

NIGHT+DAY PARIS

Ins and Outs

Noteworthy Additions, Changes and Closures
from publication date through December 31, 2008

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

- Cover or ticket charge (otherwise, entry is free)

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

- € €100–€199
- €€ €200–€299
- €€€ €300–€399
- €€€€ €400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

- €– less than €10
- € €10–€19
- €€ €20–€29
- €€€ €30–€39
- €€€€ €40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

- €– less than €10
- € €10–€19
- €€ €20–€29
- €€€ €30–€39
- €€€€ €40 and up

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you’d expect from **Night+Day**—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

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The critics are talking about Night+Day's Cool Cities series ...

“Extraordinary detail, itineraries organized by theme, and a unique up-to-the-minute black book of what’s hot provides readers with the ultimate guide.” —**Forbes.com**

“Opening chapters set the spirited tone ... a host of food-focused entries accommodate all tastes.” —**Travel + Leisure**

“Focus[es] their information to attract vacationers who don’t want cookie-cutter itineraries.” —**Wall Street Journal**

“Well-written, cleverly organized ... remarkably comprehensive.” —**Passport Magazine**

“The most enjoyable feature may be the various three-day itineraries ... I don’t know that I’d want a manicure and a martini at the Beauty Bar around 10pm on a Friday night, but I’m delighted to know it’s possible.” —**New York Times**

“Perfect for the business person or jet-setter who’s in town for a few days and has little time to research a visit. But area residents can pluck a few gems from its pages, too.” —**Sacramento Bee**

“Numerous three-day itineraries to mix and match to your heart’s delight.” —**Chicago Tribune**

“Your one-stop guide to shopping, nightlife, restaurants, hotels and other attractions in the city.” —**DC Style Magazine**

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some of the best antipasti outside Rome. It's a bit out of the way, but this is merely a point in its favor for those desiring a tête-à-tête away from the hustle and bustle of the city. *Mon-Sat 8pm-midnight. €€* ☐ Parc des Buttes Chaumont, entrance opposite 43 av. Símon Bolívar (M° Buttes Chaumont), 01.53.27.35.79

Sur un Arbre Perché • 2nd • Trendy

This whimsically decorated little restaurant offers an oasis of calm in the Bourse, Paris' busy business district. It's hardly surprising then, that the mid-day clientele consist largely of power-lunchers, chilling out in chairs suspended from the ceiling, or perched in the tree-house-style booth. It's in the evening, however, that the romantic charm of this place is at its best, when guests can enjoy the possibility of a quick shiatsu massage while seated at their table. This option is particularly popular with couples, as it can be included as a surprise treat before your meal. If you're after a lengthier, traditional massage, these can also be had here (with a reservation). The theme of relaxation continues with the menu's harmonious pairing of ingredients: Imagine a soothing dish of scallops simmered with saffron, or a comforting steak with truffle oil and shallot tarte tatin. For absolute peace and quiet, opt for a reservation at the beginning of the week, and avoid the owner's somewhat insistent but nonetheless endearing attempts to strike up conversation. *Mon-Fri noon-3pm and 7:30pm-1am, Sat 7:30pm-1am. €€* ☐ 1 rue de Quatre Septembre (M° Bourse), 01.42.96.97.01, surunarbreperche.com

Closures (Please make notes in your Black Book.)

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Hot & Cool Paris Hotels

Hôtel des Académies et des Arts • 6th • Trendy (20 rms)

A cut below the “palaces” in terms of size and luxury, the three-star Hôtel des Académies et des Arts is nonetheless an absolute gem for guests looking for a chic home-away-from-home stopover in Paris. The contemporary design of the rooms is bursting with the charm of an expertly chosen mix of colors, sumptuous fabrics, and immaculate marble bathrooms. Keen to preserve the artistic history of the building—both Picasso and Modigliani resided here—owners Charlotte and Laurent Inchauspé have tastefully added their creative talents to the decoration. Sophie’s sculptures grace the lobby and breakfast room, while the “white men” murals of Laurent, occasionally spotted around Paris, can be found throughout the hotel. The rooms on the ground floor have a privileged view of a red giant mural from their private terraces in a secluded courtyard. Not enough art? Take in a visual art exhibition over breakfast, or visit the cozy library. A stone’s throw from the Jardin du Luxembourg, and a few more from the chic boutiques and galleries of St-Germain-des-Prés, the location is ideal, especially for those wishing to make use of the hotel’s personal-shopper service. And after a hard day’s spending, what could be better than a massage and pampering session in the gorgeous wellness suite? €€€ 15 rue de la Grande Chaumière (M° Vavin), 01.43.27.08.80, hotel-des-academies.com

Hotel Everland • 16th • Trendy (1 rm)

Deliciously quirky, the Everland is a nomadic design experiment—part hotel, part art installation—that has migrated to Paris from its former home in Dresden. Such is the unique experience that this single capsule room offers, it can only be reserved for one night precisely two months prior to your stay. Even then, you’ll have to be on the website at the random time the room becomes available. If this all sounds like a lot of effort, rest assured that any doubts you may have will evaporate as soon as you set foot on the roof of the Palais de Tokyo, where it will be perched until the end of 2008. The view—Eiffel Tower included, of course—is absolutely breathtaking. Once inside, you have the impression of being in a 1960s toy caravan, albeit a very stylish one with a nod to contemporary comfort. There’s barely a straight line in sight, and the wall-to-wall carpeting, vintage LPs, and retro minibar all add to the charm. Luxury habitués will be pleased to know that room service is available from a local

Romantic Paris Hotels

Hôtel The Five • 5th • Trendy

Staff at The Five reveal that a large number of their clients are Parisian. No need for more than a nod and wink to know what this means: The discreet entrance on a small road in the Latin quarter and the seductive contemporary rooms with their starlit ceilings and showers make it the perfect place if you are looking for a little *cinq à sept* (the traditional time for an illicit rendezvous). After crossing the cozy lobby-salon with its freestanding gas fireplace and striking black, white, and red décor, you ascend in an elevator to one of the 24 rooms. There is a choice of five color schemes, all in glamorous nightclub shades—black, purple, orange, turquoise—or the dappled beige that gives an illusion of rustling leaf shadows. All have magical lighting effects: fiber-optic stars in the showers and on the headboards or ceilings, or desks that glow in the dark. Room 603 has a turquoise suspended bed, and 401 a scintillating bead curtain around the bed, while the ground-floor suite has a patio and Jacuzzi. In addition, you can choose your own room scent. The kitschy breakfast room will certainly wake you up with gourmet teas and coffees, and delicious dried fruits and crudités. €€ 3 rue Flatters (M° Gobelins), 01.43.31.74.21, thefivehotel.com

Romantic Paris Restaurants

Le Meurice • 1st • French

Although Yannick Alléno has been in charge of Le Meurice’s restaurant since 2003, his third Michelin star in 2007 propelled him from mere gourmet fame to legend. The cuisine draws on flavors from every corner of France and beyond. Imagine crisp golden egg yolks adorned with caviar and served with a tart apple and vervain jelly, or sea bream cooked in cherry-tree leaves with a wasabi-seasoned mushroom fricassée. The presentation here is as meticulous as one would expect, and the service is slick and uncharacteristically affable by Parisian standards. If this isn’t enough to have you pinching yourself, the romantic interior should clinch it. With the quantity of gilt, marble, crystal, and luxurious drapery, you’d be forgiven for thinking you were at Versailles, but a closer look reveals the trademark contemporary chic style of Philippe Starck. Some complain that the price tag has crept up of late, but with a lunch menu at €75, popular with besuited power-lunchers, you don’t have to break the bank to experience one of Paris’ finest tables. *Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7:30–10pm.* €€€ ☞ 228 rue de Rivoli (M° Tuileries), 01.44.58.10.10, meuricehotel.com

Le Pavillon Puebla • 19th • Italian

This former *guingette*, tucked inside the verdant confines of the Parc Buttes Chaumont, conceals a gem of a restaurant within its rather weathered exterior. It oozes rustic romance. Nestled in the beautifully upholstered chairs of the lounge, beneath the soothing glow of the vast chandelier, you could pretend you’re in a stately home deep in the country. Linger here a while, sipping your aperitif, before taking your seat overlooking the park or, better still, on the terrace. If you’re lucky, you may well be serenaded by chef Vincenzo Cozzoli’s pianist and soprano daughters. The cuisine is deliciously simple, copious, and unmistakably Italian, with

teachers is willing to do a bilingual class, or you can just follow the others—the atmosphere really is very relaxed and welcoming. A single class costs €20, and there are theme days on Sundays for around €40. Afterward, have a replenishing fresh juice at Bob's Juice Bar across the street, where English is the *lingua franca*. *Opening times vary according to classes.* €€ 12 rue Lucien Sampaix (M° Jacques Bonsergent), 01.53.19.07.37, canalcentral.fr

