

SHOPPING

top picks

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SHOPPING

When it comes to shopping, Paris naturally has it all: large boulevards lined with international chains, luxury avenues with designer fashion, famous *grands magasins* (department stores) and fabulous *marchés aux puces* (flea markets; [p217](#)). But the real charm of Parisian shopping resides in a peripatetic stroll through the side streets, where tiny speciality stores and quirky boutiques selling everything from strawberry-scented Wellington boots to stainless-steel soap holders alternate with cafés, galleries and churches. These shops are what we've focused on in this chapter. Key areas are around the Marais in the 3e and 4e ([p201](#)), around St-Germain des Prés in the 6e ([p209](#)), and parts of Montmartre and Pigalle in the 9e and 18e ([p217](#)).

As in many capital cities, shops are spread out across different neighbourhoods, inspiring very different styles of shopping. If what the French do best – fashion (see [p55](#)) – is what you're after, then tread the *haute couture* (high fashion), luxury jewellery and designer perfume boardwalks in the Étoile and Champs-Élysées ([p212](#)). For original fashion, both street and vintage (see [p204](#)), the addictive maze of boutique shopping in the Marais and St-Germain will keep you on your toes.

For an overview of Paris fashion, department stores such as Le Bon Marché ([p212](#)) in 7e and Galeries Lafayette ([p215](#)) and Printemps ([p215](#)) in the 9e provide a gentle introduction to what can be a frustratingly intimidating scene; should you not look like a millionaire, trying to raise a smile out of frosty, poker-faced staff in some designer boutiques (or indeed attracting their attention to let you in; most require you to buzz) can be disheartening. Should it be too much for you, personalised shopping tours exist; [www.chicshoppingparis.com](#) and [www.chicparisienne.com](#) are two of many.

For a rundown on Paris' main shopping strips and streets specialising in particular products, see [p203](#) and [p216](#).

Shopping in Paris for fine food, wine, tea, books, stationery, art and antiques, and other collectables is particularly rewarding. For gift ideas, see [p207](#).

Opening Hours

Opening hours are generally 10am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. Smaller shops often shut all day on Monday; on other days, their proprietors may close from noon to around 2pm for a long and lazy lunch. Many larger stores hold *nocturnes* (late-night shopping) on Thursday, remaining open until around 10pm. For Sunday shopping, the Champs-Élysées ([p212](#)), Montmartre ([p217](#)), the Marais ([p201](#)) and Bastille ([p201](#)) areas are the liveliest.

Winter *soldes* (sales) – during which many shops extend their hours – kick off in mid-January; summer *soldes* start the second week of June.

Consumer Taxes & Bargaining

If you're not an EU resident, you can get a TVA (VAT; sales tax) refund of up to 17%, provided you have spent more than €182 in any one store; see [p409](#). Some larger department stores and 'duty-free' shops give discounts of 10% to foreign passport holders if asked; otherwise bargaining is reserved for flea markets.

LOUVRE & LES HALLES

Though you'll find any number of specialist boutiques selling everything from music boxes to kitchenware here, the 1e and 2e arrondissements are mostly about fashion. Indeed, the Sentier garment district has become a centre for fashion, while rue Étienne Marcel, place des Victoires and rue du Jour (beside the Église St-Eustache; [Map p86](#)) offer prominent labels and shoe shops. Nearby rue Montmartre and rue Tiquetonne are known for their streetwear and avant-garde designs. Les Halles itself, once the city's food market, is now a vast underground shopping complex. It's flanked to the east by the sleaze and sports stores of rue St-Denis, and to the south by the chain stores of rue de Rivoli. The easternmost part of the 1e around Palais Royal is far more conservative, with fancy period and label fashion.

BRENTANO'S [Map pp82–3](#) Books

☎ 01 42 61 52 50; [www.brentanos.fr](#); 37 av de l'Opéra, 2e; ☎ 10am–7.30pm Mon–Sat, 1–7pm Sun; **M** Opéra

Situated midway between the Louvre and Palais Garnier, this US-based chain is a

good shop for tracking down American books, including fiction, business and children's titles, as well as magazines.

WH SMITH [Map pp82–3](#) Books

☎ 01 44 77 88 99; [www.whsmith.fr](#); 248 rue de Rivoli, 1er; ☎ 9am–7.30pm Mon–Sat, 1pm–7.30pm Sun; **M** Concorde

This branch of the British-owned chain counts some 70,000 titles in stock, as well as a good selection of international magazines, DVDs and greetings cards. Oddly, English-speaking staff are thin on the ground here.

AGNÈS B FEMME

[Map p86](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 45 08 56 56; [www.agnesb.com](#); 6 rue du Jour, 1er; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 7.30pm Sat; **M** Les Halles

Style stalwart agnès b excels in extremely durable, comfortable and sometimes quirky clothes. The foundations are excellent; the rest has somewhat lost its cachet of late. On the same street you'll find *agnès b homme* ([Map p86](#); ☎ 01 42 33 04 13; 3 rue du Jour, 1er) for men and *agnès b enfant* ([Map p86](#); ☎ 01 40 39 96 88; 2 rue du Jour, 1er) for children.

ANDRÉ [Map p86](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 53 40 96 84; [www.andre.fr](#), in French; 106 rue de Rivoli, 1er; ☎ 9.30am–8pm Mon–Sat; **M** Châtelet

This branch of a footwear chain is where ordinary (and still very stylish) Parisians buy their shoes and boots. At the same time each year André invites hot new designers to create new lines of shoes and handbags at affordable prices.

ANTOINE [Map pp82–3](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 42 96 01 80; [www.antoine1745.com](#); 10 av de l'Opéra, 2e; ☎ 10am–10pm & 2–4.30pm Mon–Sat; **M** Pyramides

Founded in 1745, Antoine is the place to come if you're in the market for a bespoke cane, umbrella, fan or pair of gloves. It sells both new and vintage items.

BARBARA BUI [Map p86](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 40 26 43 65; [www.barbarabui.com](#); 23 rue Étienne Marcel, 2e; ☎ 10.30am–7.30pm Mon–Sat; **M** Étienne Marcel

Franco-Vietnamese Barbara Bui's nearby *Kabuki Femme* ([p200](#)) was an instant success and she went on to open her own shops, known

CLOTHING SIZES

Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	36	37	38	39	40	

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

for their elegant modernism and beautifully cut trousers. There's also a *Marais branch* ([Map pp98–9](#); ☎ 01 53 01 88 05; 43 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 4e; **M** St-Paul), which keeps the same hours.

BONPOINT [Map pp82–3](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 40 26 20 90; [www.bonpoint.com](#); 50 rue Étienne Marcel; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; **M** Étienne Marcel

This is a timeless collection of immaculate, classic children's clothes (from newborn to 14 years). It's a longstanding tradition for the chic *bébés* of Paris to be besuited by their grannies in Bonpoint, but if you're looking to buy into it expect to pay €90 for a pair of perfectly crafted first-time shoes.

COLETTE [Map pp82–3](#) Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 55 35 33 90; [www.colette.fr](#); 213 rue St-Honoré, 1er; ☎ 11am–7pm Mon–Sat; **M** Tuileries

Not just an exquisite selection of clothes and accessories, this Japanese-inspired concept store has books, art, music and

beauty products. Limited-edition sneakers, candles that smell like sex (so say staff, anyway), cutting-edge clocks – it's worth a look even if you're not buying. Colette's famous sales see huge reductions on the designer stock, including Comme des Garçons, Marc Jacobs and far more. The Water Bar in the basement features still and sparkling waters from around the world.

KABUKI FEMME Map p86 *Clothing & Accessories*
☎ 01 42 33 55 65; www.barbarabui.com; 25 rue Étienne Marcel, 2e; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; M Étienne Marcel

Opened some 20 years ago, this is the shop that brought Barbara Bui to world attention. Her own eponymous store is next door (p199) and you'll find **Kabuki Homme** (Map p86; ☎ 01 42 33 13 44; 21 rue Étienne Marcel, 2e) for men two doors down. In addition to Bui's own designs you'll find a judicious selection from other brands, including Miu Miu, Prada, Balenciaga and Stella McCartney.

KENZO Map p86 *Clothing & Accessories*
☎ 01 73 04 20 00; www.kenzo.com; 1 rue du Pont Neuf, 1er; ☎ 11.30am-7.30pm Mon, 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat; M Pont Neuf

While Kenzo himself may have retired from designing almost a decade ago, in recent years Sardinian Antonio Marras has brought a new *joie de vivre* to the label. The Pont Neuf flagship store, which shares the same building as the Philippe Starck–designed **Kong** (p285), is spread over three floors and is a tantalising temple to fashion and beauty.

KILIWATCH Map pp82–3 *Clothing & Accessories*
☎ 01 42 21 17 37; www.kiliwatch.fr, in French; 64 rue Tiquetonne, 2e; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat; M Étienne Marcel

A Parisian institution, Kiliwatch is always packed with hip guys and gals rummaging through rack after rack of new and used streetwear and designs. There's a startling vintage range including hats and boots, plus art/photography books, eyewear and the latest runners.

MARIA LUISA FEMME
Map pp82–3 *Clothing & Accessories*
☎ 01 47 03 96 15; 2 rue Cambon, 1er; ☎ 10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat; M Concorde
Every fashionista knows this eminent selection of classic and avant-garde designers.

This shop also stocks a range of swimwear. Around the corner you'll find an **accessories branch** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 47 03 48 08; 40 rue Mont Thabor, 1er) and nearby a **menswear branch** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 42 60 89 83; 19bis rue Mont Thabor, 1er).

MARITHÉ & FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD
Map pp82–3 *Clothing & Accessories*

☎ 01 53 40 74 20; www.girbaud.com; 38 rue Étienne Marcel, 2e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon, 10am-7pm Tue-Sat; M Étienne Marcel
This globetrotting designer couple call themselves 'jeanologists', having devoted themselves to over 30 years of denim. They have four other boutiques including a **Marais branch** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 01 44 54 99 01; 20 rue Malher, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, 2-7pm Sun; M St-Paul) and a **St-Germain branch** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 53 63 53 63; 7 rue Cherche Midi, 6e; ☎ 11.30am-7.30pm Mon, 10.30am-7.30pm Tue-Sat; M St-Sulpice) with its own 'vegetation wall' inside (p52).

SURFACE TO AIR
Map p86 *Clothing & Accessories*

☎ 01 49 27 04 58; www.surface2airparis.com; 46 rue de l'Arbre Sec, 1er; ☎ 12.30pm-7.30pm Mon-Sat; M Les Halles
This shop has arty books, accessories, graphic design and very edgy clothing. With an exceedingly up-to-date collection of daring local and international designs, the space also welcomes regular installations and collaborative events with artists. Its **Marais branch** (Map pp92–3; ☎ 01 44 61 76 27; 68 rue Charlot, 3e; ☎ noon-7.30pm Mon-Sat; M Filles du Calvaire) is newer and smaller.

