

Picture This! Paris



Jerry Grasso Visual Arts



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Welcome to my ***Picture This!*** 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.

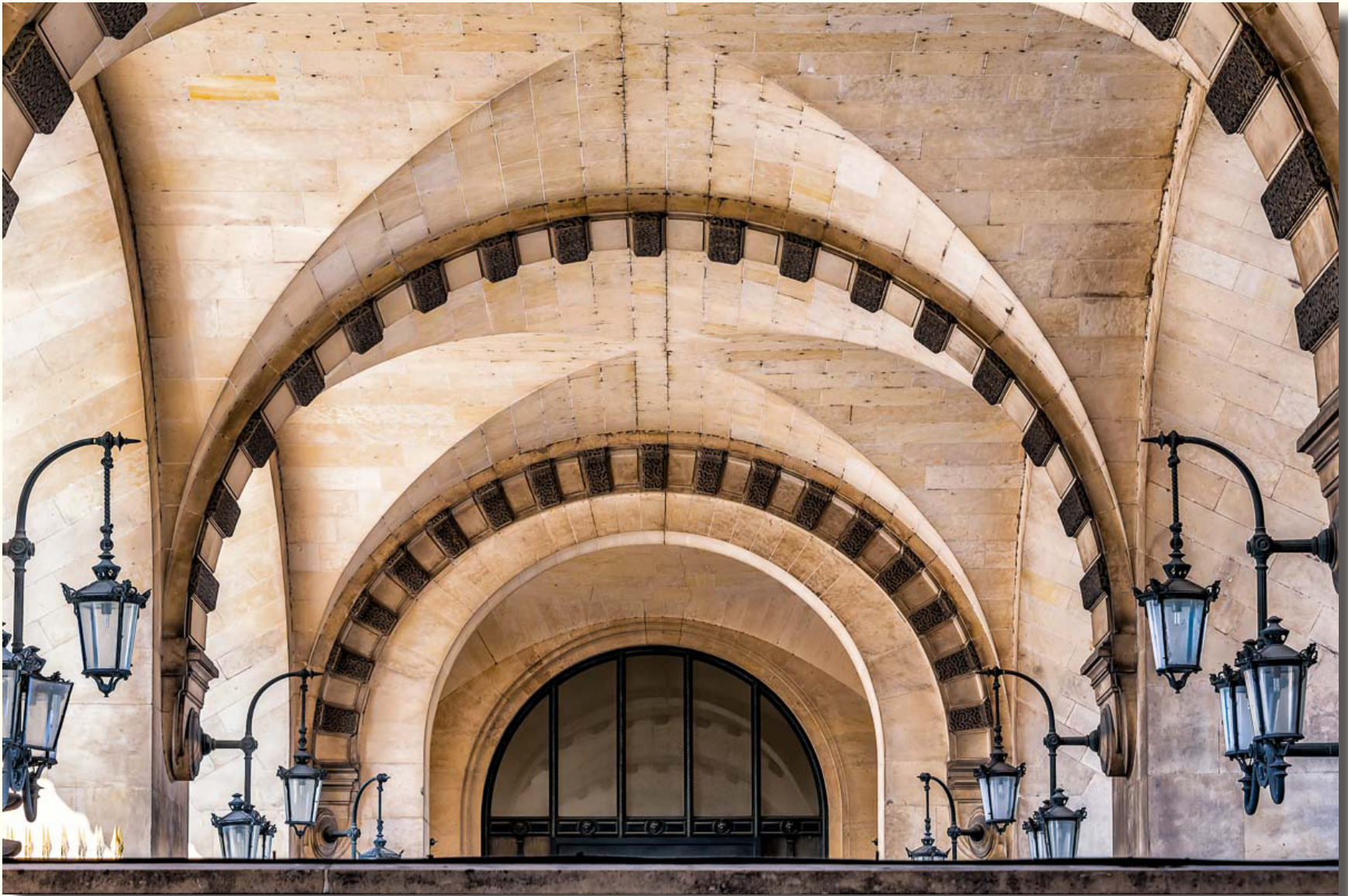
Ah, Paris, the “City Of Light!” and the “City Of Love”. Thomas Jefferson once said “a walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty, and in the point of life.” The photos within were taken during a visit made by my wife Jayne and I and members of our family in 2016. These images cover the 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!

