

DRINKING

top picks

- Le Fumoir (p285)
- La Perle (p287)
- Le Bistrot du Peintre (p289)
- On Cherche Encore (p296)
- Bar à Vins du Cinéma des Cinéastes (p294)
- Stolly's (p289)
- Café Chéri(e) (p295)
- Le Verre à Pied (p290)
- Le 10 (p292)
- Les Vélos à Moëlle (p298)

Yearning for a chilled venue where you don't need a gold-plated credit card or membership to the local anarchists' association to feel at ease? Don't despair: there's far more to the Parisian drinking scene than chic, design-driven lounge bars brimming with beautiful people, or tatty, dime-a-dozen *tabacs* (bar-tobacconists) with thin-haired regulars propping up the bar.

Drinking in Paris as salt-of-the-earth Parisians do means: savouring wafer-thin slices of *saucisson* (sausage) over a glass of sauvignon on a terrace at sundown; quaffing an early-evening aperitif in the same literary café as Sartre and Simone once did; dancing on tables to bossa nova beats; hovering at a zinc counter with local wines; indulging in a spot of *dégustation* (tasting; see boxed text, p299); sipping martinis on a dark leather couch while listening to live jazz; sipping *gokuro* in a trendy Japanese *salon de thé* (tearoom).

In a country where eating and drinking are as inseparable as cheese and wine, it's inevitable that the line between bars, cafés and bistros is blurred at best (no, you haven't drunk too much). Practically every place serves food of some description, but those featured in this chapter are favoured, first and foremost, as happening places to drink – be it alcohol, coffee or tea.

The distinct lack of any hardcore clubbing circuit in the French capital, moreover, only serves to spice up Paris' drinking scene still further; what might appear as a simple café at 5pm can morph quite comfortably to DJ bar and pounding dance floor as the night rolls on.

PRACTICALITIES

Drinking in Paris essentially means paying the rent for the space you take up. So it costs more sitting at tables than standing at the counter, more on a fancy square than a backstreet, more in the 8e than in the 18e. Come 10pm many cafés apply a pricier *tarif de nuit* (night rate).

A glass of wine starts at €3 or €4, a cocktail costs €7 to €15 and a *demi* (half-pint) of beer is €3 to €5. In clubs and chic bars, prices are easily double this. To hunt down the place with the cheapest drinks, just follow the trail of students. Most venues have a 'happy hour' with reduced-price drinks from around 5pm to 9pm.

top picks

FOR COCKTAILS

Feeling fancy? Flit into urban high life for a taste of Paris at its most chic:

- Buddha Bar (p294)
- Hemingway Bar (opposite)
- Kong (opposite)
- Le Fumoir (opposite)
- Alcazar (p292)
- Le Rosebud (p293)
- Harry's New York Bar (opposite)
- Ice Kube (p300)

Closing time tends to be 2am, though some bars have later licences. See p304 for clubbing spots and p307 for live music venues – great places to drink, too.

Since 1 January 2008, the Parisian drinking scene has been smoke-free – kind of. Following the blanket smoking-in-public-places ban (see p220), smokers have simply moved from inside to out, socialising on the street in front of bars instead or lighting up on packed pavement terraces which, heated and plastic-covered during the colder months, are smokier than ever!

LOUVRE & LES HALLES

Some great bars skirt the no-man's-land of Les Halles, but be prudent and avoid crossing the garden above the Forum des Halles at night. Rue des Lombards is celebrated for its jazz venues (p309), while sophisticated bars are grouped towards the Louvre and Palais Royal. The Étienne Marcel area, especially along rue Tiquetonne and rue Montorgueil, has a fine selection of hip cafés. This area is right next to the happening bars of rue Montmartre, which are listed on p298.

FOOTSIÉ Map pp82–3 Bar

☎ 01 42 60 07 20; 10-12 rue Daunou, 2e; ☎ 6pm-2am Mon-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; (M) Opéra

In this place – otherwise known as the FTSE (the London Stock Exchange) – drink prices

are floated like stocks, with prices changing according to demand; when certain drinks are purchased they then cost more, while others drop in price. It's a successful gimmick and the gorgeous wood-panelled bar attracts besuited brokers and way-too-young girls batting their eyelashes throughout the night.

LE CAFÉ NOIR Map pp82–3 Bar

☎ 01 40 39 07 36; 65 rue Montmartre, 2e; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Fri, 4pm-2am Sat; (M) Sentier An excellent, dependable bar on the edge of the Sentier garment district, 'The Black Café' is, in fact, predominantly red, and one of those bars you decide to turn into a regular haunt. It's always packed, with a mix of French and Anglo imbibers attracted by the friendly and very hip ambience.

LE CŒUR FOU Map pp82–3 Bar

☎ 01 42 33 91 33; 55 rue Montmartre, 2e; ☎ 5pm-2am; (M) Étienne Marcel 'The Crazy Heart' is hip without attaining that too-cool-by-half pretentiousness that reigns in the Étienne Marcel environs. It's a tiny, gallery-like bar with little candles nestled in whitewashed walls, a dapper late-20s crowd that doesn't keep to itself, and art exhibitions that rotate every two weeks.

L'IMPRÉVU Map p86 Bar

☎ 01 42 78 23 50; 9 rue Quincampoix, 4e; ☎ 1pm-2am Sun, noon-2am Tue-Sat; (M) Rambuteau 'The Unexpected' is just that – something of an oasis in the busy Les Halles area. It's a relatively inexpensive and gay-friendly bar, with mismatched furniture and a relaxed charm. The bar is quite large but the different rooms and corners mean you'll soon find your niche. It's popular with students.

CAFÉ DES INITIÉS Map p86 Café

☎ 01 42 33 78 29; 3 place des Deux Écus, 1er; ☎ 8am-2am; (M) Louvre-Rivoli This modern-design café almost on rue du Louvre is popular with journalists and communications types. While not a late-night venue, it has a pleasant terrace and is great for evening drinks, coffees and light meals (*plats du jour* – daily specials – around €14.50). Slick service, nondeafening music and good food attract a trendy 30-something mix of suits and hooded tops.

HARRY'S NEW YORK BAR

Map pp82–3 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 42 61 71 14; 5 rue Daunou, 2e; ☎ 10.30am-4am; (M) Opéra

One of the most popular American-style bars in the prewar years (when there were several dozen in Paris), Harry's once welcomed such habitués as writers F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, who no doubt sampled the bar's unique cocktail and creation: the Bloody Mary. The Cuban mahogany interior dates from the mid-19th century and was brought over from a Manhattan bar in 1911. There's a basement piano bar and, for the peckish, old-school hot dogs and tasty club sandwiches. The advertisement for Harry's that occasionally appears in the *International Herald Tribune* still reads 'Tell the Taxi Driver Sank Roo Doe Noo' and is copyrighted.

HEMINGWAY BAR Map pp82–3 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 43 16 30 50; Hôtel Ritz Paris, 15 place Vendôme, 1er; ☎ 6.30pm-2am; (M) Madeleine

This epic bar, nestled in the finery and grandeur of the Ritz, is a paean to Papa and is where he imbibed after making a name for himself. Legend has it that during the liberation of Paris, Hemingway himself was put in charge of the bar – complete with machine gun. Fabulous décor, outstanding cocktails (from €22) and expert bar staff.

KONG Map p86 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 40 39 09 00; 5th fl, 1 rue du Pont Neuf, 1er; ☎ 10.30am-2am Sun-Thurs, to 3am Fri & Sat; (M) Pont Neuf

This Philippe Starck-designed bar is carefully perched upon the Kenzo building. The concept is kind of postmodern Japanese, a cradle for new-generation wannabes who trail their Vuitton handbags along the bar and snap their fingers for more bottles of champagne. The cocktails are around €13, not bad for a place this pretentious, and DJs playing hip-hop Thursday to Saturday somehow get everyone dancing on the tables. Happy hour is 6pm to 8pm. Dress up: no running shoes.

LE FUMOIR Map p86 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 42 92 00 24; 6 rue de l'Amiral de Coligny, 1er; ☎ 11am-2am; (M) Louvre-Rivoli

This colonial-style bar-restaurant opposite the eastern flank of the Louvre is a fine place to sip top-notch gin from quality

glassware while nibbling on olives; during happy hour (6pm to 8pm) the cocktails, usually €8.50 to €11, drop to €6. There's a buoyant, corporate crowd on weekday evenings. The restaurant is popular for late breakfast during the week and brunch on Sundays; try to get a seat in the 'library'.