LEGRAND FILLES & FILS
Map pp82–3 *Food & Drink*

☎ 01 42 60 07 12; www.caves-legrand.com, in French; 7-11 Galerie Vivienne, 1 rue de la Banque, 2e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon, 10am-7.30pm Tue-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat; M Pyramides
This shop in a covered arcade sells not just fine wines but all the accoutrements: corkscrews, tasting glasses, decanters etc. It also has a fancy wine bar and tasting room.

LE REPAIRE DE BACCHUS
Map pp92–3 *Food & Drink*
☎ 01 48 87 73 68; 40 rue de Bretagne, 3e; ☎ 5-8.30pm Mon, 10am-2pm & 3.30-8.30pm Tue & Wed, 10am-8.30pm Thu-Sat, 10am-1.30pm Sun; M Arts et Métiers

'The Den of Bacchus' stocks a good selection of New World wines along with an excellent supply of French vintages, as well as cognacs, Armagnacs and whiskies.

ANNA JOLIET Map pp82–3 *Gifts & Souvenirs*

☎ 01 42 96 55 13; www.boitesamusique-paris.com, in French; passage du Perron, 9 rue de Beaujolais, 1er; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; M Pyramides
This wonderful (and tiny) shop at the northern end of the Jardin du Palais Royal specialises in music boxes, both new and old, from Switzerland. Just open the door and see if you aren't tempted in (and/or can recognise the tune).

CANICRÈCHE Map pp82–3 *Gifts & Souvenirs*

☎ 01 42 71 59 09; www.shopcanicreche.fr, in French; 32 rue de Turbigo, 3e; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat; M Arts et Métiers
And the chic *chiens* (dogs) of Paris? They head for this friendly boutique, which moonlights as a canine hotel, for their collars, toys, bedding and stunning little outfits.

A. SIMON Map pp82–3 *Household Goods*

☎ 01 42 33 71 65; www.simon-a.com; 48 & 52 rue Montmartre, 2e; ☎ 1.30-6.30pm Mon, 9am-6.30pm Tue-Fri, 9.30am-6.30pm Sat; M Étienne Marcel
A more modern kitchenware shop than nearby **E Dehillerin** (below), a. simon has more pots, pans, mixing bowls and utensils than you thought existed – anyone for a *turbotière* (turbot poacher)? – in two separate shops.

E DEHILLERIN Map p86 *Household Goods*

☎ 01 42 36 53 13; www.dehillerin.com; 18-20 rue Coquillière, 1er; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 2-6pm Mon, 9am-6pm Tue-Sat; M Les Halles
Founded in 1820, this two-level shop carries an incredible selection of professional-quality *matériel de cuisine* (kitchenware). You're sure to find something you desperately need, such as a *coupe volaille* (poultry scissors) or even a *poëlon escargots* (snail pan), with six or 12 – your choice – holes.

KINDAL Map pp82–3 *Household Goods*

☎ 01 42 61 75 34; www.kindal.net; 32 av de l'Opéra, 2e; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat; M Opéra
In the market for something sharp? This *coutellerie* (cutlery shop) sells everything that slices and dices – from table and

pocket knives to razors and Japanese swords. We even saw some stunning nail clippers on sale here.

CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE
Map p86 *Shopping Centre*

☎ 01 43 16 47 10; www.carrouseloulouvre.com; 99 rue de Rivoli, 1er; ☎ 8am-11pm; M Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre
Built around IM Pei's inverted glass pyramid beneath the place du Carrousel, this shopping centre contains some three dozen upmarket shops (☎ 10am-8pm daily), more than a dozen restaurants and even the **Comédie Française Studio Théâtre** (p315).

MARAI & BASTILLE

The Marais can boast some excellent speciality stores and an ever-expanding fashion presence. Note that the hip young designers are colonising the upper reaches of the 3e towards rue Charlot (Map pp92–3). Meanwhile, rue des Francs Bourgeois and, towards the other side of rue de Rivoli, rue François Mirron in the 4e have well-established boutique shopping for clothing, hats, home furnishings and stationery. Place des Vosges is lined with very high-end art and antique galleries with some amazing sculpture for sale. Over towards the 11e, Bastille has some interesting shops on rue Keller (Map pp94–5; young designers, records and manga/comic book shops) and rue de Charonne (clothes).

GALERIE & ATELIER PUNCINELLO
Map pp98–9 *Art & Antiques*

☎ 01 42 72 00 60; 16 rue du Parc Royal, 4e; ☎ 2-7pm Tue-Sat; M St-Paul
This delightful gallery and workshop stocks masks, shields, spears and other collectables and antiques from Oceania and Southeast Asia. The items coming from the Asmat region of Irian Jaya in Indonesia are particularly fine, though expensive. The workshop can make you a *socle* – a stand or pedestal for your new treasure – to any specification in wood, bronze or plexiglass.

LES MOTS À LA BOUCHE Map pp98–9 *Books*

☎ 01 42 78 88 30; www.motsbouche.com, in French; 6 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e; ☎ 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, 1-9pm Sun; M Hôtel de Ville
'On the Tip of the Tongue' is Paris' premier gay bookshop. Most of the left-hand side

of the shop on the ground floor is devoted to English-language books, including some guides and novels. If you're feeling naughty, go downstairs.

LIBRAIRIE DE L'HÔTEL DE SULLY

Map pp98-9 Books
☎ 01 44 61 21 75; 62 rue St-Antoine, 4e; ☎ 10am-7pm; M St-Paul

This early-17th-century aristocratic mansion housing the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (Monum), the body responsible for many of France's historical monuments, has one of the best bookshops in town for titles related to Paris. From historical texts and biographies to picture books and atlases, it's all here.

RED WHEELBARROW BOOKSTORE

Map pp92-3 Books
☎ 01 48 04 75 08; www.theredwheelbarrow.com; 22 rue St-Paul, 4e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat, 2-6pm Sun; M St-Paul

This impeccably run English-language bookshop has arguably the best selection of literature and 'serious reading' in Paris, and helpful, well-read staff.

ABOU D'ABI BAZAR

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 42 77 96 98; www.aboudabibazar.com; 10 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e; ☎ 2-7pm Sun & Mon, 10.30am-7.15pm Tue-Sat; M St-Paul

This fashionable boutique is a treasure-trove of smart and affordable ready-to-wear pieces from young designers such as Paul & Joe, Isabel Marant, Missoni and Antik Batik. There's also **Abou d'Abi 125** (Map pp98-9; ☎ 01 42 71 13 26; 125 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; M Chemin Vert), which keeps the same hours.

ALTERNATIVES

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 42 78 31 50; 18 rue du Roi de Sicile, 4e; ☎ 1-7pm Tue-Sat; M St-Paul

This resale shop stocking mostly men's high-end fashion has great bargains in superb condition. This is an excellent place to pick up Japanese designer-wear at a third of the original price. You can also come across Miu Miu, Prada, Martin Margiela, Comme des Garçons and Rick Owens here on a good day.

APC

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 42 78 18 02; www.apc.fr; 112 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; ☎ 11.30am-8pm; M Chemin Vert

The hip streetwear of the **Atelier de Production et Création** (Production and Creation Workshop) is very popular with those young Parisian guys with accidental pop-rock haircuts, white sneakers and jeans falling well below the waist. The focus is on simple lines and straight cuts, though some pieces are more adventurous. It also has women's clothes.

CHERRY CHAU

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 42 77 12 11; www.cherrychau.com; 30 rue de Sévigné, 4e; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 2-7.30pm Sun; M St-Paul or Chemin Vert

Long established in Hong Kong, Cherry Chau stocks the eponymous designer's hats, scarves, jewellery and one-of-a-kind *coiffes*: headbands made from a variety of materials including feathers and beads. The pink-and-white shop is just west of place des Vosges.

EROTOKRITOS

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 42 78 14 04; www.erotokritos.com; 99 rue Vieille du Temple; ☎ 1-7.30pm Mon, 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat; M Filles du Calvaire

Greek-Cypriot Erotokritos' clothes are chic and colourful, combining and contrasting fabrics with amazing prints. They're also quite affordable, considering the designer's hot reputation. There's also a **Les Halles branch** (Map pp82-3; ☎ 01 42 21 44 60; 58 rue d'Argout, 2e; M Sentier), which keeps the same hours.

ISABEL MARANT

Map pp94-5 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 49 29 71 55; 16 rue de Charonne, 11e; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; M Bastille

Great cardigans and trousers, interesting accessories, ethnic influences and beautiful fabrics: just a few reasons why Isabel Marant has become the *chouchou* (darling) of Paris fashion. Bohemian and stylish, these are clothes that people actually look good in.

L'ÉCLAIREUR

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 48 87 10 22; www.leclaireur.com; 3ter rue des Rosiers, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; M St-Paul
You'll find John Galliano and Dries Van Noten rubbing shoulders with objects by Piet Hein Eek and Piero Fornasetti here. Part art space, part lounge and part deconstructionist fashion statement, this collec-

tion for women is known for having the next big thing first. Located just down the road is the stunning **Marais branch** (Map pp98-9; ☎ 01 44 54 22 11; 12 rue Malher, 4e; M St-Paul) for men's fashion, converted from an old warehouse.

L'HABILLEUR

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 48 87 77 12; 44 rue de Poitou, 3e; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat; M St-Sébastien Froissart
For more than a decade this shop has been known for its discount designer-wear – offering 50% to 70% off original prices. It generally stocks last season's collections – including Plein Sud, Paul & Joe, Giorgio Brato and Belle Rose. The selection of men's clothes is quite extensive.

MAGAZIN Z

Map p86 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 48 87 68 07; www.z-enfant.com, in French; 39 rue de Rivoli, 4e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; M Hôtel de Ville

Just about everyone's getting into the design business these days, so why not Zinédine Zidane, the erstwhile captain of

the French national team? Gratefully ZZ restricts his line to clothing and accessories for kids up to age 14. No if, ands or (head) butts about it...

SHINE

Map pp98-9 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 01 48 05 80 10; 15 rue de Poitou, 3e; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sat, 2-5pm Sun; M Filles du Calvaire
Another limited but discerning collection of designer stuff in the trendsetting 3e. Young women's clothing and some excellent shoes and handbags have been astutely selected, with plenty of Marc Jacobs. See by Chloé, K by Karl Lagerfeld and the current jewellery fetish, Bijoux de Sophie.

FRAGONARD

Map pp98-9 Cosmetics & Perfume
☎ 01 44 78 01 32; www.fragonard.com; 51 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 4e; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 12-7pm Sun; M St-Paul

This Parisian perfume maker has alluring natural scents in elegant bottles as well as candles, essential oils and soaps. In addition to the splendid smells, it has a small, expensive and very tasteful selection of clothing, hand-stitched linen tablecloths and napkins as well as jewellery. There's also a **St-Germain branch** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 01 42 84 12 12; 196 blvd St-Germain, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés) and Fragonard runs the **Musée du Parfum** (see p147), which has its own shop.

