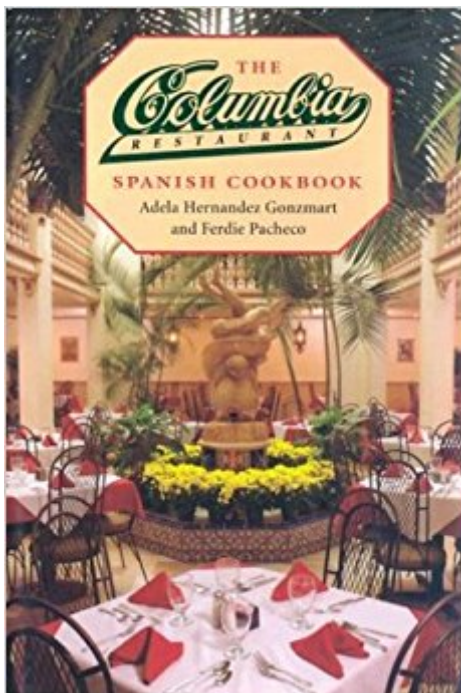


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The Columbia Restaurant Spanish Cookbook



Synopsis

"Five Forks"--Spanish government ranking"Recommended"--AAA Travel Guide and Mobil Travel Guide*Golden Spoon Award--Florida Trend*"A Spanish happening not to be found elsewhere."--Holiday Magazine*Epicurean Rendezvous Award for "The best restaurant in Tampa, Florida"--Fortune Magazine*Fine Dining Hall of Fame Award--Nation's Restaurant News

Out of secrets and dreams and romance, Adela Hernandez Gonzmart and Ferdie Pacheco memorialize their passion for the Columbia in this narrated cookbook inspired by the nation's largest Spanish restaurant and Florida's oldest restaurant. ã ã Adela's affair with food is a family legacy that began more than 90 years ago, when her beloved grandfather Casimiro emigrated from Cuba to Tampa, then a little town on Florida's west coast. There, amid scrub palmettos and rattlesnakes, an enclave of Cubans, Spaniards, and Italians worked in the growing cigar industry in a neighborhood known as Ybor City. ã ã Casimiro Hernandez found work, saved his money, and in 1905 purchased a bar, where he started selling soup, sandwiches, and coffee. ã ã Out of gratitude to his new country, he named his small cafÃ© the Columbia, after the personification of America in the popular song "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean." ã ã Prophetically, he added this motto to his sign: ã ã "The Gem of All Spanish Restaurants." ã ã This book is both a history of the elegant family restaurant, which now boasts six locations in Florida, and a cookbook of 178 recipes that make them famous. ã ã It is also the biography of Adela, the heart of the Columbia, with commentary by Ferdie Pacheco, television's "fight doctor," Ybor City's famous raconteur, and Adela's neighbor as they grew up together in Ybor City. ã ã Casimiro became known for dishes that the Columbia still serves--Spanish bean soup, his lusty creation that combines sausage, garbanzo beans, and potatoes in a beef stock; arroz con pollo, a classic chicken and rice dish; an authentic Cuban sandwich; and the 1905 salad, dressed with the family's special blend of fresh garlic, oregano, wine vinegar, lemon juice, and Spanish olive oil. ã ã Pijuan, Casimiro's fabled chef from the kitchen of King Alfonso XIII of Spain, contributed numerous works of art, such as pompano papillot and steak capuchina. Adela and Ferdie now reveal the best of these recipes and offer many others, giving lovers of good food the opportunity to bring home the aroma, the seasonings, and the glamour of the Columbia, the gem of all Spanish restaurants. ã ã Adela Hernandez Gonzmart was born two blocks from the Columbia Restaurant. ã ã After graduating from the Juilliard School of Music, she toured the United States and Cuba as a concert pianist. ã ã After her marriage to violinist Cesar Gonzmart, she performed with such entertainers as Liberace, Ernesto Lecuona, and Amparo Hurb. ã ã She was instrumental in forming the Tampa Symphony Orchestra and has received countless honors from organizations in the Tampa community: Outstanding Citizen of the Year

awards from the Tampa Museum Society and the Optimist Club, Hispanic Woman of the Year from the Hispanic Heritage League, Paulo Longo Award from the Italian Club, and the Centro Asturiano Award for contributions to the Latin community, as well as awards from the community Red Cross, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, and Arts Council and other awards for civic service. Ferdie Pacheco, who as a teenager worked in the Columbia Restaurant as a waiter, is the author of *Ybor City Chronicles* (UPF, 1994), *Muhammad Ali: A View from the Corner*, *Fight Doctor*, and *Renegade Lightning*. He served as Muhammad Ali's personal physician from 1963 to 1977. He is also a painter, exhibiting one-man shows in London, Paris, New York, and Miami (where he now lives), and a boxing color commentator on television. He is married to Luisita Sevilla, who danced flamenco with Los Chavales de Espa a until Ferdie booked her into his house "for a lifetime run."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Ybor City's famous raconteur, and Adela's neighbor as they grew up together in Ybor City.

The Columbia Restaurant is a historic landmark in Ybor City (Tampa), Florida with excellent and authentic dishes from Spain. This cookbook is the BEST Cuban and Spanish food cookbook I've ever owned. The recipes are kitchen-tested and always turn out excellent. I highly recommend this particular cookbook, and have given three of these cookbooks as gifts, as well as having purchased one for myself.

This cookbook is from one of my favorite restaurants. Have tried some of the recipes with great success but leave my favorites to the restaurant chef. Wonderful recipes. The tapas/appetizers alone can really upgrade dinner parties if you don't want to get into anything more involved. But do try some of the fancier recipes too. The instructions are clear and results fantastic-this from a self described 'non cook'

love love love this restaurant in St Augustine, nice to have this book for recipes and a souvenir of two great nights

another great collection

This is a GREAT cookbook, we especially love the chicken and yellow rice, with 1905 salad and have it often. I don't think you would be sorry if you bought this coolbook.

I went to the Columbia restaurant in Ybor City a few years ago, and the food was divine. I bought the cookbook hoping, originally, to recreate the dishes I had eaten. Sadly, not *every* dish I had was covered, but those that were came out perfectly, and I discovered many, MANY new favorites in exploring these delicious recipes.

The book came in excellent condition. I have enjoyed reading the history and story of the family who started this restaurant. I have also prepared some of the recipes and have found the recipes to be accurate and tasty.

very interesting, love reading the story of Adela the 2nd generation owner. I even got a signed copy by Adela Hernandez Gonzmart. Very pleased with the purchase

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