Crème de la crème: A revelatory tour of the top Paris patisseries

BY CELIA MILLER BOURBET
Special to The Washington Post

In her prime, the patisserie was where you went to meet, confide and, if you were lucky, live. The crucial convent of baguettes transformed into a fairyland of French pastries — delicate, airy, vibrant — competing to be the most exquisite composition. The Pâtisserie Monnier in Montmartre, for example, was an art form in itself, with pastries that seemed to be made of air and smoke.

But the patisserie is dead. Or is it? In recent years, a new generation of pastry chefs has emerged from the shadows and, seemingly, been embraced by le tout Paris. “Parisians have gone crazy over patisseries,” Agnès said as we peered into the narrow, laboratory-like sanctum where customers, one by one, were admitted by the uniformed doorman admitting customers. Instead, as in a fine jewelry store, the goods were stored on trays, tum. There was no display case. “The staff are like real fruit. They’re as-
I had to smile when I walked into Brett Bermaw’s Madison, which has largely been taken over by the Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau. It started making beauty in corner of the furniture shop in 2014, and now Bermaw-redesigned the Madison as Bermaw’s furniture — as the pink Rhoneberg, somber-colored, floating-order bench from the CVB has become a signature item. Bermaw’s work is inspired by color, texture, form and function — and can be found at Bermaw’s. I soon saw that this was the perfect place for a check-in counter, and Bermaw’s combined the features of beauty and efficiency, as it can double as a check-in counter for the CVB.

The owners of Wild Terra Cider, one of the few cideries in the state, make their own ciders. Their menu, which includes a mix of local and craft ciders, is designed to appeal to different palates. The brewery is in a beautiful historic building in downtown Fargo and specializes in artisanal ciders made from locally sourced ingredients. The cideries offer a variety of flavors, from fruity and floral to earthy and nutty, and their ciders are available on tap or in bottles. The menu includes a selection of charcuterie and cheese plates, as well as small plates like pickled rhubarb and cheese blintzes with lingonberry and mustard crème fraîche. You’ll probably see Bermaw’s name on the menu at Chou Fune, cooking on her own four-burner stove behind the “Shake & Bake” sign. But for those who occasion- ally find a bagel Wheat Naphta at Wild Terra, this is where you go for something different.

For an interactive map with addresses and contact information, visit wapo.st/Fargo
S’more, s’il vous plaît? ‘Glamping’ the French way.

French craving for new, luxurious camping hits the U.S.

By MI SILAN D.G. KAPLAN

Last week I was staying at a hotel in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., when a woman who works at the hotel’s spa told me to try a local pillow. Her accent was so strange that I thought she was British, but she was Swiss. It turns out she was among a growing number of Europeans who are learning to ‘glamp’ — the French play on the English word ‘glamping’ — which means well-designed, less rustic tents that are imported from France — with the air of an elegant Airstream trailer.

In fact, those individual accommodations, which include water and electricity and are often WiFi, may be the answer for those of you who like the idea of camping but don’t actually like ‘roughing it.’ How easy would it be to feel pampered in one of those Swiss or Finnish family tents, which open up to a spacious stone kitchen and living area with a hot tub, a luxury wine bar, and comfortable outdoor furniture? Or how about being able to have cocktails on a rocking chair, surrounded by a blanketed roof and a fire near your feet? Even the tents have modern comforts like air-conditioning, WiFi and an outdoor shower.

For people who want to travel in style, ‘glamping’ offers a way to enjoy the great outdoors without the roughing it. It’s essentially camping with a new twist. It’s all about luxury

North Dakota town offers the first-ever ‘glamping’ property in the U.S.

By DONALDSON, Local fave

Karen Kaye, 48, of Ruidoso, N.M., opened the shop four years ago as a response to high prices at other local pharmacies and has never taken an insurance paycheck. With each purchase, pharmacists and Fargo native, has directed store profits to education, social services and local arts. “Our mission is to make our customers feel like family,” she said. “Our goal is to provide a quality product at an affordable price.”

The shop is a community gathering place, where people can come and read the many historical newspapers and magazines on the wall. There is a small coffee bar in the middle of the store, where people can come and have a cup of coffee while discussing the day’s local events.

Along with fare we’d picked up along the way, the two of them cooked up some healthy meals that included fresh vegetables, whole-grain bread and tofu. They also enjoyed a handful of local cheeses, which they found at their nearby cheese shop.

The dinner was a success, and the next day they went on a hike with their dog, which they named Toph. They took the scenic route back to the store, where they continued their adventures with the local community.

When Fawn and her husband, Michael, moved to the area, they were drawn to the area’s natural beauty and the opportunity to explore the local artists and artisans. They opened the shop, “Fawn’s Flooring,” with the goal of providing high-quality, affordable flooring for the community.

Today, Fawn and Michael are still working hard to provide quality flooring to the area, and they are always eager to help their customers find the perfect flooring for their homes.

- Don Donaldson

Saratoga at Huttopia, top, a ‘glamping’ property in New Hampshire. The author’s beagle, Jett, 3, worked tirelessly as the author’s fishing partner.

 Nuevo York F. S.

yellow cows. An entire section features local life (Slocum’s almshouse worked as a cowshed, with packs of water balloons, kites and other supplies). And the boys loved exploring the various nooks and crannies, including the tree-lined river, shops and restaurants, all within walking distance of the park. The park is one of the most popular attractions in the area, and is often overlooked by visitors.

In fact, the trees and shrubs that cover the park provide a cool and comfortable place to relax and unwind. The park is a great place to take a walk, or to simply sit and enjoy the scenery.

Clockwise from top left: A fresh pot of tea; a picnic at Wild Terra Cider and Revelry; the first ever ‘glamping’ property in the U.S.; a hike at Huttopia White Mountains, N.H.; a view from a hotel room.

For those looking for a more serene experience, there are many options available. The town offers a variety of restaurants and cafes, including a local coffee shop and a deli. There is also a local inn, the Mangrove Inn, which offers a more tranquil setting.

Explore

Saratoga Springs, N.Y.: at the top, a ‘glamping’ property in New Hampshire. The author’s beagle, Jett, 3, worked tirelessly as the author’s fishing partner.

To the south of Saratoga Springs, the town of Ticonderoga offers a variety of activities, including kayaking, canoeing and hiking. The town also offers a number of historic sites, including the Fort Ticonderoga and the Valley Forge National Park.

To the north of Saratoga Springs, the city of Saratoga offers a variety of attractions, including the Saratoga Springs Race Course and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. The city also offers a variety of restaurants and cafes, including a local coffee shop and a deli. There is also a local inn, the Mangrove Inn, which offers a more tranquil setting.

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