

## Recommends: Paris, primarily focusing on the 7<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement

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I have lived in Paris since September 2021 and love the 7<sup>th</sup> arrondissement because it features rue Cler, a two block picturesque pedestrian street offering a delightful array of cafes, shops, and restaurants with cute shops and cafes made famous by Rick Steve's\* as well as easy transportation to the rest of the city and a short walk to the Eiffel Tower, Dôme des Invalides, and Trocadéro gardens. Note: I am not paid nor benefit from any of the recommendations below.

**Transportation** The bus and metro are great ways to get around Paris. The train is usually on time but the bus offers a better view of the city. Metro cards can be purchased at most metro stations and refilled at the metro station or the Bonjour RATP app, which is also ideal for trip planning.



**Hotels:** Within a block of rue Cler:

- [Cadran Hotel \\*\\*\\*\\*](#) ([10 Rue du Champ de Mars, 75007 Paris](#)) is a 4-star boutique hotel offers a charming and



stylish escape providing a vibrant yet peaceful location. Guests can unwind in soundproofed rooms after exploring the city, and enjoy a self-service wine terrace and a spa area with whirlpools and a sauna. Ideal for travelers seeking both comfort and a prime Parisian experience. The hotel boasts an outdoor patio and indoor sitting area with windows to the busy but quiet Champ de Mars.

- [Hotel Motte Picquet Paris \\*\\*\\*](#) ([30 Av. de la Motte-Picquet, 75007 Paris](#)) offers a charming retreat for travelers seeking both comfort and convenience. This 3-star hotel boasts a warm and inviting atmosphere, with a touch of Parisian elegance reflected in its chic decor. Guests can unwind in comfortable rooms, each designed for relaxation, and appreciate the convenience of amenities like wireless internet and air conditioning.



- [Hotel du Champ de Mars \\*\\*\\*](#) ([7 Rue du Champ de Mars, 75007 Paris](#)): Across the street from the Cadran hotel, the Hotel du Champ de Mars offers a Parisian haven ideal for both relaxation and exploration. This charming hotel boasts an oasis of peace amidst the vibrant city. Individually decorated guest rooms provide a cozy retreat, while the warm lobby and friendly staff create a welcoming atmosphere. Indulge in a delicious breakfast (fee) before setting out to discover the city's many landmarks, all within easy reach.



- [Cler Hotel \\*\\*\\*](#) ([24 bis Rue Cler, 75007 Paris](#)) offers a charming and authentic Parisian experience. With its elegant yet cozy ambiance, the Cler Hotel combines modern comforts with classic French flair. Guests can indulge in well-appointed rooms and personalized service, ensuring a memorable stay in the City of Light.



- [Grand Hôtel Lévêque](#) \*\*\* ([29 rue Cler, 75007 Paris](#)) is a charming 3-star 49 room hotel offering comfortable rooms and suites, all of which are equipped with private bathrooms, flat-screen TVs, and free Wi-Fi. The hotel also has a bar, a restaurant, and a fitness center. The Grand Hôtel Lévêque is a great choice for travelers who are looking for a comfortable and affordable place to stay. The hotel offers a daily breakfast buffet



