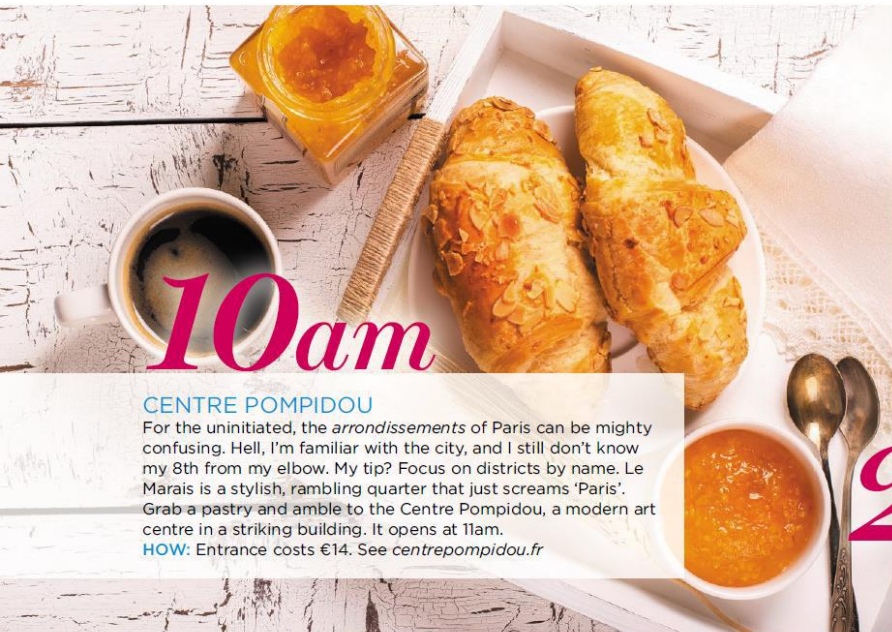


travel

A perfect day in Paris

NICOLA BRADY maps out a magical 24 hours in Le Marais



10am

CENTRE POMPIDOU

For the uninitiated, the *arrondissements* of Paris can be mighty confusing. Hell, I'm familiar with the city, and I still don't know my 8th from my elbow. My tip? Focus on districts by name. Le Marais is a stylish, rambling quarter that just screams 'Paris'. Grab a pastry and amble to the Centre Pompidou, a modern art centre in a striking building. It opens at 11am.

HOW: Entrance costs €14. See centrepompidou.fr



2pm

BEAUTIFUL BOUTIQUES

Le Marais is an absolute paradise for shoppers, and it's home to a labyrinth of quirky boutiques. Cire Trudon is the motherland for those with an expensive candle habit — the moody green glasses are so pretty you'll weep. On Rue Vieille du Temple, you'll find artisan *boulangeries*, boutiques and La Belle Hortense, a funky blend of bookshop and wine bar. It's open until 2am, perfect for some postprandial shopping!

HOW: ciretrudon.com; cafeine.com/belle-hortense



5pm

MERCI, LE MARAIS!

Have you ever wanted to walk into the interiors pages of a magazine? Well, Merci is the closest you can hope to get. Once a wallpaper factory in a fairly non-descript area of the 3rd, its opening brought life to the surrounds (and also created a new sub-district, the Haut-Marais). Browse the vintage furniture and modern designers, before grabbing a coffee in one of the cool cafés and perusing the local galleries.

HOW: merci-merci.com

DO IT
Fly to Paris CDG with Aer Lingus (aerlingus.com) or Air France (airfrance.ie). Also check out en.parisinfo.com



8pm

BON APPETIT!

Paris has a surprisingly diverse culinary scene, but if you're only in town for a day, then you'll likely be craving a traditionally French feed. At L'Ambassade d'Auvergne you'll find fine bourgeois dishes from the Auvergne region, like duck with aligot and a heavenly mousse au chocolat. Afterwards, roll yourself over to the Hotel du Petit Moulin, a vibrantly hip hotel with interiors designed by Christian Lacroix.

HOW: B&B from €205; ambassade-auvergne.com; hotelpetitmoulinparis.com