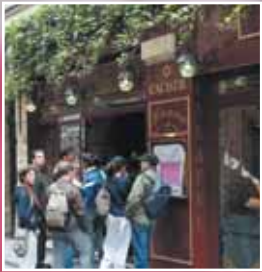


# FranceGuide

## FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELER



Itineraries  
Synagogues  
Museums and Memorials  
Kosher Restaurants

*France, a unique rendez-vous*

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## It's been a little over a year since French Jews Georges Benoiel and Gilles Amsallem created what the New York Jewish scene had been lacking and longing for: "HAVALIGHT"!

Havalight along with their main sponsor, The Jewish Week, have gone from private screenings to exclusive cocktails & parties, concerts, chocolate tasting. In less than 2 years, Havalight has developed an incomparable reputation for planning the most extraordinary Jewish member's only events in town, the most beautiful venues and with an upscale international flair.

There is something new and exotic, yet refined, and familiar about HavaLight that brings you somewhere unexpected. But the most fascinating thing is that you can be sure to find amazing friends in this great island of Manhattan, if you fit the profile, that's just fabulous. You can join the best upscale, exclusive and international organization whose main focus is bringing together European and American professionals and hippest Jewish crowd in the NY Metro area.

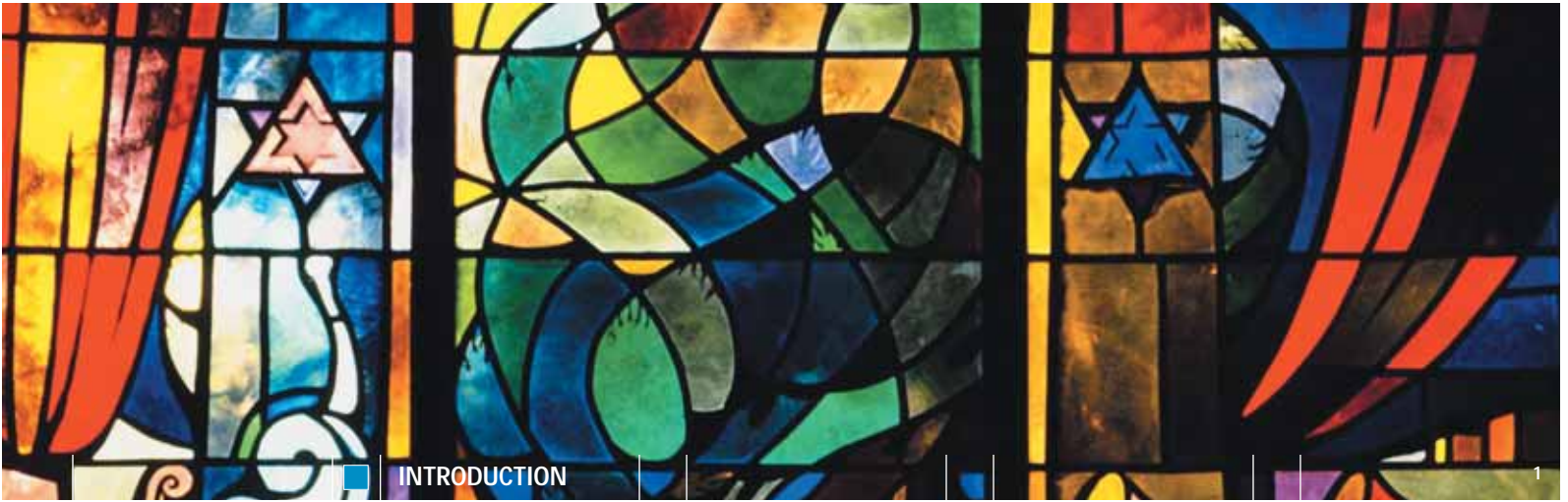
Havalight has opened its doors to its members, becoming the home for more than 3500 young successful professionals, including Jewish people from around the globe with a simple motto - "Quality over Quantity" - and a tight screening process.

[www.havalight.com](http://www.havalight.com) or you can email us [info@havalight.com](mailto:info@havalight.com)

HAVALIGHT







INTRODUCTION

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2006

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## A WARM WELCOME!

France is a country with a magnificent cultural, historical and natural heritage. These charms are the reason why France is the most visited tourist destination in the world. But even in the warm glow of these charms, we must not lose sight of France's greatest treasure: its diversity. Yes, France meets expectations about its natural beauty, its culinary magic, and its *art de vivre*, but it is also full of surprises as a function of its diversity. For centuries France has warmly welcomed people from all around the world, benefited from the lasting love these people have shown, and requited that love with a uniquely French passion.

The Jewish community of France is the third largest in the world. Jewish history in France stretches back more than 2,000 years. Despite the shameful tragedies that have befallen the Jewish community, France has always returned to and solidified its commitment to its Jewish citizens. France shares an unshakable bond with them—and with people of all convictions—that has endured for generations, a bond that has made France a special and welcoming country.

We sincerely hope that it will take little effort to convince Jewish travelers from around the world that France is a destination worth visiting. Little effort because the ties that unite us go far beyond tourism. So, like Benjamin of Tudela, the 12th-century Jewish explorer whose writings tell us about the Jewish communities of his time, come to France and chronicle the French Jewish world of today. Admire the synagogues and monuments, and enjoy the Jewish-style and kosher cuisine of *Tsarfat*, the Hebrew word for "France" so evocative of a beauty to be treasured. Understand why the Jews of France are, as the proverb says, *heureux comme Dieu en France* ("as happy as God in France").

It is therefore with great pride that we share in offering to you this guide destined for all people enthusiastic about the diversity of France, and particularly passionate about France's great Jewish heritage. ■

בברכה רבה  
 לך ולביתך



Mr. Léon Bertrand,  
 French Minister of Tourism



Mr. Joseph Sitruk,  
 Grand Rabbi of France