### Shopping:

- [Galleries Lafayette Paris Haussmann](#) ([40 Bd Haussmann, 75009 Paris](#)). Le Bon Marché offers an expansive luxury shopping experience spanning several blocks. It houses dedicated departments for women, men, children, food, and home goods, featuring all the top European brands you love – think Gucci, Prada, Chanel, and Louis Vuitton. Additionally, a dedicated floor within the women's section showcases exciting local French designers like Bereniece and Santo. For unique Parisian souvenirs, head to the top floor (the 6th, I believe) in the women's building; you'll find charming merchandise that's a step above the usual tourist fare. And don't forget – just one floor down, there's an entire world dedicated to children and babies!
- [Rue St Dominique](#) (between rue Cler and La Tour Maubourg) has transformed into a captivating shopping destination, particularly for fashion enthusiasts. The street is lined with a delightful selection of upmarket boutiques and French designer stores, attracting fashionistas from all corners. Popular names include Berenice, The Kooples, Claudie Pierlot, Comptoir des Cotonnières, and Des Petits Hautes. Luxurious Homeware: Alongside the clothing stores, you'll find charming homeware stores offering a variety of luxurious bedding, decorative objects, and other unique home accents, perfect for adding a touch of Parisian elegance to your space. Gourmet Delights: Don't forget to explore the specialty food stores scattered along the street. Find delectable foie gras, paté, cassoulet, and confit de canard (various types of meat products) at Maison Dubernet. For coffee lovers, Comptoirs Richard offers a vast selection of coffee, tea, mugs, and brewing accessories. Wine enthusiasts can discover hidden gems at Chateaux & Co, specializing in Bordeaux wines. Overall Experience: rue St-Dominique is more than just shopping; it's an experience. Immerse yourself in the chic Parisian atmosphere, peruse the trendy window displays, and discover hidden gems amidst the established brands.
- [Le Bon Marché](#) ([24 rue de Sevres, 75007 Paris](#)) Standing proudly in Paris' 7th arrondissement, Le Bon Marché, formerly known as Au Bon Marché, boasts a rich history as the world's first department store. Founded in 1838, it revolutionized shopping by offering fixed prices, a variety of merchandise under one roof, and innovative customer service features like home delivery and return policies. Today, Le Bon Marché continues to be a Parisian landmark, known not just for its luxurious offerings but also for its commitment to art and culture. The architecturally stunning building houses an impressive selection of high-end fashion brands, gourmet food shops, beauty products, and homeware, catering to discerning tastes. Beyond shopping, visitors can experience art exhibitions displayed throughout the store, or simply marvel at the beautiful architecture, including the grand central staircase designed by Gustave Eiffel.

### Museums:

- [Musée D'Orsay](#) ([1 Rue de la Légion d'Honneur, 75007 Paris](#)): Packed with renowned art and artists, the Musée d'Orsay offers a more manageable experience than the Louvre, making it ideal for families. To spark your child's interest, consider showing them a few videos or documentaries about the museum beforehand. They'll be surprised to see "it" in real life after seeing it on "YouTube." Plan your journey by taking the 69 bus from the 7th arrondissement, which provides a scenic above-ground view of Paris on your way to the museum.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ2bTZYtapc> 3-minute quick Musée d'Orsay Virtual Tour in English
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1C6ERsduTc> 13-minute tour (silent) showing the outside and inside.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vExG3Wgm4cQ> 30-minute advanced impressionism art explanation.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xDgvDh2odM> Explanation on Impressionism in French with English subtitles.
- **Rodin Museum** ([77 Rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqPPncfWOZE)): Rodin Museum is a haven dedicated to the life and work of French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Housed within the elegant Hôtel Biron, the museum showcases nearly 400 of Rodin's sculptures, drawings, and other works. Visitors can stroll through the tranquil gardens, where iconic masterpieces like "The Thinker" and "The Gates of Hell" stand against the backdrop of lush greenery and sweeping views. Inside the mansion, galleries display a diverse collection of Rodin's bronze sculptures, plaster models, and preparatory drawings, offering a comprehensive exploration of his artistic process and the evolution of his renowned works. The Rodin Museum is a must-visit for art enthusiasts and anyone seeking a glimpse into the artistic genius of one of France's most celebrated sculptors.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqPPncfWOZE> Rick Steve's Rodin Museum 2:30 tour.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvL8qif2kiA> 3-minute non-talking tour.

