# FRANCE

## Reading, Film and Podcasts

### Fiction

***Murder in the Marais*, Cara Black** Literate and thrilling, with a strong sense of the geography and flavor of Paris, the first in a series of mysteries starring Aimee Ledoc shows off the French-American detective's wit and wile. The series continues with Murder in Belleville (FRN562), Murder in the Sentier (FRN563) and many more.

***Murder on the Champs-Élysées*, Colleen Cambridge** A delicious blend of cooking and haute couture, this mystery weaves together the worlds of Julia Child and the House of Dior's New Look in post-war Paris. Perfect for fans of culinary mysteries with a fashion-forward twist.

***The Perfect Nanny*, Leïla Slimani** This award-winning psychological thriller captivated French readers with its exploration of class, motherhood, and moral complexity in contemporary Paris. A darker, modern counterpoint to the historical fiction on this list.

***The Hotel Majestic*, Georges Simenon** The most famous fictional detective in France, Maigret, tackles a case in the heart of Paris.

***The Paris Library*, Janet Skeslien Charles** Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, capturing the lives of Parisians and expatriates.

***The Paris Wife*, Paula McLain** An imagined account of life with Ernest Hemingway in Paris, from the perspective of his wife Hadley Richardson.

### Non-Fiction

***A Moveable Feast*, Ernest Hemingway** A treasure for anyone interested in Parisian Cafe Society and its luminaries circa 1925. Hemingway includes sharp portraits of Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ford Maddox Ford and others who idled on their way to greatness.

***A Traveller's History of France*, Robert Cole** This fast-moving survey covers the conquests of ancient Gaul through the heady days of revolution to modern times.

***A Traveller's History of Paris*, Robert Coles** A fast-moving, short survey of French history with a focus on Paris from its foundation, through the heady days of revolution and up to modern times.

*F is for France: A Curious Cabinet of French Wonders*, **Piu Eatwell** An alphabetized catalogue of quirky French culture and history tidbits.

*How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City*, **Joan DeJean** A captivating history of the growth, design, and planning of Paris, telling the story of how the modern city came to be.

*My Life in France*, **Julia Child** The touching and famous story of Julia Child in France, where she learned to cook and fell in love with French cuisine, all in her own words.

*Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light*, **Tyler Stovall** A history of black Americans who settled in Paris, France, from 1900 to the present.

*The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris*, **Edmund White** A 'flaneur' is a stroller, a loiterer, someone who ambles through city streets in search of adventure and fulfillment. Edmund White, who lived in Paris for sixteen years, wanders through the streets and avenues and along the quays, into parts of Paris virtually unknown to visitors and indeed to many Parisians.

*The Food & Wine of France: Eating & Drinking from Champagne to Provence*, **Edward Behr** Behr seeks out the best of French food, in encounters from Champagne to Provence, to tell the stories of French artisans and chefs who work at the highest level. He shares what he learns from these experts on French traditions and how to best enjoy this food.

*The Most Beautiful Walk in the World: A Pedestrian in Paris*, **John Baxter** Australian critic and writer Baxter draws on his second career as a literary tour guide in his adopted city for this witty memoir, laced with terrific tales.

*The New Paris*, **Lindsey Tramuta** Move past the clichés and learn about what makes up Paris today. Explore the open-minded sensibility, diverse populations, and hidden corners of The New Paris.

*The New Parisienne*, **Lindsey Tramuta** Exploring the changing role and perspectives of women in modern Paris, this companion to *The New Paris* offers fresh insights into contemporary French culture and the evolving identity of Parisian women.

*The Secret Life of the Seine*, **Mort Rosenblum** After losing his Paris apartment, Rosenblum, a born storyteller, takes to a houseboat moored on the Seine. The result is this entertaining tour of the places and people he encounters during his explorations along the river.

*A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance*, **William Manchester** Organized into sections on the Renaissance, Reformation and Discovery, Manchester's popular history evokes in vivid detail the great figures and daily life of the 16th century, including Henry VIII, Magellan, Borgia, da Vinci and Martin Luther.

*Adventures on the Wine Route: A Wine Buyer's Tour of France*, **Kermit Lynch** A delightful and warmly anecdotal book, highly recommended for anyone touring the wine regions of France. Lynch brings the domains and appellations of French wine to full-blown life, and his portraits of the grand personalities who make the wine are priceless.

