

3-20-11 Sunday at Palais Royale

We woke up to an overcast morning and didn't have any plans. I could always work on my journal. I called Barbara and she asked where we were going today. I told her we weren't planning to go out since the weather was not good. She disagreed. From her 5<sup>th</sup> floor apartment she saw sunshine and blue skies and she insisted that we go out and see the tulip trees in bloom at the garden of the Palais Royale.

We ended up taking her advice. Consulting the map we realized the Palais Royale is a short walk from our apartment so we set off. By the time we left the apartment, the clouds had lifted and, as Barbara said, it was a lovely day full of sunshine.

We have been to the garden before. It is featured as one of the quiet places in the middle of Paris in a little book Judy Frantz gave us in the fall. People were out in full force.



In addition to the tulip trees the daffodils (yellow) and the blue hyacinths were blooming and this made lovely contrasts.



As we left the garden, there were two musical groups playing for coins. One was a small orchestra, which we had seen in our last visit there. They were playing crowd pleasers like the Habanera from Carmen.

Closer to the Louvre, in the square where the metro lets out was an “oompah” band made up also of young musicians. They were not as good as those in the orchestra but they were louder. There were in-line skaters doing slalom exercises and leaping in the air doing acrobatic skating. People were milling everywhere enjoying the sunshine.

On our walk back to our apartment we came by St. Eustache church and went in to see it. It is another very impressive church. It took so long to build that it started out Gothic and ended up being Renaissance.



From there it is a 10-minute walk to the apartment. That evening we went to the Quiet Man (An Irish Pub in Paris at 5, rue des Haudriettes, 75003) for after dinner drinks. We were concerned that there were no places to sit when we looked in. It is a tiny bar and all the seats seemed to be taken. A man smoking outside said to us in English, there is plenty of room downstairs. So we went in, ordered glasses of wine and went downstairs. Several musicians were gathering and eventually started playing and singing Celtic music. Another surprise.

Pictures from their web page:

