



Through My Eyes! Paris

Jerry Grasso

Welcome to my *Through My Eyes!* coverage of some amazing locations my wife Jayne and I have visited around the world. Some are iconic while the majority of the images presented here require a more intimate exploration of the location. This particular ebook is devoted to our travels through [Paris](#). My goal is not to present a definitive study of this location, but rather to provide hopefully a tantalizing glimpse to peak your interest! You will find that these images are not just your typical iconic scenes, but also contain some rather different ones as well.

Ah, [Paris](#), the “City Of Light!” and the “City Of Love”. Thomas Jefferson once said “a walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty, and in the point of life.” The photos within were taken during a visit made by my wife Jayne and I and members of our family in 2016. These images cover the [catacombs](#), church interiors, night sights, day sights, storefronts, streets, windows, and finally [Versailles](#). You can almost smell those mouth-watering croissants baking as you walk through your adventure!

I chose many of these pictures as abstract, intimate versions of elements within some local scene. My attempt here is not to portray a travelogue. Rather, these are quiet images that you may not have noticed as you hike, walk, or travel throughout this scenic getaway.

For an interactive country map with the visited sites referenced within this ebook, please click [here](#). Feel free to do your own exploring!

Explore the many informational hyperlinks included within the ebook!

Any image found within this book or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com, or visit my website at jerrygrasso.com.

Enjoy life!

