



10 of the coolest neighbourhoods in Europe

▲ 'Where locals go to let off steam' ... the Järntorget and Långgatan area of Gothenburg. Photograph: Maria Ullmer

Quartier de la Réunion, Paris



▲ La Botica

The 20th arrondissement, in eastern Paris, is well-known for the place where Oscar Wilde and Edith Piaf are buried, but a short walk away, hidden from the crowds, is a genuine village, Charonne, little known to tourists. Circular Place de la Réunion, laid out in 1850, is the heart of this friendly, bohemian *quartier populaire*, a multicultural area of working families, artists and musicians. The square comes alive on Thursday and Sunday mornings, when it teems with people browsing market stalls set up by butchers, cheese- and fishmongers, and fruit and vegetable sellers.

But there is another hub here that is open every day, from 7am to 2am. **Café Sans Nom**, on the corner of rue de la Réunion, does not need a name (or a website) as it is more a community centre for everyone living in or passing by the square, from school-run mums or pensioners sipping a coffee while reading newspapers and books from the cafe's free library, to the crowd who arrive for drinks after midnight.

See and do

You won't find chic boutiques in this neighbourhood, but rather quirky, ethical shops such as **L'Escargot d'Or** (53 rue de Bagnolet) where Gilles Coolen roasts fairtrade coffee beans and makes delicious artisan chocolate. On the other side of the street (no 52), Agnès Baracco stocks **Au Bon Vingt**, her pioneering natural wine cellar, with over 400 varieties, which she loves explaining to visitors. At no 69, **La Botica** (no 69) is a new shop and gallery showcasing young artists, designers and stylists, with changing themes that cover photography and illustration, jewellery and vintage clothes, prints and ceramics.

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