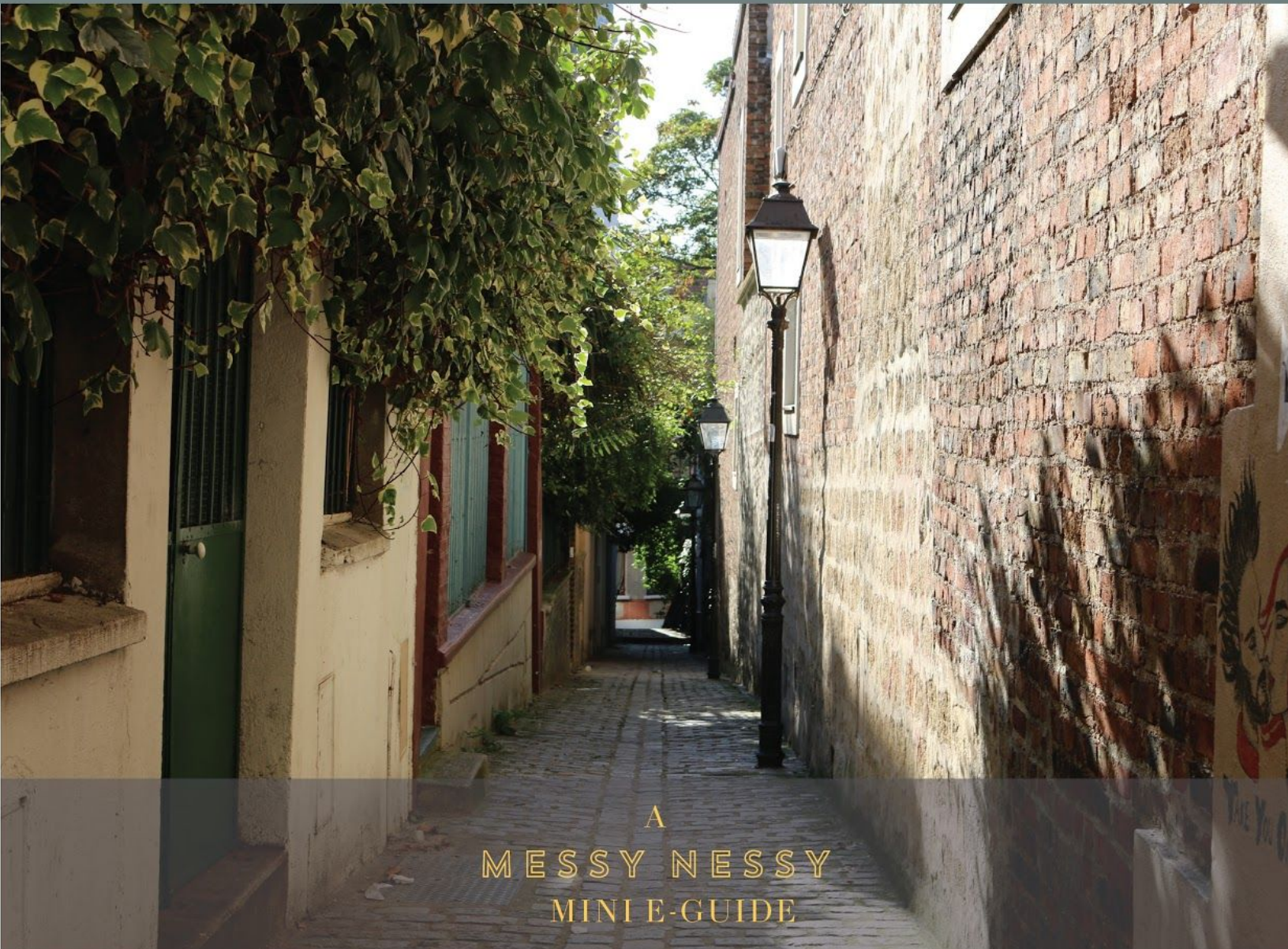


WEEKEND LIKE A LOCAL IN PARIS



A
MESSY NESSY
MINI E-GUIDE

Weekend Like A Local In Paris

COPYRIGHT © 2017 13 THINGS LTD.

All rights reserved. No part of this e-guide may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in articles.

For additional information please contact: contact@messynessyctic.com.

