

# Short Biography

Born and raised in Normandie, France, JOSETTE LEBLOND has been a successful business woman since the age of 17. At that time, she bought her father's charcuterie business (delicatessen). Within a year she expanded her business to include a bakery. A turning point in her life came four years later. A week-long vacation to America turned into a *French-American dream*. She sold her charcuterie and boulangerie business in France and settled in Los Angeles. She began her American journey working for a French chef on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Soon Josette was making her fine pates and foie gras just as she had in France.

A distributor's representative found out about her products and offered to be her broker. Thus began the first Normandie Pate, Inc. Along the way Josette learned English. In her off-time, Josette was busy making pates in her own restaurant kitchen. Within a short time she had generated enough income to move into a 900 square-foot kitchen in Gardena, California.

By 1988 Josette was able to purchase a 12,000 square-foot manufacturing plant located west of downtown Los Angeles. In her new plant she could bake authentic French breads and manufacture pates, even make sandwiches and pastries. She also opened a small retail for local consumers at the front of her plant.

As owner, chef, plant manager, and salesperson, Josette managed to acquire many key accounts for her company including Disneyland Hotels, The Biltmore, Macy's, upscale restaurants throughout Los Angeles, chains like Bristol Farms, Whole Foods and Pavilions; airline caterers and many more. She also supplies hotels like the Marriott, Ritz-Carlton, and Hyatt.

Josette has expanded the Normandie parent company. She now owns Normandie Bakery and Coffee on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood, as well as one on Sunset Boulevard; a Normandie Bakery and Restaurant in Marina Del Rey, and a Normandie Country Bakery and Pate in Los Angeles.

Hoping to retire, Josette moved to Las Vegas in 2001. But as fate would have it, she continued running her bakeries in Los Angeles while opening new ones in Las Vegas. She has opened Normandie Country Bakery on Syrius, Normandie Deli on Valley View, and Josette's Bistro on Flamingo in Las Vegas.

Proud to be a part of Las Vegas, Josette is very active in the community. She generously donates her time, baked goods and meals to charity organizations like Chef 4 Kids and Taste Of The Nation.

Josette's energy, perseverance, experience, and love for the business have always kept her going in the right direction. She likes to say she is living the "*French-American dream*."