

# Companion



p. 22

## Vin à La Parisienne

No sulfites, old techniques: natural wine is produced as it was 100 years ago, but couldn't be more trendy at the moment. Two Parisians know it best.



p. 8

## An International Vibe

Louis Philippe de Gagoue has both style and sound running through his veins. The photographer selected some of his favourite tracks for us.



p. 20

## Bordeaux on Board

Beautiful sights and famous red grapes? Bordeaux has so much more to offer! Cool kid Leo Valls gives us an introduction into the city's underground skateboard scene.



p. 15

## Oh La La Réunion

Probably the most exotic part of the nation, the tiny French overseas department La Réunion in the Indian Ocean is the perfect destination for adventure travellers.

# MARSEILLE MON AMOUR



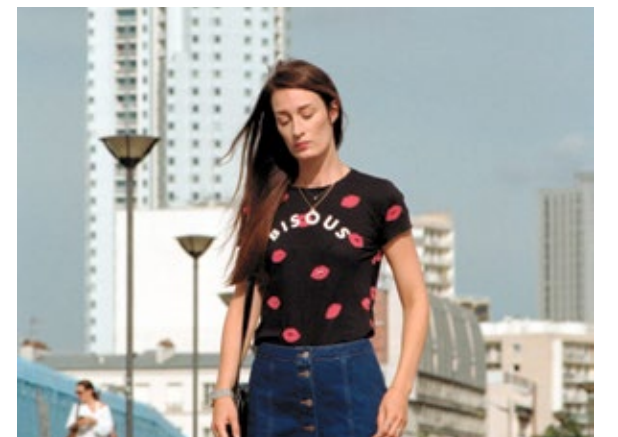
The historic port city on the Côte d'Azur has long had a rather rough reputation, but recently Marseille has become a beloved destination for a cool young crowd that enjoys the city's 300 days of summer, a relaxed vibe, iconic art and architecture, new fashion and gastronomy concepts — and the sea, of course! We met interior designer and local Margaux Keller, who showed us her favourite spots in the Mediterranean melting pot.

↳ [District Tour, p. 9](#)



Denizens of the French capital know a thing or two about *la qualité de vie*. The variety of delicious food, a good art and fashion scene, and many cultural sites attract grown-ups who enjoy spending a weekend in Paris — but what about their little ones? From a *pique-nique* to the best piscine, an amusement park, and of course the zoo: COMPANION put together a playful map with the best spots for children in and around the city.

↳ [Activity Map, p. 24](#)



## Next Door: Gare du Nord

Our columnist and neighbourhood expert Alex Toledano takes a look at Paris's major train station and its meaning for the surrounding area.

↳ [Column, p. 30](#)

## French Bites

Famous food sites, art exhibitions, fashion and style oases in France and beyond: for this French issue, we highlight new and old locations with a *tricolore* touch.

↳ [Bits & Pieces, p. 4](#)



## Where to Drink?

Bar legend Jörg Meyer knows where to get proper booze in Paris. Experience his favourite bar recommendations.

↳ [Cosmos, p. 4](#)

## Brasserie Couture

Gesa Hansen and Charles Compagnon's neo-brasserie 52 Faubourg Saint-Denis serves international dishes made with French techniques. One is just for us.

↳ [Food & Drink, p. 19](#)

## The New Hotel

In this issue's Talking Business section, we focus on the people who are involved in Paris's latest design accommodations: the 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord.

↳ [People & Business, p. 12](#)



# EXPERIENCE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH OLYMPUS



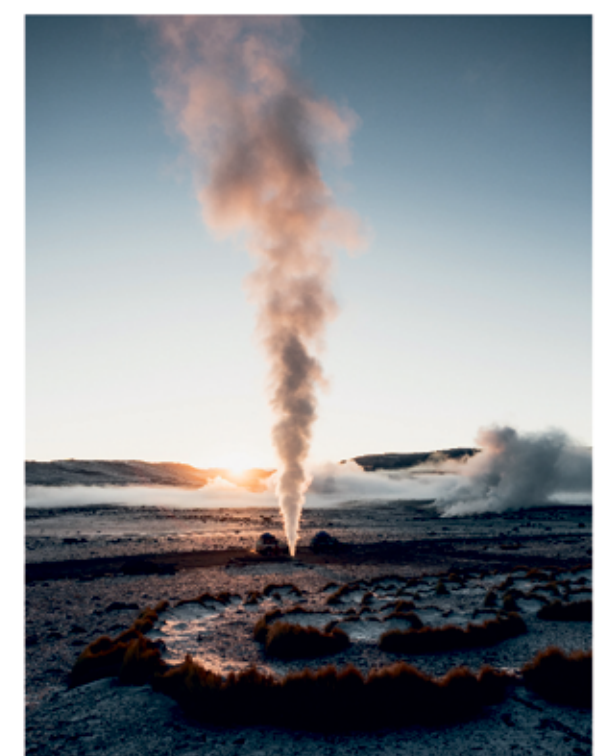
## Test the OM-D E-M10 Mark III

"We want to make photography an experience — for many people. That is why we are very happy that guests of the 25hours hotel in Cologne now have the opportunity to test the OM-D E-M10 Mark III free of charge: a camera that is as easy to operate as a smartphone and that convinces with a trendy design and provides a lot of fun. Thank you for this great collaboration."

Olaf Kreuter, Head of Consumer Marketing, Olympus Deutschland GmbH

As a worldwide leading manufacturer of optical and digital precision technology, Olympus provides innovative solutions for state-of-the-art medical systems and digital cameras, as well as scientific solutions. The story of the OM begins in 1972 with the world's smallest 35 mm SLR, the M-1, developed by Yoshihisa Maitani, which caused a tremendous sensation in the market and was later renamed OM-1. Forty years after the first OM was introduced, Olympus presented the first system camera based on the Micro Four Thirds standard: the OM-D E-M5. Since then, the OM-D models have set new standards in terms of speed, precision, creativity, and image quality.

They say that excitement comes from discovering new things. Thanks to the combination of the latest TruePic VIII image processor, also used in the acclaimed flagship OM-D E-M1 Mark II, and Olympus' class leading 5-axis image stabilisation (IS), with the OM-D E-M10 Mark III, photographers can enjoy taking beautiful blur-free images that they never thought possible.



## More Photography with Olympus

Would you like to try your hand at photography? Then the Perspective Playground is something not to miss: an exhibition concept with interactive and walk-in installations by internationally renowned artists. Following 16 "playgrounds" with more than 400,000 visitors all over Europe, this year's Perspective Playground is presented directly on the photokina exhibition grounds in September for the first time.

From 26 to 29 September 2018, photography and art enthusiasts can explore the creative photography festival on over 2,000 square meters in Hall 1 of the Koelnmesse — even in the evenings, after the trade fair has closed its doors. Whether hobby or pro photographer, the Playground allows everybody to test the compact Olympus OM-D or PEN cameras and experience the works of artists Morag Myerscough and Luke Morgan through the eye of the camera. The storage card with all images can be taken home as a memento. Opening hours, tickets, information on events and workshops, and more can be found at: [www.perspectiveplayground.de](http://www.perspectiveplayground.de)

## Meet the olympusXplorers

In November 2017, a group of seven German Roamers photographers went on a trip to the French Pyrenees to test the latest Olympus gear. Equipped with OM-D cameras and some M.Zuiko lenses, Hannes Becker, Lennart Pagel, Daniel Ernst, Max Fischer, Leo Thomas, Roman Königshofer, and Tobias Schnorpfel started their trip to the natural border between France and Spain. They were impressed by the size, weight, robustness, and performance of the OM-D and Zuiko

lenses. And so the #olympusXplorers were born. The olympusXplorers travel the world, always looking for the beauty of nature and humanity.

And in September they will be in Cologne for photokina. From 28 to 30 September, you can meet the German Roamers at the Olympus Pop Up Space. The Pop Up Space is at GREATLIVE, Luxemburger Str. 41-43, 50674 Cologne. On Friday it starts at 4 p.m., Saturday from 12 noon, in each case until 11 p.m., and on Sunday again from 12 to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Come to the place to connect and be inspired. Get tips from the world travellers and benefit from their experience on Instagram. And if you are looking for photo equipment for your next tour, just try the OM-D and the M.Zuiko lenses. See you in Cologne?



Everyone who cannot make it to Cologne is invited to our Olympus Academy. At [My.OLYMPUS.eu/events](http://My.OLYMPUS.eu/events) you can learn more about our events and workshops. Take a look, and while you're there, why not register right away?



## Editor's Note

Salut, ça va? COMPANION is off to Paris. This is because Terminus Nord in the 10th arrondissement is opening, the first 25hours Hotel in the French capital and the first one outside of German-speaking countries. What a good reason to brush up on your French.

Want to visit every location with a certain *je ne sais quoi*? A touch of the unmistakable Parisian flair awaits between Montmartre and Tour Montparnasse, the air laced with the scent of croissants and fromage. Alongside Paris's many culinary treats, there is one thing we couldn't stay away from: wine! It's part of the French *joie de vivre* and love of indulgence. What used to be a strictly male-dominated domain is now being diversified by young Parisian women who are particularly well qualified in the trendy field of natural wine — so *bien sûr* we paid two of them, Julie Caute and Fleur Godard, a visit. And what would Paris be without fashion? Instead of the countless *créateurs* and couturiers, we prefer to present Louis Philippe de Gagoue in issue 14, a photographer and style icon who mixes fashion *à la française* with references to his home country, Ivory Coast, and who has also made a playlist of his favourite tracks for us.

Issue 14 has become a purely French edition, as the land of *liberté, égalité, and fraternité* — and this year, the top football nation — has a lot to offer, and not only in Paris. We took the TGV to the Côte d'Azur and headed for the trendy port city of Marseille, where interior designer Margaux Keller showed us her favourite parts of the city on our District Tour. We also went to Bordeaux, where Leo Valls introduced us to the underground skateboarding scene. It turns out that the city famous for its red wine and beautiful architecture also offers an astonishingly vibrant street culture.

Editor-in-chief Celina Plag and photographer Ana Santl discovered what is surely France's most exotic spot, albeit in the Indian Ocean, an eleven-hour flight away from Paris. That's where you can find the tranquil island and overseas department of Réunion. For COMPANION, the duo took an adventurous trip, climbing one of the most active volcanoes on earth and observing the beautiful landscape by helicopter from above.

What else does *la France* have for you to discover? Read more to find out!

We hope you enjoy reading, COMPANION

## Freunde von Freunden

The online magazine Freunde von Freunden has been portraying inspiring personalities since 2009, forming a creative and international community along the way. Over the years, we have also built a lively network of talented people in France — and of Francophiles all over the world. Some of them have contributed to this 14th issue of COMPANION, a special edition celebrating the brand new 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord in Paris. The result? Read on to find out more.

[freunde.von.freunden.com](http://freunde.von.freunden.com)



## Contributors



Théo Giacometti

One person who can tell stories with both words and images is Théo Giacometti. This is because the 28 year old is both an author and a photographer. The two activities, writing and photography, allowed him to find himself as he grew up in the Alps. By now, Théo has left his home town of Barcelonnette for Marseille — a city he loves for its Mediterranean identity, regional dialect, long history, and proximity to the sea, which he describes as 'magical'. In this edition, he was able to capture a little of that magical flair for the District Tour — through his lens.

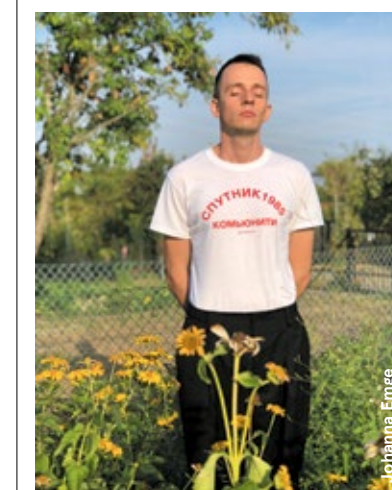
[theogiacometti.com](http://theogiacometti.com)



Kiki Ljung

What is it that illustrator Kiki Ljung finds so great about her job? The fact that she is her own boss! This gives the young citizen of the world, who grew up in Belgium with an Italian mother and Swedish father, the freedom to work from anywhere. Until recently, Kiki lived in Paris, and just moved to Barcelona. Nevertheless, the French capital will be her next holiday destination. Although she thinks there is nothing more French than complaining loudly, Kiki particularly appreciates the country's bread and wine. As such, this edition was an opportune moment for her to illustrate both our Activity Map and the Cosmos section.

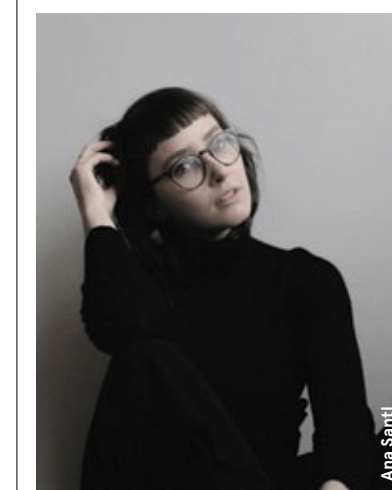
[kikiljung.com](http://kikiljung.com)



Florian Siebeck

Siberia, Syria, Santiago de Chile? If you ask Florian Siebeck if he will be jetting off to somewhere in the world that takes his fancy, his answer will usually be yes. The author and travel editor at the magazine AD is an absolute frequent flyer who has visited 75 countries to date and flown around the world 85 times — that equates to 3.7 times the distance between earth and the moon. *Bien sûr* Florian was in Paris when we needed him there. He wrote the stories of two female pioneers of the natural wine scene for us, although he himself doesn't drink. However, he does like grapes. Preferably the red ones.

[floriansiebeck.com](http://floriansiebeck.com)



Anna Dorothea Ker

A French edition? Right up Anna's alley! The freelance writer and editor from New Zealand, who puts the finishing touches on COMPANION's articles, has lived in many places: Melbourne, London, and for the last three years, Berlin. However, France will always have a special place in her heart. At the age of 17, she spent six months studying philosophy in the tranquil town of Châtellerauld, and helped with the grape harvest. Five years later, she found herself in Paris, where she crammed for her law exams in a tiny loft studio apartment in Montparnasse, with a view over the graves of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. As such, she particularly enjoyed working on this issue's Activity Map.

[instagram.com/annadorotheaker](http://instagram.com/annadorotheaker)



# CHEERS TO PARIS

TEXT MANUEL ALMEIDA VERGARA — ILLUSTRATION KIKI LJUNG

Jörg Meyer knows a thing or two about drinking. Not because he likes one glass too many, but because he knows how to fill his glass with the best drinks. At Le Lion in Hamburg, Jörg shakes and stirs like no other, making everything from highballs to his iconic invention, the gin basil smash. Together with

restaurateur Rainer Wendt, he has come up with several bar concepts for 25hours Hotels. At The Paris Club in the new 25hours Hotel Das Tour in Düsseldorf, the food and drinks pair wonderfully. For COMPANION, the legendary barkeeper compiled a list of the best locations to experience Parisian drinking culture.

## Glass

It's when other bars have long closed their shutters that things really kick off here: Glass is one of the few Parisian locations that is open into the early hours of the morning. It's no wonder that Jörg lovingly calls the bar 'my saviour in the night'. 'When it gets late in Paris,' he gushes, 'and it's time for loud music and excellent drinks, Glass is the place to go.' How convenient that number 7 rue Frochot is located at the heart of the notorious entertainment district of Pigalle. The kaleidoscope of neon lights makes for an interesting journey home.

↳ [quixotic-projects.com/venue/glass](http://quixotic-projects.com/venue/glass)

## Danico

'Stylish' — there's no better way to describe Danico. With its heavy marble bar, a harmonious colour concept, and subtle nods to the Art Nouveau aesthetic, the bar at 6 rue Vivienne offers a treat for the eyes. And so do the drinks: the mezcal-based 'Flowers' cocktail has delicate pansies floating on the top, and the pink Merlet and blackcurrant finished with colourful sprinkles. Of course, the drinks taste as lovely as their beautiful presentation suggests. If you want a *très chic* night out in Paris, you should definitely go to Danico,' Jörg recommends.

↳ [facebook.com/danicoparis](https://facebook.com/danicoparis)

## Experimental Cocktail Club

Everything began for the Experimental Cocktail Club at 37 rue Saint-Sauveur: 'More than ten years ago, this small but lovely bar saw the beginning of what makes France's cool new bar culture what it is today,' says Jörg. Between chipped walls and opulent chandeliers, the bartenders concoct excellent classic drinks and exciting new creations. Primarily to locals who enjoy a tippie: 'Even today, this small, creative cocktail bar in a cool neighbourhood still stands for excellent drinks in an authentic Parisian setting,' says Jörg.

↳ [experimentalevents.com/paris](http://experimentalevents.com/paris)

## Hôtel Amour

More than just a name: it's no wonder that the guests at Hôtel Amour sit on romantic red armchairs beneath palm trees. In any case, sleep is hard to find for lovebirds at this four-star hotel on rue de Navarin: the drinks at the hotel bar are far too tasty for that. Hôtel Amour is always worth a visit for food as well, be it for breakfast, lunch, or an evening meal with some late night after dinner drinks. Because here, you can really taste the love. That goes for the cocktails, too.

↳ [hotelamourparis.fr](http://hotelamourparis.fr)

## Brasserie Terminus Nord

Brasseries are as important to Paris as madeleines are to Proust. Of course, the list of the best locations in Paris must include a traditional brasserie. The Dunkerque, just around the corner from the new 25hours Hotel, wins over its visitors with an excellent range of cocktails, long drinks, and beers — as well as popular French bistro classics. All in the perfect setting: Parisian flair around the clock.

↳ [terminusnord.com](http://terminusnord.com)

## Le Syndicat

'The young, wilder side of France is behind the bar here,' says Jörg. If you're in the mood for great drinks but don't want to go somewhere with a snobby atmosphere, then Le Syndicat at 51 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis is the perfect place for you. 'Here, they serve exclusively French products whipped up into extremely creative drinks,' says Jörg. Think traditional fruit brandies such as eau de vie de framboise or Corsican liqueur de myrte corse alongside all the classics, with a twist. It's a treat for the ears, too: 'The drinks are served to French hip hop.' The antiquated takes on a new flavour.

↳ [syndicatcocktailclub.com](http://syndicatcocktailclub.com)

## Mabel

What exactly does it mean when a bar menu describes drinks as 'dangerously good'? Presumably that the evening will be a long one: 'If you love rum or champagne, this is the most interesting spot in Paris,' says Jörg. The drinks are served in a setting characterised by cool concrete and industrial-style furniture. However, don't be confused if you visit 58 rue d'Aboukir and only first smell cheese, not rum and champers: Mabel is hidden behind a grilled cheese shop. That, too, can be rather dangerous.

↳ [mabelparis.com](http://mabelparis.com)

## A NEW ADDITION TO THE TROPHY CASE

PARIS FASHION & STYLE

What are the must-do things in Paris, besides falling in love? Shopping, of course! The options aren't limited to Avenue Montaigne, which is home to labels like Chanel, Dior, and Saint Laurent. Parisians like to gush about the Marché au Puces de Saint-Ouen in the 18th arrondissement, saying it is the biggest flea market in the world. Are they right? Split up into several sub-markets, with over 3,000 stands within an area of approximately 12,000 square metres, you can get everything here — really everything — that trophy hunters might desire. Who knows? Perhaps there is a vintage piece by Chanel, Dior, or Saint Laurent somewhere at the Marché au Puces Saint-Ouen, waiting to be discovered.

↳ [Marché au Puces Saint-Ouen](http://Marché au Puces Saint-Ouen)  
[marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com](http://marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com)



## SAMPLING WITH THE PROS

TOULOUSE FOOD & DRINK

There's an excellent wine being poured out here, a magnificent cheese being sliced over there, and in the back, a stand offers the best bread in all of France: at Salon Vins et Terroirs it's all about superlatives. The little trade fair is intended to present the best, most delicious, and most fragrant treats from the region — and not just to an expert audience of restaurateurs and purchasing specialists. From 2 to 4 November, Salon Vins et Terroirs is opening its doors to ordinary visitors, too, who are invited to sample anything they desire in a laid-back atmosphere.

↳ [Salon Vins et Terroirs](http://Salon Vins et Terroirs)  
[salon-vins-terroirs-toulouse.com](http://salon-vins-terroirs-toulouse.com)



# THE BRETON CAMOUFLAGE

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL FASHION & STYLE

The label Saint James is a testament to the fact that the Breton blue-and-white-striped tops worn by French people are not simply a cliché. Even today, the neatly striped T-shirts and pullovers form the core of the label's business, which was founded in 1850 as a wool-manufacturing company. Therefore, if you would like to disappear among the locals in Normandy or Brittany, you will do well to visit Saint James, which is headquartered just a stone's throw away from a picturesque fishing island with 33 inhabitants, Le Mont-Saint-Michel.

↳ [Saint James](http://Saint James)  
[saint-james.com](http://saint-james.com)



## 'THERE IS ONLY ONE KIND OF CUISINE... THE GOOD KIND!'

LYON FOOD & DRINK

The fact that Lyon is considered the culinary capital of France can largely be attributed to one man: Paul Bocuse. At the tender age of nine, he started working in his father's kitchen, eventually earning Michelin stars year after year for his restaurant, L'Auberge du Pont de Collonges. Today, the market hall in Lyon is named after him in tribute. Here, you can not only get herbs, ingredients, and meals of an excellent quality — some of the traders' anecdotes are also real treats. The legendary chef, who died recently, in January 2018, personally shopped for ingredients for his restaurant here for many years. His mantra is known by everybody here: 'classique ou moderne, il n'y a qu'une seule cuisine... la bonne!'

↳ [Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse](http://Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse)  
[halles-de-lyon-paulbocuse.com](http://halles-de-lyon-paulbocuse.com)

## WITH SOME ROUGH EDGES

PARIS ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Surely there's still something left in between the hip-hop beats of the Banlieues and the Philharmonie de Paris's string section? Indeed: Héloïse Letissier — better known as Christine & the Queens — makes discerning pop music in the French capital. With her new album, 'Chris', released at the end of September, she leaves the soft singer-songwriter style behind. Even in the video for the first single, 'Doesn't Matter', the singer presents a much tougher image than before: rhythmic vocals, ambient sounds, and aggressive dance breaks.

