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## Meet your contact at Les Bains, Paris

The restaurant in the French capital has reclaimed its crown for the fashion crowd

Great Place to Meet



YESTERDAY by Robert Williams

Where **7 Rue du Bourg l'Abbé, 75003 Paris**

Plug sockets/WiFi **Yes**

Espresso **€4.50**

Open **7am to 2am**

Privacy **3/5**

Once an upscale public bath frequented by *fin de siècle* Parisian intellectuals — Marcel Proust is said to have taken his coffee here — [Les Bains Paris](#) is most remembered as a hotspot for Parisian nightlife during the 1980s and 1990s.

Then known as Les Bains Douches, the success of a club where designers would dance after their shows with David Bowie and Prince is not easily revived. But after a lengthy renovation that added a restaurant and five-star hotel last year, Les Bains has reclaimed its position as a gathering spot for the fashion makers of the French capital.

You might spot the gang behind the largely anonymous design collective *Vêtements* — if you know who to look for — at the restaurant's bar or the shoe designer Pierre Hardy.

The open layout of the bar-restaurant lends itself more to "see and be seen" than a discreet *tête-à-tête*. But with a DJ mixing contemporary electro with nostalgic pop on weekend evenings, the privacy of your conversations is assured, at least.

Customers nostalgic for the disco era or a bit of 1990s glamour can nip down to the lovingly preserved basement club after dinner, where some have been known to get carried away — swimming in their undergarments in the [Paris](#) club's legendary plunge pool.

During lunch hours, the gastronomic bistro menu designed by the Tour d'Argent's Philippe Labbé tops out at only €20 for the main course, making Les Bains' latest iteration a great daytime meeting spot as well — at a price that appeals to more than just the fashion set.

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