

THOMAS JONGLEZ

PARIS CONFIDENTIAL

HIDDEN GEMS
LOVED BY LOCALS



JONGLEZ PUBLISHING



01

FRENCH CHIC

Does the huge number of so-called *hôtels de charme* in the capital leave your head spinning? Are you looking for a perfectly located (in other words, not near the Champs-Élysées), typically Parisian hotel that epitomises French chic?

Here are four fabulous options.

> **Le Pavillon de la Reine** (Marais, 3rd arrondissement). Its great advantage is that it overlooks the magnificent Place des Vosges. In winter, in the entrance lounges, the fire crackles in the fireplace from breakfast through to dinner, and the space is open to outside guests. In summer, there is a very pleasant terrace in the inner courtyard, as well as a small, charming underground spa with a jacuzzi and hammam.



LE PAVILLON DE LA REINE
28, PLACE DES VOSGES
75003 PARIS



+33 1 40 29 19 19

pavillon-de-la-reine.com
contact@pdlr.fr

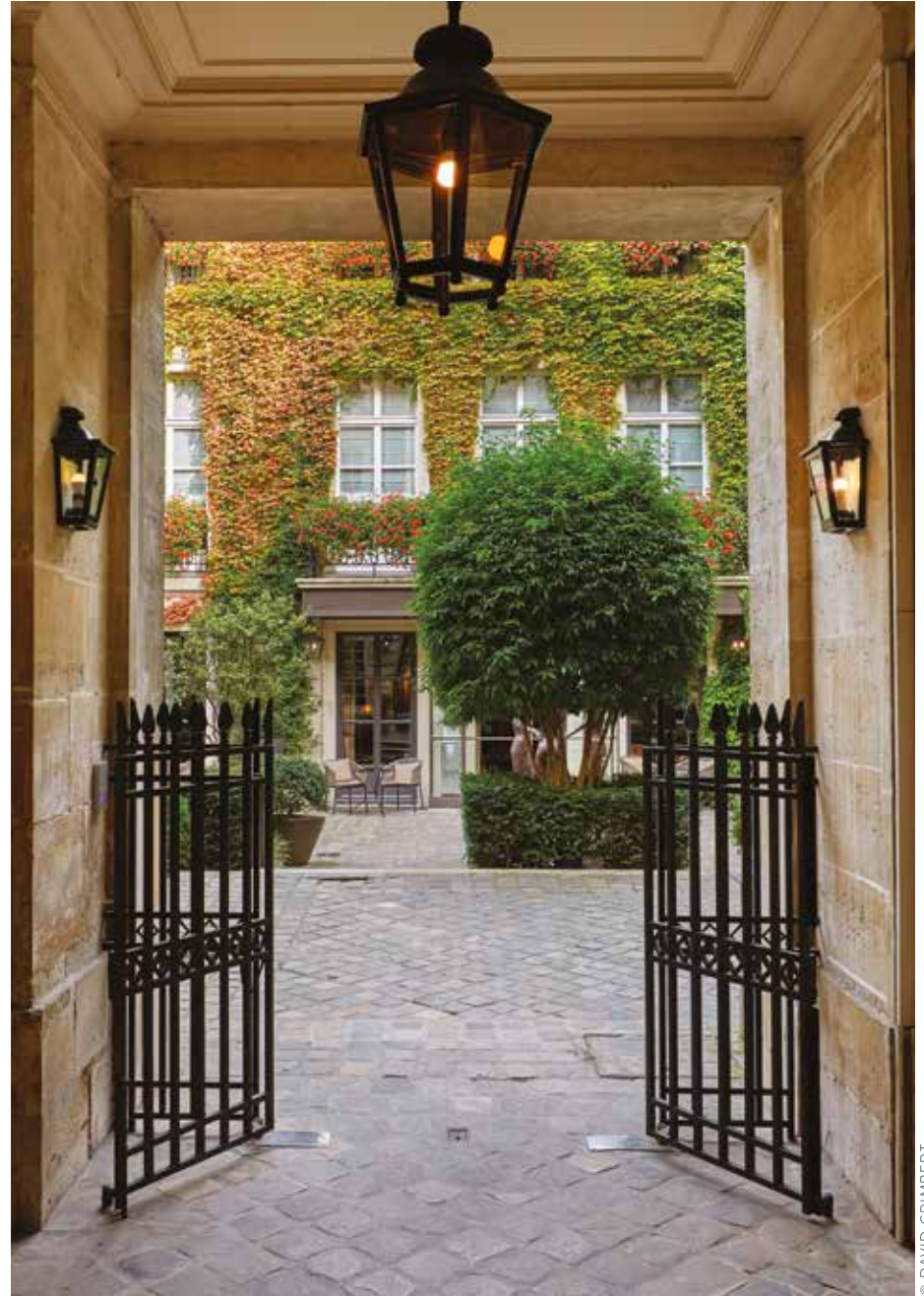
Metro: Chemin Vert



© DAVID GRIMBERT



© JEROME GALLAND



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PHOTOS © HÔTEL MONTE CRISTO

> **Hôtel Monte Cristo** (Latin Quarter, 5th arrondissement). Very well located at the foot of rue Mouffetard and rue Monge, in a neighbourhood we love, away from the usual tourist crowds. Wonderfully successful colonial-style decor, a swimming pool, a sauna and a warm welcome: Hôtel Monte Cristo has it all, including a bar with around 1,500 different rums.



HÔTEL MONTE CRISTO
20-22, RUE PASCAL
75005 PARIS



+33 1 40 09 09 09

hotelmontecristoparis.com
reservation@hotelmontecristoparis.com
Instagram: @hotelmontecristoparis

Metro:
Censier-Dubenton



#05

CRUISING ON THE SEINE IN STYLE

Have you always thought that cruising on the Seine could be great, but that the Bateaux Mouches, with their hordes of tourists and pre-recorded announcements blaring over loudspeakers, just weren't for you?

We get it.

Since 2021, Le Bateau Français has had the good idea of offering a 90-minute 'chic' cruise with champagne and everything you need for a festive or romantic experience – your choice. All on a magnificent, luxurious retro 30s-style boat, made in France in La Rochelle.



