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**LET'S HEAR IT  
FOR YOUR GIRLS**

CELEBS AND THEIR  
BEZZIES TELL ALL

**♥ X FACTOR KATE**

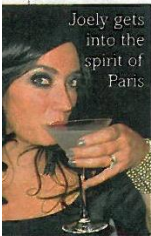
'MY BFF SAVED ME  
FROM ANOREXIA'

**♥ ELEN RIVAS**

'SHE WAS MY ROCK  
WHEN FRANK LEFT'

# 48 hours dans PARIS AVEC LES MATES

*Forget romance – with bars, bistros and boutiques galore, Paris is perfect for a GIRLS' weekend away* BY JOELY CAREY



Joely gets into the spirit of Paris

**Paris has long been the place to head to for a mini-break with the boyf. But with scrummy food, brilliant boutiques and sightseeing galore, the French capital also makes un très bon destination for you and your friends.**

**It's a two-and-a-quarter-hour Eurostar train ride from London, or an hour's flight from many regional airports. So grab your beret, buddies and phrasebook and head for the Channel.**

## CULTURE *vulture*

Vibrant, young and trendy, the Le Marais district is perfect for a boozy lunch with a bit of shopping thrown in. Head for Place des Vosges, which has been called the most beautiful square in the world. It was home to one of the city's most famous authors, Victor Hugo, who penned *The Hunchback Of Notre-Dame*, don't cha know!

The square is set around a lawned

and gated historic garden. On a sunny day it's a buzzing meeting place for locals, so grab a picnic and soak up the French vibe. Under the square's ancient arches, you'll find a selection of bars, bistros, galleries and boutiques. Whether you want a coffee, a lazy lunch or a posh dinner, you'll be spoilt for choice.

After a hard day's shopping, we headed to Les Bonnes Soeurs on rue du Pas de la Mule: simple, well-priced food and cute waiters – always a plus!



Kate and a friend in Paris



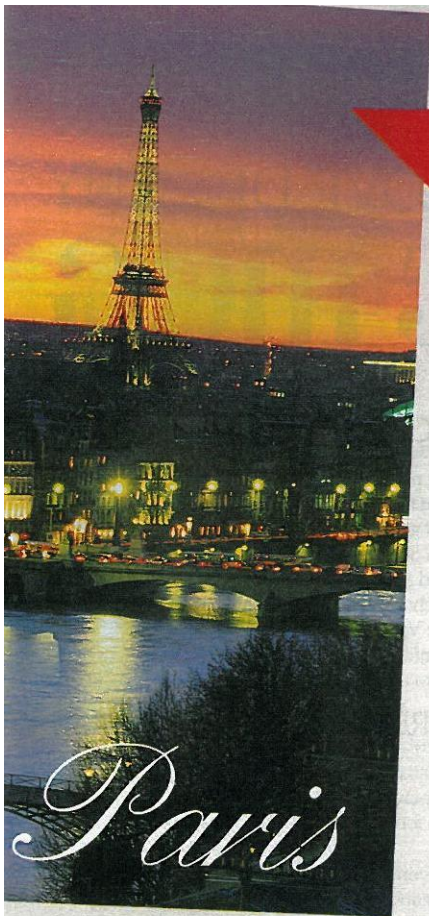
Have a lazy afternoon in Place des Vosges

## FOOD & drink

Paris has loads of eateries to choose from, but pick one where the locals like to eat. We loved Willi's Wine Bar (Williswinebar.com) in rue des Petits Champs. Get up early to do the Eiffel Tower before the queues start, then stroll over to Willi's for lunch – it's a good idea to book ahead. It also serves great wine by the glass, with more than 250 varieties to choose from. Try to sit at the big oak bar so you can watch the world go by while you gossip.

For dinner, there's La Coupole (Flobrasseries.com) in Boulevard du Montparnasse, a big, buzzy brasserie. Tuck into scampi with mango chutney or the restaurant's famous lamb curry, then crêpes Suzette – what else? – for pud.

Take a dinner cruise along the Seine (Bateauxparisiens.com) – you'll get to see all the sights without having to traipse around, while being served delicious food!



