



News From France

A free monthly review of French news & trends

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6 Major international athletic events not to miss in France starting this summer

An artist's rendering of the Paris 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games

In this issue...

- 2 Current Events**
New format!
No Impunity for chemical weapons
- 3 Interview**
Marjorie Churlins
- 4 In Depth**
France- world sporting capital
- 6 Science & Technology**
Rise of French Tech
Climate Summit in Paris
- 7 Culture & Society**
Albertine Prize
- 8 Destination of the Month**
Colmar



A message from Ambassador Gérard Araud

Dear Friends,

2018 has begun as a year of action for France. With international partners, and with the strong support of the United States in particular, we have launched the No Impunity campaign to identify those who possess chemical weapons and abolish the use of these weapons around the world. We are particularly concerned by reports of new chemical attacks in Syria. The No Impunity campaign, which brought over 30 countries and organizations together in Paris on January 23, is critical to supporting this cause.

In January, France also organized a #ChooseFrance summit, where hundreds of business leaders from around the world were invited to witness the recent French economic reforms and their impact on the global economic stage. This summit encouraged international businesses to invest in the French economy and promote growth in several different sectors. Over 30 countries were represented, and CEOs from companies such as Google, Facebook, HSBC, and Barilla were in attendance. French Tech has started the year strong, with more

than 320 French companies and startups forming the French Tech contingency represented at CES 2018. Facebook and Google's recent choices to make major investments in French artificial intelligence research attests to the increasing prominence of French Tech. If you are interested in learning more about the incredible rise of French tech, you can also read about it in this issue.

Within these pages, you will also learn about the powerful French-American economic relationship in an interview with Marjorie Churlins, Vice President of European Affairs at the US Chamber of Commerce. We will also delve into France's full agenda of upcoming international sporting events, share a fantastic new Cézanne exhibit, and learn about the treasures of Colmar, our Destination of the Month.

As we say goodbye to the print edition of the News From France, we hope that you will continue to read, follow and share your opinions with us and explore the possibilities of our new digital format!



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No Impunity for chemical weapons use



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson addresses the summit

ON JANUARY 23, 2018 the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons was launched in Paris. The main goals of the partnership include maintaining an updated list of those who use chemical weapons, sharing this information with other States and organizations, as well as making the information easily available online.

France is particularly concerned by chemical weapons use in Syria by the Syrian regime and its allies. The partnership seeks to use all existing mechanisms to punish the perpetrators of chemical attacks, and to support the capacity of participating states to combat such attacks. Around 30 countries and organizations, including the United States, have joined the initiative, which is being chaired by France in 2018.

"This initiative puts those who ordered and carried out chemical weapons attacks on notice," said

United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at the launch event. "You will face a day of reckoning for your crimes against humanity and your victims will see justice done."

The partnership will supplement existing protocols including the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed in Paris in 1993, and the organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons which implements the convention. Since enforcement of the Convention began in 1997, about 95% of the world's declared chemical weapon stockpiles have been destroyed.

"Those who are guilty of using Chemical Weapons should be aware that we know who they are and that prosecutions will not be abandoned" said Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian.

For more information visit: <https://www.noimpunitychemicalweapons.org/-en-.html>



Sign up for our new e-newsletter!

After many years of print publication, we have made the decision to move the News From France to a new, digital-only format. Our new online version will allow us to bring more flexibility to our Newsletter.

The new format will allow us to give you more content. We will curate the best stories from our consulates, ministries and departments to share a wider variety of perspectives, and the latest event information.

We hope you will stay with us and subscribe to the new version of the News From France. Go online to FranceintheUS.org and select News From France in the subscription sidebar to sign up for our new e-version. Or send us the information below to Service de Presse, Ambassade de France, 4101 Reservoir Road, Washington, D.C. 20037

Thank you for your readership and we look forward to sharing our new format in the New Year!

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Interview: Marjorie Chorlins



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Marjorie A. Chorlins is vice president for European Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she is responsible for developing, promoting, and executing U.S.-based programs and policies related to trade and investment in Europe. She also spearheads the Chamber's Washington-based efforts to secure a comprehensive and ambitious Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) and manages the Business Coalition for Transatlantic Trade (BCTT).

With more than 25 years of experience in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, Chorlins has focused on forging consensus among competing points of view. She has represented the U.S. government in multilateral trade negotiations, advocated in support of global sales, and consulted with multinational corporations on corporate responsibility.

Chorlins began her federal government service in the office of former Sen. John C. Danforth (R-MO). Through active participation in drafting the 1988 Trade Act and the 1989 implementing legislation for the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, she gained firsthand experience in managing the intersection of public, private, and independent sector priorities. She continued her government service as principal deputy assistant secretary for Import Administration at the Department of Commerce, representing the United States in the GATT Uruguay Round and NAFTA negotiations.

