

# Jack Percoca: The Little Italian Joint with Big Hearty Food

*"The amount of food on the plate says a lot about the person who put it on the plate," laughs Luca. "I serve my customers like I serve my family."*

**Naples-born Luca is a professional restaurateur.** For eight years, he travelled around the world opening and running game-changing restaurants before finally settling in Madrid and opening Jack Percoca Bar & Kitchen, a cosy little Italian restaurant in the heart of the city's Conde Duque district.



The bar area



The cosy dining area with lots of natural light at lunchtime

The sheer wealth of experience Luca has picked up over the years becomes clear from the moment you walk in. A great deal of thought has gone into the style and layout: **the lighting is soft, there's no 'short-straw' table, the service is attentive, and the food is flawless.**

## **FOOD FOR FOUR (TO EIGHT)**

To start, we ordered Burrata Tricolore, served on a bed of rocket with slices of perfectly ripe tomato and drizzled with Luca's famous basil pesto. We also ordered a bowl of "Smoking Bullets": deep-fried, cheese and ham-filled rigatoni, like an Italian take on croquettes. We loved the tomato-laden Bruschetta and, on the opposite end of all spectrums, the (intensely) Creamy Meatballs.





Smoking Bullets, Creamy Meatballs, Bruschetta and Burrata Tricolore



The Bruschetta

Feeling full yet? For mains, we had the Spaghetti Burger – a succulent home-made burger perched on a crispy basket of spaghetti – and the Steak Tartare with chunky chips. The Donna Sofia pizza is right up there with the best pizzas in Madrid, but the colossal **Truffle Mac and Cheese** was, as usual, the star of the show.





The Spaghetti Burger





## The Truffle Mac 'n' Cheese

Despite being pretty full, we ordered the Margherita Cheesecake and the Amaretto Connection for all of us to share, because when a dessert is good enough (and you know what I'm talking about here), you'll find room for it.



The Amaretto Connection

## WELCOME TO PROHIBITION-ERA NEW YORK

This excerpt from the menu sets the scene for the restaurant perfectly:

*"It's the era of prohibition and the state has declared war on alcohol. Social downfall in America has reached rock bottom and liquor is squarely to blame. But New York City has been hit by a new wave of crime – the black market. The word on the street is that immoral men are brewing their own high-proof alcohol. Hip flasks of this "moonshine" are stuffed into the boots of liberated women to supply hundreds of "speakeasies". It's also the beginning of the underground jazz movement –*



*inspiration is thriving in these illegal alcohol-fueled parties, but only the coolest guys and dolls in town are in the know. It was here, in a speakeasy beneath the streets of New York, that Sandy met Jack..."*

The infamous black market liquors of the Prohibition era echo throughout Luca's cocktails, which are **strong enough to cut through all three hearty courses and still leave you feeling merry.**



A selection of the classic cocktails

**Jack Percoca Bar & Kitchen is humbly priced, but with big hearty food, strong cocktails and a charming atmosphere. This Little Italy eatery is determined to keep Madrid's restaurant**

scene on its toes.

## INFO

- Jack Percoca's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
  - Address: [Calle Conde Duque 14](#)
  - Call Luca to reserve: **915 13 50 44**
  - Opening hours: Mon-Sun 13.00 – 16.00 / 19.00 – 01.00
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## Taco Maya: A brand-new no-frills taco joint

José Manuel – a well-known chef in the Madrid taco scene – has just opened a brand new, no-frills taco joint in Madrid with his partner, Joe. This colourful and fun eatery is located in a beautiful old building just a five-minute walk from barrio Lavapiés, and has a lovely chilled terrace plus a cosy dining area inside.





Taco Maya's cosy, minimalist dining area

It's possible that you may have stumbled across José Manuel before: he used to own [Taquería Maya](#) in Huertas, where José met Joe! With a new team member and a more relaxed location, [Taco Maya](#) has a winning formula, and dare I say the best Mexican food I've had in Madrid?

## THE FOOD

Everything is made from scratch by José himself, from the nachos to the tacos and every ingredient is bought in fresh that morning. It's for this reason that the menu sometimes varies depending on what order comes in that day, and there's an array of tacos, quesadillas and nachos to try.

# TACO & BURRO MAYA

AUTENTICA COMIDA MEXICANA



Horario:  
M,X,J de 14:00 a 24:00 y V,S,D de 14:00 a 01:30  
cerramos los lunes

Paseo de Santa María de la Cabeza, 60  
Servicio a domicilio 3 € Pedido mínimo 20€  
☎ 911733374 📍 642194285

## GUACAMOLE

Acompañado de totopos artesanales y pico de gallo, tomate, cebolla, cilantro, lima, aceite de oliva, orégano. Elaborado en el momento.

