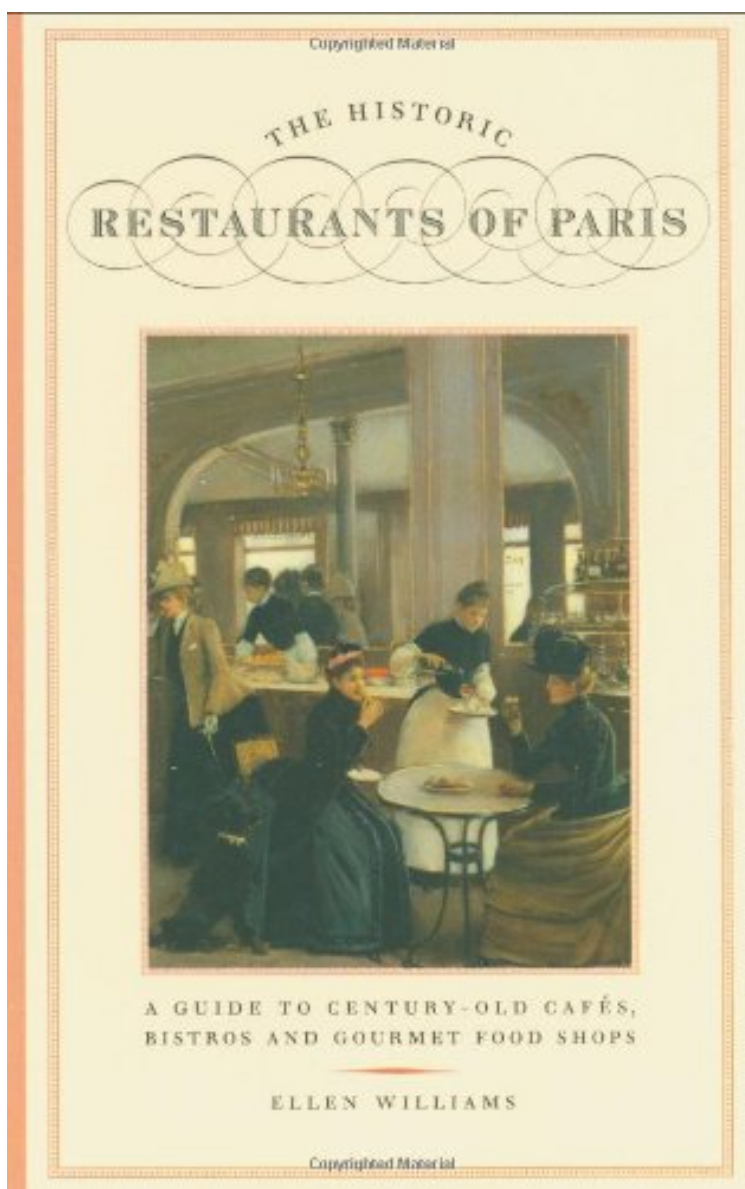


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## The Historic Restaurants of Paris: A Guide to Century-Old Cafes, Bistros, and Gourmet Food Shops

*Ellen Williams*

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**Ellen Williams : The Historic Restaurants of Paris: A Guide to Century-Old Cafes, Bistros, and Gourmet Food Shops** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Historic Restaurants of Paris: A Guide to Century-Old Cafes, Bistros, and Gourmet Food Shops:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I loved reading this little volume by David Smith. Even for a book on historic restaurants a 2000 publication date makes it increasingly dated to use without a supplementary, more current guide. However, it is compact, organized by district and nicely written. It was fun to read. It provides some history, description and human interest anecdotes about authors, artists and others who frequented these various establishments during the establishment's formative periods. It also provides some indication of the current quality -- at least as of around 1999 or so. My only suggestion is that a map would have made it much more useful both for people trying to use it while in Paris as well as for armchair travelers. Considering that Paris was both the culinary and artistic center of the world during this period 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Another kind of Parisian social history by Blue in Washington. What a great little book this is. If you want to learn something really interesting about one of the food capitals of the world, there's no better way than to visit its historic restaurants and food imporia. "The Historic Restaurants of Paris" provides a district by district inventory of the city's eateries that have figured, one way or the other, in its social, political and cultural history. Each listing includes samples of the bills of fare as well as addresses and Metro stops. As many (there are some notable exceptions) of the restaurants included in the book offer old-fashioned country style or bourgeois cooking in unpretentious surroundings, prices are often reasonable and the rubbing of elbows with French locals is inevitable and usually very congenial. Up market restaurants like Le Tour d'Argent, Le Grand Vefour and a few others are also included and are certainly historic in the own wright. For what it's worth, my favorites from the book are: Aux Charpentiers (kid-friendly); Cafe Grand Colbert (go for the afternoon chocolate sessions); Polidor (fun and reasonable); La Fontaine de Mars (the Obamas have tried it; and Le Train Bleu (awesome throwback to the Belle Epoque). The author has helpfully included a special section at the end of the book that cross-indexes the entries by price, cafe vs. restaurant vs. tea salon vs. brasseries, gift shops, places open Sundays (important in Paris) and her own favorites. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Historic Restaurants of Paris by Aunt J. Love this book. The descriptions and history of the restaurants were interesting to read both before and after I went to Paris. And the small size and listing by arrondissements made it easy and useful to carry around with me while in Paris.

The vanished world of nineteenth-century Paris still awaits behind the doors of select restaurants and gourmet shops that have delighted customers for more than a hundred years. Crossing these thresholds, the discriminating diner and shopper can step into a gilded Belle Epoque setting favored by Manet and Degas, a vintage confectioner that supplied bonbons to Monet, or a shaded caf terrace frequented by Zola. From tiny ptisseries, cozy bistros, and rustic wine bars barely known outside the quarter to bustling brasseries, elegant tea salons, and world-famous cafs, *The Historic Restaurants of Paris* is an indispensable guide to classic cuisine served in settings of startling beauty. Charming anecdotes relating to a restaurant's history and celebrated former patrons, among them Proust, Balzac, George Sand, and the Impressionists, enhance this pocketable guide, which is both a practical resource and lovely gift book.