



SUKALDARITZA
CUISINE

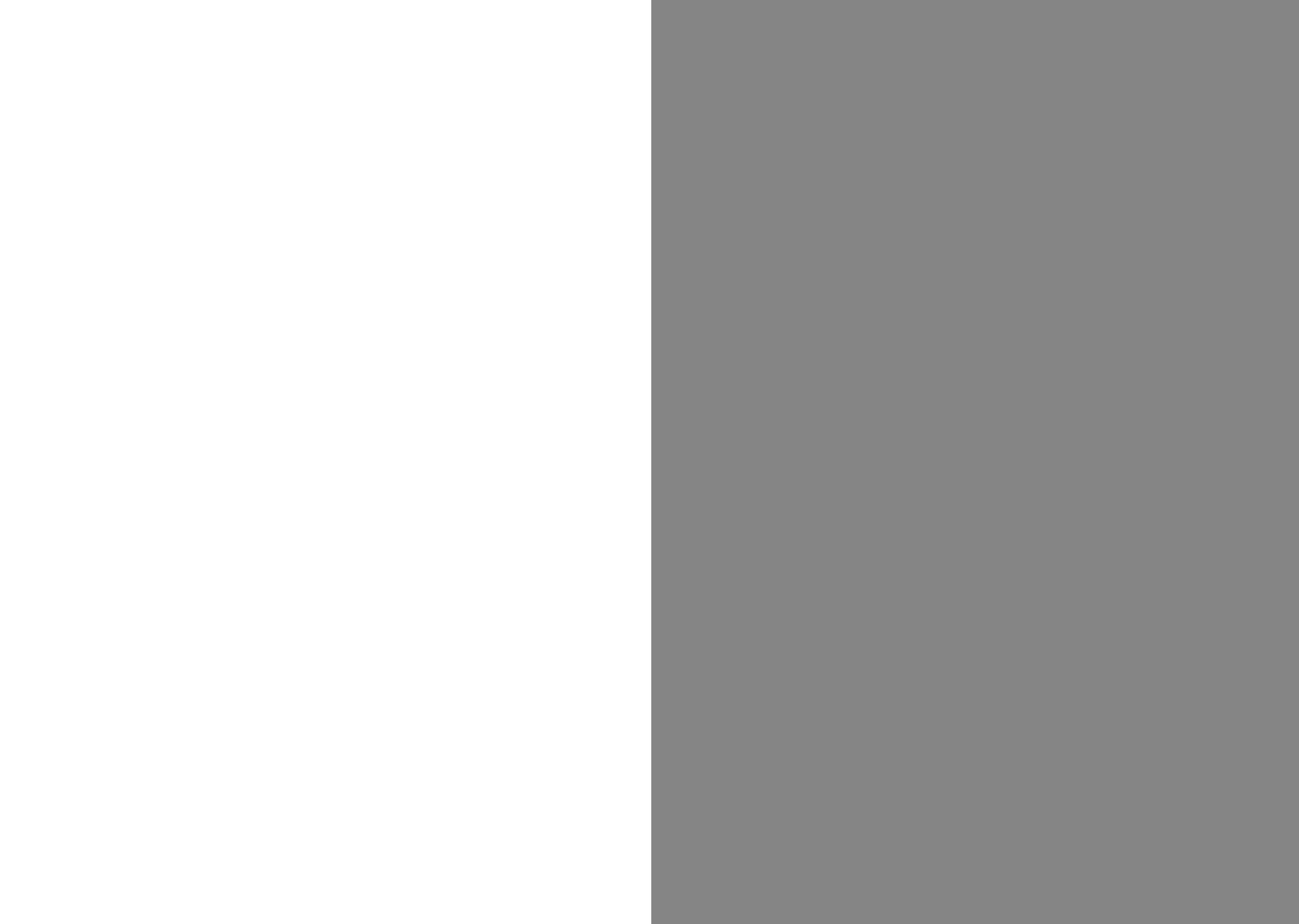
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Hasier Etxeberria

BASQUE.



ETXEPARE
EUSKAL
INSTITUTUA



SUKALDARITZA
CUISINE

Hasier Etxeberria

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Etxepare Euskal Institutuak sortutako bilduma honek hamabi kultura-adierazpide bildu ditu. Guztia kate bakarraren katebegiak dira, hizkuntza berak, lurralteko komunak eta denbora-mugarri berbereek zeharkatzen dituztelako. Kulturaren eskutik, euskararen lurralteko tradizioa eta abangoardia nola uztartu diren jasoko duzu. Kulturaren leihotik, bertakoaren eta kanpokoaren topalekua erakutsiko dizugu. Kulturaren taupadatik, nondik gatozen, non gauden eta nora goazen jakiteko aukera izango duzu. Liburu sorta hau abiapuntu bat da, zugan jakin-mina eragin eta euskaral kultura sakonago ezagutzeko gogoa piztea du helburu.

This collection created by the Etxepare Basque Institute brings together twelve cultural disciplines, all of them intertwined as they share language, land and history. Hand in hand with our culture, we invite you to witness the fusion of tradition and innovation, the melding of local and foreign. In short, we invite you to learn where we come from, where we are now and where we're heading. This set of books is a launchpad intended to spark your curiosity.

SUKALDARITZA CUISINE

Hasier Etxeberria

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Nola lortu du Mendebareko Europako berezko hizkuntzen artean indoeuroparra ez den bakarrak bere lekua hartzea XXI. mendean? Zertan datza euskal kultura gaur egun eta zertan bereizten da besteengandik? Zer presentzia merezi du nazioartean?

Liburu hauen bidez, Etxepare Euskal Institutuak erantzun batzuk proposatu nahi ditu, beste kultura eta identitate batzuei eskua luzatzeko asmoz. Elkar ezagutzea baita elkar estimatzeko eta ulertzeko modu bakarra. Ongi etorri.

How has the only indigenous language of Western Europe that is not of Indo-European origin achieved its own place in the 21st century? What is Basque culture and what sets it apart from others? What international presence does it deserve?

Through the books that make up this collection, the Etxepare Basque Institute would like to offer a series of responses to reach out to other cultures and identities. The better we know each other, the more we appreciate each other. Ongi etorri.

Aitzinsolasoa

Gauza guztiarako daude azterketak eta guztia justifikatzen da. Gastro-nomiari dagokionez, badira azterketa batzuk elikadurari buruzko jokabideen homogeneizazioa esplikatzen saiatzen direnak eta jateko kontuan, etxeen nahiz kanpoan, gauzak okerrera doazela azaltzen dutenak. Beste lan batzuek, egia eztabaidagarriak agertzen dituzten horietakoek, funtsean esaten dute etxeetan gero eta denbora gutxiago eskaintzen zaiola sukaldaritzari eta gaur egun, batez beste, laurogeita hamar minuto emplegatzen direla egunean jatorduen organizazioan. Horrekin paraleloan, badirudi gure jaki-toki edo jaki-tokitik gero eta urrunago daudela lehengaia bere egoera naturalean.

Egia da publikoaren parte handi batek, dela erosotasunagatik, dela arduragabetasunagatik edo bizitzeko moduak errotik aldatu direlako, besterik gabe, janari prestatuetara jotzen duela sarritan, eta gero beste elementu batzuekin osatzen dituela jaki horiek: bota zertxobait poto honetatik, beste zertxobait beste zorro hartatik eta tetrabrikeko saldaz busti dena, prozesua mikrouhin-labe batean burutu aurretik. Eta horrek baditu bere ondorioak, noski; horietako bat, janariekin itxura galdu dutela ikustea, eta ez itxura bakarrik, izena bera ere bai, eta horrek ahora zer eramatzen dugun berriz pentsatzen bultzatzen gaitu ezinbestean. Elikaduraren bilakaera ebolutiboaren erdibidean gaude, bukaerara daraman bidearen erdiko tartean: proteinak laborategikoak, janariak animaliarik gabeak eta nutrizioa bere modurik gordinenean.

Hainbeste zabaldu den testuinguru horretan, ez da oharkabean pasatzen kultura bat harro agertzea sukaldaritza jartzen duelako bere gune kardinalean. Eta beharbada horrek txokatzen du hainbeste Euskal Herrira datorren bisitaria: oro har, sukaldaritzaz eta jateko kontuez hitz egiteko ohitura handia duen herri bat topatzea.

Liburuki honen eginkizuna euskal sukaldaritza ulertzeko bidean ardia ematea da, osagai asko baititu gure sukaldaritzak: kausalitate-izpiak, efikazia-dosiak eta herri-pragmatismoa, beste kultura eta eraginen hondarrekin batera, eta osagai horiek guztiak elkarrekin nahasiz eta josiz joan dira, arian-arian, gaur duen itxura propioa hartu duen arte. Jar dezagun adibide gisa bakailaoa, euskaldunok orain dela ehunka eta ehunka urtetik kontsumitzen duguna, arrantzaleek gure kostaldetik lau mila kilometro baino gehiagora joan behar bazuten ere hura harrapatzera.

Bestetik, orain dela mende asko, hogei bat, Zizeron legalari, politikari eta filosofo ospetsuak honela esan zuen: «Banketeen plazera ez da neurtu behar soilik janarien oparotasunagatik, hori bezain garrantzitsua da lagunekin bat eginda haien izandako solasaldia», eta, gure sozietate edo elkarteen mahaiaren inguruan elkartzeko aitzakien artean, horrek ere pisu handia du, dudarik gabe. Akaso horregatik, lan honen egileak bazkalostean mahaiaren bueltan izaten diren solasaldien tankera eman dio testuari, eta trebetasun handiz eta dotore asko apaindu du. Hasier Etxeberria, samintasunez oroitzenten duguna, bere belaunaldiko idazle han-dietako bat eta gure aliatua izateaz gainera, hizlari dotorea zen eta asko

Prologue

There are studies about everything, just there are justifications. As for gastronomy, there are analyses which try to explain the homogenisation of alimentary conducts as well as their deterioration both inside and outside the home. Other works, those that seem to contain controversial truths, even suggest that, within homes, dedication to cooking is in disarray and currently an average of ninety minutes is given to organising meals. At the same time, the pantry seems to be a place in which raw materials in their natural state are found less and less.

It is a fact that a high proportion of people, due to ease, carelessness or simply on account of the transformation in lifestyles, turn to prepared food which they then complement with other elements: a little bit from this tin with something from this packet, all watered down with the quick fix of that carton before finishing off the process in the microwave. One of the effects deriving from all this is a warning of how foods are disappearing from sight, losing their appearance and even name, in a manoeuvre which calls on us to rethink what we are putting in our mouths. This is not about forms of commitment that recall organic origins. We are on an intermediate route towards the end of the evolutionary path of food: laboratory proteins, the de-animalisation of food and nutrition in its crudest form.

In this fairly extensive context, when a culture brags about placing cuisine at the heart of its fundamental space, it does not go unnoticed. And this is what catches the eye so much of visitors to the Basque Country: finding a people that speak about cooking in such a widespread way.

This volume carries out the task of clearing up the balance of an activity, Basque cuisine, which is made up of fragments of chance, a dose of efficacy and popular pragmatism, alongside all the other cultures and influences that, with time, have been added clearly to the attire of its own habits. Let's mention as an example cod, which Basques have eaten for a hundreds and hundreds years in spite of having to fish it more than a thousand kilometres from their coast.

Likewise, centuries ago, twenty to be more precise, the jurist, politician and philosopher Cicero stated that he never measured his "enjoyment even of these banquets by the physical pleasures they gave more than by the gathering and conversation of friends", and there is a lot of this in the way of understanding encounters around a table in Basque society. Perhaps for that reason, the author of this work, with much delicacy, draped this text in the form of written post-prandial table-talk. Hasier Etxeberria, as well as being one of the great writers of his generation, a dearly missed ally and a loquacious conversationalist, liked to communicate, to open the doors of his home and toast life, although that, nonetheless, always with concern for linguistic terms and ideas in order to scrutinise their nature, always on the hunt for essence. And one perceives all of that in these reflections, which do not sidestep such intricate issues as memory, authority or identity in cuisine, issues that were so often at the heart of our chats. This is almost certainly why I find this dialogue in

gustatzen zitzaison berriketan jardutea, komunikatzea, bere etxeko ateak zabaltzea eta bizitzaren alde topa egitea; hori bai, betiere hizkuntzaren eta ideien mugetan, doitasunez eta zehatz, haien izatean arakatuz muinean barneratzeraino, funts eta esentziaren bila beti. Eta hori guztia garbi sumatzen da gogoeta hauetan; ez dio ezeri ihes egiten, ezta gai bihurrienei ere, ez sukaldaritzaren memoriari, ez egiletzari, ez identitateari ere. Kontu horiek sarritan izan ziren gure elkarritzketen ardatz. Seguru asko, horregatik sentitzen dut hain hurbil tintaz eta paperean izaten ari garen elkarritzeta hau; seguru asko, horregatik gertatzen ari zait hain atsegina, zeren hau errepasatzean berriz bisitatzen eta berritzen baititut Hasierrekin izan nituen elkarritzketak.

Badut beste lagun bat elkar ikusten dugun bakoitzean esaten didana denok behar dugula geure bizitza propioaren biografia on bat, kontakizun txukun bat geure buruaz, bizi izan dugun guztiaren ikuspegi onuragarria emango diguna. Kontua berritzen didan bakoitzean susmoa etortzen zait, nahi gabe ere, planteamendu hori bera erreklamatzen duela kultura esaten diogun espacio komun horrek, gure izatea eta irudia definitzen dituen ohituren, ideien eta lekuen bilduma horrek. Orain badakigu ez bizitzaren gertaerak, ez historiakoak ez direla linealak, eta are gutxiago dira sukaldaritzakoak. Eta nirekin ados ez bazaude, eztabaida dezagun bazkari on batekin mahaiaren bueltan, azken batean, Hasierrek esaten zuen bezala, hori baita euskal sukaldaritza definitzen duten ezaugarrietako bat, beharbada garrantzitsuena. On egin!

Andoni Luis Aduriz

ink and paper so personal, so appealing, because in revising it I am revisiting my conversations with Hasier.

I have another friend that, every time we meet, reiterates that we all need a good biography of our own lives, a decorous account of ourselves that foments a favourable view of everything that we have experienced. Each time he emphasises this to me, I cannot avoid suspecting that such a proposal also demands that common space we call culture, that collection of customs, ideas and places that define and represent us. And now that we have embraced the idea that neither life's events nor those of history are linear, those of cuisines are even less so. And if you don't agree, let's debate it over a good meal, which at the end of the day, as Hasier pointed out, is one of the characteristics that define Basque cuisine, perhaps its most important feature. Enjoy!

Andoni Luis Aduriz

Sarrera

Euskaldunok estimu handitan daukagu gure sukaldaritza, eta ezin dugu ulertu giza harremanik eta lagunartekorik mahai baten bueltan ez bada. Ez da harritzeko, beraz, euskal gastronomia Europako punta-puntako bat izatea eta sukaldaritza berritzeko eta birpentsatzeko sortzen ari diren mugimendu askoren gailurrean egotea.

Euskal sukaldari askok fama handia dute nazioartean eta gure enbaxadore bihurtu dira mundu osoan. Gastronomiaren inguruan topaketa garrantzitsu bat non, han izaten dira euskal sukaldariak. Era berean, munduko bazter guztietatik saldoka etortzen da jendea euskal sukaldeetan ikastera eta prestatzera.

Etxekosukaldaritaera maila handikoada Euskal Herrian. Gauregungo mundu globalizatuan korrika eta presaka bizi gara, eta etxeen gero eta gutxiago egiten da sukaldean; euskaldunok, ordea, kozinatzen jarraitzen dugu eta estimu handitan daukagu sukaldeko jakintza tradizionala.

Nolanahi ere, gaur egun egiten den sukaldaritza ez da molde zaharren errepikapen hutsa. Sukaldari handien berrikuntzek eta jendearen gustuek sintesi moduko bat inposatu dute *betiko sukaldaritzaren eta sukaldaritza berriaren* artean.

Gaur egun ez da orain dela urte batzuk bezala kozinatzen, dena aldatuz baitoa, produktuak, kontzeptuak, moduak... Dena den, bada euskal marka moduko bat, euskaldunek berehala baitakite zer den euskal sukaldaritza eta zer ez.

Nolanahi ere, euskal sukaldaritza kontzeptu lausoa da, oraindik behar den bezala teorizatu gabea. Izan ere, zerk definitzen du euskal sukaldaritza? Memoriak? Produktuek? Geografiak? Horixe da, hain zuzen ere, lan honen helburua: euskal sukaldaritza definitzen duten faktoreak identifikatzea, eta, aldi berean, gaur egungo egoeraren berri ematea, azaletik bada ere.

Introduction

Basques love their cuisine and they cannot conceive of friendship or personal relationships without there being a well set table in front of them. This is such the case that Basque gastronomy has become one of the most thriving cuisines in Europe at the spearhead of many movements of renovation and progress.

Many Basque chefs are acknowledged internationally and have become authentic ambassadors all over the world. They are not lacking at any important gastronomic event and legions of people come from all over the globe to learn and train in their kitchens.

Likewise, Basque home cooking is of a very high level. Now that globalisation and urgency mean that there is less and less home cooking, Basques continue to cook and appreciate what their culinary tradition has taught them.

But it is not a question of mere repetition. The advances of the great chefs and people's tastes mean that a kind of synthesis has prevailed that distils what is understood by classic cuisine and renovated cuisine.

Nowadays, people don't cook like they did forty years ago, and everything evolves: products, concepts, methods... However, something remains that marks everything. Basques identify immediately what is and what is not Basque cuisine.

Nevertheless, this is still a vague and still not adequately theorised concept, because what truly defines this cuisine: memory, the product, geography...? This is what the following work seeks, while at the same time, and very generally, outlining its current state.



1. Kitchen in the Igartubeiti farmhouse (16th-17th centuries). Ezkio (Gipuzkoa).

Jatearen plazera kultura gisa

Ez da erraza esaten zergatik atsegin duten euskaldunek hainbeste ongi jatearekin zein mahaieren bueltarekin zerikusia duen oro. Nolanahi ere, gogoko dugu jan-kontua, eta gure bizitzaren parte handi bat hartzen du; zalantzarik gabe, sukaldaritzak garrantzi handiagoa du gure artean, beste lekuetako, kulturetako eta bestelako ohiturak dituzten gizajendeen artean baino. Jateko estimatzea eta gure *solasaldietan* jan-kontuak hizpide iza-tea gure idiosinkrasien parte dela esan daiteke, nahiz eta garaiotan bizi garen lainoan dena berdindu eta pobretzen den, eta ohiturak ere lausotu egiten diren.

Gure izaeraren ezaugarri hori ulertzea ez da erraza, hemen ez baitugu, gerrateetan izan ezik, gosete handirik pairatu historian barrena, Europa zaharrean gertatu den moduan; eta, produkzioaren aldetik ere, ez dugu ezer berezirik ekoizten. Garai batean, aitzindari izan ginen alturako arrantzian; balea-arrantzian hasi ginen, aurrena gure kostaldean bertan eta gero, XV. mendetik aurrera, Ternuaraino joan ginen, balea eta bakailaoa arrantzatzera¹.

