



CUP OF GOOD TASTE: (clockwise from top left) The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff; a Scottish fan outside the Gerland Stadium in Lyons; some traditional French cuisine; a Marseilles cafe; and renowned chef Pierre Gagnaire putting the finishing touches to some dishes.

Pictures: Photolibary.com, AFP

there: Metro line 2; buses 21, 22, 23 and 46.

Where to eat: Une Table au Sud is regarded as one of the best restaurants in town. La Garbure serves rich south-western dishes, while L'Epuisette, out of town, overlooks a fishing harbour and is atmospheric (and expensive).

Where to drink: Marseilles is a tough town with a range of drinking options. Try the Red Lion or the OM Cafe, but exercise caution late at night.

Where to stay: Le Petit Nice, which has a two-star restaurant, is situated in two old villas overlooking the Mediterranean. The Sofitel Vieux Port, as its name would suggest, overlooks the atmospheric old port.

SEMIFINALS/THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF/FINAL: OCTOBER 13-14, 19-20, SAINT DENIS/PARIS

The Stade de France is the national stadium and has hosted major events,

including the 1998 football World Cup final. The Parc des Princes, home of Paris Saint Germain, will host the third-place play-off.

Stade de France: Capacity: 80,000. **How to get there:** Rail lines B and D and Metro line 13. **Parc de Princes:** Capacity: 48,000. **How to get there:** Metro lines 9 and 10; buses 52, 22, 62 and 72.

Where to eat: Saint Denis, on the city fringes, is a culinary wasteland, so eat and drink in the city before or after the game.

If you are flush with cash, Pierre Gagnaire and Guy Savoy are two of the best restaurants in the world - but be prepared to pay for the privilege.

If you fancy hearty regional cooking try La Maison de l'Aubrac (open 24 hours). Au Pied du Cochon, Aux Lyonnais, Bistrot de l'Olivier and Clos des Gourmets all serve good traditional French food. La Butte Chaillot, a Savoy offshoot, is a personal favourite. Avoid

eating anywhere on the Champs-Elysees, as you will pay over the odds.

Where to drink: Juveniles wine bar, run by ebullient Scotsman Tim Johnston, is a great spot to try a range of regional wines in congenial company. The compact Will's Wine Bar is highly recommended, as is the rough and ready Baron Rouge.

Where to stay: The Hotel Balzac is a brand new luxury hotel. Situated on rue Balzac in the golden triangle, guests will be at the centre of the action.

Hotels Maurice Hurand operates five affordable, elegant and welcoming Paris properties. My favourites include the stylish and central Artus Hotel on the left bank and The Terrass overlooking the city from Montmartre.

If cash is tight, then the L'Hotel de la Place des Vosges offers smallish, but clean and cheap rooms.

New Caledonia



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La Promenade 6 nts from \$1395, DLXE Suite

This is the newest 4 star all suites hotel right on Anse Vata Bay... Every room is more spacious than the average hotel room offering you the best in comfort. Suites are equipped with full kitchen, balcony with magnificent lagoon views and top of the range accessories including flat screen TV. Walking distance from Noumea's stunning beach, shops and beachside cafes and restaurants. Valid for travel by 16 Dec 07.

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