Café Oz Map p86 Pub

☎ 01 40 39 00 18; 18 rue St-Denis, 1er; ☎ 5pm-3am Sun-Thu, to 6am Fri, 1pm-6am Sat; **M** Châtelet

A militantly Aussie pub at the bottom of sleazy rue St-Denis, Oz is authentic – from its wood-and-ochre décor to its strong commitment to maximising your drink intake. Convivial bordering on raucous, it's popular with Anglos but the French love it too. The place is packed on Friday and Saturday nights, when it heats up with DJs and dancing. Happy hour is 6pm to 8pm. There's also a smaller and more chilled branch in **Pigalle** (Map p169; ☎ 01 40 16 11 16; 1 rue de Bruxelles, 9e; ☎ 5pm-2am Sun-Wed, to 4am Thurs, to 10am Fri & Sat; **M** Blanche) and Happy Hour is from 6pm to 9pm.

Angéline Map pp82-3 Tea Room

☎ 01 42 60 82 00; 226 rue de Rivoli, 1er; ☎ 9am-5pm; **M** Tuileries

Take a break from the long trek along the Tuileries gardens and line up for a table at Angéline, along with the lunching ladies, their posturing poodles and half the stu-

dents from Waseda University. This beautiful, high-ceilinged tearoom has exquisite furnishings, mirrored walls and fabulous fluffy cakes. More importantly, it serves the best and most wonderfully sickening 'African' hot chocolate in the history of time (€6.20), served with a pot of whipped cream. It's a positive meal replacement and is said to be the best hot chocolate in Paris.

MARAIS & BASTILLE

The Marais is an excellent spot to go out for drinks. It's a fascinating mix of gay-friendly (and gay-only) café society and bourgeois arty spots, with an interesting sprinkling of eclectic bars and relatively raucous pubs. Bastille has become increasingly *démodé* (unfashionable) and even crass over the years, but it invariably draws a crowd, particularly to heaving rue de Lappe. Things get quieter – and better – as you go further up rue de la Roquette and rue de Charonne. Rue Keller has some good cafés and a decent gay bar (see p327).

Au Petit Fer à Cheval Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 42 72 47 47; 30 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; ☎ 9am-2am; **M** Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

The original (1903) horseshoe-shaped zinc bar leaves little room for much else, but nobody seems to mind at this genial place. It overflows with friendly regulars enjoying a drink or a sandwich (simple meals are served from noon to 1am). The stainless-steel toilets are straight out of a Flash Gordon film.

Boca Chica Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 43 57 93 13; 58 rue de Charonne, 11e; ☎ 4pm-1am Mon-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; **M** Ledru Rollin

This enormous, colourfully decorated place attracts a salsa-lovin' crowd that isn't shy about getting up to dance. When the multilevel bar areas and terrace are not hosting salsa soirees you'll find DJs, flamenco artists and '80s theme nights. The extensive tapas selection is unsatisfying; stick to the sangria. Happy hour is 4pm to 8pm.

Havanita Café Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 43 55 96 42; 11 rue de Lappe, 11e; ☎ 5pm-2am Sun-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; **M** Bastille

Flashy Cuban style every inch of the way, from the *mojitos* (Cuban cocktails created with rum, mint and limes) to the main

courses to the murals on the walls. This attractive but commercial bar-restaurant has stood the test of time on the increasingly lurid rue de Lappe, thanks to its always reliably festive atmosphere.

Iguana Café Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 40 21 39 99; 15 rue de la Roquette, 11e; ☎ 3pm-5am; **M** Bastille

A contemporary, two-level, backlit café-pub whose clientele is slipping progressively from 30-somethings to early-20s punters. It's the best of a mediocre bunch and we love the red, black and silver décor on two levels. It has the advantage of closing late – or would that be early? – every night, and there's a DJ at the weekend, with themed nights twice a month.

La Chaise au Plafond Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 42 76 03 22; 10 Rue du Trésor, 4e; ☎ 9.30am-2am; **M** Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

'The Chair on the Ceiling' is a peaceful, warm place, with wooden tables outside on a terrace giving onto tranquil passage du Trésor. It's a real oasis from the frenzy of the Marais and worth knowing about in summer.

La Perle Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 42 72 69 93; 78 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; ☎ 6am-2am Mon-Fri, 8am-2am Sat & Sun; **M** St-Paul or Chemin Vert

This is where *bobos* (bohemian bourgeois) come to slum it over *un rouge* (glass of red wine) until the DJ arrives and things liven up. We like the (for real) distressed look of the place and the locomotive over the bar.

Le Café Divan Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 48 05 72 36; 60 rue de la Roquette, 11e; ☎ 8am-2am; **M** Bastille

Although a touch sombre, the Divan bar-restaurant scores a mention for three reasons. First, its long copper bar with stools: highly suitable for that moody apéritif or *Le Monde*-scrutinising coffee break. Second, a local clientele that's older and considerably less hysterical than the usual rue de Lappe lot. And, finally, it opens onto a little passage – great on a warm evening.

Les Étages Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 42 78 72 00; 35 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; ☎ 5pm-2am; **M** Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

Students and expats find 'The Storeys' (all three of them) a viable alternative to the standard Marais fare, and happily appropriate the upgraded lounge rooms upstairs. Before 9.30pm certain cocktails are €4.50 (instead of the usual €8).

Les Funambules Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 43 70 83 70; 12 rue Faidherbe, 11e; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun; **M** Faidherbe Chaligny

Like so many small cafés in east Paris, 'The Tightrope Walkers' has been transformed into a fashionable bar. While the original architecture provides character, nowadays the terrace is crammed with beautiful people on warm summer evenings. The rest of the year customers take shelter inside under the stunning coffered ceiling with chandelier and bird cages and enjoy a cocktail at the bar or a snack in the back room.

L'Étoile Manquante Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 42 72 48 34; 34 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; ☎ 8am-2am; **M** Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

A long, elegant room with a long, elegant wine and cocktail list, 'The Missing Star' takes standard café-bar décor up a slight notch with modern art, metal frames and fittings, clustered mirrors and dim lighting. There are light meals but it's not a restaurant as such.

L'Objectif Lune Map pp94-5 Bar

☎ 01 48 06 46 05; 19 rue de la Roquette, 11e; ☎ 6pm-5am; **M** Bastille

This perennial favourite (the name comes from a Tintin story) in Bastille attracts punters with its 'Maxi Happy Hours' – 6pm to 9pm and 9pm to 1.30am, when pints are €3 and €4 respectively – and its Cuban-themed and DJ nights, when it works itself up to a fever pitch.

Mixer Bar Map pp98-9 Bar

☎ 01 48 87 55 44; 23 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e; ☎ 7pm-2am; **M** Hôtel de Ville

This bright and colourful club has regular party nights and chill-out sessions. Blended up in this hedonistic mix are an animated gay crowd, a happy sprinkling of enlightened heteros, and three different DJs each night, spinning techno, electro and house.

top picks

BAR-HOPPING STREETS

- **Rue Princesse & rue des Canettes, 6e** (p291) Student, sports 'n' tapas bars and pubs.
- **Rue Oberkampf & rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e** (right) Hip bars, bohemian hang-outs and atmospheric cafés.
- **Rue de la Roquette, rue Keller & rue de Lappe, 11e** (right) Whatever you fancy; Bastille has the lot.
- **Rue Montmartre, 2e** (p284) Modern, slick bars and pubs.
- **Canal St-Martin, 10e** (p295) Heady summer nights in casual canal-side cafés.
- **Rue Vieille du Temple & surrounding streets, 4e** (right) Marais cocktail of gay bars and chic cafés.

POP IN Map pp94–5

Bar

☎ 01 48 05 56 11; 105 rue Amelot, 11e;
🕒 6.30pm–1.30am Tue–Sun; 📍 St-Sébastien
Froissart

All skinny jeans and cultivated pop-rock nonchalance, the Pop In somehow got itself on the in-crowd map but maintains a relaxed regulars' vibe. It's popular with expats and Parisian students starting out the evening, and the drinks are reasonably priced.

SANZ SANS Map pp94–5

Bar

☎ 01 44 75 78 78; 49 rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, 11e; 🕒 9am–2am Sun–Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat; 📍 Bastille

A little cheesy, a lot sleazy, this lively bar clad in red velvet and zebra stripes continues to hold out as a busy drinking venue on the Bastille beat. DJs play a very mixed bag of music, mostly electronic or funk and soul, and the crowd is similarly unpredictable. It's always good fun. There's a €5 cover charge at the weekend.

