

# FRENCH & COUNTRY

AUTUMN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010



[www.frenchandcountry.com.au](http://www.frenchandcountry.com.au)



Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of French & Country. There has been so much going on since the last newsletter that this is more like a book than a newsletter! We have had several French & Country Open Days at Hopewood and we really enjoyed having the cafe and showroom open in the weeks before Christmas. I'm happy to report that our renovations to the Pavilion building are now finished and ready for functions and our current project is preparing for our June Stocktake Sale - to be held in the Pavilion on the weekends of June 11-13 and 18-20, from 10am-5pm.

I've made some wonderful new purchases over the past few months that we will have in store for late Spring and Autumn 2011 including some stunning lamps, beautiful European fashion for both men and women, delicate ceramics from France and bedlinen from Sweden, along with one-off furniture pieces and decorative accessories.

If you are not on our database for updates, please register online at [www.frenchandcountry.com.au](http://www.frenchandcountry.com.au) so we can keep you in touch with our Open Days and trading hours. Have a happy Autumn!

*Suzie*

*Suzie Anderson  
French & Country,  
now at Hopewood Country House, Bowral*



# diary note

## STOCKTAKE SALE

*June 11,12,13 and June 18,19,20*

To make way for our new spring stock, we will be holding a huge stocktake sale on the weekends of June 11,12,13 and June 18,19,20 in The Pavilion at Hopewood. The cafe will be open Friday through Sunday, each weekend so put it in your diary and bring some friends for a fun outing and a great opportunity to pick up some bargains. All welcome.

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# I Love Paris

France January 2010 - As I left Australia for my latest buying trip to France, the midsummer heat was searing the Sydney beaches and even the Southern Highlands sweltered as the northern half of Europe was experiencing one of its coldest winters since 1981. Luckily for me, the worst of it seemed to be over so I avoided the frustrating travel delays and flight cancellations that affected so many.

I flew with Singapore Airlines to ensure a direct flight to Paris, which avoids the frenzy of transferring at Terminal 5 at London, Heathrow.

When I arrived in Paris it was just 3 degrees but really not as cold as I'd expected after the recent snowstorms. My taxi driver was a delight and surprisingly, with his extremely limited English, and my fairly limited French, we managed to have a great conversation. He



was keen to teach me any words that were missing in my vocab (which were a lot) but we were able to talk about his trips to Venezuela, our mutual love of antiques, his favourite part of Paris, how long he's been driving taxis in France and so on. The trip flew because of this and before I knew it we arrived at **Hotel Saint Vincent**, 5 rue de Pre aux clercs, Paris 75007.

[www.hotel-st-vincent.com/anglais](http://www.hotel-st-vincent.com/anglais).

I'd always wanted to stay in this hotel but it is so often booked out due to the fairs when I come in September and March.



*Hotel Saint Vincent*

and silks, beautiful table lamp lighting and a little open fire added ambience and side tables were stacked with books and magazines. My room was on floor one and a half...oddly it reminded me of that John Malchovitich movie with floor 7 and a half! The room was a little larger than I normally get at Hotel Des Marionners or Crystal hotel, however where was the loo? A second door near my bed led to a little staircase. Was this a public access staircase? How odd that it leads straight into my room? I ventured down the staircase and it led me to my bathroom. It was a great size compared to the bathrooms I normally have where you can shower, brush your teeth and use the toilet without taking a step, however I felt there were too many steps to be taken to get to this! Anyway, it's amazing how quickly you get used to things. After freshening up I met my good friend Luke at Café de Flore for our usual chocolat au chaud. I am the biggest coffee fan but going to Paris is my detox time. Not because of a planned desire to get healthy, it's just I can't stand the taste of French coffee. The chocolat chauds on the other hand, taken at Laduree, Paul or Café de flore are to die for. Rich, thick and indulgent. Your spoon can almost stand up in it! We chatted for a long while and then it was time for me to visit my usual haunts...**Flamant**, **Mis en Demeure** and the depot ventes (charity shops) near Montparnasse. I also visited **Marmie Gateaux** tea rooms and a lovely little collection of brocantes on rue Cherche Midi that sell vintage French kitchenalia and vintage children's toys,

ber and March. I got in early this time, and as it is in the area where I normally like to stay, the Left Bank, around rue Jacob, I was happy to have secured a room. The hotel is located within walking distance to Musee d'Orsay, The Louvre, The Luxembourg Gardens and the other fabulous left bank landmarks. The decoration is Napoleon III style. The foyer and lounge lived up to the web images, decorated in my favourite colours, putty, grey, white with black accents. The upholstered furniture was in the same colour palate but in velvets