L.U.V. • 1st • Showroom

Right in the middle of the buzzing fashion district of Etienne Marcel, L.U.V. is a unique space that knows no boundaries. Somewhere between a store, a gallery, and a production studio, the industrial-chic interior is home to the products sold on the company website, which range from urban fashion to artwork and high-tech equipment. The well-equipped space lends itself to pretty much any type of event, from *vernissages* to launch parties, though the slant is often on cutting-edge technology fused with creativity. This is reflected in the hip musicians, artists, and filmmakers you'll find dropping in for a chat or to check out the latest in gadgets. There's really no strict agenda here, so just come along to see what's happening. Whatever's going on, you can be sure that this place is one to watch. *Daily 9am–9pm.* € 68 rue Jean Jacques Rousseau (M° Etienne Marcel), 01.40.39.05.99, morelucv.com

MK2 quai de la Seine/quai de la Loire • 19th • Movie Theatre/Cafe

Both a film distributor and a movie-theatre chain, MK2 is a cult among discerning movie buffs. Unerring programming brings all that's best in foreign and art cinema to theatres. At this canalside site, it's gone one step further, creating an ambience so attractive that a whole scene has developed around it with the quays and restaurant terraces thronging on weekend afternoons and balmy summer nights. Some people don't even bother going to the movies. What makes it magical are the lights shining on the water from the two complexes on either side of the Canal d'Ourcq and the little ferryboat that plies constantly between them. Each side has self-service cafes, while the Seine side has a proper cafe-restaurant where staff with movie-star looks (and attitude) serve excellent bistro cuisine, and the Loire side has one of the best book and DVD stores in Paris (open until 10pm). Take advantage of the outdoor seating for prime people-watching—in summer it's lovely to be out by the water, and the terrace remains popular even in winter (with the help of heat lamps and plastic sheeting), especially for hot chocolate or a brandy. *Daily 10am–midnight.* € Quai de la Seine/quai de la Loire (M° Jaures or Stalingrad), 08.92.69.84.84, Mk2.com

René Talmon L'Armée • 3rd • Store

René Talmon L'Armée's eye for detail, unique ideas, and impeccable taste make for some truly remarkable jewelry. With its wooden drawers lining the walls and glass cabinets displaying mouthwatering arrays of his work, his small atelier-cum-boutique will feel like a candy shop to any jewelry enthusiast. Silver and gold is rarified with materials such as sea urchin skin or black Tahitian pearls in contemporary, organic shapes and forms, so you'll come away with a piece that's as good as one-off. If that's not quite unique enough, René will be more than happy to work on commission should you have something special in mind. With the separate men's and women's collections frequently appealing to both genders, you'll be spoiled for choice. *Mon–Sat 11am–7pm.* 3 rue Cunin Gridaine (M° Arts et Métiers), 01.48.87.17.12, renetalmonlarnee.com

hotel, while unlimited access to the galleries makes this the ultimate stopover for fans of modern art. €€€€ 13 av. du Président Wilson (M° Alma-Marceau), 01.47.23.54.01, palaisdetokyo.com/everland

Mama Shelter • 20th • Trendy (172 rms)

The St-Blaise quarter in the east of Paris is just edgy enough, but it also boasts some of the last remaining cobbled streets in Paris, with hosts of bistros and cafes long peopled by the artists and renegades of the 20th arrondissement. It is here, opposite indy-music venue Flèche d'Or, that Club Med scion Serge Trigano and philosopher Cyril Aouizerate have placed their winning hotel, Mama Shelter. Designed by Philippe Starck, the hotel offers an urban adventure, a walk on the wild side—well, kind of, as you know an iMac with free Internet access and a well-mixed martini are never far away. What you have here are 172 well-equipped, soundproof rooms of differing sizes with Starck décor, incorporating graffiti-print carpets, surreal bedside lamps made from Halloween masks, chic kitchenettes, and the aforementioned iMacs. There is no room service, because downstairs is the fabulous Island Bar and restaurant, where you are sure to make friends. Going-out tips—concerts, theatre—and weather forecasts are posted on the lobby mirrors of each floor early in the morning. We also love the shop, selling an amazing mix of soft-porn books, art-film DVDs, Kiehl's skin-care products, and Napoleonic tricorner hats. Best are the terrace rooms, but all are reasonably priced. €€ 109 rue de Bagnolet (M° Porte de Bagnolet, Maraichers, Alexandre Dumas), 01.43.48.48.48, mamashelter.com

Hot & Cool Paris Restaurants

Apicius • 8th • Gastronomic

This former private mansion is a truly stately building, though that's not to say this place is traditional—the tongue-in-cheek stone pigs and mushrooms decorating the lawn should give a hint of the contemporary mood within. Double-Michelin-starred chef Jean-Pierre Vigato prepares traditional French cuisine, albeit with new twists that push the Gallic culinary boundaries. The menu sings with the diversity of produce from all over France, from roast lobster served with its carpaccio to pigeon breast wrapped in cured ham. The discreetly decorated dining room evokes the stature of the place, in tones of taupe and cream, with dark wood and contemporary objets d'art. There is a private dining room, frequently reserved by the power lunch crowd, but by far the best place to sit is in the glass conservatory. Come in the evening for a similarly sophisticated yet more relaxed crowd, and retire to the small, select bar for some of the best cocktails in Paris. *Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 8–10pm (bar Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7pm–1am).* €€€€ ☒ 20 rue d'Artois (M° St-Philippe du Roule), 01.43.80.77.74, restaurant-apicius.fr

Black Calvados • 8th • International

"BC," as it has rapidly become known, is the ultra-exclusive creation of couture choreographer Alex de Betak, Audioslave frontman Chris Cornell, and Nick Blast of Le Néo fame. Blasting rock chic into the Golden Triangle, it attracts the crème of music and fashion glitterati, so dress accordingly. Former Nobu chef Jerome Lorvellec serves up unpretentious New American cuisine with an Asian twist in the small restaurant, which would be intimate if it weren't quite so black

or the music quite so loud. Still, the glossy décor is softened with warm lighting and the presence of original Renaissance-era painted ceilings. Those wishing to venture downstairs to the even smaller club—a metal box with rock music clanging off the walls—must suffer the sartorial evaluation of the door staff, and be warned that entrance to the restaurant does not guarantee you will be admitted to the club. Once you've made it down those stairs, expect to find no more than 100 20- to 30-year-old hipsters rubbing shoulders (literally) in a sleek, ultramodern atmosphere. Black predominates once again, with yellow fluorescent lighting illuminating cubic glass tables and playing off polished metallic walls. *Mon–Sat 8pm–2am (club 9pm–5am). €€ ≡ 40 av. Pierre 1er de Serbie (M° George V), 01.47.20.77.77*

Chacha Club* • 1st • International

At the door, a tousle-headed youth takes your coat, and elfin servers move effortlessly through the crowded dining room, managing to bring nobody their order at the right time. Teething problems, perhaps, and in any case, providing you have a glass of Champagne in hand, the sultry '30s dining room, presided over by an enormous jet-studded owl that looks like a Damien Hirst (but isn't), is a lovely place to be ensconced. Despite the dim lights, the people-watching here is fascinating: a Russian model making love to herself in a mirror; three guys who manage to look good with beards, in earnest conversation about a shared project; a table of girls wearing furs trying to catch the attention of the eligible chaps at the next table. The place is positively crawling with attractive singles, and much of the flirting goes on in the *fumoir*, which exerts a fetishistic power over the defiantly smoking Parisians. In the bar, under the disco ball, a French TV host may be throwing a private cocktail party. This place is far too cool to cordon off such an event, though anyone approaching the canapés will soon end up face to face with a phalanx of staff. The *foie gras* “fait maison” by the chef is so good that you can forgive the tardiness with the wine. Main courses give you the option of meat or fish dishes such as *coquelet* or swordfish, or a choice of *tagliatelle*, including a truffle version. The signature dessert, *Cha Cha au Chocolat*, is an attention-seeking mass of yellow cotton candy hiding a ball of chocolate with a passion fruit center—a great conversation-starter if you want to fraternize with the table next to you. You will not have to seduce the doormen to get into the restaurant, and you will surely want to stay a while in this fantasy domain with its disco ball, private rooms, music room, and *boudoir*. *Tapas* are served at the bar for the late-night crowd. *Mon–Sat 7pm–1am. €€ ≡ 47 rue Berger (M° Louvre Rivoli), 01.40.13.12.12, chachaclub.fr*

Le Comptoir du Relais • 6th • Bistro

Competing with Daniel Rose's Spring is another hard-to-get table from Yves Camdeborde, known as “the Pope of bistronomie.” *Bistronomie* denotes a creative chef working in his or her own bistro and offering only one fixed-price choice per night at a very reasonable cost—around €45 for the three courses, cheese, and dessert chez Camdeborde, which is a superb deal even with the weak dollar. Market-fresh produce and really earthy cooking make this a true feast to remember. The setting is perfect St-Germain: a nostalgia-filled old bistro with a heated terrace for people-watching on a square frequented by the Rive Gauche literati and glitterati. At lunch, there are no reservations, no tablecloths, just simple fare from a blackboard menu, including the wonderful *charcuterie* produced by the chef's

eccentric country pub, and both the atmosphere and the attire of the drinkers are laid-back. There are live DJs every night except for Tuesday, but it's at its best on the weekend, with live bands and music quizzes. *Tue–Sun 6pm–1:45am. ≡ 8 passage Josset (M° Ledru-Rollin), 01.58.30.88.52, myspace.com/lemotel*

