

DECOR TOURS
PARIS

PARIS
DISPATCH

No. 6: Shopping

There's no way we can cover *all* of our favorites in one edition...and we don't want to swamp you more info during the holidays, so this is a deeply subjective, tightly edited take on some categories we like to shop, and places we like to stop when in Paris.

Department Stores

We mentioned some of these in a previous [Paris Dispatch](#) and, honestly, it's easy enough to get details on these with a quick search, so, in short...

Right up the block

Just a block past the Palais Garnier (Paris opéra house) is the main [Galeries Lafayette](#), and on the same block, the main branch of [Printemps](#). If we had to compare these to U.S. department stores, we'd say they most closely align with a Nordstrom. For one-stop shopping of most of the main French brands, these are go-tos, plus both feature some lovely architectural details and both have food halls.

Right down the block

A few blocks down from our hotel, in the direction of the Louvre, you'll find a large(-ish) branch of [Monoprix](#)—



the Target of France. If you're looking for less expensive one-stop shopping, you'll find well-made clothing, a medium-sized pharmacy/cosmetics selection, home goods, and a grocery store (for some of those gourmand gifts you promised to bring home).

A bit further

Walking away from the Louvre on the rue de Rivoli, the opposite direction of the Jardin des Tuileries, you're just a few minutes away from the recently restored Art Nouveau gem [Samaritaine](#). It took nearly 16 years and almost €1B but what a glow-up! Price range here is très haute, in keeping with its luxury LVMH connections.

Keep walking down rue de Rivoli and you'll come to [Le BHV](#), and this is a little more Bloomingdale's if we had to compare, with more mid-range European brands (and a surprising number of American brands!) There's usually a pretty nice assortment of home goods to be found here.

The only Left Bank department store is [Le Bon Marché](#), which is closer to Samaritaine in terms of selection and offerings. As mentioned in a previous Paris Dispatch, we love its food hall, La Grande Épicerie de Paris for treats to bring home—teas, spices, chocolates, and more. A stop here can be combined with other great Saint-Germain area stops, such as...



Pharmacy Finds

Shopping at a French pharmacy is nothing like dropping into CVS/Rite-Aid/Walgreens. And while K-beauty may have taken over all the socials, there's a reason French women age so well!

First rule of pharmacy shopping: Put yourself in the hands of the professionals. The guardians of French pharmacies—the lab-coated salespeople—are busy, serious, and probably know more about your skin than you do. Therefore, if they ask you if they can help you, for God's sake, let them! They will not steer you wrong, be patient, don't



interrupt them, and if you're feeling overwhelmed, just ask to stay basic.

Many of the best French products have been around in one way or another since 1950s or earlier. Generations of French women have grown up using Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentre, Biafine, Topicrem, Homéoplasmine, and others, all of which look completely bland and boring...but work!

We (and our families) definitely have our favorite pharma products, but given that everyone's skin and general health concerns differ, we're going to do a link round-up of recent French pharma picks. There's skin-care, beauty, health and more, but don't forget, these pharmacy staffers know their stuff. If you have a particular issue you'd like their take on, don't be afraid to ask.

And, while City Pharma is the one store name-dropped in all the socials, and deservedly so, if only for the huge range of products they stock, there are excellent pharmacies everywhere in the city. If you can't make it to City Pharma, try to stop in any that looks well-stocked. It'll be worth it!



[In Style magazine Nov 2025](#)

[NYTimes Wirecutter updated Nov 2025](#)

[Lily Chérie Sept 2025](#)

[Conde Nast Traveler Aug 2025](#)

[Citizen Femme July 2025](#)

[Allure May 2025](#)

[Wit & Whimsey Feb 2025](#)

Some of these links include shopping advice (make a list, have translated questions on your phone, etc.) and some include other pharmacies (along with location) they like to shop, vs. just City Pharma.

[This Life of Travel July 24](#)

[NY Magazine Strategist Aug 2023](#)

You can also search the socials and YouTube for all sorts of French pharma recommendations and advice, if that's more your thing! However, if you do have time while you're on the Left Bank, combine a trip to City Pharma at 26 Rue du Four with some other shopping, we recommend wandering toward Place Saint-Sulpice...

Tableware & etc.

If both of us had our way, all homes would be equipped with butler pantries to store our table-, crystal-, and kitchenware collections.