↳ [Christine & the Queens](http://Christine & the Queens)  
[christineandthequeens.com](http://christineandthequeens.com)



## form and colour and colour and form

HYÈRES ART & ENTERTAINMENT

'A small house, designed so that the sun shines in the bedroom in the mornings, and in the salon in the afternoons' — that was the modest request made to Parisian Robert Mallet-Stevens by Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles. However, while Villa Noailles was being built in Hyères in the early 1920s, it became a playground for the patrons of the arts and their architect: a swimming pool here, a gymnastics room there, a squash court in the back. Inspired by Cubism, the house became a fantastic experiment in architecture, with its strong colour concepts and unusual forms. Today, Villa Noailles is home to many exhibitions and festivals related to fashion, design, and photography. What's more, the bedroom sees the sun in the morning, and so does the salon in the afternoon.

↳ [Villa Noailles](http://Villa Noailles)  
[villanoailles-hyeres.com](http://villanoailles-hyeres.com)



## of men and beards

AVIGNON FASHION & STYLE

From the nostalgic barbershop chairs to the upturned moustaches sported by the employees: time seems to have stood still at Sterling Barber Agreement. At 11 rue Des Trois Faucons in Avignon, it's not just the interior design that is reminiscent of old traditions — the traditional methods used also pay homage to the ancient art of shaving and hair cutting. But don't worry: the barbers offer excellent modern crew cuts and designer stubble, too. In any case, leaving the barbershop with a curled moustache is optional.

↳ [Sterling Barber Agreement](http://Sterling Barber Agreement)  
[facebook.com/sterlingbarberagreement](https://facebook.com/sterlingbarberagreement)

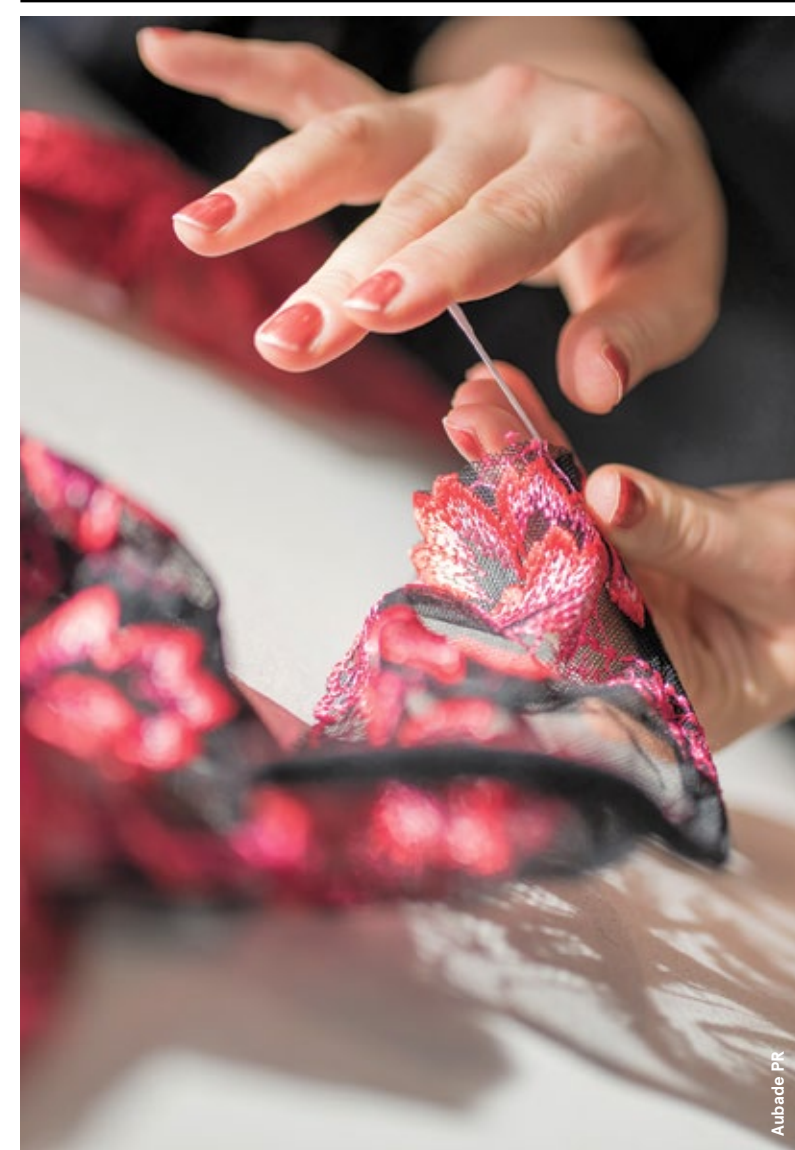


# HAMBURG'S FRENCH CONNECTION

HAMBURG FOOD & DRINK

The name says it all: from the croque monsieur on the breakfast menu and the boudin quiche at lunch to the sous vide lamb in the evening, Café Paris in Hamburg serves everything that is good and French. Additionally, the setting corresponds with the refined menu: just like eateries in the French capital, this brasserie near Rathausplatz is always loud and lively. Vibrant *savoir vivre* on the Elbe — table reservations are highly recommended here!

☞ [Café Paris cafe-paris.net](http://Café Paris cafe-paris.net)



Aubade PR

## Parlez-vous Aubade?

COLOGNE FASHION & STYLE

Even at the ripe old age of 60, Aubade hasn't grown tired of seducing and delighting its customers. This year, the Parisian lingerie label is celebrating a big birthday. And because *la séduction à la française* does not only resonate in the beds of the French capital, the label's lingerie is carried in countless stores all over the world. The fancy little shop on Cologne's Mittelstrasse delights visitors with a carefully chosen selection of products and an intimate atmosphere.

☞ [Aubade aubade.de](http://Aubade aubade.de)

## the mixture makes it

ZURICH FASHION & STYLE

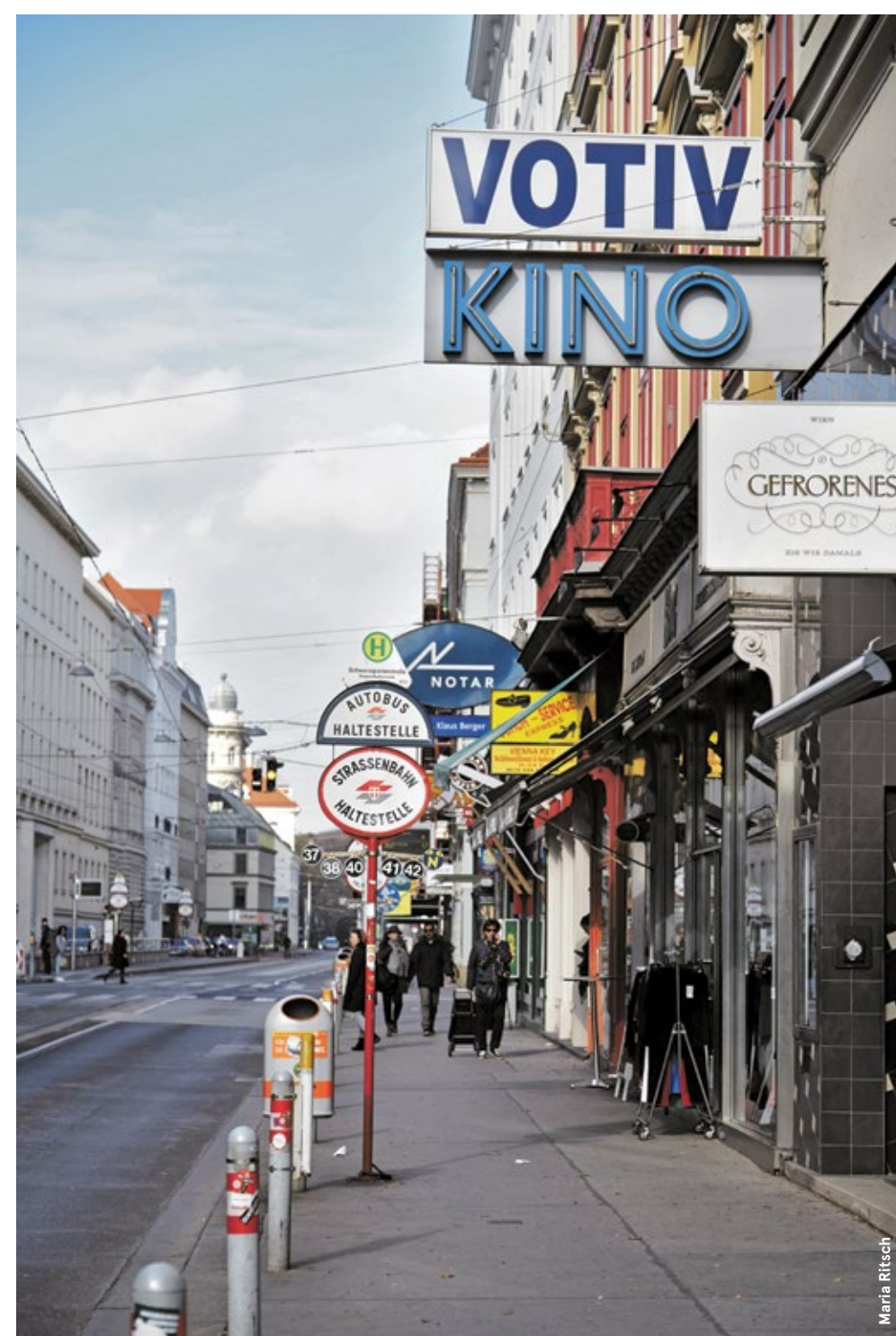
The people who popularised baggy pants in Zurich certainly are proud of that achievement. HP Endras and Roland Brümmer brought the American skater style to Switzerland in the late 1980s with their shop No Way. Continuing their range of successful streetwear stores, the pair have also run On y va since 2008. There, they offer a lot more than vinyls and baggy pants: Atelier Coquet, Atelier de L'Armée, Des Petits Hauts — many of the labels carried by the store on Zähringerplatz pride themselves on their French flair. One of the labels even uses the beautiful language in their designs: phrases like 'je parle français', 'je ne sais quoi', or simply 'oui' are featured on T-shirts and pullovers by La Garçonne. On y va? Oui!

☞ [On y va onyva.ch](http://On y va onyva.ch)



# CINÉMA FRANÇAIS

VIENNA ART & ENTERTAINMENT



Maria Rittsch

A premiere cinema, a typical local cinema — and even a "Disney cinema" specifically for children's films, today's Votiv Kino has a dynamic history dating back over 100 years. Nowadays, you won't see Mickey Mouse on the screen anymore: since 1986, the art house cinema in Vienna has been screening an increasing number of French films, just like at its second De France location — with subtitles, of course, for all those who didn't pay attention in French class!

☞ [Votivkino votivkino.at](http://Votivkino votivkino.at)



## In Vino Veritas



Companion PR

DÜSSELDORF HOSPITALITY & RETREAT

Nobody knows the hidden powers of grapes like the people of Bordeaux. On her parents' vineyard in the mid-1990s, Mathilde Thomas realised that a full-bodied wine may be a treat for the taste buds, but also that the grape seeds provide a very special ingredient for the skin. Since then, the family-run company Caudalie has sold cosmetic products worldwide, such as exquisite oils and creams based on the rich seeds, including the bestseller: grape water that refreshes the skin. In Düsseldorf's old town, not only can you purchase the beauty products, you can also pamper yourself with some feel-good treatments at the Caudalie Spa. In any case, you can still enjoy a nice glass of wine afterwards.

☞ [Caudalie Spa caudalie.com](http://Caudalie Spa caudalie.com)

# BERLIN'S BEST BRASSERIE

BERLIN FOOD & DRINK

Tired of currywurst and döner kebabs? How fortunate that you can enjoy authentic French cuisine in Berlin, too! The changing menu at Lamazère Brasserie in Stuttgarter Platz features high-end beef dishes and top-quality freshly caught fish from the Mediterranean, accompanied by the best wines from various French wine regions. Guests certainly don't miss the curry powder and extra onions when sitting on the long red leather benches.

☞ [Lamazère Brasserie lamazere.de](http://Lamazère Brasserie lamazere.de)



Sarah Schöppner

# Versailles in Munich

MUNICH ART & ENTERTAINMENT

A little Italian-style garden wasn't nearly enough for Munich's public officials: that's why, in the 1700s, a tranquil piece of land had to give way to an elaborate park in the French Baroque style. This gave us the Nymphenburg Palace Gardens. Even today, it is a must-see for visitors to Munich. A large central canal, smaller lakes, and beautiful architecture,

such as the Apollo Temple or the Green Pump House, are reminiscent of the palace of all palaces: Louis XIV's Château de Versailles. But only this one has delicious Leberkäse rolls available just around the corner!

☞ [Nymphenburg Palace Gardens schloss-nymphenburg.de](http://Nymphenburg Palace Gardens schloss-nymphenburg.de)



Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung

# LET THE SUNSHINE IN

MALLORCA HOSPITALITY & RETREAT

Cultivated hippy flair can only be found in Ibiza, while Mallorca is merely home to beer and Ballermann parties? No way! The Bikini Island & Mountain Hotel is shaking up the clichés surrounding the islands. The newly opened resort transfers the nonchalance of the late 1960s to the Germans' favourite island. Bikini Island & Mountain is located just a stone's throw away from the Port de Sóller beach, and is embedded in a beautiful Balearic landscape, which can be

enjoyed from every terrace and balcony in the 114 suites and rooms of the hotel. The large, pentagonal pool and the interior, designed by Armin Fischer with a nod to the hippie era, are also extremely eye-catching. And they have a NENI restaurant with Balagan-style dining as well!

☞ [Bikini Island & Mountain bikini-hotels.com](http://Bikini Island & Mountain bikini-hotels.com)



# CRAZY ART

FRANKFURT ART & ENTERTAINMENT

What we've seen recently with Basquiat has been seen before with Richard Gerstl and René Magritte: excellent solo exhibitions are helping Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt become an art gallery on an international level. The gallery has also scored another major coup with Neil Beloufa. The French video artist's walkable sculptural installations can be seen until 28 October 2018 in the publicly accessible rounda and in the adjacent exhibition space. Militarism and fitness, armed violence and an obsession with beauty, merge together in the exhibition to form a film collage. Go and see it!

☞ [Schirn schirn.de](http://Schirn schirn.de)

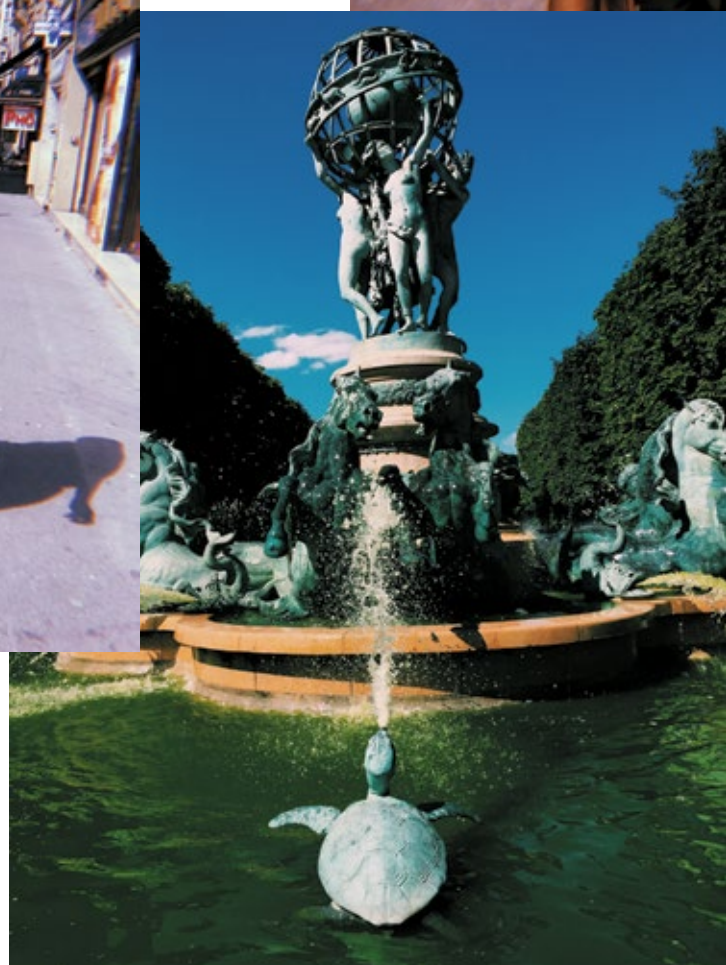


The Art of VVO Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2018, photo: Anselme Moir



# JE SAIS QUOI

TEXT MANUEL ALMEIDA VERGARA



### Style Tracks

Listen to the playlist on: [25hours-hotels.com/en/companion/journal/style-tracks](https://25hours-hotels.com/en/companion/journal/style-tracks)

#### Playlist

- 1 **Zigboté**  
Ernesto Djédjé
- 2 **Dikom lam la moto**  
Charlotte Mbango
- 3 **True**  
Spandau Ballet
- 4 **Love My Way**  
The Psychedelic Furs
- 5 **Wonderful Life**  
Black
- 6 **Eyes Without a Face**  
Billy Idol
- 7 **What a Beautiful Name**  
Hillsong Worship

Louis Philippe de Gagoue likes to deviate from compartmentalisation in his life and his work — which is what makes the photographer and style icon, who spends his time between the Ivory Coast and Paris, so successful.

Louis Philippe de Gagoue takes fashion photos filled with beauty — and is always the most beautiful himself. This is evident to everybody who has scrolled through his social media profiles. Louis in brown leather trousers with a royal-blue cummerbund in Rome. Louis in an asymmetrical camel-coloured tailored suit in Casablanca. Louis in a black ensemble with a box-red belt masterfully looped around his waist in Paris. Past decades, foreign cultures, literature and film — Louis can draw inspiration from anything. 'The most important source, however, is studying your inner self,' he says.

Louis was born in 1991 in the Ivory Coast, his father's home country, and his mother comes from Cameroon. 'When I looked through my family's photo albums as a child, I noticed how well dressed my family always were. My father, my mother, my aunts were looking so chic and elegant, very well dressed in beautiful gowns, hats, gloves. My father was such a dandy,' he says in a buttery, soft accent. 'I thought to

myself, 'I want a life like that one day.' Seeing beautiful things, smiling, parties, drinking champagne, travelling around the world, meeting people from all over the world.' That's how he got his start in fashion — from his fascination in people and their clothes. Today, Louis splits his time between the Ivory Coast and Paris, where he is represented by the renowned agency Artsphere.

As a photographer? Not exactly. Louis is considered more of an artist who guides avant-garde, independent magazines, or international editions of well-known magazines like Vogue, in their fashion imagery, from concept and styling right up to the technical factors. He takes on both the photographer and stylist roles in almost all of his projects. Quotes about his African home, references to European style, and visions of futuristic fashion merge into a succinct aesthetic that addresses the themes of culture and cultures using hyper-modern imagery.

Afrofuturism? 'In a modern context, I don't feel myself as a part of this movement. I'm proud to be African and a child of this beautiful place, but I don't want to be associated with this movement because my inspirations aren't only coming from Africa — I find beauty in all the different cultures around the world,' says Louis. 'The cultural movement known as Afrofuturism since the late 1990s reinterprets creative works — ranging from science fiction to fantasy, from historical novels to realism — in terms of the reality of life and life plans of the African diaspora, but is a reductive way to

describe Louis's work, in his opinion. 'I see myself as more of a world citizen,' he says. However, he does respect the political genre — which is becoming increasingly sought-after in the fashion industry, and can involve all facets of art, from literature to paintings and film — just like he respects the sapeurs, another movement that originated in Africa. Since the early 1920s, sapeurs have dressed in a sophisticated and elegant way — partially in direct contrast with their sometimes precarious circumstances in life. Starting in the 1960s, the playful fashion movement has turned into a political one, which simultaneously determines and provides an ironic response to the dogma of the post-colonial era. 'I have a great deal of respect for sapeurs — they took risks,' says Louis. 'At the end of the day, we live in a society where people are forced to conform and follow commercially influenced principles.' However, he doesn't feel a deeper connection to the ideology and fashion of the sapeurs. 'I'm just me, anything else is just a label. And labels exist to let other people categorise you. I don't categorise myself, I'm just a free bird.'

In fact, Louis lives in a bubble that he wishes to invite the people viewing his photographs into. His website says: 'For him, photography is a form of utopia — an escape from our everyday world that is eaten up by war and conflict.' The photographer wants to transport his audience away from this version of the world. 'I have selective perception and a selective memory as well,' Louis says, laughing. 'If something interests me, I take it all in. If something doesn't interest me, I close my eyes so as not to see it.' Nevertheless, Louis knows all too well what's going on around him. For years now,

discourse on the underrepresentation of people of African descent in the Eurocentric fashion industry — including models, designers, photographers — has been ramping up. However, things are slowly changing. Designers like Kenyan-born Sam Jairo Omindo have been helping African fashion shows, such as Fashion Week in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia or the International Fashion Festival in Morocco, to gain significance. Additionally, the label Super Yaya from Louis's home country, Ivory Coast, has made a niche for its trendy streetwear, somewhere between Afrofuturism and digital-savvy Post-Internet Art. And yet: 'I know that there are still a lot of narrow-minded people around, of course — even in the fashion industry,' says Louis. 'But I don't like to be the victim. I've never seen myself as a victim and will never let myself be made into one.'

As such, COMPANION asked Louis to make a playlist that is as hard to pigeonhole as he is himself.