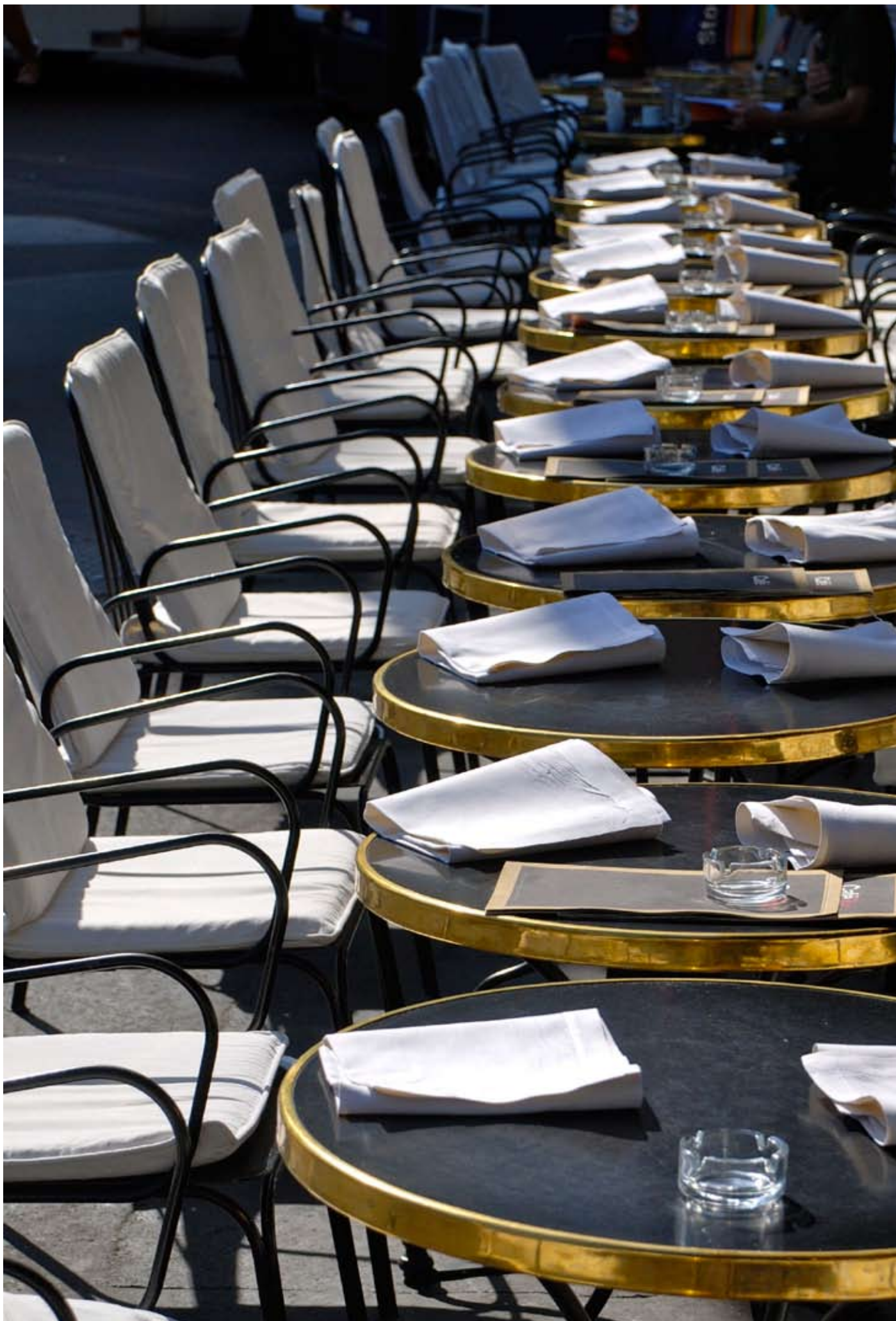
*Hotel Saint Vincent*

books and accessories. The tea room serves a range of tartes and sweet treats as well as a good range of teas, coffees and soft drinks.

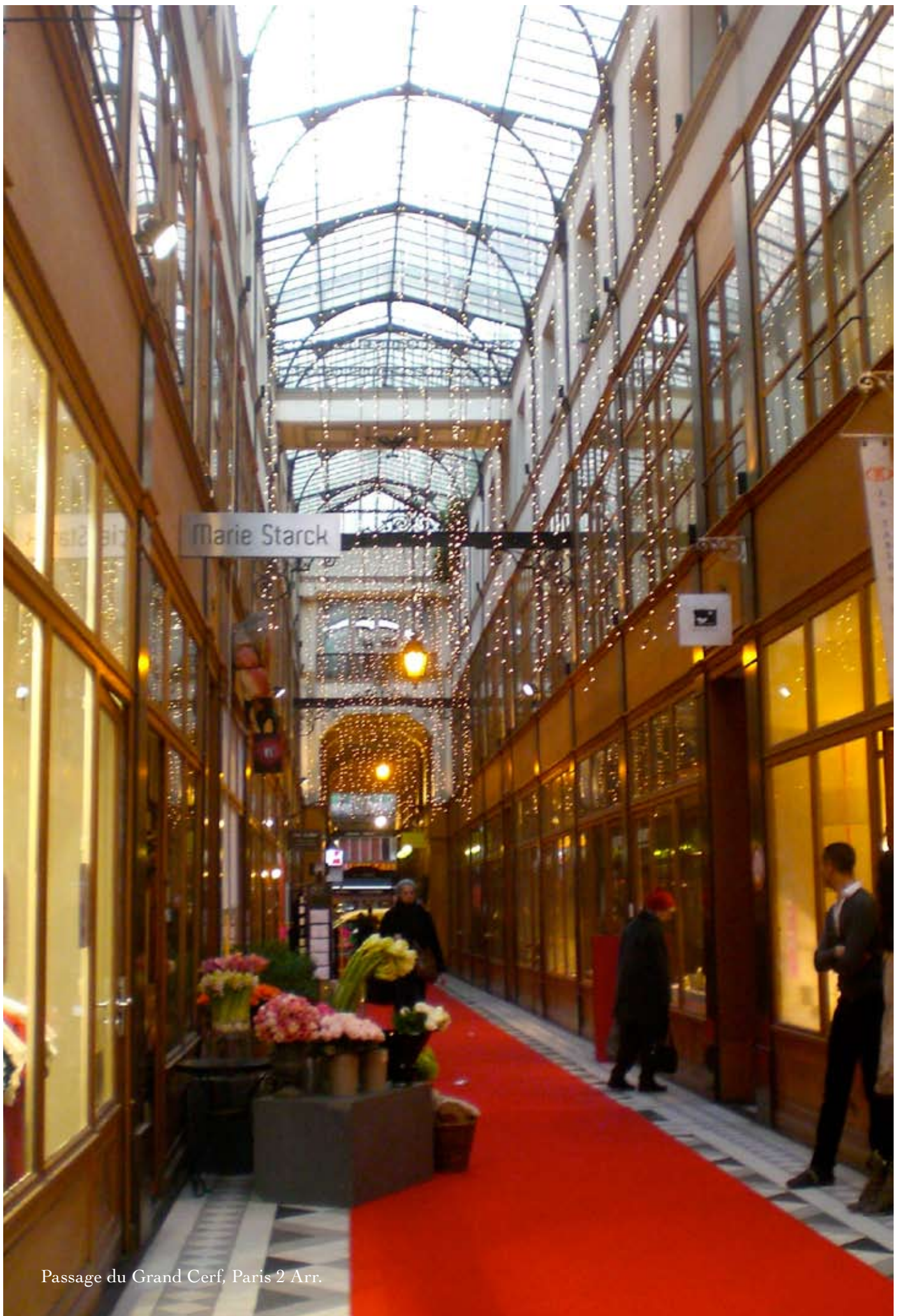
Jet lag started to take hold at around four o'clock so I headed back to my hotel armed with a stash of new French home deco mags...Cote Sud, Maison Campagne etc and my new black Moleskin for this trips note taking. I had a glass of Sancerre in the hotel while browsing the magazines and then headed to shower and get ready for dinner with Luke before I succumbed to a sleep. I was feeling like closing my eyes, but I knew that this would be a mistake and we'd be meeting for breakfast rather than dinner if I did that. It was nearly six when we met and we went to L'Entrecote for their famous steak and frites but they didn't open until 7....could I stay awake? "Let's have a drink" suggested Luke, so off we went to the wine bar Da Rosa where a bowl of olives a glass of red and my second wind all arrived at once! **Da Rosa Wine Bar**, 62 rue de Seine, Paris 75006 [www.restaurant-da-rosa.com](http://www.restaurant-da-rosa.com)