LE PICK-CLOPS Map pp98–9

Bar, Café

☎ 01 40 29 02 18; 16 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e;
🕒 7am–2am Mon–Sat, 8am–2am Sun; 📍 Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

This buzzy bar-café – all shades of blue and lit by neon – has Formica tables, ancient bar stools and plenty of mirrors. Attracting a friendly flow of locals and passers-by, it's a great place for morning or afternoon coffee, or that last drink alone or with friends. Great rum punch served with copious amounts of peanuts.

BAZ'ART CAFÉ Map pp92–3

Café

☎ 01 42 78 62 23; 36 Blvd Henri IV, 4e;
🕒 7.30am–2am; 📍 Bastille

This café, whose name sounds suspiciously like 'bizarre' in English, is just southwest of Bastille but could be a million miles away from the hoopla usually associated with that *quartier* (neighbourhood). It's a grown-up, stylish place with friendly service and good-value food.

CAFÉ DES PHARES Map pp94–5

Café

☎ 01 42 72 04 70; 7 place de la Bastille, 4e;
🕒 7.30am–3am Sun–Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat;
📍 Bastille

The Beacons Café is best known as the city's original *philocafé* (philosophers' café),

established by the late philosopher and Sorbonne professor Marc Sautet (1947–98) in 1992. If you feel like debating such topics as 'What is a fact?' and 'Can people communicate?', head for this place at 11am on Sunday. It sounds posey in the extreme and it is, but – hey! – this is Paris.

CENTRE CULTUREL SUÉDOIS

Map pp98–9

Café

☎ 01 44 78 80 20; 11 rue Payenne, 3e; 🕒 noon–6pm Tue–Sun; 📍 Chemin Vert

Housed in the beautiful Hôtel de Marle, a 16th-century mansion, this gorgeous café in the Swedish Cultural Centre hosts a variety of exhibitions, concerts and debates, with rich resources on Swedish history and culture. But what we're interested in here are the delicious soups, sandwiches and cakes and the tables outside in the tranquil paved courtyard.

L'APPAREMMENT CAFÉ Map pp98–9

Café

☎ 01 48 87 12 22; 18 rue des Coutures St-Gervais, 3e; 🕒 noon–2am Mon–Sat, 12.30pm–midnight Sun; 📍 St-Sébastien Froissart

This place is a tasteful haven tucked behind the Musée Picasso and at a merciful distance from the Marais, madding crowds. It's a bit like a private living room, with wood panelling, leather sofas, scattered parlour games, dog-eared books – and Parisians languidly studying their 'lounch' (their word, not ours) and (on Sunday till 4pm) their brunch – or is that 'brounch'? – menus.

LE PURE CAFÉ Map pp94–5

Café

☎ 01 43 71 47 22; 14 rue Jean Macé, 11e; 🕒 7am–2am Mon–Fri, 8am–2am Sat, 10am–midnight Sun; 📍 Charonne

This old café, which should be declared a national monument (if it already hasn't been), moonlights as a restaurant with a modern kitchen and some dishes that veer toward 'world' food (mains €16.50 to €20). But we like it as it was intended to be, especially over a *grand crème* (large white coffee) and the papers on Sunday morning.

PAUSE CAFÉ Map pp94–5

Café

☎ 01 48 06 80 33; 41 rue de Charonne, 11e;
🕒 7.30am–2am Mon–Sat, 9am–8.30pm Sun;
📍 Ledru Rollin

Principally a restaurant with *plats du jour* for around €12, this attractive café with lots of

windows remains a firmly popular destination for drinks, meals, coffee or brunch. Well situated a little away from the fray of Bastille, its generous terrace (covered and heated in winter) fills up with fashionable locals and the almost famous.

ANDY WAHLOO Map pp92–3

Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 42 71 20 38; 69 rue des Gravilliers, 3e;
🕒 5pm–2am Tue–Sat; 📍 Arts et Métiers

Casablanca meets pop-artist Andy Warhol in this cool, multicoloured cocktail lounge hidden away just north of the Centre Georges Pompidou. Its clever name means 'I have nothing' in Arabic. The acid colours, sweet cocktails, pushy staff and loud house music may be a bit too much for some palates, but it's a lively, spirited little bar that most will enjoy. There are great olives as well as promising meze plates. Happy hour is 5pm to 8pm. Enter through the courtyard.

BOTTLE SHOP Map pp94–5

Pub

☎ 01 43 14 28 04; 5 rue Trouseau, 11e;
🕒 11.30am–2am; 📍 Ledru Rollin

A popular lunch café by day, this great little local has a lively pub feeling in the evenings. There's a welcoming mix of regular expats and travellers – at least half the friendly banter going on is in English. Happy hour is 5pm to 8pm.

LIZARD LOUNGE Map pp98–9

Pub

☎ 01 42 72 81 34; 18 rue du Bourg Tibourge, 4e;
🕒 noon–2pm; 📍 Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

A quality outpost of Anglo-Saxon attitude in the heart of the Marais, this relaxed pub has beer on tap, cocktails and food (think

club sandwiches and burgers). Young expats with clutch purses file straight downstairs to the cellar, complete with stone walls, a DJ, and magnanimous little corners in which to schmooze.

PURE MALT Map pp98–9

Pub

☎ 01 42 76 03 77; 4 rue Caron, 4e; 🕒 5pm–2am; 📍 St-Paul

A little Scottish pub-bar just south of the lovely place du Marché Ste-Catherine, the Pure Malt is for the whisky connoisseur. More than 150 types of whisky are on hand to try at €7 to €17 a glass. It concentrates mainly on single malts, though there's beer available for €5 or €6 a pint. It's a great place for watching sport and there's a DJ on Friday and Saturday evenings.

STOLLY'S Map pp98–9

Pub

☎ 01 42 76 06 76; 16 rue de la Cloche Percée, 4e;
🕒 4.30pm–2am; 📍 Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

This itty-bitty Anglophone pub on a tiny street just above rue de Rivoli is always crowded, particularly during the 4.30pm to 8pm happy hour, when all cocktails and a pint of cheap *blonde* (that's the house lager – not the Monroe lookalike propping up the bar) cost €5. When big football matches are on and you're looking forward to a quiet drink, go elsewhere.

LE LOIR DANS LA THÉIÈRE

Map pp98–9

Tea Room

☎ 01 42 72 90 61; 3 rue des Rosiers, 4e;
🕒 9.30am–7pm; 📍 St-Paul

The cutesily named 'Dormouse in the Teapot' is a wonderful old space filled with retro toys, comfy couches and scenes of *Through the Looking Glass* on the walls. It serves up to a dozen different types of tea, excellent sandwiches and desserts like apple crumble (€8.50 to €12), and brunch at the weekend. Best time to find a table is about 4pm.

LE BISTROT DU PEINTRE

Map pp94–5

Wine Bar

☎ 01 47 00 34 39; 116 av Ledru-Rollin, 11e;
🕒 8am–2am; 📍 Bastille

This lovely *belle époque* bistro and wine bar should really count more as a restaurant than a drinking place; after all, the food is great. But the 1902 Art Nouveau bar, elegant terrace and spot-on service put this place on our apéritif A-list – and that of local artists, *bobos* and local celebs.

top picks

FOR TEA

Salons de thé – English, Japanese or North African – are increasingly chic in Paris.

- Kilali, 6e (p293)
- Mamie Gâteaux, 6e (p256)
- La Jacobine, 6e (p257)
- La Mosquée de Paris, 5e (p251)
- The Tea Caddy, 5e (p250)
- Angéline, 1er (p286)
- Le Loir dans la Théière, 4e (right)

LE CAFÉ DU PASSAGE Map pp94–5 Wine Bar

☎ 01 49 29 97 64; 12 rue de Charonne, 11e;
🕒 6pm–2am; 📍 Ledru Rollin

This is the destination of choice for willing wine buffs, who relax in armchairs while sampling vintages from the excellent range on offer. Le Café du Passage has hundreds of wines available, including many by the glass (from €5.80). Whisky aficionados are also catered for and won't be disappointed by the selection of single malts. It's a warm, cosy place and gourmet snacks and light meals (€6 to €17) are available.