↳ [louisphilippedegagoue.com](https://louisphilippedegagoue.com)

# MARSEILLE



# MON AMOUR

TEXT CELINA PLAG — PHOTOS THÉO GIACOMETTI

A Mediterranean climate and laid-back urban flair on the Côte d'Azur: Marseille certainly has more to offer than its reputation would reveal. The lively international port city, with its 300 days of sun per year and a particular passion for bouillabaisse and pastis, was long considered the French Naples, ruled by criminal gangs and the violence of its 'French Connection' mafia. Much has changed since then. In 2013, Marseille was named the European Capital of Culture, and pocketed significant subsidies that were invested in polishing up its appearance. France's second-largest city now attracts growing numbers of creative minds and artists. Hot on their heels are the galleries, hip boutiques, and cafés. For the younger French generation especially, Marseilles is becoming a real alternative to the exorbitantly priced Paris due to its affordable standard of living — with a view of the sea included.

'Today, Marseille is no more dangerous than any other major city. But we keep it under wraps, as we'd otherwise be swamped with tourists,' says Margaux

Keller with a laugh. Born in Geneva, the interior and product designer has spent almost her whole life in Marseille, student days in Paris aside. The city is more than just home to the young mother and her family — it is also a source of inspiration for her work. A touch of its sunny, radiant charm always finds its way into the businesses, bistros, or homes that she designs with her trademark love for bright colours and a dash of humour. The same goes for the furniture and interior accessories that she creates for customers like Made.com, Roche Bobois, or Habitat, staying faithful to her motto of blending form and function with emotion. She introduced COMPANION to her beloved Marseille on a tour of her favourite places in the city.

↳ [margauxkeller.com](https://margauxkeller.com)



① **Maison Vauban**

'The districts of Marseille are just like little villages. Everybody knows everyone else, and they all have their own customs,' says Margaux when she welcomes us into her 'village', the historical neighbourhood of Vauban at the foot of the Basilica Notre-Dame de la Garde. Known colloquially as 'La Bonne Mère', the pilgrimage church of St Mary is one of the main attractions in the port city, and Marseille's pride and joy. Maison Vauban is situated just round the corner from both Margaux's apartment and studio, in a small side street winding up the hill: this is the designer's favourite spot for her ritual morning coffee. The proprietor, Victor Parodi, is already awaiting her arrival and greets her warmly with a kiss on both cheeks. With its green-tiled bar, vintage-look furniture, and exposed-brick walls, the bistro is also a cosy spot to linger at lunchtime, weekends, or even for dinner — not least because of the delicious Mediterranean cuisine that it serves.

facebook.com/MaisonVauban  
Marseille



② **Jogging**

The first item on our agenda is Jogging — thankfully, we're talking about a shop! Tucked away in rue Paradis, the small but delightful concept store operated by Margaux's acquaintances Olivier Amselem and Charlotte Brunet is indeed a divine spot for fashion and design aficionados. Set up in a former butcher's shop, the walls are now bedazzled with sunglasses and designer dresses by the trendiest labels, like Jacquemus, JW Anderson, Alyx, and Maryam Nassir Zadeh. 'A shop like this in Marseille would have upped and died just a few years ago. But now the city is attracting lots of young creative professionals from Paris. The scene for hip design is growing,' says Margaux. Jogging opens out on to an overgrown garden in the rear courtyard, where lunch is served on weekdays and brunch at the weekend. The octopus salad that's currently being prepared definitely looks mouthwatering.

joggingmarseille.com



③ **Sepia**

It's just as well that we are on our way to the next stop: the restaurant Sepia, Margaux's favourite haunt for lunch. Surrounded by a small park, Sepia is perched on the slope of La Garde hill and can only be reached by crossing a bridge. 'There's a stunning view of Marseille from here,' the designer gushes. 'It's also a wonderful place to bring children. They can play to their hearts' content in front of the restaurant, leaving their parents to eat in peace,' the mother of two says with a wink. Traditionally speaking, Marseille's cuisine is best known for its bouillabaisse and pastis. But we prefer to consult the menu of the day in this Italian fine-dining eatery: pasta with mussels and salmon on avocado tartare. The obligatory wine can't be left out in France, despite the early hour. Natives of Marseille have a particular penchant for a chilled rosé, which we sample, enraptured, on the shady terrace.

restaurant-sepia.fr



**Maison Vauban**

109 boulevard Vauban

**Jogging**

103 rue Paradis

**Sepia**

2 rue Vauvenargues

**La Corniche**

Président John F. Kennedy

**Mucem**

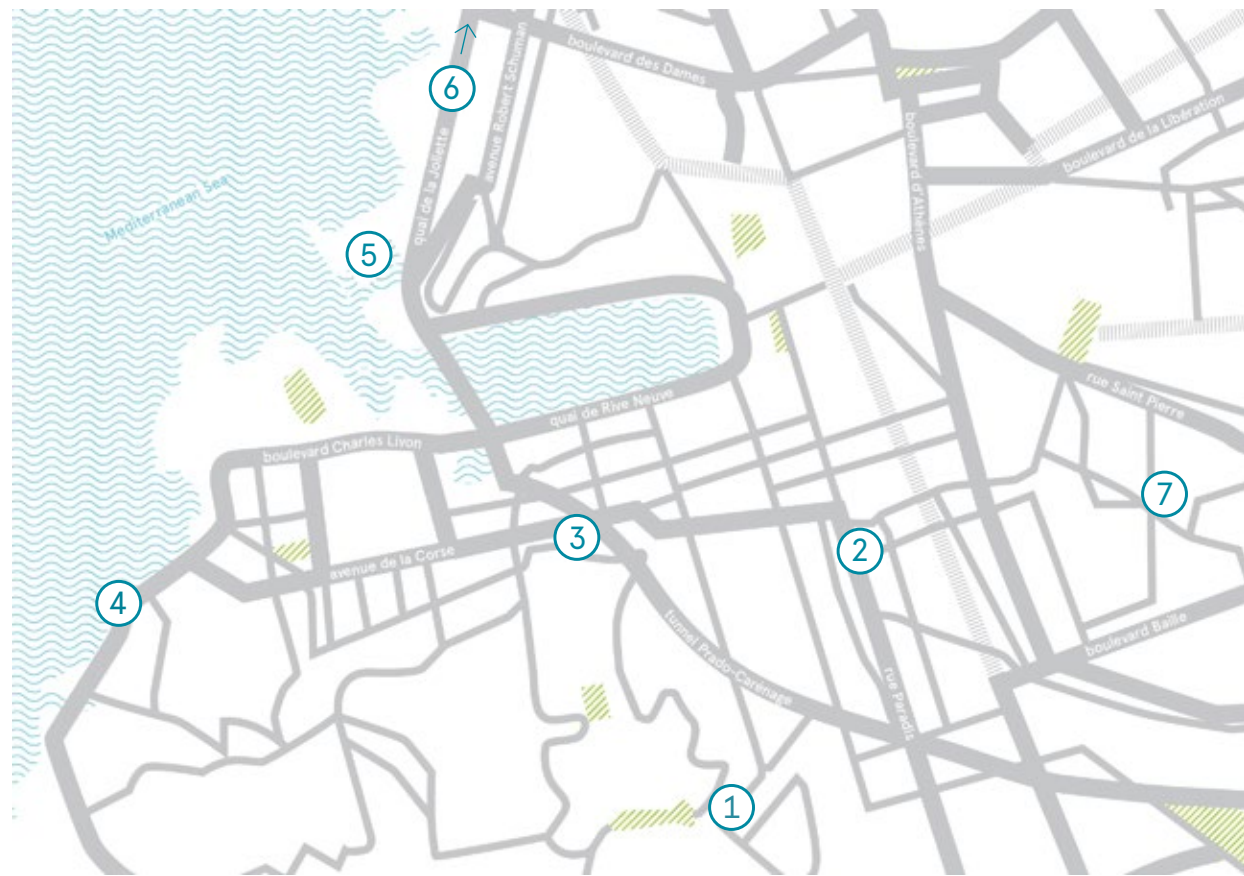
7 promenade Robert Laffont

**Le Coiffeur**

9 quai du Lazaret

**Mama Shelter**

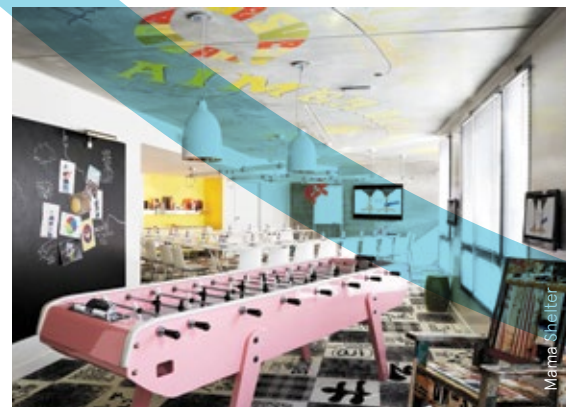
64 rue de La Loubière



⑦ **Mama Shelter**

Freshly coiffured, we're all set for the evening, which we spend in our hotel, Mama Shelter Marseille, just round the corner from the trendy artists' quarter of Cours Julien. Mama Shelter belongs to a small but delightful group of French design hotels that have now spread to eight different cities as far afield as Paris, Los Angeles, and even Rio de Janeiro. There's always a cool vibe in this urban oasis of the port city, with its modern concrete-style rooms. And the in-house Restaurant Mama is a fantastic spot to dine accompanied by a live DJ set. The Marseille menu features international delicacies like tuna and sesame tatakis, and a hip Hawaiian poke bowl, alongside shakshuka, hummus, and burrata. Hotel guests are joined by locals who drop by for some food, a few drinks, or a game of table football. So by the end of the day, we'd even made a couple of new friends.

mamashelter.com



⑥ **Le Coiffeur**

Pascal Lancien's salon is situated not far from the Mucem, in the chic mall Les Terrasses du Port, along the port arcades. Simply named Le Coiffeur, its interior was designed by Margaux. From the moment we step inside, we immediately sense her love of colour and light-coloured wood. The walls are resplendent in radiant turquoise, while the playful yet minimalist sofa is graced by yellow and grey cushions. A real eye-catcher — besides the semi-circular mirrors perched on stilts — is a small hut that's been set up inside the shop. It's home to wash basins and recliners, where a couple of women are currently having their hair shampooed in a semi-private, intimate atmosphere — despite the salon bustling with activity. It's hardly surprising — pretty much everyone in Marseille entrusts their hair to Pascal's skilful hands.

lecoiffeur-pascalancien.fr

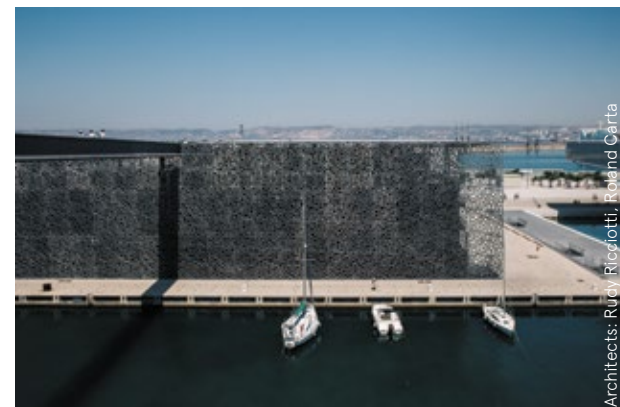


⑤ **Mucem**

But the harbour town has more to offer than just a refreshing dip and tasty food. We're here to enjoy the culture, of course. Leaving aside Le Corbusier's architectural monument — the social housing complex Cité Radieuse that was built from 1947 onwards — the Mucem embodies the new Marseille. Viewed from La Corniche, the Museum of European and Mediterranean

Civilisations is directly opposite, on the other side of the Old Port. It opened in 2013 to mark Marseille's appointment as the European Capital of Culture. Quite apart from the permanent and temporary exhibitions, the contemporary building itself, with its glazed façade and concrete honeycomb superstructure, is a genuine attraction in its own right and avidly photographed by visitors on the roof terrace. A concrete bridge also connects the modern block with the historical Fort Saint-Jean as a beautiful symbiosis of the old and the new.

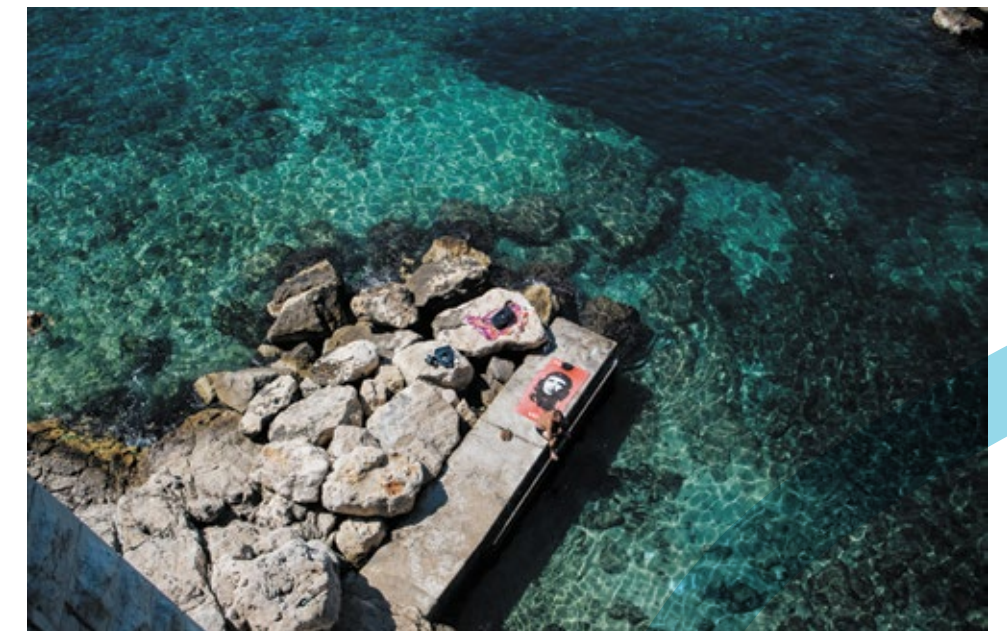
mucem.org



④ **La Corniche**

From Sepia, it's a 25-minute amble through the alleyways of Marseille to reach La Corniche — a serpentine road hugging the precipitous coastline — but the hilly city and the scorching heat dampen our ardour, so we hop into Margaux's car instead. Shortly afterwards, we find ourselves at the start of the five-kilometre rocky road, which the citizens of Marseille proudly assert is home to the world's longest bench. Whether or not that's true, we

enjoy the break with a view of the great blue sea — and the pleasantly stiff breeze that's blowing here. The small harbour bay of Vallon des Auffes is located directly below, where a gaggle of bathers lie stretched out on the rocks and hop occasionally into the waters. 'We have perfect bathing weather here until November,' says a visibly enthusiastic Margaux. A smattering of bistros and restaurants in the picturesque harbour look inviting, and the atmosphere exudes an air of calm that would be virtually impossible to find on the crowded beaches at the other end of La Corniche.





# TALKING BUSINESS



## Always in Motion

TEXT SILVIA SILKO

The new 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord, co-designed by Augsburg-based design studio Dreimeta, is opening in Paris. The concept? A melting pot of cultures.

Every day, half a million people pass through Gare du Nord station. The surrounding 10th arrondissement is shaped by the dynamism that the most frequently visited train station in Europe bestows upon it. However, it is the multicultural population that gives this Parisian district its vibrant character. The 1980s saw the last big wave of immigrants from Africa and India settle here in Paris. No wonder, then, that this district, which is also popular with the Parisian creative scene, today not only offers trendy bars, organic supermarkets, and hip designer shops. You can also get cornrows at lively hair salons, or discover unassuming eateries which arguably offer the best curry in town.

Terminus Nord has stood amidst this blend of cultures, progress, and transit since 1860. The imposing building, which has always served as a hotel, will join the 25hours Hotels family as of this summer. The vision is to continue the district's rhythm throughout the hotel interior. For that, 25hours Hotels turned to the design studio Dreimeta for help. One look at the portfolio of the Augsburg-based interior design duo, made up of Andrea Kraft-Hammerschall and Armin Fischer, and it quickly becomes clear that their trademark mix of vintage and modern, combined with their commitment to colours, forms, and patterns, allowed this vision to be turned into a reality for the hotel in a magnificently playful way.

Andrea can only confirm this: 'The Parisian hotel is a tribute to its neighbouring district and the people who shape this area. The neighbourhood in the 10th and adjacent 18th arrondissements is a melting pot of vastly differing cultures from all over the world. People from Sri Lanka, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Senegal, and Pakistan make the streets in front of the hotel door a very colourful and vibrant world.'

When working on the hotel, different approaches to reflect the neighbourhood's rich culture were considered. The idea of creating room types for each individual culture was discarded but quickly gave way



to the idea of an exciting interplay. The keyword here is 'diversity': the room designs were based on five colour schemes and mixes of patterns and materials. The room concepts are complemented with artworks. To this end, we had pictures made by Indian poster artists, for example.'

In turn, the look of the street in times gone by played a leading role in the design concept for the bar area. La Sape, a movement of Congolese dandies, was decisive in determining the style here. In keeping with this, the bar is elegant, adorned with ornamental fabrics reminiscent of the sapeurs' suits and clothing.

Dreimeta has been working with 25hours Hotels since 2002, and has extensive experience with hotels, bars, and public spaces. The comings and goings of people were a point of fascination for the design studio, which gave Andrea the freedom to express her creativity through the immediacy of the spaces here: 'A hotel functions as a self-contained cosmos. We use them to create an individual little world that guests can explore and immerse themselves in. The fact that most people only stay at a hotel for a short period of time allowed us to take a more extreme approach in the design than we would with a private building.'

As such, public spaces like the reception and the coffee-to-go shop opposite are designed in the style of a large kiosk, with newspapers, postcards, sweets, and all sorts of knick-knacks on offer. This is another playful way in which the bustling atmosphere of the train station opposite is reflected in the hotel.

However, with its many approaches, its layered history, and its modern renovation, Terminus Nord's multifaceted nature not only reflects the 10th arrondissement, but also the whole of Paris. When asked about what France's capital city means to Andrea personally, she speaks of the inspiration that is all around here. 'Paris simply has something to offer for everybody. Or to quote Audrey Hepburn, 'Paris is always a good idea.'

dreimeta.com

## Respect for Time

TEXT SILVIA SILKO

Historical buildings are always little pieces of history in themselves. After all, they have seen countless societal and historical changes play out in and in front of them. Façades, rooms, and houses represent entire eras in their aesthetics and development. It's precisely this that the staff at Axel Schoenert Architectes find so exciting — especially as the architecture firm itself works with buildings that are rich in history. In the 20 years since the company was created, this has been happening more and more frequently.

Axel Schoenert and his Paris-based team have worked on prestigious projects, such as the renovation of Théâtre Mogadore, built in 1913. However, when it comes to contemporary buildings, such as the Centre d'Affaires Paris Victoire or the headquarters of cosmetics chain Sephora, they have also demonstrated the importance of the individual character of each building. COMPANION spoke to Axel about the interplay between old and new, and what he pays attention to when travelling.

**'It was a very international project — it brought together people from Thailand, Germany, France, and England. There were lots of different cultures working as a team.'**



**COMPANION: How do you approach new projects?**

Axel Schoenert: For me, every new project is a new challenge. It's always about striving not to copy things that have been done in the past. In doing so, you should always learn from the things you have already done, with the intention to constantly improve.

**Your architecture firm has two decades of history to look back on. What are the key values that have emerged over this time?**

High quality, for example, but also punctuality and durability. However, one of the most important values is respect. Respect must be paid to the people you work with, but also to historical architecture.

**How do you manage to pay respect to historical buildings while forming new standards?**

Exactly, that is the biggest problem. In order to find this balance, you need the right team and the ability to think outside of the box. If everything goes smoothly, then working on a project like that can be really good fun. We've been fortunate enough to realise many such projects in recent years, and you learn a surprising amount from them. For example, individual historical periods become a lot more clearly defined. You learn how architects used to work in the past, and the specific problems they had to face in their time.

**Terminus Nord in Paris, now home to a new 25hours Hotel with the help of Axel Schoenert Architectes, is one such historical building. What made working on this building so special?**

The hotel and the Gare du Nord train station opposite are witnesses to a lot of different eras. Currently, the neighbourhood finds itself in a period of reinvention. The hotel's storytelling reflects each of the eras of the entire arrondissement. So it is typical both of 25hours Hotels and of Paris.

**What can you tell us about your own working process?**

It's always exciting to take on a new task — especially when it has a concrete vision behind it, like this one. That's what makes it so appealing. With Terminus Nord, it was mainly the communication that made everything run so smoothly. It was a very international project — it brought together people from Thailand, Germany, France, and England. There were lots of different cultures working as a team.

**You've done a lot of work on hotels. What do you find so fascinating about this kind of project?**

I have always had an interest in interior design, and my motive is always to consider the entire artwork as a whole. In my opinion, hotels are an amalgam of architecture and interior design, and each one has its own individual concept. I find it fascinating that you always have to come up with a new concept each time you work on a hotel.

