

The act of changing history usually does not happen in one day, though. It requires a lot of build-up and planning. For example, in the 17th Century, there was an intellectual craze going on known as the Age of Illumination. At this point, scientists needed secret places to meet in order to talk about what they believe (something not possible when the Church was in power). Thus, when coffeehouses began popping up around Europe, these scientists had places to share news without fear of being discovered. These coffeehouses also held home to political declarations. On July 12, 1789, a man named Camille Desmoulins stood outside a coffeehouse, and gave a speech that resulted in the French Revolution two days thereafter. It could be said that perhaps coffee didn't actually change history, but without the drink, there would not be any coffeehouses. Farther back in history, in Ancient Rome, the popular drink at the time was wine. Wine was so special to the people that there were special rooms for drinking wine called *symposions*.

*Symposions* were basically the coffeehouses of Rome; they were places where people could speak their mind without being judge. There were definitely political and intellectual discussions, but the Romans were not quite in the same predicament as the intellectualists that met at the coffeehouses. Both *symposions* and coffeehouses were places where thinkers could think, speakers could speak, and dreamers could dream.