



From *Paris, Portrait of a City*: One of the most spectacular accidents in Paris occurred at the Montparnasse railway station: a train from Granville, travelling at somewhere between 40 and 60 kph, was unable to stop: it careered through the buffers, off the platform and through the façade of the building, from which it fell onto Place de Rennes below, 1895.

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Paris, Portrait of a City

Jean Claude Gautrand

Taschen, hardcover, 9.8 x 13.4 in.,
544 pages, £ 44.99

Paris, Portrait of a City takes us on a sightseeing tour through a city that Goethe has described as the "universal city where every step upon a bridge or a square recalls a great past, where a fragment of history is unrolled at the corner of every street". It is a huge book that most of us will place on our coffee tables, but it is also one we'll find ourselves paging through time and time again. Distinguished photographer Jean Claude Gautrand has brought together the past and present in 500-plus photographs, from Dageurre, via Cartier-Bresson to the very latest images. He includes images by those unknown men and women who have captured the beauty and poetry that has inspired so many artists and writers over the centuries. Whether you are a lover of Paris, as I am, or someone who only dreams of visiting some day, this will capture your imagination from beginning to end. - VS