From 1992 to 1998, Chorlins was director for international trade relations at Motorola Inc. She played a leadership role in early business community efforts to normalize U.S.-China commercial relations and was an early proponent of a balanced approach in addressing commercial, human rights, and environmental priorities.

In 1998, Chorlins became executive vice president of Business for Social Responsibility. With the CEO, she developed the strategic direction and managed the continued growth of the organization, which provides information and technical assistance on socially responsible business practices.

She rejoined Motorola's government relations organization in June 2000 as senior director of advocacy & global strategy. She leveraged political resources to support Motorola's international sales and to resolve matters of strategic importance to the corporation. Chorlins served as director of government & regulatory affairs at Lockheed Martin from 2007 to 2011, where she managed the international portfolio and focused on export control re-

form and defense trade policy.

How has the perception of France evolved among your members?

Last year's election of Emmanuel Macron was a very welcome development for U.S. companies that do business in France and for those considering new investments in Europe. France's economic turnaround has been impressive. French GDP grew by 1.9% in 2017, the fastest rate since 2011. This was driven largely by new business investment and a sharp increase in consumption. In many ways, this is a direct testament to President Macron's reform agenda.

What are the main strengths of France from an American investor's point of view?

France has long represented an attractive market for U.S. investors. In fact, the American Chamber of Commerce in France was founded in 1894—making it the oldest U.S. business association overseas. France is a highly developed economy with a robust network of American investors across all sectors and industries. Both geographically and politically, France is at the heart of the EU Single Market. A renewed focus on innovation, workforce development, and entrepreneurship bodes well.

Economic reforms in France: what impact do you foresee (e.g. tax reform, labor market reform)? Will there be investment decisions made in your opinion?

For all of France's strengths, it has been several years since the French economy was operating at its full potential. President Macron's ambitious efforts to create a more flexible labor market, encourage investment, and invest in workers' education are extremely welcome developments.

What is the role of the US Chamber in deepening the France-US relationship?

The Chamber prides itself as being a bridge between the U.S. business community and important economic partners such as France.

The Chamber has long been at the center of an effort to reinvigorate the commercial relationship between the United States and Europe. Today, the U.S. and EU share the largest economic relationship on earth – including millions of jobs directly supported by transatlantic trade and investment on both sides of the Atlantic. Together, the U.S. and EU are world leaders in regulatory and trade policy. But there is much more to do. Both of our economies can only be strengthened by greater cooperation. France can be a leader in this effort, and we look forward to collaborating with the French government and business leaders to ensure that happens.



En chiffres...

\$3.185
billion

dollars invested in La French Tech in 2017.



France is the top global exporter of potatoes.

19 MILLION

France has the EU's biggest herd of cattle at 19 million, with 3.7 million dairy cows.



France, world sporting capital



FRANCE HAS MANY REPUTATIONS. It is a country famed for its gastronomy, wine, fashion, philosophy, literature, and art. Now, France is developing a new reputation, as a world sporting capital! A number of major international sporting competitions taking place in France in the coming years are helping to cement this reputation. Here are the major events to look out for beginning this summer. For sports lovers, it may be time to plan your next trip to France!

Gay Games

Paris will be the location of the 10th Gay Games from August 4-12, 2018. The worldwide sporting event celebrates sexual diversity and features gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender athletes and artists. The competition originated in San Francisco in 1982 as the Gay Olympics, and has taken place every four years since. In Paris, there will be a maximum of 15,000 participants competing in over 36 sports with over 14 cultural events.

Ryder Cup

From September 28-30, 2018, the town of Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines will host the 42nd Ryder Cup. This will be the first time the event is held in France. The biennial golfing competition, which began in 1927, will take place at the Albatros Course of Le Golf National. The two teams, the Americans and the Europeans, will compete to take home the Cup. The United States currently holds the Cup due to their victory in 2016 at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota by a score of 17 to 11.

FIFA Women's World Cup

Between June 7 and July 7, 2019, the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup will take place in eleven cities in France. 2019 will be the first year in which France will host the quadrennial international soccer competition, which was founded in 1972. 24 teams will compete to become the champions, a title that is currently defended by the United States' team. The opening match will be played at Parc des Princes in Paris, and the semifinals and final will be played at Parc Olympique Lyonnais in the Lyon suburb of Décines. Prior to the event, the FIFA Women's Under 20 World Cup will also be held in France, from August 5-28, 2018.

Rugby World Cup

In 2023, France will host the 10th Rugby World Cup, an international men's rugby tournament held every four years. 2023 will mark the 200th anniversary of the legendary "invention" of the sport by William Webb Ellis, who purportedly picked up the ball and ran with it during a school soccer match in 1823 at the Rugby school, after which the new sport was named. New Zealand is the current champion, and the next tournament will be held in Japan in 2019. 20 rugby teams are set to compete in the 2023 event, which will take place in nine French cities.

