

Thursday 16th May 2024 18:00-20:00h

Professor Emeritus Barbara Santich AM  
The University of Adelaide

## French restaurants and wine saloons in early Melbourne

The French cafe and restaurant, dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth century respectively, differed significantly from the English models of hospitality adopted in the Australian colonies. Adapting to transplanted eating and drinking customs and licensing regulations, French nationals established restaurants and cafes in nineteenth-century Victoria as alternatives to inns, taverns and eating houses providing meals in the English style, usually with little choice and at specific times only.



French restaurateurs made an important contribution to the early Melbourne dining scene, especially through wine saloons, an innovation made possible by the introduction in 1864 of the colonial wine licence in response to the rapid expansion of vineyards and wine production.

This talk briefly describes the origins of the restaurant in eighteenth-century Paris and reviews French wine saloons and restaurants in nineteenth-century Melbourne.

Street scene ca. 1891-1914, possibly Swanson Street, Melbourne, showing the Maison Doree restaurant. State Library of Victoria



**Barbara Santich**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Adelaide, is a respected food historian and coordinator of ISFAR's French Australian Wine Project (FAW). Her research into food history and culture focuses on both France and Australia with publications including *The Original Mediterranean Cuisine* (Wakefield Press, 1995; new revised edition Equinox, 2018) and *Bold Palates: Australia's Gastronomic Heritage* (Wakefield Press, 2012), which was shortlisted in the non-fiction category of the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Her latest book, *Eating in Eighteenth-Century Provence: The Evolution of a Tradition*, was published in 2023 by Bloomsbury. (Bloomsbury offers a discount of 35% on this publication to Australian purchasers with the discount code GLRTW2AU on their [website](#).)

**Venue:** Alliance Française de Melbourne Pop-Up, Madame Brussels Lane (accessible from 50 Lonsdale Street), Melbourne

Bookings (includes refreshments): [General admission \\$20; AFM students and members \\$15](#)

