

THE  TIMES

28.11.09

MAGAZINE

've never seen this
sort of poverty before...
you think, this can't exist'
**Ryan Giggs visits Sierra
Leone, the land of his fathers**

by Robert Crampton



Plus
275 GIFT IDEAS
and... the great present opinion poll

City style

6th arrondissement, Paris

LAURA LOVETT

Small treasures in a big city – discover the French capital's lesser known gems



1 HÔTEL RÉCAMIER

The super-chic Récamier has the feel of a bourgeois family home, while oozing discreet luxury. The 24 rooms each have their own personality and were designed by Jean-Louis Deniot, famed for his glamorous Coco Chanel suite at the Paris Ritz. 3 Bis Place Saint-Sulpice (00 33 1 43 26 04 89; hotelrecamier.com).

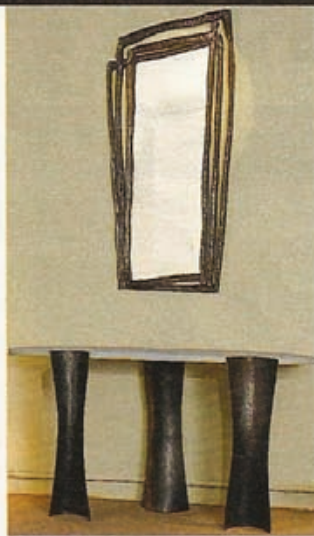


2 LE COMPTOIR DU RELAIS

This bijou Art Deco hotel's petit bistro serves traditional French fare with passion and conviviality. As its legendary chef, Yves Camdeborde, says: "It's magic when, in the same evening, you've got Belmondo, Zidane and France Telecom employees." Book early. 9 Carrefour de l'Odéon (00 33 1 44 27 07 97; hotel-paris-relais-saint-germain.com).

3 AVANT-SCÈNE

A gallery, design and furniture shop and general hipster hang-out, Avant-Scène is renowned for its original, poetic furniture. And the wonderfully charismatic owner Elisabeth Delacarte is happy to educate and gently guide if you lack knowledge. 4 Place de l'Odéon (00 33 1 46 33 12 40; avantscene.fr).



4 MUSÉE DU LUXEMBOURG

Not one of the biggest museums, but, built in 1615, certainly one of the most established. The current exhibition, *Louis Comfort Tiffany: Couleurs et Lumière* (until January 17), is a magnificent mix of nature-inspired glassware – in vases, mosaics, jewels and vast windows. 19 Rue de Vaugirard (00 33 1 42 34 25 95; museeduluxembourg.fr).

5 HERMÈS POP-UP SHOP

Hermès has jumped on 2009's bandwagon for pop-up, blink-and-you'll-miss-them shops with its usual luxury aplomb. After a century firmly planted on Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, this temporary store acts a sartorial *amuse-bouche* before the Rive Gauche boutique launches next year on Rue de Sèvres. Don't miss the enormous cardboard tree in the middle of the shop. 16 Rue de Grenelle (00 33 1 53 63 02 19; hermes.fr).



6 PIERRE HERMÉ

Since Pierre Hermé left the patisserie institution Ladurée to set up on his own, Paris has had a fight on its hands. Choosing whose macaroons you trust to tickle your taste buds has now become a matter of tribal allegiance. Go on a pastry pilgrimage, but choose carefully. 72 Rue Bonaparte (00 33 1 43 54 47 77; pierreherme.com).