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

Rive Gauche romantics, well-heeled café society types and students by the gallon drink in the 5e arrondissement, where old-but-good recipes, nostalgic formulas and a flurry of early-evening happy hours ensure a quintessential Parisian soiree. It's all good fun here, though nothing ground-breaking.

LE CROCODILE Map pp110–11 Bar

☎ 01 43 54 32 37; 6 rue Royer Collard, 5e;
🕒 10pm–6am Mon–Sat; 📍 Luxembourg

This bar with racing-green wooden shutters has been dispensing cocktails (more than 200 on the list) since 1966. Apparently the '70s were 'epic' in this bar, and the dream kicks on well into the wee hours of the new century. Arrive late for a truly eclectic crowd including lots of students, and an atmosphere that can go from quiet tipping to raucous revelry.

LE PIANO VACHE Map pp110–11 Bar

☎ 01 46 33 75 03; 8 rue Laplace, 5e; 🕒 noon–2am Mon–Fri, 9pm–2am Sat & Sun; 📍 Maubert Mutualité

Down the hill from the Panthéon, this bar is covered in old posters above old couches and is drenched in 1970s and '80s rock ambience. Effortlessly underground and a real student fave, bands and DJs play mainly rock, plus some goth, reggae and pop.

LE VIEUX CHÊNE Map pp110–11 Bar

☎ 01 43 37 71 51; 69 rue Mouffetard, 5e; 🕒 4pm–2am Sun–Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat; 📍 Place Monge

This rue Mouffetard institution is reckoned to be Paris' oldest bar. Indeed, a revolution-

ary circle met here in 1848 and it was a popular *bal musette* (dancing club) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today it's popular with students, and hosts jazz on weekends.

L'URGENCE BAR Map pp116–17 Bar

☎ 01 43 26 45 69; www.urgencebar.com, in French; 45 rue Monsieur le Prince, 6e; 🕒 9pm–4am Tue–Sat; 📍 Luxembourg

Just south of the École de Médecine is located this medical-themed 'emergency room'. Here are the future doctors of France, busy imbibing luridly coloured liquor from babies' bottles and test tubes, loosening their stethoscopes and pointing to the 'X-ray art' – making comments like '*mais non!* Clarisse, that's so not the tibia!'. Even if you don't understand French, its website gives a good sense of the vibe here.

CURIO PARLOR COCKTAIL CLUB

Map pp110–11 Bar, Club

☎ 06 11 22 29 79; 16 rue des Bernardins, 5e;
🕒 6pm–2am Sun–Thu, 6pm–4am Fri & Sat;
📍 Maubert Mutualité

This new place, run by the same group who run the Experimental Cocktail Club, opened in mid 2008. It is a bar-cum-club on the weekends, with a good mixture of soul thrown in for good measure. The aim is to see a return to the inter-war *années folles* (crazy years) of 1920s Paris, London and New York.

CAFÉ DELMAS Map pp110–11 Café

☎ 01 43 26 51 26; 2 place de la Contrescarpe, 5e;
🕒 8am–2am Sun–Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat;
📍 Cardinal Lemoine

Enviably situated on tree-studded place de la Contrescarpe, the Delmas is a hot spot for chilling over *un café*/cappuccino (€2.70/5.80) or all-day breakfast (€11). Sit comfortably beneath overhead heaters outside to soak up the street atmosphere or snuggle up between books in the library-style interior – awash with students from the nearby universities. Should you need the loo, Jacqueline is for women, Jacques for men.

LE VERRE À PIED Map pp110–11 Café

☎ 01 43 31 15 72; 118bis rue Mouffetard, 5e; lunch menus €13.50; 🕒 8am–9pm Tue–Sat, to 4pm Sun; 📍 Censier Daubenton

This *café-tabac* is a pearl of a place where little has changed since 1870. Its nicotine-hued mirrored wall, moulded cornices and original bar make it part of a dying breed, but the place oozes the charm, glamour and romance of an old Paris everyone loves. Stall holders from the rue Mouffetard market yo-yo in 'n' out, contemporary photography and art adorns one wall. Lunch is a busy, lively affair, and live music quickens the pulse a couple of evenings a week.

CAVE LA BOURGOGNE

Map pp110–11 Café, Wine Bar

☎ 01 47 07 82 80; 144 rue Mouffetard, 5e;
🕒 9am–10.30pm; 📍 Censier Daubenton

Prime spot for lapping up rue Mouffetard's contagious 'saunter-all-day' spirit, this neighbourhood hang-out sits on square St-Médard, one of the Latin Quarter's loveliest squares: think flower-bedecked fountain, centuries-old church and tastebud-titillating market stalls spilling across one side. Inside, old ladies and their pet dogs meet for coffee around dark wood tables alongside a local wine-sipping set. In summer everything spills outside.

LE PUB ST-HILAIRE Map pp110–11 Pub

www.pubsthilaire.com; 2 rue Valette, 5e; 🕒 11am–2am Mon–Thu, to 4am Fri, 4pm–4am Sat, 3pm–midnight Sun; 📍 Maubert Mutualité
'Buzzing' fails to do justice to the pulsating vibe inside this student-loved pub. Generous happy hours last several hours and a trio of pool tables, board games, music on two floors and various gimmicks to rev up the party crowd (a metre of cocktails, 'be your own barman' etc) keep the place packed. Pay €3.50/5.50/10 for a *demi/pinte/litre* of *bière pression* (draught beer).

LE VIOLON DINGUE Map pp110–11 Pub

☎ 01 43 25 79 93; 46 rue de la Montagne Ste-Geneviève, 5e; 🕒 8pm–4.30am Tue–Sat; 📍 Maubert Mutualité

A loud, lively bar adopted by revolving generations of students, the 'Crazy Violin' attracts lots of young English-speakers with big-screen sports shown upstairs and the flirty 'Dingue Lounge' downstairs. The name 'Crazy Violin' is a pun on the expression *le violon d'Ingres*, meaning 'hobby' in

French, because the celebrated painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres used to fiddle in his spare time.

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

While much of the 6e is sleepy and snobby, Carrefour de l'Odéon has a cluster of lively bars, cafés and restaurants. Rue de Buci, rue St-André des Arts and rue de l'Odéon enjoy a fair slice of night action with their arty cafés and busy pubs, while place St-Germain des Prés buzzes with the pavement terraces of St-Germain's beloved literary cafés. The local and international student hordes pile into the bars and pubs on atmospheric '*rue de la soif*' (street of thirst), aka rue Princesse and rue des Canettes.

LE ZÉRO DE CONDUITE Map pp116–17 Bar

☎ 01 46 34 26 35; www.zerodeconduite.fr, in French; 14 rue Jacob, 6e; 🕒 8.30pm–1.30am Tue–Thu, 6pm–2am Fri & Sat; 📍 Odéon

Originality if nothing else ensures that this bijou drinking hole, in the house where Richard Wagner lived briefly in the 1840s, gets a mention. Serving cocktails in *biberons* (baby bottles) and throwing *concours de grimaces* (face-pulling competitions), it goes all out to rekindle your infancy. Bizarre, yes, but obviously some enjoy sucking vodka and banana liqueur shaken with grenadine and orange juice through a teat. Board games, dice, cards

top picks

DRINKS 'TIL DAWN

Serious night owls wanting to drink 'til dawn (most bars shut at 2am) should try these top picks; some open late only on weekends.

- Café Charbon, 11e (p296)
- Café Oz, 1er (p286)
- Cubana Café, 6e (p293)
- Harry's New York Bar, 2e (p285)
- Highlander, 6e (p292)
- Iguana Café, 11e (p287)
- Le Crocodile, 5e (opposite)
- Le Tambour, 2e (p235)
- Le Violon Dingue, 5e (left)

and Trivial Pursuit complete the playful scene.

CAFÉ DE FLORE Map pp116–17 Café

☎ 01 45 48 55 26; 172 blvd St-Germain, 6e; ☎ 7.30am–1.30am; **M** St-Germain des Prés
The red upholstered benches, mirrors and marble walls at this Art Deco landmark haven't changed much since the days when Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Albert Camus and Pablo Picasso wagged their chins here. Its busy terrace draws in lunching ladies, posh business-folk and foreigners in search of the past.

LA PALETTE Map pp116–17 Café

☎ 01 43 26 68 15; 43 rue de Seine, 6e; ☎ 8am–2am Mon-Sat; **M** Mabillon
In the heart of gallery land (see boxed text, p210), this *fin-de-siècle* café and erstwhile stomping ground of Paul Cézanne and Georges Braque attracts a grown-up set of fashion people and local art dealers. Its summer terrace is beautiful.

