

# **The Promotion of Selected European Travel Destinations in British and American Press: A Linguistic Analysis**

## **Corpus of Articles**

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## **1 THE GUARDIAN: 10 OF THE BEST WAYS TO ENJOY ROME ... ON A BUDGET (GI)**

Roam in Rome and savour its art – old and modern – ruins, regional food and music for free or just a few euros



Villa Doria Pamphili, Rome. Photograph: Alamy

**Katie Parla**

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### **Keep the kids happy: public parks and picnics**

When the unrelenting sunshine at archeological sites and the absence of air-conditioning in museums is too much for kids and parents alike, go to one of the city's public parks where umbrella pines provide shade, fresh fountains abound and vast lawns are ripe for lounging. Stock up on picnic provisions at one of the city's markets, such as Mercato Trionfale (Via Andrea Doria), or Mercato di Testaccio (Via Galvani) and retreat to Villa Doria Pamphili (Via di San Pancrazio), a former noble estate above Trastevere that covers 450 acres. For an archeology-focused outing, the Parco degli Aquedotti (Via Lemonia 256) and Parco della Caffarella (Via della Caffarella) host ruins in their free public pastures.

### **A museum alternative: privately run archeological sites**



The Church of San Nicola in Carcere. Photograph: Alamy

Tickets to state-operated museums and archeological sites often come with a steep price tag but visitors can find more affordable admission at privately run venues. A visit to [the temple ruins beneath the Church of San](#)

[Nicola in Carcere](#) costs €2-€3, paid to the guardian seated near the church entrance. A few streets away from the Colosseum, the [Case Romane del Celio](#) rests above an ancient residential quarter; the full ticket price is €8. Just steps from the crowds at the Trevi fountain, €3 buys access to the [Vicus Caprarius](#), two first-century buildings and a medieval complex, all of which is narrated by terrific signage.

## Let street art dazzle you



Big City Life is a project by Stefano Antonelli and Francesca Mezzano in Rome. Photograph: Alamy

For the price of a €1.50 bus ticket, visitors can reach the peripheral districts of [Tor Marancia](#) and Trullo where street art has been used to revitalise neighbourhoods and stimulate community ties. In both zones, internationally renowned street artists have collaborated to paint whole city-block facades with geometric and figurative murals. Closer to the centre of town, the Ostiense, Garbatella and Testaccio districts, all accessible by the Metro B, have become palates for local street artists. Likewise, Tor Pignattara, Pigneto and Centocelle, all east of the centre, are awash with the colours of murals and posters.

## Taste some gourmet gelato



Photograph: Lisa Kyle Young/Getty Images

The frozen treat remains the city's most accessible gourmet snack. For €2-€3, visitors can indulge in freshly churned gelato and sorbet made with stellar ingredients. Go to Via Vodice and you'll discover that at [Al Settimo Gelopistachio](#) and hazelnut are natural pairs. [Carapina's](#) (Via dei Chiavari 37) seasonal fruit sorbets, such as cantaloupe and apricot, perfectly translate the intensity of the season's produce and [Fatamorgana](#), [Il Gelato](#) (both with multiple city locations)

and [Otaleg](#) (Via dei Colli Portuensi) serve creatively flavoured scoops made with natural ingredients – no longer a given in Rome’s increasingly commercial gelato industry.

## **Fresh designs: take in public contemporary architecture**



The MAXXI, National Museum of 21st Century Arts. Photograph: Alamy

Rome may not have a reputation as a modern city but that doesn’t mean there aren’t pockets of contemporary architecture to be found. The Flaminio district, which is just outside the third-century Aurelian Walls, is rife with stunning 20th- and 21st-century architecture. Hop on the No 2 tram at Piazzale Flaminio (the standard ticket, valid for 100 minutes, costs €1.50) and ride north for seven stops to the Tiziano/Apollodoro stop. Just 200 yards away, [Zaha Hadid’s MAXXI house](#)’s Rome’s collection of 21st-century art. The collection itself has an entry fee but lounging around the manicured grounds in the shade of the angular concrete structure is free. A few streets west, Luigi Nervi’s Palazzetto dello Sport and [Renzo Piano’s Auditorium](#) are gorgeous examples of contemporary architecture and both are surrounded by public spaces perfect for appreciating the buildings free of charge.

## **Dine at the markets**



Mordi e Vai, Rome. Photograph: Katie Parla

Rome’s 125 city-run food markets are fantastic destinations for an immersion in what’s fresh, seasonal and authentic. Until recently, they sold mainly raw materials, but since opening in a new space in 2012, the Testaccio neighbourhood’s market has begun selling prepared foods to eat in or take away. Numerous stalls, many of which are along the Via Beniamino Franklin side of the market, cater to market vendors and students from the adjacent university. [Mordi e Vai](#), which is owned by a former butcher, specialises in simmered meat and offal sandwiches,

while [Dess'Art](#) does Sicilian specialities such as *panelle* (chickpea fritter) sandwiches, *arancini* (fried rice balls) and *cannoli*. Nearby, [Da Artenio](#) sells pizzas, roasted vegetables and other baked goods to take away.

## Sounds of summer: concerts and festivals



Marina Rei and Carmen Consoli perform at Eutropia festival, Rome, July 2015. Photograph: Roberto Panucci/Demotix/Corbis

Inside the city's former slaughterhouse on Largo Dino Frisullo, in Testaccio, [Eutropia](#) features mainly Italian rock acts (as well as a few international stars; concerts through to September, ticket prices vary), while the [RomaRock festival](#) at the Capannelle racing track draws international pop, rock and electronic artists, such as Robbie Williams, Lenny Kravitz, and The Chemical Brothers (events till September, various ticket prices). The [Roma Incontra Il Mondo festival](#) at the Vill'Ada hosts an eclectic mix of contemporary musicians from €5-€15, while the courtyard of the Church of Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza hosts the [International Chamber Ensemble](#) (Corso Rinascimento 40). Full price tickets cost €20. [Gay Village](#) (Parco del Ninfeo, Via delle Tre Fontane), the long-established LGBT festival, offers dining venues, theatrical performances, concerts, a disco and even cooking classes; admission ranges from €10-€18.

## Accommodation on a budget



Generator Hostel, Rome

Trendy hostel brand [Generator](#) has a property on Via Principe Amedeo near Stazione Termini. It's still in the process of being given the full Generator treatment but should be fully operational in early 2016. In the meantime, double rooms start at €105. When the Generator is completely up and running, there will be more than 250 beds in roughly

78 rooms – and a rooftop terrace. North of the station, on Via Marghera, the well-loved and long-established [Beehive](#) remains the standard in pleasant budget accommodation and rents hostel beds from €25 and private guestrooms with shared bathrooms from €40. There is a lovely garden and a vegetarian cafe on site.

## Great masters' art – in situ



Venus and Cupid fresco by Raphael at the Villa Farnesina. Photograph: Alamy

The [Vatican Museums](#) entry fee is a whopping €16 (€20 if you book tickets online) but there are plenty of places to see in situ works by the same masters represented in the Vatican's halls and chapels. In Trastevere, the [Villa Farnesina](#) on Via della Lungara, features frescoes by Raphael and Il Sodoma for €6. At Sant'Agostino (Piazza di Sant'Agostino) near Piazza Navona, access to a Raphael fresco and Caravaggio painting is free. Michelangelo's Moses and Christ the Redeemer statues, which are displayed in San Pietro in Vincoli and [Santa Maria Sopra Minerva](#) in Piazza della Minerva respectively, are both free to view. Visit [San Luigi dei Francesi](#) (on Piazza di San Luigi dei Francesi) and Santa Maria del Popolo (Piazza del Popolo) for glimpses of Caravaggio's moody oil paintings in the very chapels in which they were meant to hang – rather than an out-of-context museum setting.

## Get archeological on Via Appia Antica



The Baths of Caracalla. Photograph: Alamy

The costs for admission to the archeological sites along the [Via Appia Antica](#), ancient Rome's most famous highway, range from free to just €6. The [Museo delle Mura](#), on Via di Porta San Sebastiano, is a small museum recounting the history of the city's third-century defensive walls – it's free and permits you to walk along part of the ancient wall circuit.

Admission to the Circus of Maxentius and adjacent Mausoleum of Romulus is free. The [Capo di Bove's](#) (Via Appia Antica 222) excavations, also free, feature a private imperial bathing complex and include access to a small museum with maps and historic photos that show the Appia zone's development over the past century and a half. The €6 ticket for the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, a first-century-BC mausoleum near the Appia's second milestone, is valid for seven days and covers visits to the [Baths of Caracalla](#) (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla), as well as a sprawling noble estate called the [Villa dei Quintili](#) (Via Appia Nuova 1092).

- *This article was amended on 13 July 2015, to reflect a price increase at the Case Romane del Celio, from €6 to €8. The Church of San Clemente was removed as the price has increased from €5 to €10.*

## 2 THE TELEGRAPH: ROMANTIC ROME: WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO STAY (TI)

Villa Borghese, central Rome's largest park, has a romantic boating lake where you can paddle your beloved about

28 JANUARY 2016 • 12:00AM

Rome. Romance. How could the two not go together? Daunting traffic may make you think twice about zipping around the city on a Vespa, like Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant in *Roman Holiday*. But nothing can detract from the sheer emotion of sharing a multi-hued sunset behind the dome of St Peter's, a walk in the footsteps of Romantic poets or an ice cream at a pavement café table as the theatrical scene that is [Rome](#) rushes by.

Few cities mix history with urbanity as well as Rome: where else can you hold hands across a candlelit dinner table in the remains of an ancient stadium, or dance the night away in a cave inside a hill made of discarded amphorae?

### A day of romance

Begin at a Roman landmark so romantic it calls for a whole orchestra full of serenading violins: the Spanish Steps. At the foot of the steps, the Keats-Shelley House at Piazza di Spagna 26 (0039 06 678 4235, [keats-shelley-house.org](http://keats-shelley-house.org), admission €5 [£3.70]) is Romantic with a capital R: the memorabilia and manuscripts of John Keats, who died here tragically young, are guaranteed to tug on the heartstrings.

From the top of the Spanish Steps, the view over Rome is superb. You can get your fill of it at a table-for-two with a cappuccino at the Caffè Ciampini at piazza Trinità dei Monti (5678; [caffeciampini.com](http://caffeciampini.com)) before meandering farther uphill to the Pincio lookout for a panorama that is even more breathtaking. There is no more romantic setting for handing over the present you have had sealed pre-emptively inside a heart of exquisite chocolate by master chocolate-makers Moriondo e Gariglio at via Pie' di Marmo 21-22 (699 0856).

Behind the Pincio is the Villa Borghese, central Rome's largest park. With towering umbrella pines and picturesque promenades, the park also has a romantic boating lake where you can paddle your beloved about (€3 [£2.20] per 20 minutes per person) among startled ducks around a lovely faux Greek temple. A hand-in-hand stroll a little farther through the park will take you to the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, where the terrace of the Caffè delle Arti at via Gramsci 73 (3265 1236, [gnam.beniculturali.it](http://gnam.beniculturali.it)) is a delightful place for a light al fresco lunch.

From here the No 19 tram runs to Piazza Risorgimento, beneath the Vatican walls. Unless the pull of St Peter's is too strong, make straight for the Castel Sant'Angelo at lungotevere Castello 50 ([castelsantangelo.beniculturali.it](http://castelsantangelo.beniculturali.it), admission €7 [£5]) on the banks of the Tiber, where the private apartments of 16th-century Pope Paul III have some very unsaintly depictions of the legend of Cupid and Psyche, and where the top-floor terrace (lovelorn Tosca threw herself to her death here in Puccini's eponymous opera) affords yet another heart-melting view.

Further down river (the 23 or 280 bus will take you there in no time), Trastevere is a quaint quartiere of quirky shops and intimate bars in narrow alleyways. When you've shopped and tiddled, make for Da Vittorio at via di San Cosimato 14 (580 0350; [davittorioatrastevere.it](http://davittorioatrastevere.it), pizzas from €5 [£3.70]), where they can arrange for the pizzas to come heart-shaped – just ask the waiter.



Rome in winter (Photo: AP/Fotolia)

## The perfect love nest?

### **Campo de' Fiori**

A romantic refuge at the heart of the centro storico, this 23-room boutique hotel exudes charm from its ivy-covered façade to its plushly theatrical bedrooms and secret roof terrace. Elements of Venice and Paris, as well as the Eternal City, are thrown into the hotel's warm, extrovert design mix, which uses marble, antiques, terracotta tiles, chandeliers, velvet and silk brocades and Mediterranean hues (Via del Biscione 8; doubles from £211).



### **Lord Byron**

It's been going for decades, but this secluded, elegant, antique-filled five-star near the Borghese Gardens still does pampered, exclusive luxury like few others. Art deco verve and belle époque romance meet in a mix that nevertheless manages to feel light and fresh (Via Giuseppe De Notaris 5; doubles from £234).

### **Del Senato**

Del Senato is popular with people who are looking for romance and atmosphere but with all the comforts and services of a traditional three-star hotel thrown in. It's the classic antique-filled traditional Roman hotel, except that where some of its rivals are dusty and dowdy, the Del Senato is elegant, highly polished and full of fresh flowers (Piazza della Rotonda 73; doubles from £139).

For full reviews and to book, see our [complete guide to Rome's most romantic hotels](#)

### 3 USA TODAY: FALL IN LOVE IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF FLORENCE (UI)

by Alexa Schnee, 10Best.com Local Expert |Published on December 24, 2015

[Florence](#) can be an incredibly special place when you are with someone you care about. Fortunately, there is also plenty to do and see when you are with your significant other. Italy is a country of romance, and Florence is a city that exemplifies it in almost every way.

When you want an overall great view of the city, one of the best places to view the entirety of it is [San Miniato al Monte](#). This serene environment makes it easy to relax and enjoy your company with someone you love. Climbing the steps can be a difficult endeavor, but it's worth it when reaching the top in order to get the kind of view you'll remember for a lifetime.

