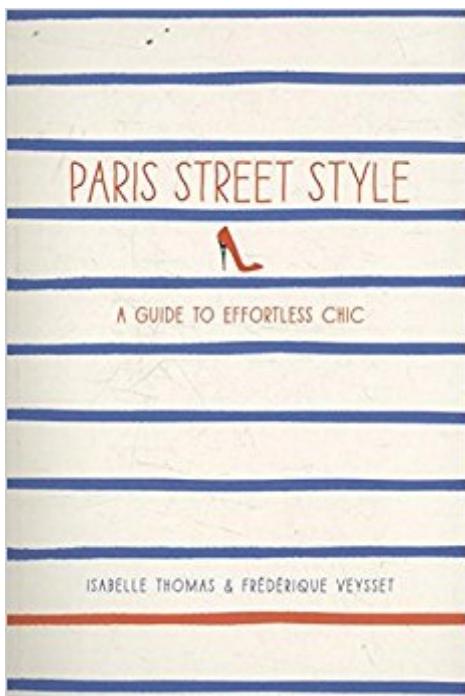


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Paris Street Style: A Guide To Effortless Chic



Synopsis

One city always seems to win the award for most-wanted style—Paris, where people walking down the avenues mix timeless and trendy pieces in a way that appears effortless. French fashion writers Isabelle Thomas and Frédérique Veysset break down the “je ne sais quoi” of Paris street style, describing the essential elements that should be in everyone’s wardrobe. Renowned experts on French style—designers, stylists, editors, and celebrities—also chime in to reveal their favorite accessories and how to create multidimensional looks and make affordable clothing appear luxurious. Starring both fashion icons and anonymous women met on the streets of Paris and richly illustrated with hand-drawn sketches and Veysset’s striking photographs, Paris Street Style is an inspirational fashion guide that will allow you, no matter where you are from, to cultivate an everyday style of timeless glamour, careless, easy chic—votre style français. Praise for Paris Street Style: “In this fun new book, a pair of fashion bloggers promise to reveal the secrets of their compatriots’ mysterious and seemingly innate ability to look sophisticated under any circumstances. With the help of hand-drawn illustrations and photos of models, fashionistas and anonymous women met in the street, they dissect the essential elements of les Parisiennes’ deceptively casual, highly individualistic brand of urban chic and offer readers tips galore on creating their own personal style.”—France Magazine

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Customer Reviews

Isabelle Thomas is a personal stylist, journalist, and editor. She writes the blog Mode personnel (le)

for the magazine L'Express styles. Frédérique Veyset is a fashion photographer, who contributes to publications such as Allure, Vanity Fair, Marie Claire, and Glamour. She also writes the fashion blog FredisBlog. Both authors live in France.

The first part of the books consists of interviews with the designers, trendsetters, art directors and others, mixed in with paragraphs on each classic item, such as trench coat, white shirt, pea coat, tropezienes, etc. That was for the first 6 chapters. For me it has gotten interesting around chapter 7 - most trends are broken down how to use them and how not to use them: leggins, capri pants, skinny pants, bermuda shorts, animal prints, cowboy boots, long skirts. Followed by another wonderful chapter on denim: goes into details on how should each jean style fit, talks about skinny jean, boy jean, flared, white jean and more. Chapter 9 is on handbags, chapter 10 - little black dress. Found nothing new there. Loved chapters 11 and 12 on what to wear and not to wear with clear explanations on why or why not, for example not wearing wide pants cut too short and quilted jackets, while pearl necklace or a navy blue blazer is always a go to. Chapter 12 talks about what can you borrow from grandmother's closet, nieces closet or work locker, safely, without damage to your style or reputation. For example borrowing a nice 60s coat from your grandma, a waistcoat from your boyfriend, denim skirt from your niece, from the professional's locker - riding, boots, tango dancer's pumps and my personal favorite - an army jacket. Two last chapters, 13 and 14 talk about secondhand clothes and age appropriate trends. Personally I'd buy the book for chapters 7, 8, 11 and 12. Overall it was an interesting read.

I read this book last night cover to cover. At first flip, I was almost disappointed by so many photos of very in-fashion, super-skinny 20-somethings in Balenciaga that I almost didn't bother. As trendy as the girls appear, the book would have no more value than a magazine because of how fast fashion moves today. The real value to me ended up being the interviews (which in most fashion books, I skip because they are full of the nonsense designers for very in-fashion, super-skinny 20-somethings like to say such as "it's all about confidence

I love fashion/styling books in general, but let's be real here. A lot of those say the same sort of thing. This book is something a little different. It is articulate, intelligent and gives something new to the discussion about fashion (and about "french woman" something Americans at least seem to love reading about. I daresay French Women are as versatile as any other countries' women so these generalizations may annoy some, but that's really a minor issue.) Physically, the book is gorgeous,

well laid-out and has beautiful photos. It divides out to talk about several different topics. Some you've heard talked of before -for example there's a chapter on the LBD- and some are perhaps more new topics- what you can "steal" from other's closets. Even the topics that are common in other style books still add something new to that topic though. My favorite part of the book though was between these chapters or topics there are interviews with individuals somehow connected with the French Fashion and Style industry. Some of them include: independent/small label designers, magazine editors, small boutique owners, perfume makers and make-up designers among many more. These people are articulate and thoughtful in their answers and the questions were well chosen. A few last notes about what I liked about the book- the vocabulary used is larger and the reading level higher than in many style books. It is not Shakespeare, but it expects that you are an intelligent person yourself. It also- despite the ideas coming from so many different people (see my note about the interviews), a very cohesive vision of what clothes do and how to wear them emerges. Get quality clothing. Take care of it. No need to be perfect; the imperfection is the *je ne sais quai* that makes the "French" style so admired. It should be noted that this isn't a how-to book or instructional. It reads to me as if the tips are for people who already feel comfortable in their own skin, for the most part, and are instead looking to refine a style. A great read; highly recommended.

The book explains many styles of French women. They are all adaptable to other nationalities. Enjoyed the many good photographs and articles.

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