LES DEUX MAGOTS Map pp116–17 Café

☎ 01 45 48 55 25; 170 blvd St-Germain, 6e; ☎ 7am–1am; **M** St-Germain des Prés
This erstwhile literary haunt dates from 1914 and is known as the favoured hang-out of Sartre, Hemingway and André Breton. Its name refers to the two *magots* (grotesque figurines) of Chinese dignitaries at the entrance. It's touristy, but just once you can give in to the nostalgia and sit on this inimitable terrace where passing celebrities, retiring philosophers and remnants of noblesse sip its famous shop-made hot chocolate, served in porcelain jugs.

ALCAZAR Map pp116–17 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 53 10 19 99; www.alcazar.fr; 62 rue Mazarine, 6e; ☎ noon–3pm & 7pm–2am; **M** Odéon
Also known as 'La Mezzanine', this hip bar inside Alcazar has got Conran's name all over it. Narcissistic but alluring, it's a modern white-and-glass mezzanine overlooking the restaurant with fancy cocktails, *nouvelle cuisine* dinners and a fashionable supper-club clientele. Wednesday to Saturday, DJs 'pass records' in the corner – this place is famous for its excellent trip-hop/house/lounge music compilations. Next door is Conran's club **Le Wagg** (p306). Flyers for all three are posted at www.blogalcazar.fr.

HIGHLANDER Map pp116–17 Pub

☎ 01 43 26 54 20; 8 rue de Nevers, 6e; ☎ 5pm–5am Mon-Fri, noon–5am Sat; **M** Odéon
Establishing a kind of love/hate relationship with its regulars, the jubilant Highlander scrapes up the after-hours remains of the Left Bank pub crowd. This mainly means French students, Anglophone lassies, rugby players, hobos and combinations thereof, all intent on drinking until dawn. Downstairs from the Scottish pub is a quasi dance floor, moved more by Long Island iced teas served in pint glasses than any kind of rhythm.

LE 10 Map pp116–17 Pub

☎ 01 43 26 66 83; 10 rue de l'Odéon, 6e; ☎ 5.30pm–2am; **M** Odéon
A local institution, this cellar pub groans with students, smoky ambience and cheap sangria. Posters adorn the walls and an eclectic selection emerges from the jukebox – everything from jazz and the Doors to *chanson française* ('French song'; traditional musical genre where lyrics are paramount). It's the ideal spot for plotting the next revolution or conquering a lonely heart.

LITTLE TEMPLE BAR Map pp116–17 Pub

☎ 01 43 26 79 95; www.littletemplebar.fr; 12 rue Princesse, 6e; ☎ 5pm–2am Mon-Fri, noon–2am Sat & Sun; **M** Mabillon
Sports fans pile in to this Irish bar, where football and rugby matches are screened live. It can get heated depending on who's playing/winning, and the place practically vibrates with noise. But that's all part of the vibe. Happy hour (5pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday) whittles a pint down to €5.

O'NEIL Map pp116–17 Pub

☎ 01 46 33 36 66; 20 rue des Canettes, 6e; ☎ noon–2am; **M** Mabillon
This micro brasserie brews its own: Taste all four with a *palette en dégustation* (€5.90) or pick the colour to suit you – *blonde* (blond), *blanche* (white), *brune* (brown) or *ambée* (amber) – poured straight from the barrel. Weekday 'Happy Hour' (6pm to 8pm) spells good-value drinking, as does O'Neil's mighty 1.8L pitchers of beer (€16/20 before/after 6pm). Beer cocktails (€4 to €9.60) and *les chasse-bières* (beer chasers; €7.50) are its unusual specialities.

KILALI Map pp116–17 Tearoom

☎ 01 43 25 65 64; 3–5 rue des Quatre Vents, 6e; ☎ noon–10pm Tue-Sat, 1–9pm Sun; **M** Odéon
Style personified, this Japanese tearoom-cum-art gallery is a peaceful oasis amid shops. Finesse, nobility and other elevated adjectives describe the different green teas served in pottery teapots with matching *yunomi* (goblets). Ask for a refill of water when you've drained the pot.

LE COMPTOIR DES CANNETTES Map pp116–17 Wine Bar

☎ 01 43 26 79 15; 11 rue des Canettes, 6e; ☎ noon–2am Tue-Sat, closed Aug; **M** Mabillon
In the biz since 1952, a faithful local following pours into this cellar, a stuffy, atmospheric tribute to downtrodden romanticism complete with red tablecloths, melting candles and nostalgic photos of musicians. The wine is cheap, the regulars incorrigible and on a good night the whole thing spills up the stairs and onto the street.

MONTPARNASSE

The scene here is far from rocking, but the pace is not slow thanks to the comings and goings of the train station and a trio of legendary cafés-cum-bars-cum-neighbourhood hang-outs.

LE SELECT Map pp124–5 Café

☎ 01 42 22 65 27; 99 blvd du Montparnasse, 6e; ☎ 7.30am–2.30am; **M** Vavin
Along with **La Coupole** (p258) and **Le Dôme** (p258), this café is a Montparnasse institution that has changed little since 1923. Students congregate in the early evening; regulars take over as the night wears on. *Tartines* made with Poilâne bread (see p223) are a speciality.

CUBANA CAFÉ Map pp124–5 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 40 46 80 81; 47 rue Vavin, 6e; ☎ 11am–3am Sun-Wed, to 5am Thu-Sat; **M** Vavin
This is the perfect place for cocktails and tapas, be it a single dish (€3.70 to €7.10) or a mixed platter (€16) shared among friends, before carrying on to nearby **La Coupole** (p310). A post-work crowd sinks into the comfy leather armchairs and flops beneath oil paintings of daily life in Cuba.

LE ROSEBUD Map pp124–5 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 43 35 38 54; 11bis rue Delambre, 14e; ☎ 7pm–2am; **M** Edgar Quinet or Vavin

Like the sleigh of that name in *Citizen Kane*, Rosebud harkens to the past. In this case it's to the time of the Montparnos (painters and writers who frequented Montparnasse during the neighbourhood's golden years of the early 20th century). Enjoy an expertly mixed champagne cocktail or whisky sour amid the quiet elegance of polished wood and aged leather.

FAUBOURG ST-GERMAIN & INVALIDES

An undisputable day rather than night venue, with government ministries and embassies outweighing drinking venues hands-down, the 7e arrondissement does have a redeeming feature for socialites, in the shape of three very lovely cafés.

CAFÉ DU MUSÉE RODIN Map pp128–9 Café

☎ 01 44 18 61 10; 77 rue de Varenne, 7e; ☎ 9.30am–6.45pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, to 5pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar; **M** Varenne

A serene beauty pervades the garden of the **Musée Rodin** (p130), with the great master's sculptures popping up among the roses and lime trees that line the pathways. If the weather is fine you can have a drink and a snack at one of the tables hidden behind the trees (garden admission €1).

CAFÉ LE BASILE Map pp128–9 Café

☎ 01 42 22 59 46; 34 rue de Grenelle, 7e; ☎ 7am–9pm Mon-Sat; **M** Rue du Bac

Don't bother looking for a name above this hip student café, framed by expensive designer fashion shops – there isn't one. Well-worn Formica tables, petrol-blue banquettes and a fine collection of 1950s lights and lampshades keep the sleek crowd out, the retro crowd in. A fabulous find for a chocolate or beer, light lunch or flop between lectures.

CAFÉ THOUMIEUX Map pp128–9 Café

☎ 01 45 51 50 40; 4 rue de la Comète, 7e; ☎ noon–2am Mon-Fri, 5pm–2am Sat; **M** La Tour Maubourg
The trendy tapas annexe of **Brasserie Thoumieux** (p259) is always full of well-heeled young people who seem to enjoy the Iberian ambience. Tapas and San Miguel beer set the scene, but perfumed vodka is the house speciality, with no fewer than 40 different

types (including chocolate, fig, watermelon and mint tea) to pick from.

ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

The av des Champs-Élysées is still a popular place for drinking but the vast majority of venues are terribly expensive and tend to be either tacky tourist traps or exceedingly pretentious lounges. A few nondescript but less flashy pubs can be found in the side streets to the north and south.

The chic quarters around Concorde are not great for finding a classic Parisian café or happening drinking hole, but there are some very memorable, glamorous venues with fantastic décor and, often, a rich history. While not on most Parisians' regular outing list, they definitely merit at least one visit. Most of the fancy hotels along rue de Rivoli have very classy bars and lounges.