**When you yourself are travelling, you surely pay a lot of attention to hotels, given your work. What do you pay attention to in particular?**

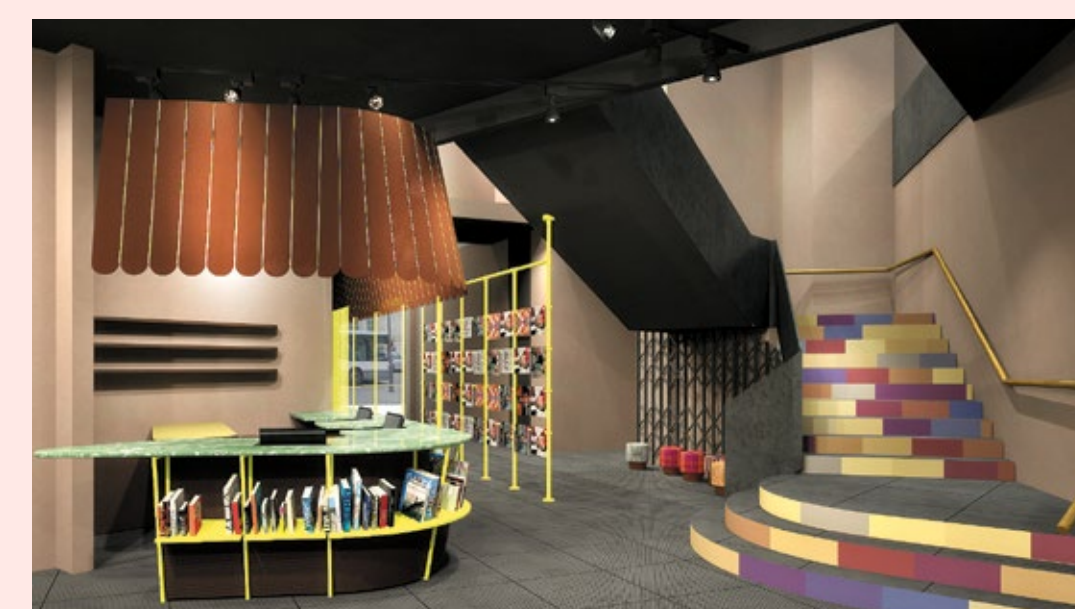
The first thing I notice is the first thing that everyone entering a hotel notices: the lobby. For me, it has to be extensive and unique. As for the rest, I think good service is important: the staff must be competent, but also have personality. Processes like check-in and check-out must be convenient and not feel like a waste of time. At a good hotel, you can spend the time saved here on enjoying yourself.

as-architecture.com

### About Terminus Nord

Paris primarily has one person to thank for its monumental beauty: architect Baron Haussmann, who was commissioned by Napoleon III to redesign the French capital from scratch in the mid-19th century. Haussmann shaped the face of the city, even to this day, with his magnificent, ornate architecture. Buildings like Europe's largest train station, the Gare du Nord, and the equally opulent Terminus Nord nearby both follow the architectural example of this time. Built in 1865, Terminus Nord has always served as a hotel, and is home to business travellers,

tourists, and nomads, with approximately 230 rooms across seven stories. At the start of 2017, the property was purchased by Hua Kee. Until that point, the investor had mainly been active in the Asian and Australian markets, owning and operating hotels with a variety of concepts there. Hostels, beach resorts, and urban hotels are all part of the company's portfolio. Together with 25hours Hotels, the building's concept was completely reimaged. The new 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord is opening in that historic building right in the heart of Paris.





## An Intimate Travel Buddy

IN COOPERATION WITH JOCKEY®  
TEXT LEONIE VOLK — PHOTOS ROBERT RIEGER

Astronauts wore them on the first voyage to the moon, but Jockey underwear also makes for an intimate travel companion on terra firma. We speak with Jens Noll, product director Europe and international for the American family-owned firm, about its 140-year history, trends, and cultural predilections when it comes to selecting underwear.

**COMPANION: Jockey briefs are seen as the original undergarment, and their design is frequently limited, even today. What makes them so revolutionary?**

Jens Noll: People only wore long undergarments until the 1930s. The product that we know today as briefs or shorts was invented by Jockey. Originally, the company made socks for lumberjacks. But it quickly recognised the potential of using knitted fabrics for underwear. They were more elastic and therefore more comfortable than the woven fabrics that had been used previously. What made them so revolutionary was that Jockey shortened the briefs and equipped them with the Y-Front® we know and love today.

**Another highlight in the company's history: Jockey designed the underwear for NASA's first lunar mission. But let's keep our feet on the ground. What's important when creating underwear that will be worn whilst travelling?**

First of all, underwear needs to be simple and multifunctional — nobody wants to pack different types just because they are travelling through various time zones. It's also essential that the items are breathable and easy to clean. This way they can be washed by hand or sent for laundering in a hotel. The principle needs to be simple: wash, dry, wear.

**How do you walk the tightrope between tradition and progress?**

We adhere to three basic values: comfort, quality, and innovation. We are always determined to move with the times and to identify the innovative global opportunities and trends, for instance, in our choice of material. Comfort means we make underwear that feels as if it weren't there. Our perception of quality is to consistently question everything we do. Ultimately, we want to make a product that will please our customers for as long as possible.

**Boxer shorts, slips, or retro pants: do you observe that different countries have specific preferences for certain styles of underwear?**

Most certainly. Red underwear is particularly popular at New Year in China and Italy, as it is said to bring good fortune. This custom is becoming increasingly popular elsewhere as well. People in Thailand like wearing pink — the royal colour.

**How do you accommodate these cultural differences? After all, Jockey is represented in 140 countries.**

We pay attention to religious, cultural, and climatic circumstances, global collection aside. In certain regions, for instance, changing cubicles are still separated according to gender. There is a mistaken belief that people mainly wear long underwear in colder areas like Scandinavia or Russia. It's actually the other way round — houses in the south are actually built for the warmer months. So we are careful to address these peculiarities.

**Men's underwear is mostly about comfort.**

I don't agree. Besides our standard styles, we also have products with check patterns, stripes, flowers, minimal prints, and photo prints. The fact that they are less commonplace in Europe has more to do with retailers' orders. Buying fashionable products is still a more risky endeavour for some retailers. But male customers are increasingly asking for fashionable products and are more informed than ever before. The proof? Major fashion houses like Gucci are enlarging their men's departments.

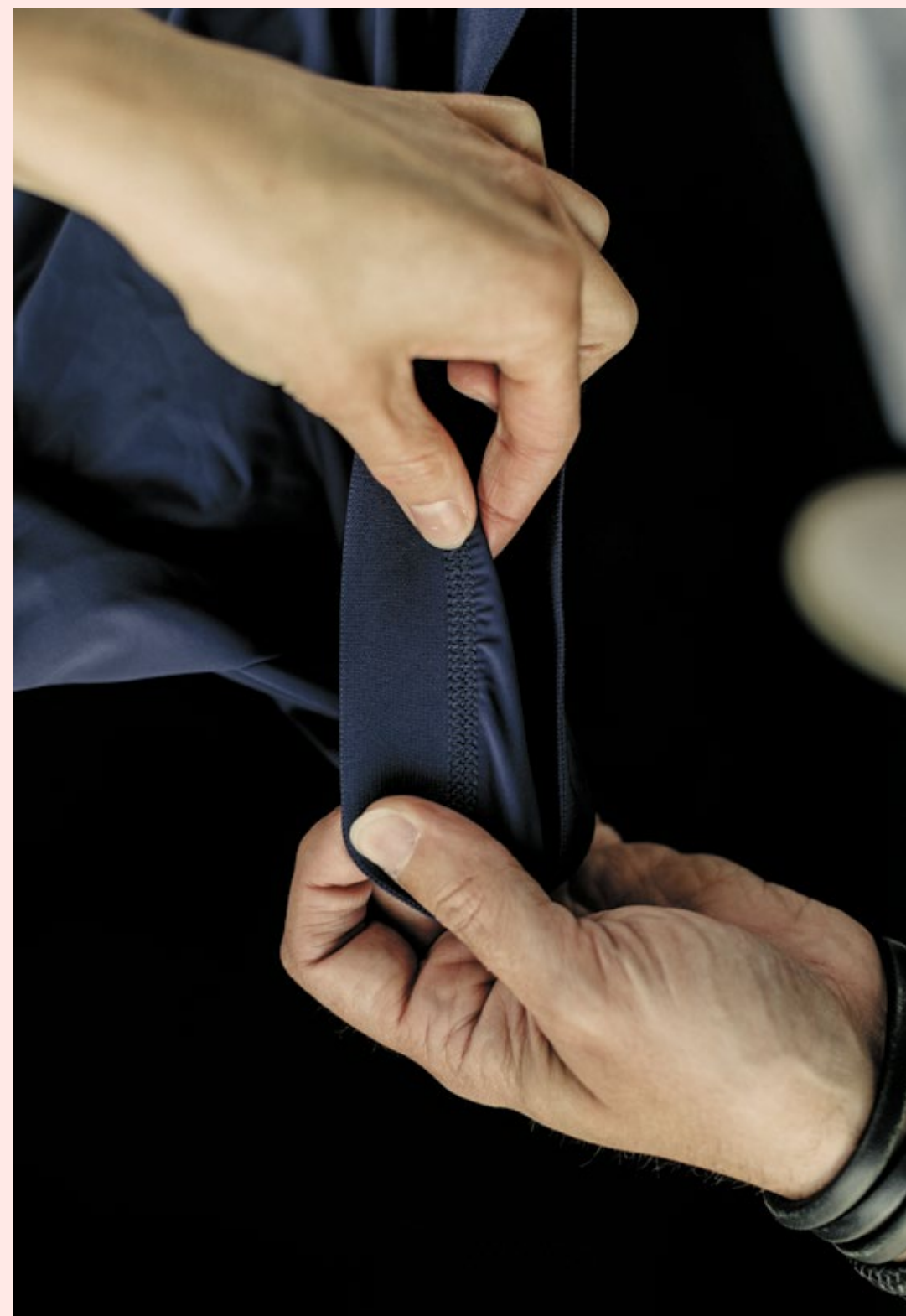
**Many people perceive long underwear as 'totally unsexy'. But they are experiencing a bit of a revival thanks to fashion-conscious hipsters. How do you explain that?**

We are far further down the road than you might think. When you go to the gym, even in rural regions, you will encounter more and more men

wearing tights underneath their shorts. And if they are accepted in sport, they will be elsewhere as well. **Men often let the brand of their boxers poke out from the waist of their trousers. Are underpants the new male status symbol?**

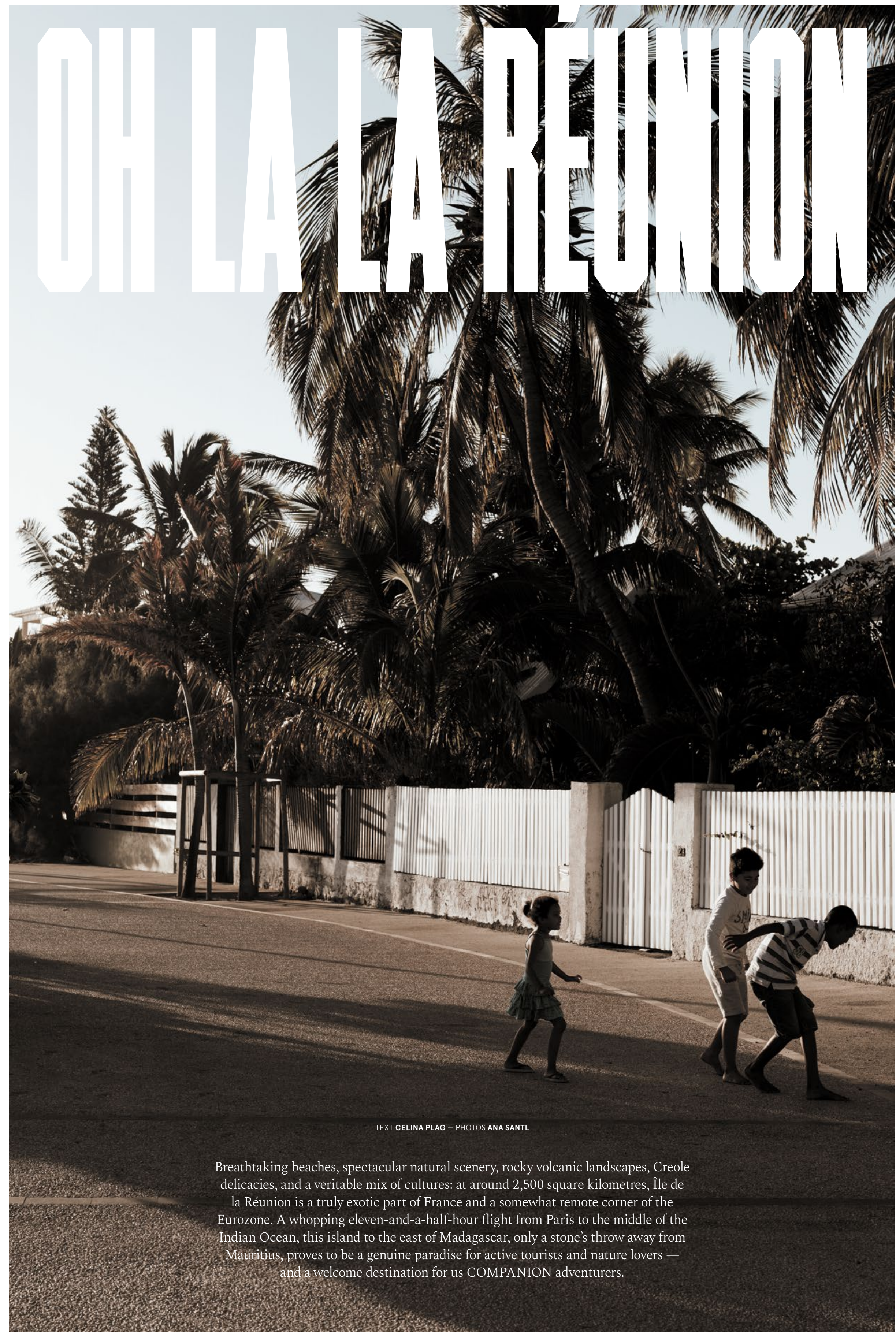
By showing a visible waistline, men can demonstrate that they look after themselves and choose quality products. Our increasing awareness surrounding physical fitness and health is an important factor here, along with the influence of sportswear. It is currently fashionable to display logos as well, which is certainly convenient for us. Another helpful feature is that the elastic waistband promises outstanding comfort, as it is extremely flat and dimensionally stable. And let's not forget — that was also invented by Jockey [laughs].

↳ [jockey.de](http://jockey.de)



### Jens's All-Time Travel Tips

Before travelling, I always make sure I've packed enough clothes that can fulfil several purposes. Moving around in the fresh air and daylight is a good way to cope with jet lag. And I never forget moisturiser, as well as headphones and ear plugs to wind down with. Here's another piece of wisdom: Make sure you drink enough liquids. Our bodies dehydrate faster at high altitude. My favourite for travelling is coconut water.



TEXT CELINA PLAG — PHOTOS ANA SANTIL

Breathtaking beaches, spectacular natural scenery, rocky volcanic landscapes, Creole delicacies, and a veritable mix of cultures: at around 2,500 square kilometres, Île de la Réunion is a truly exotic part of France and a somewhat remote corner of the Eurozone. A whopping eleven-and-a-half-hour flight from Paris to the middle of the Indian Ocean, this island to the east of Madagascar, only a stone's throw away from Mauritius, proves to be a genuine paradise for active tourists and nature lovers — and a welcome destination for us COMPANION adventurers.





Congestion in Saint-Denis. Traffic is at a standstill on the coast road that winds its way around the island from the Île de la Réunion airport, tightly hugging the rocky cliffs here in the bustling capital. Just what we need after a turbulent overnight flight from Paris. Rolande Bois remains calm, however. The ever-cheerful Madagascan, who has lived on Réunion for several years and will be our tour guide over the coming days, has long since grown accustomed to the local traffic conditions. 'There's only one road to get from A to B,' she says, shrugging her shoulders — or none at all.

As well as the long-extinct Piton des Neiges, whose white peaks rise over 3,000 metres into the sky, the spluttering giant Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is another feature of this volcanic island. 'It erupts around once a year,' says Rolande, 'and has already done so three times this year.' With every major eruption, lava flows into the sea in some places. It then takes days for the fiery mass to cool down so that the reconstruction of the submerged road can begin. 'We literally burn money on a regular basis with our road,' says Rolande, laughing.

The plan is to counter this sporadic, pre-programmed traffic jam with a new route out at sea — a kind of vehicular bridge that will circumnavigate parts of the island. But its construction is costly. Once this major European Union-subsidised project is complete, it will be France's most expensive road — in the middle of the Indian Ocean! After all, as a French overseas department, Réunion is officially one of the eighteen regions of the country. It remains to be seen how many more eruptions there will be until this stilted icon is finished. Because: 'Things proceed at a much slower pace on Réunion,' according to Rolande.

So it's kind of odd that, despite its laid-back vibe, Réunion is considered to be a genuine adventure and action island. Of course, you can relax on the beach and enjoy a swim while keeping an eye out for the sharks that frolic off the island in the same numbers as whales, or dive into the magnificently sparkling coral reef. Nevertheless, Réunion mainly attracts nature lovers and active tourists who set off on hikes, which can last several days, in any one of its three green valleys — Cilaos, Mafate, and Salazie — and on climbing tours in almost untouched areas. The lush green landscapes are literally encircled by volcanoes, with Mafate in particular only accessible on foot or by helicopter, making it an unspoiled corner of paradise.

In general, Réunion's volcanic landscape makes it difficult to access, which is another reason why the originally uninhabited island remained unpopulated long after its discovery. 'It's said that the first sailors to come this way believed Réunion to be the island of dragons due to its active volcanoes — preferring to steer well clear of the fire-breathing monsters,' says Rolande, laughing. The island was only populated from the mid-17th century, when the French arrived looking to expand their colonies. Along with the French, the first settlers were slaves deported from Madagascar,

Eastern Africa, and India who worked on the sugar cane and vanilla plantations on the island then known as Île Bourbon — a name taken from the French Royal House of Bourbon, which also gave the vanilla of Réunion its name.

Slavery was officially abolished in 1848. After that, additional cheap labour came from India, parts of Africa, and China. Today's descendants of these former settlers are known as Creoles — the French-based Creole language is also spoken on Réunion, by the way — and the island is still shaped by a variety of cultures. The harmonious coexistence of different groups is an important part of the national identity. Rolande says: 'Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists: on Réunion, we're proud of our peaceful diversity.'

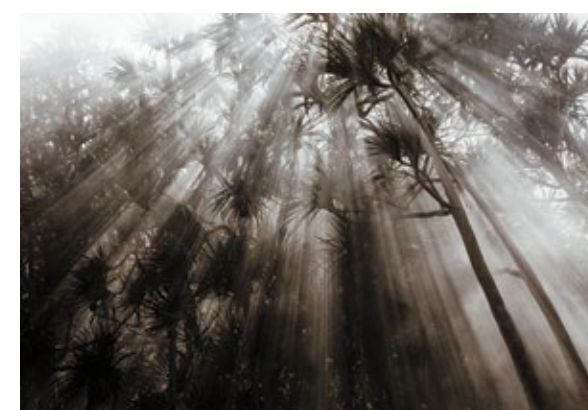
It is a diversity reflected in the extraordinary flavours of Réunion's Creole cuisine. Samosas — stuffed, deep-fried pasties from India — are considered to be the ultimate snack and can be purchased on every street corner. 'Curry comes from the Tamils, and stew from our African ancestors,' explains Jean François Rivière from the Creole restaurant Le Vieux Bardeau, exuberantly welcoming us to the old colonial-style villa. 'Everything has fused together to produce our distinctive Réunion cuisine.'

Today, this cosy, relaxed family restaurant is serving a buffet lunch featuring the island's traditional dishes. Besides a palm heart salad, a hearty casserole of plantain, and *chouchou* (a native pumpkin variety) and *brédes* (local leafy greens) stew, the menu also includes *cari*, of course: a kind of curry and the island's national dish, of which there are countless versions on Réunion. 'Cari is made of rice and pulses, meat or fish, tomatoes and vegetables, for example. Plus onions, garlic, ginger, and herbs and spices, such as thyme, pepper, and turmeric,' according to Jean François, who is visibly delighted that we like this hearty, steaming dish.

Le Vieux Bardeau is located in the village of Bourg-Murat, and is therefore a convenient stop on the way to Piton de la Fournaise, which we also want to take a closer look at, of course. The winding road climbs ever higher, until we reach the so-called 'Nez de Boeuf', a vantage point from where we enjoy a breathtaking view of the tree-covered Rivière des Remparts ravine — a vista so vast that adrenaline produces butterflies at the thought of us setting out on an adventurous hike down there, with no electricity or Wi-Fi, just like those trips that are so popular with genuine survival camp fans here. A reason to return! For now, we simply want to reach the crater.

Around another few corners, it begins to rain — again. Since our arrival, the weather and vegetation on Réunion hasn't changed every few minutes, but rather every few metres. While travelling amidst lush green mountain slopes and flowering plants, our surroundings are becoming increasingly steppe-like, until the Plaine des Sables opens out over the last few metres, revealing a shimmering red, moon-like desert landscape, above which rain clouds are now

# 'Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists: on Réunion, we're proud of our peaceful diversity.'



accumulating. 'There are around 200 microclimate zones on Réunion,' explains Rolande. 'That's why the weather here is sometimes just as capricious as nature.' There is one advantage: rainbows! In unprecedented numbers.

That makes up for what we see at the Pas de Bellecombe, the vantage point on the caldera rim: nothing but fog insidiously obscuring the crater panorama. The weather is so unpredictable. The next day, the foggy view is further remedied by a helicopter ride above the island. Once again, we have butterflies as we take off for our 45-minute round trip over the volcano and three valley basins. Our pilot performs pirouettes in the air in order to pass tightly through crevices and hover over palm groves. From the helicopter, we also have a fascinating view of the sea, whose waves are not breaking on the beach, but far offshore, as is typical of the island.

Looking down from above, a feeling that often accompanies us on Réunion intensifies — namely, that here we are experiencing the Earth more intuitively and intensely than anywhere else. Mother Nature actually appears more vibrant, fresh, agile, and somehow more youthful here than on other parts of the planet. And in actual fact, Réunion, whose Piton de Neiges rose out of the ocean barely 3 million years ago, is still a genuine fledgling in the planet's 4.6-billion-year history.

Back on the ground, our knees are still shaking. And having viewed the island from above, we now want to zoom in and focus on its flora. Réunion's vegetation is about as diverse as the island's cuisine: next to a wide variety of endemic plants, the first settlers also introduced and cultivated plants from around the world. Vanilla, a type of orchid originally from Mexico, is perhaps the most popular example, playing a role in the fragrances and flavours of the island while also being a valuable export. Vetiver, with its fresh herbal aroma, as well as a native geranium species that we discovered on the island, also becomes lodged in our olfactory travel memory.

