconic restaurant still has the charm. You can't get a full meal for a dollar like you could in the golden days of Hemingway and Picasso, but the seafood menu is a treat and the interior is charming. Read a lot more about our visit and see more of the interior here.

Village charm at Square Montsouris

It's a pocket of village inside bustling Paris. It feels like an extension of the nearby Parc Montsouris, complete with townhouses and greenery.

La Coupole

We may have visited this place too late at night (100 years too late, according to the podcast...) but if you want to tick this off the bucket list, you may as well look inside and have a coffee or a dessert, as we did.

Address: 102 Bd du Montparnasse, 75014

Hexagon Cafe

Good coffee on a quiet street – and they roast it too.
Take a coffee to go and say hello to Jacobo next door.

Address: 121 Rue du Château, 75014

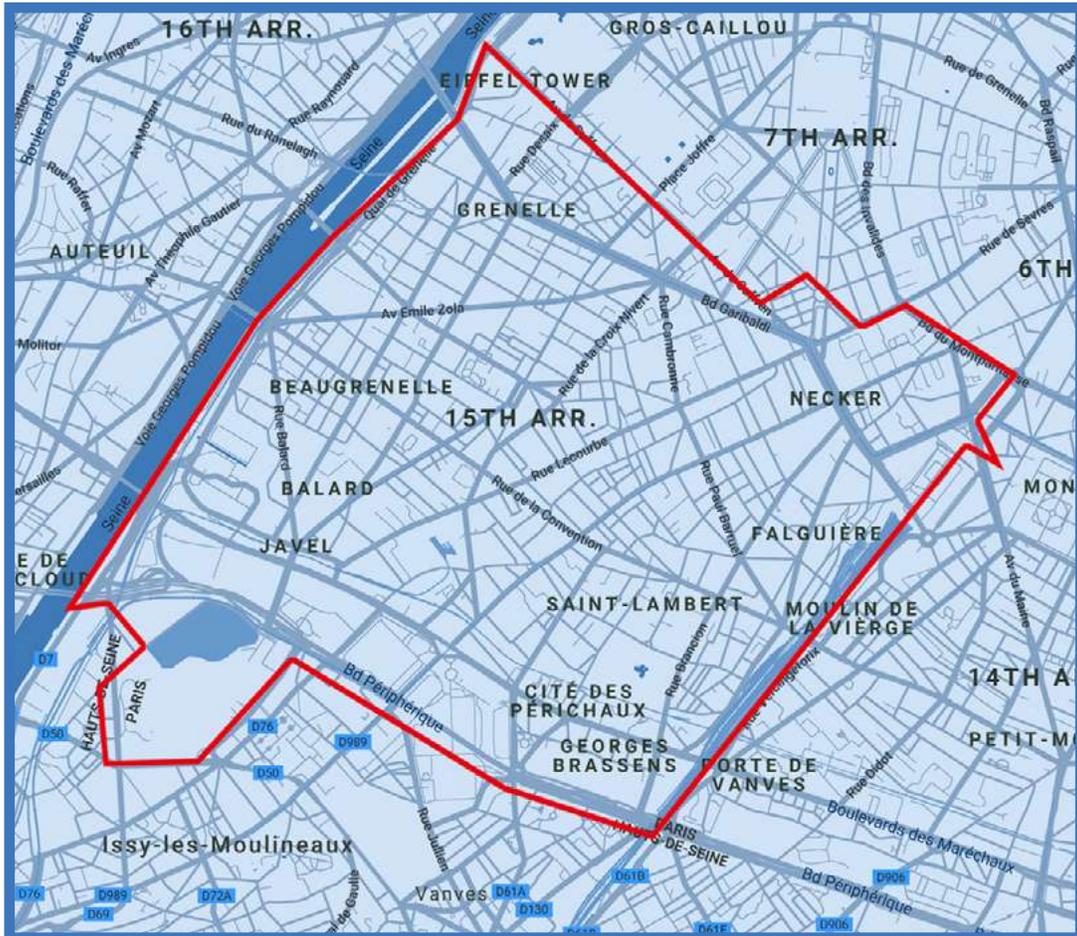
Shop like a local

Take in the street market on Rue Daguerre. Loads of fresh food, plenty of colourful markets and characters, and a real authentic Paris experience.

Take a leisurely walk

Stroll through Parc Montsouris. This park's sloping, tree-lined lawns are the perfect getaway for those in search of greenery. On sunny days, the park is brimming with picnickers, sunbathers and locals kicking footballs around. Don't forget to check out the pond, complete with ducks and a positively regal pair of black swans.

The Charming Fifteenth



This is the most populated arrondissement in the city and it's positively enormous. Luckily for you, there's no need to spend too much time in this district because it's mostly residential.

Paris with a view

33 Avenue du Maine, 75015 Paris

Montparnasse Tower. Go to the Ciel de Paris bar at the top for an amazing view of the city and the Eiffel Tower, but be prepared to pay up for the drinks. If you're not in the mood for a cocktail, there's a viewing platform at the very top of the building, though you'll have to pay for that too. Many say this tower is a monstrosity to look at, but you can't beat the view from the top.

Find Lady Liberty

Find the huge Statue of Liberty on the Île aux Cygnes. This island makes for an excellent walk, and you'll be rewarded with a massive Liberty at the far end at the Pont de Grenelle. There are many more Lady Liberties to find in Paris, [here's the full list](#).

Vegemite and coffee: O'Coffeeshop

A specialty coffee shop and canteen that serves up delicious salads, sandwiches and soups alongside devastatingly good desserts and top rate coffee.

Address: 23 Rue de Lourmel, 75015 Paris

Good News Coffee Shop

Also Aussie-run and Aussie owned, this place is a bright escape from daily life and the food and coffee are top notch.

Address: 27 bis Rue Mademoiselle, 75015 Paris

Mindboggling views: The Pullman Hotel

I still don't understand how no one knows this place, right at the top of the Pullman Hotel. Absolutely unbelievable views of the Eiffel Tower from just across the road. My tip: Go for sunset and a bottle of wine. It's very reasonably priced up there.

Address: 18 Avenue De Suffren, 75015

A taste of Hollywood

Bir-Hakeim Bridge. This bridge was featured in movies like Last Tango in Paris and Inception. Nowadays you're likely to find brides and supermodels all along the bridge, making the most of the phenomenal backdrop.

Unexpected treasure: Bourdelle museum

Visit the old studio of French sculptor Antoine Bourdelle to see what is now an intriguing museum with huge sculptures in marble, bronze, and plaster. Nowhere near the crowds you'd find in Paris's other big museums.

Address: 18 Rue Antoine Bourdelle, 75015 Paris

Vineyards and bees

There's a mini vineyard in the Parc Georges-Brassens that even took me by surprise. And if that's not enough to rock your socks, there are also beehives right next to the vines!

Cafe du Commerce

Charming waiters, a fun interior stretched over three levels, and steeped in local history. No visit to the 15th is complete without a dinner here.