Also think about a wine-tasting expedition with [Grape Tours](#) or consider going on a walk through the blooming rose garden at the magnificent [Boboli Gardens](#). The hardest part is not finding something to do, but choosing which activity sounds like the most fun for you and your love.



#### PARCO DELLE CASCINE

Nothing is more romantic than heading to a park for a picnic and the Cascine Park on the edge of the city. You can not only find the perfect place to ride your rented bike, but you can also relax and sit in the shade when you are dealing with a hot day in Florence. (Especially if you are planning to visit in the summer.) You can also buy an array of drinks and snacks there. Whether you are looking for a cool soda or you want to spend some time away from the hustle and bustle of the city center, you can easily find some peace here.



#### TIFFANY & CO

If you are planning on making the ultimate romantic gesture, then you will want to make sure to stop by the popular jewelry store in order to find the perfect ring for

your loved one. The expert salespeople are happy to help you with any of your needs or questions that you might have. If you want to get the finest quality of jewelry, Tiffany's has both the name brand and some of the best quality around. While you can get some incredible pieces at the Ponte Vecchio, you might not receive the same quality of care for the same price as Tiffany's.



FORT BELVEDERE

Located on the other side of the Arno River, this spot has been recently famous for being the location of the Kim Kardashian wedding. Originally built in order to fortify the city during siege and to protect the Medici family from any major threats, the fort can now be toured by anyone. You will have to climb to the top of the hill or take a taxi, but once you are up there you can see where Galileo made some of his first astronomical observations. Think about coming here on a spring day when it is not too hot and you and your loved one can enjoy a stroll under the Tuscan sun. It's the perfect location to learn all about Florence's history.



SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

This tiny church located even higher than Piazzle Michelangelo offers some amazing views of the city if you are willing to make the climb. Not only can you see the city the way it is meant to be seen, but you can also tour the church where monks still work and live and offer evening mass on certain days. There are very few people up there in the evening if you need some time just be alone and to spend some time with your significant other. Look over the flickering lights and enjoy the chants from the monks inside the church.



TUSCANY BIKE TOURS

If you are an active couple and want to get outdoors, a bike tour is one of the best ways to make sure that you get the exercise that you need. There are several tours available--whether you plan on biking to a nearby town or you plan on staying within the Florence area, you can find the right tour for you without much trouble. The experienced guides can teach you an incredible amount of Florentine history while you enjoy being out and about. If you would like to get some quality exercise and view the city or surrounding area in a new way, there's no better way to get around.



#### GRAPE TOURS

Get out of the city and enjoy some delicious wine. Grape Tours offers some amazing tours for couples to try some of the best wines in the Tuscan area. You can choose the tour that works best for you--whether you are thinking about spending an hour in the countryside or you want to spend an entire day, you can find the right tour for you. Grape Tours has a knowledgeable staff who are more than happy to explain how the local chianti is made and to offer suggestions if you are planning on bringing some wine home. When you want a day away from the city center, this is the perfect alternative.



#### TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

As Florence's historic opera house, nothing is more romantic than taking your date out for a night at the theater. Whether you plan on seeing an opera or you would like to treat him or her to a performance of classical music, you can find an event that you know he or she will love. Think about going to dinner around the area before catching a show--the beautiful interior is more than worth seeing if you can get some quality tickets. When you want to provoke a sense of the old-fashioned feel of the opera, this is the best venue for it. Tours are also available during the day.



#### BOBOLI GARDENS

If you like to be able to stop and smell the roses, you'll want to check out the Boboli Gardens near the Pitti Palace. Not only can you have a lovely picnic inside when you buy a ticket, but you can also visit the fascinating silver and costume galleries, as well. It's the ideal place to spend a spring or summer day when the plants are full in bloom. The extensive grounds makes it easy to take an entire day to wander around and enjoy history. You can also purchase a ticket that allows you into the Pitti Palace and throughout the gardens and other galleries for a discounted price.



PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

When you want the perfect place to sit and enjoy the beautiful, bird's-eye view of Florence, Piazzale Michelangelo is a favorite spot to impress your loved one or your date. If you are thinking about putting together a romantic date and you want to make it a night to remember, think about a dinner at a local restaurant before buying a bottle of wine and taking it up to the top of the hill. You'll find musicians playing favorites and a gorgeous sunset awaiting you as you sit on the steps and sip on some prosecco or chianti. You'll see why this is a popular spot for wedding photos.



PONTE VECCHIO

It's hard to find a more romantic spot than Florence's most-loved bridge. Whether you feel like taking a stroll at sunset or you plan on purchasing a piece of jewelry to stun, the Ponte Vecchio offers the perfect place for lovers to gather and to enjoy the feel of the city. Once you've looked over the bridge and seen the best of Florence, think about taking a walk down the Arno River--not only will you get a chance to hold hands and enjoy the lovely views, but it's also the best way to see the city and to enjoy spending time with the person that you love.

## 4 THE NEW YORK TIMES: 36 HOURS IN ROME (NI)

### Weekend Guide

By INGRID K. WILLIAMS MARCH 4, 2015

The old collides with the new in Rome, where visitors can sample both traditional and creative cuisine, classic architecture, avant-garde galleries and endless nightlife options.

By Fritzie Andrade, Max Cantor, Chris Carmichael, Clarissa Crippa, Will Lloyd and Sarah Brady Voll on Publish Date March 4, 2015. [Watch in Times Video »](#)

Paolo Sorrentino's mesmerizing film "La Grande Bellezza" ("The Great Beauty"), which won an Oscar for best foreign-language film in 2014, sparked controversy and endless conversation about the current state of the Italian capital. But one fact was indisputable: [Rome](#), as the film's seductive backdrop, was gorgeous. This is true in every season, but especially in colder months when the summer flood of tourists ebbs. From outlying neighborhoods that beckon with new restaurants and bars, to the historic center, where Mr. Sorrentino's protagonist, Jep, wandered through so many scenes, Rome remains poised to prove that its beauty runs deep.

Friday

#### 1. Bathing Beauty | 3 p.m.

One of the most poignant scenes in "La Grande Bellezza" transpires at the ruins of the Terme di Caracalla, colossal Roman baths that date from the third century. Jep's twilight encounter with an illusory giraffe amid the spectacular ruins is memorable, but no tricks are needed to make this often-overlooked site unforgettable in the light of day either. The soaring walls of the complex, remarkably well-preserved in parts, are a terra-cotta-hued skeleton providing clues to the lost grandeur of this glorified gym, where amenities ranged from mosaic floors to thermal pools flanked by museum-worthy marble sculptures. Admission, 6 euros, or \$6.70 at \$1.11 to the euro.

#### 2. Gallery Hunting | 5:30 p.m.

Fast-forward nearly two millennia for a glimpse of what constitutes art in contemporary Rome by visiting a cluster of galleries near Campo de' Fiori. Start at Galleria Varsi, a two-year-old space dedicated to graffiti and street art that also organizes wall paintings across the city. Around the corner at Dorothy Circus Gallery, the blood-red walls showcase surrealist Pop Art. And nearby, a cobblestone courtyard and carved-stone fountain flank the entrance to the prestigious Galleria Lorcan O'Neill,

which moved to this spacious location last year; until April 4, look for works by the emerging British artist Eddie Peake.

### **3. Centocelle Chow | 8 p.m.**

Rome's traditional guanciale-laced pasta dishes — carbonara, amatriciana, gricia — are in no danger of extinction, but if more creative restaurants like Mazzo start opening, they might be. This tiny spot in the far-flung Centocelle neighborhood was opened in 2013 by a pair of talented young chefs intent on spinning Roman cuisine into delicious new territory. A highlight of a recent meal was rösti with Romanesco broccoli and pecorino, a dish overshadowed only by three succulent meatballs smothered in sweet caramelized onions. The snug space seats only about a dozen, between one rough-hewed communal table and a small counter, so reservations are essential. Dinner for two, about 60 euros.



Sharing a laugh at Yeah! Pigneto, where local bands and D.J.s often perform on weekends. Credit Chris Carmichael for The New York Times

### **4. Pigneto Party | 11 p.m.**

From Centocelle, the tram back toward the city center stops in the night-life neighborhood of [Pigneto](#), so finish your night there. Beer-drinkers should head to Birra Più, a bottle shop and pub with craft beers from Brewfist and Birrificio Emiliano on tap. For something stronger, seek out Co. So. Cocktails & Social, a relatively new bar that pours creative concoctions like the Carbonara Sour, made with pork-fat-infused vodka, egg, black pepper, lemon juice and simple syrup. Or for music, swing by Yeah! Pigneto, an unpretentious cafe where local bands and D.J.s often perform amid the cool vintage décor on weekends.

Saturday

### **5. Market Choices | 10:30 a.m.**

There were groans when the Mercato di Testaccio — one of the city's oldest markets — was moved to a newly built complex in 2012, and for good reason: The bright, sanitized space feels more like an anonymous mall than a Roman market. For a more satisfying market experience, head to Mercato Monti, where about two dozen vendors — an upstart collective of young designers, artisans and vintage dealers — sell everything from felt fedoras

and vintage sunglasses to striped sweaters and one-of-a-kind dresses made by local designers.

### **6. Prime Panini | 12:30 p.m.**

The labyrinthine lanes of Trastevere west of the Tiber River are lined with dubious dining options, but hidden among them is a refreshing new exception, the closet-size cafe Pianostrada Laboratorio di Cucina. Opened last May by four women — a mother, two daughters and a friend — this *piccolissimo* spot serves homemade dishes and outstanding panini using the region's best ingredients. For lunch, try the Pane Alici, prepared with creamy stracciatella cheese, truffled anchovies and arugula on a black, seppia-ink bun made in-house (9 euros).

### **7. Macro Arts | 3 p.m.**

The Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, or [Macro](#), housed in a former Peroni brewery, is often overshadowed by the city's other contemporary art museum, the Maxxi — an impressive, modern structure designed by the architect Zaha Hadid. But don't judge a museum by its facade. Macro presents more substantive exhibitions, from provocative portraiture photography to large-scale installations, like a multicolored crocheted work by the artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam that served as an ersatz jungle gym for neighborhood children in 2014. The museum also expanded a few years ago with a spacious new wing. Admission, 13.50 euros.

### **8. Sweet Stroll | 5 p.m.**

A short walk from Macro are the milk-bottle-lined walls of Come il Latte, an adorable gelateria scooping some of the creamiest gelato in Rome. In contrast to many of the city's top gelato shops, like Fatamorgana and Claudio Torcè's Il Gelato, this artisanal gelateria, which opened in 2012, doesn't serve scores of unusual flavors. Instead, the owner Nicoletta Chiacchiari uses top-notch ingredients to improve familiar favorites, resulting in caramel seasoned with pink Himalayan salt and pistachio studded with bright-green Sicilian nuts. After indulging in a cone, walk off some of the calories on a stroll north to Quartiere Coppedè, a curious quarter marked by beautiful Art Nouveau palazzi whose whimsical towers and ornate facades look plucked from a fairy tale.

### **9. Monteverde Meal | 8:30 p.m.**

To get to the heart of modern Roman cuisine, get out of the heart of the city. On a quiet lane in the residential neighborhood of Monteverde, L'Osteria di Monteverde is a casual restaurant whose unremarkable exterior gives no hint of the outstanding food

served inside. At a recent meal, beef tartare was a gustatory revelation after the addition of an eggy Parmigiano cream, porcini mushrooms and fried quail egg. Roasted octopus resting atop rosemary-scented borlotti beans got a boost from fresh stracciatella cheese. And spaghetti smothered with sheep's cheese and baccalà was set aflame by a dollop of fiery 'nduja (spicy Calabrian sausage). Dinner for two, about 60 euros.

#### **10. Twilight Tipples | 11 p.m.**

For a nightcap, cross Monteverde to Vineria Litro, a relaxed wine bar that opened in late 2013. The mirrored bar is lined with rare mezcals, so try a cocktail like the Mezsconi, which modifies the classic Negroni by swapping out gin for the smoky spirit. Or take the tram back to the center, where squirreled away on a small piazza is No. Au, a laid-back cafe serving natural wines and craft beers. Pull a wooden stool up to the bar and order a glass of Sicilian red from Occhipinti or an IPA from Birra del Borgo.

Sunday

#### **11. Holy House | 10 a.m.**

On Sunday mornings, masses gather at St. Peter's Basilica to angle for a glimpse of the popular Pope Francis. But far fewer congregate at the second-largest basilica, San Paolo Fuori le Mura, making this sacred site ideal for unhurried contemplation. The nave's soaring ceilings and gilded frescoes are impressive, but hidden beyond one transept is an even finer feature: the cloister (admission, 4 euros), a tranquil courtyard with beautiful mosaics, a trickling fountain and blooming roses for much of the year.

#### **12. Power Couple | Noon**

For a lesson in adaptive reuse, walk north on the main drag of the industrial Ostiense neighborhood to [Centrale Montemartini](#). There, a former thermoelectric power plant is now a museum housing ancient sculptures and artifacts from the Capitoline Museums. Most striking are the main exhibition spaces where milky-white marble sculptures stand in stark contrast to the hulking black equipment — engines, boiler and steam turbines that helped power the city in the past, repurposed as foils for art in the present. Admission, 7.50 euros.

#### **13. Pizza, Pizza | 2 p.m.**

No weekend in Rome would be complete without pizza. For the thin-crust Roman style, go to Emma, a chic pizzeria that opened in the historic center in 2014. The pizzas, so thin and light they're nearly translucent, are made with dough from the celebrated

baker Pierluigi Roscioli and with toppings from the family-owned Salumeria Roscioli nearby. For pizza al taglio (by the slice), go to Pizzarium, a take-away shop owned by the master pizzaiolo Gabriele Bonci that is scheduled to reopen March 8 after a much-needed expansion. Choices skew toward the unconventional, like roasted zucchini with ricotta, but they're all delicious. Either meal will end as every Roman holiday should: with a full belly.

