

THE CHRISTMAS 'PAPILLOTE' TRADITION



“Papillotes” can be found in many French homes from well before Christmas into the New Year. Each of these traditional chocolates in their shiny, colourful wrappers, contains a saying, a quotation or a joke...

On the point of sacking him, it occurred that the apprentice might actually be on to something! Hence the hugely popular ‘papillote’ was invented, with the apprentice’s tender words replaced by sayings wrapped around each individual chocolate.

“La mode est une forme de laideur si fatigante qu'il faut en changer tous les trois mois”

Oscar Wilde

Fashion: a form of ugliness that is so boring that it has to be changed every three months

“Paresse : habitude de se reposer avant la fatigue”

Jules Renard

Laziness: the habit of having a rest before getting tired

Legend has it that back in 1790 a young confectioner, apprentice to a Master Papillot in the town of Lyon, fell head over heels in love with a young maiden with a particularly sweet tooth. He declared his undying love for her by sending her secret, passionate messages, wrapped around the chocolates he was making.

“Si la matière grise était rose, personne n'aurait plus d'idées noires”

Pierre Dac

If grey matter were pink, we would have no more black thoughts

Lyon Festival of Light



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Master Papillot, concerned about the mysterious disappearance of his chocolates, and suspecting his apprentice to be the culprit, kept a close eye on him. He soon caught him red-handed.

These Révillon papillotes are made from the best quality chocolate, and each comes wrapped in a little paper bearing a famous quotation, riddle, or joke. Indulge your sweet tooth while practicing your French!

“Tout le monde savait que c'était impossible. Il est venu un imbécile qui ne le savait pas et qui l'a fait”

Marcel Pagnol

Everyone knew it was impossible. Then an idiot came along who didn't know, so he did it

Traditionally the papillote season begins on December 8th, the Lyon ‘Celebration of Light’ festival, when at nightfall households light up their window sills and balconies with candles in little beakers, creating a magical glow throughout the city. A spectacular garland of light snakes through the town, warming the hearts of the people of Lyon. For generations millions of these small candles called “lumignons” have adorned house fronts.



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