L'ARTISAN PARFUMEUR

Map pp98-9 Cosmetics & Perfume
☎ 01 48 04 55 66; www.artisanparfumeur.com; 32 rue du Bourg Tibourg, 4e; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; M St-Paul

This artisan has been making exquisite original scents and candles for decades. The products are expensive but of very high quality and attractively packaged. There are a half-dozen other outlets across town, as well as stands at the Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores.

BAZAR DE L'HÔTEL DE VILLE

Map pp98-9 Department Store
☎ 01 42 74 90 00; www.bhv.fr, in French; 14 rue du Temple, 4e; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, to 9pm Wed, to 8pm Sat; M Hôtel de Ville
Recently renovated, expanded and dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century, BHV is still pretty much a straightforward (though now flashier) department

top picks

SHOPPING STRIPS

- **Av Montaigne, av Georges V & rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e (p214)** Historic *haute couture* (high fashion).
- **Place de la Madeleine, 8e (p212)** Gourmet fine-food shops.
- **Rue de Rivoli, 1er & Les Halles, 2e (p198) & av des Champs-Élysées, 8e (p212)** Major, super-sized chain stores like Gap, H&M and Zara.
- **Blvd Haussmann & around, 9e (p215)** Department stores.
- **Rue Charlot & beyond, 3e (p201)** Hip young designers – in fashion and art – in the northern Marais.
- **Place des Vosges, 4e (p201)** Art and antique galleries with particularly amazing sculpture.
- **Carré Rive Gauche, 6e (p212)** A group of 120 fine art and antique galleries, clustered along quai Voltaire, rue de l'Université, rue des St-Pères & rue du Bac in this 'Left-Bank Square'.
- **Rue Mazarine & rue de Seine, 6e (p210)** Fabulous contemporary art and design galleries.
- **Rue d'Alésia, 14e (p204)** Factory outlet clothing stores for men, women and kids.

DRESS FOR LESS

When I shop secondhand in Paris I don't want to rummage through sloppy piles of someone else's has-beens. That's fine in my own village hall, but not in Paris.

First stop on my carefully researched list of **designer outlets** was **Mistigriff** (Map pp166–7; www.mistigriff.fr; 83-53 rue St-Charles, 15e; **M** St-Charles), a shop that got rave reports online. But in the flesh its neon-lit façade screamed 'tack', the security guard was snarling and the heaps of strings spilling onto the floor just didn't ooze the elegance I'd set my heart on.

One peg up but still cut from the same soulless cloth was **Mouton à Cinq Pattes** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 45 48 86 26; 8 & 18 rue St-Placide, 6e; **M** Sèvres Babylone), two shops with a €1 trough of bargains as window display. But its tightly packed rows of clothes oozed choice and at €119 the Jean-Paul Gaultier bustiers (sorry, no conical cups) were a snip of the **Triangle d'Or** (p214) price tag.

A pleasant surprise was **La Clef des Marques** (☎ 01 45 49 31 00; 122-126 blvd Raspail, 6e; **M** Vavin), despite its hackles-raising door policy: surrender your handbag in exchange for a ticket or keep it and be searched later. I swallowed my pride and left an hour later with a last-season Emilio Pucci ski top (€50), classic Ralph Lauren jumper (€80) and a note in my diary to bring my husband here for business suits next time. Its extensive designer lingerie (loads of Calvin Klein), children's fashion (Le Petit Bateau, Diesel, Ralph Lauren) and sportswear sections were equally impressive.

I could have spent all day browsing *les bonnes affaires* – a mix of last-season leftovers at half the price and the current season's collection costing 10% to 15% less – on **Rue d'Alésia, 14e** (Map pp124–5; **M** Alésia). Fascinating was the rail of prototypes of this summer's frocks in **Cacherel** at No 114. There was only one of each design and each a *taille unique* (one size), but at €90 what a find. Exiting the metro station, walk west along rue d'Alésia to uncover its line-up of outlets, including Sonia Rykiel in the **SR Store** at Nos 64 and 112, **Sinéquanone** and **Dorotennis** at No 74, and **Naf Naf** at No 143.

My foray in current designer **secondhand** was short and sweet: Parisian pioneer of *dépôt-vente* in 1970, **Chercheminippes** (Map pp116–17; www.chercheminippes.com; 102, 109-11 & 124 rue du Cherche Midi, 6e; **M** Vaneau) in St-Germain des Prés was everything I could dream of in the shape of five beautifully presented boutiques on one street, each specialising in a different genre (haute couture, kids, menswear etc) and perfectly ordered by size and designer. There were even changing rooms.

The single biggest draw of shopping for **vintage** in Paris is not the promise of Parisian chic but price. Second-hand *haute couture* from previous decades costs 20% to 30% less in Paris than London, says Lawrence Carlier at **Le Dépôt-Vente de Bucy** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 46 34 28 28; 4 rue Bourbon le Château, 6e; **M** Mabillon). She stocks hand-me-downs brought in from well-off ladies in the 6e arrondissement, returning anything that hasn't sold after three months. 'My vintage is mainly from the 1960s, very à la mode again', she adds, as I mentally calculate if my bank account can handle pea-green cowboy boots, a Chanel jacket and an A-line skirt smothered in sequins. This stylish 'boutique of curiosities' with black wooden façade and a hip wine shop as neighbour is right up my alley – as is Madame Auguet's **Ragtime** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 56 24 00 36; 23 rue de l'Échaude, 6e; **M** Mabillon) selling *vêtements anciens* from 1870 to 1970, and elegant **L'Embellie** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 45 48 29 82; 2 rue du Regard, 6e; **M** Sèvres Babylone). Count €100 to €1500 for a designer dress at all three. For old-fashioned accessories like gentlemen's pocket watches, ladies' hats and walking canes, browse **Aspasie & Mathieu** (Map pp110–11; 10 rue des Carmes, 5e; **M** Maubert Mutualité) in the Latin Quarter.

Paris being Paris, there's secondhand... and secondhand: in the rag trade since 1975, collector Didier Ludot not only sells the city's finest couture creations of yesteryear in his exclusive twinset of boutiques **Didier Ludot** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 42 96 06 56; www.didierludot.com; 20 & 24 Galerie de Montpensier, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre), he also hosts fashion exhibitions in the neighbouring galleries of the Palais Royal, and has published a book portraying the evolution of the little black dress, brilliantly brought to life in his boutique that sells just that, **La Petite Robe Noire** (☎ 01 40 15 01 04; 125 Galerie de Valois, 1er). Shop mannequins modelled a 1960s Chanel and 2006 Lanvin the day we were there.

Prize for innovation goes to **Andrea Crews** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 45 26 36 68; www.andreacrews.com; 10 rue Frochot, 9e; **M** Pigalle), a creative collective that added a whole new dimension to my quest to dress for less. Using everything from discarded clothing to electrical fittings and household bric-a-brac, the team chops, sews, recycles and reinvents to create the most extraordinary new fashion not everyone (few?) would wear. 'Sustainable secondhand' is its motto.

Nicola Williams

store – apart from its huge hardware/DIY department in the basement, with every possible type of hammer, power tool, nail, plug or hinge you could ask for.

À L'OLIVIER Map pp98–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 48 04 86 59; www.alolivier.com; 23 rue de Rivoli, 4e; ☎ 2-7pm Mon, 9.30am-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** St-Paul

'At the Olive Tree' has been *the* place for oil, from olive and walnut to soy and sesame, since 1822. It also offers olive oil tastings and olive-oil beauty products, as well as good vinegars, jams and honeys.

JULIEN, CAVISTE Map pp92–3 Food & Drink

☎ 01 42 72 00 94; 50 rue Charlot, 3e; ☎ 9.30am-1.30pm & 3.30-8.30pm Tue-Fri, 9.30am-8pm Sat; **M** Filles du Calvaire

This independent wine store on hip rue Charlot focuses on small, independent producers and organic wines. There's a unique selection of Rhône, Languedoc and Loire vintages and exceptional champagnes. The enthusiastic merchant Julien will locate, explain (and wax lyrical about) the wine for you, whatever your budget.

LE PALAIS DES THÉS Map pp98–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 48 87 80 60; www.palaisdesthes.com; 64 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat; **M** Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul

The 'Palace of Teas' is not as well established as **Mariage Frères** (right), but the selection is as large and the surroundings much more 21st-century. There are three other outlets in Paris, including a **6e branch** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 42 22 03 98; 61 rue du Cherche Midi, 6e; **M** Rennes), which keeps the same hours.

LES RUCHERS DU ROY

Map pp98–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 42 72 02 96; www.lesruchersduroy.com, in French; 37 rue du Roi de Sicile, 4e; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 2-8pm Sun; **M** St-Paul

'The King's Apiaries' sells honey and apiarian products fit for a monarch – especially its pure royal jelly, a substance secreted by worker bees and fed to future queen bees. It sells dozens of types of honey, including those made from one single type of flower (*miels monofloraux*), honeys made from a number of blossoms (*miels polyfloraux*) and various regional honeys (*miels des régions*).

MARIAGE FRÈRES

Map pp98–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 42 72 28 11; www.mariagefreres.com; 30 & 35 rue du Bourg Tibourg, 4e; ☎ shop 10.30am-7.30pm, tearooms noon-7pm; **M** Hôtel de Ville Founded in 1854, this is Paris' first and arguably its finest teasop. Choose from more than 500 varieties of tea sourced from some 35 countries. In addition, Mariage Frères has two other outlets: the **6e branch** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 40 51 82 50; 13 rue des Grands Augustins; **M** Odéon) and the **8e branch** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 46 22 18 54; 260 rue Faubourg Saint Honoré, 8e; **M** Ternes)

PRODUITS DES MONASTÈRES

Map pp98–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 48 04 39 05; 10 rue des Barres, 4e; ☎ 9.30am-noon & 2.30-8pm Tue-Fri, 10am-noon & 2.30-6.30pm Sat, 12.15-1pm Sun (just after church service); **M** Hôtel de Ville or Pont Marie This shop on an ancient cobbled street just down from Église St-Gervais-St-Protais sells jams, biscuits, cakes, muesli, honey, herbal teas and other comestibles made at Benedictine and Trappist monasteries in Jerusalem. For linens, candles, sandals and ceramics sourced from the same places, go around the corner to **Monastica** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 01 48 87 85 13; 11 rue du Pont Louis-Philippe, 4e; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, 10am-noon & 1.15-6.30pm Sat).

2 MILLE & 1 NUITS

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 48 87 07 07; http://2001nuits.free.fr; 13 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 4e; ☎ 11am-7.30pm; **M** Chemin Vert or St-Paul

The large '2001 Nights' shop at the end of a courtyard just off rue des Francs Bourgeois has colourful gifts and decorative items with an Oriental (read: 'Arabian Nights') slant. Some of the stuff for sale – a silver cup with a handle made from antelope horn, for example – is just this side of kitsch, but it's all good fun.

