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The Authentic Bars, Cafes, And Restaurants Of Buenos Aires



Synopsis

Modest prices, generous servings, friendly owners, and a devoted local clientele all define these caf  s, bars, restaurants, and pizzerias where you can taste the traditional everyday cuisine of Argentina in authentic settings. New or old, each one of the seventy profiled here has details that make them worth visiting. Many were the settings for clandestine political meetings in the days before the May Revolution; others provided inspiration for the artists and writers, including Jorge Luis Borges, who frequented them. At one bar, the most prestigious young tango musicians of Buenos Aires gather nightly, and, after a few drinks and a few empanadas (made by the owner himself), spontaneously perform. There's a tiny parrilla   steak house known not only for the best roasted meat at the best price but for its eternally festive atmosphere and chaotic charm. At another intimate pulperia, simple homemade meals are served communally at a wooden marble-top table. The Authentic Bars and Caf  s of Buenos Aires also includes Gabriela Kogan's recommendations of what to eat at each venue, a map, and a glossary of Argentine food.

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Customer Reviews

"I love Buenos Aires even when I am not reminded how much I love it. So how could I not wax poetic about The Authentic Bars, Cafes and Restaurants of Buenos Aires by Gabriela Kogan. Beautiful black and white photos complement insights on neighborhoods and advice on the best (what isn't good in BA?) things to eat and drink." --The San Francisco Examiner
"To get to know the heart and soul of Buenos Aires, author Gabriela Kogan insists you need to know its cafes, bars and

restaurants. And yet, like most of the big cities around the world, Buenos Aires, too, is facing an uphill battle to maintain its distinctive establishments. Until the 1970s virtually every block had its own cafe. Because of gentrification, various economic crises and other reasons, family businesses are struggling to survive. But the establishments Kogan has chosen counter that trend and still function as meeting places and hangouts. Some specialize in home cooking; others are more specific: steakhouses, pizzerias and coffeehouses. Includes a glossary of food-related items." --The Chicago Tribune

Gabriela Kogan is a graphic designer based in Buenos Aires specializing in book design. Her studio has recently published *Surtido*, 268 Images of the Argentine Soul; *Buenos Aires Populares*; *Surtido P. 233 20th-Century Graphic Advertisements from Argentina*; and *Viejo Buenos Aires* under her imprint Del Nuevo Extremo.

I was quite disappointed with this little book. There are only 69 establishments of any sort listed for the whole of Buenos Aires. Twelve of the neighborhoods have only three entrees or fewer. Recoleta, where I have been staying the last couple of trips, and which is a tourist magnet for the elaborate cemetery where Eva Peron (Evita) is buried, has only four suggestions, not including some fabulous, but inexpensive, white tablecloth restaurants I have dined at. There is one 4" X 6" map which displays miniscule numbers representing all of the authors 69 establishments in this enormous city, but no metro station locations. I didn't learn very much from this little book (which also doesn't mention ANY prices for any of the "Bars, Cafes and Restaurants".) I would not recommend this book for \$5.98, let alone the suggested list price of \$14.95!

The author is a graphic designer. This helps explain why the book has a nice feel and format and good photos. But the text is essentially useless. Yet the text is what you want in a restaurant guide -- just ask Zagat, which has done very well with no graphics or photos at all. Furthermore, the book now is five years old and several of the featured restaurants are gone or have suffered steep declines. Many others are tourist trade stalwarts, but you wouldn't know it from all the praise dispensed by this book. You'll do better to pick up a solid basic guide to the city, and rely on trip advisor or one of the several excellent English language blogs about dining in B.A. to help you choose bars, cafes and restaurants.

This book is not a be-all-end-all guide to the old restaurants in Buenos Aires. Take some of what

they recommend with a grain of salt. I paired it with 1-2 more comprehensive guides and some internet research, so it worked well for me, but if you are looking for just one book on BA restaurants, this might not be the resource for you. The positives, however, are that it's an extremely attractive book (it was designed by a fantastic designer) and that a photo accompanies each restaurant. I consider it a great keepsake, as opposed to my other guides, which I sold after the trip.

Loved the book but nowhere did it indicate that it was a pocket sized book! I was hoping for an A4 sized book!!

I think this is a good guide if you really want to hit all the very local restaurants in Buenos Aires. The descriptions of the cafes are not in depth, but the list clearly represents all of the places that notable in Buenos Aires. Which is to say, if you're looking for a review of ALL restaurants in the city, this is not the book for you. I guess I didn't take the title into account when I bought it. You will not find listings for Indian, Italian (except pizza, maybe), Chinese, Japanese, etc in this book - strictly Argentine cuisine for the most part. So if that's what you want - great, but I'd suggest going with a more broad city guide book for a general review of all restaurants.

If I lived in Buenos Aires I probably wouldn't be too happy about this book. It reveals all those hidden gems that locals would like to keep to themselves. But as a tourist I found this the most useful little culinary guide book I've ever bought. Of course, BA has all those new hip (fusion and otherwise) restaurants you'd expect to find in a city that's playing in the New York / London / Copenhagen / Sydney / etc. - league. But the problem with those restaurants is that you wouldn't know if you're in BA, NYC, London, etc., without looking at their business cards. The restaurants and cafes listed in this little book BREATHE BA, they could only be there. We tried MANY of these places and they offered very good to outstanding food and, equally important, wonderful atmosphere. I emailed a friend who grew up in BA and listed some of the restaurants. She was almost taken aback that within a week we had uncovered almost all of her favorite "hidden" gems. As I said, locals may disapprove.

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