## Hotels

In a 17th-century palazzo in the historic center, **D. O. M** (Via Giulia 131; [domhotelroma.com](http://domhotelroma.com); from 240 euros) is a **luxurious hotel** with 24 rooms and suites that opened in late 2013. The richly textured décor is an appealing mix of old and new — think artworks ranging from Renaissance-era marble inscriptions to Andy Warhol silk-screens — and the clubby rooftop terrace is a new hot spot for aperitivi in warmer months.

Midcentury furniture mingles with marble sculptures at the **J.K. Place Roma** (Via di Monte d'Oro 30; [jkroma.com](http://jkroma.com); from 500 euros), a 30-room hotel that opened in 2013. The eye-catching design by the architect Michele Bönan features colorful palettes, stately four-poster beds and common spaces adorned with Berber rugs and a futuristic chandelier.

A version of this article appears in print on March 8, 2015, on page TR6 of the New York edition. [Order Reprints](#)| [Today's Paper](#)| [Subscribe](#)

## 5 THE GUARDIAN: 10 OF THE BEST WAYS TO ENJOY PARIS ... ON A BUDGET (GF)

From city beaches by the Seine and Paris's oldest food market, to a nightlife scene buzzing with free festivals and live music, Paris doesn't have to leave you feeling financially drained



Sand and the city ... Paris beaches along the Seine. Photograph: Alamy

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### Rozena Crossman

Monday 6 July 2015 06.30 BST

Take advantage of the water

Every summer the city creates “fake” beaches with huge plots of sand around the Seine and the Bassin de la Villette. Dubbed “[Paris Plages](#)”, this year it begins on 20 July and is open every day, free of charge, from 9am to midnight. Activities (some of which you have to pay for) include volleyball, pedal boats, rowing, archery and street tennis. A similar idea is Les Berges de Seine, a stretch of the Left Bank between the bridges Pont Alexandre III and Pont du Carrousel that hosts a floating garden, outdoor bars, playgrounds, art installations and many free events, such as fitness classes and gardening workshops. To cool off, dive into one of Paris's 39 public pools for a mere €3.

• *Paris Plages, from 20 July-16 August, in front of the Hotel de Ville and on the Georges Pompidou expressway; from 20 July-23 August along the Bassin de la Villette. Les Berges de Seine covers the quay of the Left bank between bridges Pont Alexandre III and Pont du Carrousel*

Eat and drink in Butte aux Cailles



Chez Gladines

The tight-knit community and colourful houses give a village feel to this southern neighbourhood in the 13th arrondissement. Home to many artists and a family-friendly haven for street art, Butte aux Cailles has many high-quality, but inexpensive, bars and restaurants. Dine on traditional French food at [l'Auberge de la Butte](#), where €25 covers three

courses. The legendary [Chez Gladines](#) offers copious Basque dishes from €7-€10, but go before 7pm to avoid a long wait. Most bars along rue de la Butte aux Cailles are reasonably priced, such as the popular hangout [Le Diapason](#), where glasses of wine are €4, pints are €5-€6 and cocktails are €6.50.

Enjoy a museum for free



Musée Carnavalet. Photograph: R Ian Lloyd/Masterfile/Corbis

On the first Sunday of the month, visits to permanent collections in national museums are free. [The Louvre](#) always has a long queue but Paris has 173 other museums to choose from. Explore the city's history in a magnificent building dating back to the Renaissance at the [Musée Carnavalet](#) on Rue des Francs-Bourgeois, or learn about the middle ages at the [Musée de Cluny](#), which is on top of Roman ruins that wildly contrast with their surroundings in the middle of the bustling 5th arrondissement. EU citizens aged 18-25 get free entry to national museums on any day of the week.

Shop smart



Stall at flea market, Marche aux puces de la porte de Vanves. Photograph: Oliver Strewe/Getty Images/Lonely Planet Image

Finding souvenirs unique to Paris doesn't have to be pricey: many tourists believe that the [Marché aux puces de Saint-Ouen](#) is the headquarters of Parisian antiques but those in the know (and in the business) go to the [Marché aux puces de la porte de Montreuil](#) (on Avenue du Professeur André Lemierre) or [Vanves](#) for art, furniture and vintage trinkets. Dealers often sell their goods cheaper at these two flea markets before raising the prices at Saint-Ouen. If strolling around the elite galleries of the Marais or Saint-Germain-des-Prés inspires you to invest in art, check out the squat [59 Rivoli](#), where artists work and sell their creations. Just walking up the spiral staircase covered with murals is a worthwhile experience.

### Sleep in a warehouse



Halle Pajol. Photograph: Alamy

Once upon a time, Halle Pajol was an old warehouse for the national railway; today, it's home to shops, a greenhouse, a library, a concert hall, and the [Yves Robert hostel](#). Private rooms cost from €62 (it's a bunk bed, though), while dorm-room berths start at €31. Eco- and family-friendly, it's near the Gare du Nord Eurostar station, too.

### Take the kids to the north-east



Parc de la Villette. Photograph: Alamy

The 19th and 20th arrondissements have a reputation for graffiti and edgy bars but, during the day, they provide great spaces for kids to play. The [Parc de la Villette](#) has several unusual playgrounds, such as an 80m dragon whose tongue becomes a slide, the [Cité des Enfants children's museum](#) (adults €12, kids under 6 €3), a merry-go-round, and holds frequent festivals and free movie screenings. The [Parc de Belleville](#) has a fun, inventive playground with slides that lead to hidden locations and a small climbing wall, as well as a beautiful view of Paris. [Parc des Buttes-Chaumont](#) delights children with its waterfall, babbling stream, its imitation-Greek temple perched on an island and its puppet shows (tickets €4) at the [Théâtre Guignol Anatole](#).

### Giant green spaces



Bois de Vincennes. Photograph: Alamy

Paris can feel cramped and polluted during the summer. Seek refuge in either (or both!) of the two largest parks in Paris: the [Bois de Vincennes](#) is beautifully designed around a lake with a pseudo-Greek temple on one island and a Buddhist temple on another. The other park is the [Bois de Boulogne](#) and, at more than double the size of Central Park in Manhattan, it feels more like a forest. It has an adult fitness playground, two horse-racing tracks ([Hippodrome de Longchamp](#) and [Hippodrome d'Auteuil](#)) that Hemingway used to frequent, greenhouses with exotic plants and mini-parks, such as the Parc de Bagatelle, featuring free botanic gardens and a guided château visit for €8.

Nightlife, music and more



People dancing on the Square Tino Rossi, Quai Saint-Bernard. Photograph: Sipa Press/REX Shutterstock

Paris is not usually known for its sangria but [10 Bar](#) is famous with students and regulars of the 6th arrondissement for its €3 drinks and (working) jukebox. After a few glasses, join the people who flock to Quai Saint-Bernard in the neighbouring 5th arrondissement to enjoy salsa, swing, tango, traditional French folk dances and more at the [Festival des danses sur Seine](#). Entry is free; you simply wander on to the quai on any night during July and August. If it's raining, opt for live music at [Le Truskel](#), an innocuous-looking bar, on Rue Feydeau, known for its free concerts starring musicians before they get famous; Pete Doherty, Franz Ferdinand, Bloc Party and Metronomy all played here. A pint costs €6.

Eat well in tourist areas



Marché des Enfants Rouges. Photograph: Jean Heintz/Hemis.fr

It can be a hassle to find a quality, affordable restaurant among the tourist traps but there are beacons of hope. *Cosi* in Saint-Germain-des-Prés (Rue de Seine 54, +33 1 46 33 35 36) makes fresh salads, soups and sandwiches (from €6.50) while opera music plays in the background. All its bread is made before your eyes in a brick oven. In the Marais, try the [Marché des Enfants Rouges](#) on Rue de Bretagne; it's Paris's oldest market, where delicacies from all over the world share space with French produce. The Moroccan stand boasts some of the best tagine in the city for about €10.50.

Explore the countryside



Easy for you to say ... the chateau at Sceaux. Photograph: Alamy

If you can't afford a journey to the south of France, the Parisian commuter rail, the [RER](#), travels to many towns that have great village vibes. The RER A goes from Paris's central station Châtelet to the cobblestone streets of [Saint-Germain-en-Laye](#) in about 40 minutes, where a chateau with huge grounds and a vineyard await. A return ticket costs €8.70 and a visit to the chateau, now an archeology museum ([Musée d'Archéologie nationale](#)), is €7. A €5.50 return, and a 30-minute ride from Châtelet on the RER B heading south, will get you to Sceaux, where you'll discover another chateau with guided visits for €6. Its grounds, the [Parc de Sceaux](#), are free to visit and were designed by Le Nôtre, who was the landscaper of Versailles. Here you'll find a waterfall, an outdoor pool, art galleries, outdoor operas and many other activities.

## 6 THE TELEGRAPH: 33 REASONS WHY YOU MUST KEEP VISITING PARIS (TF)



"Paris is the most absorbing city on earth. That's why we must continue to go"

- Telegraph Travel

17 NOVEMBER 2015 • 12:00AM

Almost half of Telegraph Travel readers claim they are [less likely to visit Paris following last week's terror attack](#). Here's what they'll be missing.

### 1. It's the world's most romantic city

[Stanley Stewart explains](#): "Chaotic passions flutter beneath its fine sensible civilised face. Its reputation as the city of love is so pervasive that I once met nomads in Outer Mongolia discussing fantasy dates in Paris. Despite their geography being a bit hazy - they seemed to feel Paris was a day's ride from Moscow on a decent horse - they talked of the river, the bridges, the spires of Notre Dame."



Every street in Paris seems to echo with the ghosts of love stories Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

May we suggest a stroll through the gardens of the Palace of Fontainebleau, just outside the city, a sundowner (and the views) in Belleville, the hilltop district where Edith Piaf was born, a show at the Palais Garnier, and dinner at La Fermette Marboeu, where the Art Nouveau decor is as exquisite as the Grand Marnier soufflé? Then recreate [Robert Doisneau's](#) Le Baiser de l'Hôtel de Ville (Kiss by the Town Hall).



Robert Doisneau's famous photograph Photo: GETTY

### 2. Getting there is a doddle

Just 2 hours 15 mins on the Eurostar, with return fares from £64.

### 3. It's got 70 Michelin-starred restaurants

Including 10 with three stars.

#### 4. And you'll learn about the true hierarchy in the relationship between waiter and diner

"It is an ignoble lie that Parisian waiters are rude," explains Anthony Peregrine. "They aren't. They are simply professional men (generally men) in a hurry. Consider your average London waiter or barman who, unless he actually is French, certainly doesn't speak French and will give short shrift to anyone who cannot speak English.

"Anyway, he doesn't consider waiting his real job. It's just something he does until he goes back to college or gets a role in a reality TV show. He is, therefore, clueless. French waiters are, by contrast, men doing a serious job. It's a career.

"The fellow may take an order for 14 different drinks in English, dodge between traffic, give directions to a Japanese passer-by on how to get to the Eiffel Tower – and still be a damned sight more agreeable than any waiter I have [recently encountered in any British airport \(they are legion\) in recent times.](#)"



French waiters: "professional men in a hurry" Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

#### 5. It's got the world's greatest museum



The Louvre Photo: GETTY

But please, no #monalisaselfies

[A photo posted by Discovering da Vinci \(@discoveringdavinci\)](#) on Oct 13, 2014 at 7:52pm PDT

#### 6. And dozens of brilliant ones you've never heard of

"Alongside the world-famous museums and monuments, there are also some gloriously eccentric ones," says Natasha Edwards, our Paris expert. "My favourite is the Musée Gustave Moreau, his former home and studio piled high with his works and an insight into a city that has long been an inspiration for artists."

#### 7. There's the most beautiful stained glass you'll probably ever see

Inside the [Sainte Chapelle](#), on the Ile de la Cité, you'll find the most awe-inspiring 13th-century stained glass in the world. The place exults with the sort of light which heralds angels. Fifteen huge and exquisite windows constitute the side and end of the chapel, held in place – only God knows how – by the frailest possible stone-work.

Whoever designed it had mastered the sublime. The scriptural stories in the 1,113 panels – [recently restored to glory](#) – are impossible to follow. It doesn't matter. When the sunlight pours through, the effect is of being bathed in grace and serenity.



Awe-inspiring Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

## 8. They know how to make a decent pastry



Cedric Grolet, pastry chef at [Le Meurice](#), is the undisputed master.

## 9. Because the Rodin Museum has just reopened

Hôtel Biron, home to the new Rodin Museum, has a wonderfully bucolic feel about it. Nick Trend adds: "This 1720s mansion may be in the heart of the city, tucked away behind the gilded dome of Les Invalides, but it looks out over seven acres of lawns, topiary and avenues of pollarded trees. It has always been one of the great sights of Paris: perhaps the most perfect of the city's museums, and the most appealing to visit."



The museum reopens last week after a three-year renovation

## 10. It has got the Thirst Triangle

The Triangle de Soif in St Germain des Près – constituted by the tiny Rues Canette, Guisarde and Princesse – is the finest place on Earth to celebrate a great sporting event. All real sports fans – starting with rugby – gather there. If you don't know where to start amid the abundance of bars, try Chez Georges at 11, Rue des Cannettes. It's barely changed in 50 years, with photos on the wall of celebrities whom no-one remembers, and everyone drinking together.

## 11. The oldest restaurant in France

Procope – on Rue de l'Ancienne Comédie – was established in 1686 but is still good, still reasonably-priced, and still retains the hat which Napoleon left as an IOU, and the table at which Voltaire drank many of his 40 daily cups of coffee.

## 12. And the world's most fascinating cemetery

At Père Lachaise you can take in the tombs of Jim Morrison, Edith Piaf, Chopin and a host of other big, big names, and you end up at Oscar Wilde's tomb – a block-like item conceived by Jacob Epstein, with a modernist angel emerging from the block. It once had male genitalia, but these have been knocked off – not so much to keep Oscar's mind on higher things through eternity as to provide the cemetery manager with a paper-weight.