ATELIER D'AUTREFOIS

Map pp92–3 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 42 77 35 56; 61 blvd Beaumarchais, 3e; ☎ 10am-5.30pm; **M** Chemin Vert

This treasure chest of a shop stocks exquisite music boxes – both new and antique – and will repair any that are ailing. It's a shop that will attract both collectors and souvenir hunters.

BOUTIQUE PARIS-MUSÉES

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 42 74 13 02; 29 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 4e; ☎ 2-7pm Mon, 11am-1pm & 2-7pm Tue-Sat, noon-7.30pm Sun; **M** St-Paul or Chemin Vert
This boutique stocks museum reproductions, especially of art and sculpture on exhibit at museums run by the City of Paris, such as the **Musée Carnavalet** (p96) and the **Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris** (p135).

CSAO BOUTIQUE & GALLERY

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 42 71 33 17, 01 42 77 66 42; www.csaofr.fr, in French; 9 & 9bis rue Elzévir, 3e; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Fri, to 7.30pm Sat; **M** St-Paul or Chemin Vert
This wonderful shop and gallery, owned and operated by the charitable Compagnie du Sénégal et de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CSAO; Senegal and West Africa Company), distributes the work of African craftspeople and artists. Many of the colourful fabrics and weavings are exquisite. Included are items handmade from recycled handbags, aluminium cans and tomato paste tins.

LA BOUTIQUE DES INVENTIONS

Map pp92–3 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 42 71 44 19; www.la-boutique-des-inventions.com; Village St-Paul, 13 rue St-Paul, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm Wed-Sun; **M** St-Paul
This unique shop in the heart of Village St-Paul, a delightful little shopping square with antique shops, galleries and boutiques, is a forum for inventors and their inventions. Be the first on the block to own a shaker that sprinkles its own salt, a pepper grinder that twists itself or a miraculous filter that turns water into wine. Lots of wacky designs, too.

EXPECTANT FASHION

The French do it well. Chic shops include **Formes** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 45 49 09 80; 5 rue du Vieux Colom-bier, 6e; **M** St-Germain des Prés), with its classic but contemporary cuts sold elsewhere in Europe, too; the youthful with a dash of rock 'n' roll **1 et 1 font 3** (Map pp128–9; ☎ 01 40 62 92 15; www.1et1font3.com; 3 rue de Solferino, 7e; **M** Solferino); and maternity fashion designer **Véronique Delachaux** (Map pp116–17; ☎ 01 42 22 53 30; www.veronique-delachaux.com; 55 Blvd Raspail, 6e; **M** Rennes).

LA CHARRUE ET LES ÉTOILES

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 48 87 39 07; 19 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm; **M** St-Paul or Chemin Vert
Presumably named after Sean O'Casey's 1926 play (though the Irish connection is lost on us), 'The Plough and Stars' may look like just another gift shop but stocks an usual collection of figurines modelled after celebrated works of art (eg *Vertumnus* by Arcimboldo) and miniature soldiers.

L'AGENDA MODERN

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 44 54 59 20; 42 rue de Sévigné, 3e; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri; **M** St-Paul
Subtitled 'The Shop of Days', this boutique sells handmade diaries beautifully bound in natural or dyed alligator or calves' leather. And, fear not, they're bilingual, so the Monday-morning blues will not become *les blues de lundi*.

LE BOUDOIR ET SA PHILOSOPHIE

Map pp92–3 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 48 04 89 79; www.leboudoiresaphilosophie.fr, in French; 18 rue Charlot, 3e; ☎ 2-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** Filles du Calvaire

Like a 19th-century powder room bursting at the seams, this kitschy boudoir's philosophy is one of parlour games, floral prints and silky nightgowns. Overflowing with all sorts of things from soaps to carnival masks, it's great for finding that esoteric, nonfunctional gift.

MÉLODIES GRAPHIQUES

Map pp98–9 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 01 42 74 57 68; 10 rue du Pont Louis-Philippe, 4e; ☎ 2-7pm Mon, 11am-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** Pont Marie
Here you'll find all sorts of items made from exquisite Florentine *papier à cuve* (paper hand-decorated with marbled designs). There are several other fine stationery shops along the same street.

BOUTIQUE OBUT Map pp94–5 Hobby Items

☎ 01 47 00 91 38; www.labouleobut.com; 60 av de la République, 11e; ☎ 10am-noon & 12.30-6.30pm Tue-Sat; **M** Parmentier
This is the Parisian mecca for fans of *pétanque* or the similar (though more formal) game of *boules*, a form of bowls played with heavy steel balls wherever a bit of flat and

shady ground can be found. It will kit you out with all the equipment necessary to get a game going and even has team uniforms.

LA MAISON DE L'ASTRONOMIE

Map pp92–3 Hobby Items

☎ 01 42 77 99 55; 33-35 rue de Rivoli, 4e; ☎ 10.30am-6.40pm Tue-Sat; **M** Hôtel de Ville
If you've ever had the inclination to gaze at the stars, visit this large shop just west of the Hôtel de Ville. The 1st floor is positively crammed with telescopes, some of which can run into the tens of thousands of euros. It also stocks astronomical books, periodicals, sky maps, binoculars and globes.

BAINS PLUS Map pp98–9 Household Goods

☎ 01 48 87 83 07; www.parismarais.com/shopping-guide/bains-plus-spa; 51 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e; ☎ 2-7pm Sun & Mon, 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat; **M** Hôtel de Ville

A bathroom supplier for the 21st century and true to its name, 'Baths Plus' stocks luxurious robes and gowns, soaps and oils, shaving brushes and mirrors.

LA MAISON DU HAMAC

Map pp94–5 Household Goods

☎ 01 47 00 66 00; www.lamaisonduhamac.com; 57 rue de Malte, 11e; ☎ 10.30am-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** République

'The House of the Hammock' specialises in just that – a movable bed you string between two trees and rock till you drop. Choose anything from a brightly coloured net specimen from Brazil, Colombia or Nicaragua, or one shrouded in mosquito netting for napping by the water.

SIC AMOR Map pp98–9 Jewellery

☎ 01 42 76 02 37; 20 rue du Pont Louis-Philippe, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; **M** Pont Marie
This shop sells contemporary jewellery by local designers from a shop located opposite the erstwhile headquarters of the all-but-moribund *Partie Communiste Française*, which is now reborn as the *Galerie PCF*.

FNAC MUSIQUE Map pp94–5 Music

☎ 08 25 02 00 20; www.fnac.com, in French; 4 place de la Bastille, 12e; **M** Bastille; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat
Fnac's flagship music store at Bastille has one of the largest collections of local and international music in Paris.

top picks

GIFT IDEAS

- Perfume and scented candles from **Guerlain** (p213), **L'Artisan Parfumeur** (p203) or **Fragonard** (p203).
- Fine food and wine from **Fauchon** (p214), **À l'Olivier** (p205), **Hédiard** (p214), **La Maison du Miel** (p215) or **Boutique Maille** (p214).
- Beautiful stationery from **Mémoires Graphiques** (opposite) or **L'Agenda Modern** (opposite).
- Tea from **Le Palais des Thés** (p205) or **Marriage Frères** (p205).
- A music box from **Anna Joliet** (p201), African blankets from **CSAO Boutique & Gallery** (opposite), something for the kitchen from **E Dehillerin** (p201), a hammock from **La Maison du Hamac** (left) or a kite from **La Maison du Cerf-Volant** (p216).

L'OURS DU MARAIS Map pp98–9 Toys

☎ 01 42 77 60 43; www.oursdumarais.com; 18 rue Pavée, 4e; ☎ 11.30am-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 2-7.30pm Sun; **M** St-Paul

'The Marais Bear' doesn't focus on Smoky or Yogi but on Teddy – there are more versions of the popular cuddly toy in this crowded little boutique than you could fill a den with.

PUZZLES MICHÈLE WILSON

Map pp94–5 Toys

☎ 01 47 00 12 27; www.pmw.fr; 39 rue de la Folie Méricourt, 11e; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Thu, to 7pm Fri & Sat; **M** St-Ambroise

Puzzleurs and *puzzleuses* will love the selection of hand-cut wooden jigsaw puzzles available in this shop. Ranging in size (and degree of difficulty) from 80 to 900 pieces, the puzzles depict for the most part major works of art – everything from Delacroix and Millet to the impressionists. The ones of medieval stained glass and 18th-century fans are particularly fine. There's also a **15e branch** (Map pp166–7; ☎ 01 45 75 35 28; 97 av Émile Zola, 15e; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat; **M** Charles Michels)

TUMBLEWEED Map pp98–9 Toys

☎ 01 42 78 06 10; www.tumbleweedparis.com; 19 rue de Turenne, 4e; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, 2-7pm Sun; **M** St-Paul or Chemin Vert

This gorgeous little shop, which specialises in *l'artisanat d'art ludique* (crafts of the playing art), stocks wonderful handmade wooden toys, some of which look too nice

top picks

BOOKSHOPS

- Abbey Bookshop (right)
- Librairie Ulysse (below)
- Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore (p202)
- Shakespeare & Company (right)
- Tea & Tattered Pages (p210)
- Village Voice (p210)

to play with. The brain teasers and puzzles for adults are exquisitely made; we especially love the Japanese 'spin' and 'secret' boxes that defy entry.

VERT D'ABSINTHE Map pp98-9 Drink

☎ 01 42 71 69 73; 11 rue d'Ormesson, 4e; ☎ noon-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** St-Paul

Fans of the *fee verte* (green fairy), as absinthe was known during the Belle Époque, will think they've died and gone to heaven here. Not only can you buy bottles of the best-quality hooch here but all the paraphernalia as well: glasses, water jugs and tiny spoons for the all-important sugar cube.

THE ISLANDS

LIBRAIRIE ULYSSE Map p105 Books

☎ 01 43 25 17 35; www.ulyse.fr; 26 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; ☎ 2-8pm Tue-Fri; **M** Pont Marie

A delightful shop full of travel guides, maps and sage advice from well-travelled staff. The 20,000 back issues of *National Geographic* are not to be sniffed at.

LA PETITE SCIERIE Map p105 Food

☎ 01 55 42 14 88; 60 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; ☎ 11am-8pm; **M** Pont Marie

This little hole-in-the-wall sells every permutation of duck edibles with the emphasis – *naturellement* – on foie gras. The products come direct from the farm with no intermediary involved, so you can be assured of the highest quality.

SOBRAL Map p105 Jewellery

☎ 01 43 25 17 35; 26 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, to 7pm Sun; **M** Pont Marie

Brighten up your life with a bangle, pendant, pair of earrings or other costume

jewellery pieces made from recycled resin by Brazilian jeweller, Carlos Sobral. Yes, he makes toilet seats and Eiffel Towers, too.

