



JOYS OF SPRING

2024

*"Flowers on the hillside bloomin' crazy
Crickets talkin' back and forth in rhyme
Blue river runnin' slow and lazy
I could stay with you forever
And never realize the time"*
—Bob Dylan



Abloom in the Luxembourg Gardens

Perhaps the loveliest place to contemplate spring is from a green garden chair in the middle of the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.

This luxe city park first sprouted in 1612 when Marie de Medici, widow of England's King Henry IV, took solace in France, building the Luxembourg Palace as her new home.

Yet another love story of note blossomed here, in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, when Marius and Cosette first meet in this storied garden. In apparent celebration of said l'amour, 15th century marble cherubs hoist huge urns that overflow with spring color like floral fountains.

Once, during a long layover, I hopped on the Paris RER train from de Gaulle airport into the city for a one-seat picnic in the park. In under an hour, including a patisserie pitstop, I was nibbling on a jambon et fromage croissant, pondering how our days seem to dart by like the toy sailboats dappling the pond here.

You may be able to locate my alfresco lunch spot from outer space, or, more simply, Apple Maps. Zoom in on Paris to easily find the garden, so prominent amid the sprawl, in the 6th arrondissement, just south of where the Seine scribes its "S" curves across the city. Now, find the octagon shaped pool next to the imposing palace, set like a cut jewel on a queen's necklace. Here you'll find my green garden chair, awaiting your own "Les Contemplations" of spring.

Paris

Worthy Remains of Winter

If lemons are still hanging in your tree like neglected Christmas ornaments, these ideas may inspire a harvest, before they fall to spring cleaning.



Plot Twist

The sumptuous allure of the Meyer lemon is due not only to its warm lantern-like glow, but also the artistic malleability of its rind. Its *peel appeal*. This regal fruit, of Mandarin heritage, scintillates the perfect martini, be it a spellbinding spiral or a simple effervescent twist. A garnish that adds elegance to the age-old adage, "when life gives you lemons, add vodka".



Baked Sunshine

The beauty of a Meyer lemon is more than skin deep. Its sweet personality is enhanced with a floral quality. Its delicate flavor makes for a lighter, but lush lemon tart that buds on the palette like spring itself.

Recipe from The New York Times:

Meyer Lemon Tart



Sun Salutations at Descanso Gardens

Tulips (*Tulipa*) are native to Central Asia, and first cultivated in Istanbul around 1055. They made their way west in the 16th century, reaching iconic stature in the Netherlands. Way out in the Wild West of Southern California, 30,000 tulips are presently staging a rave of spring color at the lovely Descanso Gardens, a former 165 acre private estate that was converted to a public garden in 1953.

Descanso Gardens



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