Social Club • 2nd • Nightclub

Social Club takes over where that former stalwart of the Parisian club scene, Le Triptyque, left off. With the fabled location on the rue Montmartre, the people behind the Technoparade festival at its helm, and DJs such as Carl Craig, Felix Da Housecat, and the Scratch Perverts on the decks, it's no surprise it's an instant hit. The sleek black interior, with two bars, a lounge area, and a *fumoir*, is decorated with pink and blue neon vectors that are straight out of '80s sci-fi film *Tron*. By 2am it's packed with hip 20- and 30-somethings who are refreshingly jovial for stylish Parisians. It seems this place is set to live up to its name. *Generally Wed 9pm–3am, Thu–Sat midnight–6am, check website for exact times. ≡ 142 rue Montmartre (M° Grands Boulevards), 01.40.28.05.55, parissocialclub.com, myspace.com/parissocialclub*

Le Vieux Léon • 1st • Bar

In the heart of the bustling shopping district of Les Halles, this charming little space offers a welcome break from the onslaught of tourists and marauding teens. The terrace is drenched with sun in the early afternoon, but the young, fun-loving crowd moves indoors to perch at the copper bar for the concerts that take place here most days from 5pm onward. It's gained quite a reputation for classic French chansons and folk music, but theatre productions, and rock and electro bands, are also thrown into the mix. Check out the MySpace page for the latest events. *Mon–Sat 11am–2am. ≡ 18 rue de la Grande-Truanderie (M° Les Halles), 01.45.08.43.76, myspace.com/levieuxleon*

Zéro Zéro • 11th • Bar

Zéro Zéro has been a favorite nightspot of ours for a quite a while, but it's only since we returned after the smoking ban that we realized how good it really is. This charmingly scruffy little bar is no longer the eye-stinger it once was, and though it's still a little claustrophobic, the smokers draw the crowd out onto the street. The neighbors must hate it, but the youngish, trendy-but-not-trying-too-hard drinkers lap up the house-party atmosphere and the cutting-edge sounds from the DJ. Cocktails are a dangerous mix of delicious, cheap, and intoxicating, fueling the electric atmosphere, which peaks around 1am. *Mon–Sat 6pm–2am. ≡ 89 rue Amélot (M° St-Sébastien-Froissart), 01.49.23.51.00*

Bobo Paris Attractions

Canal Central • 10th • Fitness Club

Rue Lucien Sampaix is becoming so healthy, we thought French people would fear to tread there! But plenty turn out for yoga and Pilates sessions at this no-attitude center for well-being in the Canal district. It's the Muji of fitness—no egos, no pseudo-Eastern mysticism, just a fabulous huge room with natural light and friendly, well-organized staff. Ashtanga and kundalini yoga, Feldenkrais, Pilates, *barre au sol* (dancers' floor exercises), and qi gong are all on offer. You'll need to understand a bit of French, as there are currently no English-language classes, but if you ask in advance, you may find one of the

Duo • 4th • Hotel Bar

Inspired mixology and good conversation are two attributes of a great bartender, and Rob McHardy has both in spades. Since this metrosexual cocktail maestro took over here, we've noticed residents of the hip Marais hotel find it almost impossible to traverse the 10 yards from elevator to door without stopping in for a martini or two. Rob does all that can legally be done with herbs with panache, such as the B&A (*basilic et ananas*) with fresh basil, pineapple, and vodka, or the refreshing Let, a vodka and mint concoction. At €10 a pop, this is top-quality sipping. Nonresidents are welcome, but Duo is still a well-kept secret in the heart of this bustling area. *Tue–Thu 6pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 6pm–1am.* ☐ 11 rue du Temple (M° Rambuteau), 01.42.72.72.22, duo-paris.com

La Flèche d'Or • 20th • Concert Hall

Although the former train station is not without its own rather gritty charm, this is not what crowds of revelers line up for most nights of the week. This place is all about the music. The Flèche d'Or is a shining beacon for the hottest new rock, indie, electro, and folk acts. With 120 events every month, each with four to five live acts, it's no surprise it's been voted best rock club in France on MySpace. Check out the website for the programming. Young hipsters make their way to this otherwise quiet corner of the 20th from all over France and, indeed, the world. The unpretentious and faithful crowd worships the place as much as the musicians that grace the stage. If you're looking for a glamorous night out in cozy surroundings, give it a miss. However, if you're after getting a dose of your favorite band, discovering some new talent to boot, and perhaps having dinner in the atrium restaurant overlooking the rail tracks, make it your first port of call. And best of all: It's free. *Varies with event, check website.* € ☐ 102bis rue de Bagnolet (M° Porte de Bagnolet), 01.44.64.01.02, flechedor.fr

Glaz'art • 19th • Dance Club

Out of the way, in a far-flung corner of the 19th arrondissement, and unorthodox in its choice of music, Glaz'art is not your typical nightclub. As such, it appeals to an alternative but unmistakably trendy crowd of arty hipsters in their 20s and 30s. Pretty much anything goes here, apart from the mundane. Club-night DJs spin anything from punk to hip-hop, drum 'n' bass to electro. Midweek concerts see debuting bands and underground acts performing, and they even throw in the occasional exhibition or film screening for good measure. These events generally kick off around 8pm, but club nights don't heat up until 1am. Come summer, the parking lot is transformed into an alternative Paris Plage with the addition of 30 tons of sand, barbecues, and games of *pétanque*. It might be a bit of a trek to get out here, but it's definitely one worth making if you want to hear something refreshingly different from commercial house. *Club nights Fri and Sat 11pm–6am. For concerts, check website.* ☐ 7–15 av. de la Porte de la Villette (M° Porte de la Villette), 01.40.36.55.65, glazart.com, myspace.com/glazart

Le Motel • 11th • Bar

There's a decidedly British feel about this hip little drinking hole. Posters of Manchester groups adorn the mauve walls, and the soundtrack is classic '80s and '90s Brit pop and indie. The place fills up with a late-20s to early-30s crowd for happy hour at 9pm, all misty-eyed with nostalgia. Vintage upholstered armchairs and gold-framed mirrors strewn with fairy lights give it the feel of an

brother. But if you want the real deal, get your name on the waiting list early for the supper experience, and throw that diet to the wind. *Daily noon–11pm (set dinner Mon–Fri 9pm).* €€ ☐ 9 carrefour de l'Odéon (M° Odéon), 01.44.27.07.97, hotel-paris-relais-saint-germain.com

Gaya Rive Gauche • 7th • Trendy

As Pierre Gagnaire has become a veritable superchef with his Sketch restaurant in London, it is no surprise to find that English is spoken here. Gaya is self-consciously trendy, its bar seating for singles providing a view of the chefs working in their Kangol caps, fish scales on the walls, and no tablecloths, but its intimacy is endearing. The menu, as in many modern French restaurants, enumerates ingredients without offering much clue as to how they are put together, though the helpful servers will explain if you don't like a surprise. But then, surprises are what Gagnaire is famous for. The Fats Waller, for instance, turns out to be a soup of grilled red peppers with a Bloody Mary sorbet in the center and dabs of quinoa, basmati rice, and Chinese spinach, teasing the palate with its contrasts of temperature, color, and texture. When it comes to main courses, diners are treated like sophisticated children: Everything has been extracted from the bone or carapace and is served up in a dish. The langoustine, for instance, with fabulous gnocchi and slivers of seaweed, is a luxury concoction. Light but flavorful desserts and a selection of small-producer wines completes the successful formula. *Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10:45pm.* €€€ ☐ 44 rue du Bac (M° Rue du Bac), 01.45.44.73.73, pierre-gagnaire.com

Il Vino • 7th • Trendy

Ever since it won the 2007 Fooding award for “Best bourgeois-bohemian spot for wine,” Il Vino has been hot on the lips of discerning wine snobs and gastronomes. The fact that it has a cellar with an impressive 15,000 vintages and an award-winning sommelier (voted best in the world by the International Association of Sommeliers, no less) hardly comes as a surprise. Surprise, however, is the element that makes this place unique. Whether you elect to select your wine and have the chef concoct your menu accordingly, or simply test yourself with some blind tasting, there is a lot of fun to be had. The food, of course, is perfectly matched with the wines, and equally delicious. Imagine the pairing of a gutsy white Jurançon with mature Comté cheese or Macon with a fragrant saffron risotto. The setting is modern and chic, whether you're seated at the high tables by the window or on the comfortable velvet banquettes. With set menus stretching from €50 to €1,000, expect to find *bon viveur* 30-somethings and the occasional celebrity splashing out on Château Pétrus and Château d'Yquem. If you're no grape guru, don't let the wine list daunt you: The staff are helpful and the emphasis here is on fun. *Tue–Sat 12:30–2:30pm and 7:30–10:30pm.* €€ ☐ 13 bd. de la Tour-Maubourg (M° La Tour-Maubourg), 01.44.11.72.00