### **Favorite views and To Do's:**

- For views of the Eiffel Tower, the [Champ du Mars](#) is a vast and cherished Parisian park that offers a welcome respite from the urban bustle. Lush green lawns invite picnicking under open skies, while meandering paths perfect for strolling or jogging provide a sense of serenity amidst the city's energy. The park also boasts charming, manicured gardens, ideal for quiet contemplation or a leisurely stroll. At dusk, at the top of the hour, the Tower sparkles for 5 minutes.
- **Sacre-Coeur Basilica de Montmartre** ([35 Rue du Chevalier de la Barre, 75018 Paris](#)) Overlooking the bustling city from the heights of Montmartre, the Sacré-Coeur Basilica stands as a testament to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This iconic landmark invites you to participate in a romantic tradition: bring a padlock engraved with your name and the name of your loved one and secure it to the fence near the church. When you return to Paris, revisit the spot to see if your love lock still endures – a timeless symbol of your enduring bond.
- **Hotel Terasse** ([12-14 Rue Joseph de Maistre, 75018 Paris](#)) Montmartre is perfect for walking around the shopping and finishing with a cocktail at the rooftop bar at Hotel Terasse. Take in gorgeous views, especially in the late afternoon before the sun sets.
- **Galleries Lafayette Haussmann** Women's building ([40 Bd Haussmann, 75009 Paris](#)) Take the stairs up from the 6th floor and there are fantastic views. A restaurant is open from Spring through Fall.
- **Disneyland Paris** ([Disneyland Paris, Bd de Parc, 77700 Coupvray, France](#)) 1 hour via metro to Auber metro station then train (RER A) to the park. Prepurchase tickets. They do offer a shuttle from the Eiffel Tower.
- **Moulin Rouge** ([82 Bd de Clichy, 75018 Paris](#)) I thought it was over-rated until I went to it. Upon entering the venue, I was immediately impressed by the stunning surroundings. The decor was opulent and extravagant, with shimmering lights and great views of the stage. The atmosphere had a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation in the air. The dancers were dressed in the most colorful and outrageous costumes, each one more eye-catching than the last. There were a variety of different acts, each one more impressive and daring than the last. From acrobatics to aerial stunts, the show was a feast for the senses. One thing that really stood out to me was the quality of the food and wine. I was thoroughly impressed. The menu offered two menu options with three choices for each option. It was a unique and unforgettable experience.
- **Airbnb Experiences** are popular in Paris. We recommend the following:
  - [Family scavenger hunt in the Louvre hosted by Caroline](#): A 3-hour tour of the Louvre for kids and adults.
  - [Intro to Paris for Families](#): Le Marais with Aly is a 2-hour tour of Le Marais and she also hosts a food tour. Aly has become a great friend of ours. +33 7 81 85 88 67 [averonicamcguire@gmail.com](mailto:averonicamcguire@gmail.com) on WhatsApp.
  - [Learn to make macaron with a chef with Matthieu](#) I've been 3 times and the macrons turn out perfect and tasty each time.
- [La Cuisine Paris](#) offers a highly recommended French cooking class titled "[Mastering Classic French Sauces](#)" which I found to be the most valuable cooking class I've ever experienced.

**'Typical' French brasserie/café/bistro recommendations.** It's advisable to make reservations in advance, and you can even visit the restaurant earlier on the same day to inquire about availability. It's worth noting that the French prefer guests to have reservations and may not appreciate walk-in arrivals without prior arrangements.

- **[Fontaine de Mars](#)** ([129 Rue St Dominique, 75007 Paris](#)). If you are looking for a traditional French bistro experience with exceptional food, Fontaine de Mars is the place for you. It is a quintessential French bistro that has been serving up delicious cuisine for over a century. From the moment you step inside, you are transported to a bygone era with its charming decor and inviting ambiance. President Obama had dinner upstairs when he was in office.
- **[Brasserie Lipp](#)** ([151 Bd Saint-Germain, 75006 Paris](#)) Phone: +33 1 45 48 53 91. Ask for a seat downstairs in the front. The people watching is great and this is a very old, famous (very typical) brasserie where the 'celebrity' local Parisians go, along with a mix of tourists spattered in. Mentioned in *Midnight in Paris*: Gil said: Don't we have something tomorrow? We were going to have lunch at Brasserie Lipp. My old professor once actually saw [James Joyce](#) there. He said Joyce was eating sauerkraut and frankfurters. (silent pause) Inez said "Is that the end of the story?" Gil answers "It is actually."
- **[Café Flore](#)** ([172 Bd Saint-Germain, 75006 Paris](#)) nestled in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, exudes Parisian charm with its red banquettes, intellectual atmosphere, and historic past. Once frequented by literary giants like Sartre and de Beauvoir, it continues to attract a vibrant mix of locals, students, and tourists seeking a taste of Parisian café culture, a strong cup of coffee, and perhaps a glimpse of artistic inspiration. Café Flore is across the street from Brasserie Lipp and was also mentioned in *Midnight in Paris*. Gil says "I could easily see myself as a Parisian - strolling the Left Bank - a baguette under my arm – finishing my novel - at a table at the Café Flore. A *Moveable Feast* - Hemingway called it."
- **[Le Comptoir des Fables](#)** ([112 Rue Saint-Dominique, 75007 Paris](#)) offers a vibrant tapas experience. This lively spot features a mix-and-match menu with raw and cooked selections, including meat, fish, top-notch charcuterie, and vegetarian options. Think steamed bass with miso, DIY guacamole, and frogs' legs alongside a diverse wine and cocktail list. With a focus on sharing plates and a relaxed atmosphere, Le Comptoir des Fables is perfect for a casual and delicious Parisian evening. This restaurant is our go to late night place after Sapiens closes at 10pm.
- **[L'éclair](#)** and **[Petit Cler](#)** are both located on rue Cler (between [Grenelle and Champ du Mars](#)). Both offer decent fare, L'éclair does a great steak tartare. Recommend having lunch seated near the front and people watch.
- **[L'Ami Jean](#)** (27 Rue Malar, 75007 Paris) is relaxed small bistro serving elevated meat & seafood dishes made from sustainable ingredients. It is recommended by Thomas Keller (*French Laundry/Per Se*) and is one of my favorites.
- **[Le comptoir de la Traboule](#)** ([1 bis Rue Augereau, 75007 Paris](#)) has a vibrant atmosphere and creative French cuisine. Chef Jules Monnet orchestrates a ballet of small, seasonal plates, prepared fresh at the open counter. Guests can choose to perch at the bar, savor their meal on the terrace, or enjoy a front-row seat to the culinary performance at the counter. Alongside the carefully sourced wines, Le Comptoir de la Traboule offers a delightful experience for lunch, dinner, or simply a drink with friends. Recommend it as a great place for dessert and after dinner drinks. This restaurant is our go to late night place after Sapiens closes at 10pm.
- **[Le Rigmarole](#)** ([10 Rue du Grand Prieuré, 75011 Paris](#)) I haven't had the chance to visit yet, but according to friends, this mom-and-pop restaurant is absolutely fantastic. Tasting menus: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday lunch and pizza: Saturday, Sunday and Monday dinner.

