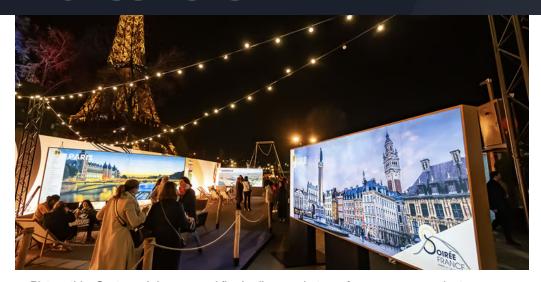


Report From Paris: Rendez-vous en France 2023



Picture this: Costumed dancers and fire-hurling acrobats perform on an open-air stage next to the River Seine, the Eiffel Tower sparkling in the background. A parade of musicians, their clothes and instruments decorated with neon glow lights, lead partygoers along the quay to a series of moored river boats. There they embark for a midnight cruise on the world-famous waterway that will take center stage for the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympic Games 2024.

This was the soirée scene at Rendez-vous en France, French tourism's largest B2B trade show. The return to Paris for the 16th edition was highly anticipated. Yet the event wasn't without its challenges: There have been heated street demonstrations and transit strikes against the government's planned pension reform, not to mention the piles of uncollected garbage because of the trash collectors' strike. Despite these roadblocks, there was excitement at the show, particularly for the delegations of international tour operators who hadn't been to France since before the pandemic. Overall, 786 tour operators from 67 countries connected with 660 French exhibitors in meetings on March 21-22 at the Porte de Versailles Convention Center.

Spotlight on Paris

As one of the world's most popular destinations, Paris is constantly renewing, renovating, and improving its tourism offerings. Take the hotels, for example: New properties are adding to the glamour of an already red-hot scene: Le Grand Mazarin, Too Hotel, Maison Delano, SO/ Paris, Maison Proust, Hôtel Dame des Arts, La Fantaisie, among others.