Kitchenware

Which came first? Julia's famous pegboard? Or did she get the idea from her favorite cookware shop [E. Dehillerin](#), a fourth-generation family business she frequented from the beginning of her French cooking lessons. On your initial visit, you might be overwhelmed. It's cluttered, with narrow aisles, brusque salespeople, and an oblique pricing system. But...if you, or anyone in your family enjoys cooking, this is the place to shop! It's not cheap, but the knives, pots, whisks, etc. will last a lifetime and beyond.

Make it a kitchen shopping expedition by walking up rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau from E. Dehillerin, cross rue Étienne Marcel and go half-a block on rue Montmartre to [A. Simon](#), another kitchenware supply store, known for its very good pricing. Or turn right onto rue Montmartre and you'll find [TOC](#) (Trouble Obsessionnel Culinare), then [Mora](#), which is the place to go if your a baker, pastry chef, etc. At the



end of the block you'll find [Deco Relief](#), a store dedicated to cake bakers and decorators, a rarity in France. They have another shop around the corner, for chocolate and pastry. [This article has a great overview](#) of all these stores, if you'd like more info.

If you're like us, and looking at all this beautiful cookware gets you thinking about what to prepare with it, stop at [Foie Gras Luxe](#), also on rue Montmartre. You can pick up ok-to-



bring-home foie gras, of course, but they also stock seriously enticing ingredients and goodies that will please any foodies you might have on your list.

Tableware

If you get out to the Bastille area, definitely check out [AXS Design](#), located in a charming courtyard with another longtime DT favorite, [Antoinette Poisson](#). AXS has a large selection of vintage porcelain and *terre de fer* (ironstone) dishware, plus vintage linens, flatware, etc, as well as some of their own designs.

Another shop that specializes in vintage tableware, along with current production is [La Maison du Bac](#), located on the Left Bank, not far from Le Bon Marché. The space, selection, and prices are a bit more up-market than AXS, but ohhhh, so pretty!

Editorial darling [La Tuile à Loup](#) is open by appointment only, but when design events are in town, the time slots can book fast. This spot is known for resolutely French artisan-made ceramics, such as pieces in the historic traditions of Apt ware, or regional specialty glazing or painting styles.





Looking for classic white “bistro” dishware? [Maison de la Porcelaine](#) carries all the classic French brands in traditional and newer shapes and weights. If your go-to is old school Williams Sonoma, this is your spot! It’s a bit of a hike up in the 10th, but just down the block is [Cristallerie de Paris](#), that, in addition to crystal, also has flatware, porcelain, etc. Both stores offer very good pricing, especially on end-of-stock items. Confirm store hours before heading up there.

The New Wave

There have been several shops that have opened over the past several years that are more contemporary, but with an artisanal focus. [La Trésorerie](#), with shops on both the Right and Left Bank, offers European and Japanese products, tableware, yes, but also lighting, decorative items, bathware, and more.

Another store with a similar focus is [Land-line](#), a self-described “modern take on the general store” with a focus on ethically-produced homewares, table decor, cleaning and cooking supplies,

For glassware, we love [La Soufflerie](#) for its quirky but lovely collections of mouth-blown recycled glassware—goblets, pitchers, vases, etc.



For vintage and new enamelware, plus made in France cutting boards, knives, dishtowels and much more, [Maison Cuilleret](#) has become a go-to destination in the 12th.

Not to ignore the obvious, but all the department stores listed earlier have excellent selections of tableware, flatware, cookware, etc. And Monoprix has some of the greatest paper napkins that make perfect souvenirs! But if this wasn't enough for you...

[Carron](#): From the family behind the Astier de Villatte brand

[Maison Sato](#): Japanese tableware

[Céladon](#): Portuguese tableware

[Bordallo Pinheiro](#): Portuguese cabbageware & more
on Bd Saint-Germain

[Au Bain Marie](#): Pretty much everything, and everything pretty!

[Siècle Paris](#): Contemporary French/European tableware

[Blanche Patine](#): Vintage *terre de fer*, especially blue & white

[L'Objet](#): Glam contemporary home goods

[Degrenne](#): French & European tableware

All this, and that's not even including what you can find at the flea markets, if antique/vintage items are what you're after. We've sourced wonderful porte-couteaux (knife rests), silver cocktail forks, copper cookware, crystal coupes and other stemware, and much more!



Unique Boutiques

That covers many of the shops we've already listed, but these are some that are just a bit different...