Before spending the weekend like a local, there's something you should probably know about your guide...

Ever since I was a young girl, I've suffered from an incurable fear of feeling like a tourist.

You see, when I decided to move to Paris seven years ago, on nothing more than a whim, I knew I had to make it my city— and fast (this is already sounding like a cheap movie trailer).

Okay look, I just hate to see people coming to Paris and not being able to experience the city, even in the smallest way, as the locals do.

Drop your tourist guide books, walk straight past the hotel concierge and for heaven's sake, don't *actually* go up the Eiffel Tower!

This is my idea of a perfect local's weekend in Paris...

FRIDAY EVENING



Book dinner at Le Bon Georges and enquire ahead about ordering their famous giant soufflé at this jovial bistrot of the 9th arrondissement.

Surrounded by visuals of bygone Paris and charming hosts, there's no need for Michelin star restaurants in this city when you have places like *Le Bon Georges* for French cuisine and hospitality at its best.

Le Bon Georges

45 Rue Saint-Georges, 75009 Paris

+33 (01) 48 78 40 30

After Dinner, Head to a Secret Playhouse in Paris



On a leafy avenue in Montmartre, inside the former villa of the Hermès family at the top of a secret stairway, the Hotel Particulier de Montmartre has a very special bar called *Le Très Particulier*.

Spoil yourself with luxurious cocktails and schmooze with a diverse crowd of well-travelled guests of the hotel and in-the-know Parisians.

Le Très Particulier

23, Avenue Junot, Pavillon D, 18eme. Ring the bell at the gate

+33 (0)1 53 41 81 40

SATURDAY

You have a full day ahead. Wake up bright and early for a **Breakfast with a Secret View of the Eiffel Tower.**



Head to the *PariSeven* boulangerie near the Eiffel Tower, a picture perfect pink bakery in the 7th arrondissement and pick up your profiterole, croissant or whatever tickles your fancy.

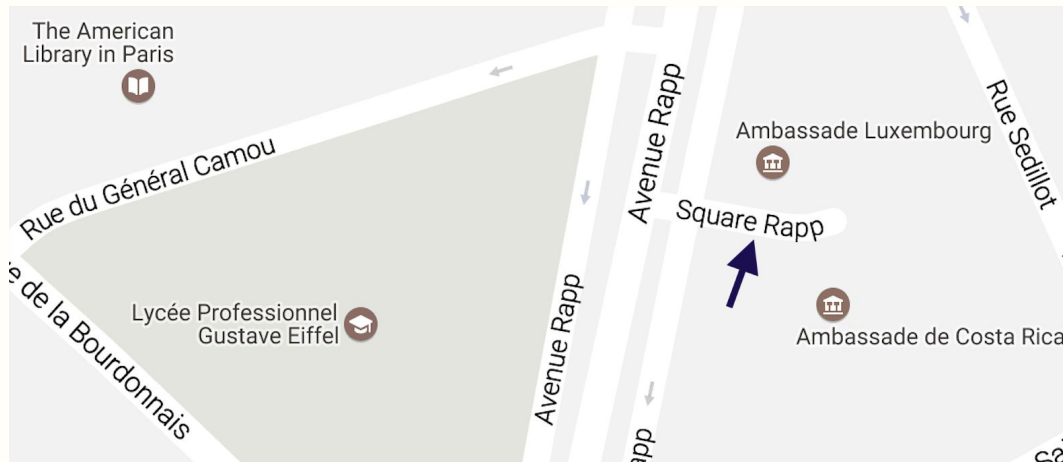
Then set off to find my own secret view of the Tour Eiffel (pictured above right) a few minutes away on the hidden art nouveau style enclave, Square Rapp and peacefully enjoy your breakfast, and the French iron lady away from the crowds.

PariSeven Boulangerie

20 Rue Jean Nicot, 75007 Paris

+33 (01) 43 17 35 20

Use this map to find my secret Eiffel Tower view ...



Spend the rest of the morning...



...at the **most underrated museum in the city**. Behind the terracotta blue doorway are two 17th century mansions...

The *Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature* place is an absolute gem. And the best part is– it's completely empty! Away from the crowds of tourists, peruse its eclectic collection of exotic taxidermy and natural history curios.



