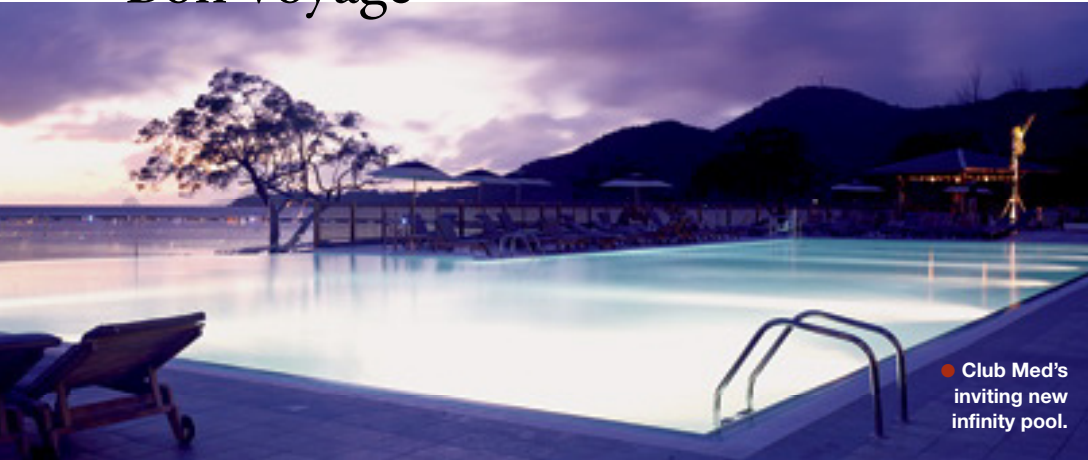


Bon Voyage



● Club Med's inviting new infinity pool.



PLEASURES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Martinique The Club Med Buccaneer's Creek resort in Martinique has received a much-needed overhaul; completely new amenities include a 5,000-square-foot ocean-side infinity pool with massage jets, a luxury spa and state-of-the-art gym facilities. The resort offers Club Med's signature all-inclusive transportation, meals, drinks, outdoor sports and entertainment. clubmed.com

Guadeloupe Every four years, solo sailors compete in the 3,510-mile Route du Rhum from Brittany to Guadeloupe. A record 86 sailboats will be departing this year from Saint-Malo on October 29, with a festival in Guadeloupe welcoming the winners from November 6-18. routedurhum.org

Saint-Martin The chic Saint-Martin resort La Samanna is offering a special "Dames de Leisure" girls' getaway package that includes duty-free luxury shopping in Marigot with a chauffeured car, head-to-toe treatments at the Elysée Spa and a two-bedroom suite. \$2,450 per night for four people. lasamanna.com

KID STUFF

The Château de Versailles's newly reopened Domaine de Marie Antoinette includes the Petit Trianon, a grotto and a farm complete with animals—don't miss the amazing four-horned goats. Free admission for children under 18. chateauversailles.fr



● Wanted Paris.

ACCESSIBLE ART

Would-be collectors who are too intimidated to venture into art galleries now have several affordable new options.

● **Toast Gallery** presents contemporary paintings and photography at its Latin Quarter location, starting at €45. Clients can browse the canvases, hang them on the gallery's "test wall" and even rent or exchange paintings. 3 rue de l'Estrapade, Paris 5^e. toastgallery.com

● A converted factory in the northern Marais houses **Wanted Paris**, a new gallery specializing in contemporary art photography for all budgets. Works start at just under €100 and may also be purchased online. 11-14 Cité Dupetit-Thouars, Paris 3^e. wantedparis.com

● **Carré d'Artistes** rotates works by 30 up-and-coming artists; they are sold in four sizes, ranging from €45 to €228. 20 rue Glacière, Aix-en-Provence; 66 rue Saint-André des Arts, Paris 6^e. carredartistes.com



CLUB MED; COURTESY OF WANTED PARIS

Bon Voyage

Notes for the savvy traveler



● **Charms & Secrets** takes visitors to hidden corners such as this inner courtyard near Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

GRANDS TOURS

- **Charms & Secrets**, the first company to offer tours of Paris by electric bicycle, guides clients past the city's major monuments as well as the hidden corners and hillsides that aren't accessible by car or pedal bikes. Four tours daily in English and French; €36 per person. parischarmssecrets.com
- **The Paris Tourism Office** and the travel agency **Meeting the French** now organize guided behind-the-scenes tours of Parisian food boutiques, workshops, research laboratories and craft or industrial manufacturers not normally open to the public. Rates from €5 per person, advanced booking essential. meetingthefrench.com
- **Rosa Jackson**, a food critic and cookbook author, leads gourmet walking tours of Vieux Nice's famous Cours Saleya market, through stalls of fresh flowers, candied fruits and local seasonal produce. Hands-on Niçois cooking classes in Jackson's home are also available. From €100 per person. petitsfarcis.com



INFO DESK

A **Tourist Welcome and Information Center** recently opened at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle's international terminal 2F. Open daily from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., services include hotel reservations, ticket sales for concerts and sporting events, free maps and information on how to best get into the city. aeroportsdeparis.fr

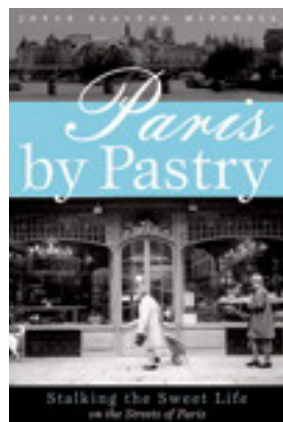
Gay and lesbian travelers can now find specialized Paris tourism services through **Paris Gai Village**, which offers a multilingual welcome service and info table at Blue Book Paris (61 rue Quincampoix, 4^e) every Saturday from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. parisgaiavillage.com

My Genie in Paris sends an English-speaking Paris expert to your hotel lounge for a 45-minute consultation. Your very own "genie" can magically produce a database full of dining, entertainment and sightseeing suggestions tailored to your interests. The new service costs €59 and may be reserved daily from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. mygenieinparis.com

By HEATHER STIMMLER-HALL

GUIDES

● **Paris by Pastry** *Stalking the Sweet Life on the Streets of Paris* by Joyce Slayton Mitchell. Sounding as though she might just be on a sugar high herself, the exuberant author combs the French capital for *pâtisseries* featuring great *macarons*, *financiers* and the like. *Jones Books, \$16.95.*



● **Paris by Metro** *An Underground History* by Arnold Delaney. If you ever wondered what "Duplex" or "Picpus" referred to, this guide is for you: Line by line, it explains the meaning behind the name of every Paris metro stop. *Interlink Publishing, \$12.95*

● **Walks Through Marie Antoinette's Paris** by Diana Reid Haig. Full of historical anecdotes, this purse-sized guide offers suggestions for visiting sites in Paris, Versailles and other Paris-area châteaux associated with the once again fashionable queen. *Ravanhall Books, \$27.95.*