BUDDHA BAR Map pp140–1 Cocktail Bar

☎ 01 53 05 90 00; 8-12 rue Boissy d'Anglas, 8e; ☎ noon-2am Sun-Thu, 4pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Concorde

Although moving in and out of A-list status as the fickle übercrowd comes and goes, Buddha Bar has made a name for itself with its Zen lounge music CDs and remains a hit – especially with tourists. The décor is simply spectacular, with a two-storey golden Buddha, millions of candles, inti-

mate corners and supremely attitudinous staff. Go for the cocktails (from €16) and Asian-inspired bar snacks.

CRICKETER Map pp140–1 Pub

☎ 01 40 07 01 45; 41 rue des Mathurins, 8e; ☎ noon-2am; 📍 Madeleine or Havre Caumartin

This self-proclaimed 'English sports pub' can stake a claim to authenticity – it was transported lock, stock and barrel from Ipswich. It's not a happening venue at night, but with Newcastle Brown on tap, salt 'n' vinegar chips, Brit tabloids, three big screens and quiz night every Tuesday it is as close to Old Blighty as you'll find on this side of the Channel.

CLICHY & GARE ST-LAZARE

The neighbourhood around place de Clichy, traditionally the centre of the 'have-not' half of the otherwise very well-heeled 17e, has come into its own in recent years with the development of nearby (and *très bobo*) Batignolles. Rue des Dames is a particularly rewarding street when in search of a libation or a laugh. There's also an excellent wine bar and one of our favourite big terrace cafés here.

LUSH BAR Map p144–5 Bar

☎ 01 43 87 49 46; 16 rue des Dames, 17e; ☎ 5pm-2am; 📍 Place de Clichy

This Clichy post has made a name for itself with a relaxed-but-hip local following and Anglo expats. It has excellent cocktails including killer white Russians, as well as wines and, in true English (or Irish – there are photos of the Emerald Isle on the walls) style, affordable beers. DJs often play on weekends.

BAR À VINS DU CINÉMA DES CINÉASTES Map pp144–5 Wine Bar

☎ 01 53 42 40 34; 7 av de Clichy, 17e; ☎ 5.30pm-midnight Tue-Sun; 📍 Place de Clichy

This excellent wine bar is seldom filled to capacity, presumably because most people are downstairs, watching a film at the *Cinéma des Cinéastes* (p313). The selection of wines by the glass, 'pot' (a Lyon-inspired carafe measuring 46cL) or bottle is excellent, there is a brief but well-considered menu and the first Sunday of each month hosts a music night starting at 6pm.

LE WEPLER Map pp144–5 Café

☎ 01 45 22 53 24; 14 Place de Clichy, 18e; ☎ 8am-1am; 📍 Place de Clichy

Though this large café-brasserie founded in 1892 is celebrated for its oysters, we go across the road to *Charlot, Roi des Coquillages* (p263) for our bivalves and to the Wepler to sit in the large covered terrace and enjoy the hubbub and scenery of Place de Clichy. Great people-watching; friendly service.

OPÉRA & GRANDS BOULEVARDS

At times Haussmann's windswept boulevards can be traffic-clogged and as a result feel unwelcoming, but some excellent bars stand out along the main axes and in the side streets. There are some interesting bars near the Bourse (stock exchange) and Opéra, catering mainly to the trader/corporate crowds. Another nocturnal niche is rue Montmartre in the Sentier district, with a few trendy bars and clubs.

O'SULLIVAN'S Map pp148–9 Pub

☎ 01 40 26 73 41; 1 bdv Montmartre, 2e; ☎ 10am-5am Sun-Thu, to 7am Fri & Sat; 📍 Grands Boulevards

From the outside this looks like just another supermarket-chain Irish pub, but O'Sullivan's is so much more. It's hugely popular thanks to its prominent location and friendly vibe. The spacious surrounds are always packed for big sporting events, plus concerts (jazz, rock, pop, Irish music) on Thursdays and DJs at the weekend. Different available areas such as the 1st floor and the outdoor terrace mean you can (almost) always find a tranquil place to chat.

GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE

Canal St-Martin offers a trendy bohemian atmosphere and wonderful summer nights (and days) in casual canal-side cafés. The proliferation of bars and cafés in the 10e is gradually joining up this area with Belleville and Ménilmontant (see p296). There are also

a few decent bars around Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est.

DE LA VILLE CAFÉ Map pp152–3 Bar

☎ 01 48 24 48 09; 34 bdv de Bonne Nouvelle, 10e; ☎ 11am-2.30am; 📍 Bonne Nouvelle

Another success story from the founders of *Café Charbon* (p296), this grand erstwhile brothel has an alluring, slightly confused mix of restored history (original mosaic tiles, distressed walls) and modern design. Between the high-ceilinged restaurant, the extensive terrace and the bar/lounge areas, you're sure to find your niche somewhere. DJs play most nights, making it a quality 'before' venue for the nearby *Rex Club* (p306).

MOTOWN BAR Map pp152–3 Bar

☎ 01 46 07 09 79; 81-83 bdv de Strasbourg, 10e; ☎ closed 1am-6pm Tue & Wed; 📍 Gare de l'Est This almost 24-hour place – it's open continuously except for two early-morning gaps at the start of the week – is the venue of choice in the wee hours when you have a thirst and a few bob but, alas, no friends. You can drink at almost any time of day, and eat (mains €7.50 to €11.50) until 11pm; live singers croon on certain nights. There's a warm and festive feel, and the staff and the patrons are friendly.

CAFÉ CHÉRI(E) Map pp174–5 Bar, Café

☎ 01 42 02 02 05; 44 bdv de la Villette, 19e; ☎ 8am-2am; 📍 Belleville

Very reminiscent of Belleville before all the changes, this successful bar-café has a lively, gritty, art-chic crowd and electro DJs Thursday to Saturday. An imaginative, colourful bar with its signature red lighting, infamous *mojitos* and *caiparinhas* and commitment to quality tunes, it's become everyone's *chéri(e)* (darling) and the first port of call on a night out in this part of town.

CHEZ PRUNE Map pp152–3 Bar, Café

☎ 01 42 41 30 47; 71 quai de Valmy, 10e; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Sat, 10am-2am Sun; 📍 République

This Soho-boho café put Canal St-Martin on the map. It's a classic Parisian bar-café, nicely rough around the edges, with good vibes – a terrace opposite the Canal St-Martin open in summer and a cosy atmosphere in winter. Brunch on Sundays (noon to 4pm) is popular.

top picks

CAFÉ TERRACES

Languish lazily on a café terrace like a Parisian and watch the capital enjoy life over an early-evening apéritif at:

- Café Beaubourg, 3e (p235)
- Café Delmas, 5e (p290)
- Chez Prune, 10e (opposite)
- De la Ville Café, 10e (opposite)
- Le Bistrot du Peintre, 11e (p289)
- Café Le Panier, 10e (p296)
- Le Sancerre, 18e (p299)
- Café des Initiés, 1er (p285)
- Les Funambules, 11e (p287)
- Chai 33, 12e (p297)

L'ÎLE ENCHANTÉE Map pp152–3 Bar, Café

☎ 01 42 01 67 99; 65 blvd de la Villette, 19e;
 ☎ 8am–2am Mon–Fri, 6pm–2am Sat & Sun;
 M Belleville

In a similar vein to *Café Chéri(e)* (p295), this 'Enchanted Island' in Belleville has become a popular stop-off for the before-clubbing crowd. With its colourful façade, huge windows and large, modern interior, it's a relaxed restaurant and terrace by day that turns electric at nightfall from Thursday to Saturday, with quality DJs mixing most evenings.

CAFÉ LE PANIER Map pp152–3 Café

☎ 01 42 01 38 18; 32 place Ste-Marthe, 10e;
 ☎ 11am–2am Tue–Sun May–Sep, 4pm–2am Mon–Sat & 10am–2am Sun Oct–Apr; M Belleville

Out in the western flanks of Belleville, it's easy to miss the rue Ste-Marthe, filled with colourful restaurants and bars exerting a dilapidated, funky charm. At the top, literally and figuratively, is this splendid and convivial café, a bit of Marseille in Paris, with an enormous terrace on sheltered place Ste-Marthe. It's brilliant for warm afternoons, casual meals (mains €9.50 to €16.50) and an extended apéritif.

MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

Rue Oberkampf is the essential hub of the Ménilmontant bar crawl, springing from a few cafés to being the epicentre of a vibrant, rapidly expanding bar scene. But as Oberkampf commercialises, the arty/edgy crowd has been moving steadily outwards, through cosmopolitan Belleville and towards La Villette (see p172).

AU PETIT GARAGE Map p155 Bar

☎ 01 48 07 08 12; 63 rue Jean-Pierre-Timbaud, 11e; ☎ 6pm–2am; M Parmentier.

Just about the last 'neighbourhood' bar in the *quartier*, the 'Little Garage' attracts local custom (think grease monkeys and others with cleaner hands) with its rock 'n' roll, laid-back staff and rough-and-ready décor. Definitely worth a visit.

CANNIBALE CAFÉ Map p155 Bar

☎ 01 49 29 95 59; 93 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e; ☎ 8am–2am Mon–Fri, 9am–2am Sat & Sun; M Couronnes

In fact 'Cannibal Café' couldn't be more welcoming, with its grand rococo-style bar topped with worn zinc, decrepit mirrors, peeling mouldings, wood panelling, Formica tables and red leatherette bench seats. It's a laid-back, almost frayed alternative to the groovy pubs and bars of rue Oberkampf and the perfect place to linger over a coffee or grab a quick beer at the bar. There's an extensive menu with popular breakfasts (€9 to €12), and brunch (served between noon and 4pm on the weekend) is €18. Oh, and the name of this place isn't suggesting that you bring condiments if you miss the mealtimes; it comes from a Dada manifesto and a painting by Goya.

LA CARAVANE Map p155 Bar

☎ 01 49 23 01 86; 35 rue de la Fontaine au Roi, 11e; ☎ 11am–2am Mon–Fri, 5pm–2am Sat & Sun; M Goncourt

This funky, animated bar is a little jewel tucked away between République and Oberkampf; look for the tiny campervan above the door. The bar is surrounded by colourful kitsch furnishings and the people around it and behind it are amiable and relaxed. The kitchen was into a rather odd hybrid cuisine – Thai noodles, Indian bhajis, *chèvre chaud* – the last time we looked. Stick with the reasonably priced drinks.

CAFÉ CHARBON Map p155 Bar, Café

☎ 01 43 57 55 13; 109 rue Oberkampf, 11e;
 ☎ 9am–2am Sun–Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat;
 M Parmentier

With its postindustrial *belle époque* ambience, the Charbon was the first of the hip cafés and bars to catch on in Ménilmontant. Now it's somewhat of a victim of its own success, but it's always crowded and worth heading to for the distressed décor with high ceilings, chandeliers and perched DJ booth. The food (mains €11 to €18) is good; it's a popular spot for brunch between noon and 3pm on Sundays.

ON CHERCHE ENCORE Map p155 Bar, Café

☎ 01 49 20 79 56; 2 rue des Goncourt, 11e;
 ☎ 11am–4pm Mon, to 2am Tue–Fri, noon–2am Sat;
 M Goncourt

This relaxed, modern, loft-style bar-café with the less-than-inspired name of 'We're Still Looking', is trying to do it all and suc-

ceeding. It's committed to serving quality food and wines at reasonable prices; the Saturday brunch from noon to 4pm is one of the best around. It is also intent on providing quality tunes (electro, house and funk) from Thursday to Saturday, which leads to some quality mingling. The corner terrace is positioned for all-afternoon sun and is worth pouncing on.

AU CHAT NOIR Map p155 Café

☎ 01 48 06 98 22; 76 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 10e; ☎ 10am–2am Sun–Thu, 11am–2am Fri & Sat; M Parmentier

Slightly removed from the overexcitement of Oberkampf and with a slightly older crowd, this attractive corner café with high ceilings and a long, wooden bar is a happening but relaxed drinking space at night. It's also a great café in which to hang out or read during the day. Downstairs is more animated, with occasional live concerts.

L'AUTRE CAFÉ Map p155 Café

☎ 01 40 21 03 07; 62 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e; ☎ 8am–2am; M Parmentier

A young mixed crowd of locals, artists and party-goers remains faithful to this quality café with its long bar, spacious seating areas, relaxed environment, reasonable prices and exhibition openings. It's a great place to do a little work, and there is a small lounge upstairs.

GARE DE LYON, NATION & BERCY

Once a desert when it came to drinking and carousing, Bercy is an increasingly happening place that draws in crowds for its cinemas and wine bars, though it's a somewhat artificially created scene. Gare de Lyon and Nation are close to drinking spots in Bastille (p286), and to the eastern side of the 11e (opposite).

BARRIO LATINO Map pp158–9 Bar

☎ 01 55 78 84 75; 46–48 rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, 11e; ☎ 11am–2am Sun–Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat; M Bastille

Still squeezing the salsa theme for all that it's worth, this enormous bar-restaurant with serious dancing – distantly related to *Buddha Bar* (p294) – is spread over three highly impressive floors. It attracts Latinos, Latino

wannabes and Latino wannahaves. The delicious *mojitos* go down a treat.

LA LIBERTÉ Map pp158–9 Bar

☎ 01 43 72 11 18; 196 rue de Faubourg St-Antoine, 12e; ☎ 9am–2am Mon–Fri, 11am–2am Sat & Sun; M Faidherbe-Chaligny

A delightfully messy bar infused with the spirit of the '68 revolution, 'The Liberty' does simple meals and wine by day, and is a heaving mix of regulars and drop-ins, raspy-voiced arguments and glasses going clink by night. It's the kind of place where *bobos*, artists and old rockers find their common point: a passionate love of drink and talk.

CHAI 33 Map pp158–9 Wine Bar

☎ 01 53 44 01 01; 33 cour St-Émilion, 12e;
 ☎ noon–midnight Sun & Mon, to 1am Tue–Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat; M Cour St-Émilion

The converted wine warehouses in Bercy Village house a variety of restaurants and bars, including this enormous wine-oriented concept space with a restaurant, lounge, tasting room and shop. Wine, both French and foreign, is divided into six colour-coded categories: purple is 'fruity and intense', green is 'light and spirited', yellow is 'dry and soft' etc. There are cocktails and decent food here, too, as well as two terraces.

LE VINÉA CAFÉ Map pp158–9 Wine Bar

☎ 01 44 74 09 09; 26–28 cour St-Émilion, 12e;
 ☎ 9am–2am Sun–Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; M Cour St-Émilion

The anchor tenant – or so it would seem – of the cour St-Émilion, this is a delightful wine bar/restaurant with a lovely terrace to the back facing place des Vins de France. There's live music some nights and a popular brunch (€23) from noon to 4pm on Sundays.

13E ARRONDISSEMENT & CHINATOWN

While Chinatown isn't a hopping spot for bars, the area around the Butte aux Cailles, a kind of molehill southwest of Place d'Italie, has some good options. It is a pretty area that is popular with students and local residents: places in this area tend to have die-hard regulars.

SPUTNIK Map pp162–3

Bar

☎ 01 45 65 19 82; 14 rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 13e; 🕒 2pm–2am Mon–Sat, 4pm–midnight Sun; 📍 Corvisart or Place d'Italie

This large bar with wi-fi zone and a dozen machines to surf is far more than an internet café. With its buzzing pavement terrace on one of Paris' hippest streets, Sputnik is a place to be seen. Students love it, particularly between 6pm and 8pm during happy hour.

THE FROG & BRITISH LIBRARY

Map pp162–3

Pub

☎ 01 45 84 34 26; 114 av de France, 13e; mains €13.50, lunch menus €14; 🕒 7.30am–2am Mon–Fri, noon–2am Sat & Sun; 📍 Bibliothèque

A hybrid English pub/French brasserie, this spacious drinking venue around the corner from the Bibliothèque Nationale is propped up by French students who flock here between library visits for apple pie and custard, weekend brunches, potato wedges and cheese nachos washed down with a pint (€4.50). The pick of the drinks list is the six beers brewed on the premises: Dark de Triomphe, Inseine, Parislytic and so on. Pints are €6 or €4.50 at happy hour (6pm to 8pm Monday to Friday). Free wi-fi, live bands, groove and soul DJs, themed party nights. The enormous **Frog at Bercy Village** (Map pp158–9; ☎ 01 43 40 70 71; 25 cour St-Émilion, 12e; 🕒 noon–2am; 📍 Cour St-Émilion) is just across the river.