© WEBSTYLISTORY



LE BATEAU FRANÇAIS



Closed from
mid-January
to mid-March. From
1 to 8 passengers

lebateaufrancais.com
contact@lebateaufrancais.com

Boarding at: Louvre,
Musée d'Orsay, Port des
Champs-Élysées or
Saint-Germain-des-Prés



PHOTOS © DIMITRI BOURRIAU

#07

AN EVENING IN PARIS'S MOST BEAUTIFUL THEATRES

Whilst everyone knows the magnificent Opéra Garnier, where spending an evening is always magical, the general public is less aware of the impressive number of Parisian theatres worth visiting for their spectacular architecture alone.

Among these, we strongly recommend booking an evening at the Théâtre du Palais-Royal (opened in 1783), the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (1913) or the Opéra-Comique (1714), as well as two lesser-known venues: the Théâtre de la Renaissance (1873) and the Théâtre Louis Juvet (1894).

For readers who don't speak French, the Opéra Garnier, Opéra-Comique and Théâtre Louis Juvet stage operas, concerts and ballets that can be fully enjoyed even without understanding the language.



THÉÂTRE DU PALAIS-ROYAL
38, RUE DE MONTPENSIER
75001 PARIS



+33 1 42 97 40 00

theatrepalaisroyal.com

Metro: Pyramides



PHOTOS © LUDOVIC BALAY

08

THE ULTIMATE SOUND EXPERIENCE

Far from trendy music bars, Listener is a rare place where music truly sits at the heart of everything.

On the ground floor, the bar space hosts DJ sets on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons at 4pm. Behind the bar, you'll find several booths for 'musical naps'. Settle into a plush armchair with high-fidelity headphones and listen to your own favourites or discover the owners' recommendations.

But the real magic happens downstairs. Here, you can book a proper listening room with exceptional professional-grade equipment in extraordinary conditions, including two giant speakers imported from Greece, a 120-kilo valve amplifier straight from Cyprus, and a turntable with twin tonearms.