Ez naiz historiako ikasgaiak emanzalea, baina badakit britainiarrek euskal arrantzaleei (baita portugaldarrei ere) ezagutzen diren lehenengo kontratu-lizentziak eman zizkietela, beren itsasoetan arrantzian egin eta bakailaoa manipula zezaten. Gure iragan loriatsua hotzak akabatutako euskal arrantzale zailduei zor diegu, hortaz; gure arbasoek gadidoak

1. Igartubeiti baserriko sukaldea (XVI-XVII). Ezkio.

Pleasure in Food as a Culture

It is difficult to explain why Basques like everything concerned with food and good cooking so much. It is an issue we get passionate about and which occupies a large part of our lives or, at the very least, more space than in the lives of people from other places, cultures and customs. We might say that, to some extent, appreciating food and *talking about it* form part of our idiosyncrasy, although nowadays distinctive customs tend to blur into a misty haze that makes everything the same and all the more poorer for it.

It is a feature that is truly difficult to understand, given that we are a people who have not experienced great historical famines except in time of war—as is normal in this old Europe—and nor do we stand out as major producers of anything. At most, we were the precursors of what has come to be known as deep-sea fishing, starting with whaling and, mostly, cod fishing in the waters around Newfoundland during the fifteenth century and before¹. I am not given to historical lessons, yet I do know that the British granted Basques (and Portuguese) the first known contractual licenses to fish for and handle cod in their waters. Therefore our glorious past was established by humble fishermen stiff with cold fishing gadidae, which they salted with imported salt that they paid for as best they could. Undoubtedly with great difficulty.

Whilst all this was going on, in Amsterdam, for example, there was a debate in the pioneering Stock Exchange over the exchange rates for exotic products, and in other nations monuments were built to illustrious navigators or merchants who specialized in and made a fortune out of the spice trade. We had nothing like this. At most, we sang about the seafaring exploits of rival rowing crews who battled one another to strike the first harpoon into a whale that had been sighted on our coast².

But everything changes and nowadays it does not seem like the cod industry, as was the case long ago with whaling, is all that healthy, with the traditional banks off Newfoundland depleted or severely restricted, especially since 1996. And the cod is as voracious as it is fertile: each female can lay up to ten million eggs. It's unbelievable how much cod we've been eating for a thousand years and that it has now almost disappeared, given that it was only around 1000 AD when seafarers pursuing whales arrived in Newfoundland to find those waters infested with this fish. During spawning, cod need plankton-rich waters and usually go to the coasts of Norway, Denmark, Ireland, northern Scotland and, especially, Newfoundland.

Whales, too, head for these areas in search of krill, and it was here that Basque sailors discovered cod banks, centuries before Leif Eriksson or Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic in their vessels. Why did no one know about this and why was it not mentioned in history books? For the same reason that no one likes to make public the best places to find mushrooms in September. Good business—and that of cod was for centuries among the best—is best done on the quiet. The fact of the matter is that, for example, when Jacques Cartier discovered the Gulf of Saint Lawrence on the orders of Francis I of France, according to the chronicles, there were

arrantzatu eta gatzunetan jartzen zituzten, gatza kanpotik importatuz eta ahal bezala ordainduz. Ondo kostata, seguruenik.

Gurean hori guztia gertatzen zen bitartean, Amsterdamen, adibidez, garai hartarako guztiz modernoa zen eraikin batean, produktu exotikoen kotizazioari buruz aritzen ziren eztabaidan, edota, beste herrialde batuetan, monumentuak eraikitzen zizkieten espezie-merkataritzan espezializatu eta aberastu ziren merkatariei eta nabigatzaleei. Euskaldunen artean ez zen halakorik izan; asko jota, gure kostaldera heldutako balea baten bila bi traineru irten eta lehian ibiltzen ziren, zer tripulazioi lehen arpoia sartuko, eta gero bertsoak eta kantuak sortzen ziren balentria haren omenez².

Dena aldatzen da, ordea, eta bakailaoaren industria gainbehera doa, antzina balearena joan zen bezala; izan ere, ikaragarri urritu dira garai batean Ternuan hain oparoak ziren arrain-sardak, eta, 1996az geroztik, arrantzarako murrizte zorrotzak ezarri dituzte, nahiz eta bakailaoa ja-tuna bezain ugalkorra den: eme bakar batek ia hamar milioi arrautza jar ditzake. Gezurra dirudi zenbat bakailao jan dugun azken hamar mendeotan, itsasoetatik ia desagerrarazi egin baitugu. XV-XVI. mendean heldu ziren euskal arrantzaleak Ternuaraino baleari segika (bada mende batzuk lehenago joan zirela diconik ere) eta hango urak bakailaoz josita zeudela ikusi zuten. Errunaldian, bakailaoak plankton ugariko urak behar ditu, eta Norvegiako, Danimarkako, Irlandako, Eskozia iparraldeko eta, batez ere, Ternuako kostaldeetara joaten da.

Inguru haietan baleak ere ibiltzen ziren *krilla* janez, eta hantxe aurkitu zituzten euskal arrantzaleek bakailao-sarda ikusgarriak. Bada uste duenik Leif Eriksonek edo Kristobal Kolonek beren barkuetan Atlantikoaz bestaldeko kostaldea aurkitu baino lehen heldu zirela euskaldunak Ternuara. Orduan, zergatik ez ote da gertaera hori agertzen historiako liburueta? Udaberrian perretxikoak aurkitzen dituena isilik egongoda, ez du leku haren propaganda egingo, eta euskal arrantzaleak ere arrazoi horixe izan zezaketen beren aurkuntzaren berri ez emateko. Negozi onak –eta bakailaoarena onenetakoa izan zen mende askoan– isilean egin behar izaten dira. Garai hartako kronikek kontatzen dutenez, Jaques Cartier itsasgizonak, Frantziako errege Frantzisko I.aren aginduz, San Lorentzo badia *aurkitu* zuenean, han ziren euskal arrantzaleak beren barkuekin. Gatzunetan jarritako bakailaoari esker, garizuman balearen haragia jateari utzi zion jendeak, ordura arte, besterik ezean, ezinbestez egiten zena. Antza denez, balearen koipea bikaina zen, behin urtuz gero ez zelako atzera trinkotzen, baina besterik zen haren haragia jan beharra, ez baitzen inoren gustuko. Jateko, mihia zen balearen zatirik onena; parrilan erreta ilarrekin prestatzen zen, edo, bestela, gatzunetan jarri eta xingar edo urdai gisa saltzen zen. Gainerakoan, balearen haragia jan jaten zen, gosek txantxarik ez duenez, baina ez gustuz eta atseginez. Bakailaoa, aldiz, estimu handitan zeukanen lehen, eta halaxe dauagu orain ere, gure sukaldaritzako jaki preziatuenetako bat izan baita beti.

Arestian esan dugun bezala, bakailao-kanpaina handiak historiaren parte baino ez dira gaur egun. Gaurko arrantzaleek, bibizidea ateratzeko, hiru kanpaina egiten dituzte urtean zehar: antxoarena eta txitxarroarena udaberrian eta atunarena udan. Jakina, beste espezie batzuk ere harrapatzen dira urtean zehar: legatza, batez ere. Baina, gaur egun ere, atunaren kanpainak baldintzatzen du, ekonomiaren aldetik, urtea nolakoa izan den, txarra edo ona.

over a thousand Basque ships there. Salted cod freed people from having to eat, as had been customary to that time, whale meat for Lent. Apparently, the fat of this mammal was extraordinary, given that once it melted it never solidified again, but having to eat its meat day after day was another thing. When it came to eating, the best part of the whale was its tongue; it was grilled and served with peas, or if not cooked, salted and sold as lard. The rest of it was, if necessary, eaten but without it doing much for anyone. Cod, by contrast, was and is one of our most appreciated culinary glories.

As noted, the big cod companies are history now. It takes only three seasons a year today for our fishermen to practically reach their quotas: in spring they fish for anchovies and horse-mackerel and in summer, especially, tuna. It is also true that they catch other kinds of fish throughout the year, preferably hake, but what, financially speaking, makes or breaks a year is, today, tuna.

For this reason, the first of five recipes offered here is dedicated to this fish, which arrives in our waters at an early age, before it has reached sexual and reproductive maturity. I am referring to two blue fish, Northern or Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Albacore tuna or bonito (*Thunnus alalunga*), the two basic species on which our contemporary fishermen make a living, and a handy dish that these same fishermen were forced to make onboard ship during their long trips: *Marmitako*.

It is not an especially exotic dish, nor is it considered particularly illustrious. It is, one might say, a humble fish and vegetable stew that is rarely seen on the menus of the more refined restaurants, but something that almost everyone makes at home. We love it, especially in summer, at the height of the tuna season.

2. XVI. mendeko bale-harrapaketa. Guillermo González Aledoren ur margoa (1992).



Hori dela-eta, arrain mota horrena da testu honetan aurkezten ditugun bost errezetetako lehenengoa. Atuna jaio eta urte gutxira heltzen da gure kostaldera, sexu eta ugalketa-heldutasunera iritsi aurretik. Bi arrain urdinez ari gara: atunaz edo hegalaburraz (*Tunnus thynnus*) eta hegaluzeaz (*Tunnus alalunga*). Bi espezieak dira funtsezkoak gaur egungo arrantzaleen ekonomiarako. Garai batean, itsas bidaia luzeak egiten zituztenean, arrantzaleek janari oinarrizko-oinarrizko bat prestatzen zuten, erraza egiteko, alimentu handikoa eta gozoa jateko: *marmitako*.

Marmitako ez da berez jaki aparteko; ez da plater fin eta bikain horietako. Garbi esateko, nekez agertuko da punta-puntako jatetxeetako kartetan; baina, hala ere, ia denok prestatzen dugu etxearen -eltzeko janaria da, arrainez eta berdurez egina-. Oso gustuko dugu, batez ere udan jateko, atunaren karpaina bete-betean denean.

Errezetarekin hasi aurretik, orain dela urte gehiegi gertatu zitzaidan pasadizo bat kontatu nahi dut: Euskal Herriko Marmitako Txapelketa batean epaimahaikide izatea egokitut zitzaidan. Ehun sukaldari-bikote baino gehiago bildu ziren, saria irabazteko lehian. Ez dut gogoan nor izan zen irabazlea; bai, ordea, beste kontu bat. Partaide guztiak eztabaida bizian aritu ziren ote zen *benetako* marmitakoaren formula egiazkoa. Tomaterik behar ote zuen edo ez; hobeto geratzen zela pikante pixka batekin eta piper txorizero apur batekin; ezetz, hori sakrilegioa zela... Halaxe jardun zuten denek eztabaidan. Nork bere legea zeukan han, nork bere kanona. *Benetako* bikote bakoitzarena zen, noski, ez al-damenekoarena. Izugarria! Zorionez, hogeitaka marmitako inguru probatu nituen; bata ona zen eta bestea ere bai, eta berdin hurrena eta hurrengoaren hurrena ere.

3. Euskal arrantzaleak.

3. Basque fishermen.



By the way, and before proceeding to the recipe, I would like to tell the story of how, by now too many years ago, I was chosen to be a judge for the Basque Country's *Marmitako* Competition. Over a hundred couples took part in the contest, with a prize being awarded to the winning cooks. I don't recall who won, but I do remember something else. All those taking part resolutely debated the best formula for an "authentic" *marmitako*: whether it required tomato or not; whether it was better with a little dried chilli or a little sweet dried red pepper, or whether this was true sacrilege... like this. Each little maestro taking part had their little book and their canon. Each of theirs was the "authentic" one; not that of their neighbours. Incredible. Fortunately, I had to taste, as I mentioned, more than twenty *marmitakos* and I remember that if one was good, so was the other, and the other, and the other.

One would have to be especially inept to ruin this magnificent dish, that is, in itself, as simple as befits a humble fish stew. One merely has to add the ingredients one likes at a particular moment, and serve it when each of these has been cooked to perfection: potatoes, tuna, and stock. With or without tomato, with or without red pepper, whether hot or sweet. Without any dogma and so long as it is good. This is the main thing. There are even those that say before the potato arrived from the Americas, fishermen cooked it aboard their vessels with hard stale bread. It is a dish I adore, suitable for when there are a lot of us around the table. It has many advantages, since it can be made ahead of time, allowing the cook to become a fellow diner. It can also be a starter or a main dish. Practical, economic, delicious and very representative of our way of interpreting cooking. Here is the recipe we follow at home and that is always successful.

ATUN-MARMITAKOA

Salda egiteko:

Eltze batean, jarri su bizian azalak eta hezurak oliotan, eta gehitu barazkiak. Urez ondo estali. Bota gatza, eta irakin dezala pol-polka 15 minutuz. Iragazi.

Marmitakoarekin jarraitzeko:

Eduki su motelean, 5 minutuz, piper eta tipulin xehatuak oliotan. Gehitu baratxuria eta buelta batzuk eman. Zuritu patatak, kras-katu pobrearen eran eta eduki su motelean barazkien azpian minutu batzuez. Gehitu tomat-saltsa eta berotu su motelean zenbait minutuz. Ondo estali dena lehen egindako saldaz. Bota gatza eta egosi su motelean, 20 bat minutuz, patata bere puntuan samur geratzzen den arte.

Bukatzeko, bota zartaginean bi koilarakada olio, eta bero-bero dagoenean eman errealdi bat atun-dado maneateui. Bizkor-bizkor egin azken pauso hori, arraina lehor ez dadin. Ondoren, gehitu atun-dadoak patata egosnean. Gatza behar izanez gero, bota gehiago, eta gehitu perrexil xehatua. Zerbitzatu berehala, berotan denbora gehiegia utziz gero, atuna lehortu egin daiteke eta.

Barazkiak su motelean daudenean, aukera pikante apur bat (pipermin zatitxo bat, adibidez) gehi daiteke. Tunidoen sasoia ez denean, prozedura bera jarraituta egin daiteke marmitakoak, baina, atunaren ordez, izokin freskoa, berdela, hegaluzea, txipiroiak edo zapoa erabilita.

Saldarako:

½ kg. atun-azal eta hezur
2 koilarakada handi
oliba-olio birjina
2 azenario, xafletan
1 baratxuri atal, zuritura
1 tipula, txikituta
1 porru, txikituta
Ura

Marmitakorako:

4 koilarakada oliba-olio
birjina
1 pipermorro gorri
2 piper berde
2 piper txorizeroren
mamia, uretan beratuta
1 tipulin, txiki-txiki
eginda
1 baratxuri atal, txiki-txiki
eginda
4 patata handi samar
1 katilu tomate-saltsa

Osagai horiez gainera:

2 koilarakada oliba-olio
birjina
400 gr. atun, dadoetan
ebakita
Perrexila, xehatuta
Gatza

Baldarra izan behar da benetan plater bikain horrekin ez asmatzeko; eltzeko xumea da, sinplea oso, erraza egiteko. Nahikoa da batek gustuko dituen osagaiak une egokian nahastea, eta, bakotza puntu-puntuaren da-genean zerbitzatzea: patata, atuna eta salda. Tomatearekin edo tomat-terik gabe, piper txorizeroarekin edo gabe, pikantearekin edo gabe. Dogmarik ez; gozo egon dadila, horixe da garrantzitsuena. Patata Amerikatik ekarri aurretik, arrantzaleek barkuan zuten ogi gogorrarekin prestatzen zutela dioenik ere bada. Biziki maite dudan platera da, mahaian asko generako aproposa. Bertute asko ditu marmitakoak; mahaian jarri aurretik presta daiteke, eta sukaldaria bera ere mahaian eser daiteke besteekin batera. Gainera, lehenengo zein bigarren plater moduan atera daiteke. Praktikoa da, merkea, zapore onekoa eta euskaldunok sukaldaritzat ulertzeko dugun moduaren erakusgarri ezin hobe. Hona hemen gure etxe-ko errezeta, beti ondo ateratzen dena, behin ere hutsik egin gabe.

Arrain eta barazki platera da marmitakoa. Marinela itsas bidaia luzeetan barkuan prestatzen hasi ziren alferrik galdu gabe irauten zuten barazkiez eta harrapatzen zituzten arrainez.

TUNA MARMITAKO

To make the stock:

Half a kilo of tuna skin and bones
2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
2 carrots, sliced
1 clove of garlic
1 onion, chopped
1 leek, chopped
Water

Next, to make the marmitako:

We sauté the tuna skin and bones in the oil in a casserole dish over a high heat and add the vegetables. We cover with plenty of water, lightly season and simmer over a high heat for 15 minutes. We strain and reserve the stock.

For the marmitako:

4 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
1 sweet red pepper
2 green peppers
The fleshy pulp of two sweet dried red peppers soaked in water
1 spring onion, finely chopped
1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
4 good size potatoes
1 cup of tomato sauce

Additionally:

2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
400g of clean chunks of tuna
Finely chopped parsley
Salt

To finish off, in a hot frying pan with 2 tablespoons of oil we sauté the chunks of seasoned tuna. We do this very quickly so the fish does not get dry. We pour them into the potato stew. We check if it has enough salt and sprinkle with parsley. We serve quickly because if it stands too long, the heat of the dish might dry out the tuna.

While we are sautéing the vegetables, we can also add a touch of heat such as a chilli. Outside the tuna season, we can make marmitako following the same process with fresh salmon, mackerel, horse-mackerel, and even squid, and monkfish.

This is both a fish and vegetable dish, obviously because it was first made with vegetables that endured long voyages and the fish caught during these expeditions.



And speaking of our whalers and fishermen, there is little more to say about our glorious past. However, as I mentioned previously, visitors who stay here a while are amazed at the time we spend in our lives on food: we frequently speak about what we're going to eat, what we're going to cook, what we've already eaten that day, and so on. Maybe this is because we can't think of any other way of relating to one another. And we often resort to meeting up around a table to explore any issue; whether work-related, a family get together, or a meeting up with friends. A word of advice: If you want to make friends with a Basque, invite her or him to share a good spread of food.

Bars and restaurants abound, and compete among themselves with bar counters replete

Horrenbestez, gure baleazaleez eta arrantzaleez aritu garelarik, ezer gutxi geratzen zaigu gure iraganaldi loriatsuari buruz esateko. Nolanahi ere, lehen esandakoaren haritik, gurera egun batzuetarako bisitan datozen bidaiaiak harritu egiten dira beti jan-kontuak gure eguneroko bizitzan zer toki handia hartzen duen ikusita, sarritan hitz egiten baitugu jango dugunaz, otorduetan prestatuko dugunaz, halako egunetan jan genuenaz... Harremanetarako beste modu hobeagorik bururatzan ez zaigulako izango da beharbada, baina gure artean normalena mahai baten bueltan biltzea izaten da, edozein aitzakia hartuta (lanaz hitz egiteko edo lagunekin eta familiarekin egoteko). Aholku bat: euskaldun baten lagun izan nahi baidu, gonbida ezazu ondo bazkaltzera edo afaltzera.

Gure kaleetan nonahi daude tabernak eta jatetxeak, eta bada beren artean lehia moduko bat zeinek pintxorik³ ederrenak izan barra beteetan. Pintxoak gastronomiako *perlak* dira, miniaturazko gutiziak. Lagunekin mahai baten bueltan biltzeko plazeretik antolamendu-sistema berezi bat sortu da: gastronomia-sozietatea (zenbait tokitan txokoa esaten diote edo elkartea). Espazio pribatua da, *sozio* edo kide asko dituena; sozietatearen ezaugarri printzipala leku bat eskaintza da, aisialdirako eta lagunartean goxo egoteko, gastronomiarekin lotuta betiere⁴. Kontua ez da hor bukatzen, ordea. Gauza jakina da, lehen-mundu osoan, jendea gero eta gutxiago aritzen dela etxean sukaldean; ez da halakorik geratzen Euskal Herrian, oraindik ere euskal sukaldeetan beste lekuetan nekez lortzen den maila baitaukagu gastronomia-kontuetan. Azoketan bertako produktuak bilatzen ditugu, kalitezkoak, eta egunero hobetzen eta biltzen dira errezetak⁵.