There's also the tomb of French journalist Victor Noir, shot dead in 1870 in a duel with Pierre Bonaparte, the great-nephew of Napoleon. It has become something of a fertility symbol owing simply to the fact that it has a noticeable bulge. Women flock to Père Lachaise in their hordes to rub the spot for **luck** bearing a child, as evidence by its state of polished sheen.



The tomb of French journalist Victor Noir Photo: ALAMY

### 13. It's heaven for shoppers

The great stores on Boulevard Haussmann – Galeries Lafayette, Printemps and so forth – have the most inspired Christmas window displays in Europe. In Fauchon and Hédiard, the city has two of the most splendid grocery stores on the continent. And no-one does jewels finer than they do on Place Vendôme or fashions more richly beguiling than on Avenue Montaigne.

### 14. Chocolat chaud

Not just any old chocolat chaud, but the best, leg-buckling kind in France - poured from a chocolate pot (that's a tea pot especially for chocolate). What's not to like?

### 15. It's got the finest collection of Impressionist paintings anywhere

"At the Musée d'Orsay, all the familiar images are there for real," says Anthony Peregrine. "Déjeuner sur l'Herbe, Whistler's Mother, Gauguin's lumpy Tahitiennes – and then, amid very much else, there is François Pompon's magnificently powerful and curvilinear Polar Bear sculpture, the finest animal statue in France. My favourite anywhere. If anyone's wondering what to buy me for Christmas..."



Déjeuner sur l'Herbe

### 16. And the world's maddest junction

A loop around the Arc de Triomphe is especially fun in a 2CV.

### 17. Because of the brasseries

Nowhere in the world, or elsewhere in France, does French brasseries as Paris does – with their banks of shellfish, dishes of tripe and choucroute, waiters in aprons, and bustle, as if life is being lived, food being eaten and wine being drunk, all at full-tilt.

Sally Peck adds: "Conquering the mountain of choucroute at Bofinger offers a sense of accomplishment (and perhaps indigestion)."



Full-tilt dining Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

## 18. The café culture

Whatever part of town you're staying in, there'll be a great local café, where you can drop in at any time of day for morning coffee, to read a newspaper, sun on the terrace, or engage in conversation over an apéritif.

## 19. And the catacombs

This underground ossuary contains the remains of some six million people. Its countless caverns and tunnels extend for 280km beneath the city and were used by the French Resistance during the Second World War. They are open to tourists in search of the [macabre](#) - an entrance can be found at Place Denfert Rochereau.

There's also a sewer museum.

## 20. For the best baguettes in France

And that means in the world.

## 21. And andouillette at 4am

"Near the Halles former market place at 6, Rue Coquillière, Au Pied De Cochon has been open 24/7 almost uninterrupted since 1947," says Anthony Peregrine. "Thus, you've been able to order an andouillette, or even something edible, at 4am, for more than 55 years. And, at that hour, as night people bump into early morning people, it's as crowded as normal restaurants are at midday. I've been there quite often, and never seen a drunk."



Andouillette Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

## 22. The new Philharmonie concert hall at La Villette

Incredible acoustics, [brilliant design](#).



The Philharmonie at La Villette

### 23. To remember the revolution

One of the defining world events of the modern era was the 1789 French revolution and, astonishingly, [one can still follow very many of its traces in the contemporary city](#) – from the Place de la Concorde – where the revolutionaries used the guillotine to shorten so many of their fellow citizens – via the Cours de Commerce where Marat, the extremist's extremist, published his newspaper, l'Ami du Peuple. In it, he wrote "to ensure tranquility, 270,000 more heads should fall". He was killed in the bath of his nearby home.

### 24. It's the most absorbing city on Earth

Anthony Peregrine writes: "The urban perspective from the Alexandre III bridge (itself gold and gilt-ornamented beyond the bounds of reason) is one of the most stirring the world offers. Les Invalides rises opposite, the other way are the pomp and circumstance of the Grand and Petit Palais.

"The Seine provides the grandest running commentary and just off-stage, on the Champs-Élysées, a bronze of General de Gaulle strides out. On his pedestal he is quoted: 'There is a time-honoured link between the grandeur of France and the liberty of the world.' Right here, right now, you could almost believe him.

"But we know, and love, France too well to take this at face value. We know perfectly well that they conceive mighty edifices, and mighty speeches, in the name of the imaginary people because the real people have a tendency to chuck rocks.

"So they need a myth of grandeur to keep France under control and functioning. So they centralise everything in Paris and ram home the message with magnificence to co-opt the citizenry to the project. It's a hell of a trick to pull off. The resultant tension, self-generated, also makes Paris the most absorbing city on earth. That's why we must continue to go."



The Alexandre III bridge Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

### 25. It has Europe's best vintage markets

Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen and Marché aux puces de la Porte de Vanves especially, where you can pick up beautiful antique lace, old embroidered tablecloths, hand-blown glasses, or oil paintings that might have been done by some old French Master.

## 26. And Buttes Chaumont park

Natasha Edwards says: "Of all the parks created in the 1860s by Baron Haussmann and his engineer Jean-Charles Alphand, this is the one that I find the most Romantic with a capital R, with its lake and fake crags, bridges, waterfall, giant cedars and unlikely palm trees. There's even a cave, with fake stalactites."



Buttes Chaumont Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

## 27. For a civilised rock festival

The city's annual rock festival - [Rock en Seine](#) - takes place in the Domaine National de Saint-Cloud, on the western outskirts of the city. It's far cry from your archetypal muddy field. While the grand château that once stood here is gone, destroyed during the Franco-Prussian War, the glorious gardens remain, with fountains, statues and tree-lined pathways to wander among before the bands go on stage. It's also considerably more civilized than your average festival – complimentary showers for all, with coffee and croissants for breakfast, rather than bacon sarnies washed down with warm cans of Carling.

## 28. And Picasso

It's the best city in which to see [Picasso's works](#) - more than 5,000 of them, from paintings and ceramics to sculptures.

## 29. Because for some reason or another croissants never taste as good anywhere else



They just taste better in Paris Photo: AP/FOTOLIA

## 30. To see the other Statue of Liberty

A smaller but no less impressive version sits on the Seine at the Pont de Grenelle. Only three years younger than New York's - and pretty poignant right now.

## 31. It's got permanent elegance

London has dynamism - the city-scape changes on the hour, every hour - Paris has a more unchanging elegance. They're not always knocking down old stuff and bunging up new stuff. There's a sense of permanence which remains both bracing and restful.

## 32. And no Gherkins

You can look out from your hotel window and see only rooftops. No Walkie Talkies, Gherkins or Cheese Graters.

### 33. Because, the Irish aside, the French are our nearest neighbours

Both geographically and in terms of values. And, if your neighbours won't show up when you need them, who the hell will?



Love thy neighbour Photo: GETTY

And we haven't even mentioned **Versailles**, **the Eiffel Tower**, **Notre Dame** or... **Disneyland**.

## 7 USA TODAY: ROMANTIC ACTIVITIES FOR WHEN LOVE BECOMES YOU IN THE CITY OF LIGHT (UF)

by Paige Donner, 10Best.com Local Expert | *Published on December 28, 2015*

In recent years the bridges of Paris became covered in padlocks, known here as love locks, by couples pledging their eternal love to one another. Alas, the bridge panels began to crumble underneath the weight of all this love. So, the city urges lovers to pledge their love on the city's digital wall, which you can find by searching [#LoveWithoutLocks](#). In the meantime, enjoy the once again unobstructed views from the newly implemented tempered glass paneling from the Pont Des Arts, a bridge now without love locks.

Walking hand-in-hand under one umbrella in the rain in Paris is not just a romantic thing to do, but one of the most romantic things you likely ever will do with your love. Strolling along the banks of the Seine, winter, spring, summer or fall, is another one of those things - romantic as all get-out. But topping the list as the most romantic thing to do is [Honeymoon in Paris](#).

**More ideas** : Rendezvous with your love in the Château Versailles; Or how about embracing atop the Eiffel Tower ? True, not original but that doesn't make it any less romantic. Looking to get him or her in the mood ? Take your love to [Place du Tertres](#), the animated square at the top of the Butte Montmartre which you'll find just steps from the Sacre-Coeur. The view from the Baslique, by the way, has the cityscape displayed at your feet. Dazzling.

And when you're feeling less rambunctious and simply wanting to gaze into each other's eyes, a spa-day retreat at either the [Clarins Spa Molitor](#) or at the [Guerlain Spa Trianon Versailles](#) will have you feeling like you've indulged in a sublime romantic escapade without straying too far from Paris.



### PLACE DU TERTRE

Strolling ancient cobble-stone streets atop the little village of Montmartre is just another one of the romantic ways Paris lets you celebrate your love. This area and the alleyway streets surrounding it are often filled with artists looking to paint or draw your portrait. Sure, it might be a bit of a touristy indulgence, but that portrait will make for fond memories once you are home and growing comfortably old

together. There are many places in which to duck in and enjoy a glass of rosé wine and a crepe up here. Don't forget to walk through the narrow winding alleyway-like streets that will have you standing in the majestic presence of the Sacre Coeur before you can say, Magnifique! The views of the city from the front of the famous church will take your breath away. It's the kind of beauty best enjoyed with your love.



### **FONDATION CARTIER**

A contemporary art museum dedicated to exhibiting and then supporting the artists even after the exhibits through the purchase of their work, this beautiful museum is a favorite of many Parisians. It is nestled in the Montparnasse district of Paris, hence it is central and accessible. The foundation collaborates with other city institutions to expand its exhibiting reach. Case in point, the Fall-Winter exhibit entitled "Exit," undertaken by the Fondation Cartier but exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo. This isn't the only example of dynamic curating that the young team at the Fondation has a penchant for, so check the website to see what's current. Likely there will be something that appeals to your artistic senses and the grounds, in the summer time, are a welcoming a shady place to take a breath and enjoy an outdoor snack.



### **EIFFEL TOWER**

Boasting an impressive resumé that includes being one of the tallest buildings in the world and a design that was lauded when it was built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle - a festival to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution - La Tour Eiffel, originally served as a radio transmitter. The Eiffel Tower also serves as a symbol of the innovations achieved during the industrial era. Today, the Eiffel Tower stands proudly amidst Paris and glimpses of it can be seen from all over the city. In reverse, the Eiffel Tower provides a view to the whole city; A ride to the top of the tower takes visitors 276 meters up for a panoramic view of the entire city, stretching out for miles in each direction. At night, the Eiffel Tower

comes alive with a twinkling light show that increases its role as the city's most recognized landmark.



#### **4 ROUES SOUS 1 PARAPLUIE**

The original tour of Paris is in a 2CV (that's the Beetle-like cult French car that makes you think of twirled waxed mustaches and black beret-wearing Frenchmen). This is one of the most comfortable and entertaining ways to see the city. Your personalized tour guide gives you a running commentary as you tool through the narrow Paris streets and the broad Parisian avenues. There's ample flexibility, too. Tours last about 1 1/2 hours and the best times are mornings or early afternoons and also at night. Hours to avoid are rush hour. This is a delightful way to see the city and these guides are all genuinely passionate about Paris; Like Kevin - a half-French half-Canadian Paris resident for 30 years who will delight you by the breadth of details he'll narrate as he expertly navigates you through the quaint and colorful streets of Paris.



#### **MOULIN ROUGE**

With its famous windmill that acts as beacon to all nightlife revelers looking for a good time out in Paris, it might altogether be too easy to assume that this legendary Cabaret has become a tourist trap. That assumption couldn't be farther from the truth. This is a cabaret where the French Can-Can dancers all have years of formal ballet training before they ever even get to audition to be one of the 60 Doriss Girls, the famous Moulin Rouge dancers, let alone wriggle into their costumes of a thousand feathers. The stage is steeped in history. Not only is it famous for La Goulue whose 1891 performance inspired Toulouse-Lautrec's first poster painted of the venue, but also for Mistinguett and Edith Piaf, even Elton John, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra, all of whom have performed onstage here.



### **LE PONT DES ARTS**

The Pont des Arts, a pedestrian bridge across the Seine, connects the Louvre with the Latin Quarter while offering some of the city's most stunning views. It is also known as the Lover's Bridge since lovers have been coming here for centuries to gaze into one another's eyes. In recent years, the phenomena of Love Locks has swept not just Paris but romantic spots throughout the world. Alas, this bridge, however, became one of the epicenters for this cultural tradition and its 19th c. railings crumbled this past summer under the weight of all that love, with a few panels even falling into the Seine below. The city is currently replacing these with plexiglass panels along with a friendly but firm campaign urging people to celebrate their #LoveWithoutLocks.



### **LA DERNIÈRE GOUTTE**

Sipping a gorgeous glass of good French wine with someone you love is about as romantic as it gets. But if you want to bump that up a notch further, why not partake in a wine tasting class with your love partner? This funky little Left Bank wine shop will have you navigating the quaint boutique-filled St. Germain backstreets. Once you arrive, you will be ushered into the back of the shop where as many as 10 other wine enthusiasts will join you in an expert-led wine tasting class. You needn't be an about French wine to participate. The philosophy here is "come as you are." The classes, offered Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings last about 2 hours and the wines you taste are included in the class fee. It's a great way to learn that little bit extra about your host country while enjoying your time in Paris.



### **SPA CLARINS AT MOLITOR**

This is the biggest day spa in Paris, which means that the both of you can and will be comfortably accommodated, pampered and renewed. The spacious couple's treatment cabins will have you both feeling relaxed and well taken care of. Some of the finer details of a Clarins massage is that the massage beds are heated and they also heat their oil before applying it. There is nothing sacrificed here when it comes to comfort and pampering. So if your aim is to make yourself and your partner feel cherished, this is the best spa at which to do that in Paris.



### **CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES**

A trip to Versailles can be more than simply visiting the famous chateau. The town offers many distractions, too, from fresh markets, to discovering the art of perfume making. Plan on a weekend, and make the most of your romantic getaway. This wonderfully extravagant palace, where royals frittered away much of the treasury, is a necessary stop for visitors. Here, in this luxuriously furnished palace, is where Louis XIV, XV and XVI lived before the kingdom gave way to revolution. Beautifully restored rooms hint at the court's wealth, as seen in the gilt, crystal and hand-painted furnishings and details. Make sure to see the historic Hall of Mirrors. Guided and unguided tours are available. The gardens are as much as an attraction as the interior, especially when the spectacular fountains are turned on to music on summer weekends. Access by train, shuttle or RER (C) makes it easily accessible.



