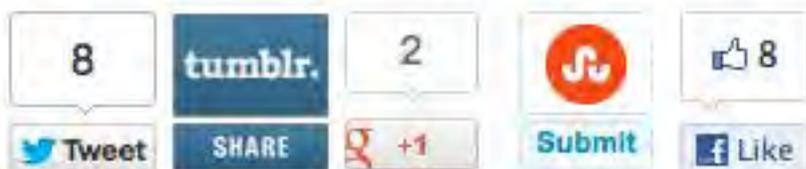


BlackBook

GO FRENCH! A BASTILLE DAY TO CELEBRATE

By Linnea Covington July 11, 2012



America had its birthday, now it's the French expats' turn to celebrate the storming of the Bastille, which took place on July 14, 1789 and marked the beginning of the French Revolution. Whether or not you like the French lifestyle, French food, or the French people in general, it's a good excuse to continue the summer party and get your escargot quota in for the year with a week of French-themed events.

First up, get classic and classy with Michael Arenella & His Hot Eight band playing July 12 from 2 to 6pm in front of owner Georges Forgeois' **Cercle Rouge Brasserie** in Tribeca. They will be offering games of **petanque** (which involves circles and balls), can-can dancing by **The Love Show**, and pommes frites galore. Forgeois' other bistro, **Bar Tabac** in Brooklyn, will also be celebrating on

Sunday, July 15 starting at 11am with Pastis-laden drinks and croque monsieur. Of course, that's not all for Cobble Hill, the whole block by Bar Tabac will be celebrating with music and the nation's largest live petanque tournament.

Naturally, **Beaumarchais** in the Meatpacking will also be reveling in French independence on Saturday, July 14 by playing petanque to the beats of DJ Marco Peruzzi. For a mellower Saturday celebration on the Upper East Side, **Brasserie Julien** features dinner and jazz with **Myriam Phiro** from 7pm to 12am. Also on Saturday, **Hotel Americano** hosts a Bastille Day dinner by chef Thomas Boullault, which features his Presse de Homard appetizer, organic chicken with chanterelles, and his stripped bass dish, Bar de Ligne--all paired all paired with various bubbles by Billecart.

Of course, you can hit up the annual Bastille Day on 60th Street on Sunday, July 15 from 12 to 5pm. There not only will French goods being peddled, but you can fill up on crepes from **Yorkville Creperie** and other nibbles by **Brasserie Cognac**, **Bel Ami Café**, **Rouge Tomate**, and many others. Finally, if settling down for a French celebration on your own time is more your speed, make merry by heading to **Astor Wines and Spirits** and pick up a bottle of sparkling Cremant d'Alsace (\$17.99) or change things up and try the **Armagnac from Tariquet (\$28.99)**. Grab some creamy Camembert or blue du Bocage and a baguette at **Murray's Cheese**, it's what the French would do.