

travelista

Frequent flyer Sophy Roberts fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.

This impulse to get under the skin of a country is what distinguishes companies such as Context, which offers thematic walking seminars for travellers to five cities (**PARIS, ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE** and **NAPLES**, with **LONDON** and **NEW YORK** launching in January). Guides are generally scholars, and groups (unless bespoke) are limited to six participants. Walks are about three hours long. Two afternoons per week, dining historian Carolin Young leads clients through the Les Halles area on Context's Belly of Paris walk; on Mondays in Rome, it's a Caravaggio seminar. Special, one-off events include a Boxing Day trip to Rungis, the world's largest wholesale food market in the Parisian suburbs, led by *Gourmet* columnist Louisa Chu (www.contexttravel.com).