

PARIS

BY PARISIANS

What better way to unlock the secrets of the French capital than to ask some of the city's leading designers, gastronomes, artisans and interiors specialists to open up their personal address books? The following suggestions offer an insider's take into this endlessly fascinating city

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | ILLUSTRATIONS EMMA DIBBEN

FAVOURITE RESTAURANTS

Pierre Hermé, pâtissier

ON A BUDGET LE CHATEAUBRIAND

"I am particularly fond of this bistro's atmosphere. Chef Inaki Aizpitarte's cooking is wonderfully inventive, giving traditional French cuisine a modern twist. Located in the 11th arrondissement, the area perhaps best known for the Bastille, it is furnished with no-nonsense bare tables and simple wooden chairs that contribute to its informal feel. There is a large, carefully selected wine list too, with something to suit every pocket."

129 Avenue Parmentier, 75011, 0033 1 43 57 45 95.

ON A SPREE HELENE DARROZE

"The food at this Michelin-starred restaurant is inspired by the culinary traditions of southwest France – classic yet creative, including plenty of fresh fish and seasonal vegetables, all of the preparation overseen by Hélène and her team. (She also has a restaurant at the Connaught Hotel in London.) The chocolate truffles are amazing and I only wish I had come up with the recipe for them myself. All in all, an unparalleled gastronomic experience."

4 Rue d'Assas, 75006, 0033 1 42 22 00 11, helenedarroze.com.

FAVOURITE DISTRICT *Karine Hourtoule, founder of Baby Buddha*

SAINT-GERMAIN-DES-PRES

"I prefer to find all my basics in this vibrant quarter of Paris. I can walk along the Seine and on to the lively streets around Rue de Seine to buy some fresh flowers and food from the market. Or I can take a left out of my shop door on Rue des Saints Pères and find a dress at Isabel Marant, then meet a friend at Café de Flore for a relaxed drink. Just a step away, I might buy beautiful shoes at Moss on Rue de Grenelle or marvel at exotic taxidermy at Deyrolle on Rue du Bac. It's an endlessly fascinating district."



FAVOURITE FOOD STORE

Christophe Adam, pâtissier

LA GRANDE EPICERIE DE PARIS

"I've been visiting Le Bon Marché's speciality grocer for as long as I can remember. I love it for its unexpected products, in particular, the creations of pastry chef Benoît Castel. There's always something to inspire here, from artisan oils, vinegars and condiments to a well-stocked wine department. The bespoke food hampers are also great."

38 Rue de Sèvres, 75007, 0033 1 44 39 81 00, lagrandeepicerie.fr.

FAVOURITE MARKET

Maud Zilnyk, founder of Epicerie Générale

LE MARCHE RASPAIL

"This fabulous Sunday market brings together the country's best organic farmers. I adore Elevage du Corbier, the cheese stand at the end of the market which has the best selection in Paris, especially the 36-month-matured Comté. Also look out for fresh pasta and the exceptional selection of meats on the Italian stand. On arrival, I always grab an onion galette to energise me for my shop."

Boulevard Raspail, 75006.

FAVOURITE MUSEUM

Denis Halard of Nobilis

CITE DE L'ARCHITECTURE ET DU PATRIMOINE

"I always make time to visit this museum, which traces the history of French architecture from the 12th century onwards. Journey through Roman and Gothic abbeys typical of Périgord and Burgundy, follow the evolution of modern architecture and finish by visiting the life-size model of one of Le Corbusier's apartments from the iconic Cité Radieuse in Marseille.

Be sure to use a guide, though - it will make the experience all the richer."