L'Entrecote was full as usual but we managed a table and a fantastic night of conversation and laughter, delicious food and I felt well settled into my second home away from home. I awoke at 4.30 am after a good 6 hours, packed my small bag for my few days south and met a friend for yet another choc au chaud and baguette at Paul. Not a good month to give up carbs! Next it was a cab to Gare de Lyon to catch the TGV to Avignon.









Passage du Grand Cerf, Paris 2 Arr.





# Avignon

Snow covered the farm lands from Paris to Avignon – a scene so different from that of the late summer months and early Autumn when I normally see fields of green, lavender and olives.

Before long I was in Avignon Central and I headed through town with my wheelie bag making an inelegant racket on the cobblestoned paths leading past the Palace de Papes. I soon found *La Mirande* ([www.la-mirande.fr](http://www.la-mirande.fr)) thanks to the Google maps on my i-phone...what a brilliant tool! The hotel was divine. Lavishly decorated, lofty ceilings, grand staircase, rooms where you want to spend days dining, reading, sipping tea and late night cocktails. But sadly I had just one night to take it all in.

My room was decorated with muted green timber panelling below a chair rail and vivid floral wallpaper throughout. The bathroom was lined with Carrara marble, a deep cast iron bath, vintage tap ware, rich towels and toiletries to die for

and divine Dr Haushcka bath oils, hand, body creams and soaps. The reception was welcoming and informative. As the restaurant is closed at this time of the year (which I soon learnt was the downside to late January travel in Provence), I was invited to join 11 other hotel guests at the table d'hôte, to be held in the hotel's ancient kitchen. Whilst it sounded divine, I had the quiet fear I would be a lone diner amongst romantic couples ... but on being shown the extraordinarily beautiful kitchen with its central island dining table, it was hard to resist. As I got dressed I continued to tell myself it is good for the soul to do things out of your comfort zone and my French skills could really do with some practice. I was also after inspiration for my kitchen at Hopewood so that was another magnet. The chef prepared delicious seasonal local cuisine with local wines to match. The Hotel, I later learned, runs a cooking school and specialised pastry making classes

throughout the year.

I am so glad I went. What a fantastic night. The owner of the Hotel, Martin, and his lovely German girlfriend Julie, an art restorer, were there and had invited some friends to join them. Jean David a biologist, Armand, a vigneron and his lawyer wife Cecile, and a wonderful larger than life photographer Benoit, who had spent a year photographing for a book of the Hotel. I had the pleasure of sitting next to him for the dinner, which was lucky as his English was the best out of the group. On my other side was a delightful couple from Brazil - he a congressman from Sao Paulo and she a well known actress. Two other couples were at the table, however they were quite happy to keep quietly to themselves as they were celebrating their own special occasion.

The kitchen and cellar are in the basement of the hotel. On arrival it was all candlelit, the table was set simply but beautifully with fine

linen, polished silverware and the kitchen cabinets surrounding us were stocked with antique copper pans, confit and mustard pots and other visually pleasing kitchen accoutrements. I was poured a glass of sancerre and we were then all escorted on a tour of the cellar. We had a wonderful night full of laughter, stories and were fully entertained by Jean Claud the Hotel's Chef who possessed the wonderful skill of creating a delectable feast from simple, local produce whilst entertaining us with his quips, jokes and his love of life.

After about 7 courses, including celeriac salad, sea bass, lamb, champagne, wine and flavoured vodkas, Julia announced it was Russian New Year and we must go out and dance! So that is what we did...this group of unlikely strangers.

We rugged up as it was a frosty night, and headed to a club called *LeDelirium (1 rue Mignard, 84000 Avignon)*. The gypsy style music made dancing irresistible so we were soon all on the dance floor. Unlike Australian clubs it catered for 20 through to 60 year olds...it was filled with lounge chairs, books, dimly lit chandeliers, a large, ancient timber bar and a jam-packed dance floor. Several hours of dancing later, friendships were formed and we vowed to meet for coffee in the morning.

I thought how easily that night may have been different...I could have dined alone, read my book and had lights out at 10, but taking a leap of faith, I had one of the most memorable nights I've ever had in one of my favourite French cities.