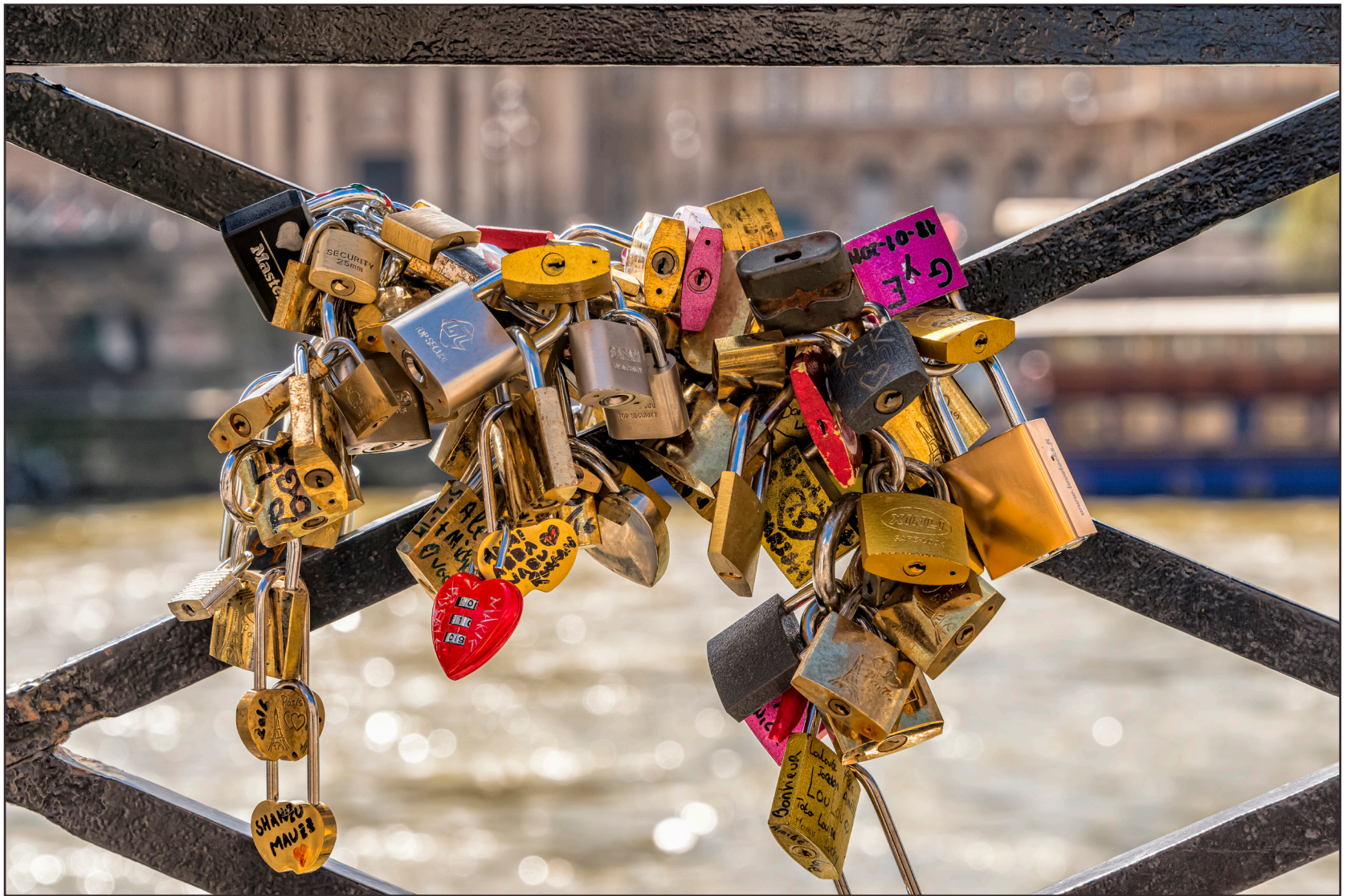


[Paris](#) as seen from the [Ferris wheel](#). The dome in the distance is [La Sorbonne University](#).



Passing time along the river [Seine](#).





Here is a sample of some of the padlocks called the “[Locks of Love](#)”. Fits right in with the “City Of Love”. Unfortunately, because there were so many, the sheer weight was causing damage to the bridge across the river Seine. The locks had to be relocated.

Chocolate banana crepes along the river Seine across from the [Louvre Museum](#)! Ummm!



This is the way some Parisians like to pass their time of day on a bridge across the river Seine. Watch your wallet with these guys!





This one and the next are examples of the many items you can find for sale along the river Seine.

