

**(below) taschen in paris**

This boutique is a pure delight of books and art that will keep you enthralled for hours.

**(right) cafes, cafes, cafes...**

In Paris it's all about sipping cafe au lait or a glass of wine, eating great food and spending quality time in the cafes people watching with friends.



bonjour PARIS

A dreamy guide to a green getaway in the most romantic city in the world.

(by gina la morte) photography by vincent knapp

There's something about Paris that a girl can't get out of her mind. Romance and love of life is in the air. But did you know that Paris is actually a very sustainable city? Because of the overall eco-consciousness of its people, the metro system has an entire bicycle program where you can pick up a bike at any kiosk; swipe your metro card and grab one for a ride.

Paris is also home to multiple markets, so you can discover farm-fresh organic foods, clothing and countless antiques and repurposed products daily. Parisians are extremely conscious of not using plastic, repurposing everything they can, and developing new ways to go green. Hotels especially, are doing whatever they can to offer sustainable services and make your stay as green as possible. But what we love most about Paris is its lifestyle. Parisians are all about enjoying life. There's no schedule, no stress; every day is about enjoying the moment, nurturing the relationships you have, and of

course spending lots of time on fashion and dressing up. Sitting in a cafe drinking wine or cafe au lait for hours and people-watching is an integral part of the lifestyle. Fashion is a serious part of the city's culture, and both men and women dress to impress. French celebrities are not pop stars, but rather fashion designers like *Karl Lagerfeld* and *Marc Jacobs* who create for classic french labels like *Louis Vuitton* and *Chanel*.

Upon researching our latest excursion, we stumbled across the most beautiful pictorial guide of Paris ever created, "*Taschen's Paris*." This comprehensive book is divided into three essential sections: hotels, restaurants and shopping, and is an insider's guide to the three major activities anyone will be doing when visiting the romantic city. When you decide to book your next eco trip to the City of Love and Lights, leave your schedule at home to give yourself plenty of time for socializing, shopping, eating and drinking. It's the heartbeat of Paris.



(above) Grande Herboristerie Parisienne de la Place Clichy

Filled with the scent of a fresh meadow, this cool shop in the city of Paris sells more than 900 herbs. To fulfill a natural girl's dream, herbalists are ready to mix you an elixir, no matter what your ailment. They also have wonderful teas!

Where to stay

(left and below) Villa & Hotel Majestic

A brand new hotel where the "art de vivre" meets luxury, this contemporary sanctuary is just steps from the Champs-Élysées. Wellness and sustainability are guiding philosophies here, from the Majclub Wellness Centre to the selection of materials, fabrics and fixtures chosen according to ethical and ecoconscious positioning. The 4,800 square-foot MajClub features an organic line of Chinese medicine-inspired "Clé des Champs" products and treatments. Founder Céline Claret Coquet has also created an innovative face-lifting treatment through the use of acupuncture and gold needles, exclusive to the MajClub. The entire hotel is focused on providing a peaceful and tranquil experience. www.majestichotel.com

(bottom right) Hotel Gavarni

The first independent hotel in Paris to be awarded the European Eco Label. Hands down it is the real deal and incorporates eco in every single area that can be done. Everything from the organic breakfast, to using all recyclable paper products, to the 100 percent organic bath products, to 100 percent renewable energy and taxi sharing! They even installed flow reducing valves in all the faucets and shower handles to reduce water consumption by 30%. The decor is exquisite and luxurious. They offer "Green Tours" of Paris and have a really informational blog on the greening of Paris. www.gavarni.com www.greenhotelparis.com



Photos courtesy of Hotel Gavarni and Villa & Hotel Majestic




Eco-Shops in Paris

Ekovaruhuset-House of Organic
Yes, one of our favorite stateside fashion eco-boutiques is open in Paris.
7 rue Mahler 750004

Monsieur Poulet
A trendy fashion concept store where high design meets the environment.
28 rue des petites stables-Paris 10th

Ekyog
Known for 100 percent organic cotton *Alter Mundi Mode*. Fabulous knit tops, denim and more. They have multiple locations, so check out www.ekyog.com for more.

Dalia and Rose
A feminine, girly high-fashion boutique with lots of beautiful accessories, shoes, to name just a few of the pretty things.
9, rue du Marché St-Honoré Paris 1st

Trait d'Éthique
A beautiful collection of home decor, including lamps, bowls, and art, all supporting socio and eco-artisans and causes.
7 rue Mademoiselle 75015

Florame
A specialist in aromatherapy since 1990, *Florame* offers organic cosmetics and essential oils with beautiful natural fragrances, all certified by Ecocert.
15, rue des rosiers 75004

