



SPECIAL AWARD

SPAIN

2000

CAFÉ IRUÑA

BILBAO

*This prestigious award
marks the very best in Café Culture
honouring tradition, service & quality
over a long period of time*

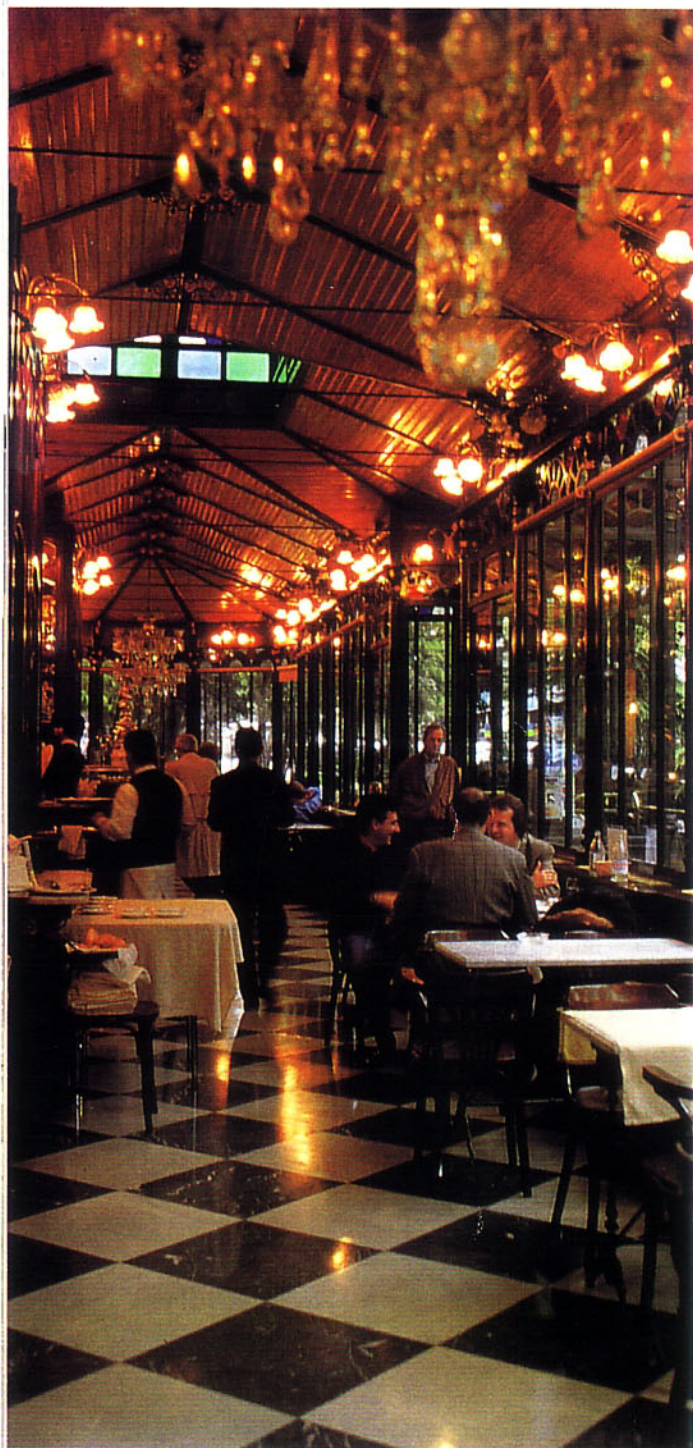
ROY ACKERMAN O.B.E.

*Café Crème Guide to the Cafés of Europe
London England*



Bilbao

A sprawling, industrial city, very friendly, with one of Spain's most important art galleries; and plenty of bars and restaurants in the old quarter on the east bank of the Nervión. The place goes wild during the festival in the second half of August.



Café Iruña

Jardines de Albia, Berastegui 5

Tel: 94 423 7021

Open: 07.00-01.00 (Fri & Sat till 02.30)

Established in 1903, Iruña overlooks the gardens and the monument to A Trueba. It has two bars, very different but both eye-catching. The first has revolving doors, a chandelier and a mosaic-decorated floor. Pass through a door to the right of the semi-circular bar and you enter a startling room with walls tiled in blue, white and yellow and tiled panelled tableaux advertising sherry and brandy from various producers. Here, at the long horseshoe bar, the serious business of tapas is carried out.

Spain Special Award 2000

Café La Granja

3 Plaza Circular

Tel: 94 423 0813

Open: 07.00-24.00 (Sat & Sun 09.00-02.30/03.00)

One of three roomy old cafés under the same management, La Granja is an easy walk from the Arenal Bridge and the old town, Casco Viejo. Its main clientele is office workers in the morning, shoppers at lunchtime and a young, lively crowd in the evening.

Café Boulevard

3 Paseo de Arenal

Tel: 94 415 3128

Open: 07.30-24.00 (Fri & Sat till 03.00, Sun from 11.00)

1871 saw the founding of Café Boulevard, which has remained a popular meeting place down the years. Nowadays it has a neon-lit frontage that looks a bit like a cinema and a vast, elaborately decorated interior with marble, gilt and lots of mirrors.