



# Style City PARIS THIRD EDITION

With over 400 colour photographs and 7 maps



Series concept and editor: Lucas Dietrich Research and texts: Phyllis Richardson Restaurant consultant and texts: Sébastien Demorand Jacket and book design: Grade Design Consultants Original design: The Senate Maps: Peter Bull

Specially commissioned photography by Anne and Philippe Croquet-Zouridakis, Ingrid Rasmussen, Anthony Webb and Angela Moore

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Beaubourg • Marais • Canal St-Martin

Bercy • Bastille • Ménilmontant • Belleville

### Style Traveller

sleep

eat eat

44 drink

60 shop

<sup>6</sup> retreat

contact

112

132

148

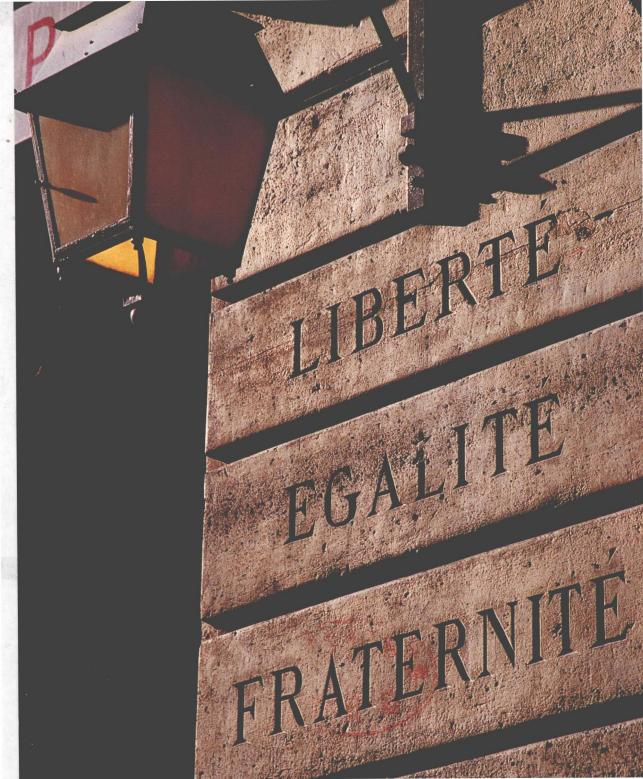
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#### **How to Use This Guide**

The book features two principal sections: Street Wise and Style Traveller.

Street Wise, which is arranged by neighbourhood, features areas that can be covered in a day (and night) on foot and includes a variety of locations – cafés, shops, restaurants, museums, performance spaces, bars – that capture local flavour or are lesser-known destinations.

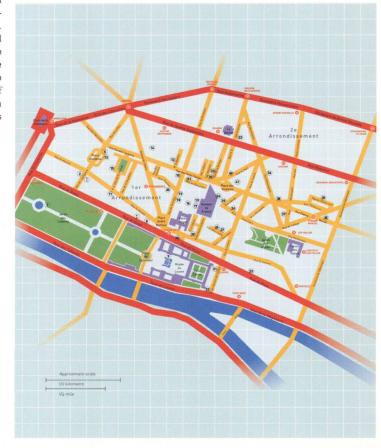
The establishments in the **Style Traveller** section represent the city's best and most characteristic locations – 'worth a detour' – and feature hotels (**sleep**), restaurants (**eat**), cafés and bars (**drink**), boutiques and shops (**shop**) and getaways (**retreat**).

Each location is shown as a circled number on the relevant neighbourhood map, which is intended to pro-

vide a rough idea of location and proximity to major sights and land-marks rather than precise position. Locations in each neighbourhood are presented sequentially by map number. Each entry in the Style Traveller has two numbers: the top one refers to the page number of the neighbourhood map on which it appears; the second number is its location.

For example, the visitor might begin by selecting a hotel from the **Style Traveller** section. Upon arrival, **Street Wise** might lead him to the best joint for coffee before guiding him to a house-museum nearby. After lunch he might go to find a special jewelry store listed in the **shop** section. For a memorable dining experience, he might consult his neighbourhood section to find the nearest restaurant cross-referenced to **eat** in **Style Traveller**.

Street addresses are given in each entry, and complete information – including email and web addresses – is listed in the alphabetical **contact** section. Travel and contact details for the destinations in **retreat** are given at the end of **contact**.



#### Legend

2 L

Location

Museums, sights

Gardens, squares

Métro stops

Principal street

Secondary road

#### **PARIS**

In the hearts and imaginations of people around the world, Paris, of all the great cities, hardly needs introduction. Even in those of us who have yet to set foot in the City of Lights, it is remembered as a beacon of artistic and literary endeavour after the war, a place where creativity and philosophy emanated from the cafés of the Left Bank like so much Gitanes cigarette smoke. 'Like Paris in the twenties', people say of any city drawing an international bohemian crowd with high culture on the cheap and high-intensity living to match. Yet no other city quite captures the particular 'romance' of Paris. This ineluctable appellation has perhaps become cliché, but the real thing is still there for the savvy visitor.