Address: 51 Rue du Commerce, 75015

Poilâne Tour Eiffel

The bread and pastry even look amazing – but they taste even better. The pictures below are from one of their bakeries in this neighbourhood, the other one is by the Georges Brassens park and looked wonderful too.

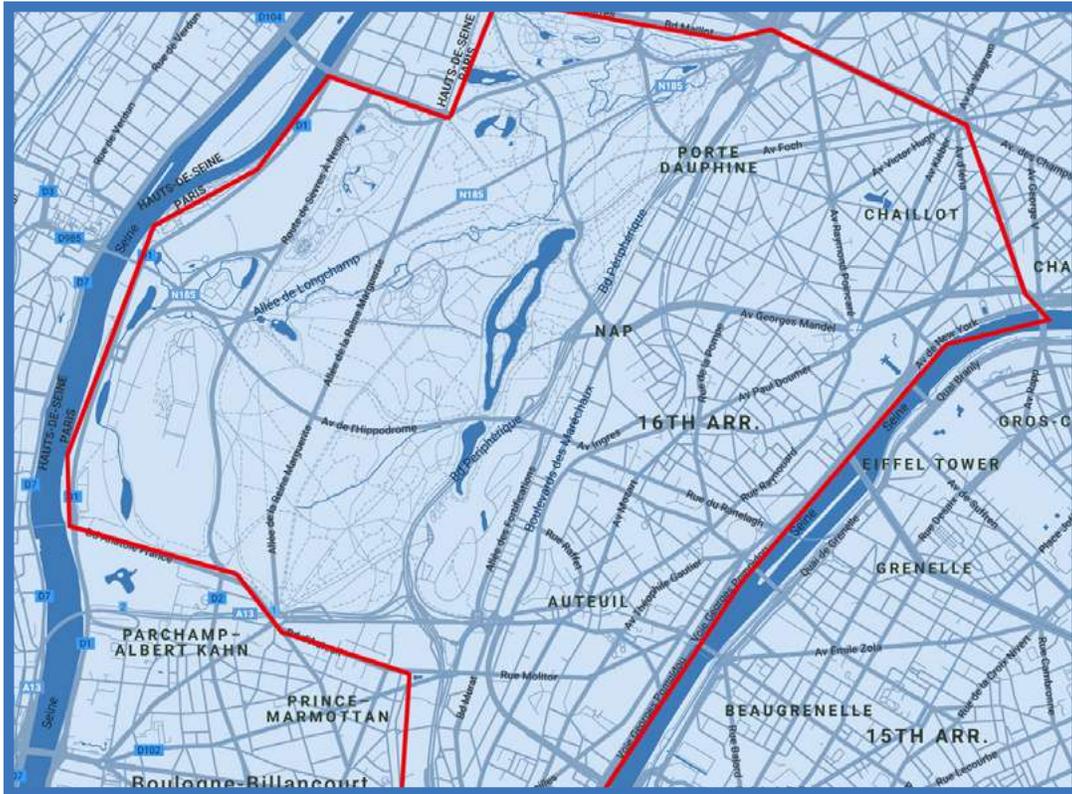
Address: 49 Bd de Grenelle, 75015

Ballon de Paris

If there's no wind you can fly this helium balloon way up over Paris. It goes straight up (on a tether), offers incredible views, then comes down again.

Address: Parc André Citroën, 75015

The Posh Sixteenth



This is the kind of arrondissement where you're likely to find grand old buildings, fancy cars, broad boulevards, and a surprising amount of greenery. Wear your nicest clothes if you hope to be mistaken for a local.

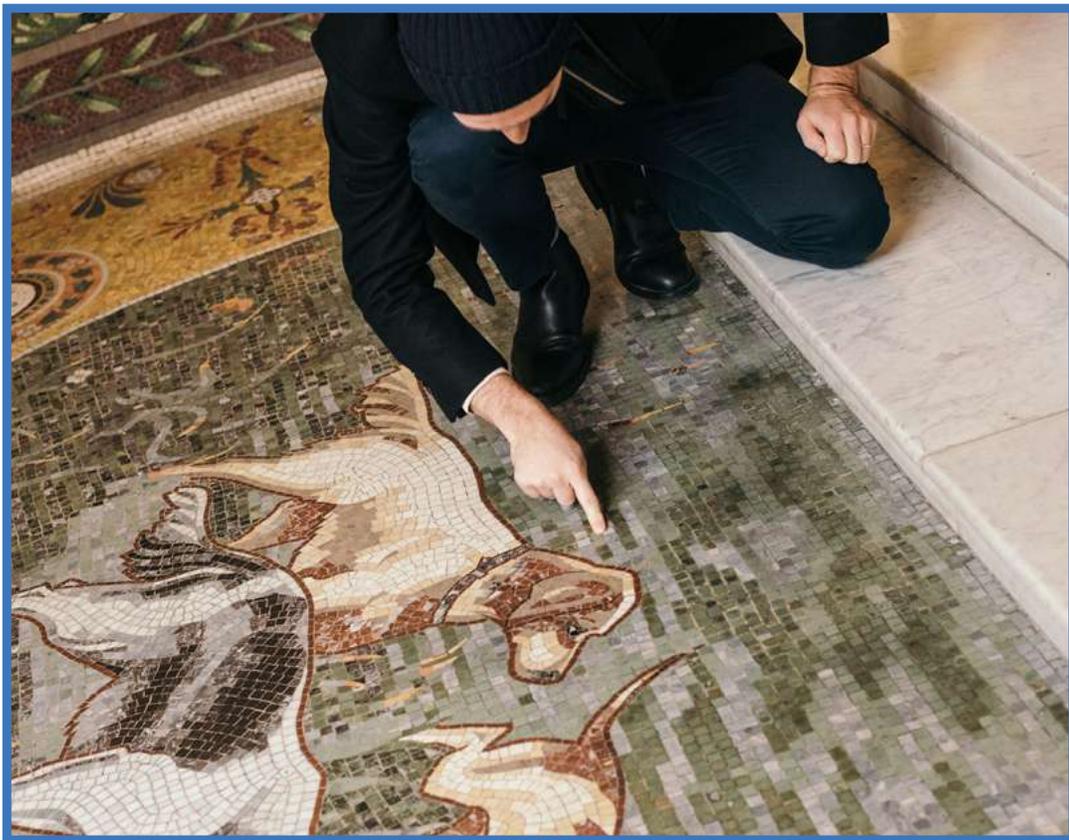
Find Hector Guimard's architecture

Guimard did a lot of the art nouveau work you see in Paris, like the cast iron Metro station entrances. He was prolific for his buildings in the 16th, so be sure to seek out more. The Castel Beranger is perhaps the most famous, and with the help of a local tour guide I tracked it all down on video.

[Way more pictures, the video and a scroll for members here.](#)

Address: [14 Rue Jean de la Fontaine, 75016 Paris](#)

Dare to find the mosaics



Find the remarkable mosaics in private lobbies. OK, OK, you shouldn't be poking your heads into people's private homes, but often they have glass doors at the entrance and you can see the glorious interiors from the street. The best of all the mosaics are on rue Jasmine. A kind lady let me inside the apartment block at number 4 where I found the dog mosaic pictured above.