To learn more about the island's plants and fragrances, we visit Marie-Rose Severin from Coopérative Agricole des Huiles Essentielles de Bourbon, or CAHEB, for short — a cooperative that produces the island's essential oils in the town of Tampon. 'The island's smaller organic farms bring their harvests to us. We use what they give us to produce our

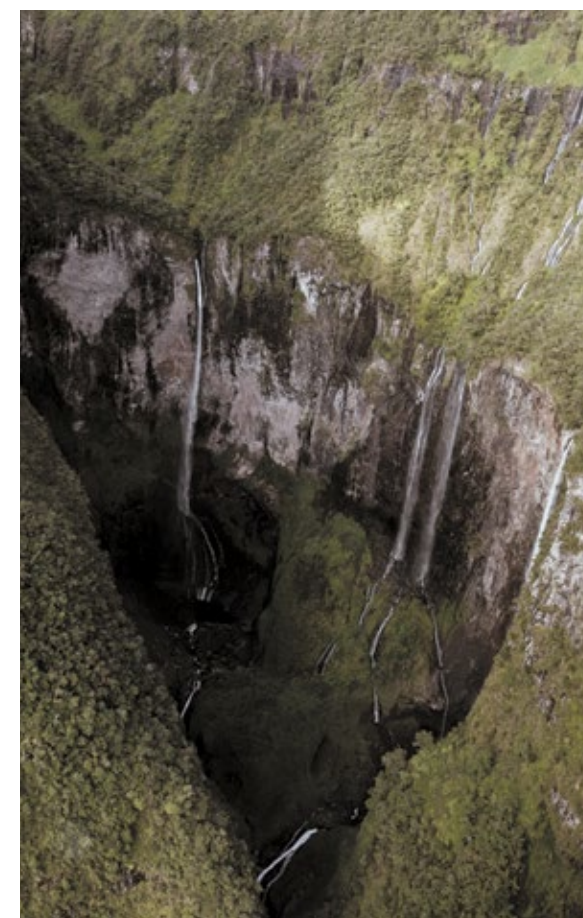


sweet-smelling essences,' says the lady with the fitting floral name while showing us a small garden and boiler house that is used for steam distillation. The company supplies oils and essences to perfumers, including Marie Le Febvre from Paris, who runs the trendy fragrance brand Urban Scents from Berlin, and has also mixed one or two aromatic potions for the cooperative's shop. That's reason enough for us to sample the small store's entire range — and purchase a couple of souvenirs. After all, our journey is coming to an end.

We want to finish our trip on the beach, at the plage de l'Étang-Salé, to be precise, which is famous for its black volcanic sand that conjures up a gloriously colourful backdrop at sunset. 'You won't see any locals here during the day,' says Rolande. Because the dark black sand attracts the heat, you can easily burn your feet. For an evening, however, it's the ideal place to listen to the sound of the sea while enjoying a cold Dodo, the local beer. We opt for *rhum arrangé*: rum infused with herbs and fruit, considered to be a real speciality of the island. It tastes adventurously sweet, capriciously turbulent, and more than a little French. Like an exotic corner of France, in fact. In the middle of the Indian Ocean.



## 'Things proceed at a much slower pace on Réunion.'



### Escale Bleue

Learn more about vanilla, its planting, and this company's innovative method of processing *vanille bleue* at this beautiful destination. Their tiny shop holds delicate vanilla pods in stylish test tubes.

↳ [escale-bleue.fr](https://www.escale-bleue.fr)

### Le Vieux Bardeau

Enjoy the taste of Creole cuisine in this down-to-earth comfort-food restaurant, where the island's culinary specialties are served à la carte or as a mouth-watering buffet.

↳ [facebook.com/Le-Vieux-Bardeau](https://www.facebook.com/Le-Vieux-Bardeau)

### Jardin Botanique

Réunion has a huge variety of endemic plants as well as foreign species, which were introduced from all over the world. Discover them in Mascarin, the island's botanical garden and conservatory.

↳ [cbnm.org](https://www.cbnm.org)

### Grand Bleu Croisières

Tick off your bucket list goal of whale watching on a boat tour with Grand Bleu. Their 90-minute 'croisière cocktail' tour provides perfect sun-downer experience on the Indian Ocean.

↳ [grandbleu.re](https://www.grandbleu.re)

### La Boutique de la CAHEB

'La Coopérative Agricole des Huiles Essentielles de Bourbon' is the island's cooperative for local essential oils. In their boutique, you can find special extracts such as the local 'geranium bourbon' and a variety of products, including perfumes and oils that can be used for both massage and cooking.

↳ [geranium-bourbon.com](https://www.geranium-bourbon.com)

### Marché de Saint-Paul

Located on the waterfront, the multicoloured Saint-Paul market is the go-to for locals and tourists alike, with its 300 stalls for vegetables, crafts, and freshly made snacks. It is open all day on Friday, and on Saturday morning.

### Helilagon Helicopters

Experiencing the volcano and the hard-to-access basins from above on a helicopter trip around the island is a must for all adventurers.

↳ [helilagon.com](https://www.helilagon.com)

### The Tour Guide

Visit the Piton de la Fournaise, the basin of Salazie, and Réunion's other treasures on a guided individual tour with Rolande, who will fill you in on what you need to know — and is fun company, too.

↳ [rolandebois@gmail.com](mailto:rolandebois@gmail.com)

### Urban Scents

No time to fly to the Indian Ocean? Paris-born, Berlin-based perfumer Marie Le Febvre fills bottles with the scent of La Réunion. For some of her perfumes, she uses the island's precious ingredients, such as vetiver and vanilla.

↳ [urbanscents.de](https://www.urbanscents.de)



**Conscious Drinking**

Stay hydrated — but avoid plastic waste with this reusable bottle by S'well. Of course, you can also fill it with your favourite wine for a picnic outdoors.

Reusable Bottle by S'well, around 30 EUR  
[swellbottle.com](http://swellbottle.com)

**Reading Proust**

... or any other pearls of literature can be a stylish experience with these luxurious frames by Barton Perreira. In the most French of colours: champagne!

Burns Frames by Barton Perreira, 375 EUR  
[bartonperreira.com](http://bartonperreira.com)

**Allons Enfants**

French brand A.P.C. knows how to capture the modern Parisian look. For instance, with these sneakers, which are actually not for children, but come in both men's and women's styles.

Running Mesh by A.P.C., 235 EUR  
[apc.fr](http://apc.fr)

**Shopping Credibility**

Fromage, baguette, wine: keep your French grocery shopping together in this traditional string bag that has been made in Normandy since 1855.

String Bag via Manufactum, 11.80 EUR  
[manufactum.de](http://manufactum.de)

# TRICOLORE TREASURES

From a scented oval to a tiny beret or a classy string bag: COMPANION selected some French-inspired goodies for a season of style.

**Breton Chic**

Wanna stand out during your holiday in Brittany? The classic striped T-shirt gets a contemporary update with a colourway of red, blue, and white.

Round Neck T-Shirt by &Other Stories, 25 EUR  
[stories.com](http://stories.com)

**Ah Bon, Merci!**

The Parisian concept store Merci in Le Marais is a *wunderkammer* of well-designed treasures and life savers, such as this empowering daily essential.

Charge and Sync Cable by Le Cord, 29.90 EUR  
[merci-merci.com](http://merci-merci.com)

**Oval Odeur**

With a bouquet of roses and blackcurrant, this oval by French scent specialist Diptyque is made to perfume and decorate small spaces — why not also your suitcase?

Scented Oval by Diptyque, 42 EUR  
[diptyqueparis.eu](http://diptyqueparis.eu)

**Seeing Rouge**

You don't need to be a French boy or girl to look *magnifique* with this classy red beret that is made exclusively for children — sorry, parents!

Beret via Arket, 22 EUR  
[arket.com](http://arket.com)

**My Little Paris**

Get your dose of French flair with the online magazine My Little Paris — or have it delivered directly to your home: subscribe to My Little Box for a monthly package of great beauty and accessory surprises.

My little Box, 17.50 EUR per month  
[mylittlebox.net](http://mylittlebox.net)



# Eating with a compagnon

TEXT CELINA PLAG

Internationally inspired dishes made with seasonal and regional products are prepared with a distinctly French touch at Gesa Hansen and Charles Compagnon's neo-brasserie 52 Faubourg Saint-Denis in Paris. The couple cooked a favourite for us to sample.

The way to the heart is through the stomach, as the saying goes. And we're left with no doubt as to its truth after a meeting with Gesa Hansen and Charles Compagnon. Gesa, an interior designer from Germany's Sauerland region — and a passionate adopted Parisian — met her husband, the restaurateur Charles, in his first eatery, Le Richer, where she started out as a regular and ended up a fixture. And in the same way, the couple is now a family of five: the Compagnon restaurant empire has grown significantly over recent years. Besides Le Richer, since 2014 Charles also runs 52 Faubourg Saint-Denis, right around the corner from the new 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord in the trendy 10th arrondissement.

"We love the neighbourhood and live right above the restaurant, except for when we escape to the countryside for the weekend," says Charles. His country home is tucked away in the picturesque town of Courances, where he cultivates vegetables and even roasts the coffee that he delivers to his own restaurants and a few other cafés. "But the 10th arrondissement has become fairly fancy. The idea behind 52 Faubourg Saint-Denis was to open a modern but affordable brasserie here in the neighbourhood."

Instead of the usual stodgy fare served in many French bistros, Charles has created a weekly menu of light dishes, prepared using regional and seasonal ingredients. They include delicious treats like burrata with puréed bell pepper and olives, mackerel with broccoli cream and thickened coconut, and lentil salad with aubergine caviar, courgette, and tahini — all of them inspired by international cuisine, and artfully arranged by his creative, multicultural kitchen

[faubourgstdenis.com](http://faubourgstdenis.com)



ENTRÉE

## Sashimi à la Française

FOR 6 PEOPLE

**INGREDIENTS**

300–500 g bonito or tuna for the sushi / 500 g artichoke bottoms / 12 whole artichokes / 12 raspberries / 1 sprig of basil / 1 spring onion / 1 lemon / 1 dash of cream butter / white wine / table salt / whole peppercorns

**PREPARATION**

**FOR THE SASHIMI**  
 Ask your favourite fishmonger for bonito or regular tuna to prepare the sushi, reckoning with a good 50 to 70 grams of raw fish per person. Use a sharp knife to slice the fish into roughly one-centimetre thick strips, then season them with salt and olive oil.

**FOR THE ARTICHOKE-BASIL CREAM**  
 Braise the artichoke bottoms — frozen ones are fine, as long as the quality is excellent — in the French 'barigoule' style: to do this, lightly braise the spring onion in oil, add the artichoke bottoms, season with salt and whole peppercorns, and douse in plenty of white wine. As soon as the wine has evaporated, cover the artichoke bottoms with water and leave to simmer for 15 minutes, until they are very soft, almost mushy. Then drain the vegetables and mix in a sprig of finely chopped basil while they are still hot. Stir in some cream, butter,

and the zest from half a lemon. Check the seasoning and put the cream aside to cool.

**FOR THE ARTICHOKE**  
 Strip the leaves off the artichokes until only the hearts remain, keeping around three centimetres of the stalk. As before, braise the artichokes 'barigoule' style. The hearts take less time to cook, so check your progress after just a few minutes by poking the tip of a knife into the end of a stalk. The knife should sink in without resistance. Once they are done, leave the artichokes to cool and then cut into four parts.

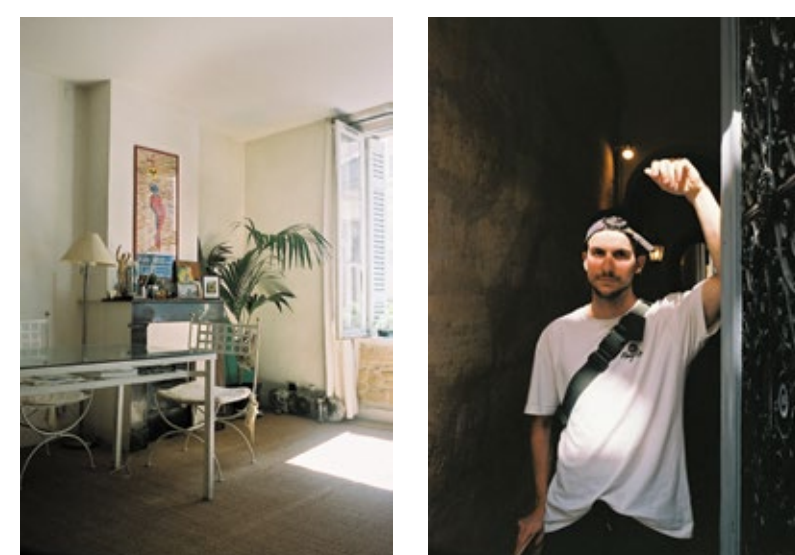
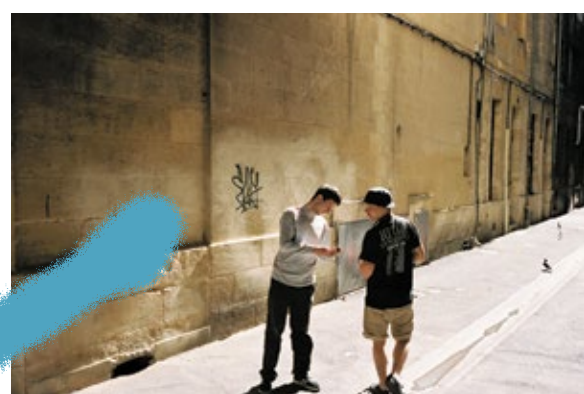
**SERVING SUGGESTION**  
 Arrange the artichokes, cream, and sashimi on plates. Slice the raspberries in half (two per portion). Small basil leaves make for an attractive decoration.

BON APPÉTIT!





# BOR-DEAUX



PHOTOGRAPHY & INTERVIEW JAMES WHINERAY  
TEXT JACK MAHONEY

Situated on the Garonne river in southwest France, the picturesque port city of Bordeaux is famed for its impressive Gothic architecture, its rich winemaking tradition, and its excellent quality of life. A slightly lesser-known side to the town, however, is its vibrant street culture — a facet that comes to life when experienced through the world of underground skateboarding. COMPANION met one of the trailblazers of the local scene, Leo Valls, who introduces us to his city from the unique vantage point of his board.

The walls of the alley give way to a broad square of polished brick, lined with trees and pleasant façades. A group of skaters fans out and circles the square with a fluid, sinuous ease, boards sliding over walls, grooves, and notches. A man — slender, in a loose T-shirt and jeans — issues from the group and sails down the edge of a granite staircase. He looks back with a smile and grinds to a halt with an air of palpable content. It's French pro skater Leo Valls, a well-known figure in the world of underground skateboarding, and a local icon in Bordeaux. He and his international team at Magenta Skateboards celebrate skating in its purest form, as a mode of creative self-expression — an art that is free and impulsive. They're shifting the industry's traditional focus away from skate parks and half pipes to promote a form of skating that is spontaneous — improvising and reacting to the urban milieu.

'Skateboarding has been formatted to portray a certain ideal. For most people, it's easier to understand and follow skateboarding when it's something very technical, or something very dangerous or trendy,' Leo says when he stops for a breather, explaining his rejection of the notion of skateboarding as simply a mainstream competitive sport. To him, underground skateboarding means 'not caring about rules created by the industry, doing what you feel like, and building a network around it.'

This network of skaters and friends began in Bordeaux: an alternative port city in southwestern France with a temperate climate and small-town vibe that still draws young crowds, and a creative pressure valve for the more

renowned and populous Paris. 'I love to just go skate without a camera or a project in mind, being out with friends and enjoying the city. Moving with the day,' Leo says. There's a strong skating culture here, which is regularly celebrated. What he likes about underground skating is how accessible it is to a wide range of people: 'I see people every day using skateboards as a way of moving in the city. It's more economical and ecological than driving a car. It's more fun, too — you're outside breathing, being physical.'

Leo's love of skating with friends, searching out new spots, and inventing styles has taken him beyond Bordeaux and on to a series of sponsorships and worldwide adventures. He's toured the US, Australia, Europe, and Asia, and has been flying to Japan every year for nearly a decade. 'I like to travel to places where I can meet like-minded people I can exchange ideas with and learn from,' he reflects. Each place has its own unique skate culture, icons, and history; its own take on the power and expressiveness of skateboarding. According to him, these cultures — often at odds with the steady norms of mainstream skating, should be preserved and celebrated.

'I'm keen on skateboarding becoming more popular and open to more people as long as it stays fun and healthy,' Leo explains. So when an old skater and Bordeaux school director built a skate ramp in a local school yard, Leo got in touch to organise skateboarding lessons for the kids. He picks up a group of four to seven children from school to take them skating in the streets. Cruising around the city, he introduces them to the elements and etiquette of street



**'Underground skateboarding means not caring about rules created by the industry, doing what you feel like, and building a network around it.'**

skating: 'Interacting with people, and getting kicked out of spots by grandmas,' he says, laughing. His advice to them? 'To be polite to everybody, to eat fruit for energy, and to stay hydrated.'

Hanging out with a pro skater and learning tricks is something many kids — and adults — dream of. 'The kids love it,' Leo says. 'They get too excited sometimes and I have to calm them down a little bit, but it's very fun. What's cool is that by developing their passion, they're open to discovering other new things within the culture of skateboarding. There are a lot of mediums they can gravitate to, such as photography, video production, art, design, architecture ... I see the potential in them.'

The creativity that skateboarding fosters is exemplified by Leo's main sponsor: Magenta Skateboards. Alongside selling original boards and equipment, they produce content that pushes the messages of underground skateboarding. They even designed a shoe in collaboration with Adidas. 'It's a big crew of homies. Everyone who works for the company is passionate about skating. It's a constant creative project, always working on videos, photos, and editorial content. It seems like all skateboarders are doing something else around skating. I have a lot of skater friends who became very good at filming, shooting, drawing, designing through projects like these,' Leo explains. 'Skateboarding-wise, the main idea behind the brand is to show a way of enjoying the city life, exploring, travelling ... It's quite simple: no competitions, no trying to win anything, just doing your own thing.'

As Leo skates from the square down quiet, shaded lanes, the pleasant grumble and click-clack of skateboards on concrete is amplified by rows of staid stone apartments, their roofs warming in the afternoon sun. Bordeaux is a picturesque town, and its neat ensemble of stairs, rails, benches, courtyards, and smooth marble passageways are the perfect setting for casual, carefree skating. But as more skaters move to Bordeaux to experience this organic skating tableau, the city's relationship with skateboarding has vacillated.

'The authorities don't like it for sure. If you see the cops, you have to bounce. A lot of people only see the bad parts of it, it's loud and can cause damage to architecture, but

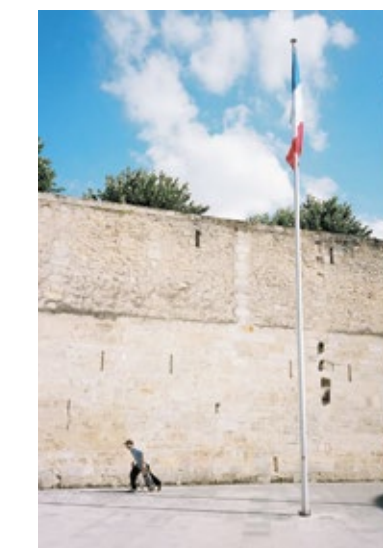
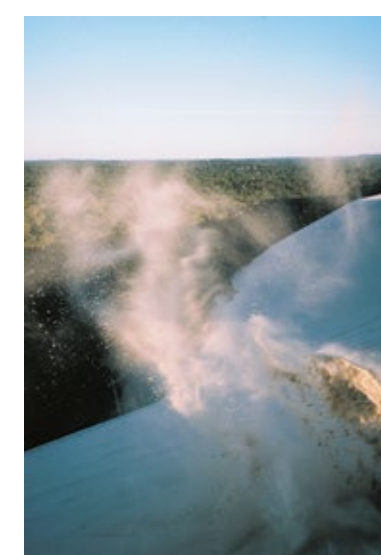
you also see a lot of people who love it because they see expression,' Leo explains. 'What's funny is that the city tries to use skateboarding as a promotional tool, to show that they're a young city, that they like the youth, that they promote outdoor activities. They have ads showing skateboarding, for example, and they also did some big events at the city hall that portrayed skateboarding as creative, which is great, but at the same time, the police give us tickets. It's a little ironic,' he grins, before pushing off to find the next spot.

Later that day, at Dune du Pilat, Europe's biggest sand dune, just 37 miles from Bordeaux, Leo reflects on his position and daily routine over a meal with friends as the sun's dying hues refract on the horizon. His life is an example of pro skater success — of tours, films, and merchandise — but one that strikes a balance between professional obligations and personal expression. 'Even though money is not the priority, you need to make a living eventually. So pros need to find a balance between being creative and expressing themselves while still making a living through skateboarding,' he says.

Leo's days usually involve creating content for Magenta — writing or editing video — having lunch with his wife, Lauren, and planning tours, before doing what he does best: skating the streets, where he encounters friends and gathers creative inspiration late into the night. 'With the Bordeaux lifestyle, sometimes we get back home at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m.' Leo says, pausing. 'When you're out in the streets all day, you see what's going on. You see rich people, you see poor people, you see it all. It makes you think a lot — it's a catalyst for everything.'

**'When you're out in the streets all day, you see what's going on. You see rich people, you see poor people, you see it all.'**

# ON BOARD



**BORDEAUX & BEYOND**

**L'Alchimiste**  
Fuel up on energy at L'Alchimiste, a local-favourite coffee shop and roastery serving serious specialty coffee paired with delicate French pastries.

↳ [alchimiste-cafes.com](http://alchimiste-cafes.com)

**Riot Skateshop**

A one-stop shop for all your skateboarding and streetwear needs, with a tightly curated selection of shoes, boards, apparel, and accessories.

↳ [riotskateshop.fr](http://riotskateshop.fr)

**Dune du Pilat**

Only one hour from the city is Europe's tallest sand dune, situated on a long stretch of unblemished sand fringing the Atlantic Ocean. Go for the afternoon and make the most of delectable fresh oysters and mussels for lunch.

↳ [dunedupilat.com](http://dunedupilat.com)

**CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain**

The Museum of Contemporary Art Bordeaux, a 19th century warehouse on the banks of the Garonne, houses a noteworthy permanent collection, plus rotating temporary exhibitions showcasing 20th- and 21st-century heavyweights.

↳ [capc-bordeaux.fr](http://capc-bordeaux.fr)

**Château La Dominique**

This 18th-century wine estate in Saint-Émilion was renovated in 2013 with an avant-garde Jean Nouvel-designed cellar. Check out the contemporary art and dine overlooking the vines at the rooftop restaurant.