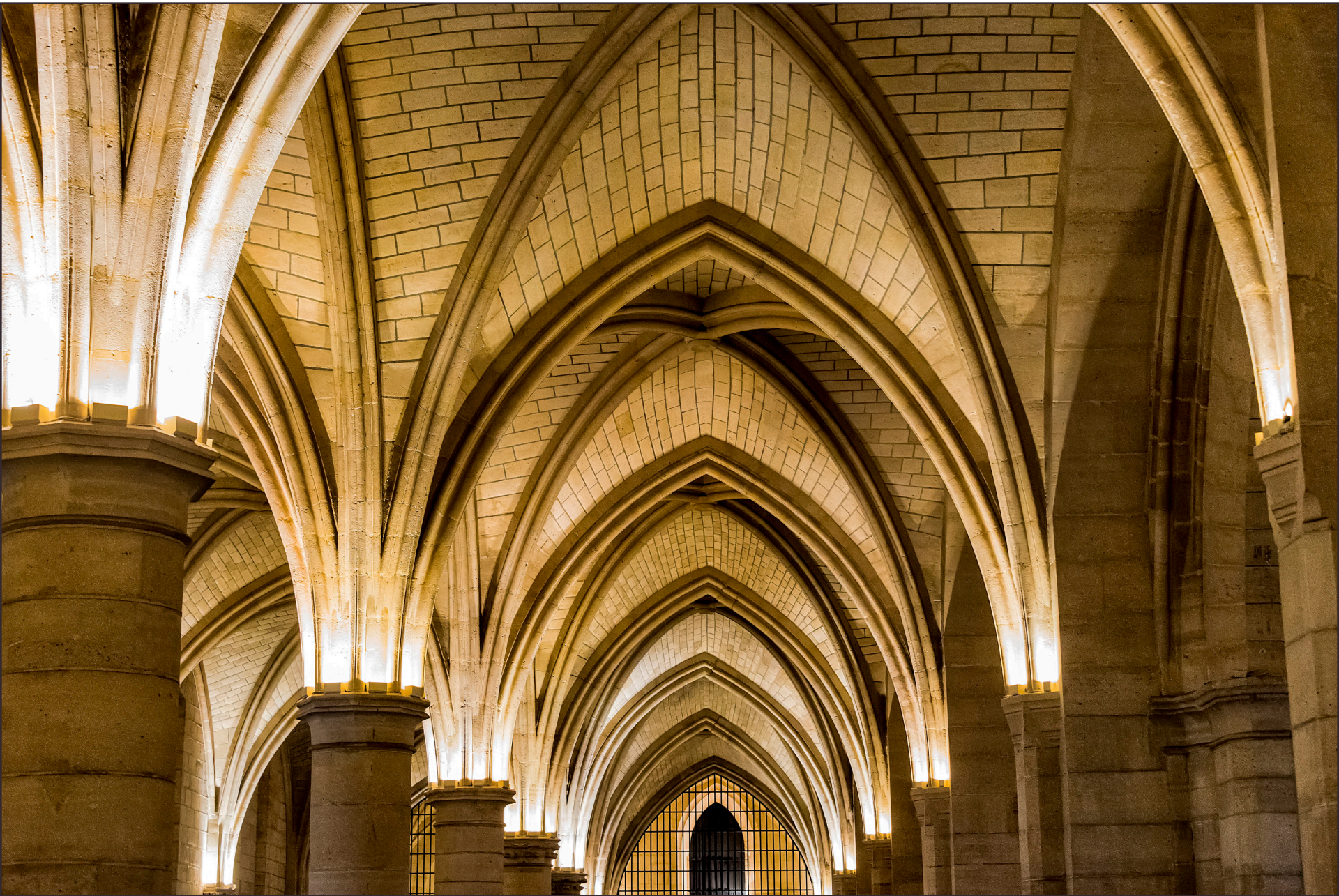


These next few are storefront scenes in the [Latin Quarter](#).

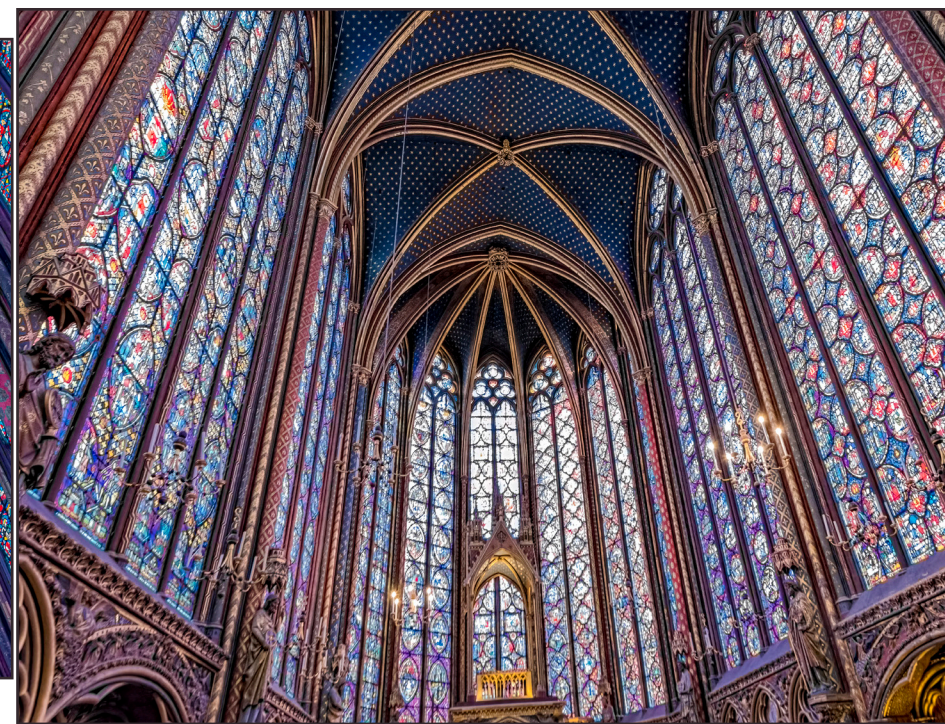
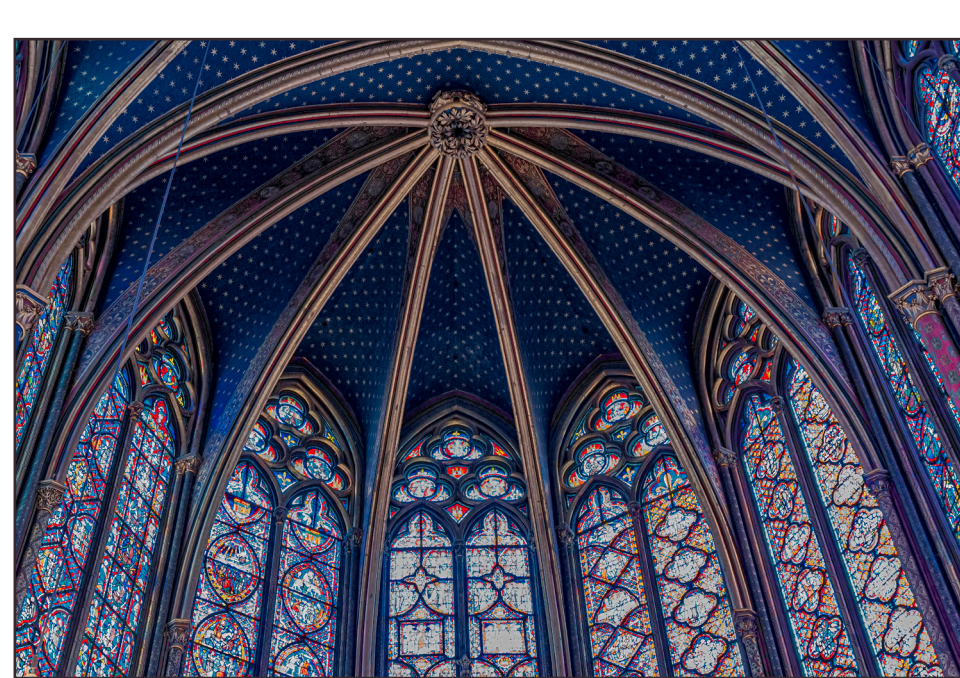




