

## « LE SÉJOUR À PARIS SELON MADAME SOYOMBO » !!

After almost a week of "*flottante*" avec un séjour de merveille à Paris, il est grand temps que j'élabore quelques mots d'appréciation dans la langue de Molière.....who am I kidding? Let me stick to my Shakespeare:)

The American writer, Ernest Hemingway once said ...if you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast. "...oh how true these words ring!!!

Re-uniting with our resident Parisiennes, Sister Georgette Lotin, Pauline Fomuso, Anne Fondufe, last weekend indeed , we took part in that moveable feast, thanks to our very own hostess, Doreen, who served us quite a cocktail of good times, fun, laughter with such class and finesse..... I thought I had died and gone to Paradis... I mean Paris, a city so enchanting, so secure in the palm of history ...Oh la la!! The Hotel Ibis La Defense, our Parisian abode, perched at the corner of Avenue Charles De Gaulle overlooking the Seine, was a dwelling fit for the gods...and true spirit of heavenly....every meal was an epicurean delight....

On the Friday night Sakerettes were embraced by this enchanted métropole. We thronged the galleries, the theatres, the cafes, the boulevards; even the majestic trees that graced and sheltered the streets had an air of je ne sais quoi..... and the waters of the Seine, untroubled by the touristic site seeing, tour boats flowed with such grace in unison to what was the most beautiful night...Champagne from the best wine houses flowed freely from Cuve, Non-vintage and vintage, Doux, Dosage, there was bubbly of every shade and hue for every taste bud in our midst.

The sightseeing tour of historic landmarks - L'Arc de Triomphe, La Tour Eiffel, Les Champs Elysées, Opera house et al, by night. Oh la la !  
*Nous étions à Paris*.....we could forget ourselves, reinvent, relive our glorious teenage days in Saker....with not a single care in the world.... who could forget the group of " teenagers" who had so much fun they forgot their curfew time, missed their metro stop and rode straight into the terminal where the gates were shut after them.....Now you know these sisters were on cloud nine when...instead of panicking, they giggled and reeled with laughter...oh yes.. we transformed Paris into our very own play ground...

Sister Tina, and her accomplices Pauline and Modupe went looking for help. When the Metro company realized these party animals would not retire, a special train was commissioned to take these sisters back to their Paris residence in l'Esplanade de la Défense.

Madame La President, our very own Celine Loader conducted the meeting in a way only she could !!!..... with the help of her able secretary, and EXSSA UK 's Crown Jewel, Dialle, the meeting despite the septic tank discussion, felt like a continuation of Friday night fun.....Only in Paris !!!!

Dibo, representative of the youths, you did us proud..... The CATs, Mr. Obenge, Mr. Soyombo, Mr. Fondufe and Mr. ... they graced the occasion with their cool charm and provided some much

needed testosterone to taper down the estrogen and progesterone that was shooting through the roof.

Sis Patience, Mavis & Co, took Azonto to another level.....so you think you can dance??? Oh my, oh my!! These sisters promised to put their show-stopping moves in full display...and not surprising they crashed on the ride back to the hotel...don't worry *Mes Chéries*, your secret is safe with me :)

The worship service held at the American Church ....where we gathered to bow in reverence to our Lord and Saviour for granting us journey mercies and watching over us as we held our soirées in style..... Did I say what happens in Paris stays in Paris? Yes indeed.....at Church we confessed our sins and asked our Father forgiveness for indulging in guilty pleasures....And in the true spirit of worship and praise we brought down the church house with our angelic voices.....and yep the congregants did not want to depart after the service, they wanted more of what our heavenly Father has endowed us with and we sang our lungs out. And of course the Good Lord smiled at us for redeeming ourselves.

Doreen, hats off to you.....You are an image of perfection ! Not to mention style, class, ambiance....(Excuse me let me consult my dictionary for more adjectives to describe this phenomenal lady).

In the meantime....Watch out world! If ESSXSA UK can collect in "Pahree" for an AGM, the world has become our oyster indeed... next stop ??? Did Madame la president say Abuja....*Ki lo de ? A mbo!!*

In love unity & sisterhood

Edith Fielding Soyombo