**Destination dining recommendations (reservations necessary):**

- **[Violin d'Ingres](#)** \* \$\$\$\$ ([135 Rue Saint-Dominique, 75007 Paris](#)) we did the a la carte menu, but they have a tasting menu as well that looked good, priced well for Michelin stars.
- **[Pertinence](#)** \* \$\$\$\$ ([29 Rue de l'Exposition, 75007 Paris](#)) We've been three times and love this husband/wife 1 Michelin star restaurant. They have 4 tables and a tasting menu (no options for a la carte). 3 course lunch

(Wednesday through Friday) for €80 or 4 course for €105 (whole table only). 6 course dinner is €155 or 7 course for €220.

- **Le Clarence** \*\* \$\$\$\$ ([31 Av. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 75008 Paris](#)) without a doubt, the most luxurious dining experience we've ever had. Everything, from the impeccable service to the exquisite cuisine, was breathtaking. But one element truly stole the show: the legendary cheese cart. It was a sight to behold, overflowing with an incredible selection of artisanal cheeses, each perfectly ripe and paired with accompaniments that elevated the flavors to another level. Le Clarence truly set a new standard for fine dining..
- **Le Café de l'Esplanade** \$\$\$ ([52 Rue Fabert, 75007 Paris](#)). Fancy restaurant with a great Salmon Miso. Perfect for a high end brunch.
- **Restaurant David Toutain** \*\*\* \$\$\$\$ ([29 Rue Surcouf, 75007 Paris](#)). One of our best dining experiences in Paris. They feature a seasonal menu.
- **Frenchie** \* \$\$\$\$ ([5 Rue du Nil, 75002 Paris](#)) a Michelin-starred bistro in Paris, offers a modern take on French cuisine. Chef Gregory Marchand crafts innovative and playful dishes using seasonal ingredients, while the open kitchen allows diners to witness the culinary magic firsthand. The intimate atmosphere and friendly service, coupled with the constantly evolving menu, make Frenchie a must-try for adventurous food lovers seeking a truly unique Parisian dining experience. Their sister wine bar is across the street.
- **Arpege** \*\*\* \$\$\$\$ ([84 Rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris](#)). A recommendation from Clyde Beffa, who owns K&L Wines and says "THE PIECE de Resistance for the trip was Kay and My most favorite restaurant in the world. A special New Year's Eve dinner with two wine friends was THE BEST. Our fifth time over the past 20 years was the most perfect yet. No wonder it was just rated by a famous restaurant magazine as #8 best in the world. Alain Passard the chef/owner is actually cooking at the restaurant and welcoming all tables. He even showed us to our car after the meal and sent me an e-mail thanking us for coming in. The greatest vegetables in the world will be found here. 13 courses or so (390+ euros), five bottles of wine and four hours later, you think you have gone to heaven. Then the bill arrives, and you come back to earth. You MUST try it \$\$\$\$."
- **Restaurant Eels** \$\$\$ ([27 Rue d'Hauteville, 75010 Paris](#)) specializes in innovative and beautifully presented seafood dishes, drawing inspiration from both Japanese and French culinary traditions. Expect a small and intimate setting with an ever-changing seasonal menu, where fresh, high-quality ingredients are transformed into culinary masterpieces. Prepare to be surprised by unique flavor combinations and meticulous attention to detail, making Eels a must-try for adventurous gourmards seeking an unforgettable Parisian dining experience.
- **Vantre** \$\$\$ ([19 Rue de la Fontaine au Roi, 75011 Paris](#)) is an intimate, 30-seat restaurant boasting an impressive wine selection – and an even more expansive off-menu collection! Marco, the owner and a true wine connoisseur, is always happy to share his knowledge and offer tailored recommendations. The cuisine is a delightful fusion of Japanese and French flavors, where fresh ingredients and vibrant sauces steal the show. Be aware that service can occasionally be inconsistent, with some guests reporting uneven attention across tables.
- **Elmer Restaurant** \$\$\$ ([30 Rue Notre Dame de Nazareth](#)) prioritizes sharing, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere to connect with loved ones over a delectable meal. The star of the show at Elmer is Chef Simon Horwitz's daily-changing menu. Featuring the freshest seasonal ingredients sourced from small, French, organic, or eco-responsible producers, Chef Horwitz creates beautiful plates showcasing the best of French cuisine.

