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FIELD SPORTS IN FRANCE & SPAIN
Season 2016

Dining walk in Barcelona

If you take the Plaza de Catalunya as centre, everything above is the modern Barcelona, and everything under is the old town. By modern, I mean 19th century ! The real modern parts are of little interest for a visitor. In this "modern" part, the centre is the avenue named "Paseo de Gracia" (That is in Spanish but it will be most often written *passeig* in Catalan). This part of the city is like New York divided in blocks separated by parallel streets or avenues. The most "de moda" concept restaurant at the moment –and high quality place- is **El Nacional**, on *Passeig de Gracia* n° 24. www.elnacionalbcn.com

To see the older town, you must go to the Plaza de Catalunya, and walk down the "Rambla" leading to the plaza Colon and the port. Many of the avenues or boulevards in Catalonia are called "ramblas", but when someone refers to "THE Ramblas" he means that between Plaza de Catalunya & Plaza Colon. On the right hand side in the beginning, you will find the very famous food market Sant Josep, said **Mercat de la Boqueria**, a must visit with many small bistros for standing tapas or lunch like the famous "**Quim de la Boqueria**" www.elquimdelaboqueria.com Then farther down on the left is the old square place with tall palm trees called Plaça Reial (Plaza Real), nicely lighted at night. You'll notice the line to get in the restaurant "**Los Quinze Nits**" (many reviews but no website). For many, really worth the (not that long), waiting line for the low prices and high quality cuisine. The narrow streets around are very picturesque, this is the old quarter named Barrio Gotico –the opposite side is named Barrio Chino or Raval. Near the Plaza Real in Carrer Escudellers is found a famous restaurant named **Los Caracoles** (the snails) and the neighbour "Grill Room" of same ownership. See www.loscaracoles.es

Walking farther down on the Ramblas, you will reach the plaza Colon and the port. The left side of the port between the back of the docks and *tinglados* –old docks warehouses- and a beach sea strand is the former sort of "red zone district" named **La Barceloneta** where the fishermen, dockers and *marineros* families were living. There was a number of "dirty but funny" bars specialized in sea food, a very unusual place to go for dinner. It is still a place (much cleaner) for tapas bars crawling. In the past, all these old districts were rather hot, the Barrio Gotico, the Barceloneta and especially the Barrio Chino, were strongholds of bandits – and girls- of all kinds and the police was reluctant to penetrate these outlaws territories. This has changed a lot, loosing authenticity while becoming trendy. Except some parts of the

Chino maybe, these areas are much more civilized and safe now, only beware of talented pickpockets (in all the city –and all the cities- anyway).

A classic “très chic” restaurant : Botafumeiro www.botafumeiro.es

Another one: Ca l'Isidre, carrer de les Flors 12, Tel +34 934 41 11 39

A classic bar of the "Barceloneta" : La Cova fumada, carrer Baluard 56

Tou-risty or not tou-risty that is the question... searching for a place to go for dinner in a “normal working and living” area -not touristy then- try the “Montesquiu” tapas bar, 56, Calle Mandri. Let me quote them .../... Montesquiu became, since it was opened in 1952, a meeting point for students and young middle class people, where they shared beer and tapas .../... It is still true ! (and good). www.montesquiubcn.com

A funny place for gunners ? the shooting club at the hill of Montjuich used to have a very nice club house with a restaurant overlooking the bay. I have not been there for many years... Only way to check, go see ! any taxi will take you to the “Club de tiro de Montjuich”
www.tirbcn.com

Cheers / Nick