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





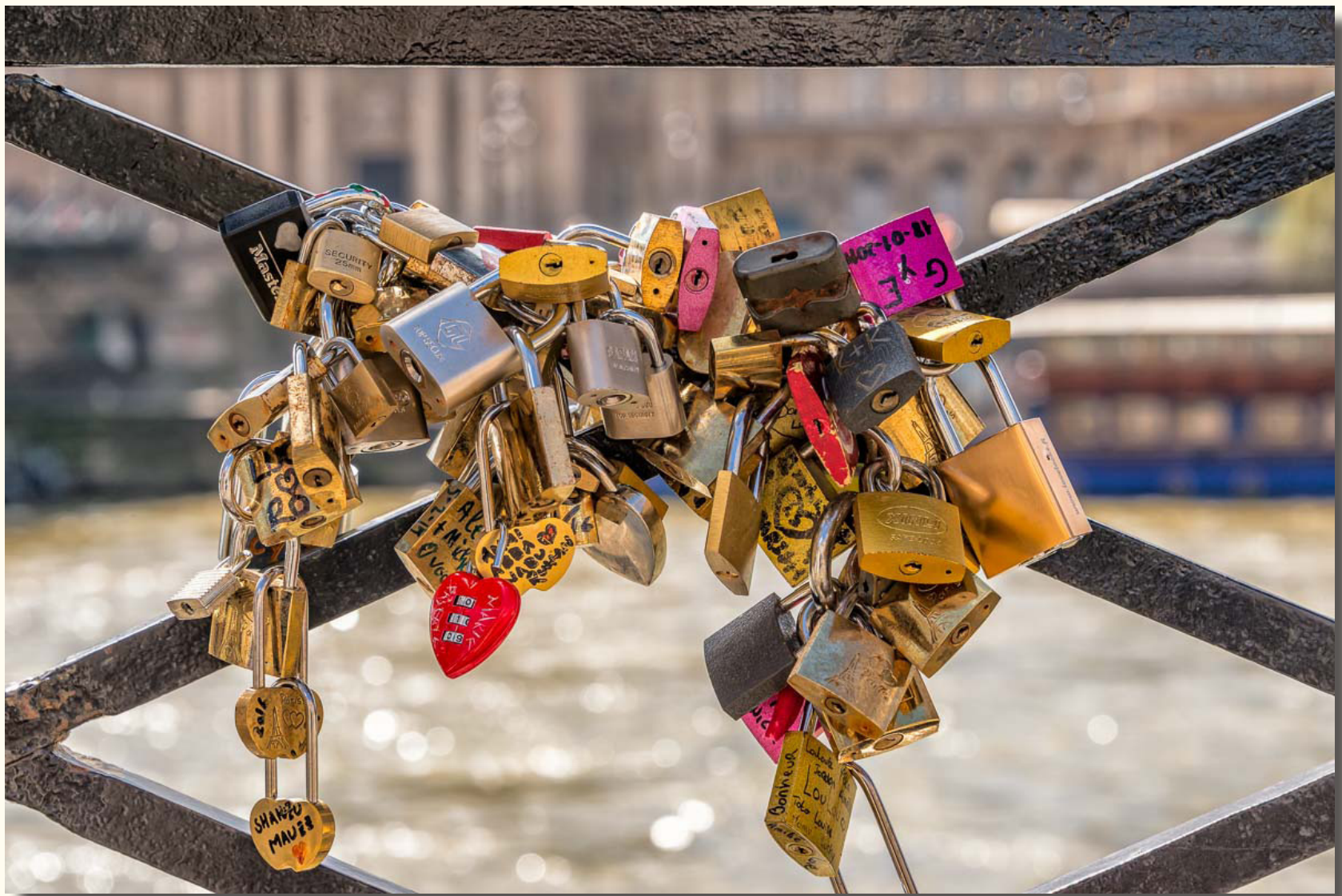
Here is a view of Notre Dame looking down the river Seine. This cathedral is the most famous example of French Gothic architecture. It dates back to the 12th century where the present structure replaced a previous church burned in a fire. This cathedral is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. For Christians, the “crown of thorns” of Jesus is also stored there.



These are some of the arched architecture of the Louvre Museum.

Chocolate banana crepes along the river
Seine across from the Louvre Museum!
Ummm!





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.

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.





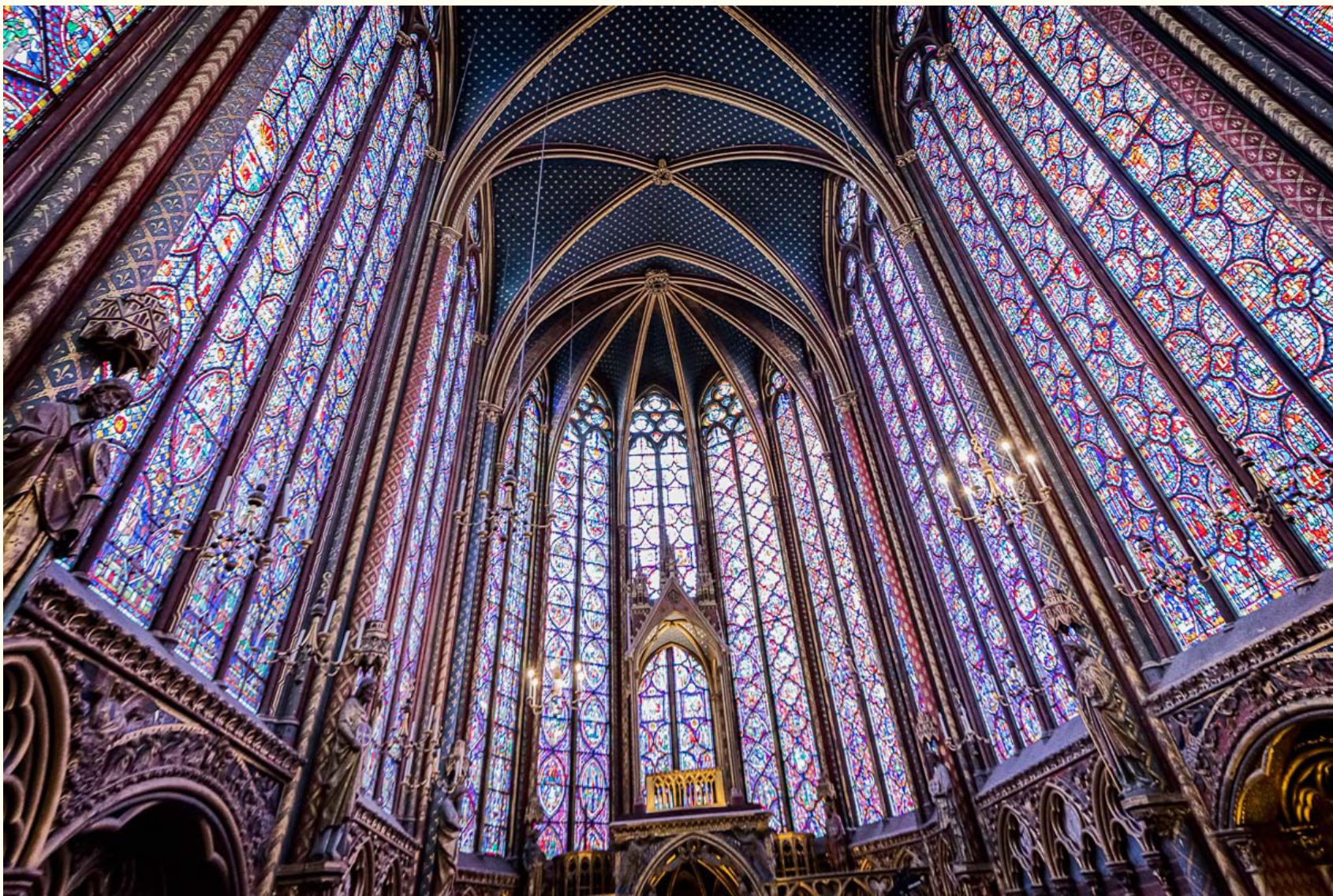
These next four are storefronts scenes in the Latin Quarter.





