

Madeleine Kamman, 87, Who Gave Americans a Taste of France, Dies

By [Richard Sandomir](#)

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Madeleine Kamman was not yet a renowned French chef and teacher in the spring of 1968 when she read a newspaper recipe for snails provençale on toast.

The recipe, in The New York Times, was by Craig Claiborne, the newspaper’s food editor. She wrote him a letter criticizing it — and impressed him with a different snail recipe and memories of cooking in France.

Mr. Claiborne visited her at her home, near Philadelphia, where copper saucepans made by her grandfather lined a wall of her kitchen.

“From the oven,” Mr. Claiborne wrote in an article two months later, “she retrieved a hot, homemade ficelle — a small, narrow loaf of bread — and spooned warm Hollandaise sauce that she’d fluffed up a moment before over the small dish. With a chilled bottle of dry white wine, both bread and snails were pure bliss.”

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