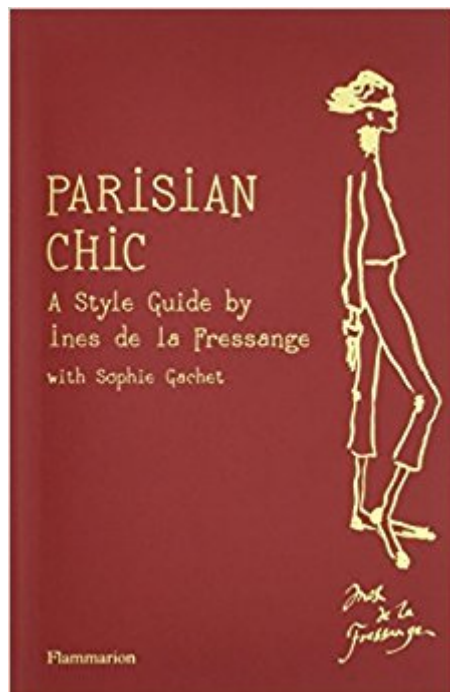


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# Parisian Chic



## Synopsis

Celebrity model InÃƒÂˆs de la Fressange shares the well-kept secrets of how Parisian women maintain effortless glamour and a timeless allure. InÃƒÂˆs de la FressangeÃ¢â€â€s icon of chicÃ¢â€â€s shares her personal tips for living with style and charm, gleaned from decades in the fashion industry. She offers specific pointers on how to dress like a Parisian, including how to mix affordable basics with high-fashion touches, and how to accessorize. Her step-by-step doÃ¢â€â€s and donÃ¢â€â€s are accompanied by fashion photography, and the book is personalized with her charming drawings. InÃƒÂˆs also shares how to bring Parisian chic into your home, and how to insert your signature style into any spaceÃ¢â€â€s even the office. The ultrachic volume is wrapped with a three-quarter-height removable jacket and features offset aquarelle paper and a ribbon page marker. Complete with her favorite addresses for finding the ultimate fashion and decorating items, this is a must-have for any woman who wants to add a touch of Paris to her own style.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

InÃƒÂˆs de la Fressange started as a runway model, became the face of Chanel, and launched a clothing line; she is the essence of Parisian style and elegance. Her drawings have regularly appeared in Elle. She is creative consultant for Roger Vivier shoes and is designing the interior of a new Parisian hotel. Sophie Gachet is a fashion journalist for Elle in Paris.

I bought this based on the reviews, product description, and product video here on , and was very

surprised when I actually received the product. Everything suggests that this is a guide to dressing like a Parisian. For the most part, it is not. Here's why<sup>1</sup>. My most important point is that most of this book is not a guide to fashion or style, it's a guide to shopping and travelling in Paris. I did a breakdown, of the 239 pages in the book (many of which are blank, or contain very little text and big cute drawings) 77 pages is comprised of shopping guides (for clothing, housewares, children's goods, almost exclusively shops in Paris, although many have websites), and 55 pages is an idiosyncratic travel guide, listing hotels, restaurants, and some museums and other tourist stops. There is a 16 page guide to home decor and entertaining, 14 pages of beauty tips, leaving only 62 pages discussing fashion and clothing.<sup>2</sup> The fact that only 25% of the pages address the apparent topic of the book wouldn't bother me if those 62 pages provided some really keen observations and solid advice, but the whole thing is very glib and basic. Almost all of the information can be found in nearly any modern style guide. I was hoping for some advice on composition - putting clothes together and accessorizing well - which seems to be the real skill of French dressers. The closest I got was the "mix high and low" chestnut, and advice to dress simply and not be too matchy matchy. So essentially a basic description of what French style is, not how to achieve it. Most of the other advice was of the truly revelatory "you must own a trench and an LBD" variety. Um... thanks.<sup>3</sup> Like many guides to dressing, eating, whatever like the French do, the text is annoyingly reductive. "All Parisians" do this, "all Parisian women" do that... as the author conflates her own experience with every other French woman's. The author is a former supermodel, and at one point claims that all Parisian women are either a size 2 or 4 (they are not). I offer this point as a caution for two reasons. First, this book offers absolutely no advice particular to the challenges women above size 4 might have in dressing well, and many of the suggestions (like shop in the menswear or children's department) are likely inadvisable to the bulk of women. Second, please understand that there is more variety to stylish French dressing than is presented here. The "voice" of the book is pure Ines - which is interesting in its own regard, but more idiosyncratic than she lets on. The only other woman's style or experience discussed is of her mini-me daughter.<sup>4</sup> Many reviewers describe the book as being "like a Moleskin journal." That may be true of the French/European version, but I would describe the North American publication as "sort of looking like a Moleskin journal." It is a fair bit larger, and much thicker, and has a soft, flimsy cover, and matte, slightly rough paperstock inside. The paper has a nice feel, but gives the colour photographs inside a slightly dark look. That's okay, though, since the vast majority of the pictures are silly illustrations and pictures of the inside of boutiques, spas and hotels and are not intended to be instructive in any way. Overall, Ines de la Fressange seems like a fun enough lady, and the tone of the book is conversational and easy to