• GUACAMOLE 8,00 €

## TACOS

Tortilla de maíz nixtamalizado.  
Rellena de los guisos a escoger.

• TINGA DE POLLO 2,50 €

Pechuga de pollo en salsa al chipotle.

• COCHINITA MAYA 2,50 €

Pierna de cerdo macerada en salsa de achiote. Receta MAYA. Acompañado de cebolla morada.

• SUADERO 2,50 €

Ternera pochada lentamente al estilo Distrito Federal, acompañado de cebolla y cilantro.

• VEGANO TOTAL 2,50 €  
Vegetal del día.

## QUESADILLAS

Tortilla de trigo de 30 cm doblada con queso derretido, 4 piezas.

• SOLO QUESO 5,50 €

• CON CARNE, POLLO O VEGANA 7,50 €

## BURRITOS

Tortilla de 30 cm de harina, rellena de arroz blanco y frijol negro, guacamole, pico de gallo, queso y el relleno de tu preferencia.

• TINGA DE POLLO 9,00 €

Pechuga de pollo en salsa al chipotle.

• COCHINITA MAYA 9,00 €

Pierna de cerdo macerada en salsa de achiote. Receta MAYA. Acompañado de cebolla morada.

• SUADERO 9,00 €

Ternera pochada lentamente al estilo Distrito Federal, acompañado de cebolla y cilantro.

• VEGANO TOTAL 9,00 €  
Vegetal del día.

## BEBIDAS

• Botella de agua 2,00 €

• CocaCola 2,00 €

• CocaCola Light 2,00 €

• Sprite 2,00 €

• Fanta Naranja 2,00 €

• Aquarius 2,00 €

• Nester Limón 2,00 €

• Mahou lata 2,00 €

• Mahou tercio 2,40 €

• Coronita 1,50 €

• Negra Modelo 3,00 €

• Pacífico 3,00 €

• Michelada 6,00 €

• Margarita 6,00 €

Síguenos en:

f tacoyburromaya

📷 burromaya

The menu – full of options for all!

This is what we had:





## Lemon and Strawberry Margaritas

First of all, the Lemon and Strawberry Margaritas are incredible – like nothing you’ve ever had before, I promise! The strong kick of tequila was also a great start to the evening.



## The Nachos

We had three types of nachos: Courgette and corn from the cob (vegan), Guacamole and coriander (also vegan), and beef. All were absolutely delicious, and the guacamole was like something I'd make at home in secret so that I could put in as much coriander and fresh red onion as I wanted.





The Beef Tacos



2 x Cheese Tacos and 2 x Lamb Tacos

The beef and guacamole tacos were juicy and moreish, and that extra squeeze of lime cut through all that tender meat perfectly. The veggie options included cheese and guacamole quesadillas, but pictured above we have courgette tacos and two tacos with a creamy vegetable and corn mix and plenty of fresh coriander on top. Having said all that, the tacos themselves were so fresh and you could really decipher their flavour.





Tequila!

To end the evening, José Manuel offered us a wonderfully smooth tequila. He also gave us a salt-sugar-chilli mix for the usual tequila ritual, and now I'll never be able to have just salt again.



José Manuel himself!

The tacos are great and the terrace is a real treat. This humble eatery has a bright future – check it out and be a part of it.

## Info

- **Address:** Paseo de Santa María de la Cabeza, 60
- **Metro:** Embajadores
- [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Phone number: 911 733 374 / 642 194 285

## Also check out:

- [Tacos, tamales and tequila: Madrid's best Mexican joints!](#)



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# Café Barbieri: A 114-year-old Art Nouveau café in Lavapiés

[Café Barbieri](#) first brought modernist charm to Madrid's working class district, Lavapiés, in 1902, and although the *barrio* has evolved dramatically over the last 114 years, the interior of this elegant bar hasn't changed one bit.

Some things have changed though – Café Barbieri is owned by a charismatic chap from New Delhi and staffed with bilingual youngthings. It also now has a small terrace, but this is not why you'd come here – its appeal is truly the interior.