### **GUERLAIN SPA TRIANON PALACE VERSAILLES**

Perfume was a central component of culture under Louis XVI and his queen, Marie-Antoinette and here Guerlain pays homage to that. The signature treatment here is their Beauty Lift Extreme facial, an hour and a half of precise facial massage techniques that lifts a decade or more off your face. This treatment is exclusive to this Waldorf-Astoria property here in Versailles. After, or before, your spa treatment and "thalasso" therapy in the pools and steam room, be sure to schedule a bit of time to explore the route de scenteurs, the road of scents, that the city of Versailles has developed in their St. Louis neighborhood, a quick walk or taxi ride from the hotel. This little shopping area is devoted to the art of scents and perfume making, a heritage that is very dear to the history of Versailles.

## 8 THE NEW YORK TIMES: 36 HOURS ON THE LEFT BANK, PARIS (NF)

### Weekend Guide

By AMY THOMAS APRIL 15, 2015

While the Right Bank of [Paris](#) has seen internationalism and the irrepressible rise of “bobos” (the Parisian form of hipsters) change its landscape in recent years, the Left Bank has been able to preserve the soul of the French capital. Walk through the Latin Quarter’s crooked cobblestone corridors or down the grand plane-tree-lined boulevards of St.-Germain-des-Prés and, more than once, you’ll think you’re inside a black-and-white Robert Doisneau photo. Cafe terraces, limestone buildings and nattily dressed locals create a timeless tableau. That’s not to say that Paris south of the dividing Seine is immune to change. But at least for now, the classic charms outweigh the contemporary influences.

Friday

#### 1. Appetite Awakener | 3:30 p.m.

The Left Bank is home to cultural, fashion and artistic riches, but one of the best ways to immerse yourself in French culture is with food. Paris by Mouth, a five-year-old foodie website, offers three-hour small-group tours, including the popular Taste of St.-Germain (95 euros, or about \$100 at \$1.05 to the euro), which will prime you for the weekend’s culinary delights. Among the half-dozen or so stops are Poilâne Bakery, which has been churning out the same large wheels of tangy sourdough from its basement wood-burning oven for 83 years; Le Marché Couvert (or the covered market), where moneyed locals scoop up their saucisson, fresh milk and seasonal produce; and Pierre Hermé, [France](#)’s “Picasso of Pastries,” which sells cakes and macarons almost too pretty to eat. Along with the tour’s treats, you’re fed historical and cultural bits that will help you navigate the local food scene on your own.

#### 2. To the Top | 7:30 p.m.

You can’t visit Paris and ignore the grandest dame of them all. The Eiffel Tower, a majestic 1,063 feet of latticed iron work planted firmly on the flat green Champ de Mars near the Seine, is the tallest structure in the city. Two elevators will whoosh you to

the top (or, if you're feeling dauntless, tackle the 1,665 steps; 15.50 euros and 5 euros, respectively) and by now it will be l'heure bleue, that magical time in the evening when the whole city is suffused in an ethereal light. If you linger long enough taking in the panorama, you'll also be treated to the top-of-the-hour light show, when 20,000 bulbs affixed to every side of the tower twinkle and dance for five mesmerizing minutes.

### **3. Drama With Dinner | 10 p.m.**

Enjoy the relative tranquillity as you amble through the Anglicized Seventh Arrondissement to the Basque restaurant — the first one to open in Paris, more than 80 years ago — Chez L'Ami Jean. Inside the tightly packed dimly lit restaurant you'll be elbow-to-elbow with boisterous locals and tourists feasting the night away. As you ponder the 78-euro prix fixe menu, watch the theatrics (and occasional temper) of the chef, Stéphane Jégo, through the kitchen window as he perfects dishes such as mackerel in leek vinaigrette and pork belly with oysters and rabbit. Save room for dessert. The restaurant's legendary rice pudding, accompanied by salted butter caramel and crunchy meringues, comes in a bowl large enough to feed four and may forever change the way you think of the oft-maligned treat.

Saturday

### **4. Avant-Garde Art | 11 a.m.**

If national museums like the Musée d'Orsay are too large, and St. Germain's galleries too small for your art appreciation fix, you'll love the scale of Paris's fondations and the stellar exhibitions they attract. The Cartier Fondation and Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, which are within walking distance of each other on opposite sides of the famed Montparnasse Cemetery, are sized to offer just the right dose of the familiar and the cutting edge. Exhibitions rotate several times a year, with the Cartier — housed in a light-filled, contemporary Jean Nouvel building — bringing acclaimed talent such as the Japanese pop artist Takeshi Kitano and the Australian sculptor Ron Mueck. The Cartier-Bresson, smaller and more modest, concentrates on photographers like Walker Evans and Saul Leiter.

### **5. Lunch Worth Waiting for | 1:30 p.m.**

Unless waiting for bread at the boulangerie, queuing for food is not something Parisians do. But they make an exception for Le Comptoir du Relais, and so should you. On a sloping corner in St. Germain, the sliver of a restaurant is, in fact, most noticeable for the line of hungry people waiting for the first-come-first-served weekend service from the chef Yves Camdeborde, who's often

credited with starting the “bistronomy” trend currently rocking the Right Bank. This blend of a casual bistro environment and gastronomic cooking reveals its magic with simple yet otherworldly dishes like a creamy-crunchy smoked salmon croque monsieur (10 euros) or even a seasonal salad (13 euros), heaped with at least 10 kinds of vegetables and dusted with fine bits of crunchy onion.

#### **6. Oh, La Mode | 3 p.m.**

Since you’re in the heart of a bustling shopping district, why not put those credit cards to use for some French treasures? (Be sure to ask salesclerks for VAT refunds.) Alexandra Sojfer makes the most ornate umbrellas and walking sticks you can imagine, with details like carved wood animal-head handles and taffeta parasols adorned with Swarovski crystals. Deyrolle appears to be a modest gardening store at street level, but ascend to the second floor to find an exotic emporium filled with rhino heads, panther skeletons, tortoise shells and all manner of taxidermy. And leave it to the French to peddle even candles with pedigrees. Cire Trudon, established in 1643, once supplied King Louis XIV’s court with candles. Today, you can take home your own piece of French history of sorts: a burning bust of Marie Antoinette or Napoleon.

#### **7. Terrace Views | 6 p.m.**

Parisians dine later, so you have the excuse to indulge in one of their prime pastimes: people watching from a cafe terrace. Snatch one of the coveted seats at Café de Flore, where figures such as Simone de Beauvoir and Picasso once sipped, puffed and pontificated, and watch the coiffed regulars come in and kiss-kiss the maître d’hôtel while harried waiters in long white aprons weave and wend, delivering trays of aperitifs. Try a bitter Campari (9.80 euros) or a sweet kir, white wine with a splash of cassis (9.5).

Sweetbreads at Semilla. CreditChris Carmichael for The New York Times

#### **8. Nouveau Cooking | 8 p.m.**

Neither trendy nor nostalgic, Semilla manages the perfect balance of nouveau Parisian cooking. Opened in 2012 by the international team of Juan Sanchez and Drew Harré, the sparse but sophisticated restaurant (marble tabletops, concrete floors, wood-beamed ceilings) attracts an urbane clientele from the neighborhood’s galleries and bourgeois homes. The menu is organized into categories like “raw,” “fried” and “from the oven,” with crowd favorites like shiitake mushrooms, browned in toasted

sesame oil (6 euros) and the côte de boeuf for two, which is presented tableside before being taken to the open kitchen, where it's sliced and then returned with mashed potatoes and horseradish cream (76 euros).

Sunday

### **9. Get Fresh | 10 a.m.**

Every Sunday from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., the air on Boulevard Raspail, between the Rue Cherche-Midi and Rue de Rennes, fills with the tantalizing smell of sautéing onions. It's the onion galettes — shredded onion, potato and cheese (2.50 euros) — frying at one of the dozens of stands at the Marché Biologique Raspail. This organic market has been a neighborhood jewel for 26 years. Stroll by, admire, even ogle, but do not touch the beautiful displays. Once you've decided among the loaves of bread chockablock with dried fruit; towers of chevre and Comté cheese; baskets of fresh herbs and lettuces; honeys, jams and various other edible delights, the vendors will be happy to help you.

### **10. Sunday Stroll | Noon**

No longer are the Luxembourg Gardens the only nearby spot of green where you can eat your market loot. Les Berges, a nearly 1.5-mile stretch along the Seine reserved for pedestrians, debuted in 2013, so what was once a diesel-fume-choked highway is now thronged with strolling families, joggers, bicyclists and skaters. Start at the Pont de l'Alma entrance to the west and make your way past the rotating art exhibitions, climbing walls and stations for hopscotch and paddleball. Once you've arrived at the eastern end, near Musée d'Orsay, climb the wood-plank bleacher seats for a view of the boats chugging along the river.

### **11. Sweet Ending | 2 p.m.**

There's always room in the belly (or in your carry-on) for French chocolate. And, seeing as St. Germain is the unofficial center of the chocolate universe, counting at least a dozen renowned chocolatiers, make a final sweep of the neighborhood's offerings, winding up in a cobblestone alley at Pierre Cluizel's Un Dimanche à Paris. This boutique is also an 8,600-square-foot salon de thé/restaurant/lounge devoted to high-end chocolate. A spot of the pastry chef Nicolas Bacheyre's chocolat chaud, served warm, not hot, in traditional Limoges porcelain, is guaranteed to send you off in classic style.

Where to Stay

Built in 1827, L'Hotel (13 rue des Beaux Arts, Sixth, 33-1-44-41-99-00; [l-hotel.com](http://l-hotel.com)) is the last place that Oscar Wilde resided, and holds a special place in Parisians' hearts. The discreet and historic five-star hotel has 20 glamorous rooms, including a nearly 600-square-foot penthouse with a terrace a restaurant bar and hammam pool in the basement. Rates range from 295 to 1,050 euros.

Tucked behind the newly renovated St.-Sulpice church, the six-story **Hotel Recamier** (3 bis, Place Saint-Sulpice, Sixth, 33-1-43-26-04-89; [hotelrecamier.com](http://hotelrecamier.com)) is quiet, chic and sophisticated. The interior designer Jean-Louis Deniot made each of the 24 rooms, ranging from small to spacious, unique. But they all share a soothing, neutral palette. Rates from 280 to 495 euros.

## 9 THE GUARDIAN: GREEK ISLAND HOLIDAY GUIDE: THE NORTH-EAST AEGEAN (GG)

This disparate group of islands stretches from the Greek mainland across the Aegean to the coast of Turkey. Many remain off the beaten track to foreign visitors but reward them with deserted beaches and excellent seafood tavernas



The church of Agios Isidoros on an islet close to Langada, Chios. Photograph: Hercules Milas/Alamy

### **Andrew Bostock**

Wednesday 22 July 2015 06.30 BST

Some islands fall easily into groups, others are left hanging and are gathered into more arbitrary designations. The latter is true of the north-east Aegean, which includes a hodgepodge of islands stretching from lush Samos in the south – just off the coast of Turkey – up to Thassos, 400km to the north and closer to Bulgaria than it is to Athens.

In between are an isolated stretch of islands, often far apart from each other and not well connected. Perhaps because of this, and the difficulty of labelling them easily together, these islands are often overlooked. For those prepared to travel a bit further afield, this is a bonus as, apart from midsummer, they tend to be uncrowded and unspoilt.

Samos is the nearest thing this group gets to “well-known destination”, but it is still more easily reached from Turkey than most of the rest of Greece. It does have its resorts but is big and diverse enough to still reward visitors. It is probably the most instantly attractive of the group.



Calm waters ... Lesbos. Photograph: Getty Images/Flickr RF

Heading west, little Fourni is getting increasing recognition as an “unspoilt” gem, and still deserves the reputation. Larger Ikaria is a different kettle of fish and, while not immediately pretty, is worth exploring: the locals have an independent and proud streak that sets them apart.

Chios and Lesbos also hug the Turkish coast. The former has a long and often tragic history but hides many beautiful places away from its couple of beach resorts. Lesbos is one of the biggest of all the Greek islands, and a long visit and exploration will reveal why it is still beloved by artists, historians and modern [Sapphos](#).

In the north is a scattering of volcanic islands that remain off-the-beaten track. Limnos has become trendy, especially among mainland Greeks, but remains beautiful and authentic. Samothrace is one of the most dramatic of the Greek islands and is home to a stunning and world-class ancient site. And if you want to see how Greeks party, Thassos is your place.

*All prices are for one week’s accommodation for two in August, and include breakfast unless otherwise stated. Prices outside of this month can be considerably cheaper. Greek taverna prices are remarkably similar and, if anything, have gone down in the last few years. You can usually expect to eat well for €15-€20 per head. If places are cheaper or more expensive than this, it is stated in the text.*

Samos



Armonia Bay Hotel

**Where** **to** **stay**  
**Armonia** **Bay**

This is exactly what you hope for from a Greek island hotel. The simple rooms are large and tastefully done, and most have balconies with great views down to the beach, which is a five-minute stroll away – although there’s a pool if you can’t manage that. The hospitality is relaxed and

friendly.

• £560, +30 22730 92279, [armoniabay.com](http://armoniabay.com); family-friendly

### **Where to eat**

#### **Pnaka**

For the best food you should head up to the hillside villages above. This meze place has a great terrace in the village of the same name, and serves a great mixture of small dishes and salads to mix and match. Do as the Greeks do and order a little at a time and keep going for as long as you can.

• +30 22730 93297



One to muse on ... Vathy's Archaeological Museum makes a pleasant break from the summer heat. Photograph: Peter Forsberg/Alamy

#### **Don't miss**

Most museums on the islands are only for the real enthusiast. The one in Vathy (the Archaeological Museum), the capital of Samos, is an exception, and has one of Greece's largest statues as its prize exhibit. The old upper town of Vathy is also worth a stroll.

