

## **"CUISINE & TRADITIONS RESCUE, AN HISTORIC FACE ABOUT THE CULINARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEXICO AND IRELAND"**

Last decades in Mexico, we get a culinary revolution, Mexican Cuisine refund all our roots; Mesoamerican, Caribbean, Pacific-oriental and European. Methods and history are mixed searching the gastronomy product of two centuries. Since 2010, UNESCO gives honor title to Mexican Cuisine, a human-cultural recognizing. The traditions become evolutions with a migrant people bring their costumes. We will approach, the culinary relationship between Mexico and Ireland, a root in the North of my country, with tastes of liberty.

### **History of Irish in Mexico**

There is a Toltec legend that tells of a man with white skin and blond beard who taught the Toltec people the virtues of brotherly love, acceptance of the will of God and the secular benefits of improved methods of agriculture and use of metals. These elements have been implicated in jest with the adventures of the Irish missionary St. Brendan of Clonfert, an argument based on comments made in the "Novatio Brendani". The theory is that Brendan was the representative of Quetzalcoatl and the precursor of Hernán Cortés.

There is possibility that the first Irish to reach the American continent were members of Christopher Columbus crew, perhaps recruits of his visit to the west of Ireland in 1477.

There is certainly evidence of an Irishman named John Martin who was abandoned on the Mexican coast with another hundred by the privateer John Hawkins in 1568 because Hawkins had no room for them in their boats survivors, the same Martin was executed seven years later. During the Viceroyalty of New Spain, most of the Irish who arrived in the colony were priests, soldiers or officials of the colony as such, were usually graduates of clerical institutes of Spain or Rome, members of the military as the Hibernia Regiment deployed in Mexico from 1768 to 1771, or alumni of the Royal College of Fine Irishmen (founded in 1593).

Two individuals are representative of these men. The first named "Colorado" Captain, Hugo O'Connor, which was the first Commander of the Province Inspector Interior from 1771 and later governor of Yucatan. Today it is remembered for his military reforms, and two general campaigns against the Apaches stubbornly recalcitrant, a pragmatist, he was strongly in favor of using Indian allies to fight alongside the Spanish. The second was the son of immigrants from southern Ireland; John D'Odonojú the new viceroy in 1821 he achieved in the few months of life that allowed Mexico sign the Treaty of Córdoba established the independence of Mexico.

The honor of being the only Irish represented in the monument of Independence does not belong to the last viceroy but to William Lamport (Guillén Lombardo), author of the first declaration of independence, which in particular supported such measures as racial equality, land reform monarchy and a democratically elected, progressive ideas for the early seventeenth century, and apparently the model for Johnston McCulley's novel about a womanizer but responsible society, the famous "zorro".

This interest in the welfare of indigenous people and the deletion is a recurrent in the history of the Irish in Mexico: an example is the Franciscan Juan Agustín Morfi, chaplain of the expeditions to the northern territories, he had written in the fifteen years since his arrival in Mexico a particularly striking and compelling research on the native population of Indians and entitled Travel Diary New Mexico. Something of the same pressure empathy shown by previous generations of Irish in New Spain was part of the motivation to change sides between some soldiers of the interventionist forces of the United States, 1846 y1847.

Spanish regions in North America, where the Irish had established a relatively large population, was the Louisiana Territory, which became French to Spanish control in 1762 and was ruled for a short period by Marshal Alejandro O'Reilly, Irish of birth and the area where today stands the modern state of Texas. There was a certain degree of ambivalence among the Irish in terms of loyalty to their political masters, whether the Spanish and later Mexicans. But it is

noteworthy that the finalized the purchase Louisiana in 1803 by the United States and the creation of new state of "Coahuila" and Texas in 1824, the immigration of Irish Catholics to Texas was actively encouraged. Your cooperation in doing this was aided by the pressure of the Protestant newcomers to this Louisiana area, animated by ideas of racial segregation and natives.

A good example of what happened in this period involving the Irish settlers began arriving in Texan populations of Refuge in San Patricio in 1829 and 1831. The journey from Ireland to those destinations was the classic tale of shipwreck and disease. A cholera epidemic killed two hundred of them while in quarantine outside New Orleans. One of his consolations was the help they received from officials and the Mexican people.

There is evidence that during this period, immediately after independence from Mexico in 1821, there was some antagonism between Irish Catholics and the new settlers were Protestants and were in favor of the United States. The loyalties of the Irish were finally revealed in the War of Texas in 1835. Two of the four businessmen were in favor of secession, while another businessman, Dr. John Hewetson, remained loyal to the government of Santa Ana, abandoning their properties and going to live in "Matamoros, Tamaulipas"; actually a city border with the US, in front of Brownsville, Texas. This forced removal or voluntary departure of the Irish loyal to the Mexican republic partly explains the large number of Irish surnames Byrne, Walsh, Foley, Hayes and O'Leary can still be found in states such as "Chihuahua", "Nuevo León" and "Durango". As mentioned before, very often the Irish are, by the machinations of historical accidents in places where they originally had no intention of living. A final chapter in this series of projects of Irish entrepreneurs occurred when Father Eugene McNamara presented a plan to populate Northern California with 10,000 Irish. The proposal again relied in part on the argument that they would be a bulwark against invading Americans and became active in the economic development of the region, but the Treaty of Hidalgo that ended the US-Mexico

War in 1849 did that this plan was irrelevant, Mexico had lost California.