In the arms room you can have a good rummage through all the drawers, filled with antique treasures that belonged to fabled warrior kings, rare antique hunting equipment and ancient tools. Not your typical stuffy and dusty old pompous museum, the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature has very much kept up with the times, mixing modern art installations and cabinets of curiosities alongside pieces that have been held in the French archives for centuries.

And they save the best for last– *the trophy room....*



There's a huge amount of respect for these beasts that allow you to leave your squeamishness at the door and just be in awe.

The collection has been put together from donations by Princes and legendary hunting parties from around the world, and for every animal on display, you can find its history documented in beautiful card catalogues.

Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature

62 Rue des Archives, 75003 Paris

+33 (01) 53 01 92 40

Break for Lunch in the Hidden Passages of the Belle Epoque

Built by visionary architects in the turn of the 19th century Paris to provide refuge from the bustling streets of Paris, they were lined with elegant shops, fashionable eateries, small theatres, reading rooms and even public baths.



Today, under the very same antique glass roofs, the small arcade shops have retained their merchant spirit, selling rare books, old photographs and vintage bric a brac; ideal for rainy weather.

One passage in particular, the time-travelling maze of the Passage des Panoramas, is home to one of my favourite wine bar/restaurants, *Coinstot Vino*, a humble cave à manger of natural wine discovery to be can be paired with fresh garlicky razor clams, unusual cheeses and charcuterie platters.

If you're with the kids, consider another of this passage's eateries with an Italian pizza menu. Turn mealtime into an Agatha Christie novel at the ***Victoria Station-Wagon Restaurant*** where you're seated inside the cinematic velvet dining carriage of what could be an Orient Express train where Poirot is about to solve one of his mysterious murder cases.

Inspect your train carriage first on the hidden Passage des Panoramas before boarding at the main entrance.



Coinstot Vino - Open for lunch & dinner Mon-Sat

26bis Passage des Panoramas, 2eme

+33 (01) 44 82 08 54

Victoria Station-Wagon Restaurant - Open everyday for lunch & dinner

11 Boulevard Montmartre, 2eme; Paris

+33 (01) 42 36 73 90

After lunch, cross straight over the busy intersection of the Boulevard Montmartre to discover the animated *Passage Jouffroy* where you'll find one of the most improbable little hotels in Paris called the *Hotel Chopin* as well as a miniature furniture shop, Pain d'Epices.



Keep going and you'll float across into the *Passage Verdeau* for more shops of a bygone era bathed in light from the glass roof above.

