Terroir and tradition have long been hailed as the foundations for Bordeaux’s status as France’s leading wine region. But the City of Bordeaux’s geostrategic location on the Garonne River, feeding into the Gironde and out to the Atlantic, suggests that trade must also be credited for the region’s viticultural success. Jacqueline Dutton will trace how regional, national and international mobilities and migrations influenced the evolution of Bordeaux wines from the standard “clairet” (the light coloured wine that the English called claret), to black wines (merlot-rich wines from St Emilion and the Right Bank), botrytised semillon (Sauternes and Barsac), and finally the classic Bordeaux blend from the Médoc.

This presentation will be accompanied by a tasting to demonstrate these different wine styles from the Bordeaux region.

Jacqueline Dutton is Associate Professor of French Studies at the University of Melbourne. She has published widely on contemporary French cultural studies including travel writing, world-literatures, postcolonial studies, and gastronomy in Myanmar and France. She is currently writing a cultural history of wine in Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne.

Cover charge (includes cheese and wine tasting): $20.
Bookings and pre-payment essential please (numbers limited):