

THE FILETS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: MILE END



CAFÉ SOUVENIR



LE CAGIBI



DRAWN & QUARTERLY



CHEZ SERGE

Popularized by the writings of Mordecai Richler, Montreal's Mile End is a neighbourhood teaming with artists and musicians. It's the area that lies within Saint-Laurent Blvd, Park Ave, Mount Royal Ave and Van Horne. Lined with cafes, fruit markets, bars and bakeries, the streets team with facial hair, from ironic hipster moustaches to Hasidic payos. Mile End is home to Fairmount Bagel and Saint-Viateur Bagel, two bakeries that produce the city's lifeblood — what non-Montrealers know as "Montreal bagels." But beyond these landmarks and its unique distinction as being the coming-of-age stomping grounds for William Shatner, Mile End has a lot to offer those willing to make the trek to the Outremont Metro stop. Here's Strut's four favourite places to go in Mile End.

BEST IN BREAKFAST: CAFÉ SOUVENIR

First, let's just get down to brass tacks — the classic breakfast, depending on how big of an eater you are, ranges from \$3.50 to \$7.50. But for just a few dollars more, you can eat like a king: two eggs, rissoles potatoes, toast, bagel or baguette, two choices of meat, fresh fruit, and pancakes or french toast. The deal is sweet. Moreover, the atmosphere is killer. If you could add the requisite thick cloud of cigarette smoke to their '70s coffee shop dècor, you'd swear you were in Lévesque-era Quebec.

→ 1261 Bernard St. West

FOR THE LITERATE: DRAWN & QUARTERLY

D&Q began as an independent comic anthology that grew into a publisher of graphic novels and supporter of comic artists and authors. A couple of years ago, Drawn & Quarterly opened a brick and mortar location in Mile End, which is easily one of the best book and graphic art stores in the city. You can spend hours, and many do, pouring over all that D&Q has to offer, which includes work by Robert Crumb, Joe Sacco, Chris Ware, and just about anyone else who matters, or will matter in the cartoon world. The D&Q Library is also a place for learning, as they often hold nighttime drawing and writing workshops in store.

→ 211 Bernard St. West

A PLACE TO LOITER: LE CAGIBI

This laid back vegetarian resto-cafe is a good place to plug in your laptop and get some work done. The food is tasty, they have beer on tap, and the staff leaves you alone for hours, never demanding you continually pay to take advantage of their comfy seats and wireless internet. The music is usually pretty good, but you will encounter the odd 22-minute song that consists of cats meowing over a single note struck on a synthesizer, which will make you want to kill yourself.

→ 5490 Saint-Laurent Blvd

TO GET DRUNK: CHEZ SERGE

While there are very cheap drinks just up the street at Syndrome and good microbrew beer nearby at Au dieu da ciel, on an average Saturday night, we choose to wet our beaks at Chez Serge. Why? Two words: Mechanical Bull.

→ 5301 Saint-Laurent Blvd ☉