Boutique Shopping along the Canal



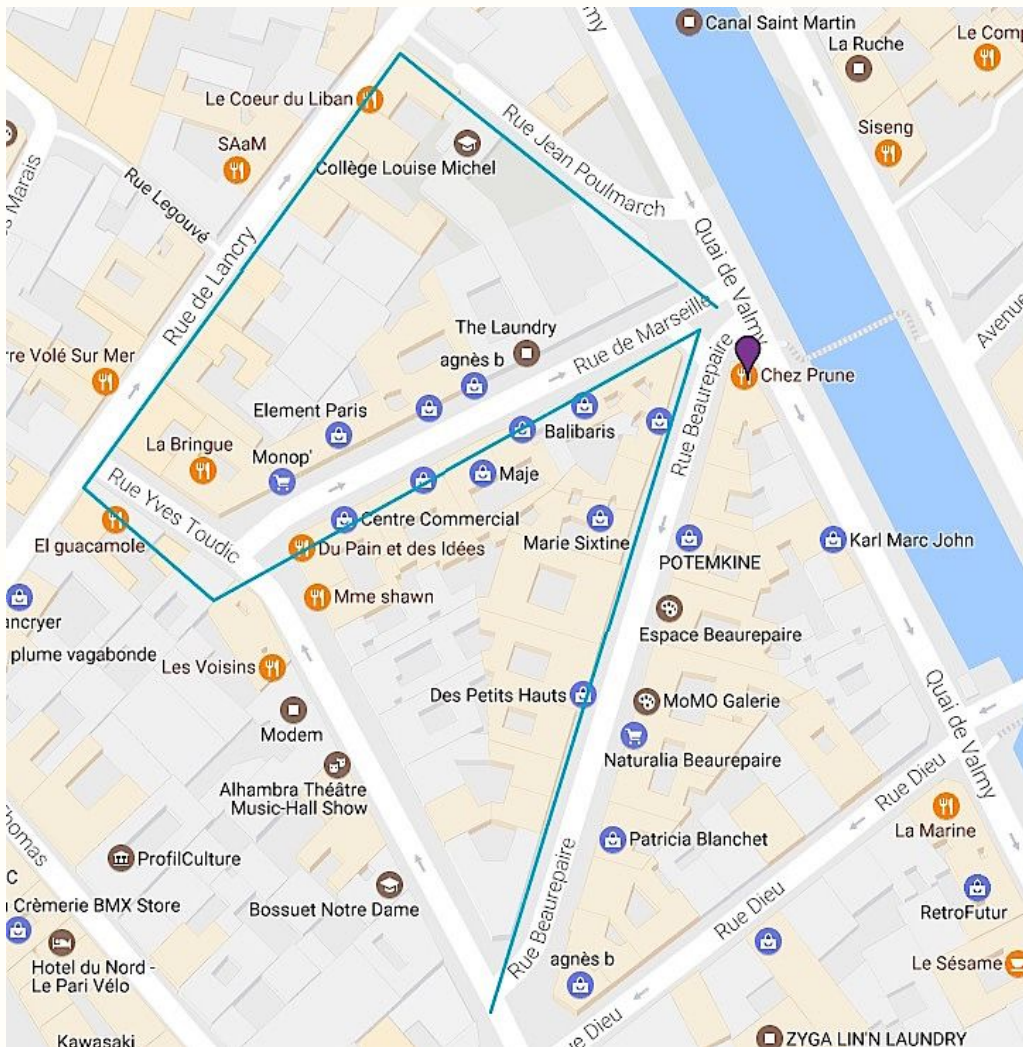
If you're coming to Paris looking for the glitzy Parisian equivalent of the Rodeo Drives, Fifth Avenues and Sloane Streets of the world, turn back now, this is not the guide for you. But if you're looking for unique, chic and affordable Parisian fashion boutiques set in a charming local neighbourhood where actual Parisians really shop, then *Canal Saint Martin* is the place for you.

Wander in and out of converted old Parisian ateliers with a Williamsburg NYC vibe, discovering hip, young French brands and concept boutiques, especially for the guys. You can also find a few end-of-season outlets for French high street brands such as Sandro, Maje and Claudie Pierlot.

Better known for its quaint waterside views and drinking spots than for the shopping, it's easy to miss out on some very interesting retail therapy in Canal Saint Martin.

So here's the key to the quartier– *Rue de Marseille* and *Rue Beaurepaire*– as long as you have these two neighbouring streets on your radar, you'll be on the right track.

Boutiques not to miss: *Centre Commercial*, *French Trotters*, the adorably multicolored store, *Antoine & Lili* on the canal and don't miss the opportunity to buy a croissant from the most beautiful Parisian boulangerie *Du Pain et des Idées*.



Find our full guide to [Boutique Shopping like a Parisian here](#).

Rest Up at the Canal's Clubhouse



You could mistake it for a forgotten, once grand African hotel, a colonialist social club in Senegal or a Stanley Kubrick film set; not one item in this place hasn't been recycled from faraway in time or place.

Sip a mojito perching on a well-travelled old suitcase, browse the theatrical wonderland filled with eclectic furniture and elaborate props to take you to a faraway place or time— it's hard not to walk around open-mouthed when you first step into *Le Comptoir Général*.

With such an interesting space, there's no surprise that Le Comptoir Général functions as more than just a cafe/ bar. Host to vintage sales, art exhibitions, environmental conferences, foodie pop-ups, film nights; the venue associates itself with young social entrepreneurs embarking on adventurous eco-social-cultural projects (there's office space for rent at the back of the courtyard).

Le Comptoir Général - Open to anyone informed-enough to find it.

80 Quai de Jemmapes, 10eme; Open everyday from 11-14h;

+33 (01) 44 88 24 48

A Clandestine Dinner in South Pigalle

I once heard *La Petrelle* is where French Presidents take their mistresses. The windows are veiled with curtains hung just high enough so as not to give anything away about what or who is inside...