The Parisians love their chocolate. Who doesn't!



Here is a shot of the inside of the [Conciergerie](#) . Formerly a prison, it was also known as the “antechamber to the guillotine” during the [French Revolution](#). Currently, most of the structure is used for Paris law courts.



The next pictures are from [Sainte-Chapelle](#). It has one of the most extensive 13th-century stained glass collection anywhere in the world. This was one of the “wow” moments I experienced during our trip.



These are from [walking around](#) the Latin Quarter. I wasn't the only one walking and looking!







The next scenes are from [walking](#) through the [Montmartre](#) district and Latin Quarter. I was especially enamored by the tastefully decorated city windows and storefronts. I guess you can say that about any place you go, but there is a certain charm about the ones in inner city Paris. These are very simple and elegant; never overdone as one might see in the States. Also, the ancient charm comes from the very definition of the age of some of these settings. The feel there is like that of an well-aged bottle of French wine!





Creepy! That word best describes the experience of visiting the famous Parisian [catacombs](#). The [dark underworld](#) of the tunnels is sure to spur a restless night or two among those who [visit](#)!



As one of the stories goes, the shallow mass graves, especially the largest cemetery in Paris, [Les Innocents](#), eventually began to poison the air surrounding the local neighborhoods that the local churches were forced to use great quantities of incense during services. Finally, by the late 1700's, the government was petitioned and then decided that these remains needed to be transferred to the old quarry tunnel locations beneath the city. Pleasant dreams!

This and the following scenes are from the [Hôtel national des Invalides](#) (The National Residence of the Invalids), or [Napolean's Tomb](#).









This one is from the [Tuileries Garden](#).