L'Eclaireur* • 8th • Mediterranean

The latest in the Paris and Tokyo chain, L'Eclaireur offers discerning shoppers the option to give their feet and credit cards a rest, while treating themselves to a cocktail and bar snacks or the Franco-Mediterranean lunch and dinner menu. Try the dazzlingly fresh Sicilian crudo (raw fish) flavored with olive oil and citrus fruits. Piero Fornasetti's serigraphs adorn walls and tableware alike, creating an eclectic yet inviting interior that sparkles with visual humor. Drunken monkeys cavort along the bar, playing-card towers decorate the restaurant, and an

Bobo Paris Nightlife

L'Alternative • 1st • Dance Club

Stepping through the red velvet curtains into L'Alternative, you'll see right away that it was once a cabaret. The red hues, sparkling chandeliers, and subtle lighting suffuse this small boudoir of a club with a sexy glamour. With no entrance fee, no dress code, and smiles all round, it's far more comfortable and inviting than the bigger, more commercial clubs of Paris. The punters tend toward their late 20s and early 30s, with a laid-back after-work crowd turning into a ready-to-party, snappily dressed pack of partygoers after 1am. Although the club officially closes at 6am, it's been known to stay open well into the next day. And with the excellent sound system pumping out the latest in electro, tech, and minimal house from DJs such as Junior Caldera and Dax Riders, we can't blame them. Check out the club's MySpace page for details on upcoming parties. *Mon–Sat 6pm–6am.* ☎ 5 rue Molière (M° Palais Royal–Musée du Louvre), 01.42.96.20.27, lalternative.fr

Café des Sports • 20th • Café

All over Paris, insignificant corner bars with names such as Rendezvous des Amis and Café des Sports are springing into new life. Gone are the TV and the handful of drinkers hunched over their betting forms, in come DJ nights and a packed and happening ambience. With its own MySpace page so guests can check out upcoming sounds, Café des Sports is the latest addition to an increasingly vibrant corner of the city (there are four live-music venues within a few blocks). By day there is an affordable lunch menu; by night from Wednesday to Saturday, invited DJs—ranging from a Manchester drum 'n' bass collective through indie rock, hip-hop, dub, and jungle—draw crowds. With a tiny dance floor at the back and a thronging bar that spills out onto the street, this is the place to mingle with the edgy crowd that inhabits the neighborhood. Come after 10pm to really get in on the action. *Daily noon–1:30am.* 94 rue de Ménilmontant (M° Gambetta or Ménilmontant), 01.46.36.48.18, myspace.com/lecafedessports

Le China • 12th • Lounge Bar

It's back! After a year of closure, the China Club has acquired new owners and a slightly different name, but inside everything is just as it was, with the exception that the clubby upstairs room is now a *fumoir* by name only. The large lounge bar with leather Chesterfields and deep red walls recalls a Shanghai gentlemen's club of the 1930s. It's espionage-novel territory, and in the low light it's difficult to discern the clientele: tinker, tailor, soldier, spy, banker, writer, lover ... all ages come here, and it's equally perfect for a romantic date or a night on the town with friends. Emerging from the long, long bar, the cocktails have a historic pedigree to match the ambience. Bartender Fred recommends the Morning Cocktail—take the hair of the dog at your peril, as this concoction includes a *souççon* of absinthe within its many spirit ingredients. If you're peckish, dim sum and other Asian delights from the menu will be brought to your table in reed baskets. The downstairs live music club is also functioning again with jazz either cool or funky. *Mon–Sat 5pm–2am.* ☎ 50 rue de Charenton (M° Bastille), 01.43.46.08.09, lechina.eu

unabashedly *sans-fig-leaf* Adam and Eve ensure that no mistakes are made when looking for the right restroom. Expect power lunchers at midday and a young, well-dressed crowd from 8pm onward. If reserving is your thing, go for the naturally lit terrace in the Galerie Royale for lunch or the secluded “erotic corner” for dinner. Failing that, sample a signature cucumber martini at the bar, and absorb the effervescent atmosphere while awaiting a table. *Mon 11am–7pm, Tue–Sat 11am–2am.* ☎ 10 rue Boissy d'Anglas (M° Concorde), 01.53.43.09.99, leclaireur.com

La Nouvelle Athènes • 9th • Trendy

Named after the area of the 9th around it, La Nouvelle Athènes is a unique establishment combining a gastronomic restaurant, a bar, and a jazz and blues club. Such is the clever design of the place, with the graceful sweep of two staircases leading from the bar to the split-level restaurant, that you can get a full view of the stage from wherever you're seated. There's a refined elegance to this predominantly white space—whether it's due to the tall bay windows, the sculptural gold-adorned lights suspended from the ceiling, or the tinkling of the grand piano is not clear. In any case, the combination of food, wine, and music is magical. Don't be surprised if the polished but laid-back crowd feels the need to get up and dance. You don't need to dine to appreciate the jazz, but it would be a shame to miss out on the cuisine. Creative and unusual pairings of ingredients, such as a duck and oyster steak tartare, and clever twists including a banana guacamole with orange tacos, are what make the menu a clear cut above the usual jazz-club fare. *Mon–Sat 10am–2am (concerts Wed–Sat from 10:30pm).* €€€ ☎ 9 pl. Pigalle (M° Pigalle), 01.49.70.03.99, lecafedelanouvelleathenes.com, myspace.com/lanouvelleathenes



Les Ombres • 7th • Modern French

Like a natural beauty, Les Ombres doesn't have to make an effort to seduce. Jean Nouvel's multifaceted glass ceiling and the summer terrace give you the most splendid view of the Eiffel Tower (so near it looks unreal) and the whole 360-degree panorama of Paris. Hence, a simple setting of dark wood floors and rattan chairs is all that was needed to set the scene atop the new Museum of Tribal Art. Arno Busquet's gastronomic cuisine creatively echoes the museum's ethos: French cuisine is heightened with global, earthy touches—cream of turnip soup with tonka beans and ginger *sot l'y laisse*, a mussel risotto revealing lemongrass flavors, and rabbit accompanied by a Chinese cabbage and blue cheese gratin—all changing according to season. The exotic ingredients are fair trade, just like the artifacts in the museum shop. It's easy to pop in for lunch, as the space is large, but there are long waiting lists for the evening *menu dégustation*, when the stars and candlelight glimmer over a well-heeled clientele. In summer especially, try to time your meal for sunset. *Sun–Thu noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10:30pm, Fri–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7:30–11pm.* €€€ ☎ Musée du Quai Branly, 27 quai Branly (M° Alma-Marceau or RER Pont de l'Alma), 01.47.53.68.00, lesombres-restaurant.com



Ozu • 16th • Japanese

Samurai warriors and giant golden fish welcome diners to the Cinéaqua's restaurant. With a Hollywood-meets-Tokyo interior, the traditional Japanese restaurant décor has been imbued with a dash of refined glamor. Its wow factor, however, has to be the 20-meter-long window displaying the aquarium's largest tank, which is teeming with a multitude of fish and sharks. Midday clients range from



Hôtel du Nord • 10th • Brasserie



It is here that the heart of the hipster Canal scene beats these days, and the more often you go, the more you'll love it. Though it's like a private club for its habitués—some of them daily—it is just as welcoming to blow-ins. Film buffs, or anyone who's read the Mairie de Paris sign outside, will know that *Hôtel du Nord* was a classic French film by Michel Carné, based on a novel by Eugène Dabit, who lived right here and focused the sad tale on his nighttime encounters with bargemen and loose women. Now the locale has been fitted out with the red velvet, leather club chairs, and old photographs to give it that nostalgic Paris film-set look. The cast consists of impossibly beautiful young bohemians, or elderly eccentric ones in the Quentin Crisp mode, who down *mojitos* at the zinc bar, throng outside with cigarettes, or feast on roast knuckle of lamb or tuna sashimi. At lunch, the fixed-price menu is a good value; at night, the flirtatious staff adds to the sexy vibe. *Noon–3pm and 8pm–midnight (bar daily 9am–1:30am)*. €€   102 quai de Jemmapes (M° Jacques Bonsergent), 01.40.40.78.78, hoteldunord.org

Restaurant Amour • 9th • Bistro



When the BBC asked us to name Paris' trendiest restaurant, we took them to the bistro of the Hôtel Amour. "But it's so relaxed," they remarked, somewhat dismayed by the lack of hype, the lack of Starck, and the lack of plastic surgery on the Converse-clad late-lunch crowd. It is an understated kind of hip, but earwig the conversation a little, and you'll realize you're sitting right next to an award-winning indie-film director, privy to the conception of a music video, and isn't that that Chanel model over there? (Yes, she's dating one of the hotel's designers.) You'll find Costes-style food, but better—fresh rocket and Parmesan salad, seared tuna, and so forth—without the Costes attitude: The staff are lovely. The setting embraces '50s retro bistro with red leather banquettes and metallic lights, but the walled garden is the place to be seen, once it opens its doors in spring. Awash with trailing ivy, bougainvillea, and a fountain, its optimum time is for an aperitif, and you can linger until 10pm, when the garden crowd comes inside to add to the cozy bar throng. *Daily 8am–midnight (bar until 2am)*. €€   Hôtel Amour, 8 rue Navarin (M° St-Georges), 01.48.78.31.80