Paris 2024

The most anticipated and largest sporting event will take place in France from August 2-18 2024. The 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games will be held 100 years after the Paris 1924 Summer Olympics--making France's capital the second city after London to host the Olympics three times! Athletes from around the world will compete in 28 sports and participate in 306 events.

The events will be held in some iconic venues, including tennis at Roland Garros, beach volleyball at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, archery at Les Invalides, equestrian at Chateau de Versailles, and sailing in Marseille's Marina.

Paris also aims to make the Olympic games more sustainable and less expensive than ever. In 2024, the Olympic Village will consist of 3,500 apartments built with 100% bio-based materials and will use 100% renewable energy. At the village, athletes will also have access to a fleet of zero emission vehicles. This new village will have a long-lasting benefit to the city of Paris, after the completion of the games, as it will become a residential district.

Over the long tradition of the Olympic games, athletes have had to travel long distances to their competition venues. This issue will be alleviated as 85% of the athletes will be housed in residences less than 30 minutes from their competition venues--limiting Greenhouse gas emissions.

The overall cost of the 2024 Summer Olympic games in Paris is estimated at 6.2 billion Euros--a price that is half the budget of the 2012 games in London and six times less than the 2014 Winter Olympic games in Sochi.

Pairing compactness and efficiency with economic and environmental sustainability, France is exemplifying their dedication to providing the best home for the next summer Olympic games. The country is well on its way to attaining a new reputation as the world's sporting capital!





Opposite page: Paris during the Olympic days, celebrating sports as part of the Paris2024 bid; **This page top:** The Paris Gay games logo, Ambassador Araud at an event promoting the Paris 2018 Gay Games; **row 2:** President Mitterrand, an avid golfer, playing at le golf national; the Ryder cup trophy **Row 3:** France 2023 Rugby fans, the French team playing Tonga in the 2011 Rugby World Cup **below:** The French Women's Under -20 team plays Ghana in a qualifying match, the France 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup bid logo.



French Tech hosts Nautic startup day

NAUTIC STARTUP DAY

FRANCE IS EMERGING as a major tech hub with its innovative La French Tech, a program which supports French technology entrepreneurialism around the world.

One example of an event organized by La French Tech which has helped encourage the development of startups is the Nautic Startup Day of December

4th. The event, hosted by La French Tech, had the goal of showcasing fresh talent in the nautical startup world.

Fifteen startups participated in the competition, which sought to award the most innovative enterprises. The event benefitted all of the participating companies by facilitating interactions and dialogue

between traditional and rising businesses in the nautical sector. The four winning startups are Absolute Dreamer, Inobo, Ino-rope, and Carencolo.

Absolute Dreamer won the "Future" trophy for its idea to automate the layout of composite parts and foils using a robot. Inobo's progressive, transparent, and durable surfboard won a trophy for "Originality." Ino-rope was awarded the "Technology" trophy for its pulley with a textile axis and simplified mechanics - which promises to be both more durable and effective than past pulleys. Finally, Carencolo's innovative system which install a mobile fairing area on already existing holds won the "Coup de Coeur" trophy.

The momentum is expanding in France - according to market research firm CB Insights, 700 new venture deals occurred in France in 2017! This is a dramatic increase from 2015 when only 251 new deals occurred.

French economic growth is further evidenced by an Ipsos survey which revealed that 60% of foreign investors look at France as an attractive place for investment in 2017 compared with 36% in 2016. As France continues to emphasize innovation and entrepreneurialism, we look forward to seeing what innovations come next!

Paris hosts One Planet Summit

EXACTLY TWO YEARS after the signing of the Paris Climate Accord in 2015, the One Planet Summit in Paris took place on December 12th, 2017. More than 50 world leaders gathered to continue the dialogue on global climate

change and commitment to the promotion of sustainable, green energy policies. After the announcement of the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Accord, President Macron has positioned himself as a champion of the fight against climate change.

"We are losing the battle...We are not moving fast enough" President Macron stated at the opening of the summit. He encouraged comprehensive and concrete actions to be undertaken in both the public and private sectors to decrease carbon emissions. The event was divided into four panel discussions on global climate change.

The first panel discussed scaling up finance for climate action as financial investments from both the public and private sector are crucial in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The second discussion addressed greening finance for sustainable businesses. Thereafter, a panel discussed accelerating local and regional climate action: while international summits are important, city, state, and local governments play a critical role in implementing national commitments. The last panel spoke about strengthening policies for ecological and

inclusive transition toward sustainability.