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

ABBAY BOOKSHOP Map pp110-11 Books

☎ 01 46 33 16 24; www.abbeybookshop.net; 29 rue de la Parcheminerie, 5e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; **M** Cluny-La Sorbonne

This mellow, Canadian-owned bookshop is known for its free tea and coffee (sweetened with maple syrup) sipped over new and secondhand books, fiction and nonfiction.

LIBRAIRIE EYROLLES Map pp110-11 Books

☎ 01 44 41 11 72; www.eyrolles.com, in French; 61 blvd St-Germain, 5e; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; **M** Maubert Mutualité

Art, design, architecture, dictionaries and kids' books are the mainstay of this large bookshop with titles in English and bags of browsing space. For maps, guides and travel lit hop two doors over to its **Librairie de Voyage** (Map pp110-11); ☎ 01 46 34 82 75; 63 blvd St-Germain, 5e; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon, 9.30am-7.30pm Tue-Fri, 9.30am-8pm Sat; **M** Maubert Mutualité).

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY

Map pp110-11 Books

☎ 01 43 26 96 50; 37 rue de la Bûcherie, 5e; ☎ 10am-11pm Mon-Sat, 11am-11pm Sun; **M** St-Michel

Paris' most famous English-language bookshop sells new and used books and is a charm to browse (grab a read and sink into one of the two cinema chairs near the stairs out back); the staff's picks are worth noting and there's a dusty old library on the 1st floor. This isn't the original Shakespeare & Company owned by Sylvia Beach, who published James Joyce's *Ulysses*; that was closed down by the Nazis.

ALBUM Map pp110-11 Comics

☎ 01 43 25 85 19; 8 rue Dante, 5e; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, noon-7pm Sun; **M** Maubert Mutualité

The ultimate in adult fantasy: *bandes dessinées* (comic books) – *huge* in France – is the speciality here. For graphic novels or comic characters modelled in plastic or incorporated in a grown-up designer toy or gadget, nip to its other nearby **branch** (Map

pp110-11); ☎ 01 53 10 00 60; 67 blvd St-Germain, 5e; **M** Maubert Mutualité).

PÂTISSERIE SADAHARU AOKI

Map pp110-11 Food

☎ 01 45 35 36 80; www.sadaharuaki.com; 56 blvd du Port-Royal, 5e; ☎ 9am-7pm Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun; **M** Port-Royal

'Exquisite' fails to describe the creations of one of Paris' top pastry chefs, Tokyo-born Sadaharu Aoki. Too beautiful to eat, his gourmet works include 'eye-shadow' palettes, boxes of 72 different flavoured macaroons and green-tea chocolate.

MAGIE Map pp110-11 Hobby Items

☎ 01 43 54 13 63; www.mayette.com; 8 rue des Carmes, 5e; ☎ 1-8pm Mon-Sat; **M** Maubert Mutualité

One of a kind, this 19th-century magic shop (1808) is said to be the world's oldest. In the hands of world-famous magic pro Dominique Duvivier since 1991, professional and hobbyist magicians flock here to discuss king sandwiches, reverse assemblies, false cuts and other card tricks with him and his daughter, Alexandra. Should you want to learn the tricks of the trade, Duvivier has magic courses up his sleeve.

AU VIEUX CAMPEUR

Map pp110-11 Outdoor Gear, Books

☎ 01 53 10 48 48; www.auvieuxcampeur.fr, in French; 48 rue des Écoles, 5e; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Wed & Fri, to 9pm Thu, 10am-8pm Sat; **M** Maubert Mutualité or Cluny La Sorbonne

This sporting-gear chain runs 26 shops in the Latin Quarter, each selling equipment for a specific outdoor activity. Find camping gear at 6 rue Thénard; clothing for *le froid urbain* (city cold) at 50 rue des Écoles and 3 rue de Latran; and Paris's most complete range of maps and guides at 2 rue de Latran (Map pp110-11).

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

Bijou art galleries, florists, antique stores, designer furnishings, stylish vintage clothes (see p204), moderately priced fashion...the northern wedge of the 6e between Église St-Germain des Prés and the Seine is a dream to mooch. Left Bank fashion in the shape of

midrange boutiques (Ventilo, Cacherel, Penny Black, Vanessa Bruno, Joseph etc) where middle-class French women buy clothes goes down rue Bonaparte and rue St-Sulpice and continues with chain stores on rue de Rennes.

For children's fashion, walk the length of rue Vavin, 6e (metro Vavin), avoiding, if you have the kids in tow, chocolate-maker Jean-Paul Hévin (Map pp116-17) at No 3, who sells chocolate stiletto shoes and 15cm-tall chocolate Eiffel Towers. If it's smelly wellies that tickle your kid's fancy go to **Boatilus** (Map pp116-17); 18 rue du Dragon, 6e; **M** St-Germain des Prés).

Don't miss the old-fashioned boutiques selling music boxes, carousels and globes in the **Cour du Commerce St-André**, an enchanting glass-covered passageway built in 1735 to link a pair of Jeu de Paume (old-style tennis) courts.

IVOIRE Map pp116-17 Art & Antiques

☎ 01 43 54 71 09; 57 rue Bonaparte, 6e; **M** St-Germain des Prés

This family-run business dating to 1913 is a two-man team comprising father Pierre Heckmann (in his mid-80s) and son Jean-Pierre (apprenticed at age 14 and not far off retirement himself). Sculpting and restoring ivory, bone and nacre is their trade and their art is extraordinary. The workshop interior, last refitted in 1937, is original.

VOYAGEURS & CURIEUX

Map pp116-17 Art & Antiques

☎ 01 43 26 14 58; 2 rue Visconti, 6e; ☎ 2-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** St-Germain des Prés

Jean-Édouard Carlier's primitive art shop looks and feels like an 18th-century cabinet of curiosities collected from around the world: chalices made from coconut shells, unusual feathers and beads, and odd masks.

GALERIE HÉLÈNE PORÉE

Map pp116-17 Art, Jewellery

☎ 01 43 54 17 00; 1 rue de l'Odéon, 6e; ☎ 11am-1pm & 2-7pm Tue-Sat; **M** Odéon

Exquisite ceramics, glassware and jewellery is showcased at this thoroughly modern art gallery, host to six or seven shows a year.

LIBRAIRIE LE MONITEUR Map pp116-17 Books

☎ 01 44 41 15 75; www.librairiedumoniteur.com; 7 place de l'Odéon, 6e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; **M** Odéon

This specialist bookshop sports books relating to design, architecture and urbanism,

including the annual French–English *Paris Design Guide* published by bilingual design mag *Intramuros*.

TASCHEN Map pp116–17

Books

☎ 01 40 52 79 22; 2 rue du Bucy, 6e; ☎ 11am–8pm Sun–Wed, to midnight Thu & Fri; M Odéon Illustrated books on art, design, architecture, fashion and urban culture is what this innovative book publisher is about. Equally striking is its shop design by Philippe Starck. Bargain buys begging to be browsed fill stands on the pavement outside.

TEA & TATTERED PAGES

Map pp116–17

Books

☎ 01 40 65 94 35; 24 rue Mayet, 6e; ☎ 11am–7pm Mon–Sat, noon–6pm Sun; M Duroc More than 15,000 volumes are squeezed onto two floors at this secondhand English-language bookshop with tearoom.

VILLAGE VOICE Map pp116–17

Books

☎ 01 46 33 36 47; www.villagevoicebookshop.com; 6 rue Princesse, 6e; ☎ 2–8pm Mon, 10am–8pm Tue–Sat, 2–6pm Sun; M Mabillon With an excellent selection of contemporary North American fiction and European literature, lots of readings and helpful staff, the Village Voice is a favourite.

SHU UEMURA Map pp116–17

Cosmetics

☎ 01 45 48 02 55; 176 blvd St-Germain, 6e; ☎ 11am–8pm Sun–Wed, to midnight Thu & Fri; M Odéon Curly fake eyelashes, lime-marmalade lip gloss (yep, it's green), 71 shades of lipstick and badger-hair make-up brushes: this Japanese cosmetic boutique founded by the Hollywood make-up guru who painted Shirley Maclaine's face in the film *My Geisha* (1962) is extraordinary. Treat yourself to a 1½-hour lesson (€150) at its make-up school.

HUILERIE J LEBLANC ET FILS

Map pp116–17

Food

☎ 01 46 34 61 55; www.huile-leblanc.com; 6 rue Jacob, 6e; ☎ 11am–7pm Tue–Sat; M St-Germain des Près The Leblanc family has made the smoothest of culinary oils (almonds, pistachios, sesame seeds, pine kernels, peanuts etc) at its stone mill in Burgundy since 1878. Taste and buy.

top picks

LEFT-BANK GALLERIES

Meandering rue Mazarine and surrounding rue Jacques Callot, rue de l'Echaudé and rue de Seine are a feast for the soul with their vibrant art and design galleries.

- **Galerie Downtown** (Map pp116–17); ☎ 01 46 33 82 41; www.galeriedowntown.com; 33 rue de Seine, 6e) Designer furniture has been this gallery's exclusive forte for 25 years.
- **Galerie Loevenbruck** (Map pp116–17); ☎ 01 53 10 85 68; www.loevenbruck.com; 40 rue de Seine, 6e) Larger-than-life pop art.
- **Galerie Omega** (Map pp116–17); ☎ 01 40 46 81 25; 60 rue Mazarine, 6e) Street art and graffiti – a bold statement indeed.
- **La Galerie Moderne** (Map pp116–17); ☎ 01 46 33 13 59; www.lagaleriemoderne.com; 52 rue Mazarine, 6e) Original designer furniture and lights from the 1950s, '60s and '70s.
- **Pièce Unique Variations** (Map pp116–17); ☎ 01 43 26 85 93; www.galeriepieceunique.com; 26–28 rue Mazarine & 4 rue Jacques Callot, 6e) Permanent collection of works and installations by contemporary artists; its single-room gallery on rue Jacques Callot showcases one (usually very large) piece especially created for this *pièce unique* (unique room), illuminated until 2am.

PIERRE HERMÉ Map pp116–17

Food

☎ 01 43 54 47 77; www.pierreherme.com; 72 rue Bonaparte, 6e; ☎ 10am–7pm Sun–Fri, to 7.30pm Sat; M Odéon or Luxembourg It's the size of chocolate box, but once in your tastebuds will go wild. Pierre Hermé is one of Paris' top *chocolatiers* and his two boutiques are a veritable feast of perfectly presented petits fours, cakes, chocolate, nougats, macaroons and jam. The second branch (☎ 01 47 83 89 96; 185 rue Vaugirard, 15e; ☎ 10am–7pm Tue–Sat; M Pasteur) is located in the 15 arrondissement.

