



## Things to Do in Paris (When You're a Content Creator): 818's Editor Takes You There

*Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 by Haas Regen ()*

**OUR 818 CONTENT EDITOR AND RESIDENT FRANCOPHILE, HAAS REGEN, TRAVELED TO PARIS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. *IL VOUS APPORTE TOUTES LES NOUVELLES DE PARIS*: THE MOST INNOVATIVE CUISINE, THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY MUSEUM, THE LOVELIEST PUBLIC SPACE, THE COOLEST PRIVATE TOUR, AND A PARISIAN TREND YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T HEARD OF (YET).**

The clichés endure: young lovers dream of snapping honeymoon shots on the Champs de Mars, aspiring Hemingways and Fitzgeralds tote their Moleskines to **Les Deux Magots** ([https://www.paris-bistro.com/english/histoire\\_deuxmagots.html](https://www.paris-bistro.com/english/histoire_deuxmagots.html)), and hopelessly unpolished Sabrinas metamorphose into captivating women of the world. Some plan big summer vacations when the city most resembles Epcot's version; others are fortunate enough to contemplate a change of season.



Audrey éternelle. **via GIPHY** (<https://giphy.com/gifs/audrey-hepburn-sabrina-QLu9BzgishqFO>).

Perhaps you visited Paris when you were too young to really enjoy it — on an “educational” tour, when you didn’t know Bordeaux from Bota — or in your early twenties, alongside other hostel-hunting vagabonds. But when was the last time you visited Paris just for the hell of it, for a weekend or so?

Last month, I took my parents on their first visit in nearly twenty years. We saw the *guirlandes de lumières* on the Champs-Élysées, did a little Christmas shopping in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, and enjoyed once-unheard-of vegetarian

fare that would have delighted even **Anton Ego** (<https://www.bleedingcool.com/2013/12/15/peter-otooles-speech-from-ratatouille/>).

No matter what your views on increased security, **rodents in the streets** (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/15/world/europe/paris-rats.html>), the EU's *fin du rêve* (<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2017/01/19/is-europe-disintegrating/>), or the unintelligibility of *Le Verlan* (<http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/verlan.htm>), the city of Light and Love *never* loses its appeal. Everybody still smokes, dogs haven't stopped eating on tabletops, and berets are actually **more fashionable than ever** (<http://www.laulhere-france.com/en/#man>). Sure, the Love Locks have been (mostly) dismantled, but the croissants on Rue du Bac are still mouthwateringly divine, and the disheveled *mecs* of the 11<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement remain indubitably *séduisants*.



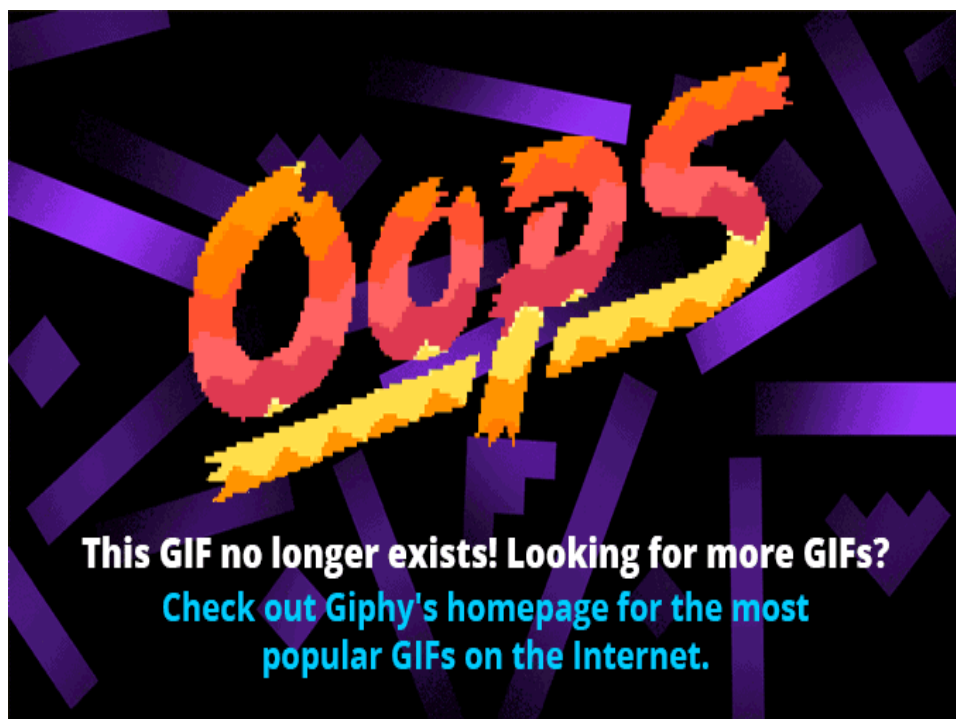
Belmondo mon amour. **via GIPHY** (<http://giphy.com/gifs/french-movie-jean-luc-godard-seberg-TOaxD4h93KtDW>).