Visit the library bar at Hotel Saint James

This place is said to be the only chateau hotel in Paris - walking through those massive entrance gates will take your breath away. Prepare to be breathless once again when you enter the hotel and turn left into the library bar.

The 2019-2021 redesign of the hotel, headed by architect Laura Gonzalez, changed the face of this bar too, and you'll now find Iranian-patterned rugs and Indian cashmeres on display along with the leather-bound books, winding staircase, and the beautiful coffered ceiling.

The perfect spot for a romantic date night.

Address: 5 Place du Chancelier Adenauer, 75116 Paris

Boutique shopping: Rue de Passy

An excellent street for shopping, but also for the views of domed buildings with the Eiffel Tower in the background. Be sure to find the covered market with a must-experience oyster and wine bar.

Sourire Hotel

This is a lovely and charming boutique hotel in an excellent location. There are only five rooms and the owner, Ilhame, will welcome you like family. The breakfast was a delight, the rooms were tastefully designed, and the common rooms were beautiful.

Address: 29 Rue des Marronniers, 75016 Paris

Andia

This building was once a train station on the petite ceinture railway line. The diners sit where the tracks once ran, there are even tables on the “platforms”, and the ticket booths are now chef’s kitchens and bars. And a wonderful light fills the room from the glass ceiling. The food was excellent and the staff was exceptional. We loved it.

Address: 19 Chau. de la Muette, 75016

La Rotonde

An elegant brasserie in a beautiful building. Very Parisian vibe, with the interior decked out in wood and Versailles marble, and with top notch food to match.

Address: 12 Chau. de la Muette, 75016

The Bois de Boulogne

This is technically outside the city limits, just like the Bois de Vincennes in the 12th, but it’s equally impressive. Huge lakes, picnicking couples and families, and an amazing set of flower gardens seemingly at every turn. Hire a rowboat and really explore that lake. Just remember to bring cash for the ride and the 50-euro deposit! Are you a Patreon member yet? Join me and some friends for a boat right in this very lake, [here](#).

Museum of Modern Art

If you’re a fan of modern art, you can take in a whopping 15,000 works at the city’s Museum of modern art. It’s always free to enter the permanent collections, or click [here](#) for the latest info on new events and exhibitions.

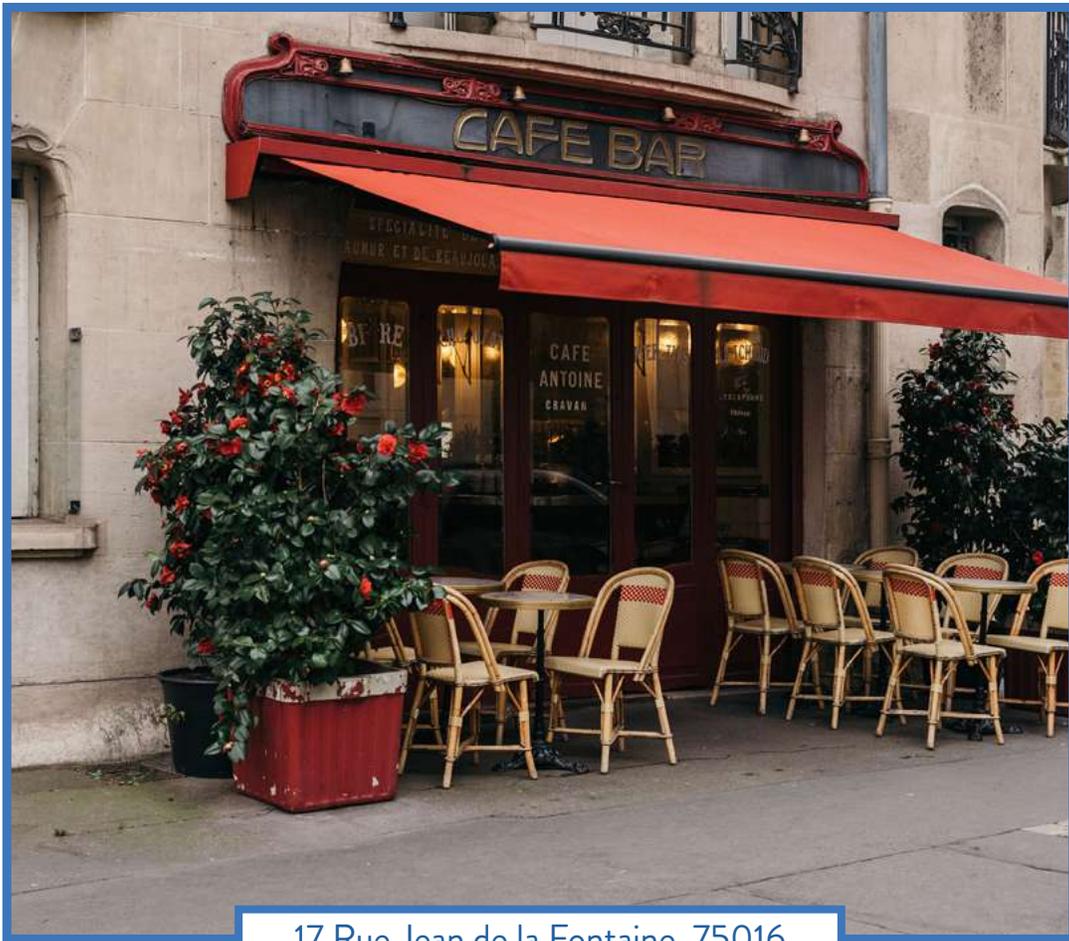
Address: 11 Avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris

Be impressed by Impressionism

The Musée Marmottan Monet, which specializes in the paintings from the French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements, with works by Monet, Gauguin, Degas, and more. The museum has the original Monet painting that gave rise to impressionism.

Address: 2 Rue Louis Boilly, 75016 Paris

Cravan



17 Rue Jean de la Fontaine, 75016

This bar is a real treat: both visually and when it comes to its cocktails. You can find it inside an art nouveau building that dates back to 1911 – the cocktails are modern and equally impressive, read more about it here in our blog post.

Maison de Balzac

The extremely rare combination of garden and a home-turned-museum in Paris. Bonus: Eiffel Tower views and a cute cafe on site. This museum is cool even if you don't know anything about Honoré de Balzac. Don't miss his cane and the sketches from Picasso.

Address: 47 Rue Raynouard, 75016

Musée Clemenceau

Featuring perhaps the best wooden desk you'll find in Europe, this museum is the former home of Georges Clemenceau, a man who was the French prime minister, a writer, and a huge fan of the arts. Tastefully curated museum, and likely to be much emptier than Palais de Tokyo, for example.