CACAO ET CHOCOLAT Map pp116–17

Food & Drink

☎ 01 46 33 77 63; www.cacaoetchocolat.com; 29 rue du Bucy, 6e; ☎ 10.30am–7.30pm Mon–Sat, 11am–7pm Sun; M Mabillon You haven't tasted chocolate till you've had a hot chocolate (€3.50) spiced with cinnamon, ginger or cayenne pepper at this exotic shop showcasing cocoa beans in every guise. Citrus, spice and chilli are among the

flavoured bars to buy here or at its outlets in the Marais (Map pp98–9; ☎ 01 42 71 50 06; 36 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; ☎ 11am–7.30pm; M St-Paul) and on Île St-Louis (☎ 01 46 33 33 33; 63 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; ☎ 10.30am–7.30pm; ☎ Pont Marie).

LA BOUTIQUE DU CRÉATEUR DE JEUX Map pp116–17

Games

☎ 08 75 97 69 63; www.laboutiqueduceateurdejeux.com, in French; 40 rue St-Jacques, 6e; ☎ 11am–7pm Tue–Sat; M Cluny La Sorbonne Another gem, this one sells brand-new board and card games created in the last couple of years in France (many are bilingual French–English). Its *jeux de mesure* are made-to-measure, limited editions often focusing on a social issue such as alcohol abuse, immigrant equality etc.

ROUGE & NOIR Map pp116–17

Games

☎ 01 43 26 05 77; www.rouge-et-noir.fr; 26 rue Vavin, 6e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; M Vavin Trivial Pursuit Paris, Rubik's cubes, juggling balls, backgammon, chess, tarot and playing cards... This small family-run boutique specialising in traditional and not-so-traditional games promises bags of fun.

AU PLAT D'ÉTAÏN Map pp116–17

Hobby Items

☎ 01 43 54 32 06; http://auplatdetain.com, in French; 16 rue Guisarde, 6e; ☎ 11am–12.30pm & 2–7pm Tue–Sat; M Odéon People do collect tin (*étain*) and lead soldiers, as this fascinating boutique crammed with nail-sized, hand-painted military soldiers, drummers, musicians, snipers and cavaliers attests. In business since 1775, the shop itself is practically a collectable.

LA MAISON DE POUPEE

Map pp116–17

Hobby Items

☎ 01 46 33 74 05, 06 09 65 58 68; 40 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; M Odéon & Luxembourg *Poupées anciennes* (antique dolls) is what this enchanting boutique opposite the residence of the French Senate's president sells.

FLAMANT HOME INTERIORS

Map pp116–17

Home & Garden

☎ 01 56 81 12 40; 8 place de Furstenberg & 8 rue de l'Abaze, 6e; ☎ noon–7pm Mon, 10.30am–7pm Tue–Sat; M Mabillon Silverware, curtains, cutlery, tableware, linens and other quality home furnishings:

This maze of a concept store with two entrances is the place where moneyed Parisians shop for the home.

LES BEAUX DRAPS DE JEANINE CROS Map pp116–17

Home Interiors

☎ 01 45 48 00 67; 11 rue d'Assas, 6e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; M Rennes Restoring old fabrics is the highly specialist trade of passionate seamstress Jeanine Cros, and this old-style boudoir – a Pandora's box of fabric – is draped with layer after layer of exquisite old linen, materials tinted with natural pigments etc.

ODIMEX PARIS Map pp116–17

Home Interiors

☎ 01 46 33 98 96; 17 Rue de l'Odéon, 6e; ☎ 10.30am–6.30pm Mon–Sat; M Odéon Teapots in all their guises: there are little ones, big ones, sophisticated, comic and very expensive ones. Some of the Japanese teapots are particularly beautiful.

LE PETIT BATEAU Map pp116–17

Kids

☎ 01 45 49 48 38; www.petit-bateau.fr; 81 rue de Sèvres, 7e; M Sèvres Babylone This much-loved French brand, now global, has been kicking around since 1893, when it first started making the soft, cotton children's underwear for which it's famed. A staple of any French family, Le Petit Bateau is substantially cheaper to buy in France than elsewhere. Its flagship store is at 116 av des Champs-Élysée, 8e.

HAPART Map pp116–17

Toys, Antiques

☎ 01 56 24 94 34; 72 rue Mazarine, 6e; ☎ 2–7pm Tue–Sun; M Odéon A lovely one to idle in, this collector's delight the size of a pocket handkerchief recalls lost childhoods with its romantic collection of old and antique toys.

LA DERNIER GOUTTE Map pp116–17

Wine

☎ 01 43 29 11 62; 6 rue du Bourbon le Château, 6e; ☎ 10.30am–1.30pm & 3–8.30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–8.30pm Sat, 11am–7pm Sun; M Mabillon 'The Last Drop' is the lovechild of sommelier Juan Sánchez, the American behind the extraordinary wine list to grace *Fish La Boissonnerie* (p257). His tiny wine shop is packed with exciting French *vins de propriétaires* (estate-bottled wines) made by small independent producers. Saturday evening ushers in a talk and tasting.

MONTPARNASSE

There might be just one *raison d'être* to shop in the 14e arrondissement, but it's bargain-packed.

MARCHÉ AUX PUCES DE LA PORTE DE VANVES

Map pp124-5 **Flea Market**
av Georges Lafenestre & av Marc Sangnier, 14e;
☎ 7am-6pm or later Sat & Sun; (M) Porte de Vanves
The Porte de Vanves flea market is the smallest and, some say, friendliest of the lot. Av Georges Lafenestre has lots of 'curios' that don't quite qualify as antiques. Av Marc Sangnier is lined with stalls of new clothes, shoes, handbags and household items for sale.

FAUBOURG ST-GERMAIN & INVALIDES

In the more austere 7e arrondissement, the style of St-Germain des Prés continues along the western half of blvd St-Germain and rue du Bac – two streets with a stylish collection of contemporary furniture, kitchen and design shops (including the Conran Shop, Kartell, and Paris' biggest shop window in the shape of Knoll at No 268).

The fashion show congregates on rue de Grenelle, spilling across from place St-Sulpice in the neighbouring 6e (p209). By the water, the exclusive **Carré Rive Gauche** (www.carrerivegauche.com; (M) Rue du Bac or Solférino) portfolio of 120 art and antiques galleries sits square on quai Voltaire and the trio of parallel streets south.

ALEXANDRA SOJFER

Map pp128-9 **Accessories**
☎ 01 42 22 17 02; www.alexandrasojfer.fr; 218 blvd St-Germain, 7e; ☎ 9.30am-7pm; (M) Rue du Bac
Become Parisian chic with a frivolous, frilly, fantastical or frightfully fashionable umbrella (*parapluie*), parasol or walking cane, handcrafted by Alexandra Sojfer at this *parapluie*-packed St-Germain boutique, in the trade since 1834.

GALERIE FRANÇOIS RÉNIER

Map pp128-9 **Accessories**
☎ 01 45 49 26 88; www.unjoursacs.com; 27 blvd Raspail, 7e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; (M) Sèvres Babylone
Un jour un sac (a bag a day) is the philosophy of handbag designer François Renier, who creates bags in paper, fabric or leather

and leaves her customer to pick which handles to attach. Buy a couple to mix 'n' match at home.

LE BON MARCHÉ

Map pp128-9 **Department Store**
☎ 01 44 39 80 00; www.bonmarche.fr; 24 rue de Sèvres, 7e; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Wed & Fri, 10am-9pm Thu, 9.30am-8pm Sat; (M) Sèvres Babylone
Built by Gustave Eiffel as Paris' first department store in 1852, Le Bon Marché (which translates as 'good market' but also means 'bargain') is less frenetic than its rivals across the river, but no less chic. It has excellent men's and women's fashion collections, and a designer 'snack chic' café on the 1st floor. But the icing on the cake is its glorious food hall, **La Grande Épicerie de Paris** (Map pp128-9; 26 rue de Sèvres; (M) Sèvres Babylone), which sells, among other edibles, vodka-flavoured lollipops with detoxified ants inside and fist-sized Himalayan salt crystals to grate over food.

DEYROLLE

Map pp128-9 **Home & Garden**
☎ 01 42 22 30 07; 46 rue du Bac, 7e; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-7pm Mon, 10am-7pm Tue-Sat; (M) Rue du Bac
This shop, born in 1831, has to be seen to be believed. Be it a stuffed white stork, baby chick, butterfly or tiger you want to hang in your home, you can buy one here. A quick chat with a member of staff confirmed that Deyrolle stocks every animal species legally allowed. Buy rare and unusual seeds (including many old types of tomato), gardening tools and accessories on the ground floor.

BONTON BAZAR

Map pp128-9 **Kids**
☎ 01 42 22 77 69; www.bonton.fr; 122 rue du Bac, 7e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; (M) Sèvres Babylone
This ode to childhood is an old-fashioned delight. It sells a mix of clothes, toys, kids' chopsticks (handy for families dining out a lot in Paris), kitchen and bathroomwares (polka-dotted cutlery, black rubber ducks with fishing rods), bedroom decorations, pedal-powered metal cars and so on.

ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

The av des Champs-Élysées is lined with super-sized chain stores; the luxury fashion houses for which the area is famous and which make for such wonderful window-shopping are mostly situated along av Montaigne (with

PATRICIA WELLS – ONLY THE BEST

The only American considered to have truly captured the soul of French cuisine, writer, cookery teacher and author of *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris* Patricia Wells (www.patriciawells.com) has lived, cooked and shopped in Paris since 1980. 'Only the best' is the label on the fresh fish, meat, cheese, breads and other market produce that guests at her St-Germain des Prés cooking studio use in class. So just where does she shop? Nicola Williams finds out.

What is it that makes Paris so wonderful for culinary shopping? The tradition, the quality, the quantity, the atmosphere and physical beauty!

Where do you buy your weekly groceries? All over: The Sunday **organic market** (blvd Raspail, 7e; (M) Rennes) at Rennes; **Poilâne** (p223) for bread; **Quatrehommes** (p259) for cheese; **Poissonnerie du Bac** (69 rue du Bac, 7e; (M) Rue du Bac) for fish; also the **President Wilson market** (p231).

And for that extra-special gourmet meal? I shop regularly at **Le Bon Marché's La Grande Épicerie** (opposite) because it is right down the street from me. But for special meals I always order things in advance and go from shop to shop. That is the fun of Paris and of France.

Favourite markets & and top tips? I love the dried fruits and nuts at the Sunday Rennes market, all the fish stands at the President Wilson market, the Planet Fruits and Daguerre Marée stands at the **Rue Poncelet market** (p231). If you live in Paris, become a *client fidèle* so they reach in the back and give you the best stuff. If you only go once in a while, just smile and be friendly.

Your top specialist addresses? **Poilâne** and **Kayser** (bread; p223); **Maison du Chocolat** (19 rue de Sèvres, 6e) and **Pierre Hermé** (chocolate and cakes; p210); **La Dernière Goutte** (wine; p211).