Petrelle has been around for more than 20 years, run by a sort of mad-hatter Frenchman, Jean-Luc André. Surrounded by piles of books and curious objects you might unearth in your eccentric grandparent's attic, you'll have to take your time deciphering the menu, hand-written by Jean-Luc in his mad scribbling penmanship. But it feels like you're reading a love letter about food. And they say he will make you discover what true organic food tastes like...

Like the cluttered decor of the restaurant, the food doesn't come neatly or pretentiously arranged on a plate— it's all a bit of a beautiful French mess. The freshest produce is infused with sauces only a grandmother would pass down to her favourite grandchild.

IMAGE

Don't expect to find your average bottle of grape juice here, the owner gets his wines at auctions and your cheapest red comes at around €30. La Petrelle is for special occasions certainly, such as a romantic weekend away in Paris; a treat for the very important person in your life. It is a true cabinet of curiosities that will win the heart of any visitor with a weakness for collecting the bizarre things of this world.

La Petrelle - Open Tues-Sat, \$\$\$

34 Rue Petrelle; 9eme

+33 (01) 42 82 11 02

A Nightcap at Gatsby's Parisian Den



Bringing back the house band, *Le Fou* is inspired by early 20th century nightlife, sophisticated and civilized on the surface with a place to let loose hiding underground.

The ground floor is a masterpiece of 1920s interior design, hosted by hard-working barmen in vintage clinical jackets serving classic cocktails from an Art Deco bar. Downstairs is the devilish den where the house band 'Les Fous Furieux' plays gypsy jazz until the early hours.

Le Fou

37 bis, Rue du Sentier 2eme

+33 (01) 40 26 14 94

SUNDAY



Sleep in, you deserve it. Plan for a **Late Breakfast on the Old Railway Tracks**.

On the *abandoned train tracks of the “Little Belt” railroad*, a surviving relic of a bygone era, closed since 1934, some creative Parisians built a hangout in the former Gare Ornano of the Petite Ceinture.

This clubhouse even has its own permanent DIY workshop corner in the station where you can learn to restore and reuse old and unwanted objects; maybe a broken chair you picked up at the flea market– hence the name *La Recyclerie*.

La Recyclerie - Opens at 11am

83 Boulevard Ornano, Paris

+33 (01) 42 57 58 49

<http://www.larecyclerie.com/>

On a crisp sunny Sunday, there really is no better place to be in Paris than **antique hunting in les Puces (the flea market) of St.Ouen.**



The epicenter of authentic Paris, le Marché aux Puces de Saint-Ouen is an ideal little society of its own, made up of village-like alleys and small streets, persevered by an intellectual and cultivated community of vendors who make it all happen.

Les Puces is made up of several maze-like markets, some indoor, some outdoor. Get lost inside the charming tiny streets of *Marché Vernaison*, find old photographs, prints and knick knacks in the *Marché Dauphine* and find that vintage Louis Vuitton trunk at *Marché Paul Bert*.

Hungry? Find a **secret bistrot hidden deep in the flea market**. Open since 1967, *Chez Louissette* is the highlight of any visit to Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen. Hungry antique hunters and dealers crowd around little tables to eat lunch (mains €15 to €20) and hear old-time singers belt out numbers by Piaf and other classics, accompanied by the accordion; you might even be tempted to get up and dance with a fellow diner.