 **LISTENER**
10, RUE VIVIENNE
75002 PARIS



Musical nap: €15 for 30 minutes
Listening room: €50 to €100 per hour
DJ sets Saturday evenings and Sundays at 4pm

+33 9 78 81 17 21
listener.fr
Events announced on Instagram:
@listener_paris

Metro: Bourse





© PECCADILLE

13

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LIBRARIES IN PARIS

If you've never been a student at a Parisian university, you've probably never seen inside any of the city's libraries. Which is a shame because they're among the most beautiful in the world, with architecture to rival that of any museum and the advantage that (in most cases) you can enter free of charge just by presenting your ID. So there's really nothing to stop you from sitting there for a while, just soaking up the atmosphere.

The only exception is the sublime Salle Labrouste at the Bibliothèque Nationale's Richelieu site (2nd arrondissement), which has recently been renovated and is reserved for researchers. That said, you can take a peek inside from the entrance (except on Sundays).



BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE (RICHELIEU SITE)
5, RUE VIVIENNE
75002 PARIS

Salle Labrouste
(1861-1868)

Opening days and times: bnf.fr

Salle Ovale
(1897-1932)

Opening days and times: bnf.fr

+33 1 53 79 59 59
Metro: Bourse



#18

A FEW RESTAURANTS WE REALLY LOVE...

Even in Paris, there are surprisingly few restaurants where you can enjoy a truly exceptional meal. Too expensive, dull, like so many gastronomic restaurants, with bland decor, questionable service and reservations that are almost impossible to secure...

Here is our small, admittedly subjective selection.

> **Chez Georges** (2nd arrondissement)

Far from passing trends, Chez Georges occasionally attracts a few celebrities, drawn among other things by its delicious pavé du mail, a beef fillet with mustard, butter, cream and cognac sauce, as well as by its historic decor, handwritten menu and the large painting at the entrance, signed by J.C. Mathon in 1961.

At times, you may find yourself sitting a little too close to the neighbouring tables, but that can also lead to a few words being exchanged with their occupants. In summer, the terrace spreads greedily across Place des Petits-Pères.



CHEZ GEORGES
1, RUE DU MAIL
75002 PARIS



+33 1 42 60 07 11

Metro: Bourse





© DAN ASSAYAG

> **Billili** (10th arrondissement)

We love everything about Billili: the decor (simple and tasteful), the food (excellent: one or two real dishes but mainly tapas), the atmosphere (lively and cheerful), the service (friendly), the prices (very reasonable) and also the fact that they don't take reservations. Apart from the obvious drawback of not being able to guarantee you'll get a table there in the evening (it's easier at lunchtime), this means that you can stop by for lunch or dinner on a whim, unlike at most other (good) restaurants in the capital. Long live spontaneity! Of course, to get seated for dinner without having to wait until 10pm, you'll have to arrive on the early side (around 7:30pm) ...



RESTAURANT BILLILI
136, RUE DU FAUBOURG POISSONNIÈRE
75010 PARIS



No reservations

Metro: Poissonnière, Gare-du-Nord or Barbès-Rochechouart

> **Erso** (11th arrondissement)

Its lovely décor, inventive, high-quality cooking, extremely reasonable prices and friendly welcome make this restaurant an exceptional address and a real favourite of ours.



ERSO
18, RUE SAINT-AMBROISE
75011 PARIS



+33 1 81 69 96 55

erso-restaurant.fr
Instagram: @erso.restaurant

Metro: Saint-Ambroise or Rue Saint-Maur



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26

SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LESSER-KNOWN MUSEUMS

Paris may have some of the finest museums in the world, but it's best to avoid the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay during the day, when they're overrun with tourists. If you don't want to wait until nighttime (see page 84), one option is to visit the city's smaller museums that don't attract the crowds. Some are absolutely magnificent and guarantee an authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

Our favourites: the Musée Gustave Moreau (9th arrondissement) for its atmosphere and wonderful staircase; the Musée Nissim de Camondo (8th arrondissement) for the beauty of the town house, its 19th-century collections and its historic kitchens; the Musée Bourdelle (15th arrondissement) for the artist's magnificent studio and the sculptures scattered around the garden; and the Musée Jean-Jacques Henner (17th arrondissement).

