

Paris, Entre Nous

Three of our editors give their insider take on the city that stole their hearts.

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"AMERICA IS MY COUNTRY, BUT PARIS IS MY HOMETOWN," Gertrude Stein often said. But even if you're not an expat living in the City of Lights, Paris has the ability to get under your skin (and put some pretty roses on your cheeks to boot) after just one visit. Editorial director Darcy Miller, style editor Kate Berry, and photo editor Mary Cahill, all of whom have made numerous excursions to the city, can relate to the smitten writer's words: They've all fallen *très* hard for Paris. On these pages, the three share their most intimate places, the pockets of Paris they revisit in their minds—over and over—long after they've bid them *au revoir*.

Darcy collects printed ephemera, like menus and business cards, during her trips to Paris. They're a great way to supplement a photo album.



FOR THE *Romantic*

DARCY MILLER Editorial Director

"Whenever I go to Paris, it never ceases to amaze me how utterly romantic the city is. The elegant architecture, the intimate cafés, the beautiful light—all of it's made for people in love."

Darcy's Paris memorabilia includes (from left) her scrapbook and watercolor set; a photo of Darcy and her husband, Andy Nussbaum, at Place des Vosges; business cards from Ladurée and Benoit; lockets from a date at the flea market.

INSIDER TIP
Paris is quiet on Sundays, but Le Marais, the Jewish quarter, is bustling. Make a romantic date to stroll through its lively, winding streets together.

BONNE IDÉE

"The city looks especially magical from the decks of the **bateaux mouches**," says Darcy of the boats that follow the Seine past landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. Go at dusk to watch the lights shimmer along the quays. For some daytime romance, enjoy a glass of wine at a sidewalk café like **Ma Bourgogne**, on the picturesque Place des Vosges, and visit the walled garden at the **Musée Rodin**—it's filled with rosebushes and works by the maverick French sculptor.

BON APPÉTIT

Ladurée's rightfully famous macaroons, made daily in flavors like orange blossom or salted caramel, are an unforgettable treat (laduree.fr). Darcy was so charmed by them that she modeled her wedding cake after the shop's stylish boxes. For a fancy date, rendezvous at **Benoit** (benoit-paris.com), a quintessential bistro from its engraved glass and mirrored bar to its red banquettes. The equally classic menu of cassoulet or buttery escargots gets a modern touch under owner Alain Ducasse. Off the beaten path (code for *romantic*), **Casa Olympe** (casaolymp.com) serves upscale French comfort food, such as chestnut-flour galettes.

BONNE NUIT

A real splurge, the **Hôtel Plaza Athénée** (from \$950, plaza-athenee-paris.com) indulges guests with marble bathrooms, a beautifully illustrated breakfast menu, and windows overlooking Montmartre rooftops. For a more intimate (and less pricey) getaway, check out the **Hôtel Relais Saint-Sulpice** (from \$228, relais-saint-sulpice.com), an 18th-century hideaway, or the **Hôtel Duc de Saint Simon** (from \$290, hotelducdesaintsimon.com), set back from the street by a courtyard and filled with romantic touches.

FOR THE *Shopaholic*

KATE BERRY Senior Style Editor

“Walk into a Parisian store, and you walk out with an *experience*—everything that’s on display is so carefully curated and artfully presented. I feel satisfied even if I don’t buy a thing.”



Paris is the place to go for couture (Dior, Chanel, Vuitton, and just about every other well-known design house have stores there), but you don’t have to spend a bundle to get meaningful keepsakes. Some of Kate’s most prized Parisian mementos (from left) include:

a shot of her and her husband, Ian, at a sidewalk café; butterflies from Deyrolle; ribbons and mother-of-pearl buttons from one of the city’s flea markets; tea and a candle from Mariage Frères; and a vintage Yves Saint Laurent shirt from Gabrielle Geppert.

INSIDER TIP

If you’re in Paris in the spring: first, lucky you. Second, be sure to swing by Alexandra Sojfer, an amazing little boutique in St. Germain that sells umbrellas so pretty you’ll actually pray for rain.