• +30 2273 027469

#### **Fourni**



A fishing boat at Thymena Island, Fourni. Photograph: Alamy

### **Where to stay**

#### **Archipelagos**

As the ferry pulls into isolated Fourni you will be greeted by plenty of locals willing to offer you rooms, some of which are very nice indeed. If you want a bit more certainty in your life, book this port-side hotel that has all the views and facilities you would expect.

• £470, +30 69734 94967, [archipelagoshotel.gr](http://archipelagoshotel.gr)

## Where to eat

### Nikos

For a little island, Fourni has a surprisingly large permanent population (which gives it a more dynamic atmosphere than some). The key to this is its large fishing fleet, which means the island's seafood tavernas are first class. There are a couple of prominent ones by the port, and Nikos is perhaps the best choice. Lobster pasta is an island speciality.

• +30 22750 51207

### Don't miss

A short boat ride from Fourni is the even smaller island of Thymena. The population of barely 100 lives mainly in the little port. A short hike takes you over to an isolated beach and taverna – bliss.

## Ikaria



Restaurant overlooking fisherman's bay, Ikaria. Photograph: Alamy

## Where to stay

### The Ikarian Winery

Eccentric Ikaria takes a little getting to know, and there is no better place to do that than at this agri-tourism-themed vineyard near the island's north coast. It has a cluster of traditionally-decorated cottages and is still producing its own wines –offering the opportunity to get involved with production, as well as sample the product.

• £490, +30 22750 31151, [ikarianwine.gr](http://ikarianwine.gr); *family-friendly*

### Artemis

### Studios

These simple studios are all about location, with superb sunset views down to one of the prettiest coves in Greece. It comes at a bargain price as well.

• £195, +30 22750 71485, [artemis-studio-ikaria.blogspot.gr](http://artemis-studio-ikaria.blogspot.gr); *family-friendly*

## Where to eat

### Ilias

If you can find them, meze tavernas are often the best places to eat in Greece, giving you the opportunity to try lots of different dishes. This one is just above the small village of Avlaki, serves 40 different dishes, and does an interesting sideline in Moroccan tagines.

• +30 22750 71009, [ilias.com.gr](http://ilias.com.gr)



Artemis Studios

### **Nas**

If anything this taverna's terrace has even better views, and the hearty meals carry on the theme of value for money. Also, you can't help but be tempted to follow the river canyon below to the sheltered cove itself, which is surrounded by wind and wave sculpted rock. It's a beautiful place, but be careful not to swim too far out as the currents can be deceptively strong.

• +30 22750 71486

### **Don't miss**

The Ikarians like to do things differently. The four villages of Raches are linked by a well-mapped hiking trail, something that is becoming more common in Greece. They also run on "Ikarian time". The villagers sleep for much of the day, then open up their shops and tavernas for most of the night.

Chios



Houses of Pygri, Chios. Photograph: Alamy

### **Where to stay**

#### **Perleas Estate**

In the interior of this popular island is this superbly-restored old mansion set in four acres of land now given over to organic fruit, olives and vegetables. Attention to detail is the key here, with the gorgeous rooms mixing traditional styles with a nod to the Genoan history of the

estate.

• £585, +30 22710 32217, [perleas.gr](http://perleas.gr)

## **Where to eat**

### **Fabrika**

In an old olive press in the market town of Volissos, this taverna specialises in grilled meat (done properly over charcoal). For the carnivore this is heaven (in particular try *kokoretsi* if it's on the day's menu – just don't ask what it is first) but don't worry if that's not your thing as there are plenty of other dishes. .

• +30 22740 22045

## **Don't miss**

Chios made its fortune from the harvesting of mastic, a tree resin once chewed in the harems of Ottoman Istanbul. The product is just a curiosity now, but the villages that were based around the industry still make worthwhile visit. The houses of striking Pyrgi are decorated with whitewash patterns on top of the black, volcanic rock underneath.

Lesbos



Photograph: Getty Images/Flickr RF

## **Where to stay**

### **Aphrodite**

Lesbos, with its artistic associations has plenty of boutique getaways; the Aphrodite, on a long stretch of isolated beach, is something a bit more old-school: a classic seaside Greek hotel, down to the two-ring electric hobs in the studios. Don't expect sophistication, but enjoy the friendly welcome from the Hahathakis family and the relaxed atmosphere.

• £280, +30 22520 61288, [aphroditehotel.gr](http://aphroditehotel.gr); *family-friendly*

## **Where to eat**

### **Akrotiri**

At the west end of Vatera beach is the little port of Ayios Fokas, where this seafood taverna is by the sparse ruins of a temple to Dionysus. This

is the real deal with freshly caught fish washed down with plentiful local wine. Try the *lakerda*, a dish of raw, pickled tuna.

- +30 22520 61465

### **Don't miss**



Molyvos Harbour Photograph: Robert Harding/Getty Images

Molyvos is the prettiest village of Lesbos, even with many of its shops now given over to the tourist trade. It is topped by an impressive Byzantine castle that has superb views.

### Limnos



Photograph: Alamy

### **Where to stay**

#### **Ethaleia**

This is a lovely little hotel with a warm heart. Dina, one of the couple who have put their souls into this establishment, is a local, and her love of the land and its culture shines through. The 10 rooms are often booked up by return visitors, and given the views and hospitality you can see why.

- £400, +30 69443 55755, [ethaleia.gr](http://ethaleia.gr)

### **Surf Club Keros**

Glamping arrives in Greece! The Surf Club provides luxury safari tents right by the beautiful beach of Keros Bay. The tents have air-con, comfy beds and even a TV and coffee machine, so you're really not slumming it.

- £465, +30 69441 56679, [surfclubkeros.com](http://surfclubkeros.com); family-friendly

### **Where to eat**

**Mamas Kitchen** (as above)

You are rather in the middle of nature at the Surf Club, but don't be

alarmed as Mamas Kitchen will provide all your needs, from a fresh breakfast to a chill-out area, and then Greek taverna classics in the evening.



Surf Club Keros Photograph: Pantelis Ladas/Panteliz Photography

### **Mantella**

This is a traditional taverna in the little village of Sardes, the highest of Limnos. Apparently named after Nelson Mandela, everything else about this place is very Greek: hearty portions of local food are served with a smile.

• +30 22540 61349

### **Don't miss**

What else to do at the Surf Club Keros but try the waves? Lessons and equipment are available in surfing, kite-surfing and windsurfing for adults and children. The surrounding nature area is also well worth an explore, or just a gentle stroll. One of the best things to do on Limnos is to explore its villages and dramatic landscapes. The latter can be seen by visiting the cave chapel of Panagía Kakaviótissa. It's a stiff, if short, climb, but the views are well worth it.

Samothrace (Samothraki)



Ancient Hellenistic theatre at the Sanctuary of Great Gods, Samothrace. Photograph: Alamy

### **Where to stay**

#### **Archondissa**

Set in its own, lovely, gardens, and right by the beach on the edge of the village of Therma, these apartments are spacious and well furnished. Terraces offer views either to the crystal clear sea or up to Mount Fengari, the highest in the Aegean (you can climb it from here, but it's a

good six hours each way).

• £280, +30 25510 98098, [archondissa.gr](http://archondissa.gr); family-friendly

### **Where to eat**

#### **Perivoli T'Ouranou**

This nearby taverna sells all the standards to a good quality, with the added bonus of having regular, and sometimes spontaneous, live music performances.

• +30 25510 98313



Archondissa apartment

### **Don't miss**

Samothrace is a visually stunning island and there is nowhere better to appreciate this than the Sanctuary of the Great Gods. This cult was worshipped here for over 1,000 years, and the site still evokes awe in the visitor.

Thassos

### **Where to stay**

#### **Thassos Inn**

Thassos can be on the lively side, so it can be nice to get away from it all. This hotel dominates the quiet and attractive hilltop village of Panayia. It's bright yellow buildings are set round a terrace of plane trees and a carp-filled pools, while inside the simple rooms have terraces with great views.

• £320, +30 25930 61612, [thassosinn.gr](http://thassosinn.gr)



Thassos Inn

### **Where to eat**

#### **Drosia**

Also in Panayia, this is another reliable standard taverna, specialising in grilled meat, but also offering good sardines and mussels.

• +30 25930 61340

**Don't miss**

Thassos is a destination for Greeks (especially those from Thessaloniki) who are looking for entertainment. The island is overpopulated with bouzouki bars, and it's worth giving them a go, even if only for one night. Ideally go with Greek friends and don't expect to be home before dawn and without a fair amount of whisky inside you.

Getting to the north-east Aegean

The larger, southern islands of the chain can be reached by ferry from Athens, and plane from Athens and other places in Greece. In summer, charter flights run from abroad. Limnos can be reached from Thessaloniki by ferry. The two northern islands of Thassos and Samothrace are a more difficult prospect. Ferries run from the northern mainland ports of Kavala and Alexandroupoli respectively.

## 10 THE TELEGRAPH: THE TOP 10 CRUISE HOLIDAYS IN GREECE (TG)

The Celestyal Cruises itinerary features visits to six Greek Islands including Santorini CREDIT: GYULA GYUKLI - FOTOLIA/GYULA GYUKLI

- Jane Archer

*For more general advice on booking a holiday in Greece, see our Greece summer holidays guide. Our guide features expert recommendations for beach, villa, culture, food and drink and activity holidays.*

### 1. Sea Dream cruise from Dubrovnik to Piraeus

At just 6.4km long and 21.4 metres wide the Corinth Canal might not be as impressive as the Suez or Panama, but it's no less interesting. SeaDream Yacht Club's 112-passenger SeaDream I is one of very few ships that can squeeze through its narrow man-made channel, which connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Aegean Sea, separating the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland. On this cruise from Dubrovnik to Piraeus, SeaDream transits in the evening, between visiting the islands of Itea, where you can page the Oracle at the Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, and Hydra, where donkeys are still the main means of transportation. In scenic Parga paddle in the Acheron River – in Greek mythology the watery border between life and death that led Calliope to the underworld kingdom of Hades.

SeaDream Yacht Club ([seadream.com](http://seadream.com); 0800 783 1373) seven days, departs July 4 2015. From £3,391 per person.

### 2. Celestyal Cruises around the Greek Islands

Fancy an authentic Greek experience on a sunshine cruise around the islands? Then say kalimera to Celestyal Cruises, a new name with a mature pedigree (it's a brand of Cypriot line Louis Cruises) that promises everything about its two ships Celestyal Cristal and Celestyal Olympia, will be authentically Greek, from the food and wine to the on-board entertainment. Cruises start in Piraeus or Lavrion, a port near Athens airport, and are mainly three or four nights – useful if you prefer to factor in a few nights on land. Alternatively, combine a couple of itineraries for a week of island-hopping. An Iconic Aegean cruise combines six islands (Santorini, Crete, Rhodes, Smyi, Chios and Mykonos) with two bites of Turkey - a day in Istanbul and afternoon in Kusadasi.

Celestyal Cruises ([celestyalcruises.com](http://celestyalcruises.com)), three, four or seven nights, departures March to October, 2015. From £233 per person for three nights.

### 3. Royal Caribbean International cruise to Mykonos

Cruising in Greece doesn't have to focus solely on history and ancient sites. Royal Caribbean International's cruise from Venice, on Splendour of the Seas, promises a family holiday with plenty of fun diversions for all ages both ashore, and at sea. Corfu and Mykonos have nice beaches, while a visit to the Drogarati Cave, filled with centuries-old stalactites and stalagmites and a boat trip on Melissani lake provide an interesting day out from Argostoli, the capital of Kefalonia. An afternoon to explore Athens from the port of Piraeus adds a touch of cosmopolitan culture. On board there are swimming pools, a rock-climbing wall and free children's clubs for the youngsters, while parents can enjoy quiet time in the spa or solarium.



Singers and dancers perform on board the Royal Caribbean's Splendour of the Seas

Royal Caribbean International ([royalcaribbean.co.uk](http://royalcaribbean.co.uk); 0844 493 4005), seven nights, departures from May to October, 2015. From £1,121 per person including flights.

#### **4. Silver Spirit cruise liner to Piraeus**

Founded in 315BC and named after the sister of Alexander the Great Thessaloniki is Greece's second-biggest city. The Byzantines, Ottoman and Romans were all here at some point over the centuries, but Silversea is one of few cruise lines to visit. Its biggest ship, the six-star Silver Spirit, will be there on a voyage from Istanbul to Piraeus that visits Greek favourites Rhodes and Mykonos as well as Marmaris and Kusadasi in Turkey, but also a few less-visited ports. Kavala has an interesting old city with an Ottoman-built acropolis; Volos is the gateway to Sesklo and Dimini, believed to be the oldest centres of civilisation in Greece. In Patmos, visit the Monastery of the Apocalypse, where St John is said to have written the Book of Revelation.



The outdoor pool on board the six-star Silver Spirit cruise ship

Silversea ([silversea.com](http://silversea.com); 0844 251 0837) nine days. Departs October 7, 2015. From £2,850 per person.

#### **5. Seabourne voyage to Katakolon**

The pretty Greek port of Katakolon is overrun with cruise ships and tourists in season because it also happens to be a 40-minute drive from Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games. Seabourn is offering tours to the site when it visits the port next summer and although you can explore alone a guide will help make sense of the ruined temples, gymnasium and running track where Greek and Roman athletes vied for glory. The cruise, between Piraeus and Venice, also calls at Monemvasia, Nydri, which is popular for its beaches and also walking, and Corfu,

for its beaches or shopping in the cobbled streets of the old town. A visit to Dubrovnik and a day anchored in Triluke Bay in Croatia for kayaking and swimming, round off the cruise.



Katakolon is a 40-minute drive from Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games

Seabourn ([seabourn.com](http://seabourn.com); 0843 373 2000), seven nights, departures from May to September. From £2,499 per person.

