

One of the things that I absolutely love about France is the food. The French are known for their cheeses, and of course, their famous bread. Every time I come to this wonderful country, I make it my duty to seek out the best bakery or “boulangerie.” (Yes, this is a mission that I take very seriously and do not regard as a light matter.) Upon my arrival, I had begun tasting the baguettes at the bakeries within walking distance from the house and even asked one of my French colleagues where to get the best bread. He replied with, “Oh, all of the bakeries around here are the same. They’re all good.” Yet, the more I tasted the bread, the less impressed I became. It was true, some bakeries had better baguettes than others, but they were still below par. I knew that there was good bread somewhere in Deauville because the baguettes that they served in the canteen (school cafeteria) were infinitely better than the baguettes I had bought.

While my mission was difficult, I was not going to give up. As I was leaving the bank one day, I decided to ask one of the workers where to get the best bread. I figured I had nothing to lose, and maybe he could help me in my search. His face turned pensive, and he told me that there were not that many good bakeries in Deauville, but he wrote down the address for a great bakery in the neighboring town of Honfleur. Oh well, at least he was honest. At this point, I began expanding by trying other types of bread aside from the baguette and found out that each bakery made excellent grainy breads. But the thought kept reoccurring in my mind: This is France, where are all of the good baguettes?

Then, my day finally came. The chef of the canteen sat down with us to discuss an upcoming holiday dinner. I told him that I had a strange question, but it was very important. So, I asked him where the canteen gets their bread, and I described my predicament. He told me of a small bakery near the church in Deauville, but that they specially make the bread that I liked for

the school. Great, so it was not for sale to the public. I then explained him that someone told me that all of the bakeries were the same at which point he looked appalled. “Non, non” he replied.

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