BONNE IDÉE

“Hands down, my favorite place to browse,” says Kate of the taxidermy shop **Deyrolle** (deyrolle.com). Last winter, a fire destroyed much of its stock (stuffed lion, anyone?), but part of the store has since reopened. Just as curated and unique: **Gabrielle Geppert** (gabriellegeppert.com), where vintage clothes look just-plucked from the runway, and across the street, **Les Salons du Palais Royal Shiseido** (salons-shiseido.com), “a beautiful and whimsical perfume shop.”

BON APPÉTIT

Looking for a tasty shopping trip? Check out world-renowned specialty tea shop **Mariage Frères** (mariagefreres.com). “Every time I’m there, I stock up on Earl Grey tea and Thé des Mandarins candles,” says Kate. The best part: You don’t have to wait to sample the goods—there’s an attached café. And after an arduous day of shopping, make your way to **Brasserie Lipp**, an Art Deco restaurant frequented by Paris’s beautiful set (brave souls should try the *piéd de porc farci grillé*, grilled pig trotters), or the hip **Cinq Mars**, where you’ll get nouveau bistro fare, good wines, and attentive (not to mention attractive) waiters. Ooh-là-là.

BONNE NUIT

When it comes to hotels for the shopaholic, it’s all about location, location, location. You’ll want a home base that’s close to shopping districts so you can unload bags and recharge batteries. Kate has three recommendations for shop-till-they-drop tourists: the modern, trendy **Hôtel Duo** (from \$256, duo-paris.com), in the Marais; and, on the Left Bank, the plush-out, historical **L’Hôtel** (from \$358, l-hotel.com) and the understated and elegant **Hôtel Montalembert** (from \$288, montalembert.com).



FOR THE *Art Lover*

MARY CAHILL, Deputy Photo Editor

“Paris is a city for walkers—which is great, because the best way to discover its hidden art and local flair is to wander around and find its nooks and crannies. Culture just overflows into the streets.”

Mary’s essentials for a day of gallery-hopping (from left): her “Parisian-tested, Parisian-approved map book”; a ticket to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs; a museum pass that allows her to skip the lines at the Centre Pompidou (where she bought this postcard); some fresh bread; and her handy-dandy little vintage Minox—“I call it my spy camera, and I take it everywhere.”

INSIDER TIP

Save yourself the headache of long lines and order a museum pass, which grants you A-list access to over 70 art destinations. It can even be delivered to your hotel (museums-in-paris.com).

BONNE IDÉE

Don’t end your art appreciation with the Louvre. Mary’s suggestions? Add **Musée Français de la Photographie** (photographie.essonne.fr) to your must-see list (the medium was born in France, after all), and **Musée de l’Orangerie** (musee-orangerie.fr), which houses Monet’s large-format water lily paintings, as well. Then, if you’re up for a less traditional take on art, go to **Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature** (chassenature.org), which irreverently explores the dynamic between man and nature. Where else can you find a Rubens down the hall from a Koons?

BON APPÉTIT

Poilâne (poilane.fr) bakes up rustic, delicious loaves every day—and has been doing just that since 1932. Pop in and grab some miniature walnut loaves before you hit the art scene; they make for perfect portable snacks. **Des Gâteaux et du Pain** is another exceptional *boulangerie*. “It’s lesser known but highly regarded by locals,” says Mary, “and totally worth an excursion to the 15th arrondissement.” And if you’re at or near the Centre Pompidou (where you can ogle artworks by such modern masters as Picasso and Matisse), definitely head to the museum’s sleek **Restaurant Georges**. The panoramic view is breathtaking.

BONNE NUIT

Outrageous can be great. Take the **Hôtel du Petit Moulin** (from \$244, paris-hotel-petitmoulin.com) interiors, designed by Christian Lacroix. The inn “puts a modern twist on rococo,” says Mary, who appreciates bold artistic statements. A more low-key option? The charming **Hôtel Verneuil** (from \$222, hotel-verneuil.com), a small 17th-century building off Saint Germain des Prés, decorates rooms with vintage wallpapers and tasteful prints.