Ez da harritzekoak etxe berean batek baino gehiagok sukaldean egitea, eta sarritan nork bere espezialitatea izaten du, gainera. Gure etxeetan, janaria, jatea bera, ez da soilik nutrizioarekin zerikusia duen kontu bat, gaur egun ere mahaiak familiaren epizentroa izaten jarraitzen du, neurri handi batean. Agian arrazoi horregatik, sukaldaritzak gure etxeetan daukan pisuagatik, eta baita gure dastamenaren hezieran eta horren memoriaren sorreran daukan garrantziagatik ere, beste leku batzuetan baino urriagoak dira gure herri eta hirietan *fast food* edo janari azkarra eskaintzen duten establezimenduak. Inolako zalantzak gabe, guk nahiago ditugu bertako janaria eskaintzen duten jatetxeak.

with delicious *pintxos*, real miniature gastronomic jewels³. The pleasure taken in meeting up with friends over a table of food has also given rise to a unique system of organizational and enjoyment: the gastronomic societies or associations. These are private spaces that belong to numerous members and whose basic and fundamental function is to offer them free time and a break in a gastronomic setting⁴.

What's more, it doesn't stop there. In spite of the fact that we cook less and less at home in the first world, Basque domestic cuisine retains some qualities that are not found elsewhere. People look for good quality local products in markets and collect and improve recipes every day⁵.

It is not uncommon to see more than one person cooking at home, and dividing up specialist tasks amongst them. In our homes, food, the act of eating, is not just a nutritional act and the lunch or dinner table continues to retain, to a large extent, its role as the epicentre of the family. It is perhaps because of this particular importance of cooking in our homes—as well as in the creation of our collective gustative memory—that fast food and the establishments that serve it are not as numerous in our towns and cities as in other places. We continue to prefer, without any doubt, restaurants that offer local food.

Historia garaikide apur bat

Jatetxe hitza aipatu dugunez gero, hitz egin dezagun orain euskal sukaldariez, kultura izar eta gure herriaren enbaxadore bilakatu dira eta. Hirurogeita hamarreko hamarraldiaren erdi aldera hasi zen dena, bi sukaldari donostiar –Juan Mari Arzak⁶ eta Pedro Subijana⁷– Paul Bocuse sukaldari frantses handiaren sukaldlean, Lyonen, aritu ziren garaian.

Garai harten, halako betekada moduko bat zegoen lanbidean, *sukaldaritza tradizionala* eta *sukaldaritza burgesa* gauza berak behin eta berriz errepikatzeria mugatzen baitziren. Orduko hoteletan egiten zen *sukaldaritza internazionala*, berriz, handinahia zen eta itxurakeriaz betea. Garai harten, normala zen hoteletako menuetan *canard à l'orange topatzea*, nahiz eta ahatea eta laranja ez diren ohiko osagaiaik gure sukaldaritzan, eta are gutxiago udako hilabeteetan; baina, jakina, turistak udan etortzen ziren batez ere, eta gure kostaldeko hirietan paseoan ibiltzen ziren *snob* guztiek ditxosozko plater huraxe eskatzen zuten.

Egoera harten sartu zen *nouvelle cuisine* frantsesak zekarren berrikuntza euskal sukaldaritza tradizionalean. Gure sukaldari gehienak betiko sukaldaritzan egiten zuten garai harten, eta haietako batzuek –dozena batek edo, Donostia ingurukoak ia denak– beso zabalik hartu zuten berehala



4

4. 2019ko Gipuzkoako Pintxo Txapelketaren zilarrezko plateraren pintxo irabazlea. Oquendo taberna (Donostia). Sortzailea: Carlos Nuez.

A Little Bit of Recent History

Now that I've mentioned the word "restaurant", I should also speak about Basque chefs who have become real culinary stars and ambassadors for our country. It all began in the mid-1970s, when two chefs from San Sebastian—Juan Mari Arzak⁶ and Pedro Subijana⁷—spent some time in the kitchen of the great French chef, Paul Bocuse, in Lyon.

In the cooking profession at the time there was a certain tediousness associated with simply repeating the dichotomy of traditional cuisine and bourgeois cuisine; likewise, the deception of international cuisine that required hotels at that time to sound the alarm. Up to then it was typical to see duck à l'orange on menus here, when neither duck nor oranges are staples of our cuisine; and even less so in summer, when most tourists came and when this was the most requested dish by all the snobs who visited our cities.

The overhaul or modernization implied by French *nouvelle cuisine* thus permeated the traditional Basque cuisine practiced by most Basque chefs. This movement, which was embraced immediately by a dozen chefs and restaurants (mostly in the area around San Sebastian), soon came to be known as New Basque Cuisine, and became a true culinary revolution, with new aromas, textures, combinations and elaboration procedures.

Most importantly, however, was the emphasis on a constant need to renew and modernize as opposed to blinding oneself to such change, which had been a prevailing feature in kitchens up to that point. Until then, the chef had been a sinister and dreaded figure who cooked a series of secret recipes who hardly shared anything with his team. The new cuisine did away with that anachronous figure with a black moustache and a white hat, and replaced him with completely different people: modern, informative, cheerful and open, who, most of all, abandoned dark kitchens to stand in front of the bright lights.

Chefs were soon media figures, and appreciated by both audiences and the media itself, which gained added prestige thanks to the presence of such illustrious personalities that always spoke about and demonstrated popularly requested things: fish tart, sea bass with green peppers, Idiazabal cheese ice cream, and so on. Everything sounded like a completely different kind of music, sung by the best ever sol-fa.

Thus, by adapting French *nouvelle cuisine* to its own culture and terrain, New Basque Cuisine became the driving force of what came to be known as New Spanish Cuisine.

The concentration of award-winning restaurants in San Sebastian and its surroundings is difficult to find anywhere else in the world. The level of haute cuisine here is such that our land has become a Mecca for worldwide gastronomic tourism. I have met visitors from France, the United States, Canada, Sweden and elsewhere—including Japanese tycoons who have flown their own private planes here—who have come exclusively to eat in one of our restaurants, and then leave extremely happy with the whole experience.

Frantziatik zetorren mugimendu hura. Izen bat sortu zen sukaldari haien eta mugimendu berritzale hura identifikatzeko: *euskal sukaldaritza berria*. Mugimendu hark iraultza ekarri zuen euskal sukaldaritzaren; usain eta ehundura berriak agertu ziren, eta janaria lantzko eta prestatzko konbinazio eta prozedura berriak ere bai.

Garrantzitsuena, ordea, etengabe berritzeko beharrari balioa ematen zion espiritua zen, sukaldetean ordura arte ohikoa zen obskurantismoaren partez. *Chefa* pertsonaia makurra izan zen ordura arte, beti haserre zegoena eta beldurra eragiten zuena inguruau; erreza eta sekretuak ezagutzen zituen, isilean gordetzen zituenak beretatz bakarrik, bere taldeko kideei erakutsi gabe. Sukaldaritza berriarekin betiko desagertu zen buruan txapel zuri luzea zeraman pertsonaia bibote beltz petral hura, eta haren ordez beste era bateko sukaldaria agertu zen, aurrekoaren kontra-kontrako: modernoa, didaktikoa, alaia, irekia... Eta batez ere sukaldetean ilunak utzi eta foku distiratsuen aurrean jarri ziren sukaldariak.

Pixkanaka, pertsonaia mediatico bihurtu ziren: hedabideetan agertzen hasi ziren, eta ikus-entzuleek estimatu handitan zituzten. Hedabideek ospea ematen zieten sukaldariei, baina, aldi berean, sukaldariek ere prestigioa ematen zieten hedabideei, izen handiko sukaldariak beti prest baitzeuden hitz egiteko eta jendeak jakin nahi zuena argi adierazteko: nola prestatzen zen arrain pastela, nola lupia piper berdeekin, nola egin Idiazabalgo gaztazko izozkia... Musika berria zen hura jendearen belarrietarako, betiko solfeoarekin eta notekein egina bazegoen ere.

Hala, *nouvelle cuisinearen* ereduari jarraituz, hari ikusitakoa eta ikasitakoa bertako kulturara eta herrira egokitu zen, eta Spainiako sukaldaritza berria esan zaionaren motorra bilakatu zen euskal sukaldaritza berria.

Donostian eta ingurueta dagoen jatetxe loriatsu eta sarituen kontzentrazioa nekez aurkituko da mundu osoan beste inon. Goi-sukaldaritzako maila hain da handia, non gurean baitago munduko turismo gastronomicoaren gune printzipaletako bat. Ezagutu ditut bisitari frantsesak, iparramerikarrak, kanadarrak, suediarak eta beste leku askotakoak -Japoniako handiki aberats bat bere hegazkina pilotatuz heldu zen- jatetxe loriatsu horietakoren batera bazkaltzera propio etorri direnak beren herrialde urrunetik eta gero pozik eta esker onez joan direnak bizitako esperientziagatik.

Esan dudana gehiegikeria iruditzen bazaio baten bat, ikus ditzala orain dela gutxi zuzendu ditudan bost dokumentalak. Honako bost maisu handi hauek dira dokumentaletako protagonistak: Juan Mari Arzak, Hilario Arbelaitz, Andoni Luis Aduriz, Martin Berasategi eta Pedro Subijana⁸.

Hala ere, askoz gehiago dira gaur egun, hankak betiko sukaldaritzan trebetasun handiz errroturik, sukaldaritza guztiz berria egiten dutenak, eta mundu guztiak errespetatu, estimatu eta miresten du sukaldetean lan egiteko modu bikain hori, batez ere munduko sukaldari handienek.

Ez da kasualitatea Donostia aukeratu izana Basque Culinary Center⁹ jartzeko lekua; Gastronomia Zientzien Fakultatea dago han eta Elikaduraren eta Gastronomiaren Ikerketarako eta Garapenerako Zentro bat ere bai. Ekimen pribatua da (Mondragon Unibertsitatearena), erakunde publikoen eta sukaldarien babes duena, eta sukaldaritzaren erreferente bihurtu da.

5. Basque Culinary Center, Donostia.

5. Basque Culinary Center, San Sebastian (Gipuzkoa).



If what I say seems a little far-fetched, one only mention the five documentaries I had the opportunity to direct, with five of these great maestros: Juan Mari Arzak, Hilario Arbelaitz, Andoni Luis Aduriz, Martin Berasategi and Pedro Subijana⁸.

And there are many, many more carrying out today, with their feet firmly on the ground of traditional cuisine, a completely new cuisine that is treasured, admired and recognized all over the world, even by the great world chefs.

It is no coincidence that San Sebastian was the place chosen to set up the Basque Culinary Center⁹, housing the Faculty of Gastronomic Sciences and a Centre for Research and Innovation in Food and Gastronomy. A private initiative (Mondragon Unibertsitatea) that enjoyed the support of public institutions and the chefs themselves.

Memoriaren auzia sukaldaritzan

Esan berri dut *mundu osoak* estimatzen duela gaur egungo sukaldariekin egiten duten sukaldaritza berria. Baina, handietako batek, Hilario Arbelaitze, Oiartzungo Zuberoa jatetxe-koak¹⁰, honako galdera hau egin zuen behin: euskal sukaldariak betiko euskal sukaldaritzagatik ote dira ezagunak edo egin dituzten ekarriengatik eta berrikuntzengatik estimatzen ote dira?

Arbelaitz da, nire ustez, *memoriaren aitorpena* esaten diogun horri gehien lotzen zaion sukaldaria. Hala ere, bera ondorio batera heltzen da eta esaten du beste herrialdeetako jendeak halako estimu handitan baldin baditu euskal sukaldariak, arrazoi nagusia beren *autore sukaldaritzan* berritasuna, nobedadea, sartzen jakin izan dutelako dela. Hori bai, oso berritasun berezia da eta euskal sukaldaritza tradizionalarekin lotura estu-estua duen neurriaren bakarrik da posible.

Hala ere, ez dugu inor engainura eraman nahi. Iritzi bat baino ez da, jateko kontuez ari garenean, euskaldunen artean behinik behin, berritisuna ez baita beti ontzat hartzen. Imajinatzen dut gauza bera gertatuko dela beste lekuetan eta kulturretan ere; baina, egia esateko, hemen oraindik jende asko dago euskal sukaldaritza tradizionalari uko egin nahi ez diona. Halakoek, jatetxe batera doaznean, ondo ezagutzen dutena, *betiko gauzak*, dastatzeko plazera berritu nahi dute beste behin, eta baztertu egiten dituzte jateko kontuetan berritasunak eragin ditzakeen esperientzia erradikalegiak.

Baina zergatik ibili behar ote dugu beti sukaldaritza berriaren eta tradizionalaren artean aukeratzen, batak bestea ukatuko balu bezala? Galdera gehiago ere sortzen dira horren inguruan: nolakoa izan behar du sukaldaritzak, tradizionala dela esateko? Zer ezaugarri dauzka? Zein da bizitza osoan berdina eta aldaezina iruditu zaigun sukaldaritza hori, nahiz eta, jakina denez, etengabe eboluzionatuz eta garatuz doan? Orain dela 300 urtekaoa ote? Edo duela 400 urtekaoa? Zer esan nahi ote du betiko sukaldaritzak? Beste hainbeste gertatzen da *sukaldaritza berriarekin* ere. Zer da sukaldaritza *berria* eta zer ez? Dena balekoa ote da, berria bada? Zer esan nahi du betiko sukaldaritzak? Ba al da horrelakorik?

Inork ez du zalantzan jartzen memoria funtsezko dela gastronomicoan. Plater bat, janari bat, zapore bat... atseginez oroitzentz badugu -leku, denbora edo egoera gozo batekin lotzen delako, adibidez-, gure gustukoa izango da segurueneik. Sukaldean prestatutako janari bat gogora etortzen zaigunean, jaten ari garena modu positiboan balioesten dugu. Neurri handi batean, *ezagutzea gozatzea* da.

Beharbada, horregatik dira hain beharrezkoak kultura eta heziketa zerbait berriaren aurrean jartzen garenean; gauza ezezagunek larritasuna eragiten digute. Jakina da joan den aspaldian asko aurreratu dugula eta ia denera ausartzen garela. Gaur egun era guztietako janariak sartzen ditugu ahoan, tartean exotikoak eta harrigarri askoak. Informazioak irekiago

The Question of Memory in Cooking

I have just stated that this new cuisine by the most up-to-date chefs is treasured *all over the world* but one of its major exponents, Hilario Arbelaitz, owner of the Zuberoa restaurant in Oiartzun¹⁰ (Gipuzkoa), asked on one occasion if Basque chefs were well-known because of traditional Basque cuisine, or treasured for the novelties they have been able to contribute.

Arbelaitz is, in my opinion, one of the best examples of someone who has grasped the idea of what is known as the *memory of recognition*, yet he himself acknowledges that if Basque chefs are held in esteem by people from other countries, it is due to the novelty they have understood how to introduce into their *signature cuisine*. Having said that, this is a very specific kind of novelty and one that is only possible through a profound connection with Basque traditional cuisine.

However, I don't want to mislead anyone. It is only an opinion, but novelty is not always received so well when it comes to eating, at least amongst Basques. I suppose the same is true in other places and cultures, but it's true that many people here still refuse to abandon traditional cuisine. Some people go to a restaurant and seek the repetitive pleasure of eating what is known, refusing to experience too many drastically novel things.

Yet why should we always have to choose between new and traditional cuisine, as if one contradicts the other? Further questions spring to mind: What makes a cuisine traditional? What specific elements define it? What is that cuisine, one that we have understood as unchanging throughout our lives despite having endlessly evolved, of three or four hundred years ago? The same thing occurs with new cuisine: What is and what isn't new? Is everything good so long as it is new? What does traditional cuisine mean? Does it really exist? No one doubts that maintaining memory is vital in gastronomy. If a dish, food or a flavour is recalled with pleasure—because we associate it with a relaxing place, for example—we will in all probability like it. When a culinary creation touches our memory, we tend to positively evaluate what we are eating. To a large extent, recognition is enjoyment.

Perhaps because of this we need culture and education when taking on board new things: the unknown makes us nervous. It is quite true that we have advanced greatly in recent times, and now we almost try anything. Today we eat strange foods and exotic dishes. More information has made us more open: Indeed, I can only imagine the look on any of my deceased grandparents' faces if they were to be presented with a plate of sushi; or what they would think if they were to see us eating sea urchin gills.

Whether we like it or not, we always tend to seek out or constitutive memories, those formed during infancy. Furthermore, a piece of cod, some beans, a stew, or a *marmitako* all have comparative parameters, as if there were an unchanging canon for each of them.

bilakatu gaitu; ikusteko litzateke nolako aurpegia jarriko lukeen gure aitona edo amona zahar defuntu batek burua altxatu eta, konparazio batera, sushi plater bat aurrean jarriko bagenio, eta auskalo zer pentsatuko lukeen itsas trikuaren zakatzak eta mamia jatekoak direla esango bagenio.

Nahita edo nahi gabe, markatu gaituzten oroitzapenen bila ibiltzen gara, gure izatearen parte direnez, eta horien artean bereziki garrantzi-tsuak dira haurtzarotik datozenak. Bakailao batek, indaba batzuek, gisatu batek, marmitakoak... konparaziozko parametroak dauzkate beti, bakoitzarentzat kanon aldaezin bat egon beharko balu bezala.

Nolanahi ere, egia ote da sukaldaritzaren memoriak –edo memoriaren sukaldaritza ote– denboran barrena aldatu gabe irauten duela?

Puntu honetara heldu garelarik, gogoan dut Andoni Luis Aduriz sukaldari handiarekin¹¹ behin izan nuen elkarrikzeta. Beste askotan bezala, gure arteko kalamatrika amaigabe horietako batean kateaturik genbiltzala, ideia bat otu zitzaidan, nire ustez gure asmoak definizio batean jaso zitzakeelakoan; hau da, neure inozentzian pentsatu nuen sukaldaritz tra-dizionala definitzeko modua topatu nuela: «Betiko sukaldaritzta norberak gehien ezagutu duen hora da». Bitan pentsatu gabe, honela erantzun zidan Andonik: «Orduan, nire memoria, zurea eta gure belaunaldiko guztiena bezala, makarriez tomatearekin beteta dago». Eta arrazoi zuen, horixe baita ia denok gure bizitzan gehien jan duguna, umetan batez ere.

Aurreko pasadizoak erakusten digu jateko kontuen inguruuan sortzen diren auziek ez dituztela erantzun errazak. Esaterako, zer da sukaldaritz berria? Sukaldaritza original bati buruz ari al gara?

Gogoko dut Ferran Adrià katalanak originala dena definitzeko era-biltzen duen esaldia: «Sortzea ez kopiatzea da». (Hala ere, jakinarazi di-datenez, Jacques Maximin frantsesak esan omen zuen lehenengo aldiz esaldi hori, eta Ferran Adriàk hari hartu, asko estimatzen duenez).

Baina, heldu diezaiogun lehen egindako galderari: posible ote da hori? Posible al da plater bat sortzea ezer kopiatu gabe eta gure aurrekoen berrikuntzak eta aurkikuntzak baliatu gabe?

Zoragarria da gure sukaldari handietako batek, Hilario Arbelaitzek, ematen duen erantzuna, bere kartan plater berri bat sartzeari buruz galdetzen zaionean: «Ez dut aurrekooa gainditzen ez duen platerik sartzen kartan. Berriak ez du ezertarako balio, ez badu aurretik ezagutzen dena hobetzen».