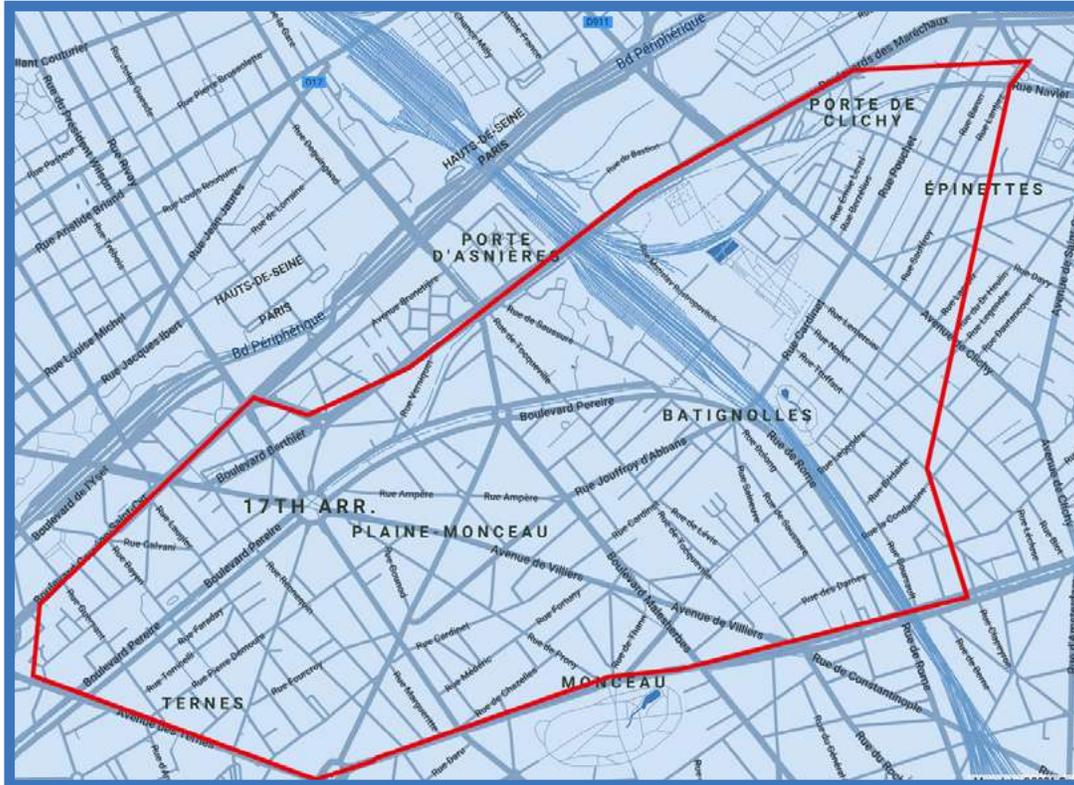
Address: 8 Rue Benjamin Franklin, 75116

Noir: Victor Hugo

Be sure to pop into this funky cafe for some good coffee and their generously sized cookies. They opened up in 2022 and are already a 'must stop coffee spot' in the 16th.

Address: 8 Rue Benjamin Franklin, 75116

The Resident's Seventeenth



If you're geared up for some serious tourist action, leave the 17th alone. Most tourists here are lost. It's mainly a residential spot, but there are still a few cool things to find.

Mamma Primi



18 Rue Boursault, 75017

Part of the famed Mamma group, this restaurant is cool and the staff were all on their A-game. Wonderful food, excellent ambience.

L'Ambre Bar

The owner, Kevin, used to run the bar at the luxury Crillon hotel but took his talents to start this chic cocktail bar in 2012. Classic drinks in a bar with a wild history (ask why there's a peephole in the front door) When I asked him which cocktail matches the 17th arrondissement, he said it would be a Bourbon Old Fashioned, made very woody. "Because people know what they like to drink, you have this whole woody old-fashioned way of living in Paris, with these old buildings close to classical things..."

Address: 29 Rue Brunel, 75017

The English gardens

Check out the Square des Batignolles, a former freight yard that was redesigned into a “naturalistic” garden. This means they made it to look as if it was untouched by the hand of man, when in reality there’s nothing accidental in the layout.

Address: 144bis Rue Cardinet, 75017 Paris

Revive yourself with a Dose

Cosy setting in the heart of the Batignolles area, with friendly staff and tasty coffee. What more do you need?

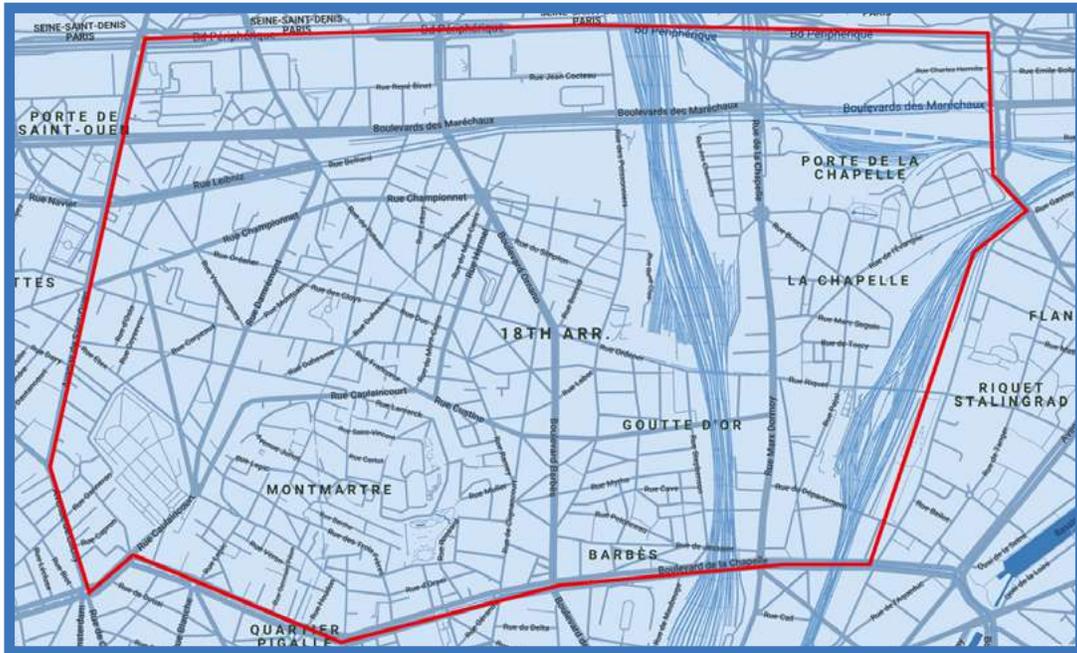
Address: 82 Place du Dr Félix Lobligeois, 75017 Paris

The neighbourhood pub: Lush Bar

This is a small pub in a great neighborhood for meeting the locals. Expect occasional pub quizzes (in French), chatting among tables, and free shots if you tip the bartenders.