## 6. Swan Hellenic cruise from Athens to Nauplia

Swan Hellenic returns to its roots with this voyage around Greece that begins with a tour of the Acropolis in Athens and ends with a day in Nauplia to visit the ancient city of Mycenae. Greek scholars will be giving talks during the cruise, which promises to be an in-depth lesson in Greek history (and touches on Turkey, too). There's an overnight in Rhodes to visit the Gothic Grand Master's Palace, used as a holiday home by Mussolini, and a sail past Mount Athos where more than 20 monasteries dot the slopes. Learn about Minoan history in Crete and ancient Akrotiri in Santorini (excursions are included in the cruise price) and visit Milos, where the marble Statue of Venus was found.



The Swan Hellenic cruise sails past 20 monasteries

Swan Hellenic ([swanhellenic.com](http://swanhellenic.com); 0844 417 2413), 15 days, departs September 16 2015. From £2,905 including flights and excursions.

## 7. Princess Cruises to Santorini

Santorini is best known for its white houses perched atop volcanic rock but its greater claim to fame is the eruption in 1650BC that caused the centre of the island to implode, leaving a huge caldera and two small volcanic islands. The volcano spewed out ash, lava and pumice stone which, it turns out, is fertile ground for vines. On this Princess cruise you have a choice – hike to the top of the volcano in the centre of the caldera or visit a winery and taste the local honey-sweet wine, Vinsanto. Starting in Civitavecchia in Italy, the cruise takes in Greek favourites Rhodes and Crete, visits Kusadasi for a tour to the Roman city of Ephesus, and ends in Piraeus.



Santorini's white houses perched atop volcanic rock

Princess Cruises ([princess.com](http://princess.com); 0843 374 4444), seven days, departs June 13, August 15 and September 19, 2015. From £1,154 per person including flights.

## 8. Voyages of Antiquity cruise to Athens

Do you know what Hippocrates and Hercules have in common? One was born in Kos, the other was proclaimed king of the island after his ship was blown there in a storm. Voyages to Antiquity's Light of Greece cruise is full of such nuggets of information. In Kos, excursions go to Asklepieion, dedicated to god of health Asklepios, which was the 4th-century's Harley Street equivalent. In Delos, visit the Sacred Lake where legend says Leto gave birth to Artemis and Apollo after being cast out for seducing Zeus, the king of the gods. In Crete, learn about the fearsome Minotaur said to live in the Palace of Knossos. The cruise starts in Istanbul and ends with two nights in a hotel in Athens with included tours of the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum.



The Voyages of Antiquity cruise includes tours of the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum

Voyages to Antiquity ([voyagestoantiquity.com](http://voyagestoantiquity.com); 0845 437 9737), 15 days, departs September 14, 2015. From £2,650 per person including flights and excursions.

## 9. Star Clippers cruise to Monemvasia

Known as the Gibraltar of the East, Monemvasia sits on a small island off the east coast of the Peloponnese, connected by a causeway. The name comes from the Greek mone and emvasia, which means single entrance. When you enter through the fortress gate you'll see it's the perfect moniker. The town one was sizeable; today just a few hundred people live in the beautifully-restored houses crowded around narrow streets and placas filled with tavernas and cafés. Star Clippers brings you here under sail on the last day of a cruise around the Greek Islands that also visits Patmos, said to be where John received a vision from Jesus, and Amorgos, where the dazzling white monastery of Hozoviotissis is the main attraction.



The Star Clippers cruise includes a visit the old square in Monemvasia

Star Clippers ([starclippers.co.uk](http://starclippers.co.uk); 0845 200 6145), seven nights, departs May 9, 23, June 6, August 8 and 22 and October 10, 2015. From £1,350 per person.

## 10. Variety Cruises around the Cyclades

Swap Greek mythology for lazy days on the beach and evenings in local tavernas on Variety Cruises' Jewels of the Cyclades cruise. The voyage, on a 50-passenger motor yacht, starts and ends in Piraeus and mostly visits tiny islands and bays off the main tourist trail such as Poliegos, Folegandros, Paros and Kythnos. But you can't escape the crowds – or history – completely. There is a day in Santorini with tours to Akrotiri and Oia, a morning visit to Delos and an overnight in Mykonos, said to be formed by the petrified bodies of giants killed by Hercules. Once a hippy

hangout, it is now an upmarket spot with picture-perfect whitewashed houses and particularly lively nightlife.



Visit small islands and bays off the main tourist trails on a trip with Variety Cruises

Variety Cruises (varietycruises.com; 020 8324 3114), seven nights, departures from April to October 2015. From €1,551/£1,214 per person.

***For our other expert holiday selections in Greece see our top 10 villa holidays, beach holidays, activities holidays, culture holidays and food and drink holidays.***

## 11 USA TODAY: BEST ROMANTIC THINGS TO DO WHEN VISITING ATHENS (UG)

By **Nelly**  
Athens Local Expert

**Paraskevopoulou**

Romance is in the heart of the beholder and even the simplest pleasures become romantic in the right frame of mind. When visiting **Athens** the occasions for romance are many and various. From the typical sunset at **Cape Sounion**, to the discovery of small treasures at the Flea Market, enjoying nature at Parnitha or one of the parks, admiring the view from Lycabettus hill, feeling the remarkable energy on top of the Acropolis, enjoying a wonderful spa experience, or a day on the beach. Situated on the south coast of Attica, the impressive temple of Poseidon at Sounio, with its outstanding view of the Aegean sea is ideal for watching the sunset, the tiny 19th century church of Saint George, perched on the summit of Lycabettus hill, the highest point in Athens, is a favorite for romantic weddings, the sacred rock of the Acropolis, remains the most outstanding historic site in Athens and visitors always exclaim on the timeless beauty of this monument, at the Cultural Park visitors can learn about Greek folklore and culture or just enjoy the natural surroundings, Mount Parnitha National Park on the mountain of Parnitha is ideal for a romantic walk , enjoying nature and wildlife in the forest, at the National Garden of Athens there are many secluded romantic corners and a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere, Diomidous Botanical Garden, located in the neighborhood of Haidari, is a veritable paradise of flowers and plants, Monastiraki Flea Market is the place for discovering small treasures and mementos, a day on the beach at Galazia Akti at Schinias Marathon is remarkably exhilarating, the spa experience at Cape Sounio Elixir Spa Retreat offers the utmost body and mind relaxation

### **Cultural**

### **Park**

The Cultural Park is located in the area of Mesogeia in the direction of the airport, in an expanse of 25.000 sq.m. and is a point of interest for visitors of all ages. Art workshops, a shop selling worry beads, a display of handmade jewelry and areas for childrens activities are amongst the most attractive features. Visitors can learn about Greek folklore and culture or just enjoy the natural surroundings. The Museum of Greek Ethnography is widely visited by tourists from all over the world and also by students from various universities. A special section is dedicated to old fashioned trades and the exhibits include old olive presses, placed in natural surroundings, amongst olive groves and vineyards. Tours for children include ponies and donkeys, retro bicycles and even a small train. Children love planting herbs and aromatic plants, taking care of the animals, learning to cook and hunting for treasure, in the specially planned activities. (22990 47999 - 67999)

### **Monastiraki**

### **Flea**

### **Market**

A visit to the Monastiraki flea market in Athens is a must. Situated over a large area from Monastiraki square and metro station down to the end of Ermou street, the flea market is open every day, but on Sundays it is even more interesting to visit, as even more objects are on sale, especially on busy Abyssinias square. The flea market actually consists of shops which are open every day and on Sundays there is the extra bonus of open air improvised stalls. Things to buy range from clothes to old books, stamps, coins, furniture, bric a brac,

postcards, memorabilia, decorative objects and more. The prices can vary and bargaining is always necessary. Even just browsing the shops and vendors is great fun.

## **Acropolis**

The Acropolis, considered the emblem of the city of Athens is a complex of temples built on a high rock structure, symbol of the Golden Age of Pericles. The Parthenon, dedicated to the goddess of wisdom Athena is still considered sacred ground and a magnificent example of ancient Greek architecture and geometry. Over the ages, the Acropolis and the temples of the ancient gods had a turbulent history, some were transformed into Christian churches, the rock was used as a fortress by the Turks and in the 19th century a large part of the Parthenon sculptures were taken to Great Britain where they still remain. Bearing a great cultural heritage, the sacred rock remains the most outstanding historic site in Athens and visitors always exclaim on the timeless beauty of this monument. (210-321-0219)

## **Mount Parnitha National Park**

Mount Parnitha National Park on the mountain of Parnitha is ideal for a walk with friends and family, enjoying nature and wildlife in the forest. The shelters of Bafi, run by the Greek Mountaineering Club and Flambouri, run by the Acharnes Mountaineering Club, offer the possibility to follow various courses or outdoor activities. Walking, trekking, climbing, biking, canyoning and orienteering, special activities for children, just to mention a few. Both shelters have restaurants with home made food and accommodation. Flambouri is open all year round on weekends except August and Bafi every day all year round. Parnitha is the highest mountain in the region of Attica with the highest peak at 1413 mtrs. a dense forest of fir trees and pines. The rich flora and fauna, amongst which deer, hares, foxes, badgers and birds, make the park an ideal place to appreciate nature. Mount Parnitha has been declared a National Park since 1961 and is part of the European network of protected areas "Natura 2000". The area is still recovering from the terrible fire in 2007 which destroyed a large part and influenced the climate in Attica for many years to come. Visitors can also see the outdoor exhibition "Park of Souls" with sculptures from trunks of burnt trees by Spyros Dasiotis. The "Small Parnitha Museum" close to the funicular railway hosts interesting information about the area's history. Regency Casino Mon Parnes is a luxurious resort for gambling, with a gourmet restaurant. (210 2445226)

## **Diomidous Botanical Garden**

Diomides Botanic Garden is located in the neighborhood of Haidari, on the road to Eleusis and covers an expanse of 1.86 hectares with more than 3.500 different species of plants from all over the world. It includes the oldest natural pine woods of Attica. In the medicinal plants section there are many herbs, well known for their pharmaceutical properties: thyme, luisa, passiflora, lavender just to mention a few. The Garden, which is the largest of its kind in Greece contains sections of great interest and beauty, like the historical plants, many of which are mentioned in ancient Greek mythology: Aphrodite's sacred myrtle, olive tree the symbol of Athens, acanthus from which the Corinthian style columns are inspired, a bamboo forest, trees from various continents. In the greenhouses cacti, other succulent plants and rainforest species which need special conditions to develop are kept. The Botanic Garden is an institute of public benefit and endowment of the Capodistrian University of Athens, it is used by the Agricultural University of Athens and Biological section of the Capodistrian University of Athens for studying plants. Ideal for a walk amongst nature for nature loving families. (210 5811557)

## **National Garden of Athens**

The National Garden of Athens was designed in 1836 by the German architect Friedrich von Gaertner, and was initially an idea of Queen Amalia, who reigned in that period. Until 1974 it was named Royal Garden. The area which it covers, extends from Amalias Avenue to Irodou Attikou, where the Royal Palace used to be situated and from Vasilissis Sofias Avenue to the Zappion. Visitors to the Garden can see an interesting variety of plants and trees, some ancient remains, statues of famous poets and politicians, a sundial, ponds with ducks and fish, a small zoo and several pergolas and secluded romantic corners. Athenians love to walk in the quiet, cool Garden, which is open from sunrise to sunset, children can play in the specially designed playground with swings and seesaws, or visit the children's library and adults can enjoy a coffee or a light lunch at the coffee shop. (210-7211178)

## **Lycabettus Hill**

The view from Lycabettus, or Lykavittos, hill is spectacular, reaching down to the sea and the closest islands. The tiny 19th century church of Saint George, perched on the summit of Lycabettus, the highest point in Athens, is a favorite for romantic weddings. You can reach Lycabettus walking up the steep steps, or take the funicular railway from Aristippou street. The slopes of Lycabettus are a cool, restful place to walk amongst pine trees and shrubs. On the slope facing south, two cannons fire twenty one times at sunrise and sunset on all Greek national holidays. The parking lot close to the Lycabettus Theater, where performances and concerts are held every summer, is considered to have the most spectacular and extensive view of the city. (210 3310392)

## **Galazia Akti**

Blue Bay (Galazia Akti) located alongside the Marathon beach has been famous for many years. From 1868, when celebrities used to enjoy their swim here, until today, Galazia Akti has always been surprising us pleasantly. In the summer of 2014, it was renovated. Comfortable and functional facilities were added to meet every need of its visitors. The neutral shades which are prevalent, in combination with the color of the sand and the blue of the sea, create a space of unique atmosphere and sophistication, ideal for a pleasant escapade from Athens. This popular beach, located at Schinias Marathon, combines quality gastronomy and enjoyment, offering visitors an all-round entertainment experience. The renewed cuisine with an own farm approach offers unique summer tastes prepared with aromatic herbs and other secrets from their garden. For the summer season, Galazia Akti plans to offer to its visitors a private beach, where they can enjoy a meal or a drink from the summer wine and cocktail list. At the Mediterranean beach bar, original cocktails based on mastiha, ouzo and tsipouro will be served. The newly designed space can host corporate events, wedding receptions and beach parties for every occasion. The beach, which can be reached in only 45 minutes from Athens, opens its doors on May 1st and it is also ideal for families, with a special space for kids activities. (22950 55800)

## **Sounion**

Sounio with the temple of Poseidon, god of the sea, is on many tourist itineraries, as both the archeological site and the environment are of great beauty. Situated on the south coast of Attica at a distance of about 68 klm, the impressive temple with its outstanding view of the Aegean sea is built in Doric style and the place is ideal for watching the sunset. Further down on the slope is the temple of Athena, goddess of wisdom. In the same area is one of the most ancient and less known ancient theatres, Thoriko, dating back to the 6th century

B.C, also worth visiting. Nearby Lavrio is an important port from where shops depart to the islands and the Technological and Cultural Park is an important landmark. (22920 39363)

## **Cape Sounio Elixir Spa Retreat Immortal's Spa**

Where else in the world can you enjoy an open-air spa under the shadows of an ancient temple? At Cape Sounio, the luxury spa resort near Athens. The new Elixir Spa Retreat at Cape Sounio is a 350m<sup>2</sup> complex on the resort's most prominent location. Set in 5.000m<sup>2</sup> of landscaped gardens and forest, the spa has amazing sea views as far as Poseidon's Temple. Imposing plants "athanatoi" [Greek for immortal] can perhaps explain the unique feeling of relaxation and rejuvenation that permeates the surroundings. The Spa offers a range of natural therapies based on Greek herbs and flowers as well as traditional Ayurvedic treatments, performed by Indian therapists. After a pampering therapy, enjoy the Immortal's Spa gardens whilst sipping a freshly-prepared tisane from the resort's organic garden, or enjoy the Greek sun along with your favorite book by the quiet pool. The facilities include 3 open-air pools set among patios & lawns, Luxurious Massage Suites, Gymnasium, Changing Rooms, Open-air Relaxation area, Body & Soul Elixirs, Facial & Signature Treatments, Special Programs, Ayurvedic treatments, Yoga. (22920 69700)

## 12 THE NEW YORK TIMES: 36 HOURS IN ATHENS (NG)

### Weekend Guide

By JOANNA KAKISSIS OCT. 15, 2014

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Video

#### 12.1.1.1 *36 Hours in Athens*

After years of economic turmoil, Athens's self-confidence and creativity are stirring again, with new restaurants, shops and a blossoming of local pride.

