

Spanish restaurant and food vocabulary guide



Last week there was a guy next to us in the restaurant pointing at the menu and moving his arms up and down like a chicken. Eventually he managed to convey to the waiter in this small coastal town in Spain that he wanted to eat roast chicken with fries, hence the arm gestures!

Have you been there?

Well after you read this guide to 'Spanish food and restaurant vocabulary and expressions' you won't ever again.

EN EL RESTAURANTE

EL CAMARERO / LA CAMARERA (The waiter/ waitress)

- **Buenos días/tardes/noches. ¿Desean comer/cenar?** Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening. Would you like to have lunch/dinner?
- **¿Ha/Han reservado mesa?** Have you booked a table?
- **Le/Les traigo la carta.** Here you have the menu.
- **Hoy en el menú del día tenemos...** Today on the daily specials we have...
- **¿Qué va/van a tomar?** What would you like to drink?
- **¿Qué quiere/quieren de primero/ de segundo/ de postre?** What would you like for starters/main course/dessert?
- **¿Quiere/Quieren algo más?** Would you like anything else?

EL CLIENTE/S (The customer)

- **¿Tiene una mesa libre para 4 personas?** Do you have a free table for four?
- **Nos gustaría cerca de la ventana.** We would like to be near the window.
- **¿Es posible comer en la terraza?** Is it possible to eat on the terrace?
- **¿Qué lleva el cocido Montañés?** What is in the cocido?
- **¿Me trae otra botella de vino?** Can you bring me another bottle of wine?
- **¿Tiene algún plato vegetariano?** Are there any vegetarian dishes?

POSTRES (Desserts)

Si ya has conseguido que el camarero te traiga la bebida y los exquisitos platos, pedir el postre será coser y cantar. If you have already managed to order the drinks and those delicious dishes, asking for dessert will be easy peasy.

- **¿De postre que hay?** What's for dessert?
- **¿Me trae un café con leche?** Can I have a coffee with milk?

PEDIR LA CUENTA (asking for the bill)

- **¿Me trae la cuenta por favor? ¿Me cobra?** Can you bring me the check please?

- **Muchas gracias, estaba todo delicioso.** Thank you very much everything was delicious.

En España, la propina es opcional y no verás a muchas personas dejar propina, solo algunas monedas en el bar o en algún restaurante caro, sin embargo, siempre son bien recibidas. In Spain tipping is optional and you won't see many people tipping, just a few coins at the bar or at some expensive restaurants. Nonetheless, tips are always welcome.

PLATOS CARACTERÍSTICOS

Vamos a ver algunos platos característicos de cada lugar. Empezamos en el norte de España, maravilloso enclave vestido de verde y refrescado por el océano atlántico. Los platos del mar son las verdaderas estrellas. Let 's have a look at some of the most characteristic dishes of each place. We can start in the north of Spain, a wonderful enclave dressed in green and refreshed by the Atlantic Ocean. The dishes from the sea are the real stars.

Pulpo a la gallega en Galicia (octopus)

Fabada, en Asturias (beans dish)

Cocido Montañés en Cantabria (more beans)

Bacalao al pil pil en el País Vasco (Cod)

Postres típicos (Typical desserts)

Te aconsejamos: (We recommend)

Goxua (base de nata, bizcocho, crema pastelera y caramelo) - cream, sponge cake, custard, caramel.

Pastel de arroz (no lleva ni un solo gramo de arroz) - delicious - it doesn't have a single grain of rice.

Panchineta / pantxineta (hojaldre con crema pastelera y almendras) - puff pastry, custard, almonds.

Tarta de Santiago (de almendras) - delicious cake with almonds.

This is only **the first** in a series as we hope to guide you through a variety of topics to make it easier for you to go around Spain using the Spanish language. Enjoy!

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