



Bold and sustainable Lyon

Once shunned by locals for its grit, Sunday strolls around Lyon's La Confluence district have become the norm these days. Where the Rhône and Saône rivers meet, picture neighborhood's mirroring a Jetson-like feel as new homes tip their hats to sustainable technology in sleek futuristic designs.

The 150-hectare site, which once housed slaughterhouses, prisons, and France's wholesale market, is now prized real estate and teems in public green spaces and a new nautical center lined with bicycle paths. Emblematic of Lyon's new hot spot: a massive, bright orange cube, the work of Jakob + MacFarlane.

It's no surprise that chef extraordinaire Nicolas Le Bec chose 43 Quai Rambaud in this revamped industrial hood to open his latest eatery, *La Rue Le Bec*—a new market-restaurant concept worth trying after a visit to a nearby modern art gallery. Top off your *soirée* at *Docks 40*, the nightclub *en vogue* boasting live music and a huge terrace overlooking the Saône. **I.K.**

Louis Vuitton goes global

2010 was a big year for the iconic luxury brand. Settling down with a three-storey shoppers' playground at *Printemps*, Paris' much-loved department store, was just a first step for *Louis Vuitton*.

The company's next big move: the opening of an *LV Global Concept* space on Canada's west coast—combining luxury items, leisure, art and culture.

M. Jean-Philippe Hecquet, Vuitton's VP in Canada, says *The Hotel Vancouver Maison* features a two-storey high bag bar, a dedicated men's universe, a private VIP suite and a personalization area where you can rub shoulders with the stars and get your luggage monogrammed. While your better half looks around, feast your eyes on the rare-and-exceptional wall displaying exotic leather goods and runway pieces. Don't miss the set of serigraphs by Canuck Steven Shearer, which makes this *Louis Vuitton* boutique one of the eleven in the world to house a permanent art collection. Worth traveling to, indeed!

N.L./M.P.-H.

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Classic becomes très contemporary

If a visit of Louis XIV's grand Château, Marie-Antoinette's estate or an evening at the acclaimed Opera weren't reason enough to visit Versailles, you may be lured by the avant-gardism of *Versailles OFF*.

After the international success of the Jeff Koons exhibit in 2008 and the revelation of site-specific works by Xavier Veilhan in 2009, organizers invited the great Takashi Murakami to take a pop at decorating Versailles. Acclaimed contemporary artist and, according to *Time* magazine, one of 2008's 100 most influential personalities, Murakami created 11 of the 22 dreamlike manga-inspired creatures on display specifically for this grand venue. Until December 12, visitors can follow the Japanese artist's trail of creativity throughout 15 of the Château's rooms and in its gardens, admiring the masterpieces that bridge the past and the future.

We loved the contrasting beauty of this exhibit so much we decided to use it for our cover. **N.L.**

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