1 Place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 75116, 0033 1 58 51 52 00, citechaillot.fr.

FAVOURITE WALK *Olivia Putman of Studio Putman*

FROM JARDIN DU PALAIS ROYAL TO JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG

"Heading north to south on this route is my favourite Paris walk. The garden of the Palais Royal is huge yet feels private - perfect for escaping the crowds. While there, look out for the monochrome striped columns by artist Daniel Buren. Pass by La Cour Carrée du Louvre, which I think has the most striking architecture in the city, then cross over the Pont des Arts, latterly known as the 'lovers' bridge', as it is covered in padlocks placed there by courting couples. In front of you, the Institut de France embraces visitors with its graceful curves. Walk along Rue de Seine, pausing at its many art galleries, then head straight on to enjoy the tranquillity of the Jardin du Luxembourg." ▶





FAVOURITE HISTORIC MONUMENT *Philippe Di Méo of Reso Design Band*

LE GRAND PALAIS

I am really attached to this fabulous building (below). I had the opportunity to show my first designs here more than 20 years ago as part of the Salon des Artistes Décorateurs exhibition. The nave is the jewel in the crown, where the quality of light from the vast glass roof can only be described as breathtaking. The space really comes alive when the Saut Hermès horse riding show or installations such as *Leviathan* by Anish Kapoor take advantage of its magnificent architecture."

3 Avenue du Général-Eisenhower, 75008, 0033 1 44 13 17 17, grandpalais.fr



FAVOURITE HOTEL

Pierre Frey of Pierre Frey

ON A BUDGET HOTEL ARVOR

"If I had the chance to live permanently in this simple, colourful hotel in the vibrant 9th arrondissement, I wouldn't hesitate. Intimate and family-run, it makes each guest feel instantly at home. Feast on a traditional French breakfast, including plenty of freshly baked pastries, before heading off to explore the local neighbourhood. Conveniently situated for L'Opera National de Paris and Galeries Lafayette, it is ideal for those who don't want to push the boat out."

8 Rue Laferrière, 75009, 0033 1 48 78 60 92, hotelarvor.com.

PURE INDULGENCE

L'HOTEL PARTICULIER

"Nestled in a secret passageway between Avenue Junot and Rue Lepic, this characterful town house hotel (left) is located in the heart of Montmartre and run by two inventive and creative cousins. Of all the rooms in the hotel, Suite Five, with its bathtub in front of the fireplace and a picture-book view of the Eiffel Tower, is my favourite."

23 Avenue Junot, Pavillon D, 75018, 0033 1 53 41 81 40, hotel-particulier-montmartre.com.

Jardin des Plantes

FAVOURITE SHOPPING STREET

Rachel Khoo, chef and broadcaster

VIDE-GRENIER

"My favourite shopping street is any one that has a 'vide-grenier'. Meaning 'attic clearance', this is the French version of a car boot sale, minus the car. During the warmer months, you'll find a vide-grenier every weekend in Paris. Going to one is like snooping around a Parisian home. There's also a handy phone app, Brocabrac, which lists all the vide-grenier and antiques markets in France. It's updated on a weekly basis and you can search by city or region."

MOST INSPIRING INTERIOR

Nicolas Roche of Roche Bobois

L'OPERA RESTAURANT

"I love the interior of Odile Decq's L'Opéra Restaurant, at the back of the famous Opéra Garnier. It's not exactly a secret, but I am amazed by the contrast of styles - revolving shapes and spiral pathways, combined with theatrical red carpets and armchairs. The sculpting of the space creates an inspiring dialogue between tradition and a futuristic spirit."

**Palais Garnier, Place Jacques Rouché,
75009, 0033 1 42 68 86 80,
opera-restaurant.fr.**



FAVOURITE OPEN SPACE *Lyndie Dourthe, decorative artist*

LE JARDIN DES PLANTES

"Like many Parisians, I don't have my own garden, but the next best thing is the wonderful Jardin des Plantes, just a short stroll from my apartment. A botanic garden featuring fabulous iris and rose displays, it never fails to inspire. The area also houses a museum of natural history. My favourite is the Paleontology and Anatomy section, which features huge collections of carefully preserved mammal skeletons. In any season, this is a beautiful place to visit. For me, it offers the perfect balance of science and poetry."

57 Rue Cuvier, 75005, 0033 1 40 79 50 01, jardindesplantes.net.