Puntu honetara heldu garelarik, abiada moteldu beharra daukagu, gure gogoetan sakontzeko.

6. Bakailaoa.

6. The Cod Fish.

Yet is this notion of culinary memory—or, perhaps, cooking from memory—correct? Is it something that endures unswervingly through time?

Having reached this point, I recall a conversation with the great Basque chef Andoni Luis Aduriz¹¹. Once, having found ourselves lost in one of our customary verbal Amazonian forests, an idea came to me that could clarify our debate, that is, I thought I had innocently come up with a definition that we needed for traditional cuisine: “Traditional cooking is what everyone knows best”.

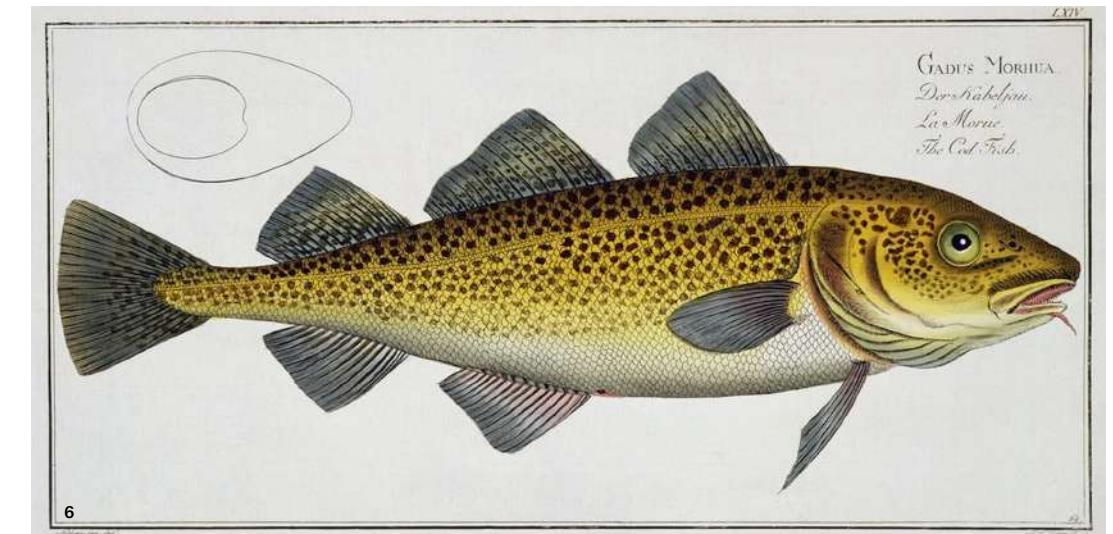
Without thinking twice, Andoni replied: “Then my memory, just like yours and everyone else in our generation, is full of macaroni in tomato sauce”. And he was right, because for almost all of us, this is what we ate in our lives, at least when we were children.

This anecdote helps to illustrate the fact that, in questions of cooking, there are no easy answers. For example, what is new cuisine? Are we, perhaps, talking about an original cuisine?

I love the way Catalan chef Ferran Adrià usually defines originality: “Creating is not copying” (although I’m told that the definition was originally coined by French chef Jacques Maximin, whom Ferran admires greatly).

But, let’s concentrate on the issue. Is this possible? Is it possible to create a dish without copying anything at all, without making use of the advances and discoveries of those who have gone before us? The answer to the question of why a new dish has been introduced on his menu by one of our great chefs, Hilario Arbelaitz, is fascinating: “I never include a new dish that doesn’t improve the previous one. Anything new is useless unless it improves what’s already known”.

At this point, all we can do is slow down a little and think more deeply about this notion.



Euskal sukaldaritza tradizionala 'versus' autore-sukaldaritza berria?

Jakina da bakailao edo barazki-plater bat mahaira esertzen denaren go-sea edo apetitua assetzeko zerbitzatzen dela, batez ere. Sukaldaritzaren lehenbiziko eginbeharra horixe baita, elikatzea. Pozoitu gabe betiere. Go-sea assetzea izan da beti gizateriaren lehenengo ardura eta eginbeharra, eta hala izaten jarraitzen du gaur egun ere munduko alde gehienetan, go-sea zabalduta baitago Mendebaldeko ateetatik kanpo. Beraz, ulertzeko da, eskasia dagoenean, sukaldariaren betebeharra falta den hura eskaintza izatea: gantza, edo gatza, edo proteinak edo urri den edozein gauza. Gosea dagoen herrialdeetan, eguneroako bizitzan gehien falta dena, edo eskas eta urri dena, eskaintza da sukaldariarentzat festarik eta harrotasunik handiena: haragi zati bat arrozarekin edo indabekin, adibidez. Banketea, tripa-festa, salbuespenarekin lotuta dago, normala eta egunerokoa ez denarekin, eskuratzeko (edo, kasu honetan, ahoratzeko) erraza ez denarekin. Baino zer gertatzen da goseric ez dagoenean eta jatea ez denean hil edo biziko premia eta behar gorria? Zer gertatzen da jatea, oinarrizko premia izateaz gain, zerbait kulturala bilakatzen denean?

Orduan sortzen dira gure sukaldari handien proposamenak. Orduan ateratzen da agerira bakoitzaren estiloa. Horietako batzuk produktuan

7. Idiazabal gazta.
8. Nokien testura
Idiazabal saltsarekin.
Mugaritz jatetxea,
Andoni Luis Aduriz.

7. Idiazabal cheese.
8. Texture gnocchi
with Idiazabal sauce.
Mugaritz restaurant,
Andoni Luis Aduriz.



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8

Traditional Basque Cuisine versus New Signature Cuisine?

Obviously a cod or vegetable dish is served first to satisfy a diner's appetite. It is the first task of cooking: to feed, without poisoning. Humanity in the West has followed this maxim, and a major part of the world's population still follows it today since hunger still exists on far-off shores. One thus understands that the cook works on providing what people lack: fat, or salt, or protein, or whatever is lacking. In territories where hunger strikes, the cook's most cherished feast is that which contributes what is ordinarily missing or most longed for: a piece of meat on rice and beans, for example. Such a treat is linked to the exceptional, the absent, the unattainable or the infrequent. But what happens when hunger as such disappears and the act of eating becomes a more cultural and less primal issue?

That is when our best chefs come up with their suggestions. This is where each of their styles emerges. There will be those who pursue excellence with so-called ingredient-oriented cooking, through infinite improvement by repeating the preparation, and essentially summoning up recollection and memory to do so. If you will allow me, we might call this type of professional, and without any kind of disdain, an artisan chef, since improving tradition is the central focus of his or her approach.

oinarritutako sukaldaritzaren bidez saiatuko dira bikaintasuna lortzen; plater berak behin eta berriz errepikatuz, gero eta hobeto prestatuko dituzte, eta, halakoen lan-sistemarako funtsezkoak dira oroitzapenak eta memoria. Era horretako profesionalari –gutxiesteko inolako asmorik gabe– sukaldari-artisaua dei geniezaioke, tradizioa hobetzea baita bere bidearen ardatza.

Horixe da *gourmand* horren gulak –gehierek barruan dauagunagehien estimatzen duen sukaldaritzia. Hutsik egiten ez duen bidea da hori, zorroztasunez egiten bada: ahalik eta produkturik onenarekin eta arreta handiz lan egin behar da. Hala ere, aspertu egiten du azkenerako.

Gizakiak itzalak behar ditu argia estimatzeko, edo argia behar du itzalak estimatzeko. Artisau-sukaldaritzaren moldeko janariak egunero eta etengabe jateak aspertu egiten du, gogaitu –beste guztiak bezala, noski–, eta hortik ihes egiteko beharra sentitzen dugu noizean noiz. Inork ezin du mahaian plazera sentitu, astebezegi segidan era horretako janaria bakarrik janz, zoragarria bada ere. Egia da, hala ere, era horretako janariak jasangariago direla denboran, ez dutela beste askok bezain erraz aspertzen.

Halakoak jan ondoren, garbitzeko joera izaten da, eta hain estimatuak ez diren jakiak jan ohi dira ondoren, janari grisagoak, apalagoak, ez hain gustagarriak eta markatuak. Purifikatzeko eta garbitzeko premia sentitzen da. Asebeteta, gogaituta kasik, bikain jatearen plazera ahanzten saiatzen gara, aurrerago, handik egun edo aste batzuetara, plazer hori berriz ere atseginez dastatzeko gai izan gaitezen. Hala, janari edo plater jakin bat bilatu baino gehiago, atzera lehengoak izaten saiatzen gara. Halako plater edo gutizia dastatzeko irrika sentitu nahi dugu atzera, desioa benetakoia eta erreala zen sasoira itzuli berriro.

Gastronomian hain nabarmena den kontu hau, beste arteetan ere gertatzen da: musikan, pinturan, arkitekturan, literaturan... Memoriak funtsezko papera jokatzen du horietan guztietaan; hala ere, errepikapena



9. Sagarrak.
10. Beste sagar tarta.
Akelarre jatetxea, Pedro Subijana.

This is one of the most prized cuisines by the gluttonous *gourmand* that almost all of us have inside. It is a fail-safe approach, but only if executed rigorously: namely, using the best possible products, and applying the greatest attention to detail possible in their preparation. Yet at the same time it is demanding.

Human beings need shade to appreciate light, or light to appreciate shade if one prefers. A continued daily intake of this kind of artisan cuisine, as with all kinds of cuisine, would cause a certain need to flee it. No one could maintain the same level of pleasure eating this magnificent food uninterrupted for a week, even though it is true that such fare is one of the most enduring types of cuisine over time.

Diners will tend to cleanse themselves by eating less esteemed, greyer, less flavoursome and less relevant food. They will feel the need to purify themselves. They will tend to forget the pleasure of excellence, precisely in order to be able to discover it once more later on, probably after a few days. So that, beyond any particular food or dish, diners will unconsciously pursue the idea of becoming like they were before. Returning to that point when they were able to crave after such and such a food or dish, a return to those moments when desire was true and real.

This obvious issue in gastronomy also exists in the arts: in music, painting, architecture and literature. In all three, memory plays a key role, but



ez da nahikoa. Inork imajinatzen al du arkitekto bat bere aurrekoek eraikitzen zuten etxe eredu paregabe bat behin eta berriz errepikatzen? Lehen geunden lekutik, molde zaharretik, atera beharra dago, atzera bizi-tasunez eta emozioz gozatzeko gai izan gaitezen.

Jakina, bada sormenerako bidean beste oinarri edo ardatz printzipal bat, baita sukaldaritzan ere: berritasuna, originaltasuna, inoiz ikusi ez dena. Bere burua sortzailetzat duen sukaldaria ez da egundo konformatuko behin eta berriz errepikatzearekin eta hobetzearekin, sukaldari-artisauak egiten duen legez, horrek ez baitu bere arima asebetetzen -ezta eredua denik eta onena izanda ere-. Aitzitik, bide berriak bilatzen saiatuko da, batzuetan bazkaltiarrek edo afaltiarrek ulertuko ez badute ere, eta gosea eta memoria baino zerbaite gehiago eskatuko dio bere mahaira esertzen denari.

Bach musikariak *Golbergen bariazioak* konposatu zituenean -gaur egun hain gustuko ditugunak-, hordago bota eta zalantza eragin zuen bere entzuleen artean, askok ez baitzekiten musika berri hura nola hartu; ez zekiten musika hura benetan ona ote zen; ez zekiten gustuko zuten edo ez.

Jar dezagun beste adibide bat: Oscar Niemeyer arkitektoak gutxik bezala menderatzen du angelu zuzena, baina ez du erabili nahi izaten, baliabide bera behin eta berriz ez errepikatzeagatik. Nahiago du kurba aske eta sensuala. «Nire herrialdeko mendietan, erreken bihurguneetan, zeruko hodeietan eta itsasoko olatuetan aurkitzen dudan kurba da». Baino zer ikusteko ote du hodei batek eraikin batekin? Kontua da Niemeyer ez dela artisau jakintsu bat soilik. Ongi menderatzen du artisautza, jakina; ongi baino hobeto ezagutzen du ofizioa eta gai da, gai denez, angelu zuzenak erabiliz eraikitzeo, baina bere lanari askoz ere gehiago eskatzen dio. Eraikin bat egiten duenean, estalpea emateaz gainera, beste zerbaite gehiago lortu nahi du: «Zurrara eragin nahi du, emozioa, lilura, berezitasuna eta poesia, eskuairarekin eta kartaboiarekin lotuta ez dauden kontuak».

Modu berean, badira zenbait sukaldari antzeko planteamendua dutenak. Elikaduristik eta plazer behin eta berriz errepikatutik harago joan nahi dute, beste zerbaite lortu. Betiko sukaldaritza ezagutzen dute, noski, baina zerbaite gehiago nahi dute. Niemeyerrek eta Bachek bezala, sortzaile konprometitu guztiek bezala.

Kontua da, arkitekto eta musikari aurreratuek bezala, sukaldariekin ere beren proposamenei irekita dauden bazkaltiarrik (edo afaltiarrik) behar dituztela, eta ez da beti erraza izaten halakorik topatzea, sarritan mahaira esertzen denak patroi bakarra (memoria) izaten baitu, sukaldariaren proposamenak balioesteko. Bazkaltiar edo afaltiar erredukzionistak artisau-bidea besterik ez du onartzen; hala, uko egiten dio berritasun orori eta ez dio uzten garatzen ez bere pertzepzio-gaitasunari, ez emozioari. Plazer fisiologikoa -tripa bapo bete eta betiko aho-gustua ase- baino ez du bilatzen, eta horrekin beste bide guztiei ateak ixten dizkie sukaldaritzan. Betiko erreakzionarioa da. Betikoa bilatzen du behin eta berriz, hainbeste errepikatzeak egunen batean erabat gogaituko duela konturatutu gabe.

Sukaldaritzan, zorionez, badira bihar edo etzi tradizio izango diren molde eta modu berriak gaur sortzeaz arduratzen direnak ere, eta tradizio horiek behin eta berriz errepikatuko dituzte sukaldari-artisauak etorkizunean, gutako bakoitzak barruan daukagun mozolo erredukzionista atzerakoaren atseginerako.

repetition is insufficient. Can anyone imagine an architect always designing the same excellent house over and over again that his predecessors used to build? One must leave to be able to achieve intense joy once again.

Thus we arrive at another of the great methods of creation which also exist in cooking: the new, the original, the never-before-seen. Chefs who believe themselves to be artists will never make do, however excellent they might be, with the repetition and improvement favoured by artisan chefs. Creative chefs will seek new pastures, sometimes inconceivable, that require of the diner something more than just hunger and memory.

When Bach composed *The Goldberg Variations*, which we listen to so happily today, he threw down the gauntlet to many of his listeners, who had great difficulty in deciding whether such new music was really any good. They didn't even know whether they liked it or not. Let's use another comparison: the architect Oscar Niemeyer, for example, controls the right angle more than most, but refuses to use and repeat using it. Instead, he prefers the free and sensual curve, "the curve that I find in the mountains of my country, in the sinuous course of its rivers, in the waves of the sea, in the clouds of the sky". But what on earth has a cloud to do with a building? The fact is that Niemeyer is not just a wise artisan. Of course he is a master artisan and more than capable of building a right angle, but his work implies goes further. He looks for other things in a building beyond just shelter: "commotion, emotion, surprise, difference and poetry, things which don't depend on the set square".

Similarly, there are chefs who believe in the same basic approach. Chefs that seek something else, who go beyond merely feeding people or repetitive pleasure. They are chefs who of course know artisan cuisine, but who want something more; like Niemeyer, like Bach and like any other committed artist.

The problem is that, just as with any superior architect or musician, such chefs need willing clients and these are not always easy to find, especially if they are governed by a single master (memory) when weighing up different proposals. We're speaking about reductionist diners who only acknowledge the artisan approach and refuse to consider any innovation in or development of their own capacity for perception and emotion. For the sake of just physiological or gustative pleasure, they refuse any other approaches in a cuisine. They are the eternal reactionaries. They endlessly seek a repetition that they will one day get sick of.

Sukaldari-lanbidearen balioaz

Lehen adierazi dugun bezala, berritzeko behar hori, proposamen berriekin arriskatzeko behar hori, izan da maila goreneko sukaldariekin 1975. urtetik aurrera hartu zuten bidea. Aldi berean, izar mediatiko eta ospetsu bilakatu dira, ordea, eta hori ez da beti samurra izaten, sarritan bereak ez diren *saltsetan* sartzen baitituzte, eta hor ibiltzen dira galdu antzean zenbait egoera eta atakatistik atera ezinik. Ez da bidezkoa, sukaldariai sukaldari baitira soil-soilik, zer arraio! Ez dira filosofoak, ez komunikatzialeak, ez antzezleak, ez irakasleak... Nahiz eta batzuek sen eta talentu handiagoa duten kontu horietarako, zenbait espezialistak baino.

Maila handiko sukaldariei sarritan egiten dieten galdera maleziatsu bat honako hau da: «Orain dela hamar urteko zure platerak hain onak baldin baziren, zergatik ez da horietako bakar bat ere agertzen zure kartan gaur egun?».

Arestian aritu gara kontu horretaz; Niemeyer arkitektoaren aipu bat ekarri dugu hona, eta ikusi dugu ez zitzaiola gustatzen bere eraikinetan errepikatzea eta abar. Niemeyerrek, ordea, sukaldariekin baino zorte



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11. Argiñano, Castillo, Arzak, Fombellida, Subijana, Roteta, Kintana, Irizar, Idiakez eta Zapiain Donostiarako portuan, 1970eko hamarraldian.

On the Worth of the Chef's Profession

This need to modernize, to take a risk with new approaches, is the direction that most great chefs took from 1975 onwards. However, transformed into popular media stars, they are frequently confronted by questions that even they themselves do not know how to address; because, what the heck, they're just *simple* chefs. They are not philosophers, communicators, actors, or professors, although some of them are more cut out for these issues than many specialists.

One of the most frequent question that the maliciously-minded ask of top-level chefs is the following: "If your dishes ten years ago were so wonderful, why don't any of them appear on your menu today?".

I addressed this issue previously in regard to the architect Niemeyer and the lack of repetition in his buildings. However, Niemeyer is luckier than chefs in this matter because the object that demonstrates his art or ability to construct, that is, a building, is less ephemeral than the chef's creation: a dish. The thing is that a chef's art, a dish or gastronomic preparation, is by definition something destined to disappear, to not endure through time.

This is why chefs turn more and more to techniques that a priori they are unfamiliar with—photography, writing, film, video—in order to leave lasting evidence of their work. Any respected chef today has an amalgam of materials at their disposal, achieved with greater or lesser degrees of success, to ensure their work is preserved in time; because the need to progress and propose something new mean that their comparatively recent creations are scarcely present the following season.

Such ephemeral urgency, whereby anything created is irredeemably destined to disappear for ever, creates tension amongst *gourmand* diners, and makes them go time and time again to the same establishment at every change of menu, and conscious of the unrepeatable nature of the food on offer by the chef in question: if they don't eat such creations today, they'll never be able to again.

Memory and the question of perdurability are conceptual features that influence the creative act itself, yet they are not necessarily linked to what is created, that is, the dish. Memory undoubtedly influences the creation and is essential to the formation of the chef's style, but its consequences are not always obvious; there may be no evidence of it or if there is, it might be so complex that it is not so clear at first sight. Indeed, sometimes the chef attempts to hide the very source of the concept itself.

