

Why this sunny and sensuous city is the best in the world



The Catalan capital effortlessly attracts international artists of a calibre normally found in cities twice the size | CREDIT: Manfred Gottschalk/The Image Bank Unreleased

Europe's most exciting city for food lovers

By *Isabella Noble*

After months of pandemic-rooted woes, Barcelona's gastronomy scene is bouncing back, with hyper-local produce, lively neighbourhood markets and boundary-pushing cuisine that shows no signs of slowing down.

Amar Barcelona

Celebrated Sevillian chef Rafa Zafra, who brought us Estimar (in Madrid and Barcelona) and Ibiza's Casa Jondal and Heart (alongside the Adrià brothers), is behind this hotly anticipated luxe-meets-casual arrival. Launching on 26th April, Amar spotlights Mediterranean seafood, refreshed Catalan classics and elegant wines at lavish L'Eixample hotel El Palace.

[hotelpalacebarcelona.com](https://www.hotelpalacebarcelona.com)

Bodega Bonay

Hidden within L'Eixample's boho-chic Casa Bonay, Giacomo Hassan's fabulous new tapas-and-natural-wines hub puts a creative Italian-influenced spin on the freshest Catalan produce. Temptations on the seasonally changing menu might include stracchino salad, grilled pork jowl and butter-sage gnocchi.

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