

You can go on enjoying numerous cultural and leisure activities, and set menus at special prices until 9 February.

The last week of Gastrofestival Madrid

- Guided cheese tastings, a biodynamic cookery workshop, gourmet trails or culinary photography competitions are just some of the dozens of initiatives available.
- Madrid museums and cultural spaces continue hosting special events based around the Gastrofestival. And there are also films, theatre and literature in gastronomy mode
- Information with the full programme is available at:
www.esmadrid.com/gastrofestival

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The fifth edition of the capital's benchmark culinary event, Gastrofestival Madrid, comes to an end next Sunday, 9 February. But there's still a whole week left for visitors and locals to enjoy numerous activities and cultivate not only their sense of taste, but also their sight, hearing, sense of smell - and even their spirit. Workshops, trails, tastings and set menus at special prices are just some of the events you can choose from.

One of the capital's gourmet points of reference, the San Antón Market, is still turned into a real museum of gastronomy, providing a selection of its best products, tastings, combinations and pairings - and even live demonstrations on how to cook with the different foods. The Poncelet Cheese Bar Restaurant will surprise cheese-lovers with guided tastings every morning this week, basic courses and interesting talks, such as "The Mystery of Rinds" or "Let's Talk about the D.O.P.s (protected designations of origin) of Cheeses".

The Lavinia wine shop will organise "Flavours of Mexico" on 7 February, a tasting with typical dishes and products from that country, while the Fuentes y Bonetillo Restaurant is putting on a workshop on biodynamic cookery, which ends with a tasting, on 8 February. The first Academy of Italian Cookery in Madrid, la Accademia del Gusto, is hosting a themed supper-cookery course on 5 February, with delicacies such as *Tagliolini with truffle* or *Truffle tiramisu*.

Gastronomy trails and cookery courses

And so that you can discover Madrid cuisine as you wander around the city, Make my Day in Madrid is organising guided gourmet trails, with such original titles as "Madrid - living like a king" (8 February at 12 midday), "Gourmet, artistic, literary Madrid" (7 February at 7pm) or "Madrid - a gastronomic journey through Spain" (8 February at 7pm).

Fans of the kitchen can opt for one of the cookery courses provided by the gastronomy bookshop and cookery school A Punto: for example, the "Bread and

other doughs" course (4 February), "Cuisine: the glamour of game" (5 February), "Culinary Photography with Javier Peñas" (7 February), "Molecular cooking and other techniques applied to tapas" (8 February) or "Martini-time hors d'oeuvres" (9 February).

Gastronomy and culture

Madrid museums and cultural centres are still providing special activities based around Gastrofestival Madrid. The Lázaro Galdiano Foundation is organising "Art and Gastronomy at the Lázaro Galdiano Museum" tours (8 and 9 February) and "Art + sushi + cava" (7 February); the Museum of Romanticism: the workshop tour, "Cheers! Glass at 19th-century tables" (4 February); the Prado Museum: "Dialogue with Peter Cherry and David de Jorge" (9 February) and "Cakes and Wine" (7, 8 and 9 February); the Garment Museum: "The cocktail dress - a dress of a new era" (5 February); and the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts: a guided tour around several works in its collection (from 4 to 7 February).

The second part of one of the new events in this year's edition of Gastrofestival Madrid, "Literary Bites", will also take place this week. The San Ginés chocolate house will be the setting for a new literary discussion based around gastronomy at 7.30pm on 6 February, with the participation of writers, Fernando Beltrán, Jesús Ruiz Mantilla and Javier Rioyo. Furthermore, there are still discounts in bookshops and the "Gastrobook Crossing" - a free cookery book exchange - is on at the Círculo de Bellas Artes.

FNAC Callao is also taking part in the programme for this culinary affair this year with several events, such as films with a gastronomy theme: "The chicken, the fish and the king crab" by José Luis López-Linares (7 February) or "Julie and Julia" by Nora Ephron (5 February), amongst others; a demonstration on gin & tonics (5 February); and a cupcake workshop and book-signing with Alma Obregón (9 February). Gastronomy and theatre have found a space at Microteatro por dinero, which is still putting on short shows with a €4 admission fee.

More ideas

The universes of gastronomy and fashion come together in the shops of designers Ágatha Ruiz de la Prada, Adolfo Domínguez, Alma Aguilar and Roberto Verino, and at the headquarters of the Association of Spanish Fashion Designers (ACME), which has decorated its window with a singular young woman dressed in bottles created by several national designers. Another idea is "Menus by Elle", with the participation of almost 40 of the capital's trendiest establishments offering set menus at €35.

"Tastingtapas" (a tapa and bottle of beer for €3), set menus at €25 and €40, "Our favourite bars with a Rioja wine" (a tapa and a glass of Rioja for €6) and many more activities make up Gastrofestival Madrid - an event sponsored by Mahou and American Express, who have also given their support to the presence of big international chefs at "Dinner with the stars by American Express". All the information can be viewed on the city of Madrid's official tourism website www.esmadrid.com/gastrofestival/.