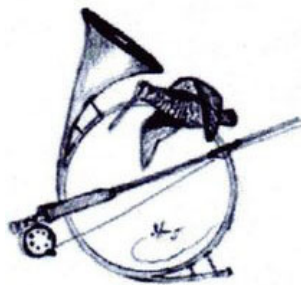


Nicolas (Nick) de Toldi



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FIELD SPORTS IN FRANCE & SPAIN Season 2015

MY FAVORITE "CLASSIC" BARS IN MADRID

AROUND PLAZA DE ORIENTE – PLAZA MAYOR

El Anciano Rey de los vinos Calle de Bailen 19, (Esquina (corner) Calle de Bailen Plaza de Oriente) (Wine bar for a standing aperitivo).

Café de Oriente Plaza de Oriente, for a breakfast, a light lunch or an afternoon tea, or better a "Horchata" or a "granizado" on a nice terrace in front of the royal palace. Spot the sparrows flying inside the bar.

Taberna del Alabardero on the right flank of the Opera, an elegant small place for a seated dinner. The bar has (had) good "montadito de jamon y tomate".

Meson del Champiñon (a must visit). From the Plaza Mayor, get out by the arch named "Arco de Cuchilleros" to the street nicknamed "calle de los mesones", real address: Calle Cava de San Miguel, nº 17. Find the "**Meson del Champiñon**" and simply ask for a "champi" and a glass of wine or a beer. Best time at night for a standing quick bite and drink before dinner.

"Mercado de San Miguel" On top of the same Calle Cava de San Miguel, see the new covered market hall". You will find there concentrated a smorgasbord of all the best things that Spain can offer for standing snacks. If you have time for only 1 place to go, it is there. With a look at the Plaza Mayor, you'll have it complete.

Botin, (a must see at least). Still under the Arco de Cuchilleros side of the Plaza Mayor, under the previous "meson" **Botin** is the oldest restaurant in the world owned by the same family (pronounce it Boteen). It is mentioned by Hemingway at the end of "The sun also rises". Use for a seated dinner. Compulsory reservation +34 913 66 42 17 Try the young lambs or the piglets asados (roasted in their very special wood oven).

AROUND THE PLAZA DE SANTA ANA

EL GRAN "MUST DO" ! not be missed moment ... Try to go for a drink in the evening at the exact time when the day becomes the night on the roof terrace of the former **Hotel Reina Victoria**, (now named "**Hotel Me Madrid**" – Melia. Plaza de Santa Ana, nº 14, +34 902 14 44 40. By the way, an excellent hotel to stay at.

On the same Plaza de Santa Ana. The nbr 12th is the "**Cerveceria Alemana**", favorite tapas bar of Ava Gardner and Manolete who were among many other celebs of that time often staying at the Hotel Victoria just in front (renovated but still a nice place to stay). Then, walk along the Teatro Español and turn right in the small street Calle de Manuel Fernandez Gonzalez. On your left hand there will be the very nice looking bar with azulejos named "**Viva-Madrid**" (just for the sight and a quick drink) and at the end of the street at the T junction on the right, there is the restaurant bar "**Toscana Taberna**" (Calle de Manuel Fernández y González, 10, Tel 914 296 031) famous for their home mixed tuna salad simply named "ensalada de la casa", and the "carnecita en salsa con patatas". Their cheesecake with red berries or raspberry topping "tarta de queso con frambuesas" is also excellent.

AROUND PASEO DE RECOLETOS – AVENIDA DE LA CASTELLANA

On the « paseo de Recoletos » the "**Gran Cafe de Gijon**". Everlasting classic, good elegant restaurant for lunch (a must have lunch in my mind), and nice summer terrace on the avenue (not inexpensive).

Between the « paseo de Recoletos » and the beginning of the « Castellana » are found the famous bars with a summer terrace "terrazas de verano" like the **Castellana 8 (say castellana ocho)**. This is where can usually be admired the best looking waitresses of Madrid. Best time around 10.00, 11.00 pm but it is nicely quiet also during the day for a refreshment cutting a walk.

On the « Gran Via » (nº 12), **Bar Museo Chicote**, a classic for an evening cocktail, made famous by Hemingway, Martha Gellhorn & Robert Capa, during the battle of Madrid in 1939.

Anecdote: A few years ago on the plaza mayor there was a Mexican restaurant advertising "The only place where Hemingway never ate... " !

Suerte ! (good luck)

Nico