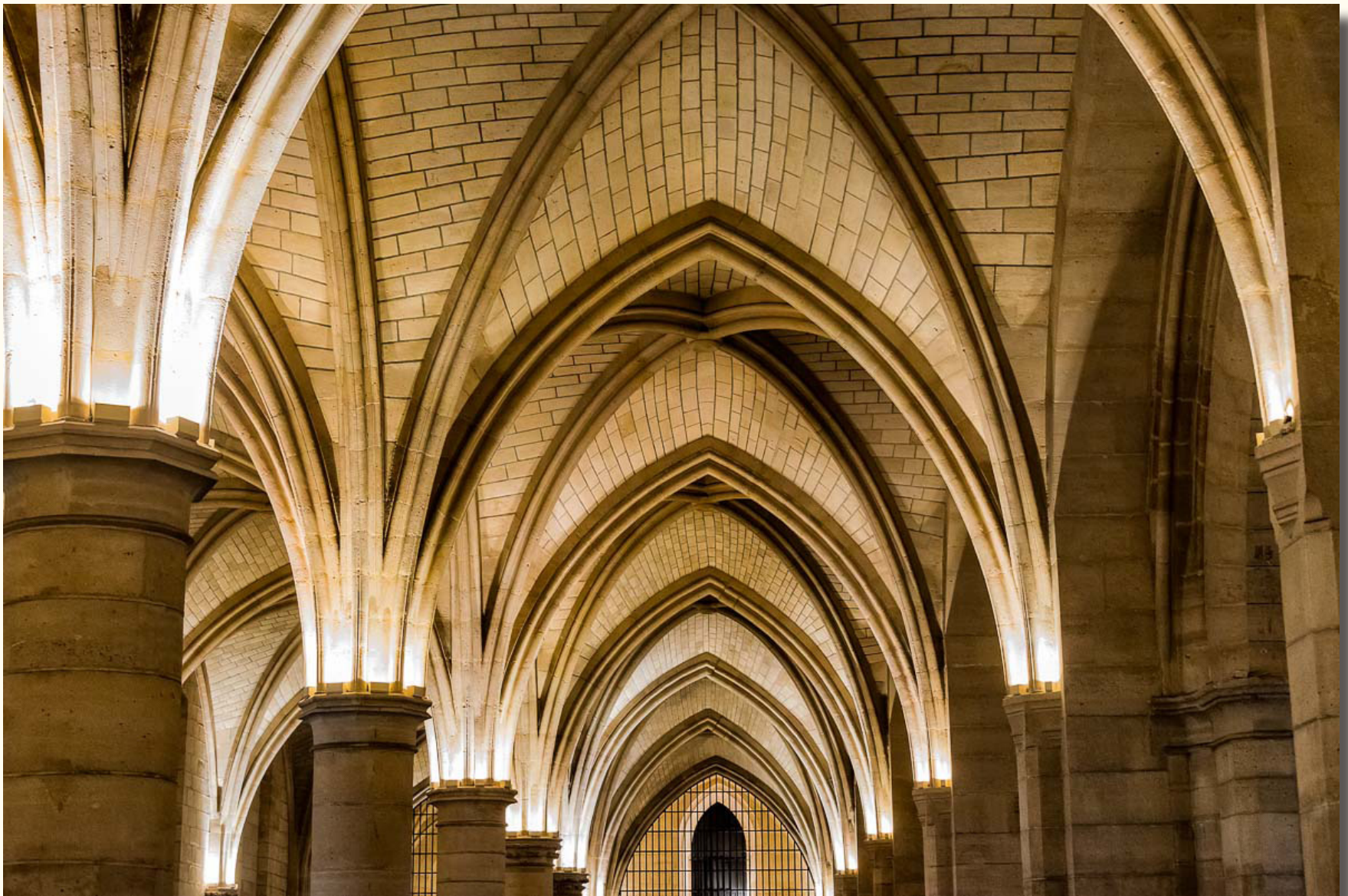


The Parisians love their chocolate. Who doesn't!



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.





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.

These are from walking around the Latin Quarter. I wasn't the only one walking and looking!











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



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 Napoleon's Tomb.





