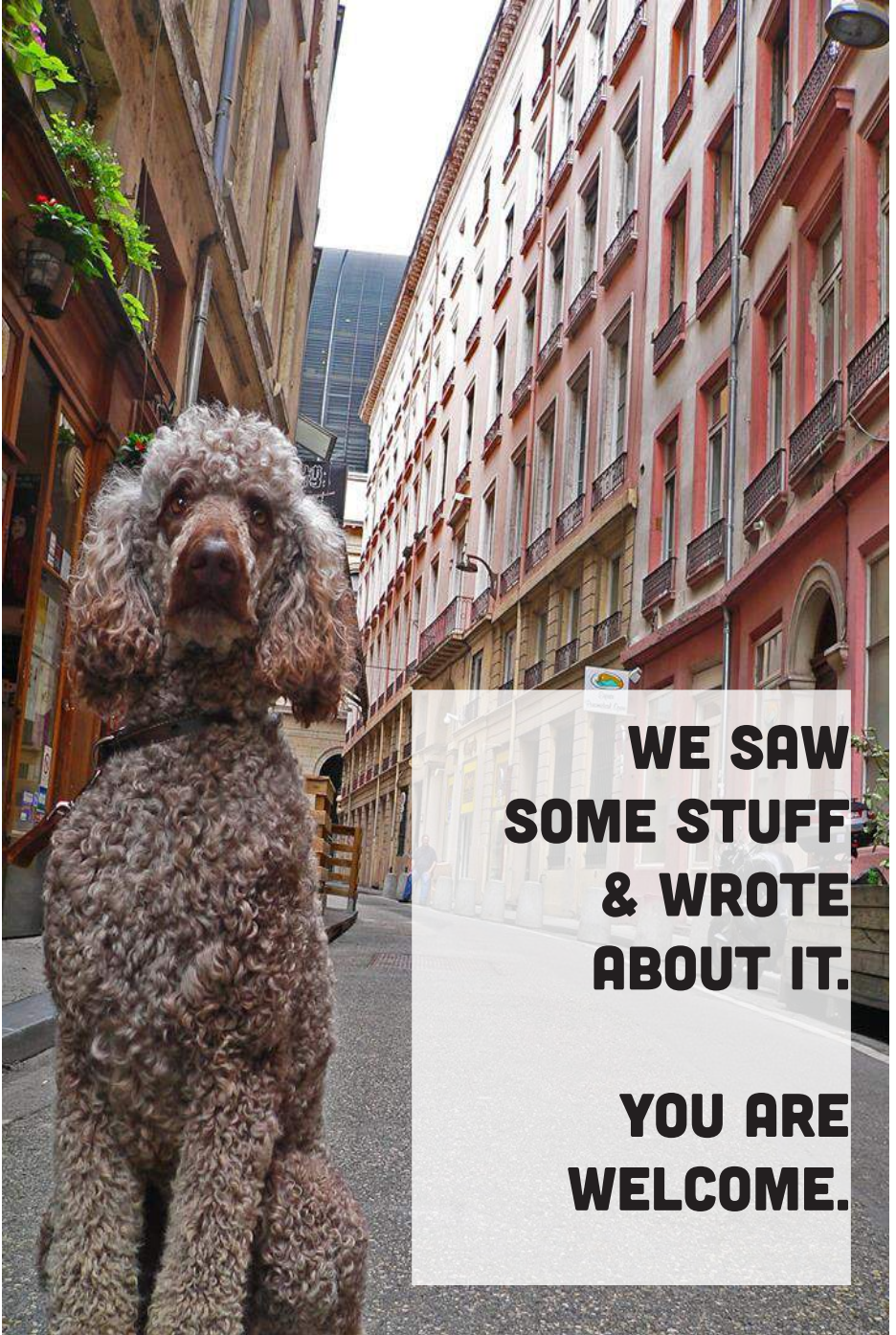


AND THEN THERE WAS

Lyon

city guide

Post de la G



**WE SAW
SOME STUFF
& WROTE
ABOUT IT.**

**YOU ARE
WELCOME.**

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Who we are
One last word

Introductions

Stepping into Lyon is all about engrossing yourself in its story. A narrative rich in character and tradition, which runs through the veins of the Lyonnais. Saturated in history, the beauty of this tale must be unravelled.

The chronicle can be read west to east from the top of Fourvière hill: a physical embodiment of the formation of Lyon, from the 1st to the 21st century.

Explore Lyon's underlying mysteries and discover a tale of two cities; an eclectic mix of the old and the new. France's second city is electrifying in this synthesis. Unlike any other place, vibrant art deco constructions stand beside Roman ruins and Gothic monuments, while tradition meets modernity in everything from the city's cuisine to its seasonal festivals. The ancient and the contemporary co-exist, rooted in harmonious unison, as comfortably as the Rhône and the Saône.

This duality can be discovered by delving into the secrets of the *traboules*, the architecture of the ancient squares and the innovation of the evolving Confluence. You will soon discover, in this city synonymous with light, the quiet pride emanating from the hearts of the Lyonnais. A pride which becomes all the more palpable as you become immersed in the many facets of this city. So open the book of Lyon and write yourself into its tale.