Address: 16 Rue des Dames, 75017 Paris

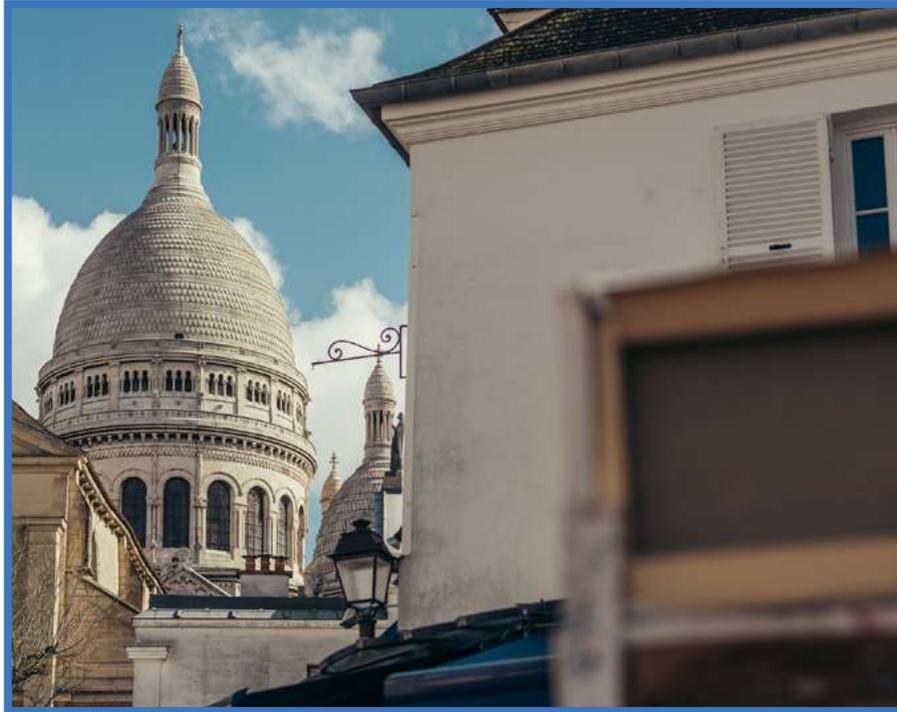
The Artist's Eighteenth



The 18th is best known for Montmartre, Paris's own little village. Stop here if you're looking for old-school Paris, cobbled winding streets, artists on the street, well-dressed waiters serving expensive drinks, and charm oozing out of every inch of space.

Fun Fact: I lived here in 2019-2020, read on for some insider secrets.

The Sacré-Cœur Cathedral



This cathedral is simply breathtaking. Most people can be happy to just admire it from the outside, but pop your head in for a closer look. If you're feeling full of energy, pay the admission and head to the very top - but you've been warned, there's no elevator.

Address: 35 Rue du Chevalier de la Barre, 75018 Paris

Can you can-can?

Does the idea of a pink feather boa tickle your fancy? Then head inside the Moulin Rouge! The iconic red windmill is a popular tourist destination - and most visitors only look at it from the outside. Don't make the same mistake, book a ticket and have some fun. Hear podcast guest Amanda Chapman talk about her life as a Moulin Rouge showgirl here.

Address: 82 Boulevard de Clichy, 75018 Paris

Hidden bar: Très Particulier

It's a hidden garden bar in a hotel particulier. Even if you're just here for the brunch, go downstairs to see this bar.

Address: Hôtel Particulier Montmartre, 23 Avenue Junot, 75018 Paris

Best local cafe: Sylon

Sylon de Montmartre has mega-friendly staff, good coffee, and a cosy atmosphere to rival all coffee shops in Paris.

Address: 4bis Rue Piemontesi, 75018 Paris

See Also: The 18th is also home to Little Africa, a goldmine of culture and delicious food, [listen to an episode all about it here.](#)

The lobby to end all lobbies



43 bis rue Damrémont, 75018 Paris

I stumbled on this amazing lobby by accident. It's filled with colorful ceramic murals that depict charming scenes from the golden years of Montmartre by local artist Poulbot. For more pictures, [click here.](#)

My favourite street: Rue des Abbesses

This street is the best in the neighbourhood, at least according to me. More cafe and bar terraces than you could count, local shops, butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers. It's the best village vibe that you might find in the whole city, too. Walk one end to the other and you'll find all sorts of treasures.

Here's what it looked like under the first snow of winter, 2019.

[Join the 10,000 people who watched on Facebook.](#)

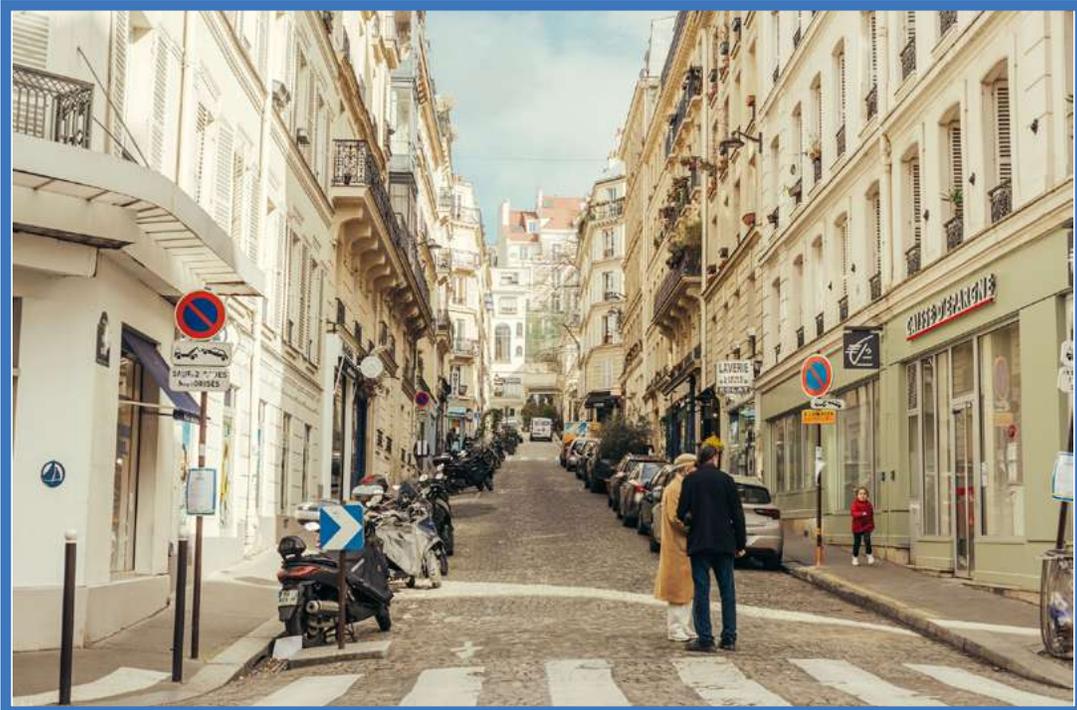
Le Moulin de la Galette



[83 Rue Lepic, 75018](#)

OK this isn't something you'd find in the Michelin guide, but the ambience is lovely, the waiters are on their A game, and the setting is remarkable – you're under an ancient wooden windmill in the setting of a Renoir painting!