Le Cabinet de Porcelaine

[This postage-stamp-sized shop](#) sells one product: porcelain botanicals. Single stems, branches, bouquets, with a few vegetables sometimes offered as well. Lovely!

Marin Montagut

[Marin Montagut](#) is a French illustrator and product designer, and just walking in makes us feel happier. Almost all the products—from silk scarves to soaps—feature Montagut's illustrations, many of which are based on his love of Paris.

Messy Nussy's Cabinet

Vanessa Grall, aka [Messy Nussy](#) is a city explorer, digging out the secrets of urban life. She eventually compiled these into a series of "Don't be a Tourist" books, and recently opened her own little shop, featuring curiosities of all sorts.

Alix D Reynis

A lawyer-turned-self-taught ceramicist, [this moody shop](#) (there's actually two, one on rue Jacob and one in the



Marais) features tableware, candles, lighting and more, most of it in Limoges porcelain. What we particularly love is that the many of the items can be customized with a monogram, name, label, etc. There's also a line of semi-precious jewelry that is lovely and not overly expensive, given the look and presentation.

Drouot

Not actually a boutique, but a unique destination? Absolutely. The salon rooms at [Hôtel Drouot](#) are almost always open for viewing for one or two days before the auction



begins...and there's always a different auction or two every day. So you never know what you'll find but if treasure hunting is your zen, this is your happy place. Hôtel Drouot is about

a 15 min walk from our hotel, just past Galeries Lafayette.

Galerie Vivienne, Galerie Colbert, and Passage Choiseul

Also not a boutique, but a series of boutiques, all gathered in 19th c. "indoor malls". [Galerie Vivienne](#) is one of the

most famous of Paris's covered passages, and less than a 10 min walk from our hotel. This historic landmark is bustling with restaurants, cafés, and unique shops including a vintage jewelry store, a luxury goods *dépôt-vente* (consignment shop), an independent perfumer, a scarf manufacturer, a wine shop and more.



On the same block is Galerie Colbert, with its landmarked restaurant Le Grand Colbert, famously featured in "Something's Gotta Give", where Diane Keaton fell in love with the roast chicken.



But for more shopping head to Passage Choiseul, just step away from Colbert and Vivienne, and filled with more boutiques. On a chilly winter day in Paris, indoor shopping is a treat!

“Concept” Stores

With so many great independent shops, many of which we’ve shared. But, if you’re searching under that phrase, these two should come up.

Merçi

Even though [Merçi](#) has been around since 2009, in some form or another, it wasn’t until after Colette, *the* Parisian concept store, closed in 2017, that the Merçi started to attract international notice. Much of this has to do with a shift in fashion and consumer culture. While Colette was dubbed “the trendiest store in the world”, Merçi’s mission was “sustainable, thoughtful consumption” vs. merchandising to seasonal trends.

Merçi opened its second location, just blocks away from our hotel, earlier this year. Merçi #1 is located in Haut Marais, in an old wallpaper factory(!) conveniently right next to the St. Sebastien Froissart Metro. It has three floors of fashion, home goods, shoes, etc., and bookstore/cafe. Merçi #2 is smaller, located in a former post-office and features more unisex clothing, less beauty, less lighting, etc. but it still represents the “Merçi” vision.



Why it’s worth a look: In addition to the well-selected product assortment across multiple categories, st has a great line of branded products (who wouldn’t want a souvenir that basically says “Thanks Paris”?) and in terms of visual merchandising, they’ve created some memorable displays over the years, both indoors and outside with the signature red Fiat 500, many of which become social media must-clicks.

Fleux

Another Marais store that comes under the “concept” heading is [Fleux](#), a word created by the owners combining Fluid & Luxury, while also a play on fleur, as one of the owners is a florist. Spread over multiple floors in multiple store fronts, it's one of the largest independent design stores in Paris.



The focus here is a little more pop, playful, and brand-aware than Merci. But like Merci it features a mix of new and vintage product, well-known brands and emerging talents, along

with a mix of other Paris and Marais brands you might not have time to visit individually. Which means, if you're pressed for time and need some souvenirs, Fleux could be the solution.

Thank you for reading the

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We have much more info to share, so if you're looking for something specific, or want to shop certain categories, please let us know. We have lists of perfumeriers, vintage clothing, vintage jewelry, embroidery/crewel, ribbons & notions, chocolatiers, pastry shops, small museums, etc.

We look forward to sharing our favorites in Paris with you.

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