↳ [chateau-ladominique.com](http://chateau-ladominique.com)



For a long time, wine was a man's game. However, a team of young French women are now transforming the industry — with organic and natural wines, which are neither chaptalised nor acidified, and with no tannin powder or added sulphites. They are produced as they were centuries ago, under the motto: less is more. Two women champions of natural wine tell us their story.



## Julie Caute

Restaurateur

Although I only started drinking wine at about 19 or 20, I would say that I have now developed an excellent palate. In my family, we spent a lot of time at the dinner table. After I finished school, I started to work in restaurants, some 18 years ago now. In 2014, when I opened my wine bar in the Parisian district of Belleville, I called it 'Dame Jane'. That's what the flasks (demijohns) that were once used to store wine were called. I wanted to create a place that harks back to times gone by, where you can spend quality time with friends enjoying excellent food and wine. The menu changes every day, depending on what's available at the market. Nothing is written down on paper. We prefer to talk to one another, and I explain to people what we offer and why. It is a home — my home. Filled with great products and people that are important to me. The location, here in the northeast, right on the edge of the city, might seem a little far at first. It's not an easy area to reach, but I want our guests to come here because we're here. It's not intended to be an arbitrary location amongst the masses.

At Dame Jane, I always keep 40 to 60 wines in stock, depending on the time of year, but all of them are organic or natural wines. They are made as they were a hundred years ago. That's what makes them so special, so vibrant. With conventional wines nowadays, it's almost always about the technique and money, which is a shame. I don't feel any love there. With natural wines, there is a very close connection between the vintner and their wine; it's about the environment, the soil, the grape. Of course, it's about the flavour, too. Some people say natural wines don't taste very good — but there are also conventional wines that don't taste good either. Many people who drink natural wine are no longer able to drink conventional wines, except maybe very old ones with no chemicals. I get headaches and stomach pain from conventional wines. On the other hand, natural wines are excellent for digestion, and the wine doesn't go to your head as quickly.

There are no bottles here that I am not 100 percent behind. You really have an authentic experience with the wine: The grape expresses itself, the soil expresses itself, the wine has no option for camouflage. Where there are no sulphites, nothing can hide — you can taste every ingredient. Of course, that makes the vintner's work even more difficult and risky,

and they also have to explain to people why the wines are sometimes a little more expensive. But once you've acquired a taste for natural wine, it's hard to go back.

Natural winemakers are very free in how they are able to create their wines, and that comes out in the flavour. The number of vintners is also increasing constantly. I think that's a great thing, as they make wine in different ways. More modestly, I would say. Women have had a difficult time in the wine cultivation industry, just like in many other sectors. Even when I started Dame Jane, I often had to justify myself. Today, I am a certified *cuviste*, which is what you call a cellarer in France. The people who come to me are often looking for something special. I help them find it. It's not just about red, white, or rosé. It's about what you will be eating, and your personal preferences. My job is to find the wine closest to what you are looking for. I always find it funny when people come to me and say, 'I eat organic because it's good for my health.' They're not thinking about the environment at all, but that's actually the most important part of organic food and drink. But in the end, they all want the same thing: good food, good drinks — and to spend quality time together.

### My favourite wine region?

I like the wines from Loire the best, they're mostly Cabernet Francs. I appreciate their rustic nature. Sometimes I taste new ones and think, 'Oh! I need you. Nice to meet you.'

➤ [facebook.com/damejane](https://facebook.com/damejane)



## Fleur Godard

Wholesaler

I grew up in the countryside. We didn't have wine very often, but when we did, we usually just had the cheap stuff. But we had great meat and great vegetables. After my father was involved in an accident, I sold his poultry at a market in Paris, and the stand next to mine was run by a vintner called Fifi, who sold natural wine. He twisted my arm to get me to try it. I wanted to tell him that I didn't like it so that he would leave me alone — but then I was rather surprised. Natural wines are artistic, very fragile. There's a lot of love in them. I enjoyed the wine for three hours, that's how rich and delicious it was. It told me an unbelievably concise story, a very complex one. Although I was attending theatre school in Montpellier at the time, I dropped it all and spent two years on Fifi's vineyard to learn as much about wine as I could.

Two years later, I didn't have a degree, but I had enough experience in wine production to go into business for myself. I moved to Paris and started to network with vintners. Today, I distribute natural wines and work together with restaurants and small-scale dealers. I sell my father's poultry alongside it (which is where the name 'Vins et Volailles' came from). When you have a foot in both doors — in the kitchen and the wine cellar — you can create a dialogue between the chef and the sommelier, both of whom traditionally work alone.

You can see how times are changing. Up until a few years ago, people still thought that red wines were more masculine and white wines were more feminine. On my first visits to the vineyards, people often looked at me strangely: 'What's she doing here? Surely she's much too young?' Now, we have hopefully reached a point where we can leave the categorisation behind. Winegrowing may still be a very patriarchal system, and very physically demanding, because you have to face the elements. However, nowadays there are many great female vintners, especially in the field of natural wines. Natural wine is made with a lot of passion and love — it is a very open kind of wine.

The natural wine business is an export business, and many go to Berlin, London, Copenhagen, Brussels, Stockholm. Those places already have a considerable market for naturals. But I think it's good that we have a system in France now that is making natural wine even more popular here. France is still the home of wine — to put it more accurately, the home of natural wine, before industrialisation took place and we started mixing strange additives into the wines. Conventional wines contain up to 300 chemicals. It's a shame,

because the grape brings the wine to life, incorporating the mood and feelings of the person bottling it. Many vintners think it's too risky to produce natural wine. The vines must be protected against inclement weather, and it must be ensured that the flavour doesn't deviate too far from the rest of the grapes. Without chemical and technical aids, this is a challenge.

Natural wine is a highly political topic. That's why I published a comic book series with Justine Saint-Lô, the sister of a vintner friend of mine. It's called 'Pur Jus' (Pure Juice). She does the illustrations, I write the text. We use entertaining stories to somewhat demystify the whole topic of wine. There is no one single way to make wine, but rather many different ways. On the one hand, it may be made by a family-run vineyard in its eighth generation, and on the other hand, an IT specialist who cultivates grapes in his free time. The first volume of our series was dedicated to wine cultivation, and the second, which will be available in stores from September 2018, is dedicated to the winemaking process. This way, we can explain things like the principle of carbonic maceration, which uses whole grapes.

Many people of our generation are too shy to talk about wine, as they feel that they lack the necessary experience. Sommelier jargon can be intimidating. It was the same for me, as I thought that I wasn't educated enough; you're always scared of saying the wrong thing. That's also why I do what I do — because I still haven't learned everything there is to know, and I want to learn more. However, one key question can always be answered in good faith: the best wine is always the one that you think tastes the best.

### My favourite wine region?

I actually like wines from all regions. I particularly like Jura and Auvergne, but also wines from Portugal and Utah.

➤ [instagram.com/fleur\\_godard](https://instagram.com/fleur_godard)

# VIN À LA PARISIENNE

TEXT FLOREAN SIEBECK — PHOTO DANIEL FARD  
THANKS TO JAMIE STETTIN



### Natural Wine in Our Cities

Berlin Jaja  
➤ [jajaberlin.com](https://jajaberlin.com)

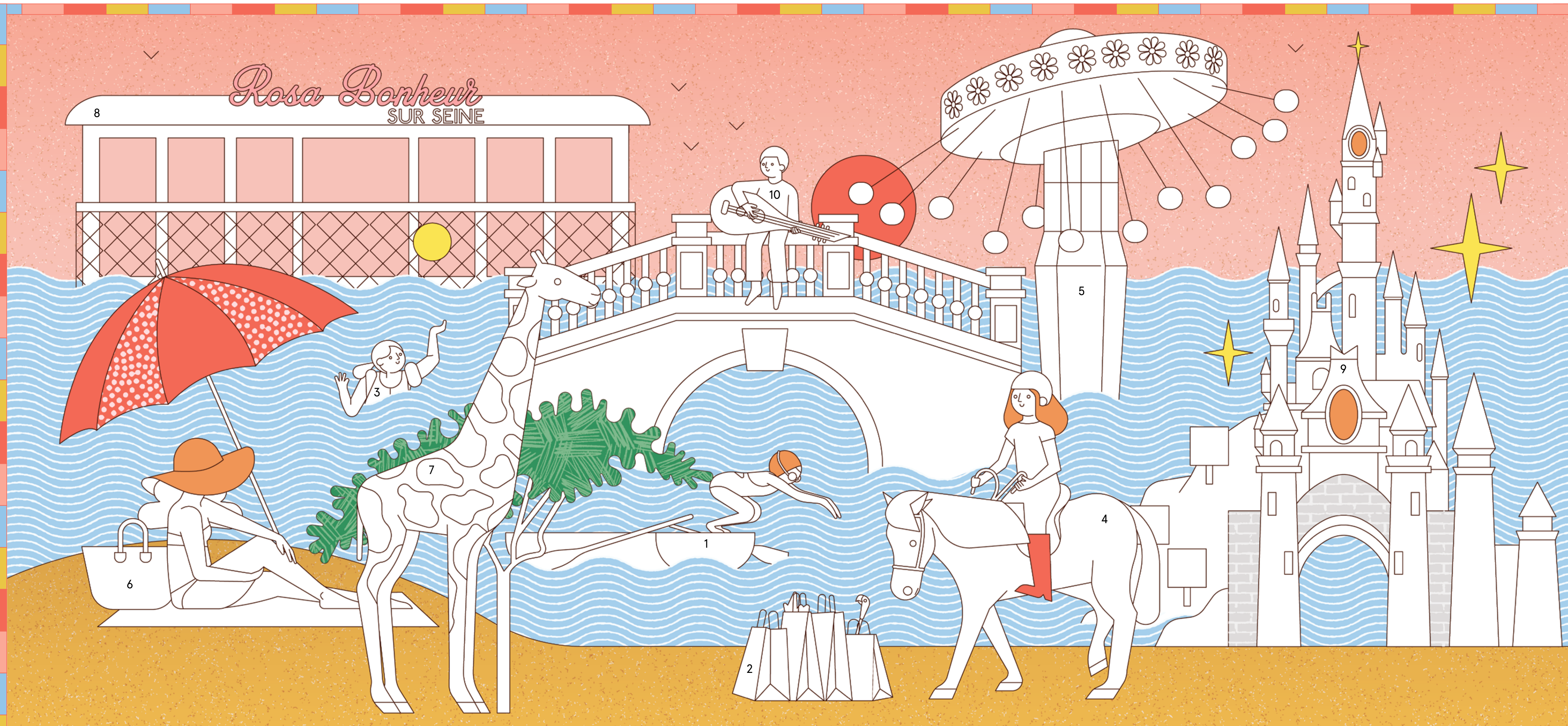
Zürich Vinatur  
➤ [vinatur.ch](https://vinatur.ch)

Hamburg Zuehke Weinbar  
➤ [zuehke-weinbar.de](https://zuehke-weinbar.de)

Frankfurt Showmanship  
➤ [imaworld.de](https://imaworld.de)

Vienna O boufés  
➤ [facebook.com/oboufes](https://facebook.com/oboufes)





# P E T I T P A R I S

TEXT ANNA DOROTHEA KER — ILLUSTRATION KIKI LJUNG

In all its sophistication, Paris often feels very grown up. But the pleasures it holds for pint-sized bon vivants are manifold, if you know where to look. Xavi Vega, general manager of the new 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord and father of two-year-old Sofia, helped us plot out the city's treasures for *les petits*. The Catalan-born Francophile first moved to Paris in 2009, and

returned in 2016, after a short intermezzo in Madrid. Together with his wife, he delights in raising his daughter amidst the culture, cuisine, intellectual rigour, and simple pleasures the city so elegantly embraces. Here are his secrets to sharing the Parisian *art de vivre* with your little ones on a weekend in and around Paris.

**1**  
ENJOY A PIQUE-NIQUE AT BUTTES-CHAUMONT

With over 420 municipal parks and gardens, Paris isn't short on green space. Our favourite setting for whiling away a lazy afternoon on a blanket is Buttes-Chaumont, one of the city's oldest green spaces, in Belleville, which straddles the 19th and 20th arrondissements. With its staggered hills, caves, bridges, and waterfalls, the journey to pick the perfect perch is half of the fun — not to mention the sweeping views over the city up top. Pack a hamper full of treats and set off for an afternoon of family relaxation in the shade.

➤ [paris.fr/equipements/parc-des-buttes-chaumont-1757](http://paris.fr/equipements/parc-des-buttes-chaumont-1757)

**2**  
SHOP AT WOMB & BONPOINT

As you'd expect of a fashion capital and shopping mecca, Paris is full of boutiques dedicated to *les enfants*. Two of particular note are WOMB (World of My Baby) and Bonpoint. Located in the 2nd arrondissement, WOMB Paris brings together big-name brands and niche labels to offer everything your little one needs — from furniture and linen to games and gifts. At the upscale Bonpoint boutiques, you'll find a chic selection of children's clothing. One of their locations is on the beautiful Avenue Montaigne, one of Paris's most iconic — and expensive — shopping addresses.

➤ [wombconcept.com](http://wombconcept.com)  
➤ [bonpoint.fr](http://bonpoint.fr)

**3**  
TAKE A DIP AT LA PISCINE DU MOLITOR

Swimming lessons take on a whole new level of excitement when undertaken in an inspired setting. The iconic Piscine Molitor, located in the leafy 16th arrondissement, quickly became the chicest bathing spot in town after opening in 1929, attracting the crème de la crème of Parisian high society. The pool was closed in 1989 due to redevelopment plans, and its emptied basins became a magnet for ravers, skaters, and graffiti artists. The pool was eventually restored in the style of its former glory and reopened to the public in 2014. Its Art Deco atmosphere brings a touch of Miami to Paris, and, unlikely as it may seem, it's one of the city's best spots for serious swimming with kids.

➤ [mltr.fr/fr/molitor](http://mltr.fr/fr/molitor)

**4**  
LEARN TO RIDE AT LE PONEY CLUB DE L'ILE SAINT-GERMAIN

A pony club on the Seine? Yes, you read that right. Located in a former military warehouse-turned-barn on the island of Saint-Germain, just southwest of the city centre, the Poney Club de l'île Saint-Germain teaches children from two to fourteen years of age to respect, love, care for, and ride horses. Offering a wide variety of equestrian activities, from dressage and jumping games to competing in regional competitions, this riding school takes animal welfare as seriously as it does human safety.

➤ [equivil.fr](http://equivil.fr)

**5**  
PLAY AND EXPLORE AT JARDIN D'ACCLIMATION

Nestled in a northern nook of the Bois de Boulogne, this amusement park has been entertaining Parisians young and old for over 150 years. Geared towards younger children, the 47-acre landscaped park encompasses fountains, a mini boating lake, play areas, and restaurants. Attractions offer train rides, puppet shows, and carousels, alongside an activity programme. While you're up north — should energy levels allow — take the chance to visit the nearby Fondation Louis Vuitton, a Frank Gehry-designed art museum and cultural centre founded in 2006 by the eponymous fashion house.

➤ [jardindacclimation.fr](http://jardindacclimation.fr)  
➤ [fondationlouisvuitton.fr](http://fondationlouisvuitton.fr)

**6**  
SPLASH AROUND THE SHORELINE AT DEAUVILLE

When it's time to swap cobblestoned alleyways for softer textures, we like to take a day or weekend trip to Deauville, also known as the 'Parisian riviera'. Being half Spanish, half Venezuelan, my daughter Sofia is right at home on the beach — and though it's hardly the Mediterranean, the elegant resort still today embodies the 1920s glamour that sealed its status as a favoured weekend escape amongst denizens. Take the two-hour train up for a day or an overnight stay — bucket, spade, and plenty of books in tow.

➤ [indeauville.fr](http://indeauville.fr)

**7**  
MEET THE ANIMALS AT PARC ZOOLOGIQUE DE PARIS

Escape the city for an afternoon of exotic encounters at Paris's Parc Zoologique, a conservation-focused zoo divided into five biomes: Europe, Amazon-Guyana, Madagascar, Sahel-Sudan, and Patagonia. Get up close and learn about all kinds of animals, from lizards and chameleons to baboons and rhinoceri. The zoo is also home to Europe's largest herd of giraffes, and gives visitors the chance to join them for breakfast as they're fed before the zoo opens.

➤ [parczooologiqueparis.fr](http://parczooologiqueparis.fr)

**8**  
BRUNCH ON THE SEINE AT LE ROSA BONHEUR

Sunny weekend mornings see Parisians flock to the water. A special location for enjoying brunch with views over the Seine is Rosa Bonheur, a barge located near the Pont Alexandre III and Grand Palais. No reservations are needed (indeed, allowed) — just turn up nice and early to secure a spot on the deck. With its warm, welcoming atmosphere, fun corners featuring foosball tables, and programme of regular events, Rosa Bonheur lives up to its convivial name.

➤ [rosabonheur.fr/rosa-seine](http://rosabonheur.fr/rosa-seine)

**9**  
LIVE OUT THE FANTASY AT DISNEYLAND PARIS

This tip isn't exactly a secret, but seen through a child's eyes, a trip to Disneyland Paris is a dream come true. An hour's train ride out of the city, an extravaganza of rides, activities and light shows awaits. Given the plethora of offerings, it's worth taking the time to plan and book well in advance of your trip. Adults aren't immune to coming under the Disney spell here, either — this trip is for the young at heart of all ages.

➤ [disneylandparis.fr](http://disneylandparis.fr)

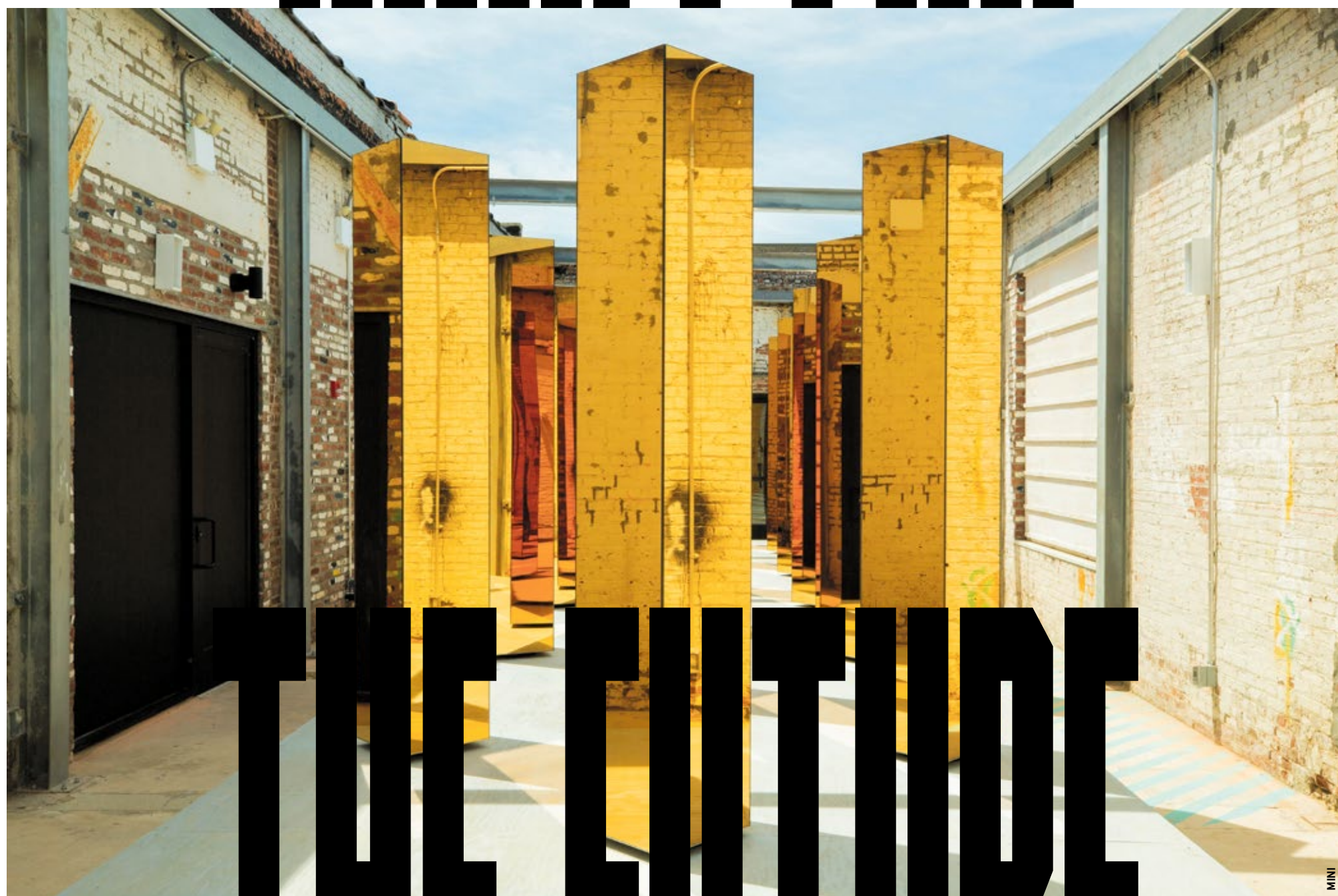
**10**  
DEVELOP CREATIVE TALENT AT LE CLUB DES ENFANTS PARISIENS

For longer stays in Paris, seek out this hidden gem: tucked away in a beautiful manor in the 17th arrondissement, Le Club des Enfants Parisiens is based on the 'after school care' concept, providing a cultural space dedicated to creative exploration, learning, and play across the arts. Children and teenagers of all ages are invited to discover and develop their passions within the arts and beyond — from theatre and dance to cooking. Sofia attends musical sessions every Saturday, exploring music and sound with a variety of instruments in a friendly, nurturing environment.