All this goes to show that when modern chefs offer a signature dish, they are proposing something beyond mere food. Top-level gastronomic creation is today a kind of blend which combines in different degrees at least three basic issues: an understanding of nature (the product), memory (gustative and cultural) and novelty conceived as overcoming what is already known.

The contemporary work of a chef is based on these three foundations, definitively disassociating him or her from the role of one who satisfies or kills hunger. Good creative gastronomic offerings are to some extent an

handiagoa du kontu honetan, bere arteak erakusten duen objektua edo eraikitzeko zeukan trebezia -eraikina, alegia- ez baita hain erraz galtzen sukaldariaren obraren aldean -plater baten aldean, alegia-. Sukaldariaren sorkuntza-platera edo prestatu duen janaria- berehala desagertzeo egiten da, denboran ez irauteko sortzen da, definizioz.

Arrazoi horregatik, gaur egun gero eta gehiago erabiltzen dituzte sukaldariek berez arrotzak zaizkien teknikak -argazkilaritza, idaztea, zinema, bideoa...-, beren lanaren emaitza jasota gera dadin. Sukaldari handi guztiek era guztietako materialak dauzkate gaur egun, bere lana denboran mantendu eta gordetzeko, zeren eta, etengabe aurrera egiteko eta berritasunak proposatzeko daukaten beharraren kausaz, sortzen dituzten obrak berehala desagertzen baitira (askotan plater bat urtebetean, edo hurrengo denboraldian, kentzen da kartatik).

Iragankor izate horrek, sortu eta berehala betiko galduko dela jakite horrek, tentsio etengabea sortzen dio mahaira esertzen den *gourmandari* ere; antsietate puntu horrek jatetxe berera eramatzen du behin eta berriz, karta aldatzen den aldiko berritisunak dastatu nahi izaten baititu eta ja-betzen baita sukaldariak eskainiko diona errepikaezina dela: kreazio hori gaur bertan jaten ez badu, beharbada ezin izango du beste inoiz jan.

Memoria eta iraunkortasunaren kontua ezaugarri kontzeptualak dira, sorkuntzaren prozesuan parte hartzen dutenak, baina ez daude nahitaez zuzenean lotuta sortutakoarekin, platerarekin. Memoriak sorkuntzan parte hartzen du, zalantzarak gabe; funtsezko da sukaldariaren estiloa sortzeko, baina memoriaren ondorioa ez da nahitaez beti bistakoa -hain konplexua izan liteke, non ezin baita ikusi-. Eta sukaldariak batzuetan ezkutuan gordetzen du kontzeptuaren erroa.

Horren guztiak argi erakusten du, gaur egungo sukaldariak auto-re-kreazio bat eskaintzen duenean, janaria bera baino zerbait gehiago proposatzeko asmoa duela. Maila handiko kreazio gastronomiko bat arrago baten modukoa da gaur egun, non gutxienez oinarrizko hiru kontu batzen diren proportzio desberdinatan: naturaren ezagutza (produktua), memoria (zaporeena eta kulturala) eta berritisuna, lehendik ezagutzen dena gain-ditzeko asmoa duena.

Hiru zutabe nagusi horietan oinarritzen da gaur egun sukaldariaren lana, eta urrundu egiten da hala garai batean zeuzkan eginkizunetatik: mahaira esertzen zirenei gosea asetzea edo tripa betetzea. Eskaintza gas-tronomiko sortzaile on bat mundua interpretatzeko modu bat da, beste alorretan proposamen artistikoak diren neurri berean. Hori dela-eta, sa-rritan galdetzen diogu geure buruari ea sukaldaria benetako artista den edo ez. (Beste baterako utziko dugu kontu hori).

Garai bateko plater bikainak zergatik ez diren gaur egungo kartetan agertzen galdetzea maleziatsua bada, are eta mingarriagoa da sukaldari batentzat hurrengo galdera hau egitea, zalantzan jartzen baitu bere lanaren balio kulturala: «Zure sukaldaritza hain ona bada, zergatik ez ditu jendeak bere egiten zure kreazioak?». Edo bestela esanda: «Zergatik zure kreazioa ez da sartzen gure kultura-ondarean?».

Lehenago ere esana dugu sukaldariak ez direla filosofoak, sarritan kontu teorikoei aurre egin behar izaten badiete ere, eta azken galdera horri erantzutera behartzen ditutzenean, askotan ikusi ditut arduratuta, dialek-tikoki hondoratuta, larri, kinka horretatik atera ezinik. Gehienez ere hala esango dizute: «Nire lanak ez du ondarearekin zerikusirik, ez dut horretan lan egiten; ni sukaldaria besterik ez naiz». Bainha sukaldariaren lanak ze-rikusi handia du ondarearekin, oso handia ere. Ikus dezagun, adibidez,

12. Sukaldaritza-ikasleak
Basque Culinary Centeren.



12. Students at the
Basque Culinary
Center.

interpretation of the world like other kinds of artistic propositions. For this reason we frequently ask ourselves if chefs are really true artists (a question I will leave for another time).

Yet, if the question about the disappearance of former dishes from current menus is malicious, there is another even more hurtful one for chefs because it makes fun of their true cultural worth: If your cooking is so good, why are your creations not embraced by your people, and why don't they make them at home? Put another way: Why doesn't your creation form part of your cultural heritage?

I have already observed that chefs are not philosophers and that they have to frequently address theoretical issues. Regarding this latter question, I have seen chefs troubled, dialectically lost and unable to find as way out of such a mess. At most, they will tell you: "The thing is, I don't work in cultural heritage, I'm just a simple chef". Yet they do work in this heritage, of course they do. Take, for example, the New Basque Cuisine movement, which I've already spoken about previously. With the exception of one or two dishes (scorpion fish tart or peppered sea bass) our chefs' propositions have scarcely jumped out of restaurants and into domestic kitchens. Hardly anyone copies the recipes of such and such a chef at home, and if they do, it is an exotic aside to the habitual domestic routine. Where, then, do we find chefs' cultural contribution and their discoveries in our cuisine?

We have often seen Basque chefs frankly quite forlorn and unable to respond to the previous question. They believe that, while the great writers or artists remain a part of the general cultural heritage, their work is only an easily forgettable perfume; and moreover, an expendable contribution to their own culture. When they introduce themselves like this, it they are pathetic. This is why we have to approach the question a bit more generally and, at the same time, more profoundly.

Euskal Sukaldaritza Berriaren mugimendua –lehen ere hitz egin dugu horri buruz-. Plater bakarren bat edo beste kenduta (itsas kabra-pastela, lupia piper beltzarekin...), jatetxeetako sukaldari handien proposamenek ia ez dute salto egin gure etxeko sukaldeetara. Ia inork ez ditu etxeen prestatzen halako edo bestelako chefaren plater apartak, eta, egitekotan ere, zerbait exotiko gisa egiten da, egunero kotasunetik kanpo dagoen bitxikeria gisa. Hortaz, zertan ikusten da, gure etxeko sukaldeetan, sukaldariekin egiten dituzten kultura-ekarpenak eta aurkikuntzak?

Askotan ikusi ditugu euskal sukaldariekin galdera horren aurrean atse-kabeturik eta zer erantzun asmatu ezinik. Pentsatzen dute, idazle eta artista plastiko onenen obrak kultura-ondarean betiko geratzen diren bitartean, sukaldarien kreazioak perfume baten lurrina bezalakoa dela, erraz irentsi eta erraz ahazten dena, eta beren ekarria ez dela funtsezkoa herriko kulturuan.

Hala aurkezten direnean, patetiko samar agertzen dira. Horregatik, gaia modu orokorragoan aztertu behar dugu, bai eta sakonago ere.

Begia halako plater edo errezeta jakin batetik harago jartzen badugu, bistakoa da gaur egun sukaldariekin eragin handia dutela kultura-ondarean. Jan-kontua eta sukaldaritza ulertzeko gaur egungo moduek eta orain dela hogeita bost urtekoek ez dute zerikusirik. Nolabait esatearren, gastronomiarekin zerikusia duten aurrerapen kulturaletan sukaldariek punta-puntan daude. Horiei esker hainbat kontzeptu barneratu ditugu: garaian garaiko produktuak kontsumitzea, merkatuko sukaldaritza, zaporeei errespetua izatea, janarien egoste-puntuari arreta jartzea eta beste gauza asko.

Sukaldariekin hedabideetan duten oihartzunari esker gastronomiaren didaktika ikaragarri zabaldu da, eta asko ikasi dugu denok. Gaur egun inork ez du etxeen janaria prestatzen lehen egiten zen bezala. Eta hori sukaldariei zor diegu batez ere, pedagogia-lan handia egiten baitute. Hala, hainbat puntu garrantzitsutan erreparatzen irakatsi digure: adibidez, jatorrizko produktu naturalak eta garaian garaikoa jatea zein garrantzitsua den ikusarazi digure, eta, horrez gainera, dietetikaz ere arduratzentzira. Gure sukaldariengatik ez balitz, oraindik ere *canard à l'orange* eskatzen jarraituko genuke abuztu betean –laranjen ordez, aaranak eta fruitu hezurdunak ugari direnean–; eta lekariak txaurre-bela-riekin eta beste jaki koipetsuekin egosten segituko genuke, eta ezingo genuke dastatu prestatzen ari garen janariaren benetako zaporea.

Without sticking to any specific blend or dish, today we see that the great chefs have actually had an enormous influence on the cultural heritage. The methods of understanding food and cooking have little in common with those of twenty-five years ago. To put it one way, chefs are the spearhead of gastronomically cultural advances. We are indebted to them for internalising concepts such as the seasonal nature of products, using market-bought produce in cooking, respect for flavours, the correct cooking temperatures for different ingredients and many other issues.

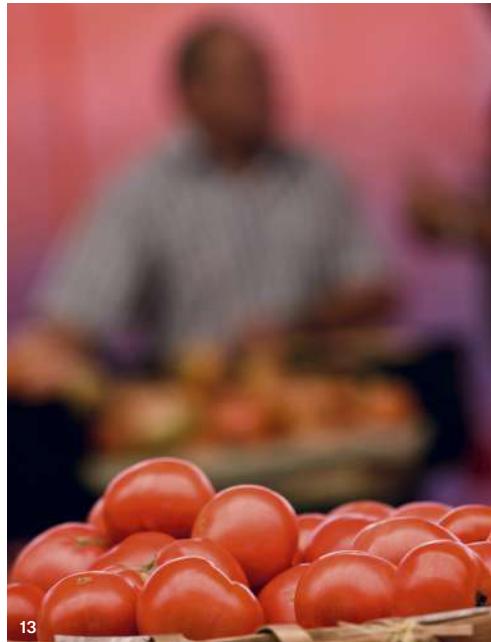
The particular media influence of chefs has led to a gastronomic education which has helped everyone progress. Nowadays no one cooks at home like they used to. And, in great part, that is thanks to the chefs who have guided us in all these issues such as the authenticity of natural, local and seasonal products, and even in dietary matters. If it were not for them, we would still be eating duck à l'orange in mid-August—when instead of oranges, plums and stone fruit are plentiful—and we would still be cooking legumes with pig's ears and all kinds of fatty foods, without stopping to take account of the flavour of the dish we were preparing.

Zerk definitzen du euskal sukaldaritza?

Zerk du euskal *marka* sukaldaritza kontuan? Eta zerk ezin du izan halakoa, eta zergatik? Axalekoa eta garrantzi gabeko kontua eman dezake, baina euskal sukaldaritza zer den definitzea eta horren mugak non dauden jartzea ez da dirudien bezain erraza. Batzuok lepoa jokatzen dugu ahaleginean.

Gauza asko simplifikatzu gero, bi faktore har genitzake: batetik gure gastronomia non obratzen den (leku: hemen), eta bestetik nork egiten duen (subjektua: guk). Hau da, euskal sukaldaritza «guk hemen» egiten duguna da. Ez dago gaizki esana, baina horrekin konformatzen al gara? Non geratzen da, adibidez, gure produktuen garantzia?

Seguru asko, behin baino gehiagotan entzungo zenion sukaldari handiren bat honako hau esaten: «Gure sukaldaritza ezinezkoa litzateke dauzkagun produktu zoragarriak izan ezean?». Eta egia galanta da hori. Horregatik, behin eta berriz goraipatzen eta famatzen ditugu gure produktu bikain paregabeak. Kasik kofradia bat daukagu produktu bakoitzarentzat eta egun seinalatuetan, dagokion santuaren egunez, prozesioan ateratzen gara tronpeta eta danbor baten atzetik, kapa soinean, kapela buruan eta banderatxoak eskuan hartuta. Batzueta gehiago ematen dugu italiar zalapartatsuak, euskaldun serio eta isilak baino ere.



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13-15. Gernikako Azoka.

13-15. Gernika Fair (Bizkaia).

What is Basque in culinary matters and what cannot be considered Basque and why not? This might seem like a superficial or trivial question, but when establishing the boundaries of Basque cuisine, it is not quite so simple. Some of us stick my neck out in searching for an answer.

If we simplify the issue greatly, one potential answer lies in the space or area our gastronomy occurs (here) and another in the subject of this gastronomy (us), in other words, Basque gastronomy is what makes us "us and from here". This isn't bad, but are we sure we agree with it? Where, for example, does the importance of "our products" fit into this idea?

I'm sure you've heard some great chef extolling the idea that, "our cuisine would not exist without our marvellous products". It's completely true. As a result, we praise to the point of exhausting our unbeatable products. Indeed, we have guilds and associations for each product, to such an extent that on the corresponding saint's or feast day, we all dress up in capes and caps and carry banners in a procession behind a trumpeter and drummer. Sometimes, more than sombre Basques, we look like noisy Italians.

And which labourer or worker has received more praise than our farmers, shepherds and fishermen? It would appear that, without them, life for everyday Basques would apparently be meaningless and hopeless.



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Eta zer langilek edo beharginek jaso du gure nekazariekin, abeltzainek eta arrantzaleek adina laudorio? Badirudi horiek gabe euskaldun arrunt baten bizitzak ez duela ez zentzurik ez aurrera egiteko modurik.

Hona hemen non dugun Hirutasun Santu moduko bat, euskal sukaldaritzaren kontzeptua definitzen eta argitzen duena: hemen, gu eta gure produktuak. Bikain! Segi dezagun jolasean, eta pasa gaitezen sukalderra. Plater pare bat prestatuko dugu, zein baino zein errazagoa:

Lehenengo: Ahate-gibela, plantxan (buelta eta buelta), gatz pixka batekin eta aran-purearekin -ahatea Arabako Olarizun gizendutakoa da; gatza Arabako Gesaltza-Añanakoa da, eta aranak izeba Josefaren baratzetik hartu ditugu-.

Bigarrengoa: Bakailao tako eder bat, oliba-oliotan melatua (bakailaoa Norvegiakoa da eta oliba-olioa Jaenekoa, noski. Baratxuria lehengusu batek ekarri zigun Salamancatik, handik pasatu zen batean). Alegia, bakailaoa pil-pilean egingo dugula.

Dena prest dugu, beraz. Bi platerak geuk egin ditugu, eta hemen egin ditugu, gainera. Hala ere, bi plateretako bat, hemengo produktuez egin badugu ere, Frantziako Perigord eskualdeko espezialitatea da berez; bigarren platerak, berriz, kanpoko produktu importatuez egin badugu ere, gure-gurea den emaitza eman digu: bakailaoa pil-pilean. Beraz, gure sukaldaritzaz gure produktuez definitzen dutela esateak zalantzaz eragiten digu, auzia estu-estu hartzen badugu behintzat. Eta kontu egin ez garela hemen aztertzen hasi ustez gure-gureak diren produktuen antzinatasuna eta jatorria, hor ere usteak ustel izaten baitira sarri askotan.

Labur esanda, bi plater horien artean, zein da euskaldunagoa edo gureagoa, foie-grasa plantxan edo bakailaoa pil-pilean? Edo biak dira, neurri berean, gureak? Dena hain globalizatua dagoen sasoi honetan, berrigarria litzateke gu eta gutasun estuetan ibiltzea, kontzeptu horrek ertz lausoak baititu gaur egun, alderdi guztietatik begiratuta. Gainera, euskal sukaldaritzaz, singularrean, hitz egin beharrean, euskal sukaldaritzez, pluralean, jardun beharko genuke, zeren eta, ba ote dute zerikusirik, esate baterako, kostaldeko sukaldaritzak eta barnealdekoak?

Sukaldaritza ez da berdina toki eta eskualde guztietan. Arabako lautadan eta Nafarroako hegoaldean lehorreko nekazaritza eta mahastiak dira nagusi, eta inguru horietako sukaldaritza oso desberdina da iparralderago, eskualde heze menditsuan, egiten denaren aldean.

Gure sukaldaritzarik ezagunena, goi-mailako sukaldaritza esaten zaiona, kostaldekoa da, eta lotura estua du arrainarekin. Bainan horren berruan ere sekulako diferentziak daude, Gipuzkoan egiten dena oso desberdina baita Bizkaian gustuko dutenaren aldean.

Donostia inguruan -beste inon baino sukaldari handi gehiago dago metro koadroko eskualde horretan eta euskal sukaldaritzak beste inon baino oihartzun handiagoa du hor-, sukaldaritza berezia egiten da: ez da zaporea haren lehentasuna; horren ordez, testurak mimatzten dira, ehundurei ematen zaie garrantzia batez ere. Ikusi besterik ez dago nola presatzen den arraina; antxoak eta legatza, bereziki¹².

Elikagaiak ia ez dira manipulatzen; freskura ahal den guztia zaintzen da, eta produktuaren zaporea bere horretan mantentzen da, ezer kendu eta erantsi gabe, ezer ezkutatu edo lausotu gabe. Gauza finak eta suabeak, ia sumatu ere egiten ez direnak, estimatzen dira sukaldaritza horretan. Zaporea biziak beste gauza batzuetarako gordetzen dira, gaztak edo hestebeteak jaten direnerako, esaterako; baina Donostiako eta inguruko sukaldaritzako plater bikainetan nekez aurkituko da halakorik. Antzeko zerbaitek

We thus have a kind of Holy Trinity that encompasses and defines the concept of Basque cuisine: here, us and our products. Perfect. Let's continue and go on to cooking. We're going to prepare a couple of simple dishes.

First course, duck liver from ducks fattened up in Olarizu (Araba), grilled quickly with a little salt from the Roman salt flats of Gesaltza Añana (Araba), and a purée made out of plums we stole from auntie Josefa's allotment.

Second course, a big chunk of Norwegian cod immersed and cooked in olive oil from Jaén. A cousin brought back the garlic from Salamanca, that is, we're making cod pilpil.

Now everything is done. We have prepared both dishes and we've done so here.

However, one of them, despite containing products only from here is, in reality, a kind of Périgord foie gras from France, while the second, based on foreign and imported products, is one of our archetypal dishes, cod pilpil. Thus, the idea that our products define our cuisine seems to lose some substance here and there, at least if we refer to it in the strictest sense, and, in any event, without asking ourselves about the age and origins of many of our most authentic products.

In short, which of the two dishes, grilled foie or cod pilpil, is the most Basque or most ours? Perhaps the two of them are equally so? In these times of globalization, it is ridiculous to imprison oneself in an *us* that is full of holes. Moreover, instead of Basque cuisine we should more accurately speak about Basque cuisines, because, for example, what does the coastal cuisine have in common with that of the interior?