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We New Yorkers tend to separate our hotspots into two categories: touristy or off the beaten track. One should approach Paris's offerings with a bit more nuance.

For example, Montmartre seems to exist in two worlds: the Place du Tertre, a common tourist trap, is only a few blocks from the highly underrated Jardins Renoir. Meanwhile, the views from the top of the heavily-trafficked Arc de Triomphe are hardly banal.



**via GIPHY (<http://giphy.com/gifs/3o7TKDzxlp2IEal9uo>)**

In the spirit of **My Little Paris** (<http://laparisienne.mylittleparis.com/en/>), I give you this humble list of must-dos in the French capital. I hope it inspires other creative types to hop on Kayak and book a flight ASAP. (Or at least follow **@juanjerez** (<https://www.instagram.com/juanjerez/?hl=en>.)



Godard's *Bande à part*. **via GIPHY** (<https://giphy.com/gifs/the-dreamers-K5Oxknj0C6i9q>).

## **MOST EXTRAORDINARY MUSEUM: LE MUSÉE D'ORSAY**

It's not quite fair to call the Louvre *overrated*, but it lacks the charm of this Left Bank gem. Go for the Impressionist masterpieces, stay for the on-point sculpture collection — or simply to behold the view through the clock!





**MOST WORTHWHILE PRIVATE TOUR: THIERRY LE ROI'S  
[NÉCRO-ROMANTIQUES \(HTTP://WWW.NECRO-  
ROMANTIQUES.COM/\)](http://www.necro-romantiques.com/)**

As long as I live I'll never forget Alberto's tour of the Père-Lachaise Cemetery. Chopin! Molière! Callas! Piaf! Isadora Duncan! Victor Noir! Abélard et Héloïse! (And, for those who may be interested, Jim Morrison.)

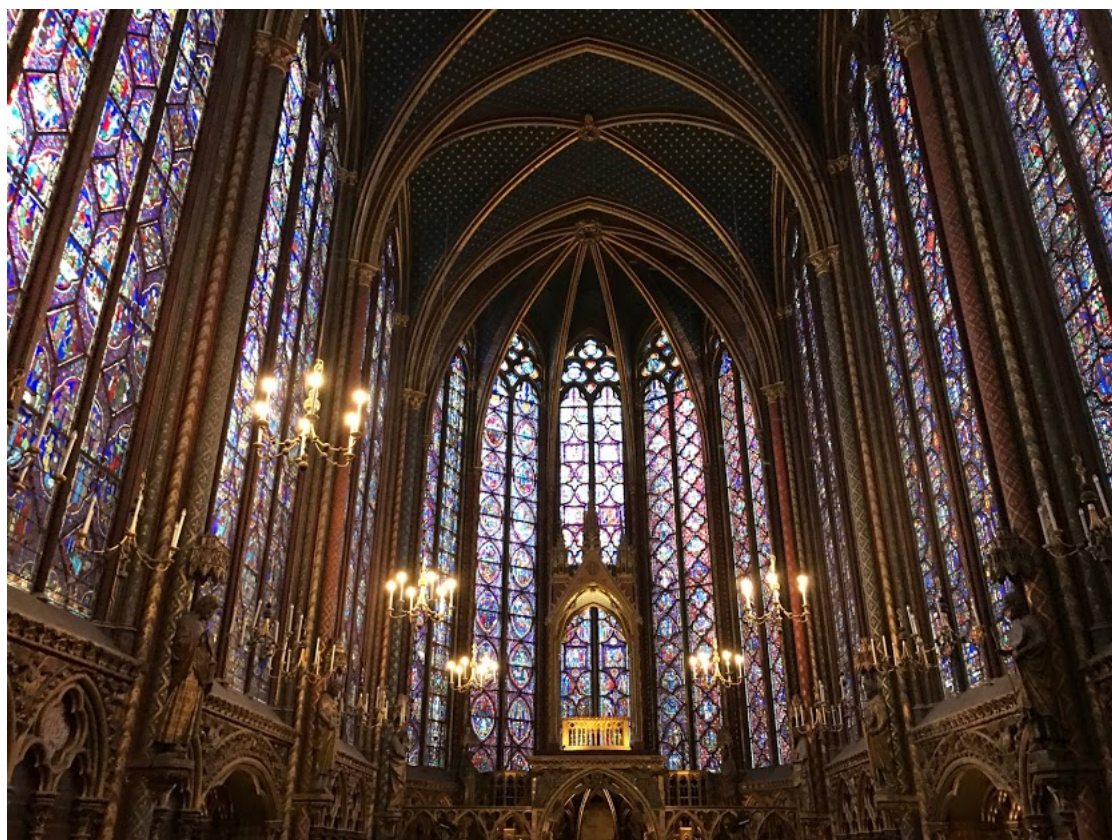
**MOST INNOVATIVE CUISINE: [SUPERNATURE](http://www.super-nature.fr/#/)  
[\(HTTP://WWW.SUPER-NATURE.FR/#/\)](http://www.super-nature.fr/#/). (9ÈME ARR./FOLIES  
BERGÈRE)**