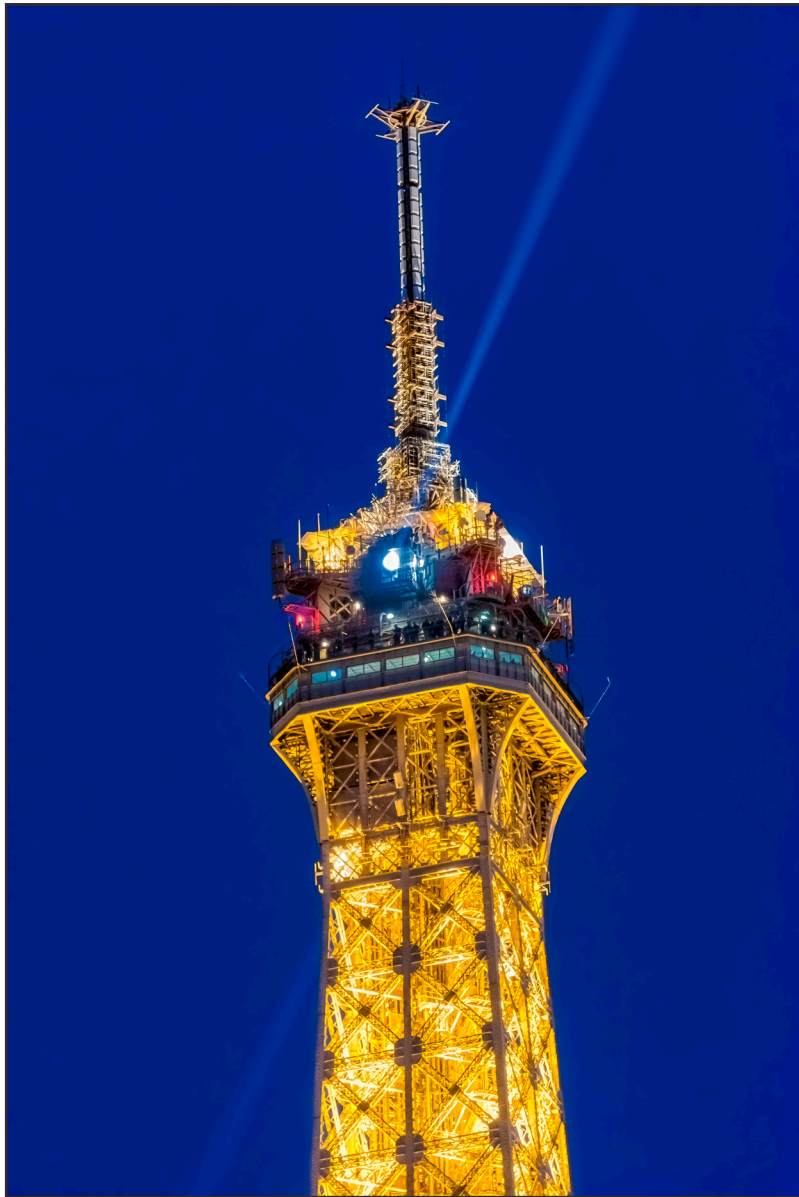
Here is a view of the Avenue des [Champs-Élysées](#) from the [Roue de Paris](#) (Ferris wheel).

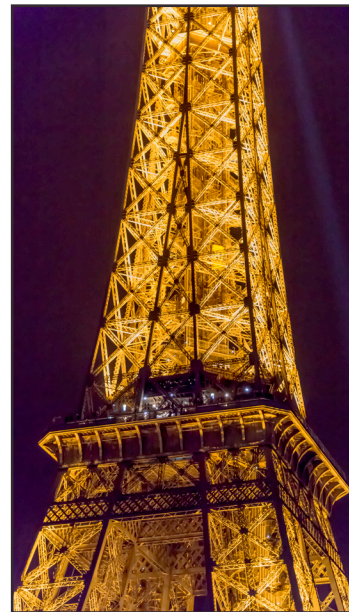


The famous [Arc de Triomphe](#).



These are [iconic](#) views of the [Eiffel Tower](#).







Nighttime in the “[City Of Light](#)” along the river [Seine](#). These were taken while ridding on one of the many riverboat cruises offered on the Seine. Most of these boat companies start across from the Eiffel Tower and do an out-and-back tour down the Seine and pass under some 20 bridges. Truly a “must-do” if you plan to visit Paris! [Here](#) is a link and [another](#) to get you started, though any Google search will fill in with as much detail as you need.







