

Flat-out to find a Parisian pad! October 2007 Edition

**By John Trew**

NOWADAYS every other person I speak to seems to be doing something I swore I would never do – investing in a holiday home abroad.

Lots of my friends have succumbed to the allure of purchasing apartments in Cyprus, all the Costas and even Bulgaria. However, having been born with itchy feet, I would not be happy staring out at the same landscape for months on end.

So, instead of buying a flat, I have decided to rent one -- somewhere entirely different from the above -- in which someone else has invested their money and effort. Taking a flat for a few weeks would certainly make a change from staying in, and always writing about, hotels here in Trew's Travels (more than a dozen already this year).

That's why I spent many summer evenings at the computer, working flat-out to find the rental options for pads in PARIS available this month. I have targeted the City of Lights because:

- (a) there are now more than ever low-cost flights year-round to Paris from Belfast/Dublin to Paris airports;
- (b) the wonderful new Irish Ferries vessel 'Oscar Wilde' comes into operation soon on the Rosslare route to France -- ideal for motorists bringing lots of stuff to Paris for long-term stays;
- (c) Parisian hotels are generally expensive and the average room size is too small for comfortable extended stays;
- (d) the whole civilised world agrees with Hemingway that "Paris is everybody's second home"; and
- (e) The Rugby World Cup Semis and Finals just happen to coincide with my stay!

My mission was (eventually) successful, and we have secured a super-looking two bedroom flat in a classy neighbourhood near Faubourg St Honoré. I hope to report in depth on the fun and frustrations of Living the Life of a Parisian in next month's Trew's Travels.

In the meantime, I'd like to commend to everybody the trewly excellent service I have already enjoyed from the people behind [www.PerfectlyParis.com](http://www.PerfectlyParis.com), where you will find a portfolio of luxurious apartments at affordable weekly and monthly rates. (I'm not saying which one is ours on the website in case uninvited rugby fans turn up looking for a floor to sleep on, having spent their life savings on a Finals ticket).

Before chancing upon Perfectly Paris, I tried to do business with a plethora of on-line rental agencies who are very bad at giving information on their flats and then want to charge a whopping 30 percent agency fee on top of high basic rents.

Perfectly Paris is different. It's a band of owners, passionate about Paris, who have invested in top-class characterful apartments mainly around Montmartre. They offer long and short term 'vacation rentals' -- as 'self-catering' is known to the Americans who are the backbone of the business.

Spearheading the operation is the tireless Gail Boisclair who has been in almost daily email correspondence with me, advising on vital things like carparking ("just go to [www.ParkingsdeParis.com](http://www.ParkingsdeParis.com)") and lesser matters such as the type of carpet-slippers to bring ("so as not to disturb your downstairs neighbours").

Now that's what I call Perfect Parisian service..."