The whole place is lined with mirrors which back then were a symbol of wealth. These mirrors are now aging well, stained a smoky bronze colour with dots of grey rust creeping in from the edges. The ceiling is framed with grids of ornate girders that are connected to decorative cast-iron beams, typical of older buildings in Lavapiés. Although never on, there are ceiling fans too – something increasingly rare in Madrid.

At the back of the bar is a grand piano on a small raised stage. Almost every evening there's a live music session often featuring the piano, and this place does food too – typical Spanish stuff but with an edge.

The worn white marble table tops and red velvet seating lining the dining area mark this place out as opulent, but that's really not the vibe – it's chilled and cosy and attracts a spectrum of people, from the intrepid tourist who's braved it down the hill, to the unassuming local who fancies a read of one of the papers on offer.



Café Barbieri by day





Café Barbieri's beautiful ornate ceiling



The grand piano taking centre stage, and look at all those beautiful mirrors





Look at that original tiled floor!



The bar has a great selection of spirits & vermouth on tap





Café Barbieri by night

Café Barbieri is also on the same street as the Greek foodie place, [Egeo](#), so there you have it, your night is planned!

## Info

- C/Ave María 45
  - Metro: Lavapiés
  - [Website](#) [Facebook](#)
-

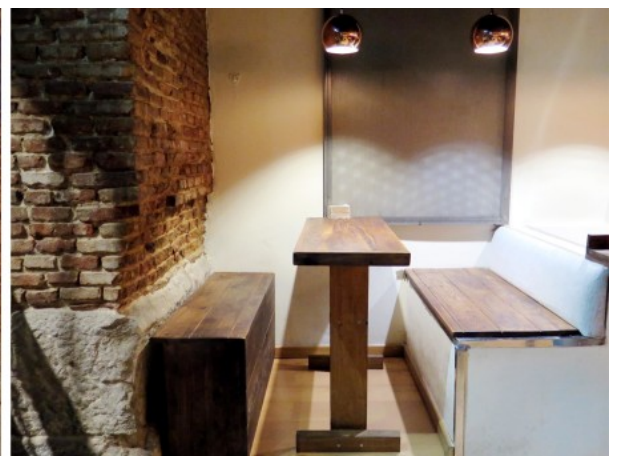
# Zoco Comidero: Eat well and feel great at Madrid's first (and only) flexitarian restaurant

## NOW CLOSED

I don't eat meat, but one of my life rules is: **never go to a Vegetarian restaurant.**

I've been jaded by too many poorly thought-out ventures where the food is created from fear of meat rather than love of veg. Vegan and vegetarian cuisine has existed all over the world for millennia, so where did the culinary black hole come from and why has it left us in such a veg-hating dark age feeling hungry and dehydrated?

Last week, a friend of mine recommended veggie-friendly [Zoco Comidero](#) and I might just have seen **the light at the end of the tunnel.**



**Rarely do you come across a restaurant with this much respect for food.** The concept: flexitarian – a primarily vegetarian



diet which occasionally includes meat or fish. In other words, there's something for everyone.

No longer does the vegetarian friend have to eat a *racion de patatas bravas* for dinner, or the carnivorous friend have to suffer through a fish-less fillet or a tofurkey burger (a what?).

At Zoco Comidero, the menu is hugely varied and every dish is put together professionally. Everything on your plate hit the kitchen worktop raw and intact and has been **prepared freshly with no external influences.**

We kicked off Tuesday evening with a kale and kiwi smoothie, an arepa stuffed with an almond-based vegan cheese and chlorella pesto (a delicious black seaweed pesto).





Feeling healthy yet? We shared two *tostas*: one with goat's cheese and a juicy baked tomato and the other with a generous portion of beetroot-marinated raw salmon and homemade mustard. For mains we had a risotto made with kamut (an ancient large wheat grain), and prawn chop suey.







This was all underlined with a trio of deserts: an intense gooey dark chocolate brownie (the secret ingredient: avocado), quinoa 'cheesecake' and a face-twisting lemon curd.



By now the word "healthy" is in the background. **Exotic flavours, textures and presentation** of the food resonates more than anything else. I love Marbell's zen and her way of transmitting it to us urban wildlife through edible flowers and doses of colour.



