

# Time Out

SHORTLIST

'The slickest  
city guide publisher'  
The Times

SHOPPING

SIGHTS & MUSEUMS

ITINERARIES

EATING & DRINKING

NIGHTLIFE

HOTELS

ARTS & LEISURE



# Paris 2008

WHAT'S NEW | WHAT'S ON | WHAT'S BEST

igourmet.com). **M<sup>o</sup> St Michel** Open noon-2:30pm, 7:30-10:00pm Mon-Fri; 7:30-10:30pm Sat. Closed Aug. 44¢.

**Bistros** Map p145 A2-3

One of the most romantic spots in Paris, Lupsienne was once a residence for French politicians and their mistresses; the tiny private dining rooms upstairs used to look on the inside. Chef Alain Harynard does a modern take on classic French cooking: his beef fillet is smothered for a complex flavor; tender saddle of rabbit is scented with both lavender and rosemary. The seductive riverside dining room is best enjoyed at night.

### Le Pantalon

7 rue Roger-Collard, 5th (no phone). 899 Luxembourg Open 5:30pm-2am Mon-Sat. No credit cards. **Safe** Map p145 A4

Le Pantalon is a local club that seems familiar yet utterly surreal. It has the standard fixtures and fittings, plus a strange vacuum-cleaner sculpture, disco-light tablets and the world's most primitive proposal of marriage. Happy hours are generous, but drinks are cheap enough to make you tipsy without the worry of a cash hangover.

### Le Piano Yacht

8 rue Caplice, 5th (01-45.33.75.03) www.ignoumarche.com **M<sup>o</sup> Maitre d'Atelier** or **Cardinal Lemoine** Open noon-Sun Mon-Fri; 5pm-Sun Sat, Sun.

**Bar** Map p145 A4

A Left Bank drinking haunt for many a decade, this has all the hallmarks of what any bar-stained, smoky lounge should be: dark, cramped, filled with a hard-core drinks/student clientele, walls covered four times over with posters and indeterminate pub graff, and the hits of alternative 1980s synth-pop on repeat on the stereo.

### Le Pré Verne

8 rue Thénaud, 5th (01-45.54.28-47). **M<sup>o</sup> Maitre d'Atelier** or **Clare La Sorbonne** Open noon-3pm, 7:30-10:30pm Tue-Sat. Closed July. Aug.

**CC** **Bistro** Map p145 A3

Chef Philippe Delacourville uses spices like few other of his French counterparts. Take his salad with cassis bark and smoked potato: pure what the fish looks like in size it makes up for in crunchy texture and rich, cinnamon-like flavor, and the smooth potato cooked in a smoker makes a great accompaniment. Finish it all off with roast figs with olive.

## Old books, new blood

Paris's most famous bookshop takes a fresh direction.



Founded in 1953, Shakespeare & Co (p153) is one of the world's most famous bookshops. Its story includes some of the leading literary names of the 20th century, three premises and two owners.

Sylvia Beach, founder of the original store at nearby Odéon, died in Paris in 1962; the current owner, George Whitman, is now in his 94th year, grey-haired and feisty; and the present manager, responsible for introducing a telephone, a credit card machine and, most notably, a biennial summer literary festival, is Sylvia Whitman, George's daughter.

"When I took over in 2003, everyone was always talking about the shop's history," she says. "It was always Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation, George Whitman and the Beat Generation. It was rivalling!" And yet, rather than tamper with the honeyed feel of the shop's interior, or her father's philosophy of giving penniless writers a dark recess of the shop in which to sleep, Sylvia has set

about giving Shakespeare & Co a modern direction. As well as the festival, housed in a marquee beside the store – "Paris Lists, Memoirs and Biographies" is the theme for 2008 – Sylvia has plans for a café and cultural centre.

Whitman bought the current shop with a modest inheritance; at first it was called Le Mistral, but she renamed it in Beach's honour when she died in 1962. The Beats, Burroughs and Ginsberg were regulars, giving readings and drinking their way through literary evenings. Walk in today and you hear the clacking of old typewriters upstairs, your eyes falling upon a few bronze coins in a symbolic dry wishing well. Outside, amid the stalls and small ads, the "Paris Wall Newspaper" is a chivalric history written by Whitman on New Year's Day 2004. No bar codes, no security gates, no shrink wrap. In other words, the sort of bookshop that every city really ought to have.



La Mosquée de Paris p147