



LET'S GET LOST: PARIS WITH LAURENT PICCIOTTO

The subject of 'Pocket Guide' in our inaugural volume of *The Rake*, Laurent Picciotto, Parisian style icon and owner of Paris' achingly cool shrine to the mystic horological arts, *Chronopassion*, is back to take us on a magical tour of the city he calls home. by **wei koh** photography **munster**



HOME

Laurent's home is situated in the 16th District on Paris' right bank. He grew up in this neighbourhood and his apartment is a mere few blocks away from his parents'. To wind down, or wind up, when the mood strikes, Laurent wails on his 1960s Gibson SG Blue Taylor T5 guitar. On his terrace, Picciotto is always the emperor of all he surveys. To channel old-world bluesman cool, Laurent turns to a suit, shirt, tie and shoes, all by Gérard Sené. He also reveals his penchant for suits and coats lined with vintage silk scarves.



GARAGE (ALSO LOCATED IN THE 16TH DISTRICT)

Laurent's garage is home to his collection of vintage motorcycle helmets, his trusty Vespa and his Dodge Challenger. He says, "It's so difficult to park in Paris, so my daily ride is a Vespa — the one with two wheels in front, so it is super stable yet nimble." When asked about the graffiti on his wall, he explains, "It's the work of my son. He said he wanted to do some graffiti, so I told him, 'Good! You can paint in our garage and I want you to paint the word Challenger!'"

HERVÉ DOMAR — BOUTIQUE

A must on every cool cat's shortlist is optician Hervé Domar's shop, stocked with obscure sunglasses and vintage spectacle frames. Here, Laurent channels his inner Steve McQueen in a motorcycle racing jacket by Gérard Sené. Domar's eclectic items include industrial-influenced handmade jewellery and specialty items like USB keys and Laguiole knives inlaid with diamonds.

48 Rue Dauphine 75006, Paris



LE MURAT — RESTAURANT

For sustenance, Laurent seeks out Le Murat, which he calls “the only cool restaurant” in his primary residential neighbourhood. Owned by the same proprietors as Paris’ cooler-than-thou Hôtel Costes (a perfect place to get in touch with Kierkegaard’s Concept of Dread), Le Murat’s charm is in proportion to how much one enjoys the service of waitresses who see it as a stopping point on their path to movie stardom. But perennially stylish Laurent is always treated as red-carpet royalty, whether he’s dining inside or smoking-cool outside.

1 Boulevard Murat 75016, Paris



COLETTE — RESTAURANT & BOUTIQUE

Like the house in the movie *Gosford Park*, Colette — the Parisian crucible of all things hip — is divided into upstairs and downstairs, and never the two shall meet. The basement of Colette is home to the charming café and some of the best bites in Paris. Run by the very stylish Marco (above) and his motley crew of endearing staff, the café even features a house dog with better table manners than the majority of children we know.

The ground floor and above is home to Colette’s signature brand of limited-edition finery. The sky-high price tag on a pair of special-edition sneakers sends Laurent into a near apoplectic price-tag shock, but he enjoys the ultra-groovy house tunes. Outside, he ponders the residual value of those sneakers.

213 Rue Saint-Honoré 75001, Paris



PLACE VENDÔME

Laurent takes in the sights of Place Vendôme a few steps from his Rue Saint-Honoré shop. Here, he pauses to admire his 'Laurent Mobile', a 2008 Dodge Challenger in stealth black, equipped with a 6.1L Hemi engine, good for 425 horsepower and 420 foot-pounds of unholy torque. He says, "Paris is a super cosmopolitan city — even the bike messengers are pretty blasé when it comes to nice cars, but they all like this one. They all give me the thumbs-up, which, if you know Parisians, is pretty rare."

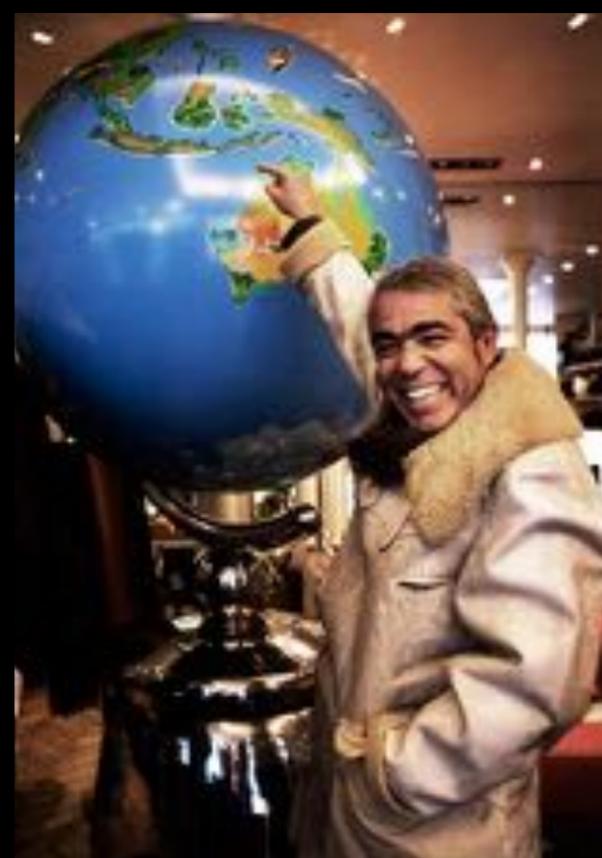
271 Rue Saint-Honoré 75001, Paris



GÉRARD SENÉ — BOUTIQUE

Here is Paris' high temple of rock 'n' roll tailoring. If coolness was a church, then its proprietor Gérard Sené, would be its Pope. Laurent demonstrates Sené's powerfully cut jackets with an ultra-louche velvet number. Sené's sleek, sharp-toed reinterpretation of the traditional velvet slipper is emblazoned with death heads. Laurent rocks a reversible hornback alligator coat, and summons up Jerry Lee Lewis with hand-rendered hellfire shoes.

35 Rue Danielle Casanova 75001, Paris



MARINA DE BOURBON — BOUTIQUE

Laurent celebrates the fact that his wife has just bought him the vintage Texaco gas pump in the window. He explains, "We have a perfect spot for it in the garden of our house in the south of France." Inside the shop, Laurent has the whole world in his hands, and points out his favourite travel destination: the enchanted isle of Singapore. Marina de Bourbon is filled with a bizarre mishmash of random items, including Stetson hats and one of Paris' best collections of high-end miniature race cars. Outside, Laurent admires a Triumph Bonneville.

112 Boulevard de Courcelles 75017, Paris