A creative idea for a culinary souvenir from Paris? **Fragonard** (p203), the perfume maker, has a great shop on blvd St-Germain. They have a changing litany of *great* things for the home, such as fabulous vases with an Eiffel Tower theme, lovely embroidered napkins with a fish or vegetable theme, great little spoons with a cake or pastry theme. Nothing is very expensive and the offerings change every few months, so you have to pounce when you find something you love. The gift wrapping in gorgeous Fragonard bags is worth it alone!

Interviewed by Nicola Williams

the mammoth Louis Vuitton store on the corner and the equally prestigious av Georges V. For more, see the boxed text, p214.

If the big fashion houses reign mainly on the other side of the Champs-Élysées, the class and couture continues along in the 8e rue du Faubourg St-Honoré and its eastern extension, rue St-Honoré in the 1e, where designer shops – and designer shoppers – abound. This area is also home to the grand gourmet food stores of place de la Madeleine and the luxury jewellery of place Vendôme.

ESPACE IGN

Map pp140-1 **Books**
☎ 01 43 98 80 00; www.ign.fr; 107 rue La Boétie, 8e; ☎ noon-6.30pm Mon, 11am-7pm Tue-Fri, to 6.30pm Sat; (M) Franklin D Roosevelt

This is the place to find a full selection of Institut Géographique National (IGN) maps, as well as atlases, globes, walking maps, city plans, compasses, satellite images, historic maps and guidebooks.

ERES

Map pp140-1 **Clothing & Accessories**
☎ 01 47 42 28 82; www.eres.fr; 2 rue Tronchet, 8e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; (M) Madeleine
You will pay an arm and a leg for a swimsuit here, but anyone who has despaired at

buying bathers in the past will understand why these have become a must-have item for those in the know. The stunning swimmers are cut to suit all shapes and sizes, with bikini tops and bottoms sold separately. It also stocks magnificent lingerie.

GUERLAIN

Map pp140-1 **Cosmetics & Perfume**
☎ 01 45 62 52 57; www.guerlain.com; 68 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 3-7pm Sun; (M) Franklin D Roosevelt
Guerlain is Paris' most famous *parfumerie*, and its shop, dating from 1912, is one of the most beautiful in the city. With its shimmering mirror and marble Art Deco interior, it's a reminder of the former glory of the Champs-Élysées.

SÉPHORA

Map pp140-1 **Cosmetics & Perfume**
☎ 01 53 93 22 50; www.sephora.com; 70-72 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; ☎ 10am-midnight; (M) Franklin D Roosevelt
Séphora's flagship store features over 12,000 fragrances and cosmetics for your sampling pleasure. You can spend hours in here and will invariably come out with bags of stuff (and maybe a headache from all the scent in the air).

BOUTIQUE MAILLE Map pp140–1 Food & Drink

☎ 01 40 15 06 00; www.maille.com; 6 place de la Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; **M** Madeleine

The mustard specialist has premade items, but can also prepare an unimaginable 30 different varieties for you, designed to accompany your cuisine, such as the type with chestnuts and pink bay to accompany game or poultry, or garlic and lemon to go with fowl. There is a range of exclusive vinegars too, and the cruets to hold them.

FAUCHON Map pp140–1 Food & Drink

☎ 01 70 39 38 00; www.fauchon.fr, in French; 26 & 30 place de la Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 8.30am–7pm Mon–Sat; **M** Madeleine

Paris' most famous caterer has a half-dozen departments in two buildings selling the most incredibly mouthwatering delicacies, from pâté de foie gras and truffles to *confitures* (jams).

FROMAGERIE ALLÉOSSE

Map p144–5 Food & Drink

☎ 01 46 22 50 45; www.alleosse.com; 13 rue Poncelet, 17e; ☎ 9.30am–1pm & 4–7pm Tue–Thu, 9am–1pm & 3.30–7pm Fri & Sat, 9am–1pm Sun; **M** Ternes To our minds, this is the best cheese shop in Paris and worth a trip across town. Cheeses are sold as they should be – grouped in five main categories: *fromage de chèvre* (goat's milk cheese), *fromage à pâte*

persillée (veined or blue cheese), *fromage à pâte molle* (soft cheese), *fromage à pâte demi-dure* (semi-hard cheese) and *fromage à pâte dure* (hard cheese). Ask for advice.

HÉDIARD Map pp140–1 Food & Drink

☎ 01 43 12 88 88; www.hediard.fr; 21 place de la Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 9am–9pm Mon–Sat; **M** Madeleine This famous luxury food shop established in 1854 consists of two adjacent sections selling prepared dishes, teas, coffees, jams, wines, pastries, fruits, vegetables and so on, as well as a popular restaurant (☎ 01 43 12 88 99; ☎ 8.30am–9pm Mon–Fri, to 10pm Sat), where tea is served from 3pm to 6pm. There's a **George V branch** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 47 20 44 44; 31 av George V, 8e; **M** George V) open Sundays.

LA MAISON DE LA TRUFFE

Map pp140–1 Food & Drink

☎ 01 42 65 53 22; www.maison-de-la-truffe.com, in French; 19 place de la Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 10am–10pm Mon–Sat; **M** Madeleine 'The House of Truffles' is the place for tasting these fine fungi – French black from late October to March, Alba white (over €200 per 100g) from mid-October to December. There's a restaurant attached where you can sample dishes.

LES CAVES AUGÉ Map pp140–1 Food & Drink

☎ 01 45 22 16 97; 116 blvd Haussmann, 8e; ☎ 1–7.30pm Mon, 9am–7.30pm Tue–Sat; **M** St-Augustin

HISTORIC HAUTE COUTURE

A stroll around the legendary Triangle d'Or (av Montaigne and av Georges V) and along rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, all in the 8e, constitutes the walk of fame of top French fashion. Rubbing shoulders with the world's top international designers are Paris' most influential French fashion houses (Map pp140–1; **M** Georges V):

- **Chanel** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 47 23 74 12; www.chanel.com; 42 av Montaigne, 8e) Box jackets and little black dresses, chic ever since their first appearance in the 1920s.
- **Christian Dior** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 40 73 73 73; www.dior.com; 30 av Montaigne, 8e) Post-WWII, Dior's creations dictated style, re-establishing Paris as the world fashion capital.
- **Christian Lacroix** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 42 68 79 04; www.christianlacroix.com; 73 rue Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e) Taffeta and lace flirt with denim and knits in this designer's theatrical combinations.
- **Givenchy** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 44 31 51 09; www.givenchy.com; 3 av Georges V, 8e) The first to present a luxurious collection of women's *prêt à porter* (ready to wear).
- **Hermès** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 40 17 47 17; www.hermes.com; 24 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e) Founded in 1837 by a saddle-maker, Hermès' famous scarves are the fashion accessory.
- **Jean-Paul Gaultier** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 44 43 00 44; www.jeanpaulgaultier.com; 44 av George V, 8e) A shy kid from the Paris suburbs, JPG morphed into the *enfant terrible* of the fashion world with his granny's corsets, men dressed in skirts and Madonna's conical bra.
- **Louis Vuitton** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 01 53 57 52 00; www.louisvuitton.com; 101 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e) Take home a Real McCoy canvas bag with the 'LV' monogram.

Founded in 1850, this *marchand de vin* (wine shop) should be your first choice if you trust the taste of Marcel Proust, who was a regular customer. It's now under the stewardship of knowledgeable sommelier Marc Sibard.

VIRGIN MEGASTORE Map pp140–1 Music, Books

☎ 01 49 53 50 00; 52–60 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; ☎ 10am–midnight Mon–Sat, noon–midnight Sun; **M** Franklin D Roosevelt

This French-owned version of the huge British music and bookshop chain has the largest music collection in Paris, as well as English-language books.

OPÉRA & GRANDS BOULEVARDS

The area around Opéra and the Grands Boulevards is where you'll find Paris' most popular *grands magasins*, around which are clustered branches of all the major French and international chain stores. If here in December, check out the fabulous Christmas shows in the department store windows and the sales in January and July.

HÔTEL DROUOT Map pp148–9 Art & Antiques

☎ 01 48 00 20 20; www.drouot.com; 7–9 rue Drouot, 9e; ☎ sales 2–6pm; **M** Richelieu Drouot Paris' most established auction house has been selling fine lots for more than a century. The bidding is in rapid-fire French (also now available on the website) and a 10% to 15% commission is charged on top of the purchase price. Viewings (always a vicarious pleasure) are usually from 11am to 6pm the day before and from 10.30am to 11.30am the morning of the auction. Further details can be found in the weekly *Gazette de l'Hôtel Drouot* (www.gazette-drouot.com; €3.40), available at the auction house and selected newsstands on Friday as well as on the main Hôtel Drouot website.

WOCHDOM Map pp148–9 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 01 53 21 09 72; www.wochdom.com; 72 rue Condorcet, 18e; ☎ 12–8pm Mon–Sat; **M** Pigalle Cool in a slightly creepy way, this self-consciously chic, retro seconds store has painstakingly selected 'design vintage' and shoes, mostly from the '70s. Staff are helpful and full of ideas.

GALERIES LAFAYETTE

Map pp148–9 Department Store

☎ 01 42 82 36 40; www.galerielafayette.com; 40 blvd Haussmann, 9e; ☎ 9.30am–7.30pm Mon–Wed, Fri & Sat, to 9pm Thu; **M** Auber or Chaussée d'Antin

A vast *grand magasin* in two adjacent buildings, Galeries Lafayette features over 75,000 brand-name items and a wide range of fashion labels. In the annexe linked by a covered footbridge over rue de Mogador you'll find menswear, the world's largest lingerie department and **Lafayette Gourmet** (☎ 9.30am–8.30pm Mon–Wed, Fri & Sat, 9am–9pm Thu). There's a fine view from the rooftop restaurant. A *fashion show* (bookings ☎ 01 42 82 30 25) takes place at 3pm Friday. The 10,000-sq metre **Lafayette Maison** (Map pp148–9; 35 blvd Haussmann, 9e; **M** Auber or Chaussée d'Antin) has four floors with each dedicated to a particular room in the house.

LE PRINTEMPS Map pp148–9 Department Store

☎ 01 42 82 57 87; www.printemps.com; 64 blvd Haussmann, 9e; ☎ 9.35am–7pm Mon–Wed, Fri & Sat, to 10pm Thu; **M** Havre Caumartin

This is actually three separate stores – **Le Printemps de la Mode** (women's fashion), **Le Printemps de l'Homme** (for men) and **Le Printemps de la Beauté et Maison** (for beauty and household goods) – offering a staggering display of perfume, cosmetics and accessories, as well as established and up-and-coming designer wear.

