

**Sophie Laplante's QIP 06 guide  
to the Latin quarter  
and nearby neighborhoods**

These are my personal recommendations for a few things to see and do in Paris, for the participants of QIP 06. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the other members of the organizing committee nor should they be considered as an official endorsement by the conference.

**Restaurants and cafés**

**Académie de la Bière** 88-bis Boulevard De Port-Royal near RER Port-Royal. A very laid back place, serving light meals (moules frites and croque monsieur). This is the best place to have Belgian and other beers in Paris. They have Westmalle Dubbel on tap.

**Le Café de la Nouvelle Mairie** 19, rue des Fossés-Saint-Jacques near the Panthéon. A lovely café that serves lunch (generous salad plates). Nice Parisian style café on a charming little square, with a good atmosphere.

**Le Pré Verre** 8, rue Thénard, between Métros Cluny-sorbonne and Maubert Mutualité. A good place for a nice dinner. The food here is French with a twist of spices, very good without being too pretentious. Expect about 40 Euro per person including wine.

**La Maison des Trois Thés** 33, rue Gracieuse, near Place Monge. Most tea lovers like to visit the famous **Mariage Frères** (across the river at 30 rue du Bourg-Tibourg, or in the 6th arrondissement, 13 rue des Grands-Augustins). There you will find teas from all over the world, you can sit down to a pot of tea chosen from the book-sized menu. But for a totally different experience, try La Maison des Trois Thés. They have hundreds of varieties of mostly hand-picked Oolongs (semi-fermented) teas from Taiwan. The teashop is very peaceful (in stark contrast with the bustling Mariage Frères) and the personnel is very helpful. You can have a tasting in the style of Gong Fu Cha (traditional tasting of oolong teas). **Le Palais des Thés**, 64, rue Vieille-du-Temple, is another good place to buy tea.

If you can read French and are interested in more recommendations, my favorite restaurant guide is called **Pudlo Paris**. You can buy this at (for instance) Gibert Joseph, 26 Boulevard Saint-Michel.

**Quick lunch and sandwiches**

**Boulangerie Jean-Pierre Cosnier**, 8 rue Gay-Lussac, near RER Luxembourg, makes good Parisian style sandwiches.

**Man'Ouché** 21 rue Saint-Jacques. A small take-out place that makes good Lebanese mannaeesh, a flat bread best with zaatar (a mixture made of an herb related to marjoram and oregano, sesame and sumac) and labne (yogurt cheese).

**L'As du Falafel** 34, rue des Rosiers, across the river in the Marais, makes excellent falafel. There is take-out as well as an area to sit down. Rue des Rosiers has a few good bakeries as well that make good cheesecake and strudel (try for example **Finkelstajn**).

**Chocolate and Bakeries**

**Christian Constant** 37 rue d'Assas, near the Luxembourg gardens makes some of the best chocolate in Paris. Another shop worth the trip is **La maison du Chocolat**, 19 r Sèvres, near Metro Sevres Babylone and Saint Sulpice.

**Pâtisserie Gerard Mulot** 2 r Lobineau near Odeon is an excellent pastry shop, with a beautiful shop window.

**Le Boulanger de Monge** 123 rue Monge near Censier Daubenton makes some of my favorite bread in Paris. Another excellent bakery nearby is **Boulangerie Kayser**, 8 and 14 rue Monge as well as 87 rue d'Assas. If you are truly fanatic about finding the best bread in Paris then go to **Secco** (previously Poujauran) 20 r Jean Nicot. Closest Metro is La Tour-Maubourg.

**Berthillon**, 31 rue Saint Louis en l'Île on the island of Saint-Louis is the reference when it comes to ice cream in Paris. Skip the line outside and head inside to one of the tables in the small room in the back.

**Things to see**

**Église Saint-Étienne du Mont** is a beautiful 17th church right behind the Panthéon.

**Les Arènes de Lutèce**, the Roman arena rediscovered in the 19th century. The entrance is well-hidden, near the corner of the tiny streets Rue de Navarre and Rue des Arenes.

**Hotel de Sens**, 1 rue du Figuier, a pretty chateau-like building that now houses a library. Parts of the building are medieval, and there is a small, very pretty garden nearby. Along the nearby **rue des Jardins St-Paul** are remains of the city fortifications built in the 13th century by Philippe-Auguste. You can see the fortifications built right into the buildings in many places around the city. Also not far from here is **Place des Vosges**, the prettiest square in the city.

**Institut du Monde Arabe** is across from the Pont Sully, and besides being a very nice building with light-controlled shutter windows, it offers one of the best views of Paris near the Seine. Take the elevator in the main building to the roof and enjoy the view, or sit in the rooftop café and have a mint tea.

**La Sainte Chapelle** 4, Boulevard du Palais. A masterpiece of gothic architecture, built to house the relics of Christ brought back from Constantinople by King Louis XI. The stained glass windows are spectacular.

To unwind from the conference, the more adventurous can try the **Hammam** (Moorish baths) at the Mosquée de Paris, Place du Puits de l'Ermite, near Metro Monge. Women: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 AM to 9 PM, Friday 2 PM-9 PM. Men: Tuesday 2 PM to 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 9 PM. Prepare to sweat as the steam rooms get progressively hotter.

Of course, don't miss the **Jardin du Luxembourg**, the prettiest gardens in the city.

A bit further from the conference site but worth the trek is the **Palais Royal** near Metro Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre. This is one of my favorite gardens in Paris. Right by the Palais Royal is the Comédie Française, where you can get cheap last-minute tickets to a play 45 minutes before the show. (Playing the week of the conference: Corneille, Molière, La Fontaine, and Euripides.) Behind the Palais Royal are the **Galerias Vivienne**, an elegant covered passage (19th century's idea of an indoor mall) with mosaic floors and high glass ceilings. There is an excellent wine store here called **Legrand Filles et Fils**, that has a very pleasant wine bar. The personnel in the store are extremely knowledgeable and helpful. There are many good restaurants along rue des Petits Champs, and very good Japanese restaurants on rue Sainte Anne, a bit further on.

### **Art and exhibits**

**Musée du Luxembourg** is a small museum in the Luxembourg gardens at 19 rue du Vaugurard whose temporary exhibits are a treat. In January they will be showing "La collection Phillips à Paris", art from the Duncan Phillips collection, featuring early 20th century paintings.

**Musée National du Moyen Âge**, 6 place Paul Painlevé, has a nice collection from the Middle Ages including the famous tapestry of the Lady and the Unicorn.

**Centre Pompidou** will hold an exhibit on Dadaism at the time of the conference. The **Musée National d'Art Moderne** has a superb permanent collection of contemporary art.

Right next to the Institut Henri Poincaré is the small **Musée Curie**, 11 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, that displays objects relating to the Curies' life. You can pick up a leaflet advertising Tho-radia radioactive face cream, for a lighter, brighter complexion.

**Institut du Monde Arabe** 1 rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard, will hold an exhibit entitled The Golden Age of Arab Science at the time of the conference.

**La Mairie de Paris**, 29 rue de Rivoli, hosts an exhibit of photographs of Paris by Willy Ronis, until February 18th.

**La Cinémathèque Française**, 51 rue de Bercy, has recently reopened in the newly renovated Frank Gehry building. The current temporary exhibit, Renoir/Renoir, presents the common influences of Pierre-Auguste, the painter, and his son Jean, the film director. All of Pierre Renoir's films will be playing at the cinémathèque.