

Adrienne B. Zausner

Beginning in 1960 Adrienne and her husband travelled to Europe three times a year on what they called a food odyssey, the goal of which was to find and eat the very best food. Her pursuit of great food - in restaurants and in her own home - led her to develop a wide network of chefs, restaurateurs, critics and writers. Adrienne's inner circle included Michelin three-starred chefs Gerard Boyer, Alain Chapel, Michel Guerard, Fredy Girardet, Jean and Pierre Troisgros (and later Michel), Roger Vergé and Pierre Wynants; restaurateur M. Vrinat of Taillevent, Paris; restaurant critic Craig Claiborne and food writer, critic and personal friend, Gael Greene. For more information, see [The chefs, the food and Adrienne.](#)

This was a time of great creativity and change in the way food was prepared in restaurants, particularly in Europe, and the term Nouvelle Cuisine was coined to reflect this new style. The New Cuisine emphasized the quality and freshness of the ingredients; simplified the cooking and the accoutrements, including the sauce; and displayed the food on the plate in an artistic manner. Dining became a complete sensory experience, not just a means to an end. The term later developed a negative connotation as chefs all over the world began using it indiscriminately to serve tiny portions on overly decorated plates. But in fact, this New Cuisine was the parent of our current food trends of sourcing locally, cooking simply and plating food to look beautiful.

Adrienne formed close friendships with many of the chefs who were credited with developing the 'New Cuisine'. She honed her palate on their food over 50 years and kept detailed notes of every meal she ate including conversations with the chefs about their cooking methods.

Adrienne was born March 26, 1935 and grew up in Rockville Center, NY. She attended Mount Holyoke College, graduating in 1955. She got married in Paris on January 16, 1959. She began her career as a portfolio manager in the early 1960's at a time when women were a rarity on Wall Street. She retired in the mid-2000's as Sr. Vice President and Sr. Portfolio Manager from Smith Barney, which is now Morgan Stanley after many mergers.