La Vie En Rose

A really beautiful French love song is **"La Vie En Rose",** which means something like "Life in Rosy Hues" (literally Life in pink). It was the signature song of French singer **Édith Piaf.**

Legend has it that Edith Piaf was born under a lamp-post in the rue de Belleville, a lively working-class district in Paris's 20th arrondissement. But **Edith Gassion's** birth on 19 December 1915 was decidedly less dramatic - it appears far more probable that Edith's mother gave birth to her baby in a local hospital.

La Vie En Rose

Her father, **Louis Alphonse Gassion,** earnt his living as a street acrobat and was rarely at home. Edith's mother, **Anita Maillard,** spent precious little time with her child either - she was pre-occupied with launching a career as a singer on the local cabaret circuit.



Little Edith Gassion

When Louis Alphonse returned from the war two years later, he decided to send his daughter to live with his mother in Normandy. Edith would spend the happiest years of her childhood growing up amidst farm animals in the countryside around Bernay. But this country idyll soon came to an end when the young girl returned to Paris to live with her father. The father and daughter team would tour the country together for several years, earning their living in the street.



Edith with accordion

Edith left her father at the age of 15 and began singing on the Paris streets while her friend Simone passed the hat round. She proved extremely popular with the crowds, her amazingly expressive voice managing to move even the most impassive listener.

Edith was performing on a street corner in Pigalle when **Louis Leplée,** the director of a cabaret on the Champs Elysées happened to walk by. Stopping to watch Edith's act, Leplée was absolutely bowled over the young singer's voice and offered her a job on the spot. It was Leplée who would invent Edith's famous stage name, billing his new singer as
La Môme Piaf
(which in street slang meant little sparrow).

















Edith Piaf