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NEW ON THE SCENE

What Do Voltaire, Napoleon, and Ben Franklin Have in Common?

By Glenna Musante

Of Paris' renowned cafes and brasseries, none is more revered than **Le Procope**. Since 1686, it's hosted personalities like Voltaire, Napoleon, and even Benjamin Franklin, who drafted parts of the American Constitution while dining here.

Part of Le Procope's enduring appeal is the location. It lies on a busy corner in the heart of the Left Bank's ancient **Odéon neighborhood**, close to Marie Antoinette's **Théâtre de l'Odéon** and the **Luxembourg Gardens**.

Le Procope claims to be the restaurant that introduced coffee to the masses in the City of Light—but these days you can get much more than your morning *café au lait* here. Inside the restaurant, you'll find a new afternoon Tea Room, opening just in time for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Many Paris brasseries close after lunch until dinner (roughly 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.), and I've often found it difficult to find a neighborhood café that's open all afternoon (much less a classic brasserie

known for French gastronomy at an easy price point, which makes this a welcome addition to the city's food scene).

Newly renovated by Parisian interior decorators Virginie Friedman and Delphine Versace, the Tea Room is a study in classic French elegance, with welcoming overstuffed chairs, carved woodwork, cozy satin divans, and soft lighting. Here, you can step back in time to rest, relax and enjoy a cup of tea or a crisp, midday Côtes du Rhône (or one of their signature cocktails), as well as salads, warm dishes, pastries, and ice creams made in house. (Their limoncello sorbet is a favorite on a hot summer day.)

Le Procope is in the city's sixth arrondissement, in **Saint-Germain-des-Prés**, and can be reached by walking from the **Odéon Metro Station**. The Tea Room is open from 3 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Sunday. Reservations aren't required, but I recommend calling ahead. Le Procope is also open for lunch and dinner ([reservations](#) highly recommended for these). —Glenna Musante