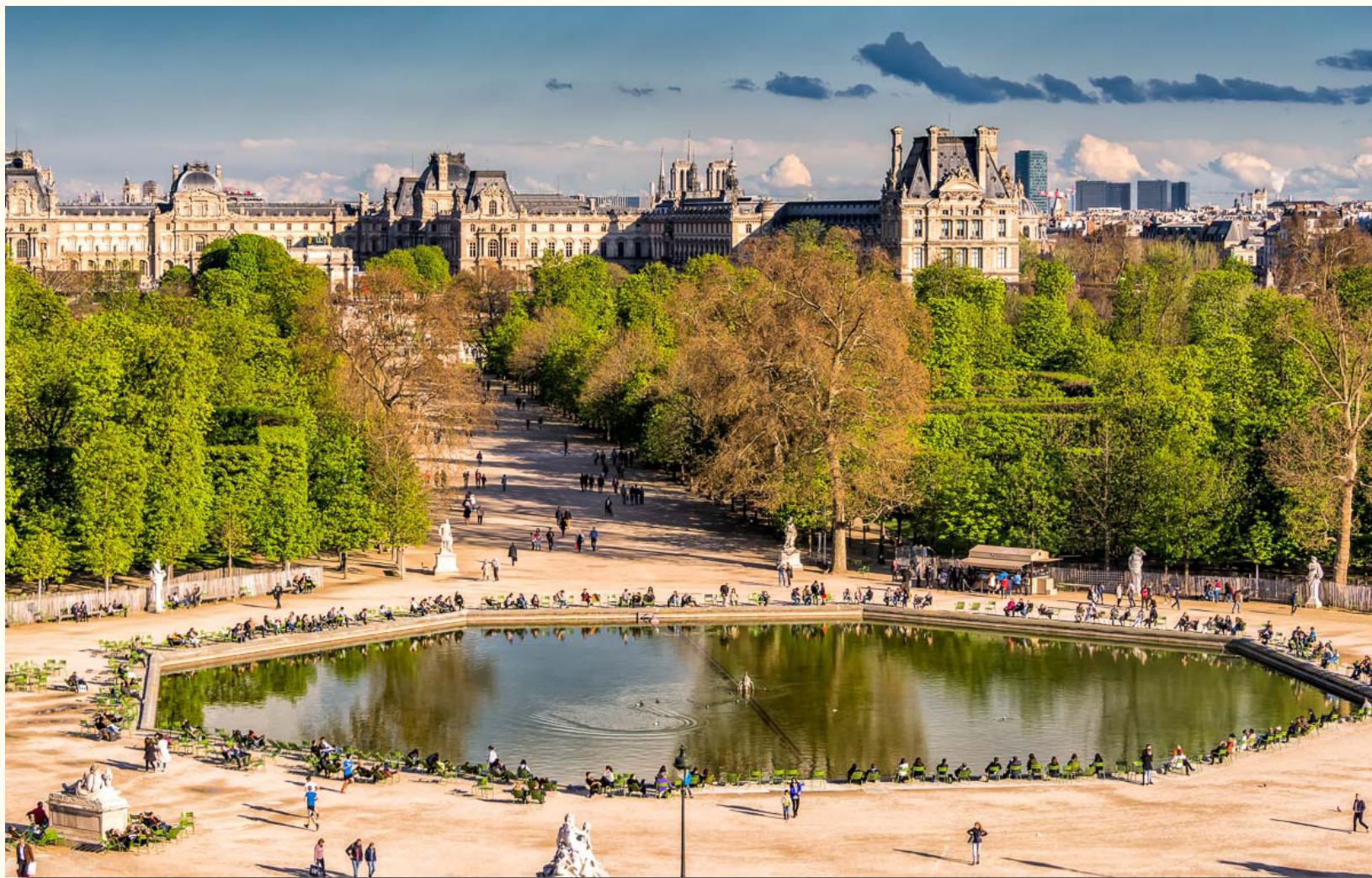






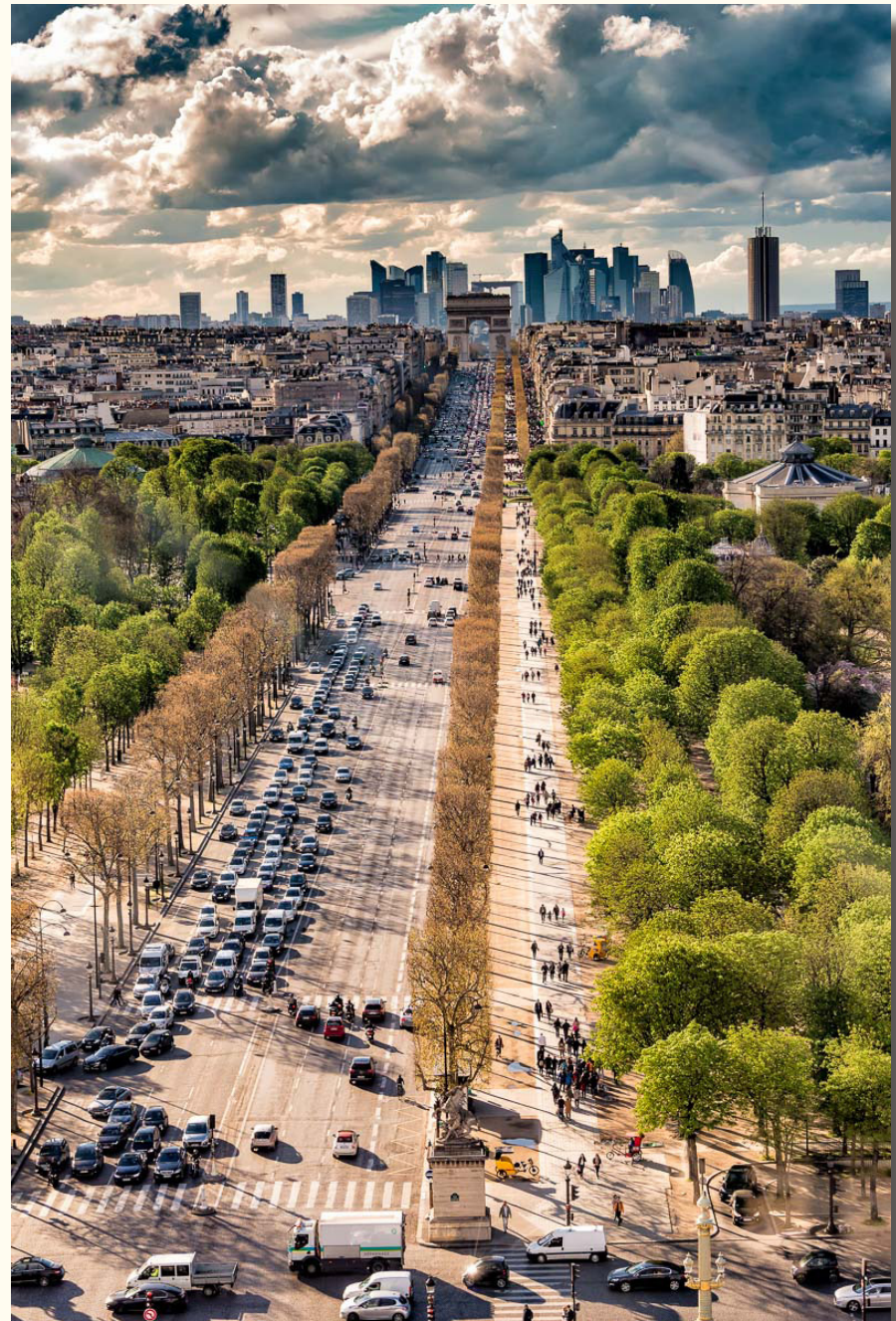
Two of the Roue de Paris (Ferris wheel).