We find different cuisines depending on where they are carried out. On the plains of Araba and in southern Navarre, where dry farming and viniculture shape the landscape, there is a completely different kind of cuisine to that of the more humid northern region.

The best known of our cuisines, that practiced in haute cuisine, comes from the coast and is closely connected to fish. But even here we find major differences between that elaborated in Gipuzkoa and that of Bizkaia.

In the area around San Sebastian, with the highest concentration of great chefs and where Basque cuisine is most renowned, we find a style of cooking where flavour gives way to texture as the main element. One only has to see how fish such as hake and anchovies are prepared to understand this¹². Ingredients are barely touched, freshness is preserved as much as possible and nothing blurs or hides the taste of the product; however mild, delicate or scarcely noticeable. Strong flavours are kept in reserve for other products, such as cold cut meats or sausages and cheeses, but not for the great culinary dishes of San Sebastian and its surroundings. The same is true for vegetables and legumes. The clearest example of this is the teardrop pea, a product so scarce and expensive that, far from offering an intense flavour, is picked before it has developed the full sweetness of a pea and is offered in the major restaurants as a barely touched treasure devoid of almost any flavour, which must be eaten extremely carefully so as to appreciate its complete intensity. However paradoxical it may appear, this is a kind of minimalist *summum bonum*.

Albert Adrià, Ferran's younger brother and also a great chef, once told me that it was difficult for him to comprehend the love we have for a pea that is virtually tasteless. He confessed to feeling sorry for a product "that you don't let express its full possibilities". He prefers, without any doubt, more flavourful peas than those that we are mad about and pay almost the same price as caviar for.

gertatzen da lekaleekin eta barazkiekin. Adibiderik garbiena malko-ilarra da. Produktu urria eta garestia da oso, zapore fin-finekoa. Ilarrak berez daukan gustu gozo hori hartu aurretik biltzen da, eta jatetxeetan ia manipulatu gabe eskaintzen da, altxor preziatua balitz bezala. Kontu handiz jan behar da, haren zapore fina bere osotasunean dastatzeko. Minimoaren summumaren moduko da.

Albert Adriá sukaldariak, Ferranen anaia gazteak, behin esan zidan berri zaila egiten zitzaiola ulertzea ia zaporerik ez daukan ilar horrek gure artean nolatan izan dezakeen halako estimazioa. Pena omen zuen «produktu horri bere aukera guztiak adierazten uzten ez diozuelako». Berak, dudarik gabe, nahiago ditu zapore biziagoko ilarrak, guk, ia kabiarraren prezioan ordainduta, erotu beharrean jaten ditugun *gutizia fin* horiek baino.

Kostaldeko herriean, Orion eta Getarian, esaterako, ez diete belar arrarorik botatzen parrilan erretzen dituzten bisiguei, erreboiloei, itsaskabrei eta zapoei. Baratxuriak oliotan erre, ozpin pixka bat eta perrexil pittin bat gehitu, eta saltsa horixe besterik ez diote botatzen gainetik, behin arraina bere puntuaren egina dagoenean. Hori bai, kontu handiz sariatzen dira arrain-mamiaren gelatina lortzen eta haren testurak nabarmenzen; arrain-piezaren atal bakoitzari bere puntuaren bilatzen ere ahallegintzen dira, arte bat baita arraina ongi erretzea, eta ez ditu edonork ezagutzen horren sekretuak eta mainak.

Sagardotegietako sukaldaritza tradizionalean, behi txuleta haragi gorriko da erregea. Txuleta ez da gehiegiz egin behar; barruko haragi-mamia berotu arte erre behar da doi-doi; gatza bota, eta brasen beroak kanpoaldean geruza erre bat sortzen duenean, sutatik atera eta kito, ez du besterik behar.

Bilbon eta Bizkaia aldean, nahiago dituzte zapore biziko arrainak; sardinak eta bakailaoa, esaterako. Piper txorizeroa erabiltzen dute jana riari bizitasuna emateko, eta saltsa gorria edo bizkaitar saltsa prestatzen dute horrekin. Aurrerago hitz egingo dugu saltsa horretaz. Okelak zein arrainek ondo hartzen dute edozein ongailu edo bizigarri, guakamolearen moduko saltsa berezi horren babespean. Antzina, kanpora gehien esporatzen genuen errezeta izan zen bizkaitar saltsa.



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16-19. Gernikako Azoka.



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Furthermore, in coastal towns such as Orio and Getaria, sea bream, scorpion fish, monkfish and turbot are grilled over hot coals, without adding any herbs. Once the fish has been grilled to perfection, just a little vinegar and oil is added, together with a bit of fried garlic and a pinch of parsley. Yet one must also realize that the goal here is to bring out the gelatinous part of the flesh, highlight its textures, and even differentiate between different parts of the fish, an art that not everyone is privy to. In the traditional and popular cuisine of the cider houses, rare steak rules, but only just grilled enough to be warm inside, and an exterior layer sealed by the heat of grill and salted. Nothing else.

In Bizkaia, however, they prefer more flavourful fish such as sardines and salt cod. The use dried red pepper to extract the intense flavour from this salt cod, and with this make red or Bizkaian sauce, which I will discuss in detail later. This particular kind of sauce is equally suitable for meat or fish. In ancient times, this was our most exported recipe: the *vizcaína* or Bizkaian.

More towards the south the kind of cuisine is more connected to drier regions, more to the lands of thyme and rosemary, with huge woodchip and vine shoot grills, with snails, game, trout and crayfish.

More towards the north of the Bidasoa River, which divides our country in two, in the French part of our land, we have to speak about a cuisine with a shorter history, due to the scarcity of local dishes (*garbure* or vegetable soup, *ttooro* or seafood stew and *axua* or beef stew, for example), and a abundance of imitation. As regards fish, it is cooked in a similar way to that of Basque cooking in Gipuzkoa, yet in general the cuisine there is based more on French cuisine, and especially that of Les Landes, with foie, goose, duck and oysters; all of which we have hardly begun to know in the southern part. Here is the only place where our cuisine uses butter instead of the Mediterranean olive oil, and also where cream is used instead of milk.

With the political borders of Europe long gone, languages and the Bidasoa River keep on differentiating territories and people, both culturally and gastronomically. For example, it would be inconceivable for a Basque from the south to finish off lunch or dinner, *un repás*, with cheese and salad, although this would be quite typical for someone in the north. Exoticism is

Lehenago esan dugun bezala, hegoalde lehorrean sukaldaritza bestelako da, eta hor protagonismo handia dute erromeroak eta ezkaik, haragia xirmendutan erre, barraskiloeak, ehizak, amuarrainek eta erre-kako karramarroek.

Bi zatitan banatzen gaituen Bidasoa ibaitik iparraldera, gure herrialdeko parte frantsesean, ibilbide laburreko sukaldaritzaz hitz egin beharko genuke, gutxi baitira bertako platerak (garburea, ttoroa, axua...); imitatuz, aldiz, asko egiten dute. Arraina Gipuzkoako sukaldaritzaren moldera prestatzen dute Iparraldean, baina hango sukaldaritzak frantsesaren eragin handia du, oro har; Landetakoarena, batez ere: foie-grasak, antzarak, ahateak, ostrak... Hegoaldean orain dela gutxi hasi dira hango sukaldaritza ezagutzen. Euskal sukaldaritzaren barruan, Iparraldean bakarrik erabiltzen da gurina, oliba-olioaren ordez, eta kremak esnearen lekua hartzen du han.

Europen muga politikoak desagertu badira ere, hizkuntzak eta Bidasoa ibaia tematu egiten dira oraindik herrialdeak eta gizajendeak bereizten, bai kulturaren aldetik bai gastronomiaren aldetik ere. Konparazio baterako, Hegoaldeko euskaldun batentzat pentsaezina da bazkari edo afari bat amaitzea (repasa) gazta eta entsaladarekin, eta hori munduko gauzarik normalena da Iparraldeko batentzat. Exotismoa batzuetan ez dago hain urrutti; aski da pastis bat eskatzea Hegoaldean eta txakolin bat Iparraldean, aberastasunaren eta aniztasunaren oinarrian funtsean differentzia, desberdintasuna, baino ez dagoela ohartzeko.

Desberdintasunez ari garelarik, ezin dugu ahaztu bi sukaldaritzak, Hegoaldekoa eta Iparraldekoa, zapore aldetik bereizten dituen mugari printzipialena: sukalderako zer koipe hautatzen den; gurinaz edo oliba-olioaz prestatuko dugu janaria? Auzi horretan ez dago erdibiderik. Donibane Lohizunetik aurrera guztiz desberdina da sukaldeko usaina.

Baina heldu diezaiogun honaino ekarri gaituen puntuari: nola definitu euskal sukaldaritza, hain kontzeptu lausoia eta zehaztugabea delarik?

Zuhurtziari kasu eginez, esango dugu euskal sukaldaritzaren kontzeptuan faktore anitz sartzen dela; hau da, lehen esandako guztiak mar кату egiten du, zalantzak gabe, gure sukaldaritzaren identitatea: tradizioak, produktuek, kozinatzeko moduak... Bainak, jakina, horrek guztiak balio du munduko beste edozein sukaldaritzarako ere. Nola azaldu, orduan, ezagutzen ez gaituztenei, zerk definitzen eta bereizten gaituen? Lehen esan dugun guztia azpimarratu dezakegu, adibidez; hau da: esan dezakegu gure plater askotan garrantzi betea duela testurak, zaporearen gainetik jartzen dugula faktore hori (ehundurarena, alegia). Esan dezakegu gure sukaldaritzan ez direla produktuak asko manipulatzen, ia ez ditugula erabiltzen saltsa konplexuak, ezta espeziak eta belar lurrantsuak ere, zeren gure plater guztiak etengabe errepikatzen diren osagai gutxi batzuekin prestatu baitaitezke: tipularekin, baratxuriekkin, perrexilarekin, piperrekin... Eta kito, hor bukatzen da zerrenda.

Juan Mari Arzaki entzun nion nik lehenengo aldiz esaten: «Munduko beste sukaldaritza guztietatik bereizten gaituen gauza bakarra lau saltsa dira». Eta erabat ados nago berarekin. Saltsa horietatik aparte, gure sukaldaritzan daukagun gainerako guztia munduko beste edozein tokitan topa genezake, berezitasun eta ыabardura txiki batzuk gorabehera. Bainak badira lau saltsa gure artean eta hemen bakarrik aurki daitezkeenak. Lau saltsa eta lau kolore bakar: saltsa gorria, saltsa berdea, saltsa zuria eta saltsa beltza.

sometimes close at hand: If one is not from there, one only has to ask for a *pastis* (in the north) or a *txakolina* (in the south) to see that richness and diversity mean, essentially, difference.

And now that we have mentioned differences, I cannot leave out the main gustative border that separates the cuisines of north and of south: choosing the cooking oil. Do we cook with butter or olive oil? On this question, there is no middle ground. In Donibane Lohizune (Lapurdi) the smell of kitchens changes completely.

But to return to my original question, how can we define such a diffuse concept as Basque cuisine?

Without wanting to be improper, we might say that Basque cuisine is a combination of many factors, that is, everything we've just highlighted unquestionably defines our culinary identity: tradition, products, ways of cooking, and so forth. However, all of this also describes every other cuisine in the world. How do we explain then to those who don't know us what it is that differentiates us?

We might persevere with what we've already said: in many of our dishes we value texture over flavour, ours is a cuisine that does not elaborate the products very much, it doesn't have complicated sauces or use herbs or spices too much, all our dishes can be prepared with very few ingredients that are repeated time and time again (onion, garlic, parsley, and red and green peppers). And that's as far as it goes.

I heard Juan Mari Arzak say it first: "The only thing that differentiates us from the rest of the world are four sauces". I agree entirely with him. Practically everything else in our cuisine is the same thing we might find, with a few small differences and nuances, elsewhere in the world. However, there are four sauces here, only amongst us, which one finds. Four sauces, four colours, that are unique: red sauce, green sauce, white sauce and black sauce.

Mundu osoa lau koloretan margotua

Munduko sukaldetan miaka ibili arren, ez ditugu saltsa hauek beste inon aurkituko. Eta saltsa horien bidez, gauzen izatea eta nolakotasuna, eta, beraz, mundua bera nola ulertzen dugun adieraz dezakegu. Ohartzen gara, noski, euskal sukaldaritza munduko beste sukaldaritza guztietatik lau saltsek baino ez dutela bereizten esatea gauzak asko sinplifikatzea dela. Seguruenik guztia teorizatzeko daukagun behar zentzugabeak eramatzen gaitu horra; baina, hala ere, egia da beste inongo sukaldaritzan ez ditugula topatuko jarraian aipatuko ditugun lau saltsa motak.



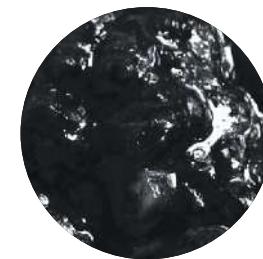
Gorria
Red



Berdea
Green

The Whole World Painted in Four Colours

For all the exploring one might do in other cuisines, one will never come across these four sauces. Through them, we might say that they are a way of understanding the way of things, and therefore the world as a whole. I know that saying that this is the only thing that differentiates Basque cuisine from the other cuisines of the world is over simplification. I'm sure it's the absurd need to theorise everything that drives us to this, but it is true that we don't find the four sauces in any other cuisine.



Beltza
Black



Txuria
White

Saltsa gorria edo bizkaitarra: tipula da saltsa honen osagai nagusia; hala ere, piper txorizeroa da *arima* jartzen diona, koloreaz gainera, noski. Bizitzia osoa eztabaidan eman genezake tomate-saltsa behar duen edo ez erabaki ezinik, era guztietako gustuak daudenez. Eztabaidagarria da, orobat, animalia-koipez edo landare-koipez prestatu behar den... Bainaz ez da hau era horretako ika-miketan jarduteko lekua, eta ez gara horretan hasiko, dogmak ez baitira gure gustukoak. Egin dezala bakoitzak atsegin duen moduan. Guk gauzak nola egiten ditugun baino ez dugu proposatzen hemen –kasu honetan tomate-saltsarik gabe–. Nolanahi ere, ez gara muzinduko besteren batek beste modu batera prestatzen badu, eta are gutxiago dastatzera gonbidatzen bagaitu.

Saltsa honen historiari buruz inork interesik badu, biziki gomendatzen diot José Ángel Iturberen *La salsa vizcaína liburua*¹³. Iturbek lan handia hartu du saltsa berezi honen inguruan dagoen material guztia biltzen. Egia esan, ezin da imajinatu ere egin zenbat plater prestatu diren saltsa honekin, eta harrigarria da zenbat herrialdetara eta mahaitara heldu den.

Iturbek, bere liburuan, Genaro Pildain zenaren errezeta ere jasotzen du; sukaldari bizkaitar mitiko bat zen Genaro –ezagutzeko plazera izan nuen, zorionez–. Guk hemen esplikatu dugunaren kontra, Pildainek tomate-saltsa koilarakada pare bat jartzen zion saltsari, eta gurin koilarakada bat ere eransten zion, distira emateko. Zin dagit, azkenekoz dastatu nuenetik 25 urte igaro diren arren, saltsa haren go-muta dela niretzat bizkaitar saltsaren kanona.



SALTSA GORRIA EDO BIZKAITARRA

Batetik, ipini osagai guztiak, piperrak izan ezik, kazola handi samar batean; jarri su motelean, poliki-poliki egiten joan dadin. Barazkiak desegin arte eduki behar da kazola sustan, eta hiru bat ordu beharko dira gutxienez. Azkenean, ilun-ilun geratu behar du denak.

Bestetik, barazkiak egin bitartean, kentu piper txorizeroei zurtoina eta hazia. Ipini eltean, eta tapatu urez. Jarri eltean su motelean, ura irakiten hasi arte. Behin irakiten hasten denean, kentu salda guztia, eta urez estali berriz ere. Hirutan egin behar da; hau da: hiru irakinaldi behar dira, bakoitzaz ur berriarekin. Ondoren, utzi epeltzen, eta, koilara batez baliatuzik, atera piperraren mamia, azaletik bereiziz. (Birimodu modernoaren morroi bazara, piper txorizeroaren mamia potoan eros dezakezu. Bainaz, jakina, *benetako saltsa* nahi baduzu, ez dizut halakorik gomendatzen).

Behin barazkiak eginda daudenean, atera perrexil sorta kazolatik; gehitu txorizero-mamia, eta eman buelta batzuk, ondo nahasteko. Ateraz urdaiazpiko-hezurra edo urdaia ontzik, eta pasatu saltsa -purea egiteko- purregailu edo irabiagailu batetik eta iragazki fin batetik.

Saltsa lodiagi geratu bada, bota ur pixka bat –piperrei irakinaldia emateko erabili du-guetik–, saltsa bere puntuan gera dadin. Geza edo motel antzean badago, bota gatz pitin bat.

Konturatuko zineten hasieran ez dugula gatzik bota, urdaiazpiko-hezurak edo urdaia nahiko gazitasun eransten dionez saltsari. Zezinik erabilten ez badugu, gatz apur bat bota beharko dugu hasieran.

Zenbaitek, saltsa lodizeko, Maria gaileta bat gehitzen dio azkenean, xehatu aurretik; baina ez da beharrezko. Saltsa honekin bakailaoa eta barraskiloak egin ditzakegu, eta aproposa da txahal muturrak edo tixerri hankak prestatzeko ere, aurretik egosi eta arrautza-irinetan pasatu ondoren.

1/2 kg. *tipula zuri*, *azala kenduta eta zerrenda finetan ebakita*
1/2 kg. *tipula gorri*, *zurituta eta zerrenda finetan ebakita*
1 baratxuri atal, *zurituta eta osorik*
3 piperbeltz ale
12 koilarakada *oliba-olio*
Urdaiazpiko-hezur zati bat; horren ordez, urdai iberiko zati handi bat ere erabil daiteke
Perrexil sorta txiki bat, zurtoin eta guzti, listariz ondo lotuta
18 piper txorizeroa

1/2 kilo of white onions, finely diced
1/2 kilo of red onions, finely diced
3 garlic cloves
3 black peppercorns
12 tablespoons of olive oil
1 small piece of ham bone, or alternatively, a good thick chunk of bacon
1 small sprig of parsley stems, tied tightly together
18 dried sweet red peppers

First, put all the ingredients except the red peppers in a good sized cooking pot and gently sweat them over a low heat for three hours or more. The mixture should be very dark and the vegetables almost broken down.

Then we cut off the stems from the peppers and remove any seeds. We put them in another pot and cover them with water. We cook over a low heat until the water begins to boil. When it boils, drain the pot, return them to same pot and cover them with water again. We do this up to three times. We let them cool down to lukewarm temperature and, with the aid of a spoon, carefully remove the fleshy pulp from the skin of the peppers (Of course, leading the hectic modern lifestyle you do, you can always buy this fleshy part of the pepper already prepared and canned, but if we're speaking about authenticity then this isn't good advice).

Once the vegetables have been sweated down, we remove the sprig of parsley and add

the fleshy pulp from the peppers, stirring everything together. We remove the ham bone or chunk of bacon and pass the sauce through a food mill, food processor or fine sieve. If it's very thick and if need be, thin it out with a little water from the pot in which the peppers were soaked, so that it is fairly runny. We add a little salt. As I have found out, it is better not to add salt at the beginning since the ham bone or bacon season the sauce. If we don't add any pork product like this, then you should add some salt at the start.