Montmartre tips from a local (me)



Having lived in Montmartre, I've decided to go a little deeper on this neighbourhood. Here are 11 extra things to seek out.

1. Place du Tertre

Here's one of the most charming little squares in the quarter, filled to the brim with artists plying their trade in the public eye. Get your caricature sketched, buy some Paris art, or just watch those nimble paintbrushes at work.

Address: Place du Tertre, 75018 Paris

2. The Amelie Cafe

If you've not seen Amelie then you're missing out. It's basically a love letter to Montmartre. The cafe where the film is mostly set is called Le Cafe des Deux Moulins and you'll find it on rue Lepic.

Address: 15 Rue Lepic, 75018 Paris

3. Arty street near fruit shop

Find rue Androuet for a very village-like vibe, with the walls covered in impressive street art that appears to be regularly changing. Did you see my photos from when they turned this street into 1942 for a film shoot?

4. Picasso's old workshop

Head to Le Bateau Lavoir — which is nowadays just an ordinary building — but you can close your eyes and transport yourself back 100 years to when Picasso used it as his workshop. If you've got no imagination, face away from the building and enjoy an unparalleled view of the city.

Address: 7 Rue des Grands Augustins, 75006 Paris

5. Montmartre cemetery

Oh mama, this place is a must-see. Many, many locals have never stepped foot inside this cemetery and that's a grave mistake, if you'll excuse the outrageous pun. Besides the fact that you'll find intriguing gravestones (Dalida, Zola, Nijinsky), there's also a sizeable population of stray cats that have become a much loved feature of the cemetery. Listen to an episode about them here.

Address: 20 Avenue Rachel, 75018 Paris

6. Dalida statue

I mentioned Dalida above and you may have thought “Never heard of her”. Well if that's the case, brace yourself because she was an absolute icon of the music scene across the world (just not so much in English-speaking countries). She was essentially France's answer to Madonna. Anyway, check her grave at the cemetery, then rub her breast if you can find her statue at the bottom of rue l'Abreuvoir. Don't worry, everyone rubs it, it's supposed to be lucky.

Address: Rue de l'Abreuvoir, 75018 Paris, France

7. The vineyard

Did you know there's a vineyard in Montmartre?! Find it on the back side of the hill (the northern side) behind the Sacre Coeur. The vineyard is closed to the public, but I was lucky enough to get a private visit and I filmed it all [live on YouTube](#).

8. Hidden restaurant

There's a really cool restaurant hidden away in the back of a wine shop on rue des Abbesses. Just walk in like you own the place and head to the back. It's a small restaurant/bar and it's never going to win Michelin stars, but it's like a little local secret and it's good fun, even if it's very cramped.

It's called [La Cave des Abbesses, at number 43](#).

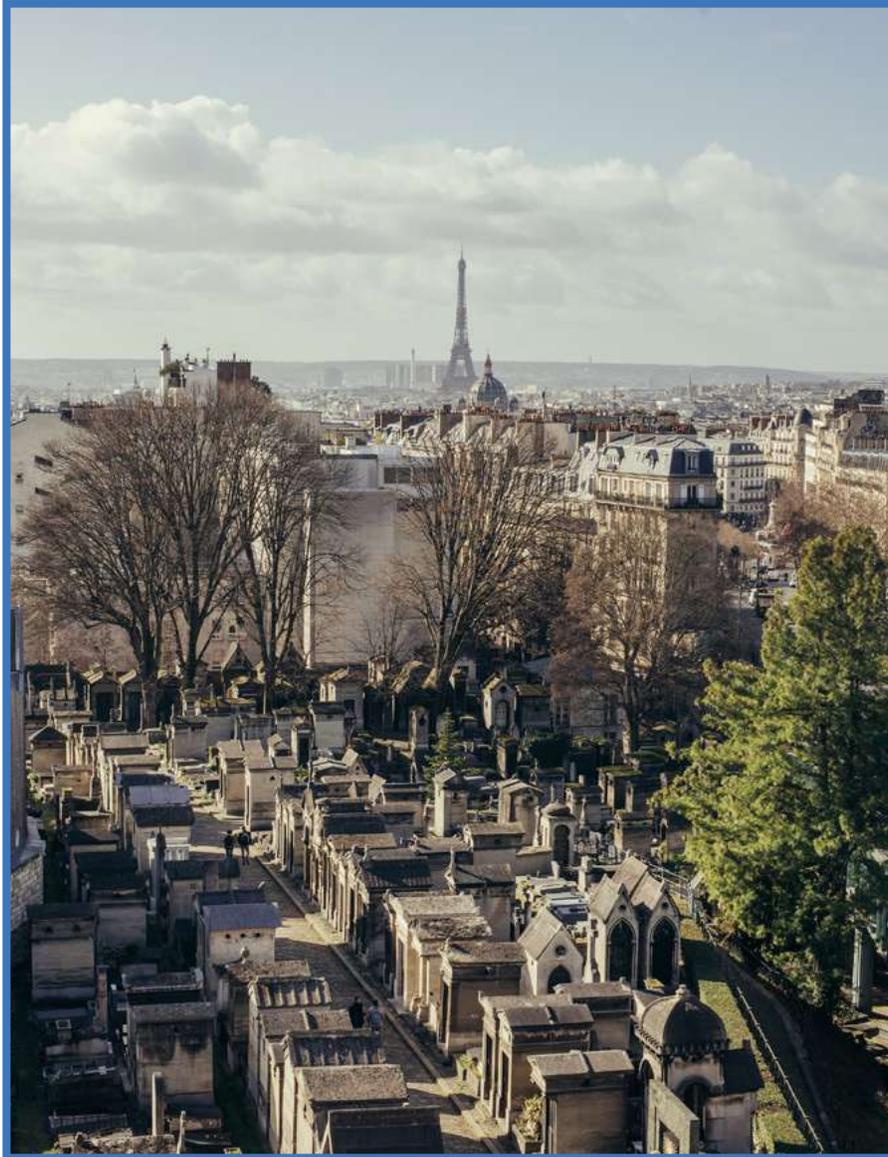
9. Van Gogh's old house

At [54 rue Lepic](#) you'll see a big blue door, behind which is a block of apartments where Van Gogh spent time crashing at his brother's pad. To be honest, it's nothing amazing to see in terms of a tourist destination, it's more one of those cool "moments in history" kind of places.

10. The hidden hotel

I shouldn't really share this. It won't be a secret anymore. But I just have to. There's a hotel particulier that you can only access by ringing a door code on a gate on avenue Junot. You'd never stumble upon it, you have to know. Ring the bell, they'll answer, then tell them you're coming for a meal, or a drink, or a brunch. They'll buzz you in and you'll find yourself in this oasis of greenery leading into the hotel, which is often rather empty (at least the restaurant). I went for a Sunday brunch and it was great. It's called "[Hotel Particulier](#)" and makes for a very memorable experience indeed. Just don't tell all your friends, please.

