



Traditional cooking

he emphasis in traditional cooking has always been on simple dishes prepared with high quality, fresh ingredients. But, there are also fine dishes to be found in the traditional local cuisine, prepared with care and sophistication. Visitors are faced with an endless choice of typical restaurants in which to try the island's wonderful specialities.

Hors d'oeuvres contribute colour, aroma and flavour to a meal, with the popular Blue Jack Mackerel, cooked with pork dripping; black puddings, which are sweet in Tenerife, as they are made with raisins and other dried fruit here; "carne fiesta"-small pieces of fried, marinated, lean pork-, fried Blue Jack Mackerel and Sardines, stewed octopus, limpets, shrimps and a long etc.



The fish of Tenerife, which can be easily found by visitors in any of the many fishing villages of the island, deserve a special mention. The Parrot Fish -Sparisoma cretense- enjoys an excellent reputation. This is a coastal fish that is usually served in a stew or fried. It has a surprisingly delicate flavour, as does the Sunfish, sea bass, grouper and others that are the basic ingredients of some remarkable fresh-tasting delights. Tuna - marinated, in carpaccio or served with onions is another good choice for a tasty meal. And salted fish (sunfish, white bream, houndshark, meagre or grouper), "jarea", sun-dried fish and "tollos", barbecued strips of sun-dried shark meat. When looking at meats, one that can not be forgotten is rabbit, either prepared in "salmorejo" sauce, or in an assortment of pieces that are first marinated and then fried, a recipe that also works very well with goat meat. Pork and beef too, are the leading ingredients in an extensive range of tasty traditional meals that can be found in any one of many different barbecues and grill restaurants to be found in the north of Tenerife.





Gofio

ofio is a direct legacy of the original native population, the Guanches. It is a flour made from toasted grain, mainly barley, wheat and corn, but it can also be made from vegetables like peas and beans.

Gofio is irreplaceable as a complement to add to the local vegetable stew "potaje", meat stew "puchero" or fish stew "cazuela de pescado". It is usually kneeded into a ball and eaten as a starter. It is most widely used at breakfast time, where it is an important ingredient, because it is a natural cereal product that is natural and pleasant tasting, with high nutritional value within an increasingly popular healthy and nutritional Mediterranean diet.

It is also used in desserts, mixed with milk, honey, almonds and raisins. In recent years it has started to be used for making spirits, ice cream, nougat and other sweet dishes.

POTATOES

n Tenerife, as in the other Canary Islands, the potato still goes by the original name it was given when it first arrived on the island from the Andean region of South America, "papa".

Potatoes arrived in the Canaries before continuing their spread throughout Europe. The original contact has left an extensive legacy that can now be seen in nearly three dozen different varieties, most of which come from the Andes region, all falling in the category of what are known as "coloured potatoes".

The humble potato is one of the main allies of the cuisine of Tenerife. It is used in "potajes", "pucheros", "cazuelas" (see above) and, above all, served with meat and fish as "papas arrugadas", potatoes boiled in very salty water and served in their jackets. Some of the oldest known varieties of potatoes on the island, the "papas negras", only grown in Tenerife, and the "papas bonitas" have a delicious flavour.





CHEESES

nother of the jewels of the local gastronomy that visitors discover with satisfying surprise are the cheeses of the Canary Islands. Sheep and goats provided the main livelihood for the Guanche people, which explains the cheese-making tradition of Tenerife. The cheese made in Tenerife, which is of excellent quality and offers complete health guarantees, is generally eaten fresh or matured. One of its most outstanding features is its softness and the particular aroma it gives off to announce its special taste, salty and slightly acid, that is very pleasing on the palate.

There are some local cheeses that deserve special attention, such as the cheeses of El Tanque, mature and slightly picante; and those of Arico-Fasnia, Anaga and Teno.

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he island's special vegetation is ideal for making excellent honeys. Maybe the most original one is thistle honey, unique in Europe and a tasty, delicate way to sweeten desserts or to kneed into *gofio*. Another, somewhat different honey, with an intense, sweet smell, is broom honey. Then there is bugloss honey. This is practically colourless until it crystallises to a white, opaque colour. It comes from the flowers of the Teide National Park.

There is a wide range of honeys. The coastal, ones made principally from the blooms of banana and avocados, and ones from the hills and mountains, made from chestnuts or fennel, are other possibilities that can be tasted and enjoyed at the table. Next to the Wine Museum in El Sauzal, there is a Honey Museum (*Casa de la Miel*), which produces exceptional and genuine Tenerife honeys.





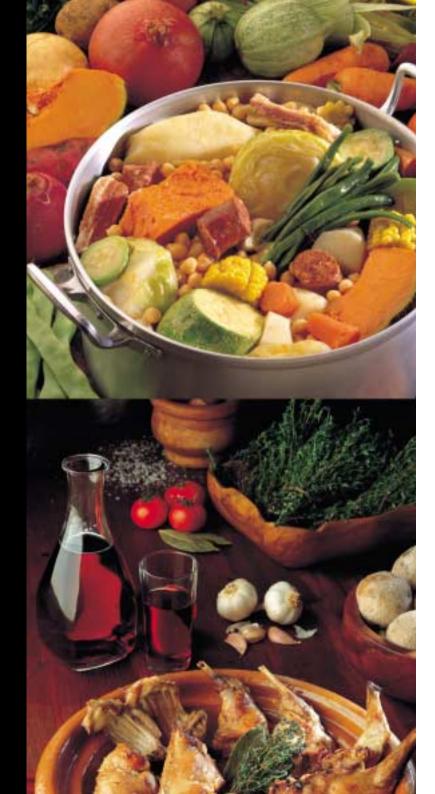
Desserts

he are many surprises awaiting visitors who try the dessert cuisine of the island as well. These have survived from the times when sugar cane was the most important crop in the region. In fact, sugar was so important that, at one time, the Canaries were known as The Sugar Islands. The fact that the islands attracted travellers from all over the world also led to a long tradition of dessert cuisine in the islands that can trace its roots back to many different parts of Europe, and elsewhere, leading to a wide variety of desserts nowadays.

Some desserts worthy of the most demanding palate are "huevos mole", made from egg yolks and syrup, and "frangollo" originally a Portuguese dish that is made with a masterful combination of ingredients like corn flour and the excellent island honey, especially white broom honey, which is harvested in Las Cañadas del Teide. Fine examples of the wealth and variety of local desserts can be found in "rosquetes" from La Laguna or Garachico, cakes from Vilaflor, sweet potato and almond pasties and pies from the Orotava Valley.

Товассо xperts know that Canary Island tobacco is one of the best in the world, and the traditions of producing the best tobacco are maintained alive and well in the Islands. Hand made cigars are made that transmit the singularities of times gone by. These are a real luxury, as their aroma awakens the essence of this region. The close links that the Canary Islands have maintained with Cuba, contributing to its population and the development of its agriculture, both in the growing of tobacco and in its processing, have produced specialists who have passed on their know-how from one generation to another, thus, maintaining their reputation throughout the world.

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