The [Basilica](#) of the Sacred Heart of Paris, commonly known as [Sacré-Cœur Basilica](#) is located at the summit of the butte Montmartre, the highest point in the city.





The [Ferris Wheel at Place de la Concorde](#).











You can get very thirsty walking around so much in the Latin Quarter!



[Pont Neuf](#) figurines.



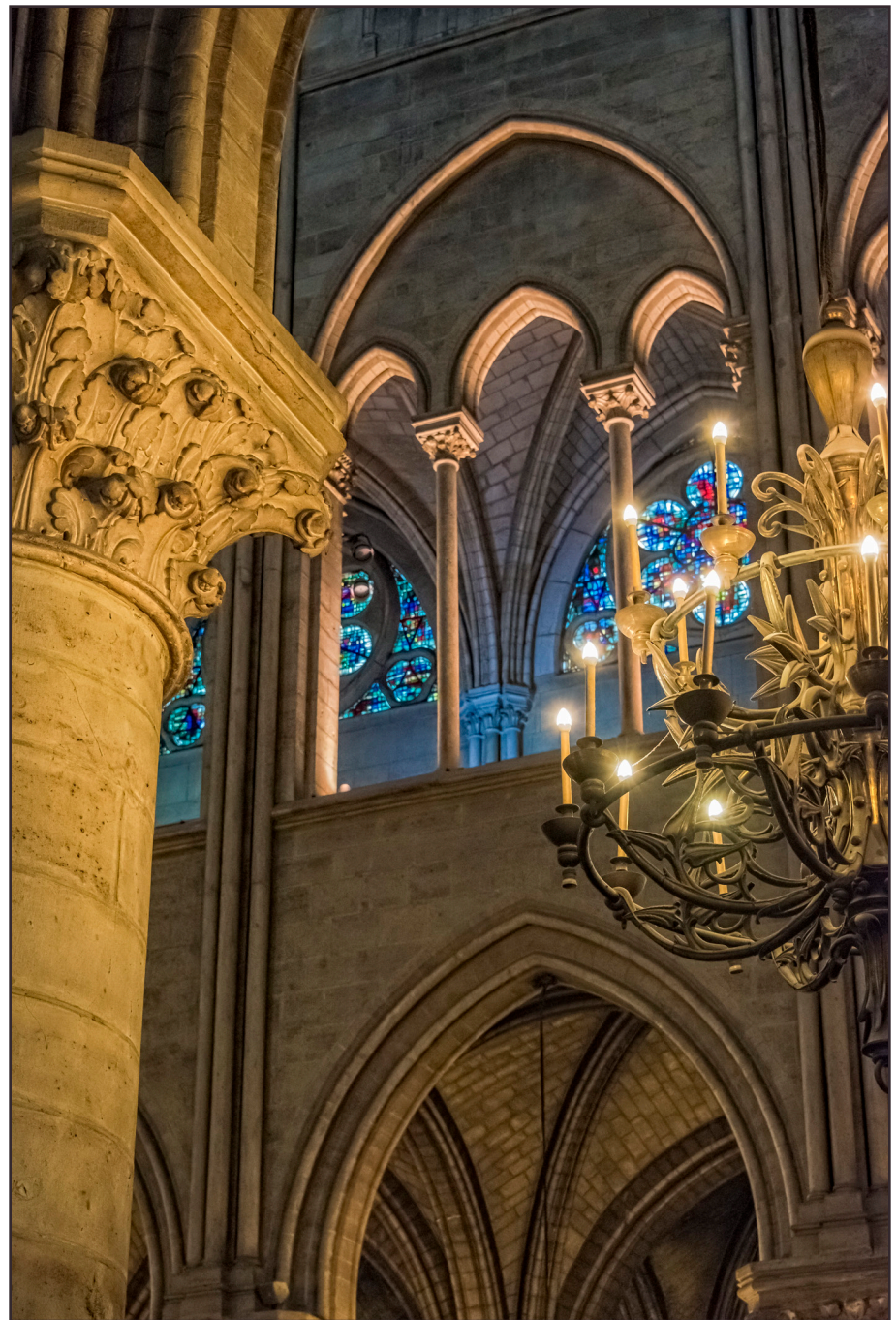
Lots of [gargoyles](#) in Paris! Paris!