This is Marbell, the brains and owner of Zoco Comidero

Zoco Comidero is just off the beaten track but in the real heart of Madrid's old town. The restaurant has an elegant interior with low lighting, good music and a bonus view of the palace. There's also a fun downstairs lounge which gets going on weekends. Every Saturday and Sunday, Marbell tries to organise a chilled bit of live music from 10:30 pm onwards **so stick around after dinner for good DJs and Venezuelan bands.**

## Info

- [Web](#) & [Facebook](#)
  - **Address:** Calle Moreria 11
  - **Metro:** La Latina
-



# La Pecera, Affordable Fine Dining at Círculo de Bellas Artes

Fancy a decadent meal in a regal setting that doesn't burn a hole in your wallet? We found it! El Círculo de Bellas Artes is one of Madrid's most emblematic buildings and its street-level restaurant, [La Pecera](#), serves a top-quality *menú del día* every day of the week for just €15 (€17 on the terrace). It includes a starter, main course, drink and coffee or dessert, with a variety of dishes and vegetarian options to choose from. And to top it all off, you'll be enjoying your delicious meal in a stunning dining room with beautifully painted ceilings, elegant chandeliers and excellent service.









James and I went on a Monday for the [menú del día](#) and we're still amazed that you can get such a fine dining experience for only €15 a person. I kept thinking I wished I'd [brought my parents](#) here each time they'd come to visit. Like myself, I'm sure a lot of people walk by [La Pecera](#) with its outdoor terrace and fans in the summertime, and assume it is too exclusive to go in. Wrong! Prices are similar to what you'll find at almost all nice restaurants in Madrid. But you just can't beat this magnificent setting...

Now on to the food. For starters, I had the **arroz caldoso (rice in broth) with clams and shrimp**, and James had the **pasta with sautéed vegetables and cuttlefish**. Other starters that caught my eye were the homemade salmorejo, ham croquettes, lentils and duck magret salad... good thing I just went with the waiter's recommendation or else it would've taken me ages to order.







The **arroz caldoso** is prepared in an individual pot and with a deliciously flavored seafood sauce. The portion was generous, so I was happy my main course was also fish. James' cuttlefish pasta had a surprising Asian flavor, something he loved but didn't expect given the more traditional setting.

For the main course I had the smoked salmon with vegetables in a coconut sauce, another unexpected mix of flavors.



But I must admit that James' main course took the cake: the **Carrillada Ibérica** (Iberian beef cheeks) with apple quince jelly. The meat was so tender it melted in his mouth and the sauce was so flavorful that all James could say was, "Oh, wow."





All the desserts are homemade and included in the menú del día. James had the apple pie and I had a semi-cold yogurt with a reduced Pedro Ximénez sauce. So good.







As we were leaving, I asked the waiter if there's anything else we should try. He told us we had to come back for the **breakfast menu**, which features a range of options, from the standard toast and freshly-squeezed orange juice to a full-on British-style breakfast and [American-style brunch](#).

At night, the restaurant holds live jazz concerts and its **bar offers an impressive selection of over 400 bottles of liquor**; all to please local and foreign palates at a reasonable price, within a gorgeous space that'll make any day feel like a special occasion.



So before or after your next visit to a [museum along Paseo del Prado](#), or shopping in the center or whatever brings you and yours to Madrid, you're in for a treat!







Lastly, I can't end this article without reminding you that El Círculo de Bellas Artes has one of the [city's best rooftop bars](#), called [Tartan Roof](#). Make sure to pop up to take in the view, visit its restaurant (just book ahead of time) or enjoy a cocktail.

## Info

- [Website](#) & [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Alcalá 42
- **Metro:** Banco de España or Sevilla
- **Phone:** 677458448 / 913 605 400

## You may also like:

- [Where to take your mom in Madrid](#)



- [A year of Menús del Día in Madrid](#)
  - [Madrid's best rooftop bars](#)
- 

## Madrid's Best Rooftop Bars – Round 4

With temperatures reaching well over 100 °F (38 °C), there are only two places you should be in Madrid right now: either in a swimming pool (in the [city](#) or the [mountains](#)) or on a rooftop bar. If you're stuck with the latter, not to worry—Madrid has plenty of rooftop bars for you to escape to. To help you find them, Naked Madrid came out with a 3-part series on [Madrid's best rooftop bars](#) last summer, and we've been meaning to come out with **part 4** ever since. And it's finally here! All the rooftop bars in this article are located in the center of Madrid, yet each one offers something completely different. Hope you enjoy them all!

Oh and you should also know that **part 5** is already on its way... so stay tuned!

### 1) The Hat (Sol/Plaza Mayor)



You've never seen a hostel like this before; the word 'hipster' does not even begin to describe it. High ceilings, art-scrawled walls and an international crowd are what you'll find here. The Hat's rooftop bar is open all year round, serving up cocktails and delicious *tostas* (my favorite is with goat cheese and caramelized onions, and comes with a shot of salmorejo and potato chips), quiche, and some pretty damn good *tortilla de patata*. [Here's a full post on The Hat for more info.](#)

**Web**

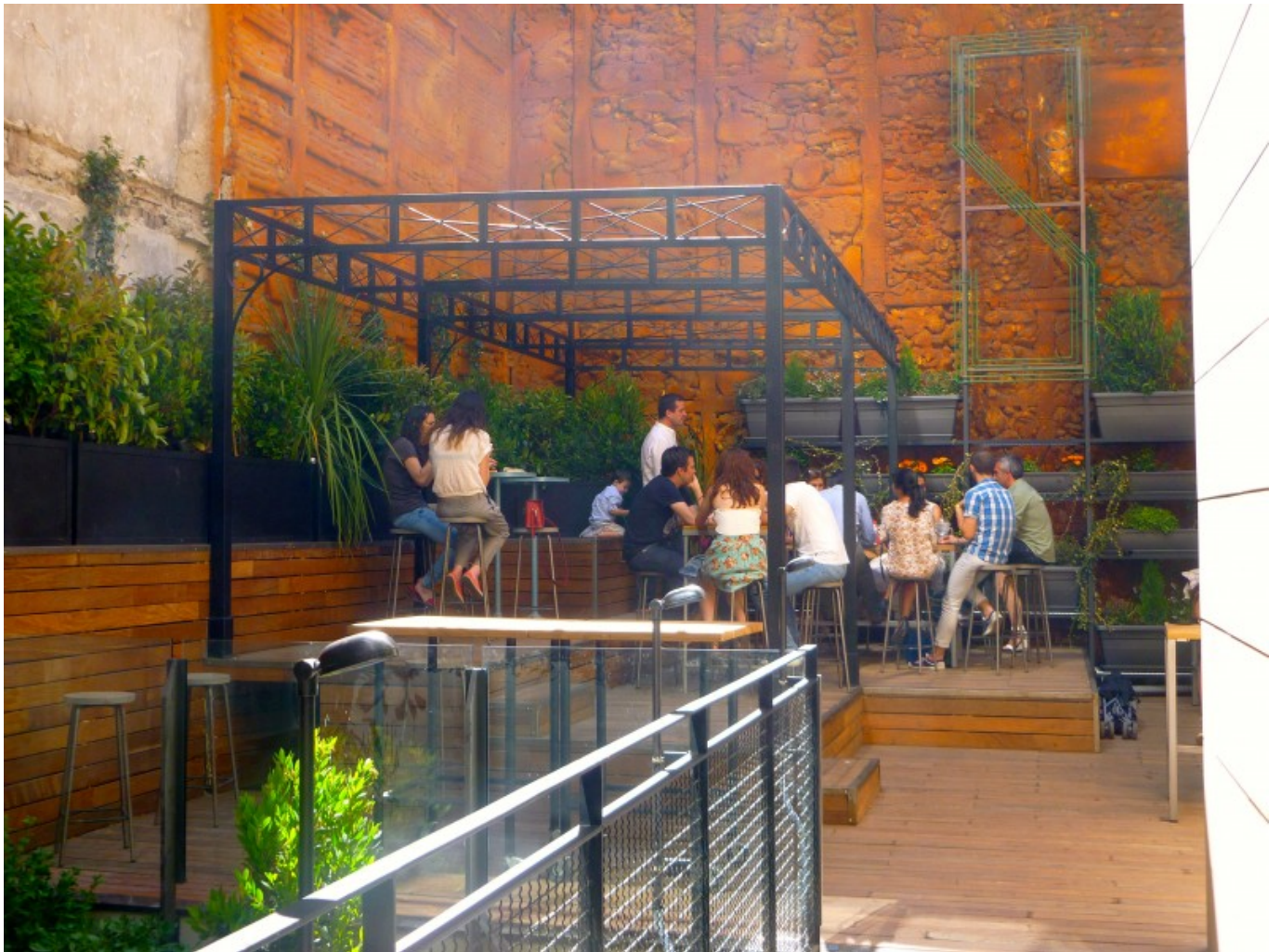
**Address:** *Calle Imperial 9*

**Metro:** *La Latina, Sol, Opera*

**Phone:** *917 72 85 72*



## 2) Mercado del San Ildefonso (Malasaña)





We all know Madrid's market culture is off the hook. We've got **Mercado de San Miguel** in Sol for the tourist crowd; **Mercado de San Antón** (whose rooftop bar we also love and [mentioned in Round 1](#)) in Chueca for the cooler and more urban crowd; and **Mercado de San Fernando** in Lavapiés for the more authentic and cultural crowd, just to name a few. And now we have **Mercado de San Ildefonso**, which takes the cake for its architecture and impressive use of space. Once an average neighborhood market, San Ildefonso now boasts three stories of gourmet food stalls and two outdoor patios sandwiched between its adjacent buildings. [Here's a full article on Mercado del San Ildefonso.](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Web](#)