Unico • 11th • Argentinian



Definitely not one for the vegetarians, Unico is an emporium dedicated to beef. Housed in a former butcher shop, tucked away in a quiet side street not far from the action at Charonne, this Argentinian restaurant attracts a crowd of 30-something hipsters. It's decorated in a fun, if slightly claustrophobic, mismatch of '70s tiles, furniture, and lamps, all in various shades of orange. The menu kicks off with classics such as guacamole and ceviche, while the mains feature only beef, with a handy pictogram of a cow to help you choose a cut. If in doubt, we recommend the *lomo* (tenderloin) with its addictively spicy *chimichurri* sauce. And don't even dream of uttering the words "well done." Sweet-toothed diners shouldn't leave without tasting the *dulce de leche*. *Tue–Sun 12:15–2:30pm and 8–11pm, Sat 1–3pm and 8–11pm*. €€   15 rue Paul-Bert (M° Faidherbe-Chaligny), 01.43.67.68.08, resto-unico.com

lawyers doing business at the communal tables to families taking advantage of the very reasonable aquarium-and-lunch deal. In the evening it takes on a rather more sophisticated air, with well-heeled socialites sampling the gourmet menus before retiring to the lounge bar downstairs. The menu is a result of the French and Japanese team in the kitchen, with classic sushi, maki, and sashimi, as well as more innovative dishes that fuse Japanese tradition with regional produce. Try the steaming seared beef, brought to your table on its own toban grill, or share a whole sea bass, stuffed with rice and mountain vegetables. *Daily noon–3pm and 7:30pm–midnight (lounge bar Thu–Sat 8pm–5am)*. €€€   2 av. des Nations Unies (M° Trocadéro), 01.40.69.23.90, cineaqua.com

Le Rival Deluxe* • 18th • International

The latest acquisition of the Costes empire, the Rival Deluxe has risen from the ashes of former nightspot Nirvana Lounge. This "bar de nuit" provides a stylishly plush and cozy haven for a well-dressed crowd until dawn breaks. Young partygoers and a more sedate crowd mingle to sexy, chilled-out house and sip classic Costes cocktails—Le Rival Deluxe is the firm favorite, with vodka, fresh strawberries, and champagne. Upstairs, the atmosphere is that of a chic cafe, with an elegant terrace leading to an interior of chocolate-velvet seating beneath a midnight-blue ceiling sparkling with a constellation of lights. Below, a more intimate, red-hued lounge heats up as the evening progresses. Brunch, bar snacks, and light meals can be had nonstop until 6am throughout the establishment. Despite a frequently famous clientele, it's surprisingly accessible—anyone who can scrub up a bit can get in. Drop in after 1am for a clubbier atmosphere. *Daily 8am–6am*. €€   3 av. Matignon (M° Franklin D. Roosevelt), 01.42.89.64.72

Sens • 8th • International

Upon entering, you'll be greeted by a sleek Parisian décor, which is icy-cool gray and white, with Philippe Starck chairs and light flooding in from the back atrium. All the heat here is in the cooking, which globe-trots from Japan to India via North Africa (try the sweet spiced lamb with green chile harissa and couscous juice to tickle your taste buds). While weekday lunches attract laid-back corporates, evenings and weekends see a younger crowd, as the night moves smoothly from cocktails—try the Violette des Sens with Belvedere vodka, violet liqueur, and Get 31—through dinner, to clubbing with house and R&B sounds taking you to dawn. You can drink without dining at the bar and in the mezzanine lounge area. With no cover charge, this makes for the perfect sophisticated lounge-club experience. *Mon–Fri noon–3pm and 7:30–11:30pm, Sat 7:30–11:30pm (bar Mon–Sat until 2am, club Fri–Sat until 6am)*. €€   23 rue de Ponthieu (M° Franklin D. Roosevelt or St-Philippe du Roule), 01.42.25.95.00, lacompaniedescomptoirs.com

Sensing • 16th • Contemporary

Chic yet cozy, sophisticated without being snobbish, Guy Martin's latest culinary outing is causing a stir without a scene. With cuisine to please the senses and not the critics, Sensing snubs the trends. The beautifully presented dishes are bursting with the fresh flavors of seasonal products of the highest quality. The menu features innovative pairings of ingredients in unusual combinations of textures—seared tuna stuffed with foie gras, for example. Mousses and foams play a part in both main courses and desserts. The diverse clientele consists not only of

foodies drawn here by the owner's reputation, but also those lured inside by the inviting interior and mouthwatering menu. A sleek marble bar leads into two dining spaces decorated in muted grays and greens, with seating in plum velvet. The atmosphere does not distract from the food, but creates a luxurious ambience that ensures diners will want to make the meal last late into the night. *Mon 7:30–10:30pm, Tue–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10:30pm.* €€ 📍 19 rue Bréa (M° Vavin), 01.43.27.08.80, restaurant-sensing.com

Spring • 9th • Contemporary

Nothing short of a phenomenon in his 16-seat restaurant-cum-kitchen, Daniel Rose has managed to have the most sought-after dinner reservation in Paris, booking up to six months in advance. So is it worth it? Well, yes. Spring is like being invited to dinner (OK, you pay, but let's forget that small detail for a moment) by a friend who is an amazing chef. You never know what you are going to get, and you get what you're given: three courses, no choice. But whatever it is, it will be exactly primed to be perfectly in season at the very hour you eat—which is late by American standards, at 9pm. And, of course, you don't know whom you are going to meet, which is all part of the fun. It is, by the way, worth getting on the waiting list, as a cancellation can lead to a call at 7pm saying it's on for tonight, at which point you hotfoot it from wherever you are. And don't worry, a jacket is not required. *Tue–Fri dinner; arrive at 8:30 for 9pm seating. Lunch some Thu and Fri.* €€ 📍 28 rue de la Tour d'Auvergne (M° Cadet), 01.45.96.05.72, springparis.fr

Hot & Cool Paris Nightlife

Bobin'O • 14th • Cabaret

We initially wrote off the reopening of this vast venue, fearing it was going to be something of a tourist trap. We were wrong. The cabaret that has seen the likes of Josephine Baker and Edith Piaf has been given a multimillion-euro face-lift that oozes ultramodern style. The performances themselves make those of Crazy Horse look a little tacky, and while there's still the promise of topless dancers, the huge variety of acts appeals to all audiences. The cuisine, though not quite "gastronomic" as claimed, is exceptionally good considering there are 430 covers a night. What really catches the attention, though, is the impressive list of DJs who have been invited to play here. Come midnight, the tables are cleared, and crowd-pleasers such as Roger Sanchez and Ellen Allien take to the decks. *Tue–Thu 7:30pm–2am, Fri–Sat 7:30pm–4am.* €€ 📍 14–20 rue de la Gaîté (M° Gaîté), 01.43.27.24.24, bobino.fr

Chacha Club* • 1st • Nightclub

Two cats' heads (chat-chat, geddit?) and a doorman are all that heralds the ChaCha Club, but nothing has caused such a storm in Paris nightlife since the opening of the Buddha Bar. Like the latter, it combines a lounge bar, restaurant, and nightclub, but there the comparison stops. The ChaCha is intimate, like a 1930s private club, with a touch of the libertine spirit of that era. Beautiful creatures of both sexes crowd the dining room, bar, private rooms, and fumoir (the first in Paris!), which is encased in glass so smokers can choose the best moment for "smirting" (smoking as an excuse for flirting). As the evening wears on, the age group of the clientele descends, and the door policy becomes more

Chez Jeanette • 10th • Bistro

Typical of the hundreds of old zinc bars found all over Paris, Chez Jeanette has a new lease on life thanks to its new owners. Whether it's the excellent music, the tasty bistro dishes, or its prime, if a little unexpected, location in an increasingly hip part of the 10th, a young, achingly trendy crowd has adopted it as their own. Spilling out onto the street on weekend evenings, they're probably the only ones having this much fun in this otherwise quiet neighborhood. Fight your way inside, and take in the accumulated charm of several decades: the '20s wallpaper with Lautrec-reminiscent dancers, the '50s refrigerator, and the '60s chandelier. A couple of cheap beers later, you're bound to get into the swing of things. For a different take on the place, drop in for a roast pintade or *petit salé* lunch, and absorb the comings and goings of the neighborhood. *Daily 8am–2am.* € 📍 47 rue du Fbg. St-Denis (M° Strasbourg–St-Denis), 01.47.70.30.89

