

GOURMAND  
World Cookbook Awards

# The Best in the World 2006

## Spain



Beijing, China  
April 8, 2007

The Gourmand Awards have been compared to the **Oscars** or the **Nobel prize** for food and wine books. They are for food and wine books. They are also similar to the **Olympics** as they are completely international, with over 90 countries participating in the last 12 years, and they move from country to country. After Germany and France, the awards were in **Barcelona** 2004, in Sweden in 2005, in Kuala Lumpur in 2006 and now in **Beijing, China** on April 7, 2007.

In Beijing, **Spain** won more **Best in the World Awards** than any other country, showing the quality of its food and wine books. **Paco Torreblanca** won the second time three years later. The award for **Best Desserts Book in the World** for his masterpiece published by **Vilbo**. Many consider him the Best in the World, from his cherished **Elda** on the coast of **Alicante**. There is a boom now in pastry and desserts books, with much demand from Asia

There is very strong increase in the number of cookbooks for children and the family all around the world. It is a healthy part of children book publishing. More and more of these books focus on the whole family, giving guidance to good food for kids as well as the family. **The Best Book in the World for Children and Family** this year is from Spain **Aprende a Cocinar en Familia**, by the **Foundation for the Mediterranean Diet, and Argis Congress**. The fifty recipes are designed to be used in the Mediterranean cooking classes now popular across Spain in primary schools. It is a method against obesity and for healthy diets, bringing children to taste and enjoy.

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Spain is recognized today as the leader in Europe in innovative cuisine, led by **Ferran Adrià**. So it is not a surprise that the best innovative cookbook in the world this year is **Setas** published by the leading cookbook publisher of Spain, **Everest**. This reference book on mushrooms is the work of a team with great chef **Azagra**, from Barbastro in Huesca, mushroom expert Doctor **José de Uña**, and mycolist **Emilio Ubieto**. Photographer **Mikel Alonso** is one of the best in Europe. Here he shows the mushrooms in their natural setting with great art and technique.

**Montagud** is the Spanish publisher who has received the most **Best in the World Awards** in the past years. Now they win another one with **Foie Gras**, by **André Bonnaure**, a chef from Dordogne who has lived in Spain for many years. It gets the award for **Best Book in the World on French Cuisine**. Foie Gras is controversial in some countries, and rising in others. It has a great future in Asia. This book is now in Spanish, and it will be available in French and English in June 2007.

There are hundreds of cheeses in Spain, and some are truly excellent, thanks to a very strong local and regional culture. They are starting to be exported. A Spanish book about cheese, **España y sus Quesos**, Spain and its cheeses wins the award for **Best Book on Cheese in the World**. The author is **José Manuel Escorial**; the book is published by **Cata y Degustación – ICEX-Fe.NIL**, The Federation of Milk Industries.

The **Best Book in the World on European Wines** this year is **Vinos y Bodegas de Rioja** by **Luis Tolosa Planet** and **Mikel Larreina Diaz**. Rioja continues to be the leading wine region of Spain, with much innovation and tradition. There are continuous changes in Rioja, and this book is quite useful.

Wine inspires many writers. The winner for **Best Wine Literature Book in the World** is again from Rioja. It is **El Caliz de Letras**, the Calice of Letters, by **Miguel Angel Muro Murillo**, and published by **Dinastia Vivanco**, which has established a beautiful wine Museum in Rioja. This book tells the history of wine in literature.

Spain also won three **Special Awards**. **Lo Mejor de la Gastronomía** is written every year by **Rafael García Santos**, who rates restaurants, food products, wines, with strong opinions and good writing. He also organizes the yearly San Sebastian Professional Food Meetings.

The second **Special Award** is for a unique book about bottled sodas in Spain, the author's dream Museum. It is a very special book, in which **Javier Salas** shares his passion for his dream of crystal **Mi Sueño de Cristal, un Mundo de Gaseosas**.

The last **Special Award** goes to the culinary history book **El Desafío de la Cocina Española**, about the last 3 decades of the evolution of Spanish cuisine. It is narrated by expert journalist **José Carlos Capel**, the most respected food writer from **El País** newspaper, and **Lourdes Plana**, who is the organizer of the Madrid Fusión event in January every year.

More information is available, on [www.cookbookfair.com](http://www.cookbookfair.com), and in the **Gourmand Yearbook 2007** published for the Beijing Gourmand Awards.