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Travel

TOP STORY

Firefighters Offered Free Trip To Lyon

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2002

At the invitation of French tourism officials, a group of 25 New York City firefighters and their spouses will be headed to France enjoy some well-deserved *joie de vivre*. Here's a taste of what this group will be seeing and eating when they visit the city that is lovingly referred to as the country's stomach.

Lyon, France's second largest city, is the gastronomic capital of the country, straddled by two rivers, the Saone and the Rhone. Producing a wealth of fresh produce, Lyon is famous for its traditional restaurants, known as *bouchons*, that offer home-cooked dishes including, my favorite: *salade lyonnaise*.

Lyon is also known for its regional cheeses, such as Saint Marcellin, which is sold at Les Halles, the market where celebrated chefs and local cooks shop for their ingredients. One of those chefs, Paul Bocuse, is credited with inventing nouvelle cuisine and is associated with the renowned professional cooking school nearby.

Old Lyon was the capital of the silk trade back in the Middle Ages, and some say that its network of traboules, or covered passageways, were designed as shortcuts to protect the silk from the elements.

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Lyon is also famous as the place where movies were first made. The Lumiere brothers were born there, and a museum showcases their contribution to cinema.

When I visited, it was summer, and the weather was gorgeous. But the firefighters can expect some chilly temperatures and maybe even some rain when they visit in early spring. Also, pack some sturdy shoes, because there's lots of cobblestone streets and staircases to tackle.

Lyon is located in southeastern France and is just two hours from Paris on the high speed TGV train. There are no non-stop flights out of New York, so you have to connect in Paris or another European gateway. For more information, go to www.lyon-france.com.

Now here's a Delia's Deal you don't want to miss that's as easy as ABC. The French regions of Alsace, Burgundy and Champagne have teamed up to offer a discount card. The ABC of France Privilege Card offers price breaks up to 20 percent on restaurants, shops and attractions.

One card is good for two people and costs \$25. For more information, go to www.euroquestpass.com.

- *Valarie D'Elia*

Valarie D'Elia

NY1 Travel Consultant
[Valarie D'Elia](#) is the host of "Travel with Val."



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