10 REASONS WHY LYON OUTSHINES PARIS

Lyon may be deemed as "France's Second City", yet it is a supremely qualified rival that beats its counterpart in several areas. Far from being petit Paris or a second-best destination if the Eurostar is full, Lyon has an irresistible charm – and without the Parisian ego.

1 French capital of gastronomy

The only bouchons you'll be getting in Paris are traffic jams. In Lyon, however, the word takes on a far more appetising meaning. Gourmands flock from all over the world to sample the city's Michelin-starred restaurants as well as its humble bouchons. Although Lyon's food scene is now largely associated with fine dining and superstar chef Paul Bocuse's nouvelle cuisine, its culinary reputation has distinctly unpretentious origins.

Read more about what gourmandise Lyon has to offer on **page 61**

2 Gateway to the Beaujolais region

No French meal is complete without wine. In the capital of gastronomy, a tipple of fine wine makes an excellent meal an exquisite one. Whereas Paris does not produce anything of its own, Lyon brings its own bottle to the table. Make that a lot of bottles. The Beaujolais region just north of Lyon is one of the most well-known wine producers in the world. Light and fruity, Beaujolais is the perfect lunchtime drink or accompaniment to a typically rich and flavoursome Lyonnais meal.

See **page 79** for more on wine in Lyon

3 A city between two rivers

Paris may have the Seine, but Lyon's rich geographic location is something of a rarity. Located at the foot of two hills and at the convergence of two rivers, Lyon is the halfway house between sea and mountains as well as northern and southern Europe. The majestic Rhône is one of Europe's major rivers, starting in the Swiss Alps and winding down into the Mediterranean before leading into Lyon and joining with the Saône River. The city's Confluence district is named after the meeting of these two bodies of water. **(page 51)**

For more on the geography of Lyon see **page 11**

4 The green green grass of Lyon

Paris may have the Jardin des Tuileries and Jardin Luxembourg, but the mere size of Lyon's Parc de la Tête d'Or easily trumps all central Parisian green spaces - even when they are combined. This urban park in the city centre features a lake, botanical gardens, mini-golf and even a zoo.

Find more out about Parc de la Tête d'Or on **page 85**

5 What Vélib? The Vélo'V came first

Most people are mistaken in thinking that Paris was the pioneer city for a 24 hour bike hire service. When Parisian Vélibs first hit the streets in 2007, Lyon's Vélo'V system had already been up and running for two years.

To find out more about cycling in Lyon, take a look at our cycling guide on **page 3**

6 Metropolitan getaway without breaking the bank

After a few days in Paris, you'll find that your wallet has become significantly lighter. Your euros will go much further even if you spend a week in Lyon. Drinks in bars are more reasonably priced and in less crowded yet animated settings. Meals too are often better value for money, with less extortionate tourist traps to fall into.

For more on where to eat and drink in Lyon see **page 72**

7 Rome's star pupil

As many locals will revel in telling you, it was Lyon - not Paris - that was chosen as the capital of Gaul under the Roman Empire. Whilst the French capital has a scattering of Roman remnants, Lyon's classical structures are almost as striking today as they were in the days of the gladiators.

To read more about Lyon's Roman history, see **page 26**

8 The birthplace of cinema

Paris has been in hundreds of films, but it was Lyon that pretty much invented them. The Lumière brothers, who studied at a technical school in Lyon, created the cinematograph and shot the first real motion picture in history.

Read more about Lyon's cinematic history on **page 91**

9 The capital of light and sound

The Lyonnais certainly know how to put on an party. Paris may have officially nabbed the title of the City of Lights, but for four nights in December the capital is outshone by Lyon's mesmerising illuminations and colours during the Fête des Lumières. The setting of Lyon's summer spectacular, Nuits de Fourvière, is also something that Paris cannot match. Stretched across the warm summer evenings of June and July, the festival takes place in the city's main Roman amphitheatre. Featuring theatre, dance, music and circus acts, Nuits de Fourvière attracts big names year upon year.


Find out more about Lyon's festivals on **page 95**

10 Twist and turn through Lyon's traboules

Paris may have its glamorous boulevards and ornate glass-roofed arcades, but Lyon has one distinctive architectural feature which tops all of Haussmann's flashy designs. Leading from one street to the next through covered passageways through buildings, Lyon's trademark traboules are at the core of the city's past and are home to some architectural treasures.

Discover more about the historic role of the traboules on **page 36**

For those for want to discover France, Paris is just too predictable. Underneath its glitzy appearance and smooth demeanour, it lacks warmth and real character. Instead of being ushered along with a Parisian rolling of the eyes, in Lyon you will have stories shared with a smile.

An abstract background featuring large, expressive brushstrokes in shades of green, yellow, and blue. The colors are layered and blended, creating a textured, painterly effect. The green is the most prominent, with yellow and blue accents scattered throughout.

As a new arrival in Lyon, you have nothing to fear about orientating yourself. Discovering a city is a physical process, and whatever your budget, you'll have a good time in all the districts. By foot, boat, bike or tram and from Fourvière to Villeurbanne you will soon get to grips with Lyon's layout. After visiting all four corners, soaking up the views and people, you will no doubt have come up with your own reasons why Lyon is better than Paris.