Chez Louissette

Les Puces, Marché Vernaison at 99 Rue des Rosiers

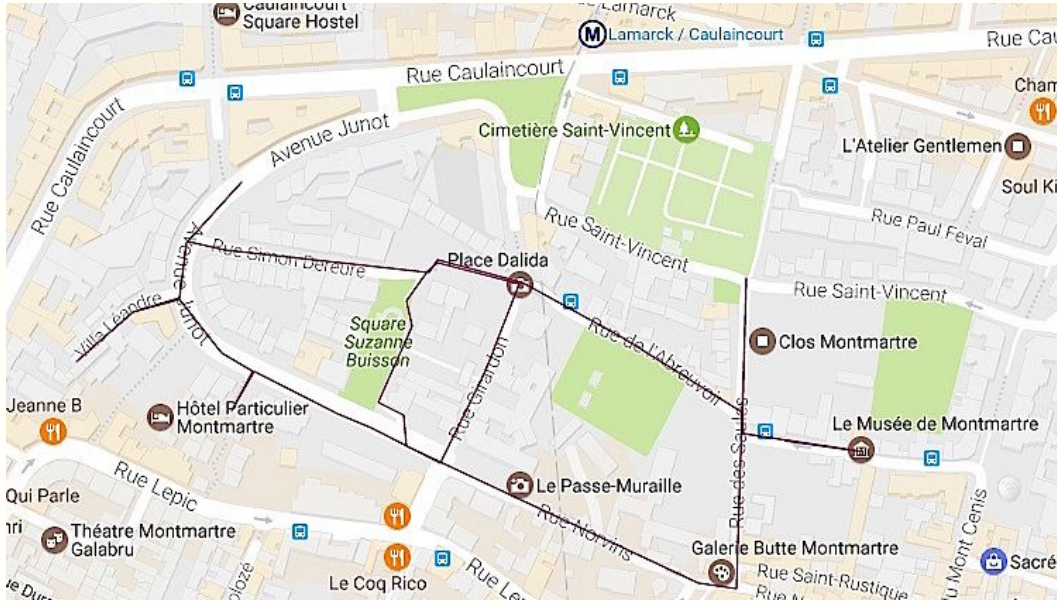
+33 (01) 40 12 10 14

I know I'm asking a lot for a Sunday, but you simply can't finish the weekend without **an Afternoon Stroll in Hidden Montmartre...**



I remember when I first saw it, *Avenue Junot*, the cobblestone road that winds up to Montmartre lined with some of the most delicious architecture in Paris. Its art deco ironwork, those tall glass windows bathed in light for artists in residence, colorful cul de sacs peeking out from behind corners; here is the Paris they wrote books and poems and made movies about.

Explore this little piece of Parisian paradise [my map of Avenue Junot](#)



Dinner at My Valentine Bistrot



Nestled in a quiet backstreet of the 4th arrondissement, *Le Temps de Cerises* is one of the few enduring little gems of “la vie quotidienne” from a bygone Paris. With its unchanged mosaic facade, this little 18th century house has earned itself the title of a historical monument *and* the neighbourhood’s best kept secret.

Inside, we could be stepping back 50 years in time to 1955, when the same photographs on the wall, the newspapers hung from the same hooks in the corner and the same old clock chimed on the hour as if any of the regulars were ever in a rush to leave this timeless place. So yes, as far as Parisian bistrotts, go, Le Temps de Cerises is as authentic and as local as it gets.

Between the cozily curtained window nooks, rickety old café chairs and the red-chequered napkins, Le Temps de Cerises is just effortlessly and organically charming unlike so many of the tourist traps that try to clone Parisian charm like they're in Disneyland.

I do recommend calling ahead to make a booking for your table because you'll be competing in a small space with the local residents coming in for their evening glass of terroir wine and side of cheese.

Le Temps de Cerises

31 rue de la Cerisaie, Paris

+33 (01) 42 72 08 63

[Facebook](#)

It's nearly over ...

Fight the Sunday blues with the blues

The oldest jazz club in Paris, *Le Caveau des Oubliettes* is remembered as a hotspot of post-war jazz, where Parisians went to forget the troubles of war...



Blues jazz– you know the kind that consists of a soulful harmonica player, a dirty electric guitar solo and lyrics like, “woman you ain’t no good for me”– is seriously seductive and oddly uplifting music.

On Sunday nights, Le Caveau des Oubliettes, is exactly where you need to go to be seduced by the best live blues in Paris. A 12th century underground wine cellar that draws in the music-savvy crowd, be sure to get there before 9pm to get a seat.

Le Caveau des Oubliettes

52 Rue Galande, 75005 Paris

+33 (01) 46 34 23 09

Conclusion

I too, came for a weekend in Paris. Seven years later, I'm still here.

If the same happens to you, I have seven years worth of insider stories, recommendations and traveller's tips to share with you and they're all stored away in Messy Nussy's [Secret Paris vault](#) or in my notes on [Paris Like a Local](#).

And guess what?

I have a book coming out this summer called *Don't be a Tourist in Paris*. It's going to save countless vacations.

If you enjoyed this little portal into my favourite Paris secrets then never lose touch with my current/future posts by following me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or indulge yourself in some Parisian pictorial goodness over on my [Instagram](#).

Fancy your own Messy Nussy customized touch to your weekend in Paris? Then send me an email to get you started on your guided experience..