Curieux Spaghetti Bar • 4th • Italian

One of the first restaurants in Paris to truly embrace communal dining, Curieux has been a roaring success. At the bottom of the Marais, in one of the gayest and most shop-tastic areas, it is well placed to draw in singles and couples of all persuasions to try its fun concept. Choose between the long red bar and communal tables, and take advantage of the ice-breakers to start conversation and break the über-serious French food habit. There are the paper bibs with a prestained tomato splotch and the pick-and-mix menu style (in addition to spaghetti, there's bruschetta, antipasti, meatballs, and so on). But best of all, there's Curieux's pre-clubbing coup, the Chups: shots of wildly flavored vodkas served in little tubes shaped like Halloween make-up glitter sticks. A Murano chandelier, ever-changing wallpaper, house music, and shimmying waiters make up the perfect party background. You may also just pop in for drinks, though it's a great place to fill up before hitting neighboring clubs and bars. *Sun–Wed noon–2am, Thu–Sat noon–4am.* € 📍 14 rue St-Merri (M° Hôtel de Ville), 01.42.72.75.97, curieuxspag.com

Dans le Noir? • 4th • International

People come here from all over the world to satisfy their curiosity. As the name suggests, Dans le Noir? proposes that you dine—you guessed it—in the dark. No candles even, just pitch-black darkness. Fortunately, the restaurant's waiters are there to make sure you don't miss your mouth or spill your wine. How do they do it? It is, of course, second nature to them as the waiters themselves have always relied on senses other than sight. It's not simply a quirky dining fad—the hope is that you'll experience, for a short time, the difficulty blind people deal with on a daily basis. If you're feeling unadventurous, you can order your meal from the (lit) bar before you take a seat, but we strongly recommend you go for the surprise menu. Having informed the staff of any allergies you may have, you'll embark on this culinary journey with that much more of a sense of adventure. We won't spoil the fun, but let's just say the cunningly unusual combinations of flavors and textures were delicious. If you're still unsure of what you've eaten, you'll be presented with photos of the meal at the end of the evening, so you're no longer in the dark. Reservations are required for the restaurant. *Restaurant seatings Mon–Sat 7:45–8:15pm and 10–10:30pm, Sun 7:45–8:15pm and 9:15–9:45pm, Sat–Sun 12:30–1pm. Bar happy hour daily 5:30–7pm, after hours Thu midnight–1am, Fri–Sat midnight–2am.* €€ 📍 51 rue Quincampoix (M° Rambuteau), 01.42.77.98.04, danslenoir.com

fried Camembert with apples caramelized in cider, for example. Whether you're up for hitting the tiny dance floor after dinner's settled or not, it's definitely worth staying here until closing. *Mon–Fri 9am–3pm and 5pm–2am, Sat 5pm–2am.* € ☎ 21 rue Juliette Dodu (M° Colonel Fabien), 01.42.02.99.71, baxo.fr

La Bellevilloise • 20th • International

The Bellevilloise is one of those spaces that draws no boundaries. And boy, is space the word—2,000 square meters accommodates a restaurant, club gallery, loft, and roof terrace. The Halle aux Oliviers offers bistro dinners, an after-work happy hour (5–7pm), and brunch on Sundays. Innovative tapas and salads can be had at the bar, or, better still, on the rooftop terrace, weather permitting. After dinner you can enjoy live music, peruse exhibitions, or perhaps catch a film screening. With a venue so infinitely versatile, the list of activities is long and changes on a regular basis—be sure to check out the website for current happenings. These light and airy spaces draw businesspeople, families, and low-key hipsters alike. Harking back to its beginnings as a workers' cooperative in 1877, the philosophy here is both avant-garde and community-conscious with an emphasis on fair trade, collective creativity, and respect for the environment. Little wonder it's a rising star of the alternative scene. *Restaurant Wed–Thu 5:30pm–2am, Fri 3:30pm–late, Sat–Sun 11am–late. Nightlife varies with events, so check website.* € ☎ 19–21 rue Boyer (M° Gambetta or Ménilmontant), 01.53.27.35.77, labellevilloise.com

Bob's Juice Bar • 10th • Cafe

We felt we were back in Brooklyn, but our NYC friend told us it is Bob (alias Mark) himself, rather than his bar, that is Brooklyn: the fedora, the banter ... In any case, sitting at the trestle tables, helping ourselves to free green or mint tea, and hearing a conversation that ranged from Wim Wenders to Sarah Palin in three seconds flat made us most nostalgic for Smith Street and Hoyt. Bob's has a simple formula: two fresh juices, two soups, two salads, two sandwiches, two muffins per day—take your choice. The food is copious and fresh. The conversation is always interesting, so the design magazines are often left unrifled, and laughter is plentiful, as when a science graduate came in to apply for a job: "He's doing a PhD in brain semiotics, and he wants to work at Bob's?" Check out the YouTube clip; this is perhaps the best US rendezvous in Paris. *Mon–Sat 7:30am–4pm.* € ☎ 15 rue Lucien Sampaix (M° Jacques Bonsergent), 09.50.06.36.18, bobsjuicebar.fr

Le Café K • 10th • Cafe

Gare de l'Est was the last place you would have looked to find a happening nightspot a year ago, but such is the mercurial rise of the 10th arrondissement in the hipster stakes. This funky, brightly decorated cafe is attracting the young, stylish, and beautiful. Part of its success is due to spillover from the nearby Canal St-Martin and the south-facing terrace, but credit must also be given to the quality of the events they put on here. Midweek chess and mah-jongg nights are a surprising hit with the locals, and the weekend's jazz bands are excellent. The laid-back, smiley staff and simple Mediterranean bistro dishes add a welcome touch of Provence to the equation. *Mon–Fri 7am–2am, Sat–Sun 10am–2am.* € ☎ 156 Fbg. St-Martin (M° Gare de l'Est), 01.46.07.15.15, cafe-k.abcsalles.com

stringent, so if you're not European royalty or a soon-to-be-signed rock star, get there early. Upstairs has a funky recording studio for messing around on electric guitars, and a "boudoir" with a bath, less sexy than it really ought to be. *Mon–Sat 7pm–5am.* ☎ 47 rue Berger (M° Louvre Rivoli), 01.40.13.12.12, chachaclub.fr

Club Sandwich • Various Locations • Party

Born out of the void it now single-handedly fills, Club Sandwich is unlike anything else on the Paris scene. The difference: Anything goes—anything, that is, but the mundane. The monthly, venue-hopping, Sunday-night parties exude sexuality of all shapes and forms, not only in the cabaret shows and musical performances, but also in the fabulous creatures of the night who make these parties their personal playground. As these events are all the rage with the fashion crowd, don't be surprised if you end up dancing with your favorite model or designer, or even the likes of Dita Von Teese. With a frivolous mix of sexy disco and electro-pop, DJs keep the crowd as bubbly as the Champagne until dawn. If you're keen to join the dedicated revelers who flock here from the world over, check the MySpace page for the next event's location and theme. Go in jeans and a T-shirt if you must, but be prepared to be overtaken by the sartorially more adventurous in line. Get there before midnight. *Sun monthly 11pm–6am.* ☎ myspace/clubsandwich

Cud • 3rd • Gay Bar

Before you get any ideas in your head, the name "Classic Up and Down" refers to the fact that this place has a neat little bar upstairs and a mini-club downstairs. It is therefore the perfect spot if full-on clubbing is not on the agenda. Open late every night of the week, it's the only place to end your night out in the Marais in style. It fills up around 2am with predominantly male, youngish types who dance, drink, and cruise under the stone arches of the basement, or congregate on the street to chat and smoke. With free entrance and cloakroom, friendly staff, and unpretentious clientele, this place is refreshingly fun in a gay scene that frequently takes itself too seriously. *Bar Mon–Thu 10pm–6am, Fri–Sat 10pm–7am. Club Mon–Thu midnight–6am, Fri–Sat midnight–7am.* ☎ 12 rue des Haudriettes (M° Rambuteau), 01.42.77.44.12, cud-bar.com

Experimental Cocktail Club • 2nd • Bar

Hidden behind black velvet curtains on a quiet cobbled street off Montorgeuil, Experimental Cocktail has got an authentic speakeasy atmosphere, complete with a 100-year-old bar, studded barstools, and a piano. Experimental1 is the signature drink, a refreshing concoction of lemon juice, gum syrup, lemongrass, fresh basil, and elderflower syrup on a vodka or gin base. Fans of tequila, which is difficult to find in France, will be in heaven with the selection. And English is spoken by most of the sophisticated cocktail aficionados here. *Mon–Wed 7pm–2am, Thu–Sat 7pm–5am.* ☎ 37 rue St-Sauveur (M° Sentier), 01.45.08.88.09, myspace.com/experimentalcocktailclub

The Island Bar at Mama Shelter • 12th • Lounge Bar

A Paris of sleek lounge bars where beautiful people sip martinis to laid-back sounds? If the owners of Mama Shelter had read **Night+Day** guides from cover to cover, they couldn't have better encapsulated our perfect city nightlife experience. But surprise! This Hot & Cool location is not in the Golden Triangle, but

Bobo Paris Hotels

Duo • 4th • Trendy (58 rms)

