

French restaurants to have 'home-made food' logo

18th July, 2014



[HTTP://WWW.ECONOMIE.GOUV.FR/FAIT-MAISON](http://www.economie.gouv.fr/FAIT-MAISON)

French restaurants and eateries will soon have to put a new logo on menus to inform customers whether or not their food is home-made. France's government has come up with a simple sign so that

both French people and tourists will have a better idea of what they are eating. Restaurants could start using the sign from July the 15th and it will be compulsory for eateries from January. The move comes after complaints about the quality of food being served in French restaurants. Many customers expect top-quality food when dining in France. The country is, after all, supposed to be the home of fine dining and gastronomic delights. French cuisine is world famous for its rich history, taste and presentation.

The new symbol is an attempt by the French government to improve the quality of restaurant food and boost tourism. A spokesperson said: "French gastronomy represents 13.5 per cent of foreign tourists' expenses. It is undeniable that if we add value to the quality of our restaurants, it will have an impact on tourism." He added that the government wants to, "reign in the amount of processed foods used and preserve France's high gastronomic standing". A poll conducted last year found that only around half of restaurant meals were cooked from scratch on the premises. The French Union of Hotel Skills and Industries believe that around 85 per cent of restaurants secretly use frozen or vacuum-packed food.

Sources: BBC / The Guardian / Forbes

Writing

Compare and contrast restaurant food and home cooking. Which is best? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

restaurants / home-made / better idea / compulsory / quality of food / presentation / symbol / tourism / undeniable / impact / processed foods / cooked from scratch

True / False

- The 'home-made' logo is only for tourists visiting France. T / F
- Restaurants can already start using the logo. T / F
- Eateries will be able to choose whether or not they will use the logo. T / F
- French food is often said to be the home of fine dining. T / F
- The French government hopes the logo will increase tourist numbers. T / F
- Tourists spend over 20% of their travel budget on eating out. T / F
- The French government wants restaurants to use less processed food. T / F
- A hotel group said 85% of restaurants do not use frozen food. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. logo | a. spur |
| 2. inform | b. devised |
| 3. come up with | c. status |
| 4. compulsory | d. first-class |
| 5. fine | e. endeavour |
| 6. attempt | f. symbol |
| 7. boost | g. indisputable |
| 8. undeniable | h. notify |
| 9. standing | i. building |
| 10. premises | j. mandatory |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is eating out when you go to other countries?
- Is it wrong for restaurants to use processed foods?
- Do you automatically assume that all restaurant food is home-made?
- Should menus have information about what food is processed or vacuum-packed?
- Would you ask a waiter about how fresh your food is?
- Which country has the best cuisine?
- Would food cooked on the premises improve restaurants?
- What questions would you like to ask a restaurant owner?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- inform customers whether or not
- it will be compulsory
- the quality of food being
- supposed to be the home of fine
- gastronomic
- boost
- it will have an impact
- processed
- cooked from scratch
- vacuum-
- tourism
- dining
- foods
- on tourism
- their food is home-made
- packed food
- for eateries
- on the premises
- delights
- served in French restaurants

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of French food?
- What's your favourite eatery and why?
- Is home-made food the most delicious?
- What do you think of the "home-made" logo on the menus?
- Should all restaurants have "home-made" on menu items?
- What's your biggest complaint about restaurant food?
- Why is French cuisine thought to be the best in the world?
- What are your favourite gastronomic delights?

Spelling

- a new logo on menus to fonmir customers
- it will be lysocroump
- minptscaol about the quality of food
- the home of fine diginn
- ioomntrcsag delights
- French euiicsn
- The new slbyom
- eprsesnt 13.5 per cent of foreign tourists
- It is launiedenb
- sopserdec foods
- cooked from scratch on the serpsiem
- umuacv-packed food

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. e	7. a	8. g	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Mum's cooking

You think mum's cooking is the best food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell what's wrong with their kind of food. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fast food, street food or microwave meals.

Role B – Fast food

You think fast food is the best food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell what's wrong with their kind of food. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): mum's cooking, street food or microwave meals.

Role C – Street food

You think street food is the best food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell what's wrong with their kind of food. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fast food, mum's cooking or microwave meals.

Role D – Microwave meals

You think microwave food is the best food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell what's wrong with their kind of food. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fast food, street food or mum's cooking.

Speaking – Food

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Mum's cooking
- fast food
- microwave meals
- frozen meals
- camping food
- haute cuisine
- street food
- your cooking

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.