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ARTS

# Best of France (Ooh-La-La!) and Brooklyn's Atlantic Antic

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Weekend Miser

By **JONATHAN WOLFE**

France and Brooklyn, two capitals of culture revered for their gastronomy, ability to set trends and distinctive facial hair, will be on display this weekend at festivals around New York.

Francophiles should head to Best of France (previously Taste of France) in Times Square, now in its third iteration and still free. The main stage will host two days of performances by French artists and musicians, including the Moulin Rouge cancan dancers — in New York for the first time in the troupe's 126-year history — and the French crooner Dany Brillant. The French president, François Hollande, will make an appearance on Sunday, and so will the Statue of Liberty — her head, that is, a reproduction made from a smaller French mold.

Paris Fashion Week is still a few days away, but New Yorkers can preview

the event on Broadway, where a catwalk will exhibit works by new designers like Sophie Theallet and Saint James and Claudie Pierlot alongside more established French brands.

For lunch, stop by the culinary stage, where *maîtres cuisiniers de France* — French master chefs — will give cooking demonstrations and prepare food for sale: \$5 for small items, \$10 for more sophisticated plates.

*(Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Broadway from 37th to 43rd Streets, [bestoffrance.org](http://bestoffrance.org). Moulin Rouge: Saturday at 12:30 and 4 p.m., Sunday at 11:15 a.m.; Mr. Brillant: Saturday at 8:30 p.m.; fashion show: every 40 minutes from 11:20 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.)*

For years, Brooklyn's trademarks — food trucks, knitted caps, and yes, even Brooklyn Brewery — have been popping up in France as that borough has become a fashionable global brand. So, if a day spent immersed in French culture just isn't enough, act like a trendy Parisian and take the train to Kings County.

On Sunday, the borough is hosting Atlantic Antic, a mile-long street festival that doubles as an open house for the businesses lining Atlantic Avenue. The real fun here is watching the neighborhood flaunt its impressive diversity. Fifteen stages will showcase the eclectic Brooklyn music scene, with Latin jazz, gospel, African dance and Middle Eastern belly dancing. The grub is just as global — oxtail stew, bahn mi and crepes are all fine choices as long as they are paired with a local craft beer from one of the Brooklyn breweries on hand.

*(Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., Atlantic Avenue from Fourth Avenue to the waterfront. Stage and schedule information are at [atlanticave.org](http://atlanticave.org).)*

Finally, in a marriage of French sensibilities and Brooklyn artistry, the Crossing the Line festival, presented by the French Institute Alliance Française, continues this weekend with performances of “Age and Beauty”

(from \$15) by the Brooklyn-based choreographer Miguel Gutierrez, who “has a charisma that only seems to increase with age,” Gia Kourlas wrote in reviewing his performances in *The New York Times*, as well as “Chambre” (from \$15), a performance and installation inspired by Jean Genet’s “The Maids,” taking aim at the American cult of celebrity.

*(A complete schedule of Crossing the Line performances is at [fiaf.org/crossingtheline](http://fiaf.org/crossingtheline).)*

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