### Coffee/Brunch and wine on rue Cler or within blocks of rue Cler

- **Café Du Marché** ([38 Rue Cler, 75007 Paris](#)- at the corner of Champ de Mars) is located in the center of rue Cler hustle and bustle. In the morning, it is the place for the 'formula menu' which is a hot chocolate, half a baguette, butter, jam and orange juice for 11 euros. Dip the butter/jam bread into the stirred hot chocolate and voilà, heaven. And on a sunny afternoon (doesn't have to be warm) the chairs will be packed with folks drinking, smoking and people watching.
- **Bleu Olive** ([184 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris](#)- near rue Cler): Our third favorite coffee place with comfortable chairs and great coffee.

- [Noir](#) - Coffee Shop & Torréfacteur ([184 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris](#) - to the left of Bleu Olive). Best coffee in Paris but seating is ideal for two but not groups.
- [Marcelle](#) ([159 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris](#) - between rue Cler and rue Duvivier): Our favorite brunch spot. Avocado Toast or Salmon bagel (with egg) or 'egg in a hole'. Great coffee as well. Coffee hours are early morning or late afternoon as busy lunch is saved for folks who are eating.
- [L'Éclair](#) ([32 Rue Cler, 75007 Paris](#)) a charming cafe located on Rue Cler, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with its cozy interior and friendly staff. The menu at L'Éclair features a variety of classic French dishes, as well as more modern fare. The cafe is known for its delicious pastries, which are made fresh daily. L'Éclair is a popular spot for both locals and tourists alike. The cafe is a great place to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee and a pastry, or to have a leisurely lunch or dinner.
- [Cave Vino Sapiens](#) ([145 Rue Saint-Dominique, 75007 Paris](#)) blends a wine shop with a cozy wine bar. While wine by the glass is available, if you want more than one glass, it is best to purchase a bottle and pay the 9-euro corkage fee. Not only is this more cost-effective after that first glass, but it also allows you to enjoy the rest at home if you don't finish. Their focus is clear: an impressive collection of both white and red Burgundies, complemented by a noteworthy selection of Rhone wines. The truly special feature is their assortment of older vintages – a wine lover's paradise where you can sample these treasures without risk, as you won't pay for a bottle that's turned. Come Fridays and Saturdays, this place buzzes with energy, making it a must-visit for anyone who truly appreciates wine.

**\*Rick Steve's rue Cler videos (recommended in order):**

- [Rue Cler Street Market - Rick Steves' Europe Travel Guide - Travel Bite](#) 2014 video snippet from the full episode [Paris: Regal and Intimate](#)
- [Rick Steves' Tour du Rue Cler](#) a 2022 video he took with his phone.
- [The Perfect Market Street to Call Home in Paris](#) a 2017 video he took with his phone.
- [Chillin' in a Rue Cler Wine Shop](#) a 2016 video he took with his phone.