Since doubling its space, this contemporary boutique hotel bang in the heart of the Marais has gone up and up in our estimation and is attracting a city-savvy clientele who like to hang out in the modishly decorated communal areas. The owners have cleverly devoted the spacious ground floor to lounges, including the Bijou Martini Bar. There is a sauna and small gym belowground, which you may find is all yours. The rooms, decorated by Parisian interior-design star Jean-Philippe Nuel, are compact but perfectly conceived, with brown and cream tones, and touches of rich turquoise. All have flat-screen TVs and WiFi; the difference in the three categories of double is only in the size, while the one suite has a private courtyard and tub for two. This great deal with friendly service has been discovered by the fashion set, so book well in advance for fashion weeks and salons. €€€ 11 rue du Temple (M° Rambuteau), 01.42.72.72.22, duo-paris.com

Hôtel Amour • 9th • Trendy (20 rms)

“No bathrobe, no porter, no receptionist, no car service, no conference room, no air con, no spa, no pianist, no TV, no laundry bags, no bible ...” Thierry Costes, restaurateur Emmanuel Delavenne, and graffiti artist André knew exactly what—and whom—they wanted to exclude when they created the Hôtel Amour. Over dinner one night this dream team imagined their perfect hotel, a place where they would put up their artist friends in an atmosphere that is creative, convivial, and oh-so-Parisian. Each room is decorated by a different artist, with tongue in cheek and libido running free: Marc Newson, Sophie Calle, André himself ... and there's plenty to drive away ennui in this decadent hideaway south of Montmartre. We find it so hard to choose: Room 201 is a favorite with its black and yellow scheme and a wall of erotic and design magazines, but if you can stretch to €200 a night on your struggling artist's budget, try to snag the Belvedere room with its vodka bar and terrace to host your own party, or the new Alexandre de Betak room with a clawfoot bath in the middle of the room (Betak had a hand in Black Calvados, and yes, black is the color, what else?). Downstairs the relaxed retro bistro and garden is a meeting-place for the city's creative in-crowd. Be there. €€ 8 rue Navarin (M° St-Georges), 01.48.78.31.80, hotelamour.com

Bobo Paris Restaurants

Baxo • 10th • French

In the short time since Baxo has opened, it has developed an impressive reputation as both an excellent restaurant and a happening nightspot. In an otherwise quiet corner of the increasingly hip 10th, a stone's throw from the Canal St-Martin, this modest bar, dining room, and terrace are jam-packed with a savvy, 30-something crowd most nights of the week. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights are particularly busy, when some of France's hippest house and electro DJs, such as Patrick Vidal, set up their decks. These evenings are so popular that we advise you to book a table at least a week in advance if you're hoping to dine. The décor has a distinctly Balearic feel to it, with warm ochre walls, rustic beams, and sleek chrome accents for contrast. The menu also plays upon contrasts with French classics revisited with sweet and savory twists: deep-

in the far east of the city, in a hidden gem of a neighborhood that has recently been rediscovered—not that John Galliano and a few others didn't already know about it. With the Flèche d'Or music venue opposite run by the same dream team that manages Mama Shelter, Island Bar has rock musicians and promoters mingling with the highly international hotel residents, and the mix is electric. The long open-plan room is adjoined by a separate room with a high communal table for 24; it has copious sofas, an illuminated central-island bar, a double-size baby-foot table, and cozy corners filled with old and new books, together with amusing squashed-bottle lamps by Philippe Starck, who designed the entire hotel. In the cool grey and black décor, red candles flicker, illuminating the oh-so-cool crowd, who might take the air on the elegant terrace running the entire length of the bar and overlooking the romantic, unused Petite Ceinture railway. The bar is serving a limited international dining menu in minimalist portions, but in November 2008 Alain Senderens takes over as consultant chef. Without a doubt, this is the future of Paris! *Bar daily 6am–2am. Restaurant daily noon–11pm.* ☎ 109 rue de Bagnole (M° Porte de Bagnole, Maraischiers, Alexandre Dumas), 01.43.48.48.48, mamashelter.com

L'Eclaireur* • 8th • Restaurant/Bar

The latest in the Paris and Tokyo chain, L'Eclaireur offers up cocktails and bar snacks to a chic crowd in an eclectic yet inviting setting that sparkles with visual humor. *Mon 11am–7pm, Tue–Sat 11am–2am.* ☎ 10 rue Boissy d'Anglas (M° Concorde), 01.53.43.09.99, leclaireur.com


Queenie • 8th • Lounge

Don't be fooled by the name—despite its proximity and shared owners, Queenie bears little resemblance to the Queen. A world away from the smoke and the sweat of the Champs-Élysées' most famous dance floor, refreshingly friendly staff welcome a mixed clientele into a relaxed loft-cum-lounge environment. The after-work crowd loosens ties over drinks, diners choose from an international menu, and partygoers warm up or wind down. It's at its best after midnight. Designer Bruno Borrione, protégé of the ubiquitous Philippe Starck, has come up with an atmosphere that is simultaneously chic and cozy. Vast white Chesterfields jostle for attention with gold brick pillars, subtly illuminated by rings of fluorescent light emanating from the muslin-clad walls that veil, at the far end, a blow-up of a 16th-century bare-breasted portrait of Gabrielle d'Estrées and the Duchesse de Villars. Aside from this, the talking point is undoubtedly the white cruciform bar, strikingly lit from above. It is the best place to see and be seen while sampling the dazzling list of innovative and delicious cocktails. Ask bartender Hervé for the Maturano cocktail, a zingy mixture of peach liqueur, lime, and vodka. *Daily 5pm–4am.* 5 rue de Berri (M° George V), 01.45.62.50.23, lequeenie.fr

Le Rival Deluxe* • 18th • Lounge

This “bar de nuit” provides a stylishly plush and cozy haven for a well-dressed crowd until dawn breaks. Young partygoers and a more sedate crowd mingle to sexy, chilled-out house, and sip classic Costes cocktails. Drop in after 1am for a clubber atmosphere. *Daily 8am–6am.* ☎ 3 av. Matignon (M° Franklin D. Roosevelt), 01.42.89.64.72

Chez Arthur • 10th • Bistro

This famous pre- and post-theatre restaurant has gone up a notch in the gastro-nomic stakes, while retaining its timeless décor of red walls filled with photographs of the stars who have visited over the years. We supped like kings, along with a definitively bobo crowd, the kind who frequent the Marché des Enfants Rouges with its celebrated organic wine merchant. This is no surprise, because one of Chez Arthur's greatest assets is its sommelier, Emmanuel Perez, passionate about organic and no-added-sulfur wines. The blackboard menu is another nod to the old days, as this is a rather refined cuisine, especially in the starters. Do not bypass the lobster and crayfish tails with citrus fruits. Mains—judging by the duck “burger” Rossini and the *pièce de boeuf*—are very rich and heavy, but the light touch returns with desserts prepared by a dedicated *pâtissier*. While another bit of smoky, carousing old Paris might have gone, this place is worth enjoying in its new incarnation in the heart of an evolving district. *Mon noon–2:30pm, Tue–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7pm–midnight, Sat 7pm–midnight.* €€  25 rue du Fbg. St-Martin (M° Strasbourg–St-Denis), 01.42.08.34.33

ETC • 16th • Gastronomic

The hype that was prelude to Christian Le Squer's new eatery is justified. ETC (Epicure Traditionelle Cuisine) is a contemporary bistro that puts a new spin on the genre. The food is startlingly innovative, dare we say off-the-wall, with pairings such as *boudin noir* (French blood sausage) and passion fruit a surprising success. Combining everything from seafood to game with the blink of an eye, the dishes are both skillfully executed and artistically presented. The décor, with its businesslike shades of anthracite and rich-hued wood, suits midday's power-lunch crowd. In the evenings, low lights soften the room, as couples wearing Christian Lacroix and Yves Saint Laurent arrive to enjoy four-hour dinners. *Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7–10pm, Sat 7–11pm.* €€€  2 rue la Pérouse (M° Boissière), 01.49.52.10.10

Classic Paris Nightlife


Stand-up Comedy at La Java • 10th • Performance

Finding the French just a little bit too intense? Shake it up a bit with some humor in your native language. British promoter Karel Beer has been putting on English-language stand-up and acoustic music for some years now and has a loyal expat following. Transatlantic talents including Scott Capurro, Tom Rhodes, and Greg Proops, as well as the latest Perrier Award-winners from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, all play here. The comics invariably say Paris is their best gig, with an ever-receptive audience in this erstwhile Latin dance club. The atmosphere's convivial, with wine, beer, and cheese platters for consumption at tables during the show. *Mon and Tue 8:30pm twice monthly.*  105 rue du Fbg. du Temple (M° Belleville), 01.53.19.98.88, anythingmatters.com

