



# 4. RESTAURANTE LA PEPICA

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY TOURIST ROUTE

### GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. Antigua Estación de El Grau
2. Estación Marítima
3. Antiga Grúa Portuària
4. Restaurante La Pepica
5. Merenderos
6. Platja de Les Arenes
7. Centro Cultural L'Escorxador
8. Museo del Mar – Casa dels Bous



One of the places in València best described by Hemingway is La Pepica, a restaurant opposite La Malva-rosa beach. He does so in *The Dangerous Summer*. 'Pepica's, the great open-air eating place at the Grau de Valencia just north of the port on the sandy beach.'

And, following a conversation between Bill and Hotch, the two real characters in the novel used by Hemingway to reflect out loud on bullfighting, glory, fear, art or old age, he describes: 'Dinner at Pepica's was wonderful. It was a big, clean, open-air place and everything was cooked in plain sight. You could pick out what you wanted to have grilled or broiled and the seafood and the Valencian rice dishes were the best on the beach. Everyone felt good after the fight and we were all hungry and ate well. The place was run by a family and everyone knew everyone else. You could hear the sea breaking on the beach and the lights shone on the wet sand. We drank sangria, red wine with fresh orange and lemon juice in it, served in big pitchers and ate local sausages to start with, fresh tuna, fresh prawns, and crisp fried octopus tentacles that tasted like lobster. Then some ate steaks and others roasted or grilled chicken with saffron yellow rice with pimentos and clams in it. It was a very moderate meal by Valencian standards and the woman who owned the place was worried that we would go away hungry.'

This is not the only time he mentions his favourite restaurant in the novel written in 1959. After the second day of the fair, with Antonio Ordóñez, Curro Girón and Jaime Ostos, he had dinner at La



Pepica on 'a great night' where 'the waves broke' and 'the pitchers of sangria were emptied instantly and there was no need to eat quickly'.

Now a legend, the author also had lunch at La Pepica on his last visit to València in 1959, just two summers before shooting himself. A snapshot hangs on the walls of the restaurant as a souvenir of that visit. One dated 30 July 1959 shows him serving his guests paella along with the restaurant staff.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** 6 Neptú Promenade.

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Access:** Accessible via ramps and no steps.

**Parking:** Spots reserved for PRM nearby at 6.1 and 6. Neptú Promenade.

## IMAGES