By Fritzie Andrade, Max Cantor, Chris Carmichael and Aaron Wolfe on Publish Date October 15, 2014. Photo by Chris Carmichael for The New York Times. [Watch in Times Video »](#)

After years of dreadful press that defined Athens as a broken-down capital prone to fiery riots, the city's self-confidence and creativity are stirring again. Enterprising young fashion and graphic designers are opening shops celebrating the classic lines of ancient Greece and the anarchic wit of modern times. In reviving city squares, there are new restaurants and cafes serving native delicacies like Cretan sausage and sheep's milk yogurt with preserved quince. The five-year-old Acropolis Museum is consistently rated one of the top museums in the world, and the National Museum of Contemporary Art is set to move into a new building later this year. Even rough times have silver linings.

#### 12.1.1.2 *Friday*

##### 1. Muses and Orators | Noon

Walk along the wildflower-dotted Hill of the Muses, pierced by the marble monument to Philopappos, a Greek-Syrian nobleman who served as a Roman consul. Greeks like to fly kites here on Clean Monday, but it's usually crowd-free, with good views of the Acropolis and the city. A trail leads past the 15th-century church of Agios Dimitrios Loumbardiaris, which is named after the Greek word for cannon because, legend has it, an Ottoman soldier was struck dead by lightning just as he was about to fire a cannon at the congregation. North of the Philopappos monument is the Pnyx, where Athenian citizens and orators like Pericles, Themistocles and Demosthenes spoke. There's still a large stone platform here that's popular with tourists and locals channeling the ancients (if only for a selfie).

##### 2. Comfort Food, Updated | 3 p.m.

Get a modern taste of hearty Peloponnesian cuisine at Manimani, an excellent and inexpensive restaurant housed in a restored neo-Classical house not far from the Acropolis Museum. Try the yellow split peas with onion chutney (5 euros, or \$6.15 at \$1.23 to the euro), the sweet green salad with soft katiki cheese and dried figs (7.50 euros), and the homemade noodles, called hilopites, simmered with chicken, fennel, sun-dried tomatoes and basil (9.50 euros). For dessert, walk to the Fresko yogurt bar, where you will discover there are multiple varieties of the thick, strained “Greek yogurt.” Fresko has yogurt made from the milk of cows, goats and sheep, as well as a variety of traditional toppings ranging from thyme honey to “spoon sweets” (fruit boiled in sugar and lemon juice).



Visitors at the Acropolis. Credit Chris Carmichael for The New York Times

### **3. Acropolis Now | 5 p.m.**

The five-year-old Acropolis Museum, designed by the Swiss-born architect Bernard Tschumi, houses spectacular artifacts from the country’s most famous site. Finds date from the Hekatompedon, the oldest known building on the Acropolis, though the showcase is the Parthenon Gallery, where portions of the Parthenon frieze are dramatically displayed. Most of the frieze is, of course, at the British Museum in London. (Lord Elgin had the sculptures from the Propylaea and the Erechtheum removed between 1801 and 1812, when Greece was still part of the Ottoman Empire.)

### **4. The Road to Hipster Square | 7 p.m.**

Restaurants, cafes and bars have bloomed along the back streets between Syntagma, across from parliament, and Monastiraki, home of a lively marketplace. Meliartos is a standout bakery, cafe and creamery that uses locally sourced ingredients for its pies, sandwiches, ice cream and yogurt. Lukumades is named after the luscious fried dough balls that are the main course here, served with honey, chocolate praline or mastic-flavored ice cream. On nearby Agia Eirini Square cigarette-rolling hipsters sip Stubborn Mules at Osterman, which also has one of the best brunches in town.

### **5. Greek Wine and Cheese | 9 p.m.**

A low-key but excellent wine bar, Heteroclito celebrates the Greek vineyard, which has been growing in body, flavor and international respectability. Grab a table outside and order a glass of Melissokipos, a white from Crete, and the excellent Greek cheese platter (8 euros), with aged dry anthotiro (a goat’s milk cheese) from the Cretan city of Chania and smoked, spicy cow’s milk cheese from the northern city of Naoussa.



Six d.o.g.s., a cafe-bar and arts space. CreditChris Carmichael for The New York Times

### **6. Art and Song | 10 p.m.**

Many artists in Athens say Greek culture wallows too much in its past and fails to appreciate the dynamism of its present. These voices — visual and musical — have found homes in the Art Foundation (known as TAF) and Six d.o.g.s. TAF opened in 2009 in a renovated 19th-century complex with galleries and a space for lectures, plays and concerts. Six d.o.g.s. has an excellent cafe-bar and spacious garden and hosts concerts ranging from underground metal-rap to nostalgic indie-folk.

## **12.1.1.3 Saturday**

### **7. Award-Winning Coffee | 9 a.m.**

Athens used to be a tough place for coffee snobs. But at Yiannis Taloumis's Cafe Taf, you can revel in that perfect cup of Kageyo Cooperative Rwandan coffee. Taf's barista, Stefanos Domatiotis, was named World Brewers Cup Champion for 2014. Enjoy a fresh-brewed cup with a piece of apple pie or vanilla cake at the cafe (5 to 6 euros), on the edge of the bohemian Exarchia neighborhood.

### **8. Ancient Cubism | 11 a.m.**

The Museum of Cycladic Art showcases the trove of Greek art belonging to the shipping magnate Nicholas Goulandris and his wife, Dolly. Most of that art came from the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea, where an ancient civilization flourished between 3300 and 200 B.C. The collection includes the noted geometric figurines that inspired Cubist art as well as frescoed Minoan vessels and Roman-era jewelry from Cyprus (7 euros).

### **9. Vegetarian Delight | 2 p.m.**

Greeks love their meat, so vegetarians often make do with salads, spinach pies and eggplant dip. The Greek-Iranian couple who opened Avocado near Syntagma Square created an eclectic menu of Greek, Asian and macrobiotic dishes and a juice bar. Try the black-eyed pea patties with Florina sweet peppers (7 euros) and the Brama Briam panini (7.50 euros), with roasted eggplant, red peppers and cheese from Metsovo. If you need a quick energy boost, get a Go Green (a smoothie

made from spinach, parsley, apple, lemon and ginger, 4.90 euros). This is one of the few restaurants where the smoking ban is enforced.

#### **10. Live Your Myth | 4 p.m.**

In pre-crisis days, Athenians often power-shopped for Gucci and Fendi in the old-money neighborhood of Kolonaki. Now there's been a revival in clothes and accessories designed by Greeks. Koukoutsis features elegant T-shirts, bags, diaries and postcards. T-shirts cost around 25 euros. If you have more to spend, go to Zeus & Dione, which showcases upscale Greek jewelry artists like Ileana Makri, Liana Vourakis and Lito and also features beautifully fluid, Greek-inspired dresses like the Medea (750 euros). In Plaka, the neighborhood near the Acropolis, try souvenir-shopping at Forget Me Not, which sells Greek-made finds like Rainy July's swimming-cap handbags (40 to 50 euros) and clothes inspired by ancient Greek iconography by the young fashion designer Nikoletta Ververidou.

#### **11. River Gods and Olympians | 6 p.m.**

According to legend, the river god Ilissos worshiped in a sanctuary on Ardittos hill next to what is now the Panathenaic Stadium in Mets, a neighborhood in eastern Athens. The architect Anastasios Metaxas refurbished the ancient Olympic stadium in the late 19th century to host the Olympics in 1896. The Panathenaic Stadium, which the Greeks call Kallimarmaro ("beautiful marble"), is the finishing point for the Athens Classic Marathon held each fall. The stadium is a short walk from the National Gardens; take a stroll along the winding, landscaped paths and stop at the Aigli Cafe for a Greek-style tiramisù.

#### **12. Meze and Degustation | 9 p.m.**

Greeks have become judicious about eating out, and there's been an explosion of affordable tapas places, like Mavro Provato. Try the Myrto, a salad with roasted manouri cheese, nuts, oranges and blackberry dressing (6.90 euros); the sarikopita, a soft-cheese pie finished with honey and toasted sesame; and the Mavro Provato lamb slow-cooked in parchment with new potatoes and herbs (12 euros). A more expensive option is the Funky Gourmet in Keramikos, a creative spin on Greek food that deserves its two Michelin stars. The degustation menus are 100 to 195 euros per wine pairing, but you can sample delights such as Greek bottarga with white chocolate, snails, lamb chops and a smoked ice cream sandwich.

#### **12.1.1.4 Sunday**

#### **13. Brunch and Beach | 10 a.m.**

Several new brunch places are catering to a long-ignored concept in Greece: breakfast food. The Nice N' Easy cafe, known for its organic fare, serves huevos rancheros, pancakes and Bloody Marys (15 to 25 euros). The New Taste cafe, housed in the New Hotel near Syntagma Square, serves eggs Benedict and quiche (10 to 20 euros). After brunch, head out to Vouliagmeni Lake, set inside a jagged boulder and known locally as a natural spa. The lake, which stays warm year-round, is just south of the seaside suburb of the same name; entry: 8 euros. If you want to prance around in a designer swimsuit, go to Astir Beach, the fanciest spot along the so-called Athens Riviera. There's a 25-euro fee for summer weekends, but it drops to 18 euros in the fall.

## KOUKAKI

### THE DETAILS

#### 1. Hill of the Muses.

2. **Manimani**, 10 Falirou Street, Koukaki; [manimani.com.gr](http://manimani.com.gr). **Fresko**, 3 Dionysiou Areopagitou Street; [freskoyogurtbar.gr/en](http://freskoyogurtbar.gr/en).

3. **Acropolis Museum**, 15 Dionysiou Areopagitou Street; [theacropolismuseum.gr/en](http://theacropolismuseum.gr/en).

4. **Meliartos**, 65 Ermou and Aioulou; [meliartos.gr](http://meliartos.gr). **Lukumades**, 21 Aioulou and Agias Eirinis; [lukumades.com](http://lukumades.com). **Osterman**, 10 Agias Eirinis Square; [osterman.gr](http://osterman.gr).

5. **Heteroclito**, 2 Fokionos and Petraki Streets; [heteroclito.gr/en/index.html](http://heteroclito.gr/en/index.html).

6. **TAF**, 5 Normanou Street; [theartfoundation.gr](http://theartfoundation.gr). **Six d.o.g.s.**, 6-8 Avramiotou Street; [sixdogs.gr](http://sixdogs.gr).

7. **Cafe Taf**, 7 Emmanuel Benaki; [cafetaf.gr](http://cafetaf.gr).

8. **The Museum of Cycladic Art**, 4 Neophytou Douka Street; [cycladic.gr](http://cycladic.gr).

9. **Avocado**, 30 Nikis Street; [avocadoathens.com](http://avocadoathens.com).

10. **Koukoutsis**, 81 Skoufa Street; [koukoutsis.net](http://koukoutsis.net). **Zeus & Dione**, 21 Ploutarchou Street; [zeusndione.com](http://zeusndione.com). **Forget Me Not**, 100 Adrianou; [forgetmenot-athens.gr](http://forgetmenot-athens.gr).

11. **The Panathenaic Stadium**. **The National Gardens**. **Aigli Cafe**, Zappeion; [aeglizappiou.gr/index\\_uk.html](http://aeglizappiou.gr/index_uk.html).

12. **Mavro Provato**, 31 Arrianou. **Funky Gourmet**, 12 Paramithia and Salaminas Streets; [funkygourmet.com](http://funkygourmet.com).

13. **The Nice N' Easy cafe**, 60 Omirou & Skoufa, Kolonaki; [niceneasy.gr/en](http://niceneasy.gr/en). **Vouliagmeni Lake**, [limnivouliagmenis.gr](http://limnivouliagmenis.gr). **Astir Beach**, 40 Apollonis Street, Vouliagmeni; [astir-beach.com](http://astir-beach.com).

## LODGING

The arty and bold **New Hotel** (Filellinon Street 16; [yeshotels.gr/category/hotels/newhotel](http://yeshotels.gr/category/hotels/newhotel)), designed by Fernando and Humberto Campana, two brothers, is situated near Syntagma and has 79 beautifully designed rooms that start at 127 euros a night. The hotel also has an excellent restaurant and the seventh-floor rooftop New Art Lounge (with a view of the Acropolis) and is decorated with contemporary art collected by its Greek-Cypriot owner, Dakis Joannou.

The small and elegant **Ava Hotel** (9-11 Lyssikratous Street; [avahotel.gr](http://avahotel.gr)), has only 15 rooms, all suites, but it's in the historic neighborhood of Plaka and offers views of the Acropolis and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Prices vary between 175 and 260 euros for regular suites based on the season.

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