Investors at the summit announced that more than \$1 billion would be used to make it easier for governments and industries to give up coal and oil. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, announced that his agency would stop financing oil and gas projects in two years. Moreover, Miguel Arias Cañete, the EU's Climate Commissioner, announced that through 2020, the EU would invest \$10.6 billion throughout Africa to support green projects on the continent.



| President Emmanuel Macron addresses the One Planet Summit.

Cézanne exhibit to open at the National Gallery

FROM MARCH 25 TO JULY 1, “Cézanne’s Portraits,” the first exhibition devoted to the famed post-impressionist’s portraits, will be on display at the National Gallery of Art. Around 60 of Paul Cézanne’s pieces gathered from various galleries will be shown.


Cézanne is world-renowned for his leading role in the transition between late 19th century Impressionism and early 20th century Cubism. His distinctive style is characterized by its small, repetitive brushstrokes and the simplification of complex forms into their geometric essences.



However, this exhibit is unique because it provides the viewer with a lesser-known side of Cézanne’s artistic expression: his portraits.

Visitors have the chance to experience the evolution of Cézanne’s artistic style from his Dark period up until his Mature and Final periods. Several of these paintings are exclusive to the National Gallery of Art, and a few are making their debut in the United States.

The exhibition will be held on the main floor of the west wing and admission is free. Along with the exhibitions, there will be an illustrated catalog of essays written by the three curators: John Elderfield, chief curator emeritus of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Mary Morton, curator and head of the department of French paintings at the National Gallery of Art, and Xavier Rey, director of the Musées de Marseille.

Find out more information on <https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2018/cezanne-portraits.html>. 



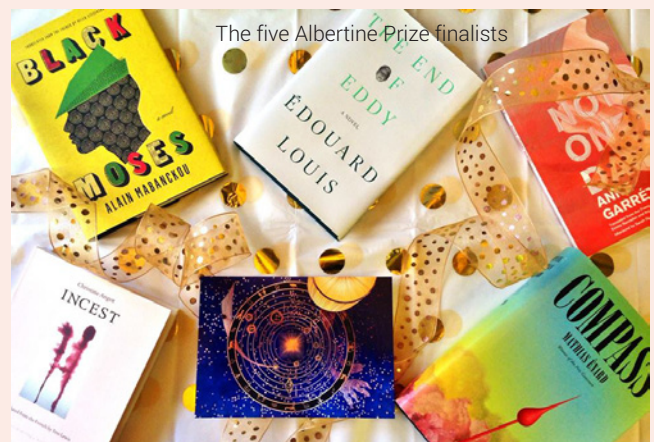
Two of the Cézanne portraits that will be part of the National Gallery exhibit. Courtesy National Gallery of Art

Read more with the Albertine Prize!

If reading more was among your New year’s resolutions, the five nominees for the Albertine Prize could be a good start! The reader’s choice award that promotes French contemporary literature translated into English returns for its second year!

The nominees are *Incest* by Christine Angot, *Compass* by Mathias Enard, *Not one Day* by Anne Garréta, *The End of Eddy* by Edouard Louis, et *Black Moses* by Alain Mabanckou. An Albertine book club started in January, inviting members to focus on each one of the books. Join the Albertine club now to attend! Each month, Albertine Books will spotlight one of the prize nominees with related interviews, essays, video content, and suggested “book-a-likes”.

You have until May 31st to vote, bonne lecture! <http://www.albertine.com/albertine-prize-2018/>



The five Albertine Prize finalists



LOCATED IN ALSATIAN WINE COUNTRY, Colmar profits from a rich cultural heritage. The city dates back to the time of Charlemagne and through the centuries has served as a bridge between French and German cultures. Today, the remarkably well-preserved old town is marked by medieval architectural masterpieces, making the city an excellent tourist destination.

Wandering the charming streets of old town Colmar is the best way to see the city. The half-timbered and half-painted buildings give the impression that one is in a medieval romantic fairytale. A section of the town is known as "la petite Venise" (the little Venice) because of its beautiful canals.

Some architectural gems of the city include the "Maison des Têtes" decorated with animal and human faces, the "Maison Pfister" from 1537, the pink St. Martin Church, and the Dominican Church with a masterpiece from

Martin Schongauer, La Vierge au buisson de roses. Another attraction is the Unterlinden Museum which houses the Isenheim Altarpiece as well as other medieval, Renaissance, and baroque paintings and sculptures. Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, came from Colmar and the Bartholdi Museum is dedicated to his life and works.

Colmar is also a city for lovers of food and wine. Known as "the capital of Alsatian wine," the city boasts excellent wineries - two of the best wines from the region are Muscat and Gewürztraminer. The town's cuisine reflects its Franco-German influences - the city is known for its tarte flambée, sauerkraut, and pretzels. Do not neglect to taste the region's desserts which include Kugelhopf, Macarons, Black Forest cake, and Meringues! ●●

8

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