

**PARIS SPARKLES!** The popping of corks and sparkling bubbles are de rigueur for the end of year festivities. Paris is the place to savour the best champagnes in specialist wine bars, on a river Seine cruise or in the company of experts ... A trend with plenty of fizz!

## LOVELY BUBBLY IN PARISIAN WINE BARS

Bubbles are hip in Paris! People throng champagne bars, the meeting place for Epicurean enthusiasts of the famous sparkling wine, produced in the Champagne region of France. And there are many different types of venues to choose from.

At the **Flûte l'Étoile**, a few steps from the Champs-Élysées, the lounge atmosphere of the establishment gives guests a VIP welcome. After opening two Flûte bars in New York, Hervé Rousseau returned to Paris with this tested concept: tasting of champagne or legendary New York cocktails with finger food from the best suppliers (Pétrossian caviar, smoked salmon and foie gras, Androuet cheeses, bread from the Kayser bakery, chocolate from the Maison du Chocolat, champagne macarons from Ladurée), playlist of DJ Douane Harriat put together each day and sent from New York, cosy bar on the ground floor and lounges on a mezzanine. And finally, a programme of events at the venue: happy hour every Tuesday, jazz trio on Wednesday, live DJ Friday and Saturday, Champagne School once a month, but also exhibitions, tasting sessions in aid of charity, etc. Fine wine fans also frequent **Le Dokhan's bar**, the capital's first champagne bar, tucked away in the Hôtel Radisson Blu Le Dokhan's\*\*\*\*, in the Trocadéro district. The Empire style decoration with gilded wood panelling and antique mirrors gives the place an intimate and luxurious atmosphere. The menu offers more than 60 prestigious champagne labels, and each week the sommelier presents three different vintages to taste.

In another area, on the heights of Montmartre hill, the champagne bar **Call me bubbles** specializes uniquely in champagne tasting! Select bottles are tasted at the bar with flute champagne glasses galore for a merry after-work experience. The venue draws Parisians and locals attracted by the warm colours of the window display.

Paris is the capital of the art of living, and so the big department stores have everything from interior decor and fashion to champagne bars. Heady refreshment on a whirlwind shopping spree! At the **Bar à bulles** at Galeries Lafayette on the first floor of the main store in the Espace Créateurs, fashionistas treat themselves to a glass of champagne ... or sparkling water.

Finally, for those looking for an unforgettable champagne sipping moment, there is the **Bar à champagne de la tour Eiffel**: a festive way of celebrating the majestic view from the Tower and the finest most sparkling memory of Paris! White or pink champagne, but also sparkling water are available every day from 12-noon to 10pm at the top of the Tower.

### → **BAR À BULLES DES GALERIES LAFAYETTE**

1st floor, Espace Créateurs  
40 boulevard Haussmann, Paris 9th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 82 34 56  
[www.galerieslafayette.com](http://www.galerieslafayette.com)  
From Monday to Saturday, 9.30am-8pm, Thursday 9.30am-9pm

### → **BAR À CHAMPAGNE DE LA TOUR EIFFEL**

3rd floor of the Eiffel Tower  
Champ de Mars, Paris 7th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 44 11 23 23  
[www.tour-eiffel.fr](http://www.tour-eiffel.fr)  
Every day, 12-noon to 10pm



### CALL ME BUBBLES

54 rue Custine, Paris 18th  
Tel +33 (0) 6 48 27 14 76  
www.callmebubbles.fr  
La cave, 11am-1pm, 4pm-10pm



### FLÔTE L'ÉTOILE

19 rue de l'Étoile, Paris 17th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 45 72 10 14  
www.flutebar.com  
From Monday to Saturday, 5pm-2am



### LE DOKHAN'S BAR AT RADISSON BLU LE DOKHAN'S

117 rue de Lauriston, Paris 16th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 53 65 66 99  
www.dokhan.paris.radissonsas.com  
Every day, 12-noon to 12.15am

## CHAMPAGNE WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

Champagne trends go further. For even more bubbly discoveries, champagne experts have new concepts to offer. For example, **Vedettes de Paris** in collaboration with wine tasting specialist Ô Chateau Wine Tasting, offers a champagne cruise on the Seine. Passengers get to taste three different champagnes in the salon of the glass-windowed boat and benefit from the comments of an experienced sommelier. A unique and glamorous hour, in French or English.

There are also champagne tasting workshops at prestigious Parisian wine merchants. In the **Espace Nicolas Feuillatte**, near to the Champs-Élysées, in a setting by designer Christian Ghion, the sommelier welcomes small groups for workshops focusing on vintages of the brand. Participants learn about the differences between wines, grape varieties and the bottling of wine as they taste three or four different champagnes. At the shop **Arlaux**, in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the Champagne region is explored, with the sale of local products; but it is also a space where tasting workshops take place based on the brand's sparkling wines. Groups of from 5 to 10 people taste three different wines as they listen to the enlightened comments in French, English, Japanese, and soon in Russian. For the festive season, the famous **Caves Taillevent** helps you choose your champagne for Christmas or New Year's Eve in the company of a sommelier and with the tasting of sparkling wines from different wine and champagne houses of Reims.

Of course, champagne buffs will find everything they want at the capital's reputed wine merchants with sommeliers to give them precious advice. **Nicolas** with its many outlets in the city is an ideal place to shop and sells boxed champagne especially for the end of year festivities. At the fine food and wine store **Fauchon**, in place de la Madeleine, you can purchase Fauchon's own champagne or other brands. Tasting workshops can be organized at the Comptoir, on the lower ground floor of the store.

Finally, for those who want to find out more, the **Meeting the French** team offers a day out in the Champagne region, 1hr30 from Paris. The journey takes place in a minibus with breakfast included. The group discover the beauty of the hillsides, meet a champagne producer, visit the cathedral of Reims and a large champagne house, and in addition to lunch there is a tasting session of three wines.



### ARLAUX

29 rue Censier, Paris 5th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 47 07 43 08  
www.arlaux.fr



### CAVES TAILLEVENT

199 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, Paris 8th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 45 61 14 09  
www.taillevent.com

**ESPACE NICOLAS FEUILLATTE**

254 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, Paris 8th  
 Tel +33 (0) 1 42 27 61 19  
[www.feuillette.com](http://www.feuillette.com)

**FAUCHON**

30 place de la Madeleine, Paris 8th  
 Tel +33 (0) 1 70 39 38 00  
[www.fauchon.com](http://www.fauchon.com)

**NICOLAS LA MADELEINE**

31 place de la Madeleine, Paris 8th  
 Tel +33 (0) 1 42 68 00 16  
[www.nicolasmadeleine.fr](http://www.nicolasmadeleine.fr)  
 More than 100 other addresses on [www.nicolas.com](http://www.nicolas.com)

**MEETING THE FRENCH**

Tel +33 (0) 1 42 51 19 80  
[www.meetingthefrench.com](http://www.meetingthefrench.com)

**VEDETTES DE PARIS**

Port de Suffren, Paris 7th  
 Tel +33 (0) 1 44 18 19 50  
[www.vedettesdeparis.fr](http://www.vedettesdeparis.fr)