*Cathedrals and Castles: The Cathedral Builders of the Middle Ages*, **Alain Erlande-Brandenburg** This pocket-size encyclopedia of the art, architecture and culture of the Middle Ages features hundreds of drawings, color illustrations and a brief chronology.

*Corkscrewed: Adventures in the New French Wine Country*, **Robert V. Camuto** An American journalist living in the south of France, Camuto travels far afield from Bordeaux visiting new winemakers from the Alsace to Mayonnaise, Corsica and Burgundy for this celebration of the culture and diversity of French wine.

*The Age of the Cathedrals: Art and Society 980-1420*, **Georges Duby** French scholar Duby, writing very accessibly, describes both the great cathedrals and the philosophical, religious, and political climate that enabled them to be built in this classic.

*The Food of France*, **Waverly Root** An evocative and beautifully written survey of French food. First published in 1958 and revised in the mid-1970s, the book covers the important regions of French cuisine by dividing them into domains of Butter (northern France), Fat (Alsace) and Oil (the south).

*Wine and War: The French, the Nazis, and the Battle for France's Greatest Treasure*, **Donald Kladstrup** This thrilling account of how the vintners of France saved their crops -- and their bottles -- as the Nazis approached, focuses on the activities of five winemaking families in Burgundy, Alsace, Champagne, Bordeaux and the Loire Valley.

### Maps and Guides

*Markets of Paris Second Edition*, **Dixon Long & Marjorie Williams** Detailed information on the Parisian market scene covering topics like Sunday markets, artisan bakers, virtual markets, restaurants and cooking workshops in various venues across the city.

*Alsace, Lorraine Map 516*, **Michelin Travel Publications** An up-to-date regional map at the very good scale of 1:200,000 published by Michelin.

*Michelin Green Guide Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne*, **Michelin Travel Publications** A guide to Alsace, Champagne and Vosges in the classic Michelin style.

*Strasbourg Map*, **IGN** A city map of Strasbourg at a scale of 1:10,000.

### Phrasebooks

*Lonely Planet French Phrasebook*, Marie-Helene Girard, Anny Monet

## Films & Documentaries

*The Count of Monte Cristo* (2024) The most expensive French film of 2024, this lavishly appointed adaptation earned a 96% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and nearly an 11-minute standing ovation at Cannes. With over 9 million tickets sold in France, it demonstrates French cinema at its finest—stirring, gorgeously filmed, and worthy of the Dumas classic.

*Linda Veut du Poulet!* (2024) Winner of the 2024 César for Best Animated Film, this hand-painted musical follows a mother-daughter duo on a madcap adventure to procure a chicken during a general strike. Charming, insightful, and uniquely French.

*The Animal Kingdom* (2024) A deeply human science-fantasy film imagining a world where humans transform into animals. Praised for exceptional makeup work and compassionate storytelling that explores what it means to embrace change.

*Simple Comme Sylvain* (2024) Winner of the 2024 César for Best Film, this smart romantic comedy explores class differences and passionate love through a philosophy professor's relationship with a contractor. Sexy, thoughtful, and thoroughly engaging.

*La Grande Seine* (2024) A behind-the-scenes documentary chronicling the preparation of the historic Paris 2024 Olympic Opening Ceremony along the Seine River, offering unprecedented access to this ambitious production and the vision that brought it to life.

*Tour de France: Unchained* (Netflix series, 2023-2025) This compelling documentary series follows eight elite cycling teams competing in the world's most challenging bike race. Like *Drive to Survive* for cycling, it brings French sporting culture to life with gripping human drama.

*Faces Places* (2017) Agnès Varda and street artist JR travel through rural France creating large-scale photographic portraits. This Academy Award-nominated documentary is a charming exploration of art, community, and the French countryside that remains essential viewing.

## Podcasts

*The New Paris Podcast*, **Lindsey Tramuta** A companion to Tramuta's bestselling books, this podcast examines the people, places, and ideas changing the fabric of Paris, with expert perspectives on contemporary Parisian life and culture.

*Join Us in France Travel Podcast*, **Annie Sargent** In-depth coverage of every region of France, combining practical travel advice with cultural insights from a native French perspective. Essential listening for understanding France beyond the tourist trail.

*The Earful Tower*, **Oliver Gee** Australian journalist Oliver Gee interviews personalities from Paris's expatriate and local communities—musicians, writers, tour guides, and cultural figures—offering authentic, enthusiastic perspectives on contemporary Paris life.