

# PARIS

ENCOUNTER

CATHERINE LE NEVEZ

Paris Encounter

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### Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighbourhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighbourhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote 'areas of interest' – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

### Prices

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## CATHERINE LE NEVEZ

Catherine first lived in Paris aged four and has been returning at every opportunity since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, her Masters in Professional Writing, and post-graduate qualifications in editing and publishing along the way. In between revisiting her favourite Parisian haunts and uncovering new ones, she wrote this book in a tiny (but charming) garret in the city's heart.

Catherine's writing on Paris includes the previous (1st) edition of this book, and newspaper and radio reportage covering the city's literary scene. Beyond Paris, she's written numerous Lonely Planet guidebooks and web reviews, including Lonely Planet's *France* and *Provence & the Côte d'Azur* guidebooks. Wanderlust aside, Paris remains her favourite city on earth.



## CATHERINE'S T HANKS

*Merci beaucoup* to the innumerable Parisians who offered insights and inspiration. At LP, cheers to Caroline Sieg, Alison Ridgway and Mark Griffiths. And *merci surtout* to my family for instilling in me my lifelong love of Paris.

**Our Readers** Many thanks to the travellers who wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes. Barry Butchard, Gwen Christini, Katherine Craigs, Jay Geller, Gordon Grams, Tomislav Krajcer, Robert Martin, Rene Rodgers, Rosie Sontheimer.

**Cover photograph** Rue Vieille du Temple, Marais, Steven Greaves. This image was selected as one of the winners of a competition to find four unique travellers' photos that really convey the experience of using an Encounter guide. Entrants were challenged to submit eye-catching photos that get right to the heart of the city and give the impression of seeing and experiencing it for themselves. Check out the other winning images on *Istanbul*, *London* and *Barcelona Encounter* covers. **Internal photographs** p27 David A. Barnes/Alamy; p24 Erick Nguyen/Alamy; p25 Ted Pink/Alamy. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images, and by Glenn Beanland p18, p131, p135, p153, p181; Bruce Bi p44, p54, p55; Karl Blackwell p144; Jean-Bernard Carillet p6 (top left), p12, p15, p19, p22, p30 (top right), p39, p43, p63, p69, p76, p117, p128, p176, p183, p187, p189, p190, p191; Ann Cecil p86; Olivier Cirendini p100, p114; Kevin Clogstoun p20; Juliet Coombe p89; John Elk III p30 (bottom), p95; Greg Elms p60; Dan Herrick p23; Dennis Jones p17; Kevin Levesque p11, p195; Martin Moos p30 (top left); Russell Mountford p6 (top right); Christine Osborne p125; Will Salter p6 (bottom), p8, p16, p34, p53, p122, p140, p170, p186; Neil Setchfield p158; Jonathan Smith p13, p21, p29, p58, p105, p160, p174, p178, p185; Oliver Strewé p14, p163.

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Exterior of the Institut du Monde Arabe (p140), Latin Quarter

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# THIS IS PARIS

On the surface, Paris' tree-shaded boulevards, romantic bridges illuminated by wrought-iron lamps and wicker chair-lined café terraces – not to mention more recognisable monuments than any other city – all have a timeless familiarity, whether it's your first visit in a while or your first altogether.

Scratching the surface, however, reveals that France's fashion-conscious capital continually evolves. Strict regulations have preserved its villagelike layout and architectural treasures, and have ensured an almost total absence of high-rises. This gives rise instead to innovative conversions of existing structures into everything from galleries to hip bars to green spaces. Plans are currently unfolding for the *Périphérique* (ring road) to provide a pedestrian link between central Paris and the *banlieues* (suburbs) with parklands grassing over the traffic flowing beneath. Even brand-new buildings, such as the Musée Quai Branly, intuitively connect with the existing cityscape.

Paris' changes are most apparent in its regenerated *quartiers* (quarters), particularly around Canal St-Martin, home to emerging artists and designers; the colourful multicultural districts in the north and northeast; and the reinvigorated southeast, particularly along the riverbanks.

The Seine itself forms part of changes to the city's public transport system, with the 2008 debut of the Voguéo 'metro boat' service. And low-cost-to-free bicycle rental is now available from pick-up/drop-off stations all over the city following the success of the Vélib' service.

Paris also takes on a different atmosphere depending on the season. But Cole Porter was spot on, meteorology and all: whether you're here in the springtime, the fall, the winter (when it drizzles) or the summer (when it sizzles!), the world's most romanticised city has a way of seducing you every moment of the year. Some things never change.

**Top left** Fruits of the sea, La Grande Épicerie de Paris at Le Bon Marché (p158), Left Bank **Top right** Musée d'Orsay's impressive old station clock keeps watch over the impressionist masters (p42) **Bottom** The Marais' fashion boutiques (p119) along rue des Francs Bourgeois