

Bodegas Rosell, one of Madrid's best tabernas

Madrid is a fascinating city. We see so many new restaurants and bars opening up every week and yet, the city's good-old *tabernas* and more traditional bars are also thriving. When I crave the latter (which is quite often), one of my go-to spots is Bodegas Rosell.

Bodegas Rosell, one of my favorite old taverns in Madrid

[Bodegas Rosell](#) is one of those havens that I like to go to when I want to get away from the city's newer spots. Located close to Atocha, everything about **Bodegas Rosell** screams Madrid; you can breathe in tradition as soon as you walk in.

This wonderful place was founded in 1920 by the Rosell family, who converted a former wine shop into a neighborhood *taberna*. Today, **Bodegas Rosell** preserves the spirit of the old, traditional taverns that were so popular in another time. Its decor, food, portions, staff and service will take you a step back in time.

The Decor

When you arrive and stand in front of its facade, you realize you're in a special place. The facade's tiles are a genuine work of art, painted by Alfonso Romero, who also painted altar pieces in the **Plaza de Toros de las Ventas** (Madrid's iconic bullfighting ring).



While the exterior oozes with tradition, the interior doesn't leave you unimpressed either. It's not a particularly large place, which makes it even more charming. The walls are decorated with guitars, photographs of the Rosell Family, bottles of wine, and of course, we can't forget about

the great map of the Community of Madrid. Can it be more traditional?

Bodegas Rosell is just perfect for a quick snack on a stool at any of the *barrel tables*; or for a quieter lunch or dinner at any of their *4-legged tables*. They also have private salons, so it won't be a problem if you are a large group.

The Food

Bodegas Rosell offers a traditional menu with generous portions. Specializing in meat dishes, one of their star dishes is *solomillo* (**pork tenderloin**). Another favourite is *bacalao* (**cod**) prepared *al horno* (oven-baked) or *rebozado* (fried in an egg and flour batter). And of course, you can also find excellent **canned seafood**, such as *mejillones* (**mussels**), *berberechos* (**cockles**) and *anchoas* (**anchovies**).



I'm not very fond of fish, but this *bacalao* was superb.



The *entrecot* was so big that we had to ask the waiter to split it in two. This pic only shows half.



The *albóndigas* (meatballs) were amazing!

My favorite thing to order here is the plate of *embutidos ibéricos* (**Iberian cured meats**) and the **cheeses**. You can have various types of cheese such as **Manchego, olive oil, Idiazabal, goat, sheep**, so I recommend ordering the **cheese board** for those undecided or who like all of them. The Iberian cured meats are wonderful, such as *jamón serrano, chorizo, lomo* and *salchichón*. I also recommend ordering the *tabla de ibéricos* (**cured meat platter with all of them**).

Of course we also have the typical salads and vegetable dishes for those who aren't so keen on meat or cheese.



Mixed salad

Special mention; the fantastic *tostas* and *tapas*; perfect to accompany a refreshing *caña* (small draft beer). My favorite tapa is the *boquerones en vinagre* (**white anchovies in**

vinegar).

The house specialties are also fantastic: My favorites are the homemade, absolutely delicious **croquettes**, not to mention the typical *callos a la madrileña* (**Madrid-style tripe**) and the Spanish *tortilla* (**egg and potato omelet**).



The house croquettes are wonderful, probably one of the best I've ever had in Madrid.

Despite all of these scrumptious dishes, Bodega Rosell's main attraction remains the **Cocido Madrileño** (a very typical and hearty stew prepared with garbanzo beans and all types of sausage) that they prepare by order.

Although the food menu is wide and varied, the dessert menu is smaller yet equally delicious; *leche frita* (**fried milk**) or *natillas* (**custard**) are some of the delights that Bodegas Rosell offers to end a delicious meal.



Cheesecake



Flan

All that's left to say is that if you're looking for an **authentic Spanish tavern**, then you've found it!

Price & Contact Info

The price range is varied and quite affordable. You can have a *tosta* or tapa for **€2.90** or a great steak for **€13.50**.

- [Websit](#) & [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** c/ General Lacy, 14
- **Phone:** 914 67 84 58

Here are some of our other favorite Madrid taverns & Spanish restaurants:

- [Taberna Lamiak](#) (Basque-style pincho bar)
- [Bar Lambuzo](#) (Family-run Andalusian restaurant)
- [Casa Mingo](#) (Asturian cider house!)