

### 3-24-11 Buying knives

Today on the way back from a concert, we stopped in the big shopping area on Haussman Blvd and looked for good quality knives and a knife sharpener. Each apartment we have rented has had knives but they are cheap and have no edge. And there has been no sharpener in any of the kitchens, so preparing meat, fish or chicken has been a challenge. Once I took on skinning a sole. It is a wonder I didn't maim myself. The finished product was definitely not worth the effort. Next time, I'll ask the fishmonger to skin it for me. We finally found a carving knife and a paring knife and a sharpener. Everything was 30% off so I paid a reasonable price for them.

We had walked a long way and were both exhausted from shopping in the huge Au Printemps. In addition to knives we were looking for simple, cheap candleholders. One of the couple we bought at Monoprix last year had broken. We went from brand to brand and found either candelabra or votive candleholders. There were no small, simple ones.

Finally, we found a cut glass set of 2 that was a little fancier than we wanted but were reasonably priced and very pretty. We bought the set.

It was about a week later that we found the really cheap (2,50 €) red glass candleholders at a different Monoprix. So now we have a set of 4 red ones and the 2 cut glass ones.

There was a problem with a carte bleu and we ended up paying cash. Then there was a problem as we left the store. The knives set off the alarms and we had to look through the bags and pockets for the receipts. It was an ugly scene but we managed not to get carted off to jail and staggered out of the store feeling pretty ragged.

I suggested to Ernie that we stop for an apero to calm the nerves. We were near the Opéra so I suggested the Café de Cappuccinos. Their inner terrace was open to the air but not available for smokers so we were able to feel breezes, rest our feet and calm down after the excitement.

One of the largest department stores in Paris is Galeries Lafayette. It is in several buildings. Lafayette Maison (shown here with one of the many gorgeous displays) is across the Boulevard from the Galeries Lafayette (clothing etc.)



And down the street is another huge store: Au Printemps.

