

Rodrigo de la Calle.

Rodrigo de la Calle

Biography

1976

Born in Madrid Rodrigo de la Calle. Son of a farmer and grandson of cooks, spent his childhood surrounded by vegetables and the love of gastronomy.

In the year 1994 he began his gastronomical formation in a school of hotel industry in Aranjuez. Once he obtained his degree he passed thru the kitchens of restaurants like Lhardy, Goizeko, Kabi, Romesco or Lur Maitea.

2003

Destiny takes him to Mugaritz de Andoni Luis Aduriz, this new experience brings him closer to the discovery of a more profound world of vegetables and gives him high kitchen techniques.

After passing thru Donostiarra restaurant, and working with master pastry baker Paco Torreblanca, where he learned the discipline and rigorous techniques of pastry and its elaborations.

2000

He moves to Elche where he began to work in the burners of Hotel Huerto del Cura and manages to establish himself as executive chef. There he meets botanist Santiago Orts and his kitchen takes a 180 degree turn. Both create the concept "*Gastrobotánica*" and Rodrigo introduces in his plates various until then unknown vegetables to the majority of chefs and guest like citric caviar, mano de buda, cidra, escarcha, carisa, salicornia..

2005

During this year he worked in the old "el Poblet" now Quique Dacosta restaurant where he learned all the secrets of rice and swotted of new concepts esthetics and cutting edge.

Finished his formation next the great master Martin Berasategui in Lasarte, he who Rodrigo considers his master and mentor. Till this day you can appreciate the influence of Berasategui in his plates.



2007

Rodrigo installed himself in Aranjuez and opened his own homonymous restaurant where he offered gastronomy where vegetable product of high season is the protagonist and forged his own style of cuisine based in the **respect for nature**.

2009

His work won him the price of Cocinero Revelacion in Madrid Fusion. Where he presented next to his partner Santiago Orts, the concept of Gastrobotanica in view to the International Gastronomical community.

2010

He was named **Chef of the Year**, prize granted by the Chamber of Commerce of Madrid.

He received his first international recognition by hand of the International Academy of Gastronomy was awarded by **Chef L'Avenir** (Cook Of the Future). This same year he published his book *Gastrobotánica* where he lifts his philosophy of work and numerous recipes based on the natural product.

2011

November 24 of this year he receives his first **Michelin star**, this same year he was granted the second **Sol de la guía Repsol**.



2012

Created the concept of **Revolution Verde** elaborating his menu more radically based of fruits vegetable and mushrooms. Utilizing animal protein like mere seasoning component.

Participates actively in numerous both national and international gastronomic and scientific conferences, also works as an advisory of multinational companies that devote to the gastronomy sector.

2013

Begins his work with fermented vegetables, achieving better texture and reutilizing in his dishes juices resulting from the fermentation.

Handwritten signature of Sergio de la Torre.

2014

His job of investigating takes him to experiment with super foods incorporating them in his gastronomical creations.

From Paris, Rodrigo de la Calle works as a gastronomic advisor to the prestige French gourmet chef **Joël Robuchon** -the chef with more Michelin stars in the world- and more than 20 restaurants opened worldwide.

Since autumn 2014 Rodrigo travels every station to France to work in the *Robuchon, Lab* advising the team on green cooking.



2015

Starts formal research of fermented beverages, creating our own drinks. We begin to cook dishes to place in glass. Continues his international expansion with consulting of establishments in Pekin.

During the spring inaugurates his restaurant **El Invernadero**, located in Hotel La Torre Box Art in Collado Mediano, in full Madrileña mountains. At El Invernadero he develops his most personal cuisine, in wish he continues working with fruits and vegetables of season.

2016

Creates his new "**Vegetalia**" menu where their latest studies with all kinds of vegetables, flowers, fungi and lichens of high mountain are included, and incorporates Superfoods, fermented and season fruits and vegetables, opening the garden in Guadarrama.

El Invernadero restaurant is an unique space with only four tables, where there is no room service.

Dishes and drinks of the menu are cooked and served by professional chefs.

In November 2016, just one year after its opening, El Invernadero receives its first **Michelin Star** and its first **Sun in the Repsol Guide**.





2017

At the beginning of the year, he opened his second restaurant in China, for the group Puerta 20, in the exclusive Lake Romelake, the coolest area of Beijing, dignifying the cuisine of Spanish author, being chosen among the 50 best Western restaurants in China by the Food and Wine magazine.

The Metropolis Guide awards El Invernadero as the best restaurant in the Madrid community. Receives the award of the Association 5 a day for his work in the dissemination of plant products.

He is awarded the prestigious award in Tudela "The gardener of the year", (prize they have received: Joan Roca, Juan Maria Arzak, Andoni Aduriz, among others, greats of Spanish cuisine).

The American newspaper Washington Post, which designs the list of the 50 best restaurants in the world more sustainable giving importance to the vegetable product, included El Invernadero as one of them.

The Spanish Academy of Gastronomy grants Rodrigo, the National Gastronomy Award, for his work in Spanish cuisine in its healthiest version.

He publishes his second book "*Green Kitchen*", in which he tells the origins of his kitchen and how it has been transformed over time to achieve his personal style that makes him unique.

The Madrilenian Gastronomy Academy awards the most innovative project award for its unique concept of restoration. A restaurant with only 4 tables, 8 customers, a single menu with vegetables and healthy cuisine as protagonists.

2018

He presents in Madrid Fusion his studies on phycocyanin and its adaptations in the kitchen, creating a new line of work based on this unique product... *"The Blue Food"*.

In May 2018, he opened his restaurant **El Invernadero** in the center of Madrid, on Ponzano street.

With a maximum of 20 diners per service, Rodrigo de la Calle keeps his green kitchen proposal with the #Vegetalia menu.

Green haute cuisine, recovery of plant species, respect for the environment, integrated cultivation... are still the basis of his proposal.

In July 2018, he opened his restaurant **Arroces hechos en Paella**, in the central market of San Miguel in Madrid.



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Gastrobotánica



Gastrobotánica is the investigation of new species and rescued of other variety of forgotten or unknown vegetable kingdom in the study of different components of plants (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds) for the application and use in the kitchen.

Gastrobotánica is a discipline that merges both fields of human acknowledgment (gastronomical and botanical) joining them in one concept in which its practice results in benefit for both. In one part promotes the possibilities of culinary application of vegetables and in the other hand it stimulates the power to cultivate and the conservation of forgotten species, unknown or unusual for gastronomy.



Salgado de la Torre

Gastrobotánica Decalogue



The *Gastrobotánica* work has developed upon some principles we have summarized it in the following decalogue:

- 1 *Gastrobotánica* is centered in the investigation of the origin of vegetable or fungal species (both belonging to botánica) to develop the possibilities of culinary application.
- 2 Priority to recuperate the forgotten or reviled vegetable species. Putting interest and gastronomical and health value and not mere derived by economic crop industrial interest.
- 3 It's a conservationist discipline (not integrationist) as it does not exclude the cultivation of products of foreign origin. In any place in the planet *Gastrobotánica* can be practiced it's not limited to a specific concrete territory.
- 4 *Gastrobotánica* also is the practice of the person who cultivates conserves and rescues vegetable species for its gastronomical use. There are agricultures, and *gastrobotánica* wine growers.
- 5 One of its maximum disciplines is the cultivation of the vegetable product being with major respect to its environment is bet for its integrated growth as an optimum farm production model that combines the best of traditional and biological cultivation.
- 6 Promote cultivation of vegetable species with high gastronomic value without the need to be strictly local.
- 7 Its obligated to share and make public the results of its investigation.
- 8 Commitment to diversity of species, it's based on survival of planet and life and the beginning of evolution. Promotes the cultivation of varieties and it does not discard by its aspect or its size; gastronomic prime value... "long live diversity".
- 9 Permits the collection of wild vegetable material always within the respect of the environment, making sure not to alter the surroundings guarantying the minimum impact or alteration to the ecosystem.
- 10 It has an educational-cultural and healthy spirit that thru gastronomy pretends to disclose to society the miracle of vegetable life in our planet, based for life and all living beings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sergio de la Torre".







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