Here are views of [Notre Dame](#) looking down the river Seine. Keep in mind that these images were taken in 2016, before the [heartbreaking fire](#) occurred. This [cathedral](#) is the most famous example of [French Gothic](#) architecture. It dates back to the 12th century where the present structure replaced a previous church burned in a fire. This cathedral is also a [UNESCO World Heritage site](#). For Christians, the “[crown of thorns](#)” of Jesus is also stored there.









Life of Jesus Christ Painted Wooden Panels.



Different perspectives of Notre Dame.







A nighttime scenes along the [Left Bank](#).

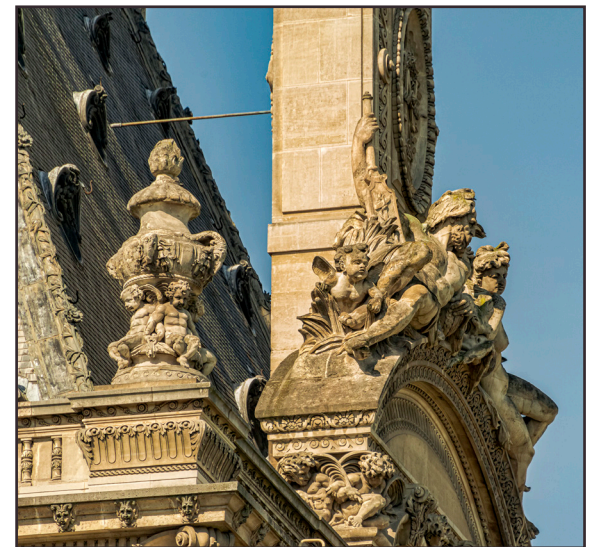


Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel – Tuileries Palace's entrance.





These are some of the [architecture](#) of the [Louvre Museum](#).





The [Luxembourg Palace](#) and [gardens](#).

Here is an exhibition room from within the Louvre Museum.





If you want to enjoy a great jazz bar with good food and ambience, visit the [Chez Papa Club](#)!





What trip to Paris would be complete without a visit to [Versailles](#) ! Begun by Louis XIII in 1623, the chateau began as a hunting lodge in brick and stone. It was enlarged into a royal palace by [Louis XIV](#). The court of Versailles was the centre of political power in France from 1682, when Louis XIV moved from Paris, until the royal family was forced to return to the capital in October 1789 after the beginning of the [French Revolution](#). [Versailles](#) is made up of the palace, the gardens, and the subsidiary structures, most notable the apartment of [Marie Antoinette](#).









The famous [Hall Of Mirrors](#).











Here are some views of the many [gardens](#).



Some of the many [garden fountains](#).





My favorite garden grove, the [Colonnade](#). This grove really made an impression on me when I first visited it during the summer of 1970. As a high school student, (and still today!), I could almost picture Marie Antoinette strolling through!





Marie Antoinette's apartment. [Petit Trianon](#) is a castle built in the park of Versailles during Louis XV reign. It was offered by Louis XVI to Marie-Antoinette.



The grounds surrounding [Marie Antoinette's](#) apartment.







People-watching is always fun along the river Seine, especially from an outdoor cafe.



The brasserie [Lipp](#) on the Boulevard Saint-Germain has since become a real Parisian institution, welcoming the [political and literary elite](#) of the country through the years such as Proust, Hemingway or Camus. Its large mirrors, ceramics and ceiling paintings make it [a true 19th century french restaurant](#).



Who can resist a [nightcap](#) here as the conclusion to a perfect day!

My Artistic Mission

Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness

are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. A first glance at a photograph of an onion often reveals the fact that, indeed, it is an onion. But what also lies beneath its surface? We won't know until we peel back its layers.

Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.