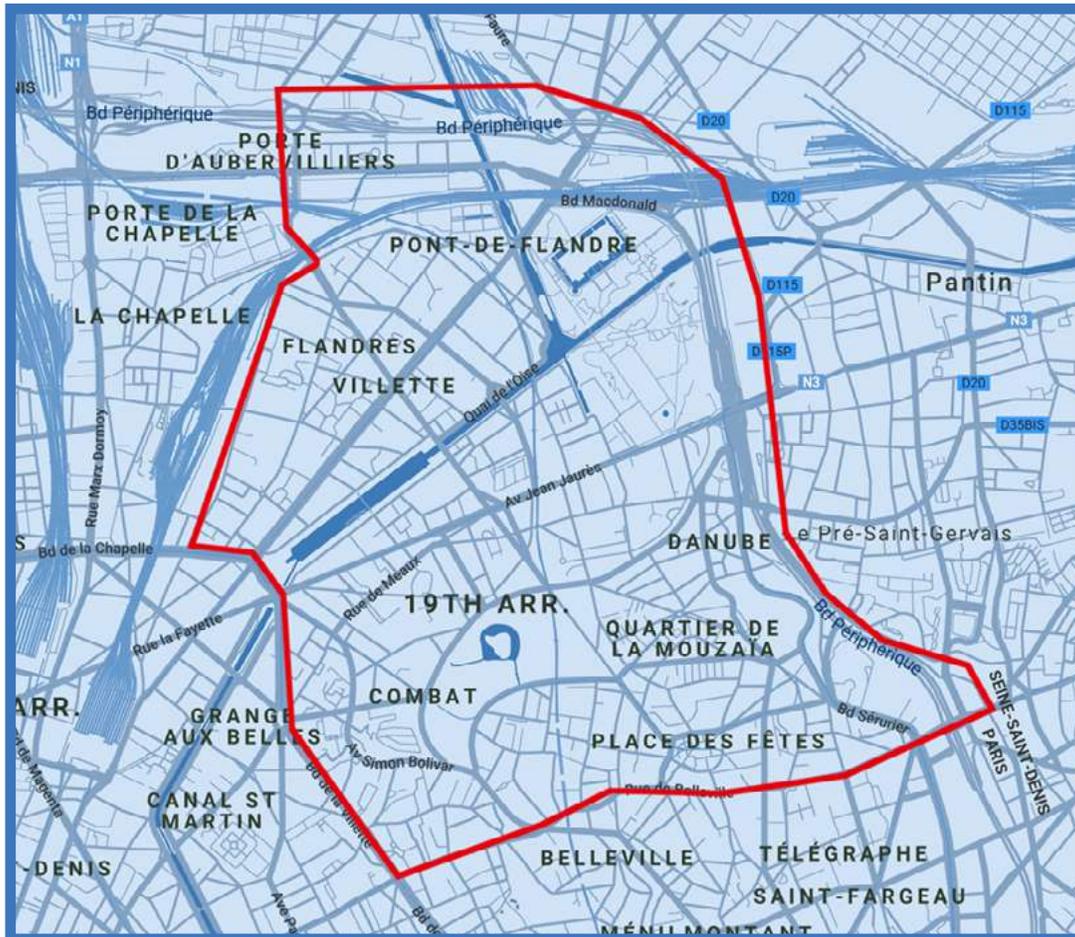
11. Top Rooftop view



Terrass Hotel. If you eat at the restaurant in the Terrass Hotel you'll dine in the clouds, taking in the 180-degree views of Montmartre and the Eiffel Tower. Listen to [this podcast episode](#) on on rooftops in Paris for the top tips for this place.

Address: 12-14 Rue Joseph de Maistre, 75018 Paris

The Up-and-Coming Nineteenth



Keep an eye on this arrondissement to the northeast of Paris, because it's quickly overtaking the 10th and 11th as the trendy place to be. But it's not quite there yet - you're more likely to find phone repair shops and ethnically diverse restaurants than Flat White coffees and men with man buns.

Walk along the Bassin de la Villette

Check out the boats anchored on the canal there, the “péniches”, some of which contain restaurants, cafes, and bookshops.

Explore the Buttes Chaumont park

Easily one of the most interesting parks in the city, complete with a waterfall, lake, and enough green space to make it impossible to find your friends for a picnic. Be sure to take in the viewpoint at the highest peak - it looks like something from an Indiana Jones film.

La Rotonde Stalingrad

This is a very happening place, both day and night. Great energy, lovely food, and the building itself dates back to the French Revolution when it was a toll gate to the city. I snuck up to those square windows at the top for the view.

Address: 6-8 Pl. de la Bataille de Stalingrad, 75019

The best brewery in town

You simply must head to the Paname Brewery. It feels like something directly out of Sydney with a sweeping terrace (it floats!), not to mention an enormous interior with friendly staff. Is that an Australian accent on the owner? Why yes, it is! Hear him on the podcast here.

Address: 41 bis Quai de la Loire, 75019 Paris

Great coffee at Kaffeebar 19

Tucked away behind the canal you'll find Kaffeebar. The perfect way to reward yourself after a long canal stroll.

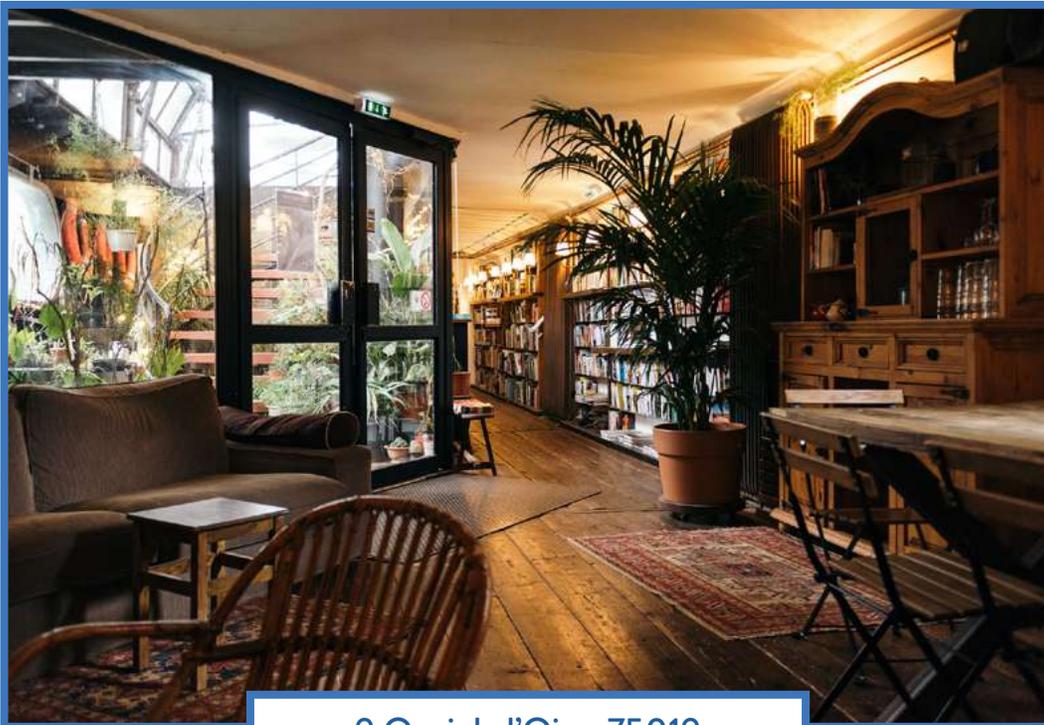
Address: 26B Rue de l'Ourcq, 75019 Paris

Philharmonie de Paris

This concert hall was wonderful. Brand new, glistening, shining, resplendent. You can get in for a show as cheaply as for €10 and it's worth it just to see the design inside. Get a good show, and you're in for a treat!