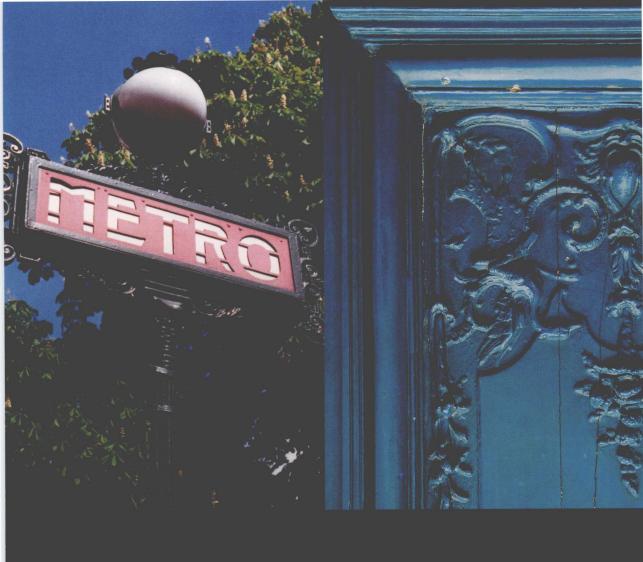
Like any ancient city, modern Paris is built on many layers and exists on many levels of perception: physical, historical, emotional. One reason that Paris retains its aura is, of course, its survival — more or less intact — through the great wars. Coveted by invaders who would rather own it than destroy it, it is a city marked by large personalities and grandiose expressions: from King Philippe-Auguste, who chartered the first university in the 13th century, and the spendthrift François I, who rebuilt the Louvre in Italian Renaissance style and promoted humanism, to the even more ostentatious Sun King, who left the Louvre in favour of Versailles, and Napoleon, who added his own imperial monuments: the Arc de Triomphe, the Arc du Carrousel, the column of the place Vendôme. It was his nephew, Napoleon III, who left probably the most visible urban legacy through the work of his urban engineer Georges (later Baron) Haussmann. Haussmann 'modernized' Paris, clearing away vast areas of medieval buildings (which historians decry to this day) to make way for the grand boulevards that give Paris so much of its opulent character, as well as building schools, churches and synagogues.

Modern democratic and coalition rulers were understandably more restrained than their autocratic predecessors, but the city has been touched by great architectural vision even in the late 20th century: Georges Pompidou's sponsorship of the ground-breaking 'high-tech' art centre (p. 80) designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano in 1977, and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's support for the audacious conversion of the Gare d'Orsay railway station into a celebration of art. In the 1980s and 1990s, Mitterand's controversial *grands projets* (the Bastille Opera House, the Grand Louvre project, the new library, the Grande Arche de la Défense)

and the creation of large landscaped parks — André Citroën (p. 39) and Bercy (p. 100) — confirm a determination to ensure that Paris continues to embrace bold modernity and urban innovation. Though so much of the past has been preserved here, this is a cosmopolitan city at the forefront of fashion, design and the arts. Paris is where artists, musicians and writers flock to be inspired, to be with other creative minds. Is the love of beauty and style particularly French? Is the sense of romance engendered by past struggles, by strong traditions of language and culture? Almost as well known for the outspokenness of its citizenry as for its unparalleled sense of style, Paris's streets have been the scene of revolution, protests, foreign occupation, liberation and unbridled celebration, and they continue to be a public staging ground.

What visitors will find in Paris today is a city bursting with creative energy, not in the edgy, street-conscious way of, say, London, but in a manner reflecting a more artisanal—and at times flamboyant—attitude to creativity. The most talked-about hotels are lavishly decorated in the spirit of the Empire or in a particularly French brand of minimalism; the best restaurants combine the talents of the most innovative designers with young chefs trained in traditional French methods, but willing to experiment with global cuisines. The grand old fashion houses are still lined up around the Faubourg St-Honoré and the Champs-Élysées, but so are the new names, and in pockets around the Marais, the Bastille and Montmartre young designers with backroom ateliers are producing clothing, objects and furniture that you won't see anywhere else. The late-night club scene still thrives, reinvented, revitalizing the old cabarets of Montmartre and in the once-disused spaces around the Bastille and the République. Creative hopefuls have also flowed into and reinvigorated outer 'villages', such as Canal St-Martin and Belleville. Café culture throughout the capital is alive and well, with many a terrasse filled with conversation.

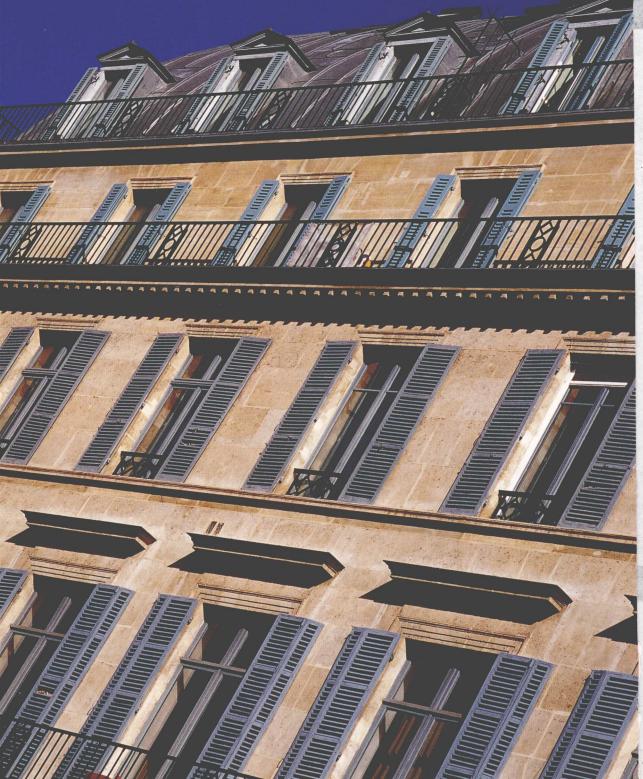
Paris, as writer Edmund White contends, is truly the city of the *flâneur*, where an aimless wander can bring unexpected rewards around every corner — the glimpse of a medieval square, an exquisite boutique, an enticing café, or one of those grand architectural gestures in which Paris's place in history and the imagination is writ large.



# Street Wise



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## Latin Quarter St-Germain-des-Prés Montparnasse