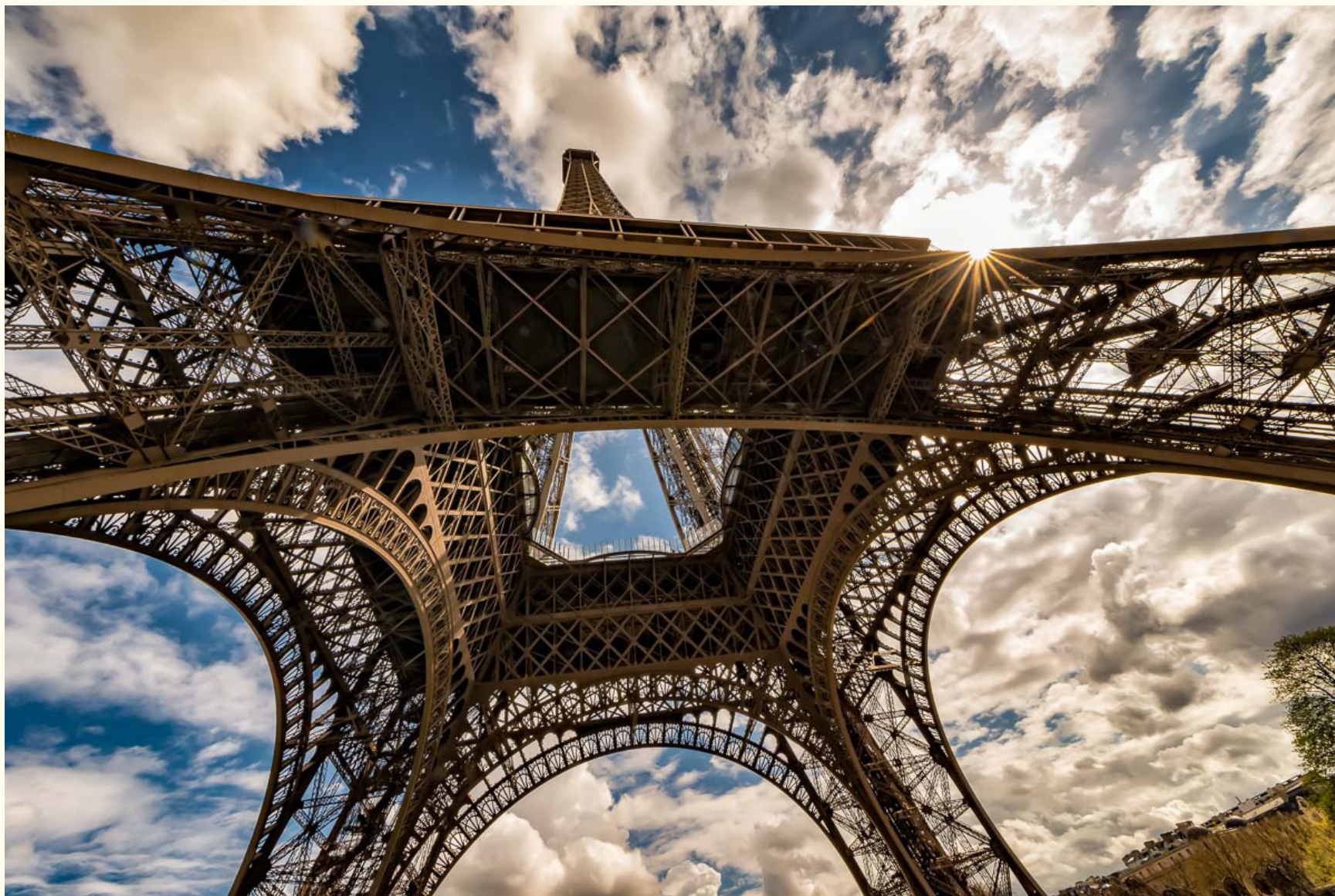




This one is from the Tuileries Garden.

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





This one and the next are iconic views of the Eiffel Tower.

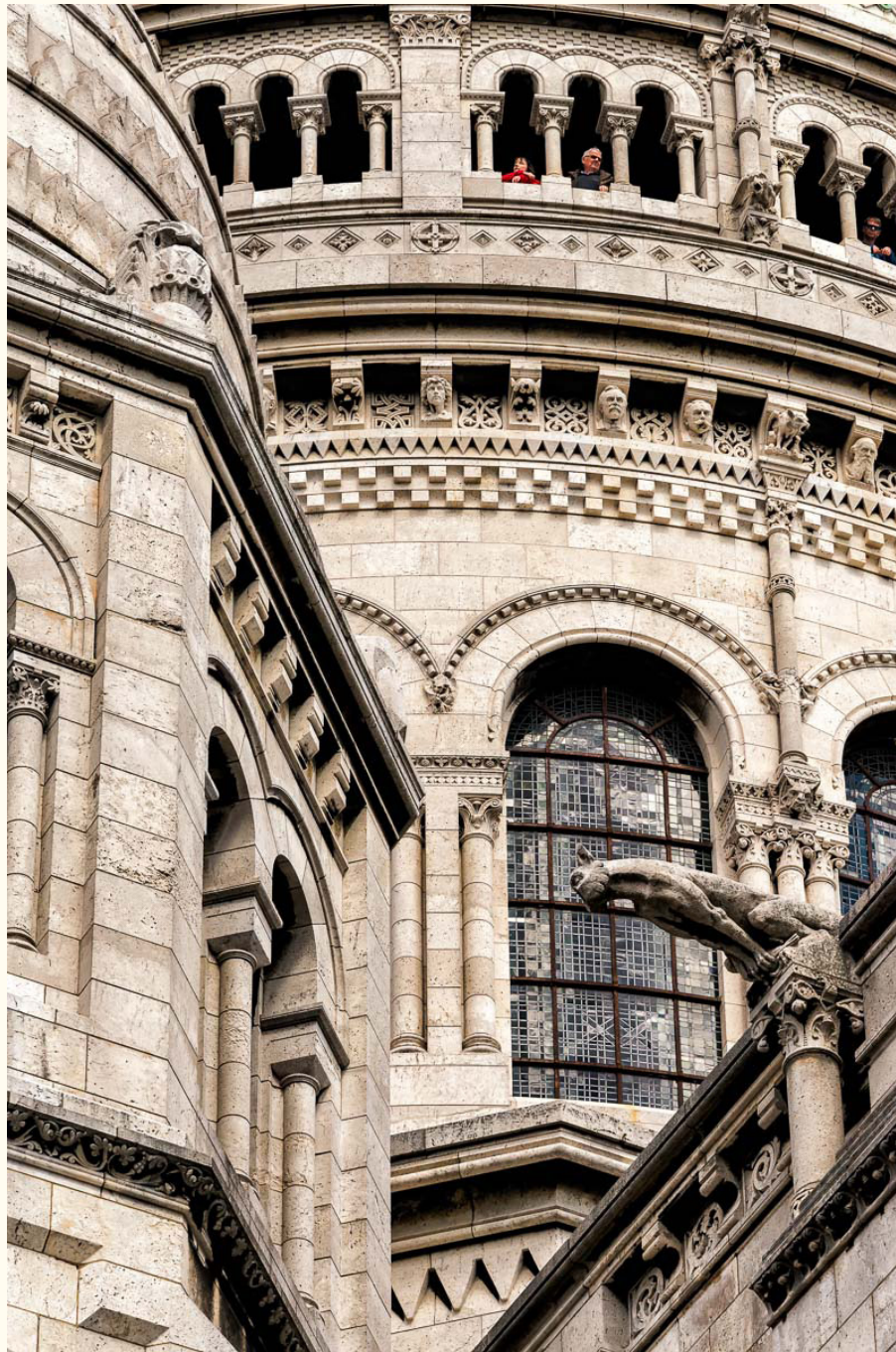


Here is an exhibition room from within the Louvre Museum.