At the Musée Nissim de Camondo, take advantage of the restaurant located in a beautiful inner courtyard next to the museum.

MUSÉE GUSTAVE MOREAU
14, RUE CATHERINE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD
75009 PARIS



Tue: closed

+33 1 83 62 78 72
musee-moreau.fr
Instagram: @museegustavemoreau

Metro:
Trinité - d'Estienne d'Orves



#30

THE BEST PLACES FOR A SWEETER SIDE OF PARIS

Paris is the city of master pastry chefs. A stop at Pierre Hermé or Cédric Grolet is, of course, still essential, but behind these big names are countless artisans who also deserve their moment in the spotlight. Here is our selection.

> **Bontemps** (3rd and 17th arrondissements)

Now a temple of sweet Paris, Bontemps simply serves the best tarts in the city, especially its seasonal fruit tarts: blood orange and orange blossom in January, rhubarb and thyme in spring, or red plums at the start of the school year. The shop, as pretty as a charming family home, also hides a spacious, welcoming tearoom and a large terrace in the building's courtyard.

Bontemps rarely goes viral on social media, but true sugar lovers know that this is where you will be served an orgasmic shortcrust pastry, the secret of which the chef guards jealously.



BONTEMPS
57, RUE DE BRETAGNE
75003 PARIS

+33 1 42 74 10 68
Metro: Temple, Arts et Métiers



23, RUE PONCELET
75017 PARIS

+33 1 53 81 01 22
Metro: Ternes



bontemps.paris
Instagram: @bontempsparis

> **Maison Aleph** (4th and 18th arrondissements)

In the heart of the Marais, this tiny shop with its pretty blue tiles has achieved a subtle fusion. Its chef combines the aromas of her native Syria with the techniques of French pâtisserie. The result is a continuous state of bliss: pistachio and orange blossom, lemon and cardamom, mango and jasmine, or fig and cinnamon.



MAISON ALEPH
20, RUE DE LA VERRERIE
75004 PARIS

+33 9 83 03 42 02
Metro: Hôtel de Ville
maisonaleph.com
Instagram: @maisonaleph



63, RUE DES ABBESSES
75018 PARIS

+33 9 87 31 09 10
Metro: Blanche



© PHILIPPE VAURES SANTA MARIA

> **Des Gâteaux et du Pain** (7th and 15th arrondissements)

On rue du Bac, you will find Claire Damon, the most respected pastry chef in the business. Exceptionally demanding when it comes to seasonality, she understands fruit like no one else, and her creations are always delicate and subtle, from her blackcurrant Mont Blanc to her pear and muscovado sugar tart.



DES GÂTEAUX ET DU PAIN
89, RUE DU BAC
75007 PARIS

Metro: Rue du Bac
desgateauxetdupain.com
Instagram:
@desgateauxetdupain.clairedamon



63, BOULEVARD PASTEUR
75015 PARIS

Metro: Gare Montparnasse



© PHILIPPE VAURES SANTA MARIA

PARIS

WE TESTED 1,000 PLACES,
AND CHOSE ONLY THE BEST

Stargazing in the heart of Paris, spending a night in the capital's most charming hotels, a day in Montmartre without the crowds, a restaurant run by a culinary artist, visiting some of the world's greatest museums by night, where to buy the best baguette in Paris, the city's most romantic walk, where to kiss in the City of Light, getting lost in a secret library, spending a night in prayer at Sacré-Cœur in Montmartre, a super-elegant boutique ...

Hidden hotels, outstanding restaurants, secret bars, off-the-radar strolls ... In this guide you'll find a carefully curated, eclectic selection for every budget. Designed for both travellers and locals, it reveals handpicked addresses chosen by local writers – each place a gateway to discovery, far from the crowds and off the beaten path. A fresh take on the art of travel.

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