

"Café de Tacuba" is a restaurant in Mexico, located in the historic center of Mexico City, between Allende and República de Chile streets, a few blocks away from the Main Square (El Zocalo). It is one of the most representative restaurants in the historic center, due to its traditional Mexican cuisine. It was founded in 1912 at an old house in Tacuba street. The restaurant is open to the public from Monday to Sunday, from 8:00 to 23:00.

#### History

In the early 1900, the old house where the restaurant was established, worked as a dairy products shop. In October 12, 1912, Dionisio Mollinero, the founder, first arrived from Tabasco.

"Café de Tacuba" was founded in 1912, when the street where the restaurant is located was already named Tacuba. The café was decorated with Mexican motives, including some paintings from the classic period.

In 1922, the muralist Diego Rivera got married with the novelist Guadalupe Marín; the banquet and the reception took place in the restaurant.

#### Facade of the Café.

The compositor and interpreter Agustín Lara was one of the most famous guests that visited the Café, as well as many Mexican presidents, such as Porfirio Díaz.

In June 25<sup>th</sup>, of 1936, Manlio Fabio Altamirano Flores, the elected governor of Veracruz was assassinated while he was having dinner with his wife. The aggressor entered the "Café Tacuba" and shot the victim eight times. No one was condemned for the crime, but this was attributed to a group of hitmen named "La Mano Negra".

One of the first employees of the "Café de Tacuba" was Santos Hernández, who became Oscar Lewis' inspiration for his novel "The Children of Sanchez". Later on, in 1978, a few scenes of the co-production Mexico-USA, "Los hijos de Sanchez" was filmed at the café. The movie was based on Oscar Lewis's novel, and the principal character was characterized by Anthony Quinn.

In April 13, of 1999 fire burned down the principal saloon, but the structure of the building was intact, due to the work of the firemen. The firemen were rewarded with a breakfast lunch the day the restaurant re-opened in June 27, 1999.

The restaurant currently offers breakfast, bar, lunch and dinner services, and it conserves its original features.

Inside the restaurant we can find classic paintings from the novo Hispanic era, as well as mosaics from the neighboring state of Puebla. Among these paintings, we can find "La niña en traje rojo" by José de la Borda, (who lived close to the Café, in Francisco I. Madero street inside "Borda House" ) an elegant lady, a copy in oil of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, by Migue Cabrera (it's original can be found in Chapultepec's Castle), and a Virgen del Rosario from the XVII century by José Rodríguez Carnero. Inside the saloon there are two oils paintings by Carlos González which represent the discovery of chocolate and mole, this last one, includes an image of the journalist Don Manuel Horta. Mariachis in the principal saloon

"Café de Tacuba" is also related to music, since you can listen to Mariachis playing Mexican folkloric music around the tables every day.

The Mexican music group "Café Tacvba" adopted its name to honor the restaurant. The members are from Ciudad Satélite. The music group decided to replace the u for a v in the band's name, in order to avoid legal problems. "Café Tacvba" success has made "Café de Tacuba" a famous restaurant in other countries.