

Café Español
172 Bleecker Street (between MacDougal and Sullivan Street)
New York, NY 10012

Muy Bueno

Here is a terrific Spanish restaurant with amazingly reasonable prices. Café Español serves traditional Spanish cuisine in a quaint setting with friendly service.

The lunch special cannot be beat. You get a choice of soup or salad, main course with a side, wine or sangria, and coffee and dessert for only \$11.95.

Your meal starts with good crusty bread on the table with olive oil that is actually loaded with sliced olives. I could have made a meal out of this alone.

The sangria is fruity and stimulating, a perfect lunchtime cocktail.

For starters, the gazpacho is cool and refreshing, the salad simple and lovely with a Russian style dressing, and caldo gallego is a very rustic white bean soup with a nice bacon flavor.

Standout entrees include a seafood combination of shrimp, scallops, mussels, and clams in your choice of sauce (I had the green herb sauce) and the most succulent pork chops I have ever tasted anywhere. I am hesitant about ordering pork chops in restaurants because they often arrive overcooked and dry. These chops were moist and juicy with the perfect amount of fat. I would never dream of ordering chicken parmigiana in a Spanish restaurant but it's actually quite good.

Your lunch ends with good coffee and either delicious homemade vanilla ice cream or refreshing flan for dessert.

Baby lamb chops are usually my favorite thing to order in any restaurant and they are on the menu here for only \$11.95 a la carte at lunch and \$21.95 for dinner – again, very reasonable. Even better, just add \$5.00 and you get it as a lunch special complete with everything else. They also do a lobster night on Mondays with lobsters ranging from 1 ¼ - 3 pounds, all also very soundly priced.

If you are a purist, you can get the ultimate Spanish classic, paella, here, as well as some Mexican choices such as tacos, enchiladas, and burritos.

For a leisurely lunch that may require a *siesta* afterwards, try Café Español.

Click below for more info:

<http://cafeespanol.com/>