La Scala • 1st • Dance Club

After decades of succumbing to its slightly seedy reputation, La Scala is back. Hosting resident parties such as the über-cool Club Sandwich, and DJs such as the ubiquitous David Guetta, this vast club has once again made its mark on the landscape of Paris nightlife. With a nod to its previous incarnation, the décor revisits the '70s with a kitschy, scintillating display of lights and mirrors. Thoroughly modern, however, the sound system pumps out the latest in dance, electro, hip-hop, and R&B five nights a week. The clientele can vary wildly depending on the evening: As you can expect anything from low-key clubbers to the glammed-up glitterati of one-off fashion events, it's wise to check the website before you don your jeans and sneakers. Don't be surprised, however, if most of the crowd thinks the remixed disco classic they're dancing to is the original. *Wed–Sun 11pm–6am.*  88bis rue de Rivoli (M° Palais Royal–Musée du Louvre), 01.42.60.45.64, lascalaparis.fr

Showcase • 8th • Club/Concert Venue

Through fairy-tale gates, a cavernous space awaits revelers beneath the arches of Pont Alexandre III. Discovered by the club's creator, Albert Cohen, in 1998, it has quickly become a highly reputed concert venue, as well as the home of monthly and one-off club nights. Consult Showcase's page on MySpace for the very latest happenings. The huge concert hall is divided, longitudinally, in two, with tables on one side and a dance floor on the other, giving visitors the option to sit leisurely with drink in hand, or enjoy the sweaty crush near the stage. It has become a hot spot to rival the likes of the Baron or Paris Paris, and a similar crowd can be expected here: a devoted mix of fashionable 20-somethings, out to be seen, but not too proud to have a good time. Those keen to take in the atmosphere in more leisurely fashion should consider the Sunday brunches, when daylight streams through the large arched windows onto the quay. *Concerts vary, club nights generally 10pm–6am, Sunday brunch 11:30am–4pm.*  Pont Alexandre III, Right Bank (M° Champs-Elysées–Clemenceau or Invalides), 01.45.61.25.43, brunchreservations.com, 06.28.28.82.88, showcase.fr, myspace.com/showcaseparis

Hot & Cool Paris Attractions

Cinéaqua • 16th • Aquarium

The Cinéaqua accommodates 4 million liters of water, teeming with aquatic life, in the cavernous space excavated under the Trocadéro gardens for the World's Fair in 1878. But this aquarium is definitely not only for children. If the mesmerizing array of 450 species of aquatic life, including more than 40 sharks, informative films, and relaxing aqua-cinema, is not enough to entertain, check out the website for details of special events and concerts. And we're not talking kids' stuff here: Maroon 5, J-Lo, and James Blunt are among those who have performed with the aquarium as backdrop. Last but by no means least is the highly acclaimed restaurant Ozu, which merits a visit in itself. Beat the crowds and get there before lunch. *Daily 10am–7pm.* €€ 2 av. des Nations Unies (M° Trocadéro), 01.40.69.23.23, cineaqua.com

Kokon To Zai • 2nd • Store

Sibling to London's cutting-edge style emporium and smaller still, Kokon To Zai is a tiny little concept store just off the buzzing rue Montorgueil. The mirrored walls reflect the dazzling array of multicolored and patterned clothes and accessories to give the effect of a circus show. While the overall look tends to play on a more outlandish, new-rave theme than the London store, it does share the same sophisticated designers, such as Marjan Pejoski and Raf Simons. The best finds here, however, have to be the crazily decorated bags and vintage sunglasses. The über-trendy staff may look completely disinterested, but that's just part of their look—they're actually perfectly approachable. *Mon–Sat 11:30am–7:30pm. 48 rue Tiquetonne (M° Etienne Marcel), 01.42.36.92.41, kokontozaishop.com*

Musée des Arts Décoratifs • 1st • Design Museum

Its reopening in 2006 after a six-year-long renovation was a design-world sensation, and brands have been flocking to have their launch parties in the grandiose Deco entrance hall ever since. Bathed in violet light, drinking violet martinis at one such launch, we thought it a fitting scene for a Busby Berkeley musical, or at least for Mae West to swoon in. Despite the uptight name, this is a cool, cool museum. Forget floor 3 with the Middle Ages to the 19th century, and spend your time wandering the extensive 20th-century galleries that take up the rest of it. Here you'll find lounge-furniture icons (Le Corbusier, Eames), Art Deco, and Bauhaus, and on to contemporary prototypes. Just when you are getting footsore in the '60s and '70s galleries, and longing to sit down on the funky furniture displays, a staff member ushers you into a room where you can do just that, flopping onto a Pop Art sofa or dangling from a bubble chair while you feast your eyes either on the Sacré-Coeur or a screen showing film clips (Peter Sellers, *Barbarella*) with their iconic furniture references amusingly subtitled. The ticket gives you entry to the fashion and advertising museums too, but don't try to do them all in one day. *Tue–Wed and Fri 11am–6pm, Thu 11am–9pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. € 107 rue de Rivoli (M° Palais Royal–Musée du Louvre), 01.44.55.57.50, lesartsdecoratifs.fr*

Musée du Quai Branly • 7th • Art Museum

Faced with the problem of how to house disparate collections of tribal people's art collected over the many centuries of French colonization, Jacques Chirac in 2006 turned a political-correctness hot potato into a gleaming new attraction. Even the approach to the museum feels more New World than Old as you walk through a savannah landscape to reach the museum entrance. Refreshingly modern in its architecture and its outlook, Quai Branly takes a whole new approach to ethnography, atmospherically displaying artifacts from four continents (all, in fact, except Europe), in a shadowy, mysterious space struck by sudden beams of sunlight, and with video and sound contributions to help viewers understand their cultural significance. Music is a strong point in the museum's interdisciplinary approach. In addition to a huge collection of musical instruments that runs through a central glass column, there is an extensive program of theatre, music, dance, and storytelling. The panoramic restaurant Les Ombres is one of the hottest tables in town. *Tue–Wed and Fri–Sun 10am–6:30pm, Thu 10am–9:30pm. € 27–51 quai Branly, 206 and 218 rue de l'Université (M° Alma-Marceau or RER Pont de l'Alma), 01.56.61.70.00, quaiبرانلي.fr*

Renaissens • 2nd • Spa


Following the trend for natural skin care, Renaissens relies on the attributes of fresh fruit, flowers, and vegetables in its treatments. From the moment you cross the threshold, you can sample these delights in the juice bar. Donning your bathrobe and heading downstairs, you're greeted by a warm, steamy atmosphere laden with aromas of eucalyptus and rose, and a sleek, Zen-like décor softly lit in pink and green. There is a wide range of treatments and massages to choose from, the most intriguing of which is the Fresh Touch massage, where your chosen fruit and vegetables are crushed and applied with essential oils. To join the ranks of Parisians who stay in shape without lifting a finger, consider trying a toning Power Plate session or a slimming Spa Jet massage. No matter what the varied clientele of both men and women have chosen to indulge in, they all leave with the same serene expression and healthy glow. *Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–8pm, Thu 10am–10pm. €€€ 16 rue St-Marc (M° Bourse), 01.42.36.03.30, renaissens-spa.com*

L'Usine • 2nd • Fitness Club

L'Usine is the gym of choice in Paris. Whether it's the likes of John Galliano or Marc Jacobs, or the busy professionals who work in the surrounding areas, the snowballing number of health-conscious clients here are testament to the ever-growing trend for keeping in shape. There are three vast, tastefully decorated floors dedicated to the body beautiful. There are myriad classes to choose from, ranging from the usual aerobics, burns and tums, and spinning to yoga, Pilates, and boxing. If this all sounds a little too strenuous, the hammam and spa are luxurious enough to warrant a visit. What really sets this club apart, though, are the skilled, patient coaches and the helpful, friendly staff. There's a jovial atmosphere, and you're sure to strike up a conversation over the step machines or a drink at the bar. Day passes are €45, and you may be able to negotiate a weekly deal if you're around for longer. One thing worth noting is that it can get very busy: Beat the after-work rush and get here before 5pm or after 9pm. *Mon–Fri 7am–11pm, Sat 8am–8pm, Sun 9am–7pm. €€€€ 8 rue de la Michodière (M° Opéra), 01.42.66.30.30, usineopera.com*

Classic Paris Restaurants

Casque d'Or • 20th • Regional French

In homage to the 1952 film *Casque d'Or*, which was shot in its former premises up the hill, this rustic restaurant was a legendary locale for Ménilmontant's arty film and theatre crowd (the area has the highest concentration of film actors in Paris). Forced out by rising real-estate prices, it reopened in a tiny spot on the pretty place Maurice Chevalier, with a quieter ambience but still much charm. A massive canvas of Simone Signoret as the eponymous Belle Époque bombshell dominates the room, and nostalgic music from the era plays in the background. In the evenings, couples enjoying the romantic setting tuck in to gargantuan portions of Auvergnat food, such as the divine chestnut and Roquefort soup, suckling pig, and *pounti* (a rustic cabbage and pork concoction). At Sunday lunch, it turns into a chatty, convivial place—visit after a trip to the lively market at the top of rue Ménilmontant. Marc and Geneviève put love into their cooking, and locals pop in regularly to chat at the bar. *Mon and Wed–Fri 8–11pm, Sat–Sun noon–3pm and 8–11pm. €€*  1 rue d'Eupatoria (M° Ménilmontant), 01.43.58.37.09, lecasquedor.com