➤ [clubdesenfantsparisiens.com](http://clubdesenfantsparisiens.com)



# ROOM FOR



# THE FUTURE

IN COOPERATION WITH MINI  
TEXT LOUIS HARNETT O'MEARA

Located in a 23,000 sq. ft. former warehouse in Brooklyn's Greenpoint, A/D/O is a MINI initiative which offers the public a range of spaces and resources for tackling questions on the future of design in an urban context. In addition to an open workspace, a restaurant, and a retail space, A/D/O is home to URBAN-X, a start-up accelerator focused on 'engineering the city as a service', and a gallery dedicated to up-and-coming artists.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the driving force behind the space is creatively minded and business oriented in equal measure. A/D/O's associate director, Alyse Archer-Coité, is a woman of many talents, which she has seamlessly woven

together over the course of her career — from working at auction houses Sotheby's and Phillips to publishing her own boutique art magazine. Today, she applies her sharp mind and eye for aesthetics to the initiative's mission of fostering creative exchange, design research, and innovation for a more connected, humane world.

For this issue of COMPANION, Alyse got down to business, sharing her expert opinion on the overlap between the commercial and the creative, the importance of physical third spaces in the digital age, and thinking global while acting local.

**How would you describe the goal of A/D/O?**  
On the face of the project, it's an empty space. You can enter a place that's not overly designed, which allows you to make your own, and project your own, work into it, and have the time to do that without any outside pressures. That's the great thing about being deinstitutionalised. We don't have an overarching agenda, a local board of directors, or investors that we're checking with for conflicts of interest, all of which allows us a lot of freedom and flexibility. So I think first and foremost, that's what we offer. What we provide for the creative process is a lack of walls in the space — it's quite open plan, with a fish-tank element to some areas. People can walk by and see others working, which is conducive to happy accidents. I've taken journalists to the space for press tours, and designers have stood up and said, 'Hey, I'm a big fan, I subscribe, and here's a project I'm working on. Can I give you my card and tell you about it?' And that's led to editorial opportunities for them.

**How have you designed A/D/O to encourage collaboration across creative and business disciplines?**  
In terms of access to tools and information, we have a workspace on one side of the building, which is where designers rent desk spaces and work on their projects — it's a competitive entry process. Then on the other side of that is URBAN-X, a start-up accelerator for businesses focused on the future of cities. So they get a lot of tutoring and mentoring on business: how to manage money, and how to obtain funding from investors — everything from urban mindfulness to managing your first round of investments.

What we've found is that those groups tend to want to be in each other's spaces: the people starting businesses want to understand manufacturing, the people making things want to learn from the people who have the workspaces, and the people in the workspaces want to know about the business side of things. So I think that's the other great thing that we offer. Things happen simultaneously and very close to each other here, and should you choose to jump over, there's quite an easy cross-pollination, which is usually hard to find outside of the university space.

**In our increasingly digitised age, physical spaces for creative exchange and real-time experimentation seem to be becoming ever rarer. How does A/D/O contribute to remedying this?**

As our interactions with each other become more digitally automated — in everything from the way that we consume products to the way that we stay in touch — the reintroduction of creative friction in communication or collaboration is ever-more important to the creative

process. I think the more you can take people offline and into spaces where they can work together and push against each other, the more interesting the outcomes can be. We're trying to invest or double down on the creative process in all of its messiness, and you can't do that unless you have a space where you can come together and actually get messy.

**Your career path has woven together business and artistic endeavours. What's your perspective on the overlap between the two spheres, in light of your work concerning design innovation at A/D/O?**

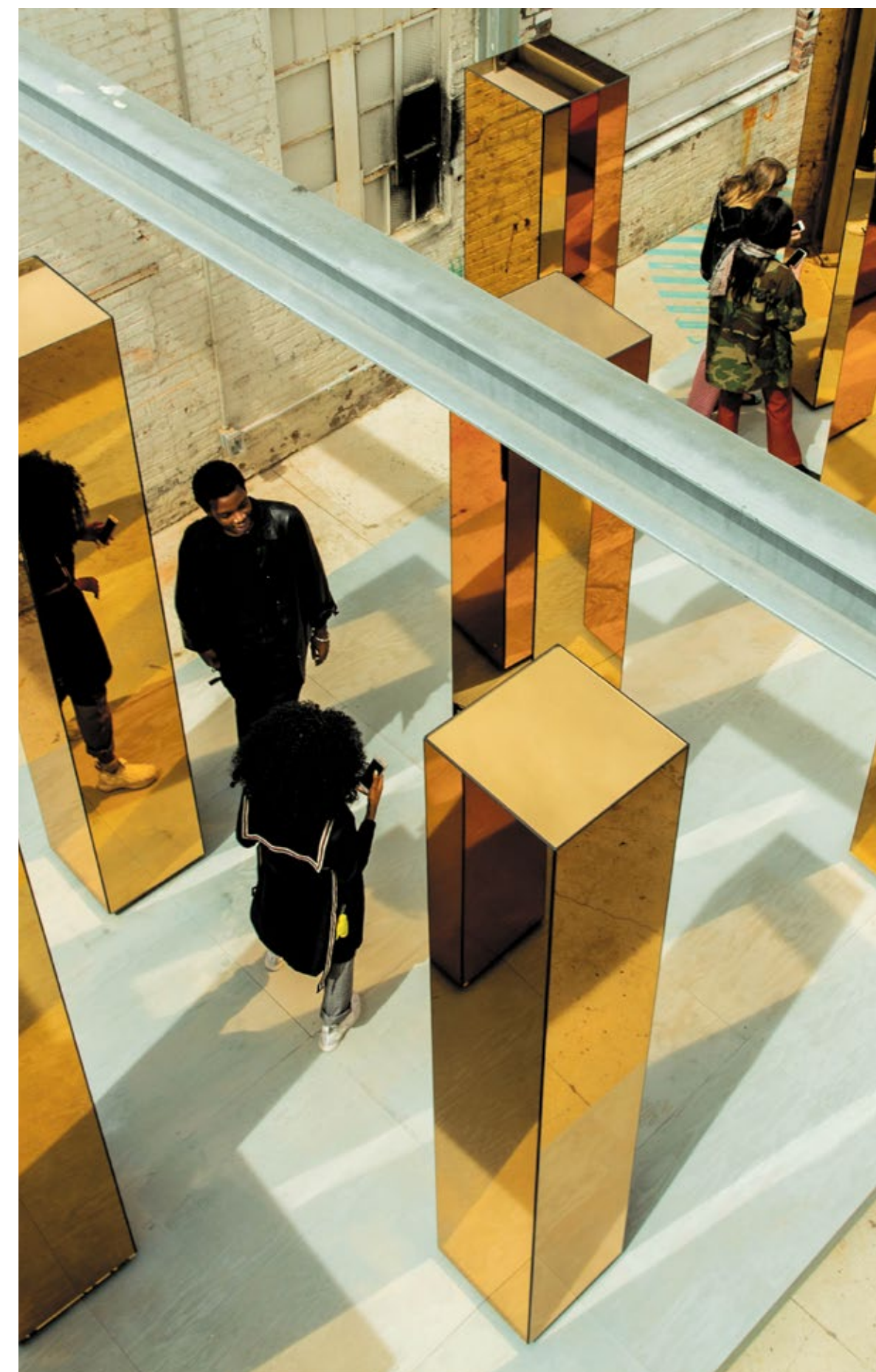
More than ever, artists and creatives are more open to partnering with big business — companies that are not historically known for their patronage of the arts. I think this is because there's a lot less funding for arts education and projects in the US at the moment, as has always been the case compared to Europe. Patronage of the arts has always been important to big business, whether it be, for example, a shipping magnate who has a Dutch painter that they're underwriting, or a company like JPMorgan, who gives money to several museums annually. I think, however, that there's room for big business to have more of a conscience when it comes to the arts, and an awareness as to what they're doing in that space. Authenticity and transparency — that's what both consumers and creative artists are looking for in their relationships with big companies.

**What is MINI's involvement in all of this?**  
MINI ensures we have the resources to keep the space open. There's no real delineation between the two — MINI has the platform and the resources that appeal to people who are working on a project, and with us.

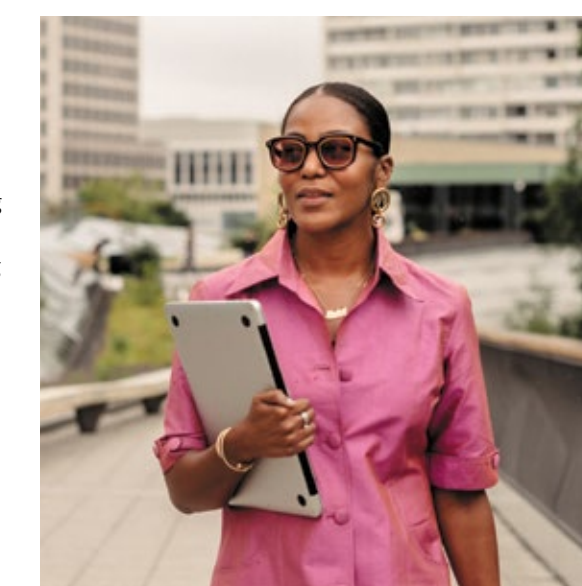
They're also part of the inspiration for a lot of things we do outside of the space — for example, the programming choices we make or the research projects we're looking into. We're doing something about water in design right now called 'Water Features', with Jane Withers, a curator from London. It's a year-long research programme looking into topics like sustainability and access to clean water — things that are at the core of living in cities, and of making an urban environment liveable. So I think what it comes down to is basic human needs — enquiring into what they are, and pushing the boundaries of what might be expected of a brand like MINI, or something like A/D/O, to effect change.

**How do you imagine A/D/O being adapted to other cities worldwide?**

It will be the same at its core. The great thing about opening in New York is that I think we opened to a very sceptical audience, which definitely strengthened our



**'People can walk by and see others working, which is conducive to happy accidents.'**



resolve and helped us to edit the project. The things that will be scaled to the other markets are things that we know creatives will definitely need. It comes down to the basics — space to work, access to tools for better working possibilities, inspirations, exhibitions, visual inspiration. Things like that.

No matter what we do, the spaces will be affected by the way people use them. You always have an idea of how a space is going to be beneficial to people, and then they use it, and it changes your entire expectation of the purpose it needs to serve. So I think we'll have to be malleable. In New York, it took us about a year and a half to figure out exactly what our space meant to the class of people that we were trying to appeal to.

I think transferring anything that happens in real time to a digital platform and having it result in a similar way is always challenging, but that's the great thing about having a very good editorial team. They're very creative, really committed — and they're writers from New York, through and through. We currently have a journal on A/D/O, and I think we will further develop that voice, just tighten it up a little. But as we're thinking globally, and want to keep expanding the project, we'll be building a global network of editors and writers to make sure that we're striking the right tone.

**Speaking of striking the right tone — what's your vision for the future of A/D/O?**

It took us a while to decide on the direction we wanted the project to go in. It's only been in the last six months to a year that we've expanded our ambitions as to what the project can be, and since then, we've been kicking the tyres a little to figure out how well it's working. The majority of our community is online. We have 30,000 followers on Instagram, which is a new platform for us, and there's no way that those 30,000 people are in the space regularly. So we have a real appreciation for a community that's external, and for the way that they consume the content that we're putting out. We're focusing on creating content that captures all the magic, the essence of what's happening amongst those four walls, and puts it in a format that's easily accessible for the rest of the world.

↳ [MINI.com/A-D-O](http://MINI.com/A-D-O)





# A WOMAN'S WORK

IN COOPERATION WITH MINI  
TEXT CHLOE STEAD — PHOTOS DANIEL FARÒ, ROBERT RIEGER

As the cracks in the glass ceiling deepen, four women in powerful positions across the art world share their takes on the web of issues their gender faces within creative industries. Originally held as a panel discussion for the cultural conversation series The Sooner Now, the conversation brings together Monopol editor Silke Hohmann; gallerist Tanja Wagner; Alyse Archer-Coité, program director of A/D/O, a creative space by MINI in Brooklyn; and Kristina Leipold, head of finance and development at Gropius Bau, who share their takes on the most pressing challenges with COMPANION.



Alyse Archer-Coité, Silke Hohmann, Kristina Leipold, and Tanja Wagner were all panellists at Berlin's The Sooner Now event. Taking place at the 25hours Hotel Bikini Berlin, the discussion centred on women working in the arts and culture sectors.

The Sooner Now: Sharing Ideas of a Life in the City was created in 2016, and is a joint initiative by FvF and MINI that fosters collective imaginations of urban futures. Throughout the year, we will go on to further our conversations about urban trends and projects with local creative communities in different German cities. This year, the long-standing collaboration is supported by urban design magazine IDEAT.

freundeVonFreunden.com

Peering into a pair of resin lungs filled with debris and precious stones at Berlin's Wentrup Gallery, Silke Hohmann looks completely at ease. The Monopol editor already knows Mariechen Danz's work well; she put the Irish artist on the magazine's Watch List a few years ago and is delighted to see how far she's come since then. Last year, she was included in the 57th Venice Biennale, says Silke. It's always great to see an artist you've supported from the early days progress and make their way.

For Silke Hohmann, highlighting the voices of female artists is a conscious choice: since 2017, she has written eleven major articles for Monopol, eight of which were about women. Today, the art and design world recognises that equal gender representation in exhibitions and publications is an integral part of what Silke calls 'correcting art history', but it hasn't always been this way. Starting out as an art and culture writer in her early twenties, Silke would receive pushback from her fellow professionals when she pointed out male-only shows. 'I would always hear things like, "Um, no, we don't choose by gender but by quality,"' she says. 'Another thing I was told is that quotas are anti-feminist because everybody wants to be awarded for their achievements and not their gender.'

The implication — that a lack of representation is due to a dearth of female talent — has proven surprisingly hard to shake. When Tanja Wagner left her position as director of Galerie Max Hetzler to start her own gallery in 2010, she came across similar sentiments. 'I was speaking with a female colleague of mine, another gallerist, and we were talking about female artists, and she said, "I would love to show more but there aren't any good ones,"' says Tanja. But rather than being disheartened by this viewpoint, she took it as a challenge. 'Her statement really triggered something inside me. I thought, "OK, go out and do your research and see whether it is really so hard to find female artists with something to say." Within six months I had five fantastic artists and that was the start of my gallery,' she recalls. Today, eight out

of nine artists on her gallery's roster are female — highly unusual in Germany, where 80 percent of artists represented by commercial galleries are male — but Tanja deliberately chooses not to make too fine a point of this. 'I think it's fantastic that they're female artists, but it's really more about their positions and what they have to say. For me, it's about having a global perspective, talking about issues that are really important in our society, and the humanity of the individual,' she says.

As program director of A/D/O, a Brooklyn-based design institution including studio, co-working, and exhibition spaces launched by MINI, Alyse Archer-Coité has a similar attitude to marketing the events she organises. 'I've never been to an event that said, "These are all white men talking about this subject — welcome,"' she says, laughing. Instead, the Greenpoint collaborative space of A/D/O offers a broad programme that doesn't emphasise the gender of its speakers. 'It's working to normalise the idea that women might be in a space talking about something, and it doesn't have to be highlighted — because that's the real work, to use language to bring about change by sometimes just not saying as much,' Alyse adds. She also wants to move beyond the binary and recognise the needs of those who don't identify with either gender, both in the workforce and as visitors to A/D/O. As a relatively new topic for many cisgender people (individuals whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth), a key component to representing the voices of the gender nonconforming has been an internal



discussion about how employees talk to and refer to one another: 'just re-establishing parameters and norms for the space,' Alyse explains.

The desire to simply exist in the world irrespective of what, if any, gender you identify with is a common thread amongst the four interviewees. When asked what she would change about the art world, Kristina Leipold had one desire. 'It would be my wish that we don't have to discuss these things anymore, that having women in the art world is just normal,' she says. And if there's a hint of frustration in her voice, it's because in her new role as head of finance and development in the female-led management team at Gropius Bau in Berlin, Kristina has been asked a lot about gender recently. The institution's director, Stephanie Rosenthal, is one of eight women appointed to lead German arts institutions in 2018 — others include Nikola Dietrich at the Kölnischer Kunstverein and Susanne Pfeffer at the Museum für Moderne Kunst, roles that many hope mark the end of men's unequal influence on arts and culture in the country.

It is clear, however, that Germany still has a way to go. Like Alyse (who worked for a time in Berlin), Kristina has been employed in both Berlin and New York, giving her an understanding of how gender is treated in both places. 'I think that the US is very aware when it comes to the workspace and how you interact and communicate with each other, how you treat your colleagues, and so on. This is something that I also experienced working here at Google, but I wouldn't say it's as common in Germany,' she says. Silke, who is also German, agrees: 'My perspective is that the US and some other countries in Europe are ten years ahead of Germany,' she says.

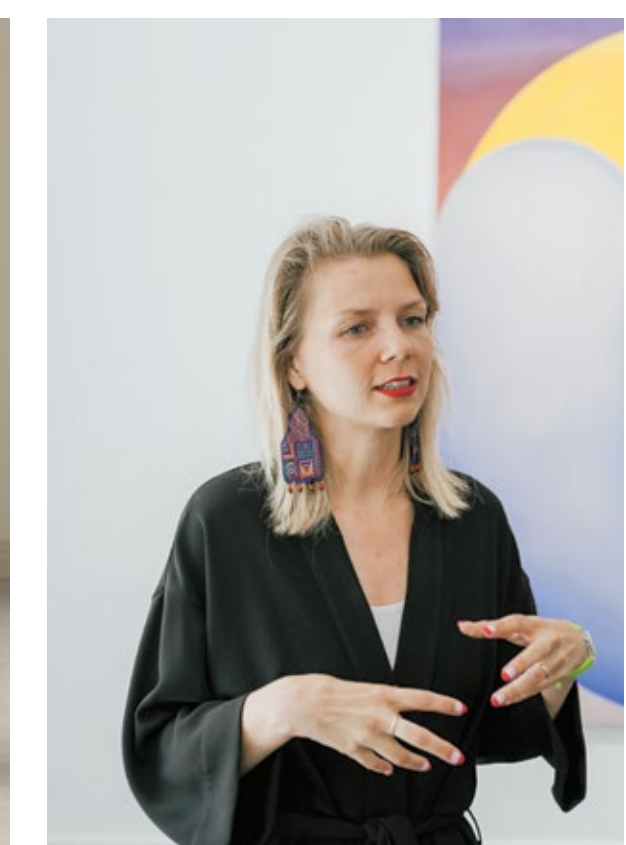
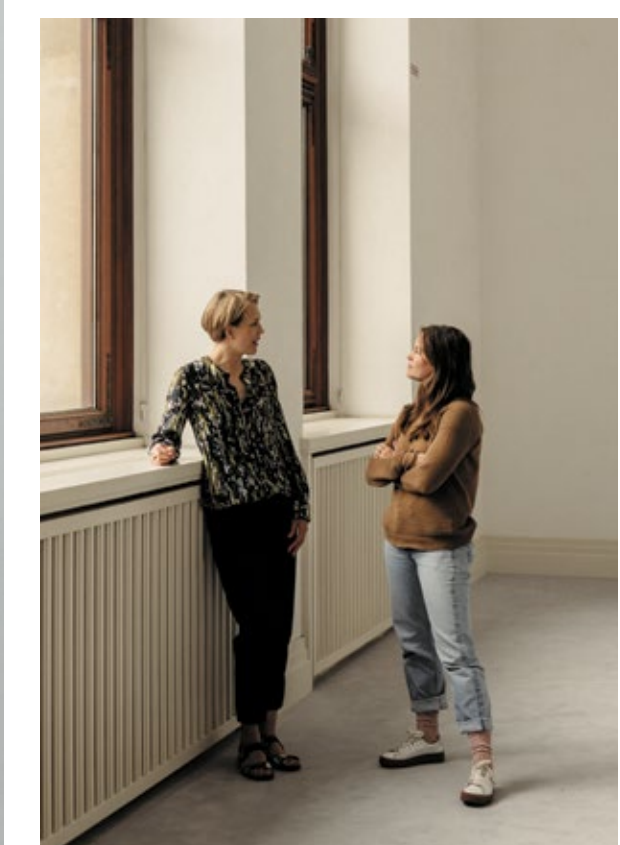
One vital difference in which Germany does come out on top, though, is maternity leave. In the US, there is no federally mandated policy for giving new parents time off compared to the 14 weeks of full pay that German mothers can expect. 'The US setup is a little less kind to women,' admits Alyse. 'I think they [American companies] find pregnant women to be inconvenient and expensive and that's something that has to change.' From her experience of working at Gropius Bau so far, Kristina believes that the exhibition space is family friendly; as a publicly funded institution, it allows employees to adjust their working hours according to their needs (for instance, a parent could reduce their hours to 60 percent and then increase them again after their child starts school). But for female artists, who are more like freelancers or CEOs of their own businesses, the view is not so rosy. One specific way artists with families are targeted is when it comes to residencies. 'There are residencies that say on the webpage families are not allowed, and for some artists, especially at the beginning, that is how they survive because they have to build up their practice and they don't have a market yet,' explains Tanja.

No matter what country or culture we are talking about, women are still more often than not the primary caregivers

**'It would be my wish that we don't have to discuss these things anymore, that having women in the art world is just normal.'**

in their families, meaning the careers of female artists are unduly affected by having children. Artists such as Marina Abramović, for example, have publicly spoken out about choosing their careers over having children, but Tanja hopes it won't be the same for the new generation. 'Half of the artists that I work with are parents, and it's such an inspiration because they don't have any real support. One of my artists had two children within four years, and that's when her career kicked off — there was hardly any institutional support for the shows and prizes she got. That's something we can work on and support more,' she says.

Ultimately, this and many other problems for women in the arts are related to something that affects women across all industries: the gender pay gap. It is commonly cited that, on average, women make 80 cents compared to every dollar men make. 'A lot of the issues we're talking about now are an outcome of the devaluation of women's work,' says Alyse. 'If women and men, or indeed anyone who identifies in any way in the workspace, have equal access to wealth, then the decisions they make [about children] can really be their own and not based on an economic model that's built for one gender. That would be a great baseline — and from there, who knows?'







many ways, La Chapelle is their home, despite the fact that their beds lie elsewhere — at least a train or bus ride away.

The same goes for the other neighbourhoods surrounding the station, whether their communities are tied to ethno-national identities or are more diverse, with people of multiple backgrounds and cultures. Daily life in one after another of these neighbourhoods is shaped by community members who transit through the Gare du Nord every day.