There are those that, before processing it, add a sweet Marie biscuit (similar to a Rich Tea) to the sauce to bind it, but this is not essential. With this sauce, one can make stews with salt cod and snails. One can also add previously boiled beef muzzles, which are then rubbed in flour and a beaten egg and fried, or pigs' trotters rubbed in flour and beaten egg and fried, to the sauce.

Red or Bizkaian sauce is an onion-based sauce but its soul comes from a sweet dried red pepper. We could spend our entire lives debating whether or not this sauce should also include tomato sauce; there is no one answer, tastes differ. One might also debate whether it should be made using animal or vegetable fat. This is not the place for such debates, so I won't go there because I'm not a great fan of dogma. Let everyone just choose whatever they like best. I will stick to offering my way of doing things—in this case without tomato sauce—although I wouldn't turn my nose up if someone invited me to participate in making and, especially, taste their sauces.

If anyone is interested in the history of this sauce, I recommend that they consult Jose Angel Iturbe's *La salsa vizcaína* (2010)¹³. The charming Iturbe has taken the time out to seek out everything connected to this illustrious sauce. And the truth is that one cannot imagine the range of dishes that have used it, or the multiple tables at which and the countries in which it has been served.

Iturbe includes in the book a recipe by the now deceased Genaro Pildain, a mythical Bizkaian chef who I was lucky enough to meet. In contrast to what has been explained here, Pildain used to add a couple of tablespoons of tomato sauce and a tablespoon of butter (to add a shine) to the sauce. I can testify that the memory of that sauce is still, for me, twenty-five years later, the canon of Bizkaian sauce.

RED OR BIZKAIAN SAUCE

Saltsa berdea, perrexilez egina; gure etxeko sukaldetean gehien era-biltzen duguna izango da seguruenik. Saltsa horrekin ia arrain zuri denak prestatzeaz gainera, beste hainbat plater egin daitezke: patatak, berduraren bat edo beste eta haragi-plateren bat ere bai (bildots hankak, adibidez).

Saltsa berdeak eboluzio sotila izan du aspaldi honetan; ez diot inori ezer entzun horren inguruan, baina hala da, zalantzak gabe. Orain dela gutxi arte, saltsa lodia eta zaporetsua lortu nahi izaten zen; horretarako, irina botatzen zitzzion saltsari, loditzeko, eta ardoa, txakolina edo jerez lehorren bat ere bai, bizitasuna emateko. Arraina olioan prestatzent hasten zen, eta ge-roxeago botatzen zitzzion salda edo ura.

Gaur egun, asko aldatu dira gauzak, joera justu kontrako baita; batez ere punta-puntako sukaldarientz artean. Gaurko egunean, ez da bilatzen saltsa trinko zapore bizi-biziko hura, alderantziz baizik; saltsa arina estimatzen da, eta irin pittin bat besterik ez zaio gehitzen, justu ortsutasun-puntu gehiegizkoa kentzeko behar duena. Zaporean ere arintasuna bilatzen da, ez dezala arrainaren kalitatea ezkutatu. Perrexil xehatu berriaren lurrina besterik ezin zaio erantsi.

Askoz hobeto ulertuko da zaporea ez ezkutatzearen auzi hau, kontuan hartzen badugu legatza dela saltsa berdean gehien prestatzen den arraina. Legatzak ia ez du usainik eta apena zaporerik duen. Jaten dugun bitartean -puntu-puntuaren egon behar du; ez gordina, ez gehiegi eginda ere-, haren haragi zuria testuran jartzen dugu arreta osoa. Behar baino minutu bat gehiago edo gutxiago edukitzen bada sutan, ondorioak katastrofikoak izan daitezke *connaisseur* edo dastatzailearentzat.

Izango da kontra egingo digunik, jateko kontuetan dena eztabaidagarri denez, baina legatza saltsa berdean, bere puntuaren ateratzen denean, euskal sukaldaritzaren erregina da, nire ustez.



LEGATZA SALTSBERDEAN

Aurretik, ordu erdi bat lehenago, gatza eman behar zaie legatz-solomoei, behar bezala xurga dezaten. Jarri kazola zabal eta baxu batean olioa eta baratxuria. Dantzan hasi be-zain laster, bota irin pixka bat eta eduki sutan segundo batzuez, kolorerik hartzen ez duela kontu eginez. Orduan, gehitu legatz-salda edo ura, eta irakiten eduki minutu batez. Ipinin arraina saltsan, azala gorantz duela. Eduki su motelean 4 minutuz, kazola mugituz.

Ondoren, eman buelta legatz-solomoei espatula batez; kontuz egin, azala apurtu gabe. Utzi horrelaxe, eta segi kazola mugitzen beste bi minutuz. Garrantzi handikoa da sua motela izatea eta kazola poliki mugitzea. Bota gainetik perrexil xehatua. Kenu kazola sutatik eta segi mugitzen saltsa trinkotu arte. Behar izanez gero, bota gatz pixka bat, eta zerbitzatu.

*4 legatz-solomo, 200 gramokoak, hezurrak kenduta
2 baratxuri atal, txiki-txiki eginda
5 koilarakada oliba-olio birjina
Irin pitin bat
Perrexila, xehatuta
1/4 litro arrain-salda edo ura
Gatza*

*4 fillets of hake, 200g each, de-boned
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
5 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
1 pinch of flour
Chopped parsley
1/4 litre of fish stock or water
Salt*

Green sauce made with parsley is without doubt the sauce that most people use at home. Besides almost all white fish, with slight variations in each stock, it can be also be used with potatoes, any vegetable and even some meat dishes such as lambs' hooves.

Green sauce has experienced lately a subtle evolution about which I have heard few people comment on, and yet it is quite evident. Just a few years ago the tendency was to add flavour and body to this sauce, which in itself is quite mild and runny. Quite a lot of flour was added to thicken it up and to strengthen its flavour, a local wine, such as *txakolina*, or even dry sherry, was incorporated. Fish was fried in oil and only later was liquid added (stock or water).

Today things have changed considerably and the tendency is the opposite, especially among the great chefs. That lavish sauce with its added flavour is the complete opposite of what people want now: a rather light sauce with just enough flour to bind it, with hardly any flavour and which doesn't hide the flavour of the fish. The only additional flavour permitted is a light touch of recently chopped parsley.

The question of not masking the taste of fish is better understood if we take into account that the fish that is most often prepared in green sauce is hake. With scarcely any aroma or flavour, when eating hake, once it has been cooked to perfection, neither underdone nor overdone, all our attention is used to being centred on the texture of its thin layers of white flesh. One minute more, or less, during cooking can be catastrophic for the connoisseur. There will be people who disagree with me on this, since when it comes to food everything is debatable, but when it is done right, hake in green sauce is the queen of Basque cuisine.

HAKE IN GREEN SAUCE

Season the filets of hake half an hour before cooking so that the salt permeates the fish perfectly. Add the oil and garlic to a wide based pan. When the garlic starts to fry, add a pinch of flour and stir for a few seconds without browning it. Then add the stock or water and bring to the boil for one minute. Slide the fish, skin-side up, gently into the liquid. Simmer over a low heat for four minutes, gently shaking the pan from side to side. Then we

turn the fillets over with a spatula, taking care to make sure the skin doesn't break, and we shake the pan gently from side to side for two more minutes. It is important to maintain a low heat and keep moving the pan gently. Sprinkle the sauce with the parsley. Taking the pan off the heat, we bind the sauce by gently shaking the pan once more. If needed, add salt to taste and serve.

Saltsa zuria edo pil-pila: baratxuria eta bakailao gezatua oliba-oli-otan melatuz lortzen da. Beste arrain batzuekin ere egin daitake, nolana-hi ere. Askorentzat euskal sukaldaritzaren platerik adierazgarriena da. Nire irudiko -gogokoent ditudan plateretako bat bada ere-, kasu aparteko da, salbuespena, ez baita euskal sukaldaritzan beste platerik honek adina olio eskatzen duenik prestatzeko. Beraz, esan dezagun bakailaoa pil-pilean, plater adierazgarria edo kanonikoa baino gehiago, gure sukaldaritzako plater aparta dela, *gourmand* orok oso gogoko duena.

BAKAILAOA PIL-PILEAN

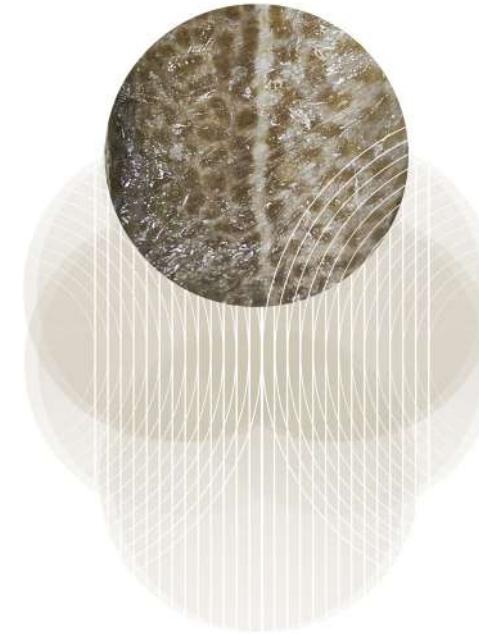
Hartu kazola zabal bat, bakailao-xerrak ondo sartzeko moduko; bota olioa eta baratxuri aleak (pipermina ere bai, nahi izanez gero). Jarrí kazola su motel-motelean irakiten, baratxuri atalak bigundu direla eta kolorea harta dutela ikusi arte. Eduki su motel-motelean gal-gal, 30 minutuz. Atera baratxuriak eta gorde apartean, olioa kazolan utzita. Olio epel dagoela, ipini bakailao-xerrak kazolan, azala gorantz dutela. Irakin dezatela astiro-astiro 8 minuto inguru. Kendu kazola sutatik.

Xukatu bakailaoa kontu handiz, eta harta beste kazola bat (lehen erabilitakoaren berdintsa izan dadila); irakiteko erabili dugun oliotik bota pixka bat ontzira eta ipini han bakailao-puskak. Jarrí kazola su motelean eta mugitu atzera-aurrera, arrainaren gelatinak olioa loditu eta saltsa horia sortu arte. Saltsa lodituz doanean, gehitu olio epel gehiago, maionesa egitean bezala, pil-pila lortzeko. Saltsa ondo egin behar da, baina ez du lodiegia izan behar. Bakailao pusken gainean lehendik konfitatu ditugun baratxuri atal osoak jarri eta zerbitzatu.

*4 bakailao-puska,
gezatuak, bakoitzak
250 gramokoa. Ondo
lehortuta egon behar
dute
1%ko oliba-olioa, puskak
estaltzeko adina
8 baratxuri atal, zurituta
(osorik)
1 Cayenne pipermin
punta (aukeran)*

*4 slices of salt cod,
previously desalted, and
cut into well dried 250g
pieces
Enough extra virgin olive
oil to cover the slices
of cod
8 cloves of garlic, peeled
and left whole
The tip of one dried chilli
(optional)*

White or pilpil sauce is the result of cooking garlic and salt cod in olive oil, although it can be done with other fish as well. For many people, this is the most representative Basque dish, although in my opinion, and even though it is one of my favourite dishes in the world, it remains an exception, since there is no other dish in Basque cuisine that demands the use of so much oil. One might say, then, that instead of being a representative or canonical dish, cod pilpil is a fantastic dish in our cuisine that any *gourmand* would love.



COD PILPIL

Pour the oil and garlic, and the chilli if using, into a wide based pan sufficiently big enough for the four pieces of salt cod. We fry them over a very low heat until we see the garlic begin to brown. We leave them to cook on a low heat for half an hour. We remove them and keep them to one side, leaving just the oil in the pan. When the oil is lukewarm, add the pieces of salt cod into the pan, skin-side up, and allow them to cook very gently for eight minutes. Remove the pan from the heat.

Remove the pieces of salt cod carefully and place them in another similar-sized pan, with just a splash of the oil already used. We stir over a low heat, gently shaking the pan from side to side, so that the natural fats of the fish blend in with the oil and form a yellowish sauce. Little by little, we add more of the lukewarm oil in the other pan, so that, just like making a mayonnaise, the pilpil is blended. The sauce, when done, should be blended but not too thick. Add the previously fried garlic (and chilli if using) on top of the pieces of salt cod and serve.

Txipiroi-tintaren saltsa beltza. Heldu gara azken kolorera, beltzera. Hemen egingo dugun platera exotikoa eta harrigarria egiten zaie bisitan da tozkigun kanpotarrei. Egia esan, gutxi dira plater beltzak munduko sukaldaritzetan, eta makina bat lagun atzerritar ikusi dugu nazka-aurpegia jartzen, txipiroiak edo txibiak beren tintan aurrean jarri dizkietenean.

Plater honen oinarrizko osagaiak tomate-saltsa eta tipula dira, tipula ugari; horiek ematen diote gorputza platerari, baina, azkenean, zefalopodoen tinta botatzen zaionean, dena aldatzen da eta beltz distiratsua nagusitzen da.

Ezin bestela izan, eta eztabaidea ugari dago honen inguruan ere; zein txipiroi mota ote da onena? Zer errezeta ote den onena platera prestatzeko? Batzuek diote txipiroiak *mokadukoa* izan behar duela, eta beste batzuek hatz erakuslea baino luzeagoa ezin dela izan... Bain, tira, oraingo honetan ere ez naiz ni ika-mika horretan sartuko; jan ditut txipiroi txiki bikain askoak eta jan ditut besurrekoaren adinako txipiroi ale apartak. Freskoak eta amukoak iza-tea da garrantzitsuena, beste guztia gutxienekoa da.

Ez dago txalupan txipiroitara joatea bezalakorik. Bizimodu modernoak, ordea, gauza txar asko ditu eta horietako bat da beste garai batzuetako zaletasun ederretatik apartatu eta ordenagailura iltzatzen gaituela. Bain, esaten ari nintzena, niri, aukeran, txipiroiak handi samarrak gusatzen zaizkit, zerrendetan ebakita jaten diren horiek. Haragi gehiago dute eta ez dira geratzen, txikiek sarritan gertatzen den bezala, gogortuta, kartoiaren tankeran. Bain, nork bere gustuak ditu, noski.

Txipiroiak prestatzeko moduak eta trikimailuak asko dira, ezin konta ahala. Nik hemen etxelean erabilten dudana jarriko dut, baina abisatu nahi dizuet ez du dala munduan beste inor ezagutzen txipiroiak prestatzeko presio-eltzea baliatzen duenik. Hala ere, jakin dut nire txipiroiak jan dituen lagunen bat edo beste hasia dela horretan.



TXIPIROIKA BEREN TINTAN (bizkor egiteko)

Garbitu txipiroiak; kontuz egin, tinta-poltsak puska ez daitezten. Gorde tinta-poltsak baso txiki batean ur bero apur batekin. Bereizi erroak eta hegatsak, eta zatitu puska handitan; egin gauza bera gorputzarekin ere. Kendu kanpoko hezurra edo *luma*, gorputz osoa luzetara zeharkatzen duena.

Jarri, presio-eltzean, olioa-olio berotan tipulin edo tipula xehatua zenbait minutuz, kolorea hartzan hasi arte. Orduan, gehitu txipiroi puskak, eta utzi bost minutuz su er-tainean, zurezko koilararekin bueltak emanez. Gehitu ogi-birrindua edo txigortua, zopa egiteko pastilla muturra, ardoa, tomatea eta tinta; erabili bueltaka iragazkia, eta sakatu sardexka batekin, tinta pasa dadin, baina ez

poltsak. Bota iragazkian ur beroa tintaren gainetik. Gatzza eman.

Itxi presio-eltzea eta utzi minutu batez, lurruna atera dadin. Itzali sua eta utzi eltzea bere horretan, tapa kendu gabe, harik eta presioa desagertzen den arte. Ireki eltzea eta erreparatu txipiroi eta saltsaren testurari. Begiratua nola dagoen gatzez, eta zer moduz dagoen dena: saltsa lodiegi badago, bota ur gehiago; geza badago, bota gatz pittin bat gehiago.

Utzi eltzea, taparik gabe, bost minutuz, edo pasa dena beste eltze edo kazola itxuroago batera. Kito, prest dago.

Txipiroiak ogi errearekin edo arroz zu-riarekin zerbitza daitezke.

*2 kg. txipiroi begianaldi azal eta guzti; tripak kenduta, eta zati erainetan ebakita
6 tipulin, xehatuta
3 kolarakada handi olioa-olio birjina
1 baso bete ardo zuri (lehorra)
10 kolarakada tomate-saltsa
½ litro ur bero
2 kolarakada ogi-xeha edo biskote bat
Txibien tinta
Gatzza
Zopa egiteko pastilla mutur bat*

Black sauce made from squid ink is made for a dish that is always striking for anyone who has not seen it. There are, in truth, few black coloured dishes in the world and more than one foreign friend has looked horrified by a dish of squid in its own ink.

It is true that the base of the sauce is governed and given body by the copious use of onions and tomato sauce. However, in the end, when the cephalopods' ink is added, everything changes and the lustrous black colour takes over.

Naturally, debate rages of which is the best squid or the best recipe for this dish. There are those who argue that the squid must be "bite sized" while others say that it should be no bigger than an index finger. I'm not going to get involved here either, since I've eaten excellent squid that has been both small and as big as a forearm. It is more a question of the squid's freshness and the method of individually fishing for it. The rest is less important.

There is nothing better than going fishing for the squid yourself, yet modern life distances you from the pastimes of yesteryear and chains you to a computer. Still, returning to what I was saying, I especially like certain kinds of squid that you eat in narrow strips or fillets. They seem to have more flesh than their smaller counterparts which are often a little cardboard-like. To each to their own.

There are a thousand and one recipes and tips for this dish. Here I'll suggest the recipe I use at home, but I warn you that I know of no one else who uses a pressure cooker to prepare squid. Yet I also understand that the odd friend of mine who has tried "my squid" started to use one.

SQUID IN ITS OWN INK (fast method)

We clean the squid, taking care to not tear the ink sacs, which you put to one side in glass with a few drops of hot water. We separate the tentacles and fins, cutting them into big pieces the same size as the bodies, from which we will have removed the spine or quill.

We add the chopped onion to the previously heated oil in the pressure cooker. Sauté for a few minutes until the onion starts to brown. Then we add the squid that has been cut into pieces and sauté over a medium heat for five minutes, turning these over now and again with a wooden spoon. We add the breadcrumbs or crisp bread, the pinch of stock cube, wine, tomato sauce and ink. We put the ink sacs through a sieve, pressing down with a fork so that the ink passes through but the sacs

remain. Gradually add the hot water to this ink, through the sieve, and season to taste.

Put the lid on the pressure cooker and let out the steam for one minute. Turn off the heat and leave, covered, until the pressure reduces. Remove the lid and test the texture of the squid and the sauce, and test also to see whether it needs any more salt and season if necessary; more water if the sauce is too thick, more salt if it is not seasoned enough.

Return the pressure cooker to the heat, without the lid on, for a few minutes. If we want, we can put the squid in its own ink in a nicer pan or dish and serve.

The squid can be served with fried bread or white rice.

Ondorio gisa

Beste hark zioen moduan: ezer ez dakigula besterik ez dakigu. Alegia, ez dagoela modurik euskal sukaldaritza deitzen duguna definitzen duten faktore guztiak zehazteko eta adierazteko. Guztia lau koloretan margo-tzeko egin dugun saiakerak auzira hurbiltzeko ahalegin bat izan da; ahalegin plastikoa, beharbada, baina, urrutti dago gure sukaldaritza aberats oparoa, hainbeste ñabardura eta aldaera dituena, bere osotasunean hartzeko eta definitzeko.