**Address:** C/ Fuencarral, 57

**Metro:** Tribunal



### 3. [El Jardín Secreto](#) (on Calle Montera, Gran Vía)



Jardín Secreto feels like a tiny rooftop garden in somebody's private home. You wouldn't expect that it's actually situated on top of an accessories store – Salvador Bachiller – and on Calle Montera, no less. Smack in the center of the city, in between metros Gran Vía and Sol, you can enter this normal-looking store, pop up to the top floor and take in the *fresher* air with a drink and a bite to eat. It might not have any views, but it sure has a unique ambience and surprise factor that's worth experiencing. [Here's a full article on Jardín Secreto for more info.](#)

[Facebook](#)

**Address:** Calle Montera 37

**Phone:** 915 31 02 60

*Metro: Gran Vía or Sol*

#### 4. Innside Madrid Suecia (near Alcalá/Plaza de Cibeles)



I haven't actually been here yet but many of my friends have raved about it. Judging by its location, the new rooftop bar at **Innside Madrid Suecia Hotel** looks a bit more upscale than the others on this list – probably best for a night out of



cocktails mixed with a killer view. It's owned by the Meliá Hotel chain, which also owns the famous "[The Roof in Plaza Santa Ana, previously mentioned in Round 3](#)", and situated on a street behind Calle Alcalá and El Círculo de Bellas Artes (with yet another stunning rooftop, "[Tartan Roof](#)", [mentioned in Round 1](#)). For now, I've taken these photos off of the Hotel's [web](#), yet I plan on replacing them as soon as I get the chance to treat myself to such an experience.

#### [Web](#)

**Address:** *Calle del Marqués de Casa Riera 4*

**Metro:** *Banco de España and Sevilla*

## 5) Gourmet Experience at El Corte Inglés (Callao)





Madrid's number one department store, **El Corte Inglés**, finally decided to give itself a much needed facelift and revamp the 9th floor of its location in Callao, turning it into 'Gourmet Experience'; and it truly is an experience. With an outdoor rooftop and dozens of food stalls, one of which is [StreetX0](#), an affordable version of Madrid's famous young Michelin-starred chef, David Muñoz's DiversoX0, you'll also find stalls serving Mexican, Italian, Spanish and Japanese food, as well as cocktails, ice-cream and much more. [Here's full article on Gourmet Experience at Callao.](#)

**[Web](#)**

**Address:** Plaza Callao 2, inside El Corté Inglés, 9th floor

**Metro:** Callao

**We're already working on Round 5 of**



**Madrid's top rooftop bars. Any suggestions?**

**In case you haven't seen rounds 1-3, here you are:**

- [Madrid's Best Rooftop Bars, Round 1](#)
  - [Madrid's Best Rooftop Bars, Round 2](#)
  - [Madrid's Best Rooftop Bars, Round 3](#)
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## **Juanita Cruz – The Perfect Date Destination (ditch the movie and just do dinner!)**

For someone who spends pretty much every waking (non-working hour) flitting back and forth between Chueca and Malasaña, I disappointingly don't actually live in either barrio \*luckily this is soon to be rectified and therefore watch out for a spike in Gin sales along Calle Espiritu Santo.

Therefore, it's always beyond exciting when I discover, or in this case I'm introduced to, a little gem in my barrio which is way up North in the Castellana neck of the woods. I've sampled brunch at my local, Pipa & Co on more than one

occasion and it's never failed to please but I'd never noticed what lurked below; [Juanita Cruz](#). Discreetly hidden under a little arch is a bar/restaurant which can only be described as feeling half like a speakeasy and half like the kind of refurbished warehouse bar, that most of East London is made of. On entrance I basically wondered why I'd never been there before upon spying a place that is right up my street in terms of décor and drinks.