read. Unfortunately as a fashion guide the book leaves much to be desired. The major advice seems to be, "to dress like a Parisian, buy all your clothes from shops in Paris." Which I probably could have figured out on my own. Ultimately, the greatest value of this book is as a guide for fashionable people travelling to Paris to go shopping. Even as a travel guide it has its limitations as it lacks any of the basic information one usually requires, like maps or guides to basic transportation. Unfortunately, like any travel guide - especially one discussing fashionable boutiques and with a section sharing the hottest and trendiest current restaurants - I think the practical lifespan on the book is very limited. Guides like Lonely Planet are updated every year for a reason. Since I'm not currently planning to return to Paris within the next couple of years, I fear this book will be of little use to me even as an eventual tourist.

In today's day and age, most people use electronic calendars and PC organizers to keep track of their time, appointments and commitments. I guess I am oldfashioned and I like to have a real planner on my desk. I put reminder cards and other documents and papers that are essential to my lifestyle in one place. For years I have been using New Yorker Diary for this purpose. This weekly planner is definitely a kind of its own. It is smaller than New Yorker Diary which makes it easier to carry around. It can fit in a medium size purse. Its vibrant red color is soothing and the planner has ribbon that will always help you place the current week without tumbling through the planner. Each month is separated and every week has interesting quote. Definitely geared towards women, this planner makes a perfect gift to any woman who likes to keep herself organized and still show her affection towards style and fashion by carrying this little planner around!!

This book does not provide much insight into Parisian style. I wasn't interested in learning about a lot of high end products but very lucky for this woman that she has great genes - only a 10 min beauty routine that utilizes drug store products. No real specific suggestions or details here really how obtain a French style of dress. I can sum it up for you. Already have great skin, hair, & be slender so anything looks great on your body. Then you can be more carefree about your style. Wear ballet shoes, stacked bangle bracelets, tight fitted pants with a loose top or loose bottom with tight top.

Where to start.. I was looking for a "different" type of weekly agenda. Started to look for it for over a month. I like to write down my appointments, reminders, notes, some words..The other calendars seemed just all the same or similar to each other, and I wanted something different. Colorful, funny,

elegant (people tell me as I am), on the top of all I am from Paris. Everything above is true for this cute chic planner and inside it looks like the pages are hand written. It does have the touch of Paris. The cover is a deeper red (not as orange as on the photos), it makes it elegant. I think this product is adorable!!!

I always use the Moleskine x-small pocket sized weekly planner, but I really wanted to get a bigger sized planner for my desk this year. I wanted this one because I saw it on Kate Spade's website, but when I could afford it, it was gone from the website. Then I saw started selling the Parisian Chic weekly planner, and bought it right away. I like the cover and size of this planner, but I am not too crazy about the content. It claims to offer little style tips for each week that gives you the touch of Parisian chic, but I find them rather mediocre. I think the simple illustrations are nice, and the ribbon page marker is always somewhat helpful, but I just feel that it's lack of something. I am not sure what, but I just feel like there's something missing for this otherwise chic planner. I don't find it easy to write in due to the way it's bound. I still think it's a nice accessory for any fashionistas who wants something extra in their tote/purse/bags.

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