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 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!



















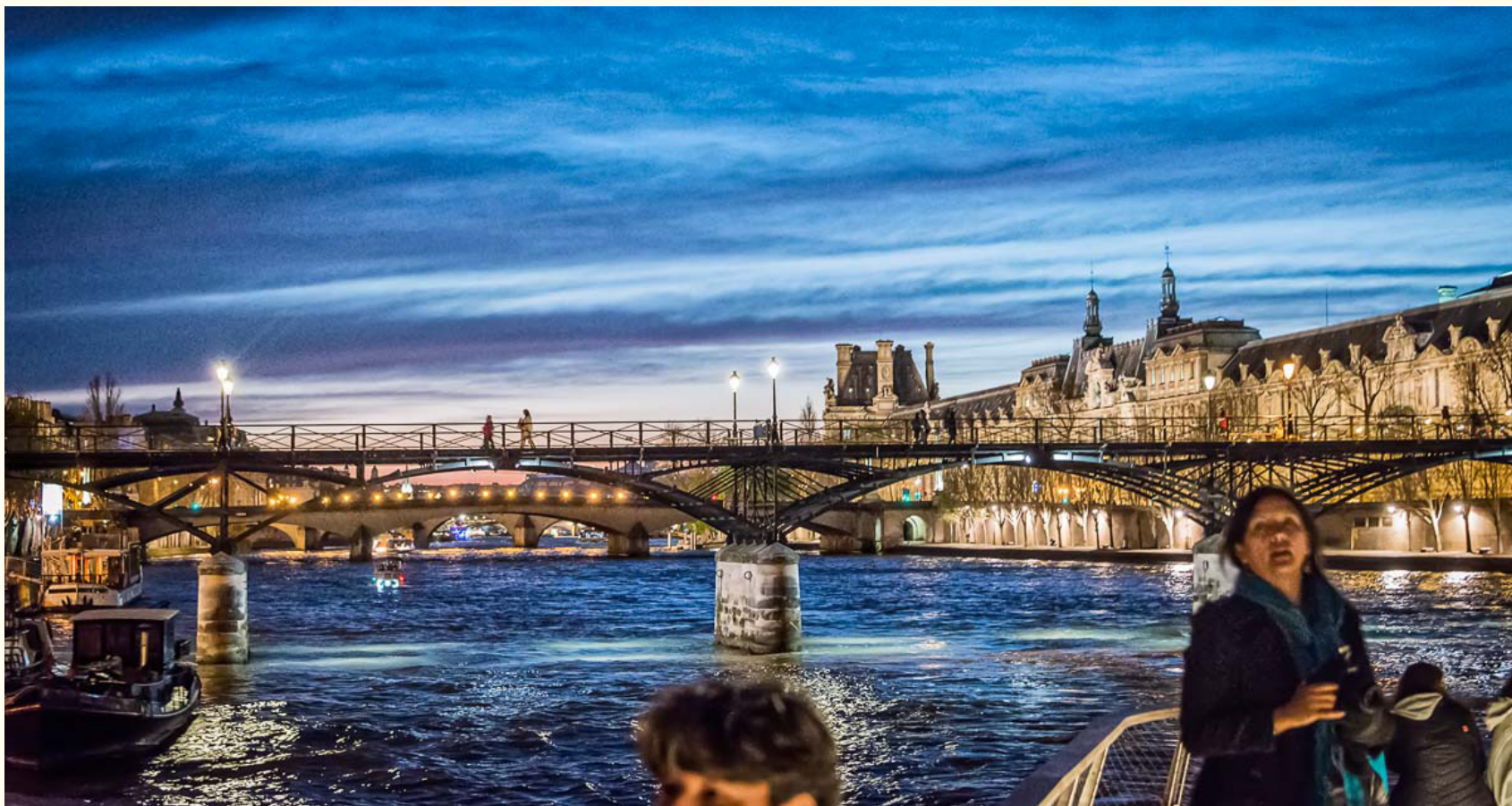




Nighttime in the “City Of Light” along the river Seine. These were taken while ridding on one of the many riverboat cruises offered on the Seine. Most of these boat companies start across from the Eiffel Tower and do an out-and-back tour down the Seine and pass under some 20 bridges. Truly a “must-do” 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.











A different perspective of Notre Dame...