TANDEM Map pp162–3

Wine Bar

☎ 01 45 80 38 39; 10 rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 13e; starters €7–8.50, mains €13.50–20; 🕒 noon–2.30pm & 7.30–11pm Tue–Sat; 📍 Corvisart or Place d'Italie

If wine's your love, make a beeline for this overwhelmingly old-fashioned *bar à vins* crammed with regulars. The lovechild of two brothers with a fierce oenological passion, Tandem homes in on 'boutique' (*vins de propriétés*) and organic wines as well as those produced by new *vignerons* (wine-makers). A traditional bistro menu complements the wine list.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Friendly and convivial, **Le Merle Moqueur** (Map pp162–3; 11 rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 13e; 🕒 5pm–2am; 📍 Corvisart) stocks the largest selection of rum punches we've seen.

15^E ARRONDISSEMENT

It's hardly buzzing, but as with every *quartier* it has a clutch of faithfuls propped up by die-hard regulars.

CHARLIE BIRDY Map pp166–7

Bar

☎ 01 48 28 06 06; www.charliebirdy.com, in French; 1 place Étienne Pernet, 15e; 🕒 5pm–2am; 📍 Commerce

Love it or hate it, this lounge bar – one of three Parisian Charlie Birdies – is the place to sit back, relax and savour a well-earned apéritif after a hard day's work. Décor is modern; the place splits into part bar, part red-brick-walled restaurant; and live gospel 'n' soul makes weekend brunch (€17.50) an upbeat affair.

LES VÉLOS À MOËLLE Map pp166–7

Wine Bar

☎ 01 45 57 28 28; rue Vasco de Gama, 15e; 🕒 noon–3pm & 7.30–10.30pm Tue–Sat, noon–4pm & 7.30–10.30pm Sun; 📍 Lourmel

Geared as much towards energetic cyclists as wine lovers who are happy to loll at the bar, this wine bar rents out bikes equipped with gourmet picnic hampers (€32). Warming the cockles with a *vin chaud* (mulled wine) and chunk of *pain d'épice* (honey spiced bread) around a wine-barrel-turned-table on the pavement outside is a winter delight. Should hunger pains strike, its lunchtime *formule à buffet* (€22.50) is excellent value.

MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

Crowded around the hill side of Montmartre you'll find an utterly eclectic selection of places to drink. This area offers a strange medley of tourist-trap *chanson* bars at Sacré Cœur, sleazy sex-shop venues at Pigalle, African outposts at Château Rouge and picturesque Parisian spots around Abbesses.

LA FOURMI Map p169

Bar

☎ 01 42 64 70 35; 74 rue des Martyrs, 18e; 🕒 8am–2am Mon–Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat, 10am–2am Sun; 📍 Pigalle

A Pigalle stayer, 'The Ant' hits the mark with its lively yet unpretentious atmosphere. The décor is hip but not overwhelming, the zinc bar is long and inviting and the people are laid-back. The music is mostly rock – qual-

CAPITAL WINE TASTING

Sorting the good wines from the inferior ones when it comes to serious wine-tasting in Paris is no mean feat. Dozens of courses exist, but few come recommended.

One man in the capital who really knows his stuff is sommelier Juan Sánchez, who holds talks and *dégustations* (tastings) most Saturday evenings with independent French wine growers he buys from at his wine shop **La Dernier Goutte** (p211) in St-Germain des Prés. **Le Pré Verre** (p252) and **Tandem** (opposite) are informal, atmospheric places to taste interesting wines by small producers over a meal.

Oenophiles aspiring to headier heights should aim for one of the sporadic tastings held in Paris' oldest wine shop, **Caves Augé** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 45 22 16 97; 116 Blvd Haussmann, 8e; 📍 St-Augustin), in business since 1850. On the same street, one of the world's foremost sommeliers, Philippe Faure-Brac, pairs food and wine to perfection for a price at **Bistrot du Sommelier** (p261). Cellar tastings with wine growers pre-empt Friday's brilliantly matched three-/five-course lunch/dinner (€45/70).

To learn how to sort the wheat from the chaff, embark on a wine-tasting course at the highly esteemed **Centre de Dégustation Jacques Vivet** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 43 25 96 30, 06 07 28 61 85; 48 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; 📍 Luxembourg), opposite Jardin de Luxembourg. As well as one-day tasting courses (€194) and introductory wine courses (in English and French), it runs advanced *cours d'oenologie* (in French only) focusing on several wines from one appellation or grape variety.

ity, well-known tunes that get you going while leaving space in the airways for the rise and fall of unbridled conversation. If you're hungry, its *plat du jour* costs €9.

LE DÉPANNÉUR Map p169

Bar

☎ 01 44 53 03 78; 27 rue Pierre Fontaine, 9e; 🕒 10am–2am Mon–Thu, 24hr Fri–Sun; 📍 Blanche 'The Repairman', an American diner-cum-bar with postmodern frills and almost 24-hour service, has plenty of tequila and fancy cocktails (€7.50). There are DJs after 11pm from Thursday to Saturday. After 3am or 4am at the weekend most clients have just come out of the clubs. Be on guard.

LE SANCERRE Map p169

Bar

☎ 01 42 58 08 20; 35 rue des Abbesses, 18e; 🕒 7am–2am; 📍 Abbesses

Le Sancerre is a popular, rather brash bistro-cum-bar that's often crowded to capacity in the evening, especially on Saturdays. Scruffy yet attractive with its classic bistro décor and hip local mood, it has a prized terrace that gets the late morning sun. It serves bistro food and breakfasts from 11.30am to 11.30pm. Happy hour is 5.30pm to 8pm.

OLYMPIC CAFÉ Map p169

Bar

☎ 01 42 52 29 93; 20 rue Léon, 18e; 🕒 7pm–2am Tue–Sat; 📍 Château Rouge

This community bar in the Goutte d'Or neighbourhood is full of surprises. From plays and film screenings to concerts of

Guinean *griot*, Balkan folk, Cameroon hip-hop and so on in the basement (tickets €5 to €7), this is a breeding ground for creative young people bursting with original ideas. The monthly program available at the bar also includes events (tickets adult/concession €15/10) at the **Lavoir Moderne Parisien** (Map p169; ☎ 01 42 52 09 14; 35 rue Léon, 18e), another springboard for young talent down the road.

CHÀO BÀ CAFÉ Map p169

Café

☎ 01 46 06 72 90; 22 Blvd de Clichy, 18e; 🕒 8.30am–2am Sun–Wed, to 4am Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat; 📍 Pigalle

This comfortable café-restaurant on two levels is decorated in colonial Oriental style with huge plants, ceiling fans and bamboo chairs. It serves great cocktails (from €9.50) in goldfish-bowl-sized glasses, and somewhat bland Franco-Vietnamese fusion food. And BTW: *chào bà* means *bonjour madame* in Vietnamese.

LE PROGRÈS Map p169

Café

☎ 01 42 64 07 37; 7 rue des Trois Frères, 18e; 🕒 9am–2am; 📍 Abbesses

A real live *café du quartier* perched in the heart of Abbesses, 'The Progress' occupies a corner site with huge windows and simple seating and attracts a relaxed mix of local artists, shop staff, writers and hangers-on. It's great for convivial evenings, with DJs and bands some nights, but, it's also a good place to come for inexpensive meals and daytime coffees.

ICE KUBE [Map p169](#) [Cocktail Bar](#)

☎ 01 42 05 20 00; 1-5 passage Ruelle, 18e; 🕒 7pm-1.30am Wed-Sat, 2-11pm Sun; 📍 La Chapelle

Every city worth its, err, salt, has got to have an ice bar nowadays, and this *temple de glace* (ice temple) on the first floor of the *très boutique Kube Hôtel* (p357) is the French capital's first. The temperature is still set at -20°C, there are down jackets on loan and the bar is a shimmering block of carved ice. But the rules have changed. It's no longer all the vodka you can dispatch in 30 min-

utes for €38, but a far less cool four vodka cocktails for the same.

CORCORAN'S CLICHY [Map p169](#) [Pub](#)

☎ 01 42 23 00 30; 110 blvd de Clichy, 18e; 🕒 11.30am-5am; 📍 Blanche

OK, so it's just another Irish pub... But with the entrance to the [Cimetière de Montmartre](#) (p168) just paces away, Corcoran's is a great place to stop off on your way to/from paying obeisance to Zola or Stendhal. And it's at the start of a quiet cul-de-sac.