

STEPHEN DOWNES



comes to the Rotary Club of Richmond

“Good food satisfies more than just your palate, it is an epicurean experience that touches your soul”.....

Nobody understands the above thought better than Stephen Downes, one of the longest serving professional restaurant critics in Australia and probably the world.

Downes started off his career as a food critic in 1977 when he was chosen to do restaurant reviews for the **Age**. He was an instant success, progressing to write for **The Sunday Age**, **Australian Financial Review**, **Gourmet Traveller** and the **Herald Sun**.

His cutthroat, objective and brutally honest opinions have over the years fetched him plenty of admirers and also piqued some sceptics who are intimidated by the possibility of being thwarted by the candid words of a gastronome.

Some foodies glean his words as gospel as they wait to read his opinions on the **Herald Sun**. Others, such as a restaurant chain founded by a certain celebrity British chef have explicitly shown him the door, thus making him one of the most controversial critics as well.

Downes states that plenty of critics these days are way too close to the industry. That, as a result leads to biased reviews. However, his conviction is based on the fact that a good review is the outcome of good food and a sensible critic is one who is thorough and assiduous in their understanding of food.

WHEN: Monday 22 July 2012

TIME: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

WHERE: Amora Hotel Riverwalk
649 Bridge Road
Richmond 3121



**ROTARY CLUB
OF RICHMOND INC**

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