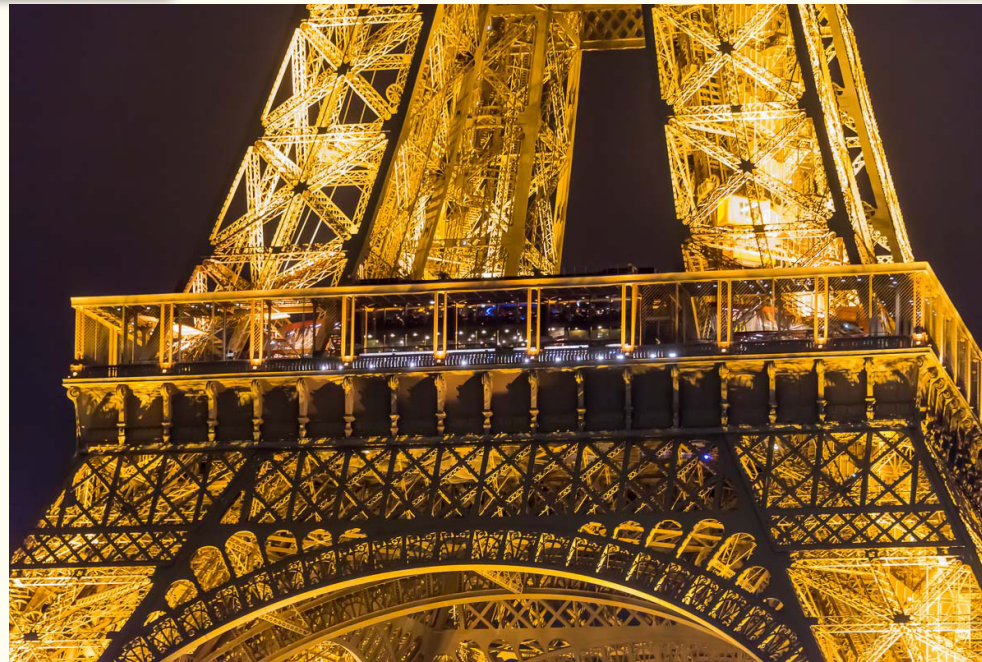
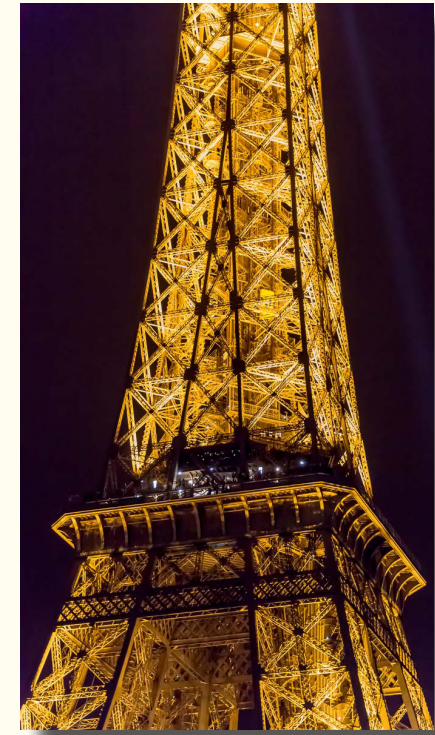
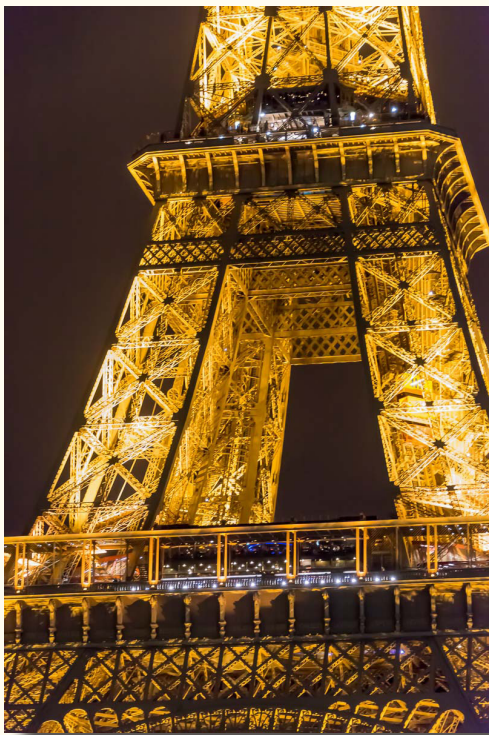


A nighttime gathering along the Left Bank...











The Luxembourg Palace and gardens.



If you want to enjoy a great jazz bar with good food and ambience, visit the *Chez Papa Club*! Here's another link .





Who can resist a nightcap here as the conclusion to a perfect day!



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.







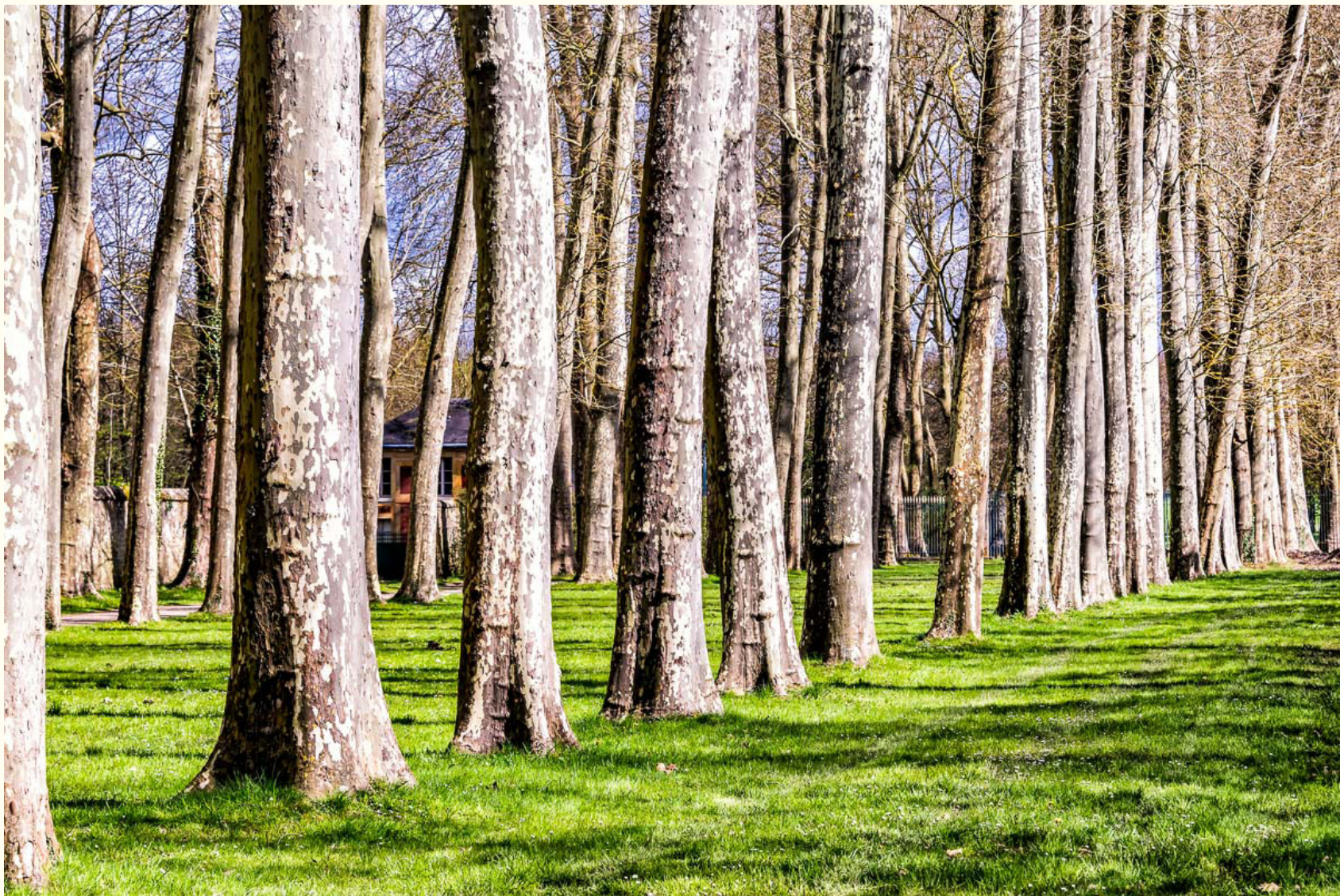
Here are some views of the many gardens.