Some of the best food I've ever had anywhere — plus mind-blowing vegetarian options.

## **LOVELIEST PUBLIC SPACE: LA PLACE DES VOSGES**

Sit down and take a deep breath, you're sure to have a fantabulous daydream.

## **GUARANTEED JAW-DROPPER: LA SAINTE-CHAPELLE**



A picture describes what words cannot.

**MOST LOL-WORTHY TREND: [THE NO-SELFIE-STICK SIGN](https://www.tripadvisor.com/showuserreviews-g187147-d188757-r388289439-musee-du-louvre-paris-ile-de-france.html)  
([HTTPS://WWW.TRIPADVISOR.COM/SHOWUSERREVIEWS-](https://www.tripadvisor.com/showuserreviews-g187147-d188757-r388289439-musee-du-louvre-paris-ile-de-france.html)  
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The devastation was palpable.

**SHORTEST ROUTE TO INEBRIATION: BODEGA WINE**

It costs roughly six euros to buy a bottle that would fetch \$30 or more in the states, so don't forget to bring your TSA-approved corkscrew!



Isabelle la reine. [via GIPHY \(http://giphy.com/gifs/filmlinc-elle-nyff-54-l2SqjtiQoSIRjNkCQ\)](http://giphy.com/gifs/filmlinc-elle-nyff-54-l2SqjtiQoSIRjNkCQ).

**THE GOTTA-HAVE GUIDEBOOK: [LONELY PLANET](https://smile.amazon.com/Lonely-Planet-Paris-Travel-Guide/dp/1786572214/ref=SR_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1484065845&sr=8-3&keywords=Lonely+Planet+Paris)**  
**[\(HTTPS://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/LONELY-PLANET-PARIS-TRAVEL-GUIDE/DP/1786572214/REF=SR\\_1\\_3?IE=UTF8&QID=1484065845&SR=8-3&KEYWORDS=LONELY+PLANET+PARIS\)](https://smile.amazon.com/Lonely-Planet-Paris-Travel-Guide/dp/1786572214/ref=SR_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1484065845&sr=8-3&keywords=Lonely+Planet+Paris)**

Toss out the Rick Steves drivel: *LP's* is the only guidebook you need.

**MOST UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT: GIVING ZERO EFFS**



We spent two short hours at the Café La Favorite, on Rue de Rivoli, in the 4ème arrondissement. Subpar-to-tolerable coffee notwithstanding, the waiters all wore white jackets with black ties, the people-watching was superb, and the quality time spent with my family was a rare glimpse at total contentedness.

## **THE ONLY MUST-DO THING IN PARIS: GET LOST, MAKE DISCOVERIES, *SUIVRE LE COURANT*...**

Paris is the **habitual aha moment** (<http://818agency.com/blog/content-marketing/architecture-and-creativity/>). Just go with the flow — and look *up!*



*Fais comme tu veux.* **via GIPHY** (<http://giphy.com/gifs/midnight-in-paris-YVtwvlhXHjMZ2>).

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