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Balzac's Omelette: A Delicious Tour of French Food and Culture with Honoré de Ba

By Muhlstein, Anka. Hunter, Adriana, Translator.

Armchair Traveller. 1 Cloth(s), 2011. hard. Book Condition: New. "Tell me where you eat, what you eat, and at what time you eat, and I will tell you who you are," Honoré de Balzac once claimed. France's food was hardly noteworthy before the Revolution, and Balzac came of age alongside the emergence of a national cuisine and French cultivation of "the art of the table." The author of *Monsieur Proust's Library* and a Goncourt Prizewinner for *A Taste for Freedom: The Life of Astolphe de Custine*, Anka Muhlstein here mines Balzac's many stories and novels, to examine how the writer uses food to evoke character, atmosphere, class, and social climbing. "Felicitous phrasing, a scholar's sage scope, and enormous fondness for Balzac's panoply of characters mark this charming, intimate look at the French novelist's depiction of the highs and lows of 19th-century French society, as reflected in its culinary offerings. Muhlstein delves lovingly into Balzac's characters, misers and gluttons alike, and finds the presentation of food an important indicator of social status, and well-cooked food equal to a woman's love." *Publishers Weekly* 211.



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