Zalantzak gabe, faktore anitz ugari dauka auziak eta alderdi asko hartzen ditu bere barruan: memoria, produktua, ohiturak, klima... Gainera, ez dago euskal sukaldaritza hartzetik zerba osoa, itxia eta bukatua balitz bezala. Egunero kozinatzen dugu eta etengabe ari gara eboluzionatzen. Bilakaeraren ikuspegitik begiratu behar zaio auzi honi; hor hartzen du zentzua eta horretan oinarritzen da. Ziurtasun osoa ez badaukagu ere, senak esaten digu noiz ari garen kozinatzen guretzat soilik eta noiz ez. Identifikazio-gaitasun berezkoa dugu, eta horrek esaten digu plater bat gurean luzaroan geratuko den edo su-artifizialen modukoa den -azkar igo, distira bizia egin eta berehala desagertzen dena, alegia-. Gure kultura-ren parte indartsua da gaitasun hori, eta beste sukaldaritzetan dauden gauza onak identifikatzen laguntzen digu. Beti gure zilborrari begira ibili beharrean, badakigu urrutira begiratzen, eta alea eta lastoa bereizten beste sukaldaritzetan ere: arrain on batek, haragi bikain batek edo barezki apartek beti izango dute estimazio handia gure artean, mahai baten bueltan biltzen garenean.

Era berean, badakigu espezia eta bizigarri asko dauzkaten platerak ez direla gure gustukoak. Badakigu ez direla gure gogoko landare lurrintsuak eta zaporea ezkutatzenten duten saltsak. Badakigu gurean arrainak freskoia izan behar duela nahitaez, haragiaren gustua ez dela ezerekin disimulatu behar, edozein gauza neurririk gabe gehiegikeria dela definizioz...

Jakinaren gainean gaude munduko jatetxe punta-puntako enetan sukaldaritza teknologikal aurreratu bera darabiltena, eta sukaldari guztiak ahalegina egiten dutela produkturik onenak eta garestienak eskaintzeko; eta badakigu hori arriskutsua dela, azkenean, denek gauza berak eskaini, lekuak lekuak galdu eta tradizioa lausotu egin baitaiteke. Ia gauza berak jaten ditugu Sidney, Parisen, Londresen, Bilbon eta Chicagon...

Horiexek dira mundu gero eta txikiago baten arriskuak. Dena dugu eskuragarri, eta edozein urte-sasoitan, gainera. Bainan tentuz ibili behar da itxuraz aurrerabidea denarekin, justu kontrako bilaka ez dadin. Ia ez dago distantziarik kontinenteen artean, ezta kulturen eta merkatuen artean ere. Urte-sasoien arteko gorabeheretako aurrea hartzen diegu hegazkinetan bidaiatuz, eta ustez behar duguna -baita munduko beste muturrean badago ere- gurera importatzenten dugu noiznahi. Deskuidatzen bagara, *canard à l'orange* uda betean janet bukatuko dugu ostera ere. Horren antzeko gauzak egitera jarrita gaude aspaldian; urte osoan jaten ditugu zainzuriak eta tomatuek, auskalo nondik ekarrita. Gure itsasoak hustu ditugularik, beste batzuetara joaten gara haiet ere arpitatzera; gure abeltzaintza, garestia

By Way of Conclusion

As was once said, the only thing we know is that we don't know everything. In our case, there is no fixed method for determining what makes up that thing we call Basque cuisine. My attempt to paint it all in four colours might be general and versatile but it is far from capturing a rich cuisine like ours full of variation and nuance.

This is, without doubt, a multifaceted question where many factors enter the fray: memory, the product, customs, the climate, and so forth. Moreover, Basque cuisine can't be considered a complete and finished article. We cook every day and we are always evolving. The question resides in the meaning and foundation of this evolution. Without it being an exact science, an ancient intuition tells us when to cook for ourselves and when not to. Our ability to identify things for ourselves also tells us when we are going to keep a dish for a long time and when it is just a passing fancy. Ours is a powerful cultural component that allows us to identify what is good about other cuisines. Without shutting ourselves off only in our own thing, we know how to distinguish good quality in other cuisines: a good piece of fish, extraordinary meat or excellent vegetables will always be appreciated by our palate.

However, we know that very spicy foods are not for us, that we don't like overly aromatic food too much, or sauces that hide everything, that fish must be impossibly fresh, that one shouldn't cover meat, that excess in any ingredient or component is just what the word itself indicates, excess.

We are aware that advanced technico-emotional cooking is practiced in the best restaurants in the world today. We know that all chefs seek to offer us the best and most expensive products. However, there is the danger that they all end up offering the same thing and that place and local tradition fade away. We eat virtually the same things in Sydney, Paris, London, Bilbao or Chicago. These are the dangers of a shrinking world. Everything is within reach, at any time of the year. We should monitor attentively what appears to be progress so that it doesn't become the opposite. There is hardly any distance among continents, or among cultures or among markets. We overcome seasonal variations by chartering planes and importing whatever we feel we must have. We'll end up eating duck à l'orange again in summer. Indeed, we're already eating imported asparagus and tomatoes throughout the year. With our own seas empty, we are pillaging others; we're abandoning our own expensive cattle in the search for cheaper meat. At the end of the day, we're all a part of the advanced world.

But no one should misunderstand us. We appreciate and are grateful for anything new, no one should call us reactionary because we're not speaking about limits or impositions. We like anything new and different, we're open to everything and we like anything that is good. Moreover, we're not risking anything. Fortunately, we know that any incursions we may make into other cuisines will just be stops along

delakoan, baztertu eta abandonatu dugularik, haragi merkeagoen bila jotzen dugu. Azken finean, mundu aurreratuaren parte gara...

Baina kontuz, ez dadila inor nahastu gurekin, inork ez dezala ondorio okerrik atera. Gauza bereziak estimatzen ditugu, eta gustura asko hartzen ditugu eskaintzen dizkigutenean. Inork ez dezala pentsa atzerakoik garenik, hemen ez baikara hitz egiten ari mugez eta ezer inposatzeaz. Berria eta besterena gogoko dugu, irekita baikaude eta ona den guztia estimatzen baitugu. Gainera, ez dugu ezer arriskatzen, ondo baitakigu, zorionez, beste sukaldaritzetara egiten ditugun bidaiaik geltokiak baino ez direla hain berezia eta hain gurea den plazer honetara, gure euskal sukaldaritzara, itzultzeko bidean.



20

20. Ysios upategia,
arabar Errioxa.

20. Ysios Vineyard
(Rioja Alavesa).

the road on the way home to that very singular joy that is ours, our Basque cuisine.



Amaiera-oharrak

¹ <http://www.oficiostradicionales.net/es/mar/bacalao>

² <http://www.goear.com/listen/409f286/orioko-balearena>

³ <http://www.todopintxos.com/home/home.php?lang=eu>

⁴ <http://www.sociedadesgastronomicas.com/articulo.php?id=20>

⁵ <http://sukaldean.com/zein-jaki-prestatu-nahi>

⁶ <http://www.arzak.info>

⁷ <http://www.akelarre.net/web/index.htm?flash=0>

⁸ Euskaraz: <http://www.eitb.com/bideoak/onegin/saioak/> sukalde-maisuak
Gaztelaniaz: <http://www.eitb.com/videos/gastronomia/programas-tv/>
sukalde-maisuak

⁹ <http://academics.bculinary.com/index.php>

¹⁰ <http://www.zuberoa.com>

¹¹ <http://www.mugaritz.com>

¹² Mundu guztiari gomendatzen diot ikusteko gure sukaldaritzako bi erraldoi hauen arteko eztabaida antxoaren freskotasunari buruz. Luxuzko sekuentzia komikoa da eta Juan Mari Arzak, etxe bat da mundua dokumentalean agertzen da. Surrealismoa dirudi, egoerarik gordinean, baina, funtsean, Juan Mari Arzak eta Ferran Adrià sukaldetza eta produktua ulertzeko bi moduren arabera eztabaidatzen ari dira: Adriàk zapore gisa defenditzen ditu bi elementuok; Arzakek, ostera, testura gisa. Iku: http://www.soitu.es/soitu/2009/02/02/nuestrosvideos/1233569605_711550.html

¹³ José Ángel Iturbe (2010): *La salsa vizcaína*. Bizkaiko Gaiak / Temas Vizcaínos. Bilbao: BBK.

Endnotes

¹ <http://www.oficiostradicionales.net/es/mar/bacalao>

² <http://www.goear.com/listen/409f286/orioko-balearena>

³ <http://www.todopintxos.com/home/home.php?lang=eu>

⁴ <http://www.sociedadesgastronomicas.com/articulo.php?id=20>

⁵ <http://sukaldean.com/zein-jaki-prestatu-nahi>

⁶ <http://www.arzak.info/ing/home.asp>

⁷ <http://www.akelarre.net/web/english/base.html>

⁸ For example, on Juan Mari Arzak in Spanish at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/15340/sukalde-maisuak-juan-mari-arzak-el-mundo-es-una-casa> or Basque at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/15341/sukalde-maisuak-juan-mari-arzak-etxe-bat-da-mundua>; on Hilario Arbelaitz in Spanish at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/12697/sukalde-maisuak-hilario-arbelaitz-el-fuego-y-la-mano> or Basque at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/12694/sukalde-maisuak-hilario-arbelaitz-eskua-eta-sua>; on Andoni Luis Aduriz in Spanish at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/11398/sukalde-maisuak-andoni-luis-aduriz-la-cocina-de-las-palabras> or in Basque at <http://www.tveuskadi.net/11399/sukalde-maisuak-andoni-luis-aduriz-hitzen-sukaldea>

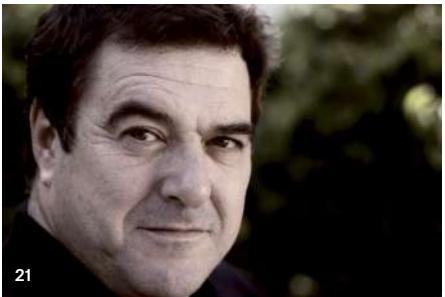
⁹ http://academics.bculinary.com/index_eng.php

¹⁰ <http://www.zuberoa.com>

¹¹ <http://www.mugaritz.com>

¹² I would highly recommend taking the time out to watch a debate between two of the great chefs on the freshness of anchovies. There is one uniquely funny scene in *Juan Mari Arzak: El mundo es una casa* (Juan Mari Arzak: The World is a Home). Although seemingly surreal, Juan Mari Arzak and Ferran Adrià each really do defend different positions on how to understand the product and the best way to cook it. Specifically, Adrià argues in favour of its flavour, while Arzak defends its texture. See http://www.soitu.es/soitu/2009/02/02/nuestrosvideos/1233569605_711550.html

¹³ José Ángel Iturbe, *La salsa vizcaína*, Bizkaiko Gaiak / Temas Vizcaínos (Bilbao: BBK, 2010).



Hasier Etxeberria (1957-2017)

Hasier Etxeberria idazlea eta kazetaria zen. Telebistan hasi zenetik gastronomiarekin eta kulturarekin lotutako programetan lan egin zuen beti. 1980ko hamarkadaren hasieran, Euskal Sukaldaritza Berria izeneko mugimenduaren testigu izan zen, eta, gero, bost sukaldari handiri buruzko dokumentalak egin zituen. Telebistan hainbat programa egin zituen kulturarekin eta literaturarekin lotuak; horrez gainera, hainbat liburu idatzi zituen, literaturakoak nahiz gastronomiari buruzkoak, eta horietako batzuk hainbat hizkuntzatan argitaratuak izan dira.

Hasier Etxeberria was a Basque writer and journalist. From the beginning of his professional career in television, Etxeberria was very closely linked to gastronomy. In the early 1980s he witnessed what came to be known as New Basque Cuisine and, later, was the director of documentaries about five great Basque chefs. Besides his own literary work and numerous cultural and literally programmes, he wrote several books on gastronomy which were translated into various languages.

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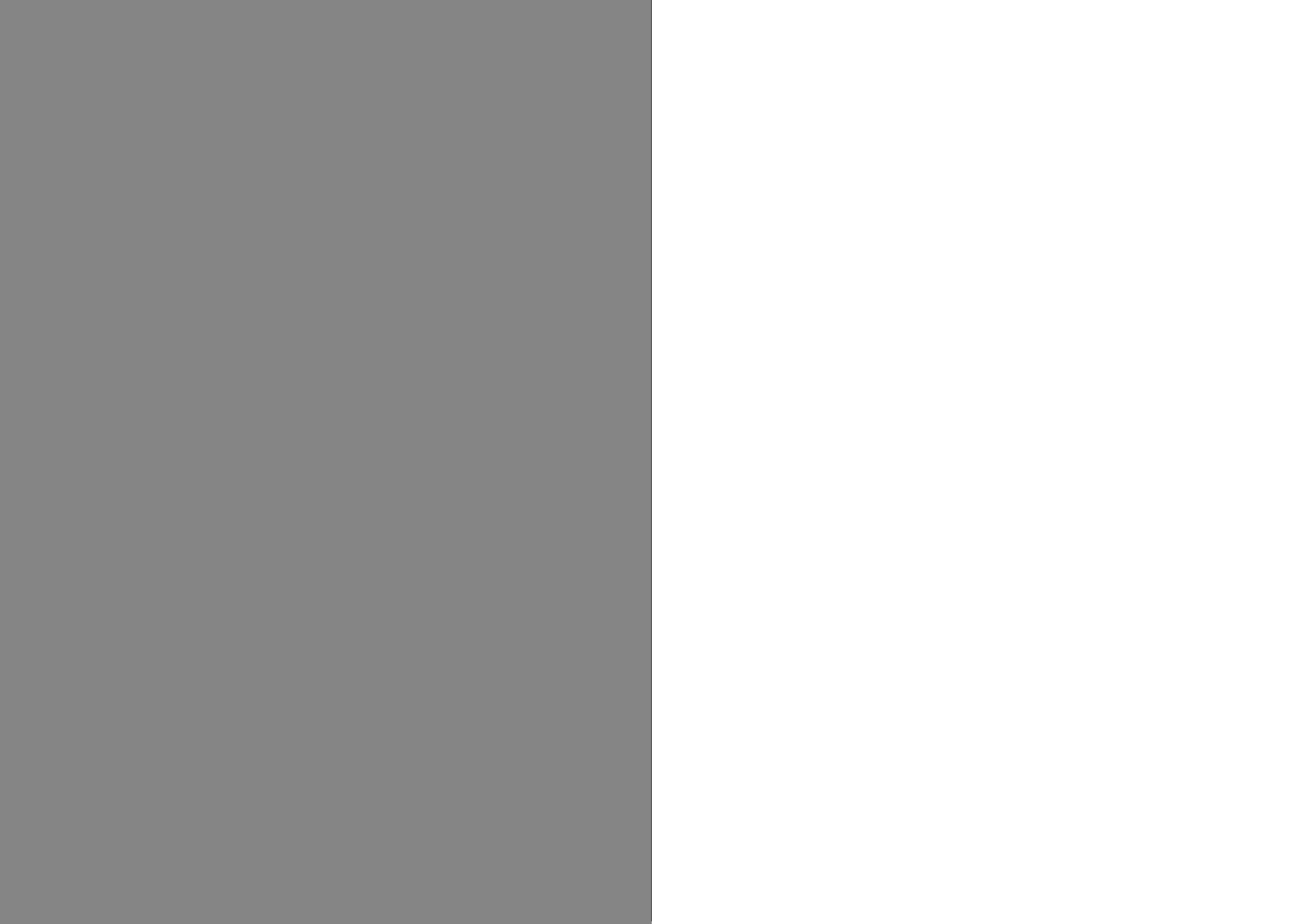
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2. Untzi Museoa, Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia, Donostia / Basque Maritime Museum, Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, San Sebastian.
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7. Arzak *bere saltsan* erakusketa katalogoa jasotako argazkia da (2019) / Photograph taken from the *Arzak *bere saltsan** exhibition catalogue (2019).
8. José Luis López de Zubiria - Mugaritz.
9. Gernika-Lumo Udal / Gernika-Lumo Town Council.
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11. Arzak *bere saltsan* erakusketa katalogoa jasotako argazkia da (2019) / Photograph taken from the *Arzak *bere saltsan** exhibition catalogue (2019).
12. Basque Culinary Center.
- 13-19. Gernika-Lumo Udal / Gernika-lumo Town Council.
20. Basquetour.
21. Oier Aranzabal.

Etxepare Euskal Institutua

Etxepare Euskal Institutua erakunde publiko bat da. Gure helburua nazioartean euskara, euskal kultura eta sorkuntza sustatzea eta ezagutzera ematea da, eta, horien esku, beste herrialdeekin eta kulturekin harreman iraunkorrik eraikitza. Horretarako kalitatezko jarduera artistikoak sustatzen ditugu, eta sortzaile, artista nahiz kultura-sektoreetako profesionalen mugikortasuna errazten dugu, baita euskararen eta euskal kulturaren irakaskuntza ere. Halaber, nazioarteko eragile kulturalekin eta akademikoekin elkarlana bultzatzen dugu. Zeregin horietan guztietaan Euskadiko kanpo ordezkaritzak gertuko bidelagun ditugu.

Etxepare Basque Institute

The Etxepare Basque Institute is a public agency dedicated to promoting Basque language, culture and creative talent internationally, and to building lasting relationships with other countries and cultures in these areas. To this end, we foster quality artistic activities and support the mobility of artists and cultural industry professionals, as well as teaching Basque language and culture. We also encourage collaboration with international stakeholders in both the cultural and academic fields, working closely with the official Basque delegations abroad.





BASQUECULTURE.EUS
THE GATEWAY
TO BASQUE CREATIVITY
AND CULTURE

BASQUE.

Europarrok kultura-ondare oparoa partekatzen dugu, mendeetan zehar izan ditugun trukeen eta migrazio-fluxuen ondorioa dena. Hala, bertako hizkuntzen eta kulturen aniztasuna, berezi egiten gaituen horri esker guztiok joritua, Europak duen balio handienetako bat da. BASQUE. Iurralde baten isla da (euskararen lurrardearena), historia baten isla, mundua ulertzeko modu batena, gurea. Bere sustraietz harro dagoen kultura baten adierazpidea da, ikuspegi berri bat eskaintzeko tradizioa eta abangoardia uztartzen jakin duen kultura batena. BASQUE. euskal kultura eta sorkuntza garaikideari begiratzeko leihoa da. Musikaren, dantzaren, antzerkiaren, zinemaren, literaturaren, artearen eta beste adierazpide batzuen bidez euskal kultura eta euskara ezagutzera emateko leihoa. Eta, era berean, sormenari zabalik dagoen leku bat da, partekatzeko, zubiak eraikitzeko eta solaserako, kulturen artean elkar aditzen lagunduko diguten elkarritzeta berriei bide emateko.

Europeans share a rich cultural heritage from centuries of trade and migration. Linguistic and cultural diversity is one of Europe's main assets, each of us contributing with our uniqueness. BASQUE. is a window into a land (the land of the Basque language, Euskara), a history, a way of seeing the world. It is the expression of a culture proud of its heritage, a people that have learned to embrace difference to create a new vision for tomorrow. BASQUE. opens a new door to Basque culture and contemporary creation through music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature, art... and the Basque language. It is a place open to creativity, to sharing ideas, building bridges, sparking new conversation, and fostering dialogue between cultures.

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