### **The "San Patricio" Battalion, union & loyalty**

Was a Mexican military unit formed primarily by soldiers of the U.S. Army who deserted and joined the Armed Forces of Mexico in the American War of 1846-1848. Approximately 45% were Irish immigrants and the rest from other Catholic countries. They took the name of the patron saint of Ireland. The "San Patricios" have an uncertain origin, since little is known with certainty of their recruitment. A popular story, which is the basis of the 1999 film's *Hero-One Man's Hero*, in which Tom Berenger plays the brigade commander John Riley, relates that the core of the unit was formed as a result of the severe punishment suffered by soldiers Catholics, especially Irish, due to mistrust American military commanders were against them, because, for religious reasons, they were considered closer to Rome than to Washington, and therefore more akin to cause of Mexicans in the background shared the same religion. Those punishments are added that in fact these soldiers identified themselves with the Mexican cause to think how unfair it was the invasion of Mexico; feeling united in religious ideology invaded the village and realizing that the Americans were attacking Mexico in their culture and beliefs, as the British had done with the Irish. They used, moreover, that the army of Mexico actively recruited Catholic soldiers of the U.S. Army and offered important concessions of land to those who leave the United States Army in favor of Mexico. Needless to say, was a difficult decision, because it was safer to stay in the American ranks. Those who survived the war disappeared from history. A few could claim the land promised by the Mexican government. John Riley died in late August 1850, and was buried in Veracruz on August 31 of that year, with the name John Reley, the same he was enrolled in the archives of the Mexican Army. That same year the Mexican Army made the decision to disband the Battalion. In appreciation to the members of St. Patrick's Battalion who joined the Mexican army, there is now a street near the Ex-Convent of "Churubusco", called Irish martyr, each year takes place in this place a short concert of

bagpipes by the descendants of the San Patricio Battalion. The Battalion is commemorated on two different days in Mexico, the first on September 12, the anniversary of the executions, and the other on 17 March, St. Patrick's Day. On April 29, 1999, the Mexican Congress declared civilian and military fighters of the war of American invasion as "Benefactors of the Fatherland." Out of gratitude and affection, Mexicans must always remember and pay tribute to the heroes of San Patricio Battalion, Irish Mexican heart. God give the glory to these brave soldiers.

Since that turbulent time in the history of Mexico, the arrival of the Irish and the lives of their descendants have been much quieter. But there was a chance that an Irish-Mexican cause political turmoil in Mexico. As a legal adviser to the state of "Yucatán" Justo Sierra O'Reilly, told the state, an independent Mexico. His son, now perhaps the most famous, Justo Sierra Mendez, was an inspiration to the ideologies of the Mexican revolution and the intellectual father of the "UNAM", one of the most prestigious public university at Latin America. In the quiet area of trade, Eustace Barron, along with his Scottish partner, created the most important British merchant house in the nineteenth century. The grandson of the first British Consul in Mexico, Cecil Crawford O'Gorman, arrived in Mexico in 1895 and one of his sons, John, became a painter of quality and innovation of "Orozco", "Rivera", "Tamayo" and other Irish -Mexican, Pablo O'Higgins, while another son, Edmund, the philosopher and historian, became one of the founders of post-colonial research in Latin America.

In more recent times, which typically come now do so because they were invited to a post that here or identified a business opportunity. As noted above, your trip to Mexico may have been an indirect one. The Murray family of actors came from Northern Ireland through Argentina to Mexico, the Milmo family went from County Sligo to the U.S. and then here, the family left O'Farril County Longford and came here after several stays in Spain and elsewhere. They came here relatively recently, are well known for its success in the field of media, principally radio and television, and one gets the feeling that they feel here at home.

## **Mexico's Presidents of Irish Descent**

### **Alvaro Obregón (1880-1928).**

Family name "Obregón" is a translation in Mexico of O'brian, descendant of farmer. Obregón was teacher, military and politic. President of Mexico since 1920 to 1924. Created the Ministry of Education, Agrarian Reform initiated negotiated debt and signed the Treaty of Bucareli, which put an end to the claims of the United States. Reformed the Constitution, was reelected president but was assassinated by a religious fanatic in "La Bombilla" restaurant at Mexico City. He wrote "Eight thousand miles in Campaign". Hero of the Mexican Revolution, the village where he was born, takes the name of "Ciudad Obregón" at "Sonora" state.

### **Vicente Fox (1942-?).**

