



The city has a distinctly Latin feel Credit: EyeEm

And then, as the match started, so did most of the crowd. Laconic is not their way. That the first half was a little dull, the returning Romain Ntamack slightly off pace, didn't seem to matter. Half-time brought beer, the second half brought Toulouse flattening Perpignan, Englishman Jack Willis to the fore, and the crowd went wherever comes after combustion. So that was good.

With the match over, I couldn't find the damned shuttle bus back to the centre. But the three-mile walk proved salutary and, God being on my side, I ended up in Place Saint Pierre. That's where bars like Pastis-Au-Maitre and La Couleur de la Culotte are post-match HQs. They spill out onto the pavement with pastis, beer and vivid talk of refereeing incompetence.



Toulouse are current European Champions Cup holders Credit: Getty

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Anthony Peregrine
Destination expert

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Toulouse's Romanesque St-Sernin Basilica sits at the centre of the city