



“That’s why it’s great to come to a class. It’s one thing to try to learn from tapes and books but it’s a different thing when you try to pronounce things.”

“Students come back and say that was so good – we used our French and it was good to know a few phrases.”

Stephanie’s aim is to teach her students how to feel confident when looking through a French menu or wine list, recognise different French dishes when travelling, and basic tasks like ordering a coffee.

Classes cover recognition of all the popular French dishes including one of Stephanie’s favourite dishes, beef bourguignon, and knowing simple words found on French menus like “crevettes” (shrimps/prawns), “fumé” (smoked),

“coquilles St Jacques” (scallops), “asperges” (asparagus) and “entrecôte” (rib steak).

“There’s a lot of different vocabulary of the food. We go through everything from booking a table, ordering of entree, mains and dessert, even to making complaints. It’s quite extensive.”

Classes run for one-and-a-half hours starting at 6pm, and include exercises and role-playing, followed by dinner with wine. Participants often stay on into the evening, socialising, and putting their French to the test with their fellow students.

Stephanie said eating and drinking was such a huge part of French society, with families traditionally sitting down to a Sunday afternoon of food and wine, and a huge focus on formal dining throughout France.

“You can’t go to France and not go to a restaurant,” Stephanie said.

But what of the feeling that sometimes the French people are a little snobbish if visitors to their country do not speak French?

“It’s good to try to speak the language,” Stephanie said. “For people who are not patient, don’t bother with them. You can find rude people anywhere.”

The six-week French conversation course, including mezzé platter to share followed by a main course and glass of wine each week, costs \$408. Class will be held on Tuesday nights from 6-7.30pm, starting June 12. Classes are limited to 12 participants. Phone Nicol at the 4th Floor on 5477 7844 for information and bookings.



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