Paris

## NEED to know

**Currency:** Euro.  
**Journey time:** Around 2hrs 15mins by Eurostar from London.  
**Time difference:** 1 hour ahead.  
**Weather:** average 6°C in January, 2°C in February, 16°C in April.

## OUT and about

Swot up on the French capital's history at The Paris Story (Paris-story.com), an interactive museum where you can watch a film about the city and have a look at a 3D model giving an aerial view of Paris.

As for museums, you can't not go to the Louvre while you're here, but why not brush up on your wine knowledge at Musée du Vin (Musée duvinparis.com), too?

Then book a tour of four of the city's 78 markets with Aurélie Mahoudeau and Marion Willard Valès, aka Succulent Paris (Succulent-paris.com) – they'll then cook you a meal in a Parisian flat.

## LIVE it up

Andy Wahloo in Rue des Gravilliers (Andywahloo-bar.com) is a '70s-style Moroccan bar and one of the local jet-set's favourites, with mojitos, mint tea and music later in the evening.

Meanwhile, Batofar (Batofar.org), one of the city's most popular clubs, is in a lighthouse boat moored on the Seine. Les Bains, in rue du Bourg-l'Abbé, stays open late and is great for spotting A-listers like J-Lo.

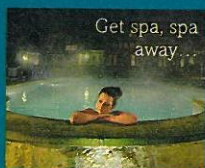
Or you could amble along to Place Pigalle in Montmartre and take



in the vibrant atmosphere. It's well worth booking tickets for Moulin Rouge (Moulinrouge.fr) – it's touristy, tacky but glorious fun. Don't bother having dinner there, just see the show. You won't be disappointed.

## PIMP YOUR PAMPER WEEKEND

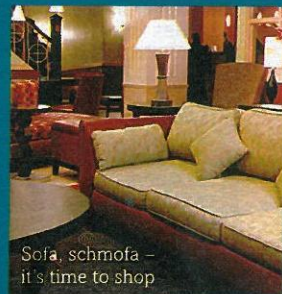
Splash out on a spa break at Feversham Arms Hotel & Verbena Spa in North Yorkshire. A Girly Gathering package includes one night bed and breakfast in a twin room, a five-course tasting menu, a glass of champagne and a facial, manicure or pedicure, plus use of the Verbena Spa, from only £150 per person. Call 01439 770766. (Valid until July 15, Sunday to Friday, excluding school and public holidays).



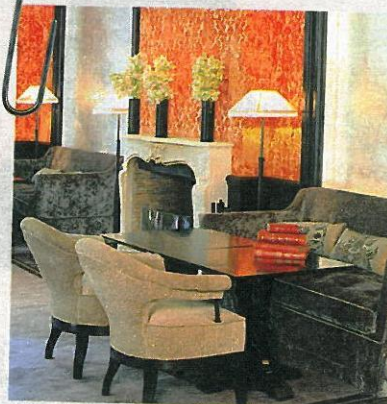
Get spa, spa away...

## WE ♥ NEW YORK

A shop-fest in the Big Apple might put a smile on your face, especially if you stay at the newly renovated The Hotel @ Times Square. Chic and cheap, it's a mere hop from Fifth Avenue. *Fabulous* readers who book by February 7 will get 25 per cent off selected rates in February and March. Rooms start at around £62. Call 001 212 790 2710, quoting FABULOUS.\*



Sofa, schmofoa – it's time to shop



Pavillon de la Reine hotel is super-luxe

## BUNK down

Pavillon de la Reine is the only hotel in Place des Vosges – and one of the most beautiful places I've ever stayed. The vine-covered 17th-century building has 54 uniquely decorated rooms and suites, with a plasma TV screen, minibar and Molton Brown goodies. And don't forget to visit the spa!

It's pricey, but for a special weekend away, you can't beat this hidden treasure.



All we need now is SJP's wardrobe...

## THE LOW-DOWN

Rooms at Hotel Pavillon de la Reine (00331 4029 1919) cost from £160 per person per night based on two sharing, with breakfast. Or if you're on a budget, the Hotel Pointe Rivoli has pop-art-style rooms from £105 per double (00331 4272 1423). Eurostar runs up to 18 daily services from London St Pancras International to Paris, from £69 return (08432 186186). A two-day Paris Sightseeing Pass (Parispass.com) covers 60 attractions, money off meals and free travel.