Address: 221 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019

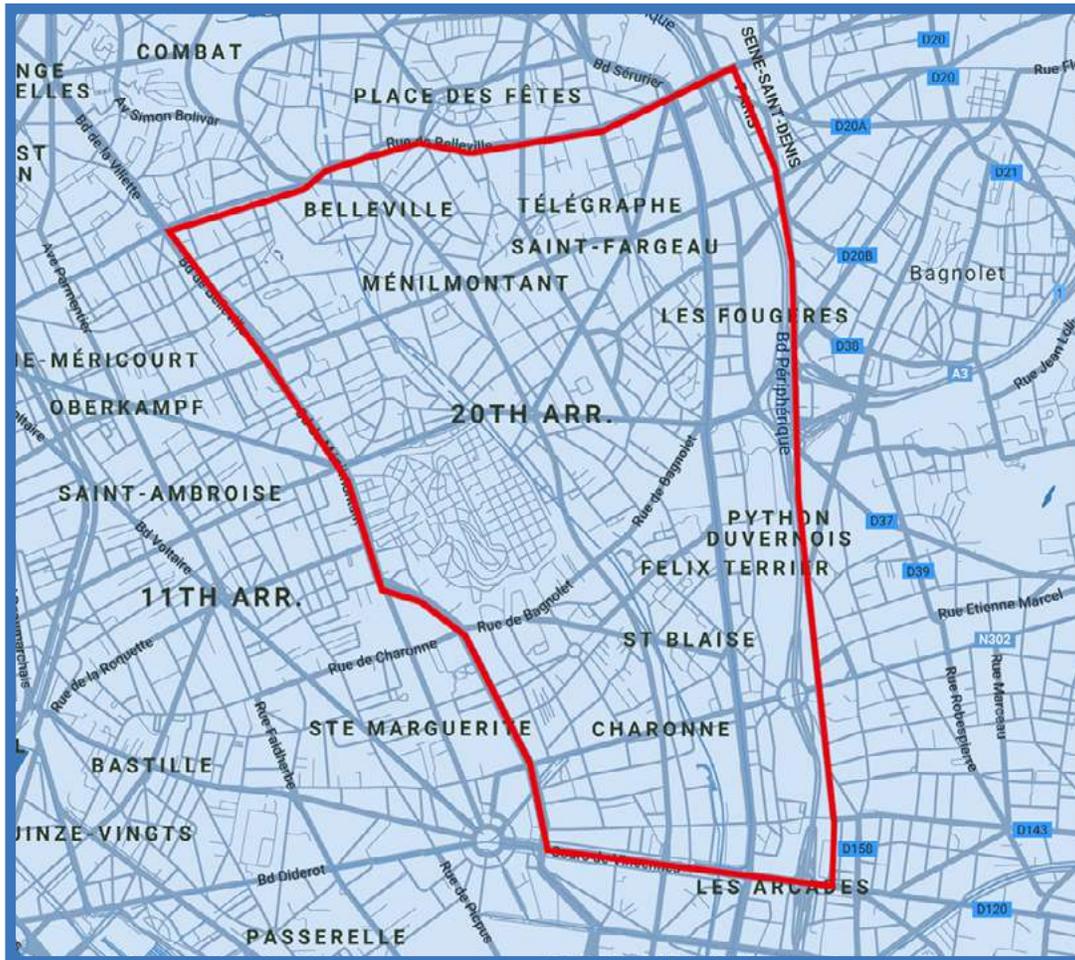
The floating bookshop!



9 Quai de l'Oise, 75019

The name is the Péniche L'Eau Et Les Rêves (The barge of water and dreams) and it specializes in books about gardening and plants. There's also a very charming cafe/restaurant in the hull. (Many more pictures of this magical place – and a full blog post – [here](#)).

The Bohemian Twentieth



Tourists typically would head to the Père-Lachaise cemetery then head back to the surefire classics of central Paris. And that's fine. But this gritty and interesting area has a lot to offer, especially for young people looking for cheaper alternatives, and endless bar opportunities at night.

Le Vieux Belleville



12 Rue des Envierges, 75020

Head here for the Edith Piaf singalong, though remember this is only on Tuesday nights. Other nights have other themes.

The Père-Lachaise cemetery

You'll see all the famous tombs—Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison, Edith Piaf—but even if you don't stop to look at the gravestones, the winding cobbled streets make for a perfect walk.

Belleville Markets

For an authentic 20th arrondissement experience, head to the Belleville Markets. It's loud, it's crowded, it's colourful - and it's surely the most multi-cultural mix of market foods you'll find in the whole country. Find them on Boulevard de Belleville, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Explore Belleville

Walk around Belleville, which not too long ago was considered by some to be the dodgy outskirts of the city, but which today is a hub for younger people looking for a lively atmosphere, cheaper food, and flowing wine. Be sure to check out the Parc de Belleville and maybe you'll find the mysterious vineyard located in the park.

The Dancing Goat

A brand new spot and by far the hippest in the hood, with friendly staff and a beautiful interior.

Address: 117 Av. Gambetta, 75020

Aux Folies

The coolest bar in the neighbourhood, grab a drink and be merry with the locals.

Address: 8 Rue de Belleville, 75020 Paris

Delightful dining at Le Grand Bain

This is from English chef Edward Delling Williams who puts on a great Sunday roast, matched by a top wine selection.

Address: 14 Rue Denoyez, 75020 Paris

Street Art

There's street art all over the place, keep looking up, backwards, over your shoulder, and even at your feet! The most concentrated collection is a bunch of murals along Rue du Retrait.

And that's it!

Well there you have it, 200+ tips,
20 arrondissements, one guide book.

Of course, this PDF wouldn't have been possible without the guests on The Earful Tower podcast, whose tips formed my own knowledge of the city.

A big thanks to Eddie Gee for creating this guide, and so much more of the finished product you see on The Earful Tower.

Finally, a HUGE thanks to the [Patreon](#) members among you. Without you guys, we'd never have got this far and I dread to think what I might be doing instead. Not a member? For \$10 a month you can unlock a universe. [Why not do it today?](#)

And don't forget to get in touch about our private walking tours. Our guides will show you Paris like you've never seen it.

Thank you... and perhaps I'll see you in Paris one day.

Oliver Gee

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