



THE GRAPEVINE

NEW: Roots & Routes Collective | Updates & Local Spots | Destination: Paris

Club Updates

- ☀️ **JULY 19TH MEET-UP** was a fun time! Thanks to Members Celine, Heather, Catina, and Dawn for attending!
- ☀️ **AUG 16TH TASTING MEETING** Join us as we "take a journey on *The Oregon Trail*" to explore the wines of the Willamette Valley (OR). Be sure to RSVP.
- ☀️ **SEPT 20TH DAY TRIP** Come along to "Stomp the Grapes" at Bluemont Vineyard (VA)! Registration Deadline: Sun, Aug. 10!
- ☀️ **FALL MEMBERSHIP** It's not too early to sign up for our Fall Qtr. Details available on the TtG website.

In the Neighborhood

- ☀️ **ARTE AGAVE** This Tequila & Mezcal expo is *muy divertido*! Tastings, Food, Live Entertainment, and more. Tix are on sale now for the Sept. 15th event at The Schuyler in the Hamilton Hotel (NW).

Raise a Glass

Dearest Gentle Reader,

I am thrilled to share some exciting news – I've launched a new endeavor, the **Roots & Routes Collective (RRC)**! This joint venture, created in partnership with *Today's Promise Foundation*, is dedicated to curating immersive experiences that celebrate, preserve, and elevate African American history and culture.

Our first program, *Chapter One: The Story of Us*, will explore 250 years of the African American experience in America as we commemorate our country's semiquincentennial. This four-part thematic journey will begin an exploration of *Free People of Color and the Fight for Freedom*.

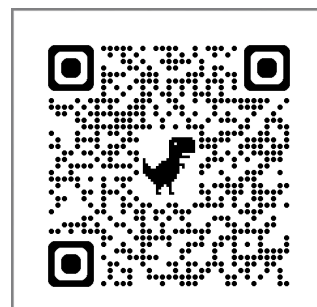
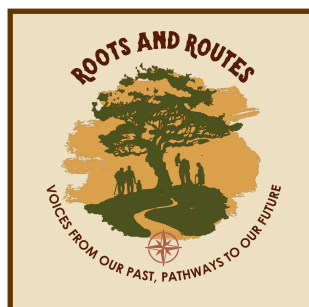
Events will include:

- Sat, Sept. 6 - Heritage Journey to MD Eastern Shore to the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center + Lunch at the Ocean Odyssey restaurant
- **Joint TtG Event:** Sat, Oct. 4 - Heritage Journey to Annapolis, MD to the Banneker- Douglass-Tubman Museum + Wine Tasting at Grapes Wine Bar
- Sat, Nov. 8 - Book Club + Conversations & Cocktails - *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins Valdez.

You are invited to join us for these events and become a Friend of RRC!

Check out the website using the QR Code below!

Cheers! 🍷





Cocktail of the Month

CHAMPS-ELYSEES COCKTAIL

I knew I wanted to highlight a cocktail that features Green Chartreuse this month after a chat I had during our July Meet-up at D'Leña. And when I found this one online, I knew it was the one! I haven't tried it yet, but I will real soon. Care to join me?

- ◆ 1 1/2 oz Remy Martin VSOP Cognac
- ◆ 1/3 oz Green Chartreuse
- ◆ 2/3 oz Freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ◆ 1/2 oz Pure Cane Syrup (2:1 Simple Syrup)
- ◆ A dash of Angostura Bitters
- ◆ 1/3 oz Chilled Water
- ◆ Garnish: Lemon Twist

- (1) Pre-chill your coupe glass.
- (2) Prep your lemon twist garnish.
- (3) Shake all ingredients over ice.
- (4) Fine strain into coupe.
- (5) Express lemon twist over the cocktail then add as garnish.

Enjoy!!!

Recipe Source: www.diffordsguide.com

Naya Con Gusto

PARIS, FRANCE - JULY 2025

I recently returned from a trip to the UK with my husband. While there, we took a quick, overnight trip to Paris. IT. WAS. AWESOME!!!

We took the Eurostar train from London's St. Pancras Station to the Gare Du Nord station in Paris. I booked a night at the *Libertel Gare Du Nord Suede*, a five-minute walk from the station. The balcony in our top-floor room had a fabulous view of *Sacre Couer* (pic below left).

After we checked in, we stopped at a nearby cafe and enjoyed escargot and what was supposed to be steak frites (but it was more like a hamburger sans bun and fries). Lol. From there, what turned out to be a 19K+ steps day involved hopping on and off the Metro as we ventured to *Notre Dame*, the *Louvre*, *Arc de Triomphe* (pic below right), and the *Eiffel Tower*. We ended the night with a delicious meal, this time with even more escargot, a glass of Bordeaux, and actual steak frites with peppercorn sauce. Delish!

The next day, we enjoyed "A Day of Exploring Black Paris," a tour facilitated by *AfroNomadik Tours & Experiences*. Our guide, Knight, walked us through the city, highlighting the stomping grounds of James Baldwin, the former home of Richard Wright, sites of clubs that belonged to Josephine Baker and other Black entrepreneurs in the 1930s, decades-old Black-owned establishments, *La Rhumerie* - a rum house in the 6th Arr. and *Presence Africaine* bookstore in the 5th Arr., and "Little Africa," one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in the city.

I had an amazing time in Paris and can't wait to return and explore more of the history, culture, cuisine, and wine that France has to offer! [HINT: A great destination for a TtG/RRC trip!]

Photos by Michon Watts / Photo Painting by Ron Floyd (Dad)

