



# The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs

By Elaine Sciolino

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**The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs** By Elaine Sciolino

**A delightful and beguiling look at life on a small Paris street.**

Elaine Sciolino, the former Paris bureau chief of the *New York Times*, invites us on a tour of her favorite Parisian street. "I can never be sad on the rue des Martyrs," Sciolino explains, as she celebrates the neighborhood's rich history and vibrant lives. While many cities suffer from the leveling effects of globalization, the rue des Martyrs maintains its distinct allure. Sciolino reveals the charms and idiosyncrasies of this street and its longtime residents: the Tunisian greengrocer, the husband-and-wife cheesemongers, the showman who's been running a transvestite cabaret for more than half a century, the owner of a 100-year-old bookstore, the woman who repairs eighteenth-century mercury barometers?making Paris come alive in all its unique majesty. *The Only Street in Paris* will make readers hungry for Paris, for cheese and wine, and for the kind of street life that is all too quickly disappearing. 25 photographs.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Sciolino is a storyteller at heart. She loves to listen to and share other people's stories... This is a lovely and intimate look at a magical corner of Paris." (Chicago Tribune)

"A sublime stroll... From Ernest Hemingway's "A Moveable Feast" to A.J. Liebling's "Between Meals" to Janet Flanner's "Paris Was Yesterday," accounts of France's most famous metropolis tend toward the elegiac. So it is with "The Only Street in Paris"... The pleasures here are small ones... The magic of the street is not only its scope--it's about half a mile--but also its history." (Wall Street Journal)

"Countless authors have used a city as their muse... In *The Only Street in Paris*, Elaine Sciolino explores the rue des Martyrs, a quiet street that cuts through the French capital's ninth arrondissement... Vivid... a blend of memoir and research, as Sciolino mixes her personal memories of expat life with the stories of artists and luminaries who walked the rue des Martyrs before her." (The New Republic)

It's the people who make Paris Paris. And in her latest book, Sciolino celebrates this idea, bringing her favorite street to life through the stories and histories of its residents and merchants... Anyone who loves Paris's remaining quirky "villages" will revel in Sciolino's meticulously reported accounts... Sciolino doesn't lack for inspiration; she has Paris at her feet. (The New York Times)

"Something interesting for everyone: If you like food, architecture, history, art or simply human stories, you will not be disappointed... Henry Miller once remarked that "to know Paris, is to know a great deal." So too could be said about Sciolino's version of Rue des Martyrs." (Christian Science Monitor)

"Anyone who loves Paris's remaining quirky 'villages' will revel in Sciolino's meticulously reported accounts. . . .Sciolino doesn't lack for inspiration; she has Paris at her feet." (New York Times)

"The narrative takes the form of a ramble through shops, courtyards, cabarets, and time. . . . Sciolino's sharply observed account serves as a testament to the persistence of old Paris?the city of light, of literature, of life itself." (The New Yorker)

"Sciolino is a keen and tireless observer of this ancient little market street. . . . She has written her love letter with such ingenuous passion it's hard not to cheer up." (Washington Post)

"A sublime stroll. . . . The magic of the street is not only its scope?it's about half a mile?but also its history." (Wall Street Journal)

"The former Paris bureau chief of the *New York Times* shares her love for her adopted working-class neighborhood in this delicious and detailed look at the rue des Martyrs. Her knack for making friends and her reporter's instincts keep this tour fascinating." (BBC)

"Countless authors have used a city as their muse. . . . A blend of memoir and research, as Sciolino mixes her personal memories of expat life with the stories of artists and luminaries who walked rue des Martyrs before her." (New Republic)

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#### About the Author

Elaine Sciolino is a writer for the New York Times and a former New York Times Paris bureau chief, based in France since 2002. She is the author of *La Seduction: How the French Play the Game of Life*, *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran*, and *The Outlaw State: Saddam Hussein's Quest for Power and the Gulf Crisis*. In 2010, she was decorated as a chevalier of the Legion of Honor for her "special contribution" to the friendship between France and the United States. She has worked for Newsweek in New York, Chicago, Paris, and Rome. She held a number of posts at the New York Times, including United Nations' bureau chief, Central Intelligence Agency correspondent, and chief diplomatic correspondent.

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