

July 30, 2011 A promenade through Parc de Bagatelle

Saturday turned into a beautiful day – light clouds with lots of blue sky and a light wind. Just to be safe we each took a jacket and our umbrellas. It turned out that we did not need them but had no idea of the weather when we left the apartment. The weather in Paris changes rapidly, sometimes several times during the day.

Ernie had visited the Bois de Boulogne on his own while I was In Nevada City, but had not been to the Parc de Bagatelle which is part of the vast Bois. Both Sally Davies and Gérard Deconclois, our two rental agents highly recommended we see the Parc de Bagatelle. It is enclosed in the Bois de Boulogne on the west side of Paris. There is also the Longchamps Race Course and a rather large lake and other parks in addition to Parc de Bagatelle.

There was a restaurant near the rose garden so we planned to eat there.

We took the Metro Line 1 and got off at Pont de Neuilly where there is a bus depot. We looked for the #43 that would take us to Parc de Bagatelle but we couldn't find the stop so we started walking down rue de Longchamps. We passed a sweet café serving on a street corner with a fountain and lots of umbrellas and people enjoying themselves on a Saturday afternoon.



As we walked we came across the #43 bus and jumped on it. Our Navigo cards worked on it. (In the outskirts sometimes we are out of the zones we have purchased.) The driver pointed the direction of the park for us and we were in it before we knew it.

The park goes back to Marie Antoinette who made a bet with someone about how fast it could be built. It was built in 60 days. There is a Chateau and other lovely buildings.

In the Chateau were expositions on Forests – Tropical Forests, the meaning of forests in different ways – Medieval times, in fairy tales, in romantic stories, in urban times, in times of war or bad winters. There was another exposition on the importance of maintaining forests – lots of things to read and many beautifully presented displays.

I made an attempt to take a photo of Ernie and me together. My first attempt didn't work so well, but the second one is OK.



There is also a wonderful view of the buildings at La Defense, a new business complex built at the end of the Champs Elysee and also at the end of Line 1 of the Metro.



I went crazy taking photographs. I'm just going to post them. Just suffice to say the flowers were luscious, even though many the roses were past their prime, others were in the height of their beauty. There were other gardens besides the roses.



After feasting on the flowers we stopped at the restaurant which is out of doors on dirt with umbrellas shielding us from the sun. While we had a scrumptious lunch, we saw a bridal party and a birthday party taking place. The staff were setting up other rooms to accommodate other groups coming soon. It is a beautiful place for an event. The food was excellent.

We were bothered by pigeons and bees buzzing around us. One bee actually fell into my wine glass at the end of the meal after my utensils had been cleared. The waiter quickly took it out and handed back the glass with all the wine in it saying that it is the price of eating out in nature.

Here is the wine we had and the first course. The second course was a steak with fries and wok stir fried chicken with vegetables. Both were excellent.



The weather held up and we found our bus back and the Metro line. There are lots of other parts of the Bois de Boulogne to explore. We will have to continue strolling around it to see what else those kings, queens and noble people had up their sleeves.