The night that I first went was perfect in terms of both company and the cosy vibe that was largely created by the amazing singer who was warming up her vocal chords quite happily in the corner. Turned out we'd stumbled across an open mic night, which completed the laid back and low key atmosphere perfectly. Cocooned on the kind of battered old sofa that I wouldn't mind for my new flat, it was the perfect place to while away a few weeknight hours (although I've also been told that it gets pretty lively come the weekends when the Spaniards really let their hair down, obvs).

The food menu is definitely worth more than a glance with treats that won't break the bank but they may have you booking in a spinning class the following day; provolone, carpaccio and the like were all delish.





It's a clandestine feeling gaff with echoes of post-civil war Spain (according to the blurb on their website) but what I do know is that they sell [G'Vine](#), they played good tunes and as far as a **first date venue** goes, it wasn't too shabby for me.

Save pennies for a cab, take a trip up North. Oh and pack your dancing shoes, come Friday and Saturday it's time to show off your moves.

## Info

[Facebook](#)

[Web](#)

*Address: Paseo de la Habana, 105*

*Phone: 914 51 17 76*

*Metro: Cuzco & Colombia*

*Photos from Facebook*

## Also check out:

[Gin O'clock – Time for Madrid's finest G&T's](#)

[El Patio del Fisgón – Feel like You're in Narnia](#)

[1862 Dry Bar – Perfection Served in a Glass](#)

[Best Date Ideas in Madrid – 3-part series](#)

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## El Patio De Fisgon – Feel like you've discovered Narnia

My blog posts would imply that I pretty much do nothing but eat in Madrid but I assure you that's not the case. Also ranking high on my to-do's are drinking, tanning, exercising (this is a new found passion that's surprised me more than most) and just general all round gallivanting... But it has to be said that going out for dins is one of my very favourite pastimes and I never need much encourage to ditch home cooking in favour of being waited on. To this end, I am constantly on the prowl for somewhere that will satiate my appetite and not break the bank.

This leads me onto my current fave, [El Patio De Fisgon](#). Not an obvious choice for lovers of Malasaña/Chueca as it tucked away on a swanky side street just off of Calle Ortega y Gasset (but it's most definitely worth the 5 or so euros in a cab) to find yourself in what felt like something out of The Secret Garden. \*All twinkly lights, scented candles and the like – you can



picture the scene.



The quest for somewhere simple yet swanky came about upon realising that I was hostessing three rather glam PR gals for the weekend, whose tastes are definitely more Balthazar than Burger King. Suffice to say El Patio impressed on all counts. Gorgeous food (and hefty portions), attentive staff (but not claustrophobic-ally so), wine in abundance (and cheap at that) ensured that my crown as a Madrid aficionado remained intact. We ate, drank and were merry for the grand total of 70 euros; coming from London where a soggy sarnie can set you back a fiver this was beyond bargainous. Post dinner drinks followed



at the similarly gorgeous Punk Back which is sadly not quite as purse friendly – but equally swish. We're not talking the need to remortgage a casa for a copa but it's definitely at the higher end of the scale price for Madrid. Saying that, if you like to sip your gins surrounded by the beautiful people then it's worth letting your wallet take a hit.







El Patio wise, I recommend requesting a table out on the terrazza to fully enjoy the 'see and be seen vibe' and let's face it, we all look that little bit better when illuminated by the soft focus glow of a fairy light. So what's been one of my best kept secrets looks set to be no more. I suggest you book a table and for the record, the rollitos artesanos de pato are worth every gluttonous cal.

*\*Slight disclaimer alert\** Having recently gone back for a second visit, I have to red flag that the 8.30pm dinner sitting results in your being kicked off your table (rather

unceremoniously) by 10pm so defo book a later dins if you can...

## Info

[Facebook](#)

**Address:** *Calle de Don Ramón de la Cruz, 26, 28006 Madrid*

**Phone:** 915 77 63 74

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## Gin O'Clock – Time to Enjoy Madrid's Finest G&T's

In my youth (to be said in granny-esque tones) I had many love affairs, with many different tipples. You name it; I'd tried it (and more than likely I would have had the hangover to show for it). Malibu and Pineapple, Archers and Lemonade, Amaretto and Coke followed by a brief dalliance with Vodka and Cranberry. They'd all been enjoyed (or endured) until I finally met my drink soulmate; **the G&T.**

Being a Brit, it's fair to say that they'd had always been on my radar, but upon moving to Madrid my unabashed obsession with them reached fever pitch. Clearly encouraged by the sheer abundance of gin bars that positively litter the *calles* of pretty much every *barrio*. To this end I'm going to share my gin aficionado tips on **where to grab the best G'Vine in the city.**



# La Prudencia



Situated on one of my favourite streets in Madrid, this small but perfectly formed bar is ideal for a romantic rendezvous due to its gorgeous low lighting and shabby chic decor, as well as being the perfect place for a few pre-club copas. It was here where I first sampled a **Brockman's gin** (one of my current faves in case you're curious) but should you fancy a gin that's served exactly as it should be then put **La Prudencia** on your list. The bar is piled high with fruits, herbs and even rose petals which the expert bar staff use with flair. They explain why certain flavour combinations have been matched and don't make you feel like a numpty for asking. Most gins start at around **10 euros** which (given that they're the size of your head) is in my opinion, money well spent.

[Facebook](#)

*Where: Calle del Espíritu Santo, 41*

**Phone:** 915 22 30 97

**Metro:** Noviciado or Tribunal

## The Gin Room



Now here's a bar that is slightly out of my comfort zone (and by that I mean it's not in Malasaña) but if you're looking for reason to get out of your skinny jeans and into an LBD whilst sipping on a gin, this place is it. Extremely slick and stylish, **The Gin Room** has a gin list quite literally as long as my arm. Whilst the atmosphere there was slightly lacking on my last trip, the gins certainly packed a punch. By default I always tend to revert back to **G'Vine** (it's French and fabulous). Here it came served with grapes which complimented the delicate floral flavour of **G'Vine** perfectly. Before the night was through I'd managed to blitz about 70 euros on six gins (not all for me might I add) so this is definitely not the place to visit when there's too much month left at the end



of your money. Saying that, as a payday treat it's a great place to enjoy a glamorous gin o'clock.

**Facebook**

**Where:** *Calle de la Academia, 7*

**Phone:** *699 75 59 88*

**Metro:** *Atocha or Banco de España*

## **Shuzo's**



Shuzo, Shuzo, Shuzo, it almost pains me to share this hidden gem for fear that I'll never be able to perch on a bar stool there again. First things first, it is tiny (we're talking the size of a wardrobe) and secondly the array of gins that they stock is a gin lovers delight – I think I genuinely clapped and whooped on arrival, admittedly it doesn't take much! This bar has the old classics such as **Hendricks**, **Bombay** and the

like as well, as some very quirky brands such as **Monkey 47**, an unusual (yet potent) gin hailing from the Black Forest in Germany. The atmosphere here is laid back but rest assured you definitely feel as though you are 'someone in the know' upon entering into this wee Aladdin's cave.

[Facebook](#)

**Where:** *Calle de Jorge Juan, 52*

**Phone:** *914 35 91 71*

**Metro:** *Príncipe de Vergara*

So folks, there's three to get you started and remember – it's always gin o'clock somewhere in the world...so bottoms up!

**Looking for more on Madrid's best cocktail bars? Check out:**

**1862 Dry Bar – perfection served in a glass!**

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## **1862 Dry Bar – Perfection Served in a Glass**

Looking for a perfectly crafted cocktail? Do you prefer the classics, or something a little more adventurous? No matter your taste, there is a spot for you at [1862 Dry Bar](#), located in the heart of Malasaña.



If you need structure, snag a table on the street level, with tables peppering the perimeter of the room, and the bar as the center of attention. For those looking to lounge and drop into a comfortable sofa, head to the dimly lit basement, and find yourself losing all concept of time.

The cocktail menu is comprehensive – running the gamut from Old Fashioned to Cosmopolitan; you name it, they serve it. Don't miss out on the house specials on the backside of the menu, with intricate mixes that you didn't know you wanted until you saw it on the menu.





If you are indecisive like I tend to be, simply ask for a recommendation-the service is friendly and can help you craft your drink based on your likes and dislikes without a second thought. Each careful creation is fairly priced at 8€.



The basement displays quite literally a cage of alcohol, decoratively illuminated in case you still aren't sure what you're in the mood for.

If you are able to climb out of your comfortable seat on the couch, look beyond the curved archway in the basement that



gives way to a smaller bar counter, with old fashioned photos, exposed brick walls, and hanging stemware.



[1862 Dry Bar](#) has all you could ask for-aesthetic appeal in a comfortable setting, affable, knowledgeable employees, and expertly crafted cocktails. But don't take my word for it-start tasting your way through the menu and decide for yourself if you're more of the traditional type, or if you can handle something a little different.

[Facebook](#)

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**Where:** *Calle del Pez, 27*

**Metro:** *Noviciado*

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