

## THE 39TH EDITION OF SALÓN GOURMETS KICKS OFF

From today until Thursday 16 April, IFEMA Madrid is hosting the 39th edition of Salón Gourmets, the largest showcase of high-end products and trends in the gastronomic sector, with over 110,000 professionals and more than 15,000 international buyers expected to attend

The World's leading International Fine Food and Beverages Fair will bring together more than 55,000 exclusive products from all over the world, with over 1,500 new products, highlighting the fusion of traditional craftsmanship and creativity

Francisco López Canís and Francisco López López-Bago, honorary president and president and CEO of the Grupo Gourmets, respectively, presided over today's opening ceremony alongside the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas



**Madrid, April 2026.**— The most eagerly awaited international food fair opens its doors. From today until Thursday 16 April, Ifema Madrid is hosting the 39th edition of Salón Gourmets (SG), an event bringing together more than 55,000 products from all corners of the globe, ready to delight the more than 110,000 trade visitors expected to attend —of whom it is estimated that more than 15,000 will be foreign buyers from over 90 countries—. With Estrella Galicia as the Official Beer and Cabreiroá as the Official Water —both official sponsors—, the World's leading International Fine Food and Beverages Fair transforms Madrid for four days into the epicentre of global gastronomy, showcasing the latest trends. In total, nearly 2,000 exhibitors fill five halls at Ifema Madrid —halls 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7— with their product ranges, finding the perfect showcase for them at this fair. Salón Gourmets showcases the latest gastronomic trends in its two key areas: the Innovation Area, where the most innovative products are displayed, and the Organic Exhibition Area, focused on organic production.

Francisco López Canís and Francisco López López-Bago, honorary president and president and CEO of Grupo Gourmets respectively, were responsible for welcoming the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas Puchades, and the dozens of dignitaries who attended today's opening ceremony. Firstly, Planas congratulated Grupo Gourmets on its 50th anniversary and highlighted its stature and influence within the sector. "Its figures are impressive, and this is a serious, well-organised trade fair." Furthermore, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food emphasised the potential of Spain's agri-food sector, which ranks among the world's leading exporters.

This year, Salón Gourmets' commitment to promoting the sector beyond our borders is supported by ICEX Spain Exports and Investments and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) as part of the Spain Food Nation agreement. The three organisations are committed to the internationalisation of the variety of quality products from the Spanish pantry through the 28th Hosted Buyers Programme, which this year has invited more than 250 potential international buyers, carefully selected by the Organisation and ICEX, to hold business meetings—an estimated 6,000 meetings—with exhibitors in the Business Centre..

### **A MUST-ATTEND EVENT FOR THE INDUSTRY**

The 39th World's leading International Fine Food and Beverages Fair brings together the finest quality products from the global agri-food sector in the capital. Over 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> packed with new products, trends and activities, all centred on a single focus: quality produce. Through its exhibitors, SG once again offers the chance to explore Spain, and up to 31 countries, through their delicatessen products without leaving Madrid. Furthermore, the brands will showcase the versatility of their products through show cooking, tastings, championships and competitions.

This event features Norway as the Country of Honour and Galicia as the Invited Autonomous Community, alongside the rest of Spain's autonomous communities. Furthermore, as is customary, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) offers visitors the quality of Spanish produce in its #Alimentosdespaña space. This area hosts various activities by quality labels presenting their products to attending professionals. There are the traditional Wine Tunnel and EVOO Tunnel, which this year celebrate their 30th and 8th editions respectively; these are unique spaces to discover the quality of the various Spanish Designations of Origin, the country's rich wine heritage and the infinite variety of extra virgin olive oils available.

### **ACTIVITIES OVER THE FOUR DAYS**

Salón Gourmets is synonymous with activities, and this year's edition introduces new events to complement its already established programme of competitions and activities: the 1st Grill Competition IRUKI by Embajadores, the Burger Masters – National Gourmet Burger Championship by Arcecarne, Tacomanía- Canary Islands Avocado PGI Mexican Taco Championship and the Carbonara Challenge by Rummo. And, of course, the great classics are not to be missed; among them, the 32nd Ham Cutting Contest / Dehesa de Extremadura, the 31st Sommeliers Spanish Championship Tierra de Sabor (co-sponsored by Bodegas Avelino Vegas), the 18th Oyster Écailleurs / Sorlut / Grupo Gourmets / Spanish Championship mets and a must-see, the 16th GourmetQuesos, The Best Spanish Cheeses Championship 2026, sponsored by ICEX, in which over 800 cheeses from across the country have taken part. Estrella Galicia is organising a new edition of the Beer Master Sessions Madrid Final and its famous XChef Challenge by 1906 Beers.

Other notable competitions are also taking place, such as the 9th Best Asturian-Style Veal Cutlet, Cachopo Contest; the 7th Art of Knife Meat Cutting National Competition El Encinar de Humienta / Grupo Gourmets; the 2nd Gazpachuelos Gourmet by Sabor a Málaga Championship, The Best Navarre Vegetable Stew: Reyno Gourmet Challenge and the 5th Gourmet Pizza Spanish Championship, Miniature haute cuisine returns with the 4th Master Pinchos Gourmets #productoriojano and the Best Iberian Montado by Arturo Sánchez and Berkel 2026. In addition, entire days will be dedicated to products from specific regions and countries across various venues, such as Women's Day in the Atlantic Kitchen by the Xunta de Galicia, the volcanic cuisine of the Canary Islands, and Norwegian Seafood: The Power of the Sea made into seafood. Furthermore, once again this year there will be Children's Workshops aimed at schoolchildren aged between 8 and 12 from the Community of Madrid.

For its part, the Community of Madrid will be hosting a packed programme of activities on the Stage in hall 4 throughout the duration of Salón Gourmets: tastings, live cooking demonstrations and masterclasses featuring the region's finest produce and wines with the Vinos de Madrid PDO. Among all these activities, highlights include competitions such as the Community of Madrid's tripe dish competition organised by ACYRE and the San Isidro doughnut competition organised by the Association of Artisan Bakers of Madrid. In addition, throughout the four days, products such as La Cibeles beer, aniseed liqueur from the Chinchón PGI by La Alcoholera, and Maykhel Chocolates will be on display, with the latter adding a sweet touch to this stage. The Community of Madrid will close Salón Gourmets with the 5th Official Tapas and Pinchos Championship organised by Hostelería de Madrid.

Alongside this programme of activities and stages, the international presence is particularly noteworthy, with countries such as Italy and Sicily, Saudi Arabia, Canada, France, Switzerland, Mexico and Portugal taking part.

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