LA MAISON DU MIEL Map pp148–9 Food & Drink

☎ 01 47 42 26 70; www.maisondumiel.com; 24 rue Vignon, 9e; ☎ 9.30am–7pm Mon–Sat; **M** Madeleine

In this sticky, very sweet business since 1898, 'The Honey House' stocks over 50 kinds of honey, with such flavours as Corsican chestnut flower, Turkish pine and Tasmanian leatherwood.

GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE

These areas are not especially known for their shops, but there are a couple of specialist boutiques worth going the extra mile for, and workaday department stores and electronics retailers ready to supply you with the toothbrushes and adaptors you left at home.

ARTAZART Map pp152–3 **Books**
☎ 01 40 40 24 00; www.artazart.com; 83 quai de Valmy, 10e; ☎ 10.30am–7.30pm Mon–Fri, 2–8pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 République or Gare de l'Est
Hard by the Canal St-Martin, Artazart is the leading design bookshop in Paris and, along with design and source books, stocks directories, DVDs and CDs in French, English and other languages. Staff are knowledgeable and helpful.

ANTOINE ET LILI
Map pp152–3 **Clothing, Household Goods**
☎ 01 40 37 41 55; www.antoineetlili.com; 95 quai de Valmy, 10e; ☎ 10.30am–7pm Mon, to 7.30pm Tue–Fri, 10am–8pm Sat, 12.30–7.30pm Sun; 🚶 République or Gare de l'Est

Do not – repeat, *do not* – enter this huge shop, spread through three townhouses facing the Canal St-Martin, with a hangover. The décor (shocking pink, chartreuse, blinding yellow) will have you begging for mercy. All the colours of the rainbow and all the patterns in the world congregate in this wonderful Parisian institution with designer clothing and hip home decorations. It also has a **Marais store** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 01 42 72 26 60; 51 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e; 🚶 St-Paul), which keeps the same hours.

DARTY Map pp94–5 **Electronics**
☎ 08 21 08 20 82; www.darty.com, in French; 1 av de la République, 11e; ☎ 10am–7.30pm Mon–Sat; 🚶 République

The best place to seek out adaptors and other electrical goods is the **Bazar de l'Hôtel**

top picks

SPECIALITY STREETS

- **Rue de Paradis, 10e** (Map pp152–3; 🚶 Château d'Eau) Crystal, glass and tableware.
- **Rue Drouot, 9e** (Map pp148–9; 🚶 Richelieu Drouot) Collectable postage stamps.
- **Rue du Pont Louis-Philippe, 4e** (Map pp98–9; 🚶 Pont Marie) Stationery and fine paper.
- **Rue Keller, 11e** (Map pp94–5; 🚶 Ledru Rollin) Comic books, mangas, DVDs.
- **Rue Martel, 10e** (Map pp152–3; 🚶 Château d'Eau) Sewing machines.
- **Rue Victor Massé, 9e** (Map p169; 🚶 Pigalle) Musical instruments.

de Ville (BHV; p203) department store or any branch of the electronics chain Darty, including this outlet at République. There's also a **Ternes branch** (Map pp140–1; ☎ 0821 08 20 82; 8 av des Ternes, 17e; ☎ 10am–7.30pm Mon–Sat).

GARE DE LYON, NATION & BERCY

The upmarket boutiques of Bercy have transformed the 12e and are always packed with shoppers. Elsewhere in the 12e, the area near the Viaduc des Arts (Map pp158–9) has discerning furniture, antiques and art. The flea market at place d'Aligre is a must.

ALBUM Map pp158–9 **Books, Hobby Items**
☎ 01 53 33 87 88; www.album.fr, in French; 46 Cour St-Émilien, 12e; ☎ 11am–9pm; 🚶 Cour St-Émilien
Album specialises in *bandes dessinées*, which have an enormous following in France, with everything from Tintin and Babar to erotic comics and the latest Japanese manga. There are seven more outlets in Paris, including a **Latin Quarter branch** (p208).

MARCHÉ AUX PUCES D'ALIGRE
Map pp158–9 **Flea Market**

place d'Aligre & rue d'Aligre, 12e; ☎ 7.30am–1.30pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 Ledru Rollin
Smaller but more central (and, punters say, more trustworthy) than Paris' other flea markets (opposite), this is one of the best places to rummage through boxes of clothes and accessories worn decades ago by those fashionable (and not-so-fashionable) Parisians, as well as their bric-a-brac.

FERMOB Map pp158–9 **Furniture**
☎ 01 43 07 17 15; www.fermob.com; 81–83 av Ledru-Rollin, 12e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Sat; 🚶 Ledru Rollin

If you want to create the 'Jardin du Luxembourg look' in your own backyard or garden, head for Fermob. It makes French park-style benches and folding chairs in a range of yummy colours – from carrot and vanilla to sage and aubergine.

LA MAISON DU CERF-VOLANT
Map pp158–9 **Gifts & Souvenirs**
☎ 01 44 68 00 75; www.lamaisonducerfvolant.com; 7 rue de Prague, 12e; ☎ 11am–7pm Tue–Sat; 🚶 Ledru Rollin

'The Kite House' has just that – kites in every conceivable size, shape, colour and design, and kits with which to make them. You'll also find quite a nice collection of boomerangs, should you be in the market for one.

15E ARRONDISSEMENT

Hardly a frantic shopping district, but it is privity to a clutch of specialist addresses.

CODINA Map pp166–7 **Food**
☎ 01 45 75 00 08; www.codina.net; 24 rue Violet, 15e; ☎ 2.30–7pm Tue & Wed, 10am–1pm & 2.30–7pm Thu–Sat; 🚶 Av Émile Zola
Organic oils (pumpkin seed oil, avocado oil, daisy oil, carrot, cashew and cherry) are made at this sky-blue atelier. Be it your hair or health you need to boost, Codina has something to suit.

MINI PARIS Map pp166–7 **Hobby Items**
☎ 01 56 77 00 00; www.miniparis.fr, in French; 91–93 av Émile Zola, 15e; ☎ 8.30am–7pm Mon–Fri; 🚶 Charles Michels or Av Émile Zola
Tricky to take a Mini Cooper home, yes, but this showroom is a must – not only for the gorgeous, top-of-the-range convertibles it showcases, but for its interior design. Buy a pedal-powered version of the peppy little cult car for your kid or simply enjoy the glam experience it promises.

VITRA Map pp166–7 **Home Interiors**
☎ 01 56 77 07 77; www.vitra.com; 40 rue Violet, 15e; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Thu, to 5pm Fri; 🚶 Charles Michels or Av Émile Zola
The classics from the history of furniture design can be ogled at in this crisp, white space in life-size or miniature form. Go to the back of this inspiring showroom to fully appreciate its own industrial, glass-roofed design.

MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

The area of the 9e and 18e along rue des Martyrs and climbing up rue des Abbesses from metro Pigalle constitutes a good stroll for the patient shopper who wants to enjoy the scenery. You'll find little designer-clothing shops and a mixed bag of secondhand fashion depots, vintage clothing and records, not to

mention some excellent, typically Parisian bakeries and food stores. The rest of the 18e, especially around the less-than-salubrious Goutte d'Or area (rue Myrha and rue de la Goutte d'Or) has cheap fabrics, cut-price fashion, young designers and assorted frippery. Around metro Barbès Rochechouart and blvd Magenta it's working-class, bargain-basement shopping: take a detour from the glamorous avenues and see how the other half lives.

GASPARD DE LA BUTTE
Map p169 **Clothing & Accessories**
☎ 01 42 55 99 40; www.gasparddelabutte.com, in French; 10bis rue Yvonne le Tac, 18e; ☎ 11am–7.30pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 Pigalle
This shop specialises in women's and children's wear, all locally made with beautiful cottons as well as colourful felts for the infants' clothing. It's very 'Montmartre' in style – you could imagine Amélie Poulain shopping here.

LA CITADELLE Map p169 **Clothing & Accessories**
☎ 01 42 52 21 56; 1 rue des Trois Frères, 18e; ☎ 11am–8pm Mon–Sat, to 7pm Sun; 🚶 Abbesses
This designer discount shop hidden away in Montmartre has some real finds from new French, Italian and Japanese designers. Look out for labels like Les Chemins Blancs and Yoshi Kondo.

TATI Map p169 **Department Store**
☎ 01 55 29 52 20; www.tati.fr, in French; 4 blvd Rochechouart, 18e; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Fri, 9.15–7pm Sat; 🚶 Barbès Rochechouart
With its war cry of *les plus bas prix* (the lowest prices) – and quality to match, some would say – Tati has been Paris' great working-class department store for more than half a century. Don't be surprised to see trendy Parisians fighting for bargains hidden in the crammed bins and piled onto tables. There's a smaller **3e branch** (Map pp92–3; ☎ 01 48 87 72 81; 172–174 rue du Temple, 3e; ☎ 9.30–7.30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–7pm Sat; 🚶 Temple or République) as well.

BEYOND CENTRAL PARIS

Don't expect to find unusual little boutiques selling all sorts of ephemera beyond central Paris. Instead, head out beyond the blvd Périphérique for the capital's wonderful flea markets.

MARCHÉ AUX PUCES DE MONTREUIL

off Map pp158–9 Flea Market

av du Professeur André Lemièrre, 20e; ☎ 8am-7.30pm Sat-Mon; **M** Porte de Montreuil

Established in the 19th century, the Montreuil flea market is known for its quality secondhand clothes and designer seconds. The 500-odd stalls also sell engravings, jewellery, linen, crockery, old furniture and appliances.

MARCHÉ AUX PUCES DE ST-OUEN

Map p169 Flea Market

www.parispuces.com; rue des Rosiers, av Michelet, rue Voltaire, rue Paul Bert & rue Jean-Henri Fabre, 18e; ☎ 9am-6pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun, 11am-5pm Mon; **M** Porte de Clignancourt

This vast flea market, founded in the late 19th century and said to be Europe's largest, has more than 2500 stalls grouped into 10 *marchés* (market areas), each with its own speciality (eg Marché Serpette and Marché Biron for antiques, Marché Malik

for secondhand clothing, the enormous Marché Vernaison for antiques etc). There are miles of modern clothing and 'free-lance' stalls selling anything from batteries and rusty tools to stolen mobile phones.

LA VALLÉE VILLAGE Shopping Centre

☎ 01 60 42 35 00; www.lavallee-village.com; 3 cours de la Garonne, Serris; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat May-Sep, to 7pm Mon-Sat Oct-Apr, 11am-7pm Sun

This shopping centre within the **Disneyland Resort** (p384), 30km east of Paris, contains some 75 big-name outlets (Christian Lacroix, Kenzo, Versace et al) offering discounts on last season's clothing, accessories and tableware. From Paris, take RER line A4 (€5.60, 30 to 35 minutes) to the Val d'Europe station. Alternatively, **Cityrama** (p407) runs a coach (€19 return) from 4 place des Pyramides, 1er (metro Tuileries) three times weekly, departing at 10.15am and returning at 4pm; book in advance.