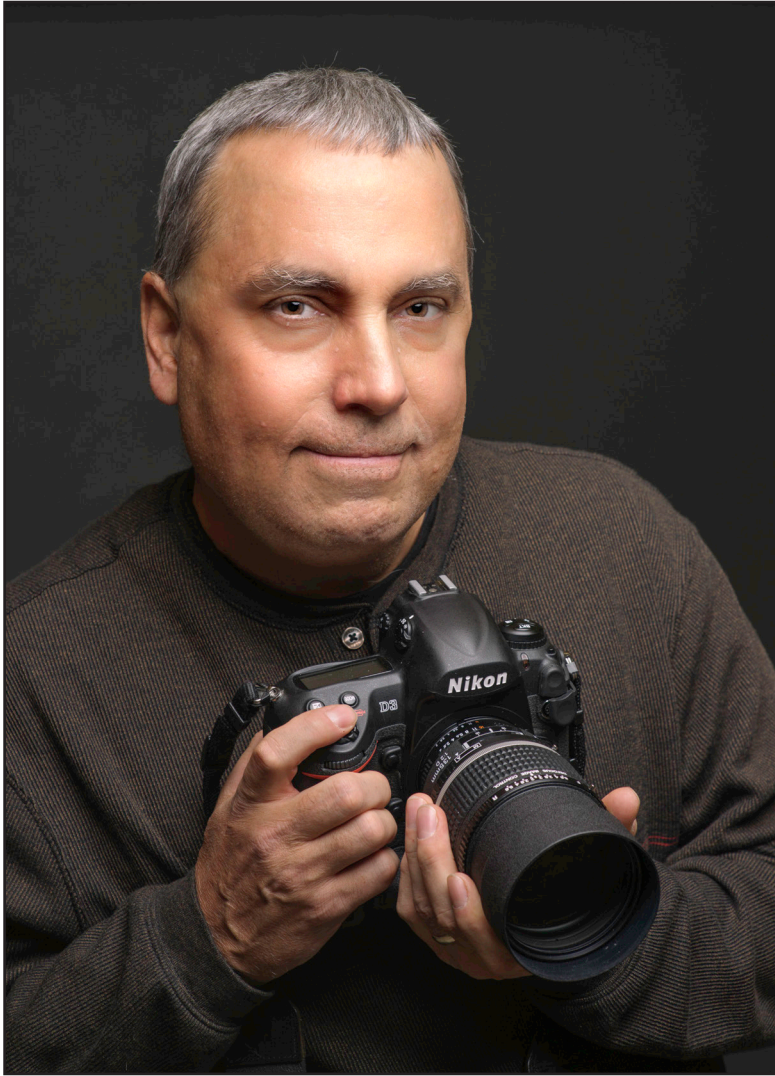
For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce

as personal metaphors for my reactions to what I saw and felt. My favorite motivational quote is that "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." My works attempt to reflect this as I probe the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart, and which often defies logical explanation by the mind.

My goal is that my projects will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening my viewer's inner child. I try hard to show the connections and implications of things that others may not readily see. My hope is that my work may also help viewers discover the beginnings of their attempt to understand and perhaps even learn to tolerate and sympathize with the human condition and the world in which we live. I will try to do whatever I can to make viewers linger longer in front of my works so as to ignite their imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.

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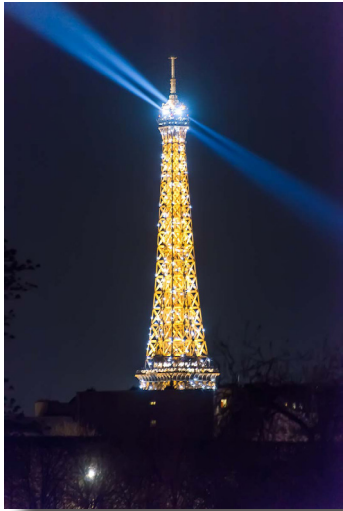
Enjoy life!



JERRY GRASSO has been an award-winning, international fine art photographer and visual artist since 2002. He has mentored locally with photographer, [Mallorie Ostrowitz](#), and then with internationally-renowned visual artist, [John Paul Caponigro](#). Photography is only the starting point for many of his projects. His favorite motivational quote is that “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.”

In addition to his travel photography, Jerry specializes in the intimately abstracted architectural photography, the photo essay, and the photo composite series.

Jerry’s mission is to awaken his viewer’s inquisitive inner child by creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery.



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