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!







The grounds surrounding Marie Antoinette's apartment.





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.













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

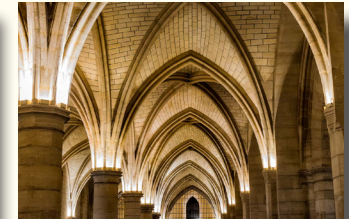
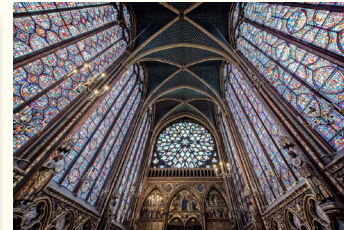
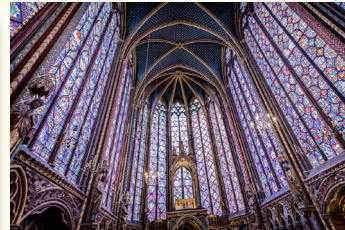
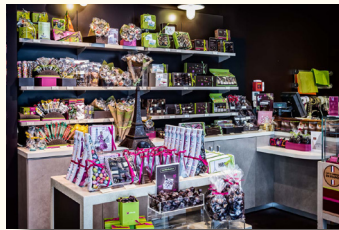
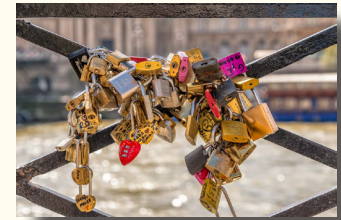
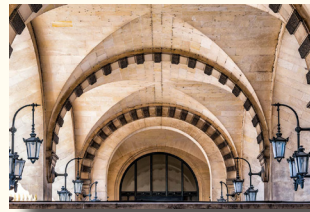


The brasserie Lipp on the Boulevard Saint-Germain has since become a real Parisian institution, welcoming the political and literary elite of the country through the years such as Proust, Hemingway or Camus. Its large mirrors, ceramics and ceiling paintings make it a true 19th century french restaurant.



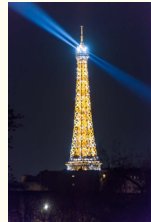
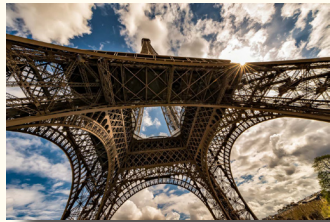
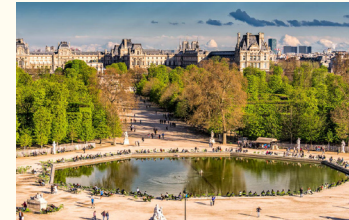
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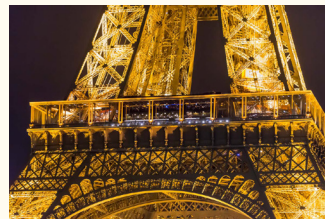
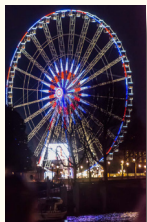
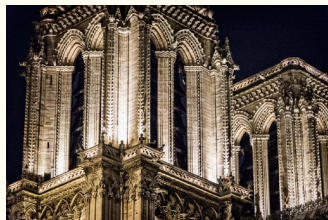
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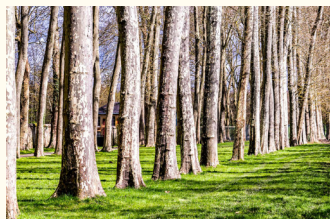
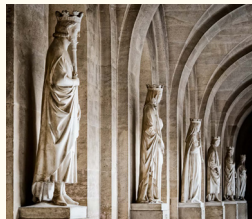
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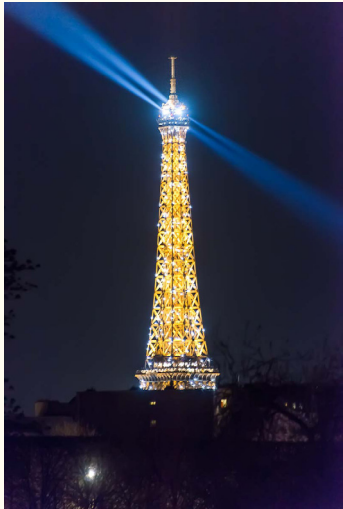
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Jerry bought his first SLR camera in 1975 and taught himself how to use it during trips through the Orient and hiking the Appalachian trail in Maine and New Hampshire. But it wasn't until 2002 that photography became his passion.

By 2004, Jerry became serious about developing his art. After upgrading his equipment, he began taking formal instruction in compositional techniques. That was the year he started his photography blog to document his artistic progress. By 2008, Jerry took the first of his courses with photographer Mallorie Ostrowitz who opened his photographic eyes to the artistic world of abstraction.

Also in 2008, Jerry spent a day of digital darkroom and printing training, one-on-one, with Michael Reichmann, the founder of the *Luminous Landscape* website.

In 2010, Jerry attended a John Paul Caponigro creativity workshop. John Paul gave him the courage to continuously push beyond the boundaries of his comfort zone in order to sustain growth as an artist. He was also personally selected to become a member of his *Next Steppers* artistic community.

Currently, Jerry's photography is only the starting point for his visual art. He prefers to work in a story or series, rather than only with separate images.

Website: www.jerrygrasso.com