I awoke to the sound of my mobile, and that "where am I today" feeling. It was Michael calling as our son Jamie was heading off to a surf camp for the week and wanted to have a chat. It is a whole other life for me back home, where school commitments, sporting agendas, Hopewood brides and guests fill my days. Here my only thought that morning was "what will I have for breakfast?"

Breakfast at La Mirande was a feast for the senses. I was one of the first to arrive and I was in for treat. The breakfast room was bathed in winter light and decorated in soft pastel colours, floral curtains, gilt highlights, and Louis XV furniture. A central table of grand proportions had a mouth-watering display of cereals, breads, homemade preserves, fruit and chacuterie, all served in antique crystal bowls and glazed confit pots. Even the coffee here was good, though I did opt for a chocolat au chaud for the second cup and wasn't disappointed.



Above: The kitchen table d'hote at La Mirande, breakfast at La Mirande, Palais de Papes, Vox Populi, Hydropolis





*... the cocktail bar at La Mirande in Avignon is like no other I have been to ... a visual feast.*

Throughout the hotel there are places to relax and enjoy afternoon tea, pre dinner drinks and in season, the restaurant with it's spectacular ceiling, to dine. Martin and his family took over the derelict building several years ago and began the process of restoration, purchasing antique doors, windows, tapestries, curiosities and furniture to ensure the integrity of the magnificent building remained in tact.

The hotel is ideally located next to the Palais de Papes, one of the most important medieval Gothic historical palaces in Europe - once the residence of the Popes in 1309 - a fascinating place to spend a few hours. They provide an audio tour that enhances the whole experience and gives you an interesting and succinct history.

It is a very easy city to explore on foot, just minutes walk to the Pont, the markets, restaurants and the TGV.





Hotel La Mirande in Avignon





Hotel La Mirande in Avignon









NIMES - I love the transport network in France. In the many years of coming to France I haven't ever attempted to drive. I've either paid a translator/antique guide or travelled from town to town by train/bus or on foot. Next trip I challenge myself to hire a van, a GPS and I'll drive to all the off the beaten track places that I know are waiting to be discovered. For this trip

though, I stuck firmly with the TGV. I headed from Avignon to Nîmes, the city of my next inspiring hotel, "Hotel Jardins Secrets". The taxi ride from the TGV to the hotel was so close the driver barely got out of first gear, so I really could have walked, however once in the garden courtyard I felt like I was a million miles from anywhere.

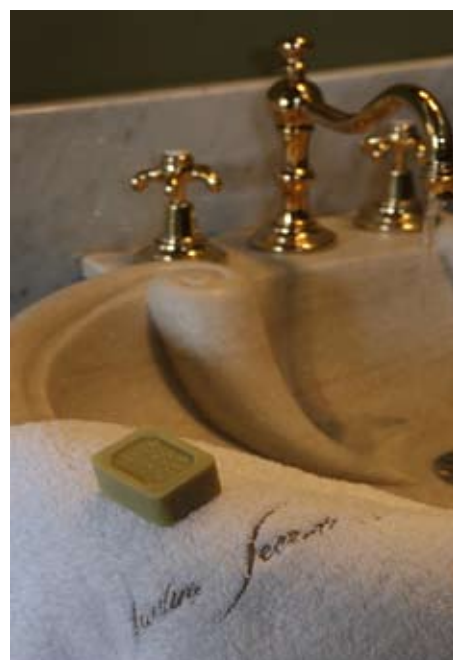


Above and top: Jardins de la Fontaine, Nîmes





Above: My chambre and above right another of the guest rooms at Hotel Jardins Secrets - Nîmes



It is hard to put into words the beauty of this hotel. As I was the only guest, due to it being a Sunday in the middle of winter, I enjoyed the fantasy that this piece of paradise was my own. From the moment I arrived to the ancient stone walled surrounds of the courtyard I knew I was in for a treat. The hotel sits in a quiet street, surrounded by buildings equally as beautiful. Pale stone, faded pale blue shutters, olive trees, iron lanterns.

I was met by a charming Polish staff member, Magda, who led me past the pool, daybeds, lanterns (note to

self...must return in Summer) and led me through a grand front door, into the oldest part of the building, to my chambre.

Ah, my room! It was a dream. A marvellous monotone "Psyche" roman wall panel from my favourite wall paper supplier, Zuber & Cie, hung above the king size bed dominating the room. All around me was a superbly elegant assemblage of antique furniture, marble fireplace, writing desk, collection of latest magazines, and then the piece de resistance, the bathroom! The antique bath cloaked in a heavy vel-

vet canopy, a pair of antique sinks, Cote Bastide toiletries, luxurious towels piled on timeworn chairs, glass containers of all sizes housing cotton balls, dried herbs and other decorative items...I was in heaven. Would I ever tear myself away? The sweeping staircase that lead to my room was dimly lit by a crystal chandelier of gigantic proportions and the walls were clad with antique portraits in gilt frames. Magda was generous with her time and led me through the various lounge areas, the stunning hotel kitchen, panelled hallways with an antler collection





like no other, the grand dining room, the newly built Hammam/Spa room and even some of the other guest rooms. Each room is styled uniquely however with the common thread of antique furniture, exquisite fabrics and wallpapers and trademark indulgent bathrooms. The owners, one a decorator, and one a photographer, are welcoming and encourage you to relax in any of the rooms as if they were your own. The two resident cats are certainly doing so, curled up on

antique chairs, one by the fire, one in another room by the grand piano. Beautiful tiny birds are housed in antique birdcages throughout the house and provide a lovely soundtrack in the background, chirping and tweeting. I'd be happy to be one of the cats or birds if it meant I could live here!

Having never been to Nîmes I thought I should drag myself away from the hotel and explore this interesting Roman town. Nîmes is the capital of the Gard depart-

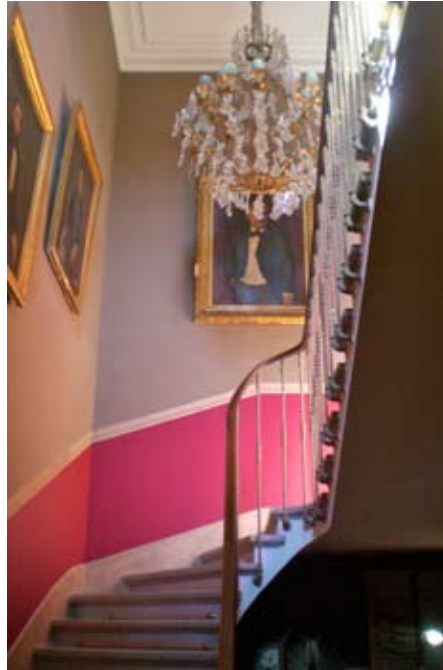
ment and has a rich history, dating back to the Roman Empire. The key places to visit when in Nîmes are the beautiful Jardins de la Fontaine, with spectacular views over the gardens and Nîmes below; the Roman Amphitheatre which is the best preserved Roman amphitheatre in France and was once filled with medieval housing, now used for concerts and bull fighting; the Maison Carree, a small Roman temple built circa 19BC. And of course you can just wander the streets sur-



*"the roman style spa and hammam is for your exclusive use  
when you indulge in one of the many unique,  
luxurious treatments on offer at Hotel Jardins Secrets ..."*

The Spa at Hotel Jardins Secrets





rounding the quai de la Fontaine. A flea market is held each Monday in the carpark near Jardins de la Fontaine, which was fairly quiet in January but increases in size as the warmer months approach. I purchased some beautiful antique linen here and could have purchased some beautiful art and decorative items had I not been travelling by TGV! Armand, the vigneron I met at La Mirande has a cousin, Jean Louis, who owns a homewares store in Nimes, "Cabinet de Curiosite", 3 Place du Marche, Nimes. He is usually closed on Mondays but opened up for me and he was an absolute delight. I purchased some beautiful antique frames, sconces and curtain tiebacks, shades and other decorative items. His store is a mix of old and new, but unique,

one off lampshades are a speciality. It is packed from the floor to the ceiling with decorative pieces, so luckily I was the only one in the store as I don't know how another person could have squeezed in! Also luckily for me, Jean Louis was heading to the Paris Maison et Objet fair so he would deliver my purchases to my hotel in Paris. Perhaps a ploy for me to buy more ... which of course I then did. The next day I headed to another favourite town, Uzes, which is an easy 20 minute taxi ride away taking us over the Pont du Gard, a well preserved aqueduct built by Agrippa that once carried water across the small Gardon river valley. Sadly in January most of the dealers and retailers close as the tourist trade slows.











Above: Saint Germain en Laye.

From Nimes I caught the TGV to Lyon 470km from Paris in the Rhone-Alpes region. Often referred to as a mini Paris, due to its numerous bridges and beautiful architecture, it is a major centre for business and is well known for its gastronomy. It is the second largest metropolitan area outside Paris and was once known as the silk capital. Here I was scheduled to visit an antique fair at Euroexpo and stayed once again with Madam De Souza at Hotel Belle Cour, an affordable room within a townhouse on the famous Belle Cour sur Cour. I like this B&B as it is so centrally located, clean, friendly and rather like having my own studio apartment. The fair was interesting but on a day that will probably rank as one of the coldest days I had ever had in all my years of visiting France, it was hard to remain focused. The fair is expansive, both interior and exterior, with professional antique dealers spreading their wares

throughout the exhibition centre. Vendors of more rustic goods had to brave the elements and display their wares in the carpark, and the finer furniture pieces, art and decorative items were displayed inside. Luckily there are two cafes doing a roaring trade with hot drinks and hot chips...anything hot to stop the dealers and buyers from freezing! I bought a few pieces there before heading back to Paris and Hotel Saint Vincent, where I was booked back into floor one and a half. A curious thing.

I've decided I love being in Paris with a purpose. It makes you interact with the city in a different way than being a tourist. By having a purpose, you discover out of the way places and have chance meetings that can lead you on to new experiences and suppliers.

It was like that when I was buying clothes for my daughter Em in a little boutique in the Saint Germain area. I liked the labels, beautiful

cashmere and accessories so I enquired after the brands. Were they French as I'd like to stock some in my French & Country store? The helpful sales staff suggested that I head to the Paris Fashion fair, which happened to be on at the time. I was planning a third day at Maison et Objet, however as it was the last day of the Fashion fair, I caught a cab to the outskirts of Paris and found myself transported into another world! After registering, I had several hours to explore over 100 aisles of clothing, footwear, jewellery and accessories. It was almost overwhelming, however as with the Homewares fairs, I soon had my eye in and could quickly eliminate those suppliers that didn't fit my look. I did find some beautiful new labels, soft organic cotton tee shirts, cashmere knits and the unique and beautiful jewellery and scarves by Sophie Dugard. I look forward to bringing these beautiful pieces to French & Country





Top: Paris Fashion Fair; Middle row: Paris Musee Carnavalet; unique items from Serendipity - the lamp and shade is in our new French & Country stock arriving late-Spring 2010; Bottom Row: - Hidden Hotel, Paris.







Above Apicius; Right Restaurant Ante Prima



showroom for late Spring and Autumn 2011. Maison et Objet presented me with some new suppliers that I look forward to showcasing late 2010: some new designs in the Vox Populi lighting range, gorgeous hand made ceramics, stunning Swedish bed linen and home linens by Himla, and great decorator pieces and lighting from Belgium. I am also bringing in wallpapers by Zuber & Cie whose magnificent French and Roman panoramic scenes grace the walls of my favourite hotels, Hotel Particulier in Arles and the Hotel Jardins Secret in Nimes, to name a few and soon the bathrooms at Hopewood. I also have a few rugs coming in that are more Moroccan in style, in the earthy decorator colours that team so well with the Provincial style that I love.

One of my suppliers of men's clothing and linen homewares, 'Hidden Cabin', have recently undertaken the decoration of a boutique hotel in the 17th arr. called Hidden Hotel ([www.hiddenhotel.com](http://www.hiddenhotel.com)) It is rustic, decorated with weathered oaks and linen and environmentally conscious. I had a few nights there and whilst it was interesting and visually beautiful, I do love the familiarity of my beloved Saint Germain and really missed the streets around Rue Jacob and my other favourite local haunts. Having said that, it once again forced me to explore new areas, and I had some chance discoveries when walking the area. After failing to find good local eateries that were not touristy, I was enchanted by a **Grand Hotel Particulier** and its lovely trattoria style Italian restaurant "Ante Prima" at **137 Rue du Faubourg, Saint-Honore, Paris 75008 (Tel 0145634343)**. I admired the building, the inner court-

yard with its stone fountain, and on closer look, saw that there was a little restaurant in the courtyard of this magnificent building, with just a few tables so you could dine amongst this grandeur. I went to the Restaurant's main entrance and instantly booked a table for an hours time. I needed to refresh as I'd been walking the streets for ten hours, and although my feet could barely get me back to the hotel, I was determined to experience a little piece of this architectural gem. The restaurant was Italian with a small, seasonal menu ... I could have selected any of the offerings and been more than happy. I was spoiled by the service and attention of the staff, particularly the manager, a lovely Italian man in his mid twenties, passionate about food, learning English and the desire to visit Australia one day soon. I enquired as to what the magnificent building whose grand courtyard I was privileged enough to be dining in, was used for. He explained that it was privately owned but leased to a film company and a fine dining restaurant, **Apicius**, ([www.restaurant-apicius.com](http://www.restaurant-apicius.com)) with revered chef, Jean-Pierre Vigato at the helm. The restaurant was in the front of the Hotel Particulier, 20 Rue d'Artois, 75008 Tel 33(0)1 43801966 and he said I MUST see it to see how beautiful the gardens were leading up to the restaurant's entrance ... amazing in the heart of Paris, a stone's throw from Champs Elysee. After my delicious dinner, I dragged my weary body around to see the front of the property as instructed and was surprised to find a glorious garden, a magnificent building boasting a Michelin star restaurant, which, I'm guessing will have a price tag to match.

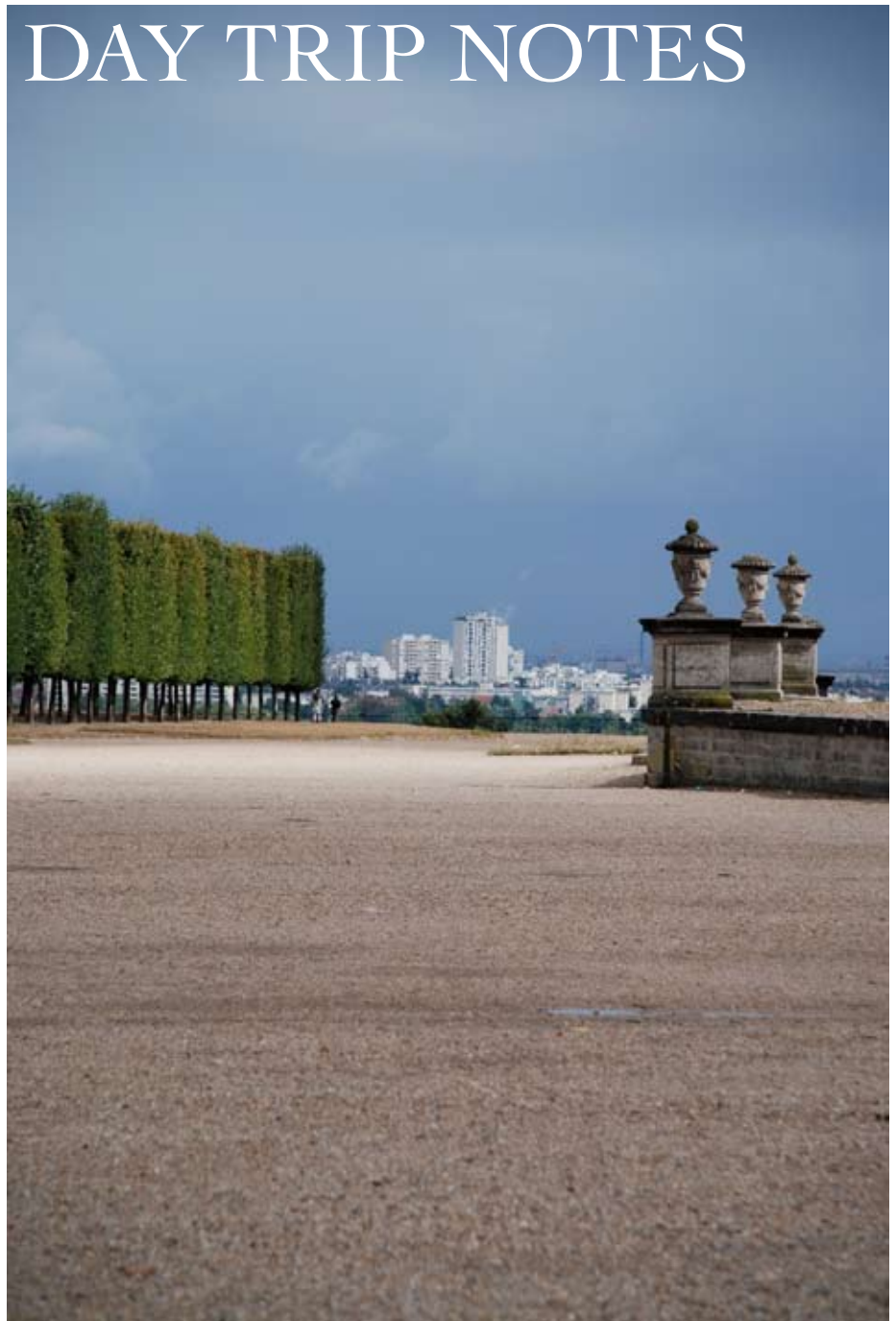






During my stay in Paris, I had a spare day and was keen to venture out of the centre of Paris. Versailles was a thought, but given the cool weather I thought I'd save that for warmer months. My friend Sharon, who has a stunning French business, Blanc Leger ([www.blancleger.com](http://www.blancleger.com)), used to live near St Germain en Laye just 19 km out of Paris. I remember her driving me there for lunch and shopping a few years ago and I was taken by its beauty. It is an easy RER train ride (Line A), about 30 minutes from Paris, and well worth the trip. It has elegant tree lined streets, and is the wealthiest suburb of Paris, combining high end residential and sporting facilities. The architecture is beautiful, founded in 1020. Prior to the French Revolution in 1789, it had been a royal town and the Chateau de St Germain was the residence of numerous French monarchs. Saint Germain en Laye is famous for its 2.4 km long stone terrace built by Andre de Lotre in 1673 and this terrace provides a stunning view over the valley of the Seine and in the distance, Paris. There are high quality shops, restaurants and cafes. If I were ever to live in Paris, this would be an area high on my wish list.

# DAY TRIP NOTES









# DECORATING IDEAS

*Inspiring decorating ideas from this trip...*

Rugs on floorboards or neutral sisal carpet can be changed seasonally... muted, earthy tones for autumn/winter, fresher striped styles for spring/summer in black/white, taupe or grey/white or for beach house style, blue/white.

Dried fruits, seeds, nuts, herbs and olive and rosemary leaves assembled in glazed earthenware pots and oversized lidded glass jars to embellish kitchen benches and sideboards, adding life and energy to often hard, clinical surfaces.

Flea market finds such as old bread/pastry boards, salt/sel and allumettes (matches) holders can be hung and used to add a touch of Provence to your kitchen.

Fill a glass fronted cabinet or open bookshelves with collections of cookbooks, beautiful ceramic plates, pewter/glass storage jars, jam pots filled with seasonal jams to use and give as gifts.

Use bespoke lamps on tables throughout the house, with carefully selected and unique shades made from parchment, wax, feather and decorative paper.

Use occasional chairs with side tables in entrance rooms, hallways, bath and bedrooms, and incorporate candleabra, photoframes and lamps to create vignettes in spaces that are often overlooked.

Collect interesting, decorative books and pile throughout the house on mantelpieces, by the fireplace, on side tables.

Beautiful birds in birdcages indoors add such energy to the room, and provide a beautiful soundtrack to the day ... be prepared to clean every other day though as they can be messy!

Mirrors and art of all shapes and sizes on walls, wrap the chain if exposed in muted velvet or linen to soften and decorate.





In bathrooms, think outside the square and treat it like other 'living' rooms of the house by placing a beautiful, unique chair or footstool piled with fresh white towels. If room permits decorate a side table placed next to the bath or a small glass fronted armoire and fill with collections of vintage perfume glass bottles and glass vases with cotton buds, oils etc, old books, vintage bathroom accessories such as old hand mirrors, tortoise shell handled shaving brushes etc.

Use wallpaper as art – Zuber & Cie panoramic panels and Brunschwig & Fils papers are ideal to frame and use as art in all rooms of the house, and can be mounted on to boards, framed and then you can always take them with you should you move!

Paint finishes – experiment with paint finishes on doors, frames and walls, drag and age to have unique impact.

Decorate useful pieces such as coat/hat stands with books, walking sticks, hats, fresh flowers, coats. Bring rooms to life through everyday, useful objects that tell a story and show that people actually live in the house!

If you have expanses of plain walls, consider adding timber panels and mouldings to add interest. You can paint the walls and mouldings the same colour so that just the shape adds interest, or the panelling below the chair rail can be one colour and then wall paper above to create a more intimate, cosier space. Mirrors and wall sconces can then be added on top of the wallpaper to imbue a richness.



Below: One of the rugs I am bringing in for Spring ... they are quite Moroccan in style, in the earthy decorator colours that team so well with the Provincial tones that I love.









# SHOPPING



## PARIS

### *As'Art*

African Art and decorative pieces  
3 Passage due Grand Cerf  
75002

### *Ricksbaw*

Asian decorative pieces  
7 Passage du Grand Cerf  
75002

### *Au Petit Bonheur la Chance*

Unique kitchenalia and stationery  
13 rue Saint Paul  
75004

### *Art Up*

Art sold according to size of canvas,  
100s of pieces available to buy on  
the spot and they can ship world-  
wide.  
39 Ave Daumesnil, 75012

### *Espace Buffon*

Mix of old and new decorator  
pieces, clothing and garden wares  
27 rue Buffon  
75005

### *Aux Trois Singes*

23 rue St Paul  
75012

### *Joe Black*

Mens and Boyswear to die for  
30 rue du Bac  
75007  
[www.joeblack.fr](http://www.joeblack.fr)

### *Chercheminippes*

Depot Vente chain, charity shops  
for clothing, homewares and chil-  
dren's wear. 6 spaces across Paris  
102 rue du Cherche Midi  
75006  
[www.chercheminippes.com](http://www.chercheminippes.com)

### *L'oeil du Pelican*

13 rue Jean Jacques Rousseau  
75001

Collectables and curiosities

### *Merci*

Stunning Concept store with the  
pick of fashion, homewares, station-  
ery and bookshop/café  
111 Bvd Beaumarchais  
75004  
[www.merci-merci.com](http://www.merci-merci.com)

### *Sarah Lavoine architecture*

Interior/Exterior Showroom  
49 Ave Roch  
75001  
[www.sarahlavoine.com](http://www.sarahlavoine.com)

### *La Cabane de l'Ours*

Village Saint Paul Le Marais  
23 rue Saint Paul  
75004  
[www.lacabanedelours.com](http://www.lacabanedelours.com)  
Gorgeous rustic cabin interiors  
store with bespoke pieces made  
from iron and recycled timbers

## AVIGNON

### *Cour Interieure*

54 rue Joseph Verneil  
84000  
06 73 34 94 56

### *Au Jardin de Provence*

Boutique Decoration  
2 rue Petite Fusterie  
84000

### *Vox Populi*

20 rue petite fusterie  
84000 Avignon  
Decorative pieces made from wire  
& vintage fabric

## NIMES

### *Cabinet de Curiosite*

3 Place du Marche  
Nimes  
Jam packed store of decorative  
pieces and stunning lamp shades





# PLACES TO STAY

## PARIS

### *Hotel Saint Vincent*

5 Rue du Pre aux Clercs

75007

+33 (0)1 42 61 05 51

[www.hotel-st-vincent.com/anglais](http://www.hotel-st-vincent.com/anglais)

### *Hotel Particulier Montmartre*

Pavillon D,

23 Avenue Junot, 75018

+33 (0)1 53 41 81 40

[www.hotelparticulier-montmartre.com](http://www.hotelparticulier-montmartre.com)

- 5 room chic hotel that was once a  
Grand mansion in the  
bohemian Montmartre district

### *Hotel du Moulin Petit*

29/31 rue de Poitou, 75003

[www.hoteldupetitmoulin.com](http://www.hoteldupetitmoulin.com)

### *Mije*

Hostel in the heart of Paris, located  
in aristocratic townhouses in the  
Marais district.

[www.mije.com](http://www.mije.com)

## UZES

### *La Maison de la Bourgade*

31 rue Petite Bourgade

30700 Uzes

[www.lamaisondelabourgade.com](http://www.lamaisondelabourgade.com)

## NIMES

### *Hotel Jardins Secret*

3 rue Gaston Maruejols

30000

33(0)4 66 84 82 64

[www.jardinssecrets.net](http://www.jardinssecrets.net)

## AVIGNON

### *La Mirande*

4 Place de la Mirande

+33(0)490 142 020

[www.la-mirande.fr](http://www.la-mirande.fr)





## PARIS

*Le Palais de The's Teashop*  
64 rue vieille du Temple, 75003

*T'Cha La Maison de The*  
6 rue du Pont de Lodi

*La Tête dans les Olives*  
Tastings of olive oils, olives, herbs  
[www.latetedanslesolives.com](http://www.latetedanslesolives.com)  
2 rue Saint le Marthe, 75010

*Le 1*  
Place Vendome  
1 place Vendome  
+33(0)1 55 04 55 60  
Stylish (though expensive!) bistro  
hideaway

*Market*  
15 Avenue Matignon  
Christian Liagre designed market  
fresh fusion cuisine,  
Great location  
33 (0)1 5643 4090

*La Societie*  
4 Place Saint Germain, 75006  
Another Christian Liagre designed,  
Saint Germain restaurant in the  
Costes brothers stable. Interesting,  
sophisticated crowd. Divine!

*Baan Lek*  
Cuisine du Siam  
7 rue de Jarente, 75004  
[www.baanlek.com](http://www.baanlek.com)  
When you've had enough of jambon  
& fromage!

*Mai Thai*  
Cuisine du Siam  
24 bis, rue Saint-Gilles  
75003  
[www.maithai.fr](http://www.maithai.fr)  
Delicious thai food, great lunch  
specials and atmosphere  
+33(0)1 42 72 18 77

*Au 55*  
35 Rue Jacob  
75006  
+33(0)1 42 60 23 24  
Delicious local French/Italian  
Open 7 days

**UZES**  
*Chez Françoise*  
22 bd Gambetta  
30700 Uzes  
04 66 01 00 07



## TEXTILES & WALLPAPERS

*Zuber & Cie*  
[www.zuber.com](http://www.zuber.com)  
Brunschwig & Fils  
[www.brunschwig.com/wallcover](http://www.brunschwig.com/wallcover)

*Giardini Wallcoverings*  
[www.giardiniwallcoverings.it](http://www.giardiniwallcoverings.it)

*Himla*  
[www.himla.se](http://www.himla.se)



Favourites from the music playlist I  
compiled for my TGV travels!

Dance with Me - *Mano de Dios*  
Volveras - *Mano de Dios*  
Dance Me to the End of  
Love - *Madeleine Peyroux*  
Tango - *Chris Murphy*  
Warm Air - *Vanessa Mae*  
Comptine D'un Autre  
Ete - *Yann Tiersen*  
Untouched - *Bart Armand*  
Down on my Knees - *Ayo*  
Concerto for two Violins in  
D minor - *Australian Chamber  
Orchestra*  
Ode to Simplicity - *Secret Garden*  
Nocturna - *Meeco*  
Like a Star - *Corinne Bailey Rae*  
Fall at your Feet - *Clare Bowditch*  
Vision - *Hildegard Von Bingen*

## MUSEUMS

*Musee Carnavalet*  
An absolutely heavenly and  
inspiring place to get lost for hours.  
It occupies two neighbouring  
mansions right in the heart of the  
Marais. Over 2600 paintings, 800  
pieces of furniture, miniature mod-  
els of Paris, stunning murals and  
architectural details.  
23 rue de Sevigne 75003  
+33(0)1 44 59 58 58  
[www.carnavalet.paris.fr](http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr)