That is why I chose to write a book about the people who lie at the core of community life near the train station. In 'Portraits of the Gare du Nord', I tell the stories of 15 people who participate in the life of the station and its surrounding areas, alongside beautiful photographs by Juliette Abitbol and Edouard Sanville. The people we selected — Nono, who runs Restaurant La Ferme; Nathalie, the only woman who works to connect and disconnect trains that arrive at the Gare du Nord; Jocelyn, the Congolese dandy who designs clothing for sapeurs — make these neighbourhoods sing simply by being themselves and making a living.

By telling their stories and looking closely at how they use the area around the Gare du Nord, we hope to demystify the ways people use these neighbourhoods and bring clarity to these complex urban spaces. The stories seek to shed light on what has brought people to this part of Paris and why they love these spaces of the city.

This brings us back to the negative impression people

tend to have toward the areas near train stations. People's traditional fear of busy neighbourhoods in cities has rapidly diminished in recent decades. Still, train stations often remain undesirable because they tend not to become gentrified like other busy urban neighbourhoods. They resist the trendy cafés and luxury shops that fill parts of the city that are often close by but slightly calmer, less rough around the edges.

Busy train stations resist this gentrification because the people who enter the city through them are a powerful economic force by their sheer numbers. At Gare du Nord, suburban commuters, travellers from the rest of France, and international visitors arriving on the Eurostar, Thalys, or even via the Paris airports all pour on to its surrounding neighbourhoods. Even the increasingly wealthy people who live in the apartments above the streets cannot defeat the economy that the users of the streets bring with them. The train station and its passengers rule this part of Paris, making it the exciting, diverse place it is and will probably remain.

# PARIS GARE DU NORD

TEXT ALEX TOLEDANO  
PHOTOS JULIETTE ABITBOL, ÉDOUARD SANVILLE

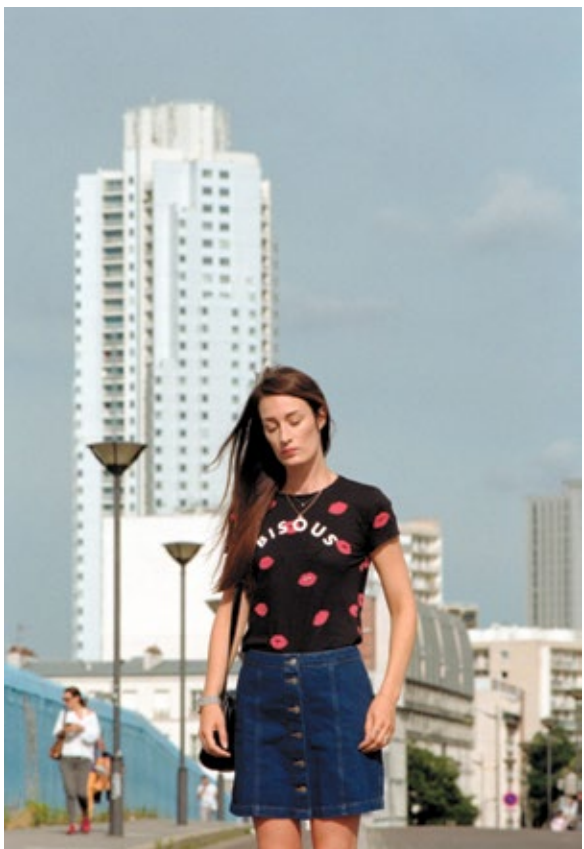
## A Column on Suburban Life in Urban Neighbourhoods

Train stations get a bad rap. They seem to embody everything that people dislike and fear in cities — chaos, unpredictability, loitering men, homelessness, drugs, pickpockets. The list goes on. The Gare du Nord in Paris's 10th arrondissement tends to be viewed through the lens of these stereotypes despite the fact that it hides what makes this part of Paris so vibrant. The Gare du Nord is not just any train station — it is the most used station in Europe, with approximately half a million people passing through it on a typical day.

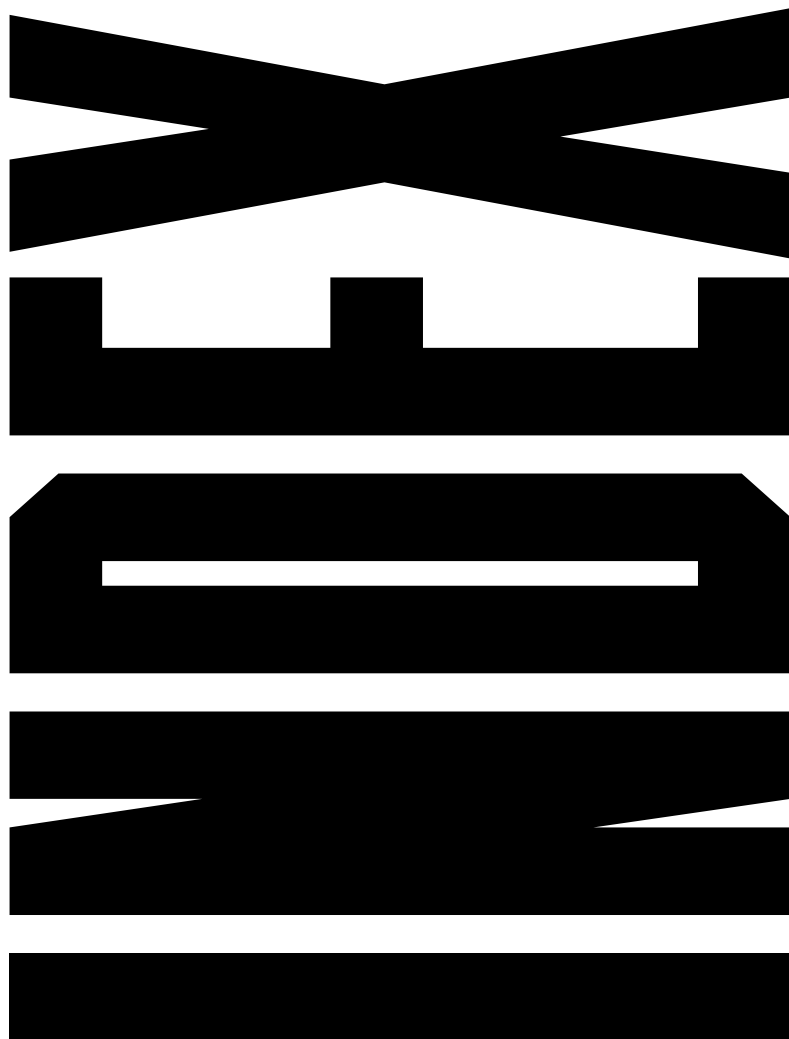
Although many of those people never leave the confines of the station and its labyrinthine network of passageways and platforms, a large number flood the streets and neighbourhoods around the station every day. Who are they? Where are they coming from? What are they doing? And where are they headed?

The people who venture out into the area around the Gare du Nord, most of whom come from the suburbs of Paris, are not only passing through on their way to another destination. They are also the people who make the neighbourhoods around the Gare du Nord tick. Though the majority of them do not live there, these people run the shops, fill the cafés, and keep businesses paying their bills. They lie at the core of these communities.

Although over 2.2 million people live in Paris proper, almost 10 million live in its suburbs, a number that has grown substantially since the end of World War II. These suburbanites have an outsized impact on day-to-day life in Paris



This text is adapted from Alex Toledano's upcoming book 'Portraits of the Gare du Nord', published by VISTO Press. Alex is based in Paris, not far from the train station. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the roles of visitors and residents in shaping community and daily life in Parisian neighbourhoods. In working life, he is the co-founder and president of VISTO Images, an art consulting firm whose clients include 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord in Paris. 'Portraits of the Gare du Nord' will be featured in every room of the hotel, introducing guests to this complex, exciting neighbourhood.



**25hours Hotel Altes Hafenam**  
Hamburg  
Osakaallee 12

**25hours Hotel Number One**  
Hamburg  
Paul-Dessau-Strasse 2

### HYÈRES, FRANCE

**Villa Noailles**  
Montée de Noailles  
Monday–Thursday and Saturday–Sunday 14:00–19:00  
Friday 15:00–21:00  
↳ [villanoailles-hyeres.com](#)

### LYON, FRANCE

**Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse**  
102 cours Lafayette  
Monday–Saturday 07:00–22:30  
Sunday and holidays 07:00–13:00  
↳ [halles-de-lyon-paulbocuse.com](#)

### MARSEILLE, FRANCE

**Jogging**  
103 rue Paradis  
Monday 11:00–19:00  
Tuesday–Saturday 10:30–19:00  
↳ [joggingjogging.com](#)

**Maison Vauban**  
109 boulevard Vauban  
Monday–Wednesday 08:00–15:00  
Thursday–Saturday 08:00–15:00  
and 18:00–23:30  
↳ [facebook.com/MaisonVaubanMarseille](#)

**Sepia**  
2 rue Vauvenargues  
Tuesday–Saturday 12:00–13:30  
and 20:00–22:00  
↳ [restaurant-sepia.fr](#)

**Le Coiffeur**  
Les Terrasses du Port, R+2  
Monday–Sunday 10:00–20:00  
↳ [lecoiffeur-pascallancien.fr](#)

**Le Flair**  
↳ [flair-duesseldorf.de](#)

### BORDEAUX, FRANCE

**CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain**  
7 rue Ferrere  
Tuesday and Thursday–Sunday 11:00–18:00  
Wednesday 11:00–20:00  
↳ [capc-bordeaux.fr](#)

**L'Alchimiste**  
12 rue de la vieille Tour  
Tuesday–Wednesday 08:30–18:30  
↳ [alchimiste-cafes.com](#)

**Riot Skateshop**  
81 Quai des Chartrons  
Sunday–Tuesday and Thursday–Friday 14:00–19:00  
Wednesday and Saturday 11:00–19:00  
↳ [riotskateshop.fr](#)

### HAMBURG, GERMANY

**25hours Hotel HafenCity Hamburg**  
Überseeallee 5

**Editor in Chief** - Celina Prag  
**Editors** - Manuel Almeida Vergara, Anna Dorothea Ker

**Art Direction** - Luca Iiriti for moresleep.net  
**Design** - Daniel Farò, Luca Iiriti, Léna Mari for moresleep.net

**Illustration** - Kiki Ljung  
**Photo Director** - Aimee Shirley

### NEW YORK, USA

**A/D/O**  
29 Norman Ave, Brooklyn  
Monday–Wednesday and Friday–Saturday 09:00–19:00  
Thursday 09:00–16:00  
Sunday 09:00–17:00  
↳ [MINI.com/A-D-O](#)

### PARIS, FRANCE

**25hours Hotel Terminus Nord Paris**  
12 boulevard de Denain

**Bonpoint**  
49 avenue Montaigne  
Monday–Saturday 10:00–19:00  
Sunday 11:00–18:00  
↳ [bonpoint.com](#)

**Brasserie Terminus Nord**  
23 rue de Dunkerque  
Monday–Saturday 06:45–00:00  
Sunday 08:00–23:00  
↳ [terminusnord.com](#)

**Club des enfants parisiens**  
57 rue Ampère  
Monday–Friday 09:00–18:30  
↳ [clubdesenfantsparisiens.com](#)

**Dame Jane**  
39 rue Ramponeau  
Tuesday–Friday 12:00–14:30  
and 19:30–00:00  
Saturday 19:30–00:00  
↳ [facebook.com/damejane](#)

**Danico**  
6 rue Vivienne  
Monday–Sunday 18:00–02:00  
↳ [facebook.com/danicoparis](#)

**Disneyland Paris**  
Boulevard de Parc Serris/Coupry  
Monday–Sunday 10:00–23:00  
↳ [disneylandparis.fr](#)

**Experimental Cocktail Club**  
37 rue Saint-Sauveur  
Monday–Thursday 19:00–02:00  
Friday–Saturday 19:00–04:00  
Sunday 20:00–02:00  
↳ [experimentalevents.com/paris](#)

**Glass**  
7 rue Frochot  
Sunday–Thursday 19:00–04:00  
Friday–Saturday 19:00–05:00  
↳ [quixotic-projects.com/venue/glass](#)

**Hôtel Amour**  
8 rue de Navarin  
Monday–Sunday 08:00–00:00  
↳ [hotelamourparis.fr](#)

**Jardin d'Acclimatation**  
Rue du Bois de Boulogne  
Monday–Friday 10:00–19:00  
Saturday, Sunday, school holidays and public holidays 10:00–20:00  
↳ [jardindacclimatation.fr](#)

**La Piscine du Molitor**  
10 avenue de la Porte Molitor  
Check the website to book an appointment  
↳ [mltr.fr/fr/molitor](#)

**Schloss Nymphenburg**  
Schloss Nymphenburg 1  
1 April–15 October,  
Monday–Sunday 09:00–18:00  
16 October–31 March,  
Monday–Sunday 10:00–16:00  
↳ [schloss-nymphenburg.de](#)

**Photographers** - Daniel Farò, Théo Giacometti, Robert Rieger, Ana Santl, James Whineray

**Translators** - Toptranslation via 25hours  
**Proofreading** - Benjamin Barlow, Tanja Bertele

**Special thanks to** - Jamie Stettin  
**Finance Director** - Henning Frede  
**Head of Innovation** - Torsten Bergler, moresleep.net

**52 Faubourg Saint-Denis**  
52 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis  
Monday–Sunday 08:00–00:00  
↳ [faubourgstdenis.com](#)

**Le Poney Club de L'Île Saint-Germain**  
170 Quai de Stalingrad  
92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux  
Monday–Sunday 09:00–12:00  
and 14:00–17:30

**Le Syndicat**  
51 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis  
Monday–Saturday 18:00–02:00  
Sunday 19:00–02:00  
↳ [syndicatcocktailclub.com](#)

**Mabel**  
58 rue d'Aboukir  
Monday–Wednesday 19:00–00:00  
Thursday–Saturday 19:00–02:00  
↳ [mabelparis.com](#)

**Marché Aux Puces**  
↳ [marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com](#)

**Parc Des Buttes-Chaumont**  
1 rue Botzaris  
↳ [paris.fr/equipements/parc-des-buttes-chaumont-1757](#)

**Parc zoologique de Paris**  
Avenue Daumesnil  
Monday–Sunday 09:30–20:30  
↳ [parczoologiquedeparis.fr](#)

**Rosa Bonheur**  
Port des Invalides, Quai d'Orsay  
Monday–Tuesday 12:00–00:00  
Wednesday–Saturday 12:00–01:30  
Sunday 11:30–00:00  
↳ [rosabonheur.fr](#)

**Womb**  
93 rue Réaumur (corner rue d'Aboukir)  
Monday–Saturday 11:00–19:00  
↳ [wombconcept.com](#)

### PORT DE SÓLLER, SPAIN

**Bikini Island & Mountain Hotels**  
Carrer de Migjorn 2  
↳ [bikini-hotels.com](#)

### LA RÉUNION, FRANCE

**Escale Bleue**  
7 le Tremblet  
97442 Saint-Philippe  
Shop: Monday–Saturday 09:30–17:30  
Guided tours: Monday–Saturday 9:30–11:30 and 13:30–16:30  
↳ [escale-bleue.fr](#)

**Grand Bleu Croisières**  
Port de Saint-Gilles  
97434 Saint-Gilles Les Bains  
Kiosk hours: Monday–Sunday 07:30–18:30  
Tours vary  
↳ [grandbleu.re](#)

**Heiligorn Helicopters**  
Aitiport de l'Eperon (exit Plateau Caillou)  
190 ch summer N°2 CS 81018  
97864 Saint-Paul Cedex  
Monday–Sunday 06:30–20:00  
↳ [helligon.com](#)

**Published by** - FvF Productions UG  
Glogauer Str. 2, 10999 Berlin  
AG Charlottenburg, HRB 138452

**Managing Directors** - Frederik Frede, Tim Seifert  
freunde.von.friends.com

**Advertising Inquiries** - Tim Seifert  
timmi@fvonf.com

**Cover Images** - Daniel Farò (top left), Louis Philippe de Gagoue (top middle left), James Whineray (top middle right), Ana Santl (top right), Théo Giacometti (center), Juliette Abitbol, Edouard Sanville (bottom right), illustration by Kiki Ljung

**Jardin Botanique**  
2 rue du Père Georges  
97436 Saint-Leu  
Tuesday–Sunday 09:00–17:00  
↳ [cbnm.org](#)

**Coopérative Agricole des Huites Essentielles de Bourbon**  
83 rue Kerveguen  
97430 Le Tampon  
Monday and Saturday 09:00–12:00  
and 14:00–7:00  
↳ [geranium-bourbon.com](#)

**Le Vieux Bardeau**  
RN3 PK24  
La Plaine des Cafres  
Monday, Tuesday, and Sunday 9:00–14:00  
Thursday–Saturday 9:00–14:00  
and 18:00–20:00  
↳ [facebook.com/Le-Vieux-Bardeau](#)

**Marché de Saint-Paul**  
Quai Gilbert  
Saint-Paul  
Friday 06:00–17:00  
Saturday 6:00–12:00

### SAINT-ÉMILION, FRANCE

**Château La Dominique**  
1 la Dominique  
Monday–Sunday 10:00–19:00  
↳ [chateau-ladominique.com](#)

**Salon Vins & Terroirs**  
Rond-Point Michel Bénech  
2–4 November, 2018  
Friday 11:00–21:00  
Saturday–Sunday 10:00–19:00  
↳ [salon-vins-terroirs-toulouse.com](#)

### TOULOUSE, FRANCE

**Salon Vins & Terroirs**  
Rond-Point Michel Bénech  
2–4 November, 2018  
Friday 11:00–21:00  
Saturday–Sunday 10:00–19:00  
↳ [salon-vins-terroirs-toulouse.com](#)

### VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**25hours Hotel at MuseumQuartier Vienna**  
Lerchenfelder Strasse 1–3

**Votiv Kino**  
Währinger Strasse 12  
Business hours depending on the programme  
↳ [votivkino.at](#)

### ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

**25hours Hotel Zurich West**  
Pfingstweidstrasse 102

**25hours Hotel Langstrasse Zurich**  
Langstrasse 150

**On Y Va**  
Zähringerplatz 15  
Monday–Friday 10:30–18:30  
Saturday 10:00–17:00  
↳ [onvach.ch](#)

## Masthead

COMPANION is a magazine about the people who shape and enrich our cities.

**Publisher** - Freunde von Freunden for 25hours Hotels  
**Director** - Frederik Frede  
**Partnerships and Sales** - Tim Seifert  
**Project Management** - Silvia Siiko  
**Chief Brand Officer 25hours Hotels** - Bruno Marti  
**Culture Manager** - Anja-Kristin Lorke

**Illustration** - Kiki Ljung  
**Photo Director** - Aimee Shirley



# MY ROADTRIP IN FRANCE

TEXT SILVIA SILKO



You could say that Alizee de Hamer's choice of profession is in her genes: both of her parents worked in the hotel industry. However, it might also have been her flair for foreign languages, her open demeanour, and her excellent crisis management skills that made choosing her current job much easier. The 22 year old works at the 25hours Hotel Das Tour in Düsseldorf and is the first person that visitors encounter. This is because she heads up the reception desk, ready to see to any of the guests' needs and always happy to give out tips for things to do in the major city on the Rhine. Alizee has been holidaying on the Côte d'Azur for years now — together with her mother, who is French by birth. It always kicks off in Nice, with a hired car. And the route? It varies! Only Alizee's favourite locations are fixed stops on the way. She shared with COMPANION the absolute must-sees of her road trip.

## SAINT-TROPEZ

With its bright red tables, bright red chairs, and a bright red awning, it's hard to miss Le Senequier. That's not the only reason why a visit to this café, with its excellent waterfront location, has now become something of a tradition for Alizee: 'We always visit Saint-Tropez at some point on the trip. When we do, we visit this café and order the classic coffee and croissant,' she says. 'I was 14 the first time I went there, and it's been a staple of every holiday since.'

## NICE

With its historic old town, white sandy beaches, and its vibrant nightlife, Nice, as one of the largest cities on France's Mediterranean coast, offers all sorts of attractions. However, Alizee only has eyes for one thing: 'When you come to Nice, you absolutely must visit one of the many ice cream shops,' she says. 'They offer up to 150 types of ice cream, often garnished with local herbs or flowers. I've already tried a great many, but my absolute favourite flavour is the violet ice cream.' You can order that by saying, 'une boule de glace de violet, s'il vous plaît.'

## CASSIS

The little area between Marseille and Toulon is evidently often overlooked by travellers. In any case, Alizee says that Cassis isn't particularly overrun by tourists. Even better for those who do make the trip: the little fishing village boasts colourful house façades, little alleyways, and breathtaking natural beauty all around. So, if you like to eat fresh fish, go for a hike, or simply relax on a small beach, Cassis is the place for you.

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE

This university city has its own special flair. Here, you can follow in the footsteps of painter Paul Cézanne, make your way through the masses of students that make up almost a third of the city's population, or enjoy one of the best local wines. However, Alizee also makes a stop at a conventional supermarket each time she's there: 'I always buy a few jars of chestnut mousse for my loved ones at home,' she says. 'And a few for myself, too.'

# MY NEIGHBORHOOD

An area near the 25hours Hotel Das Tour in Düsseldorf is home to a very special urban development project, Le Flair, with lots of French — you guessed it — flair. Living is being reinterpreted in a modern way on the premises of a former freight station. What does that mean? The architecture is presented in a very clean grid and offers residents everything the heart may desire, in addition to 950 different residential units. Boules, fountains, flowers, and benches are reminiscent of Paris and offer the perfect setting for a lovely stroll. Of course, there is a hair salon and crêche available, too. If you would like to see out the day with some fine dining in a relaxed setting, then take a seat at the Le Flair restaurant, which certainly lives up to its name, and enjoy sophisticated French cuisine while conversing with neighbours or visitors. Friendly encounters are top priority here. Now that's flair!

flair-duesseldorf.de



BERLIN — COLOGNE — DÜSSELDORF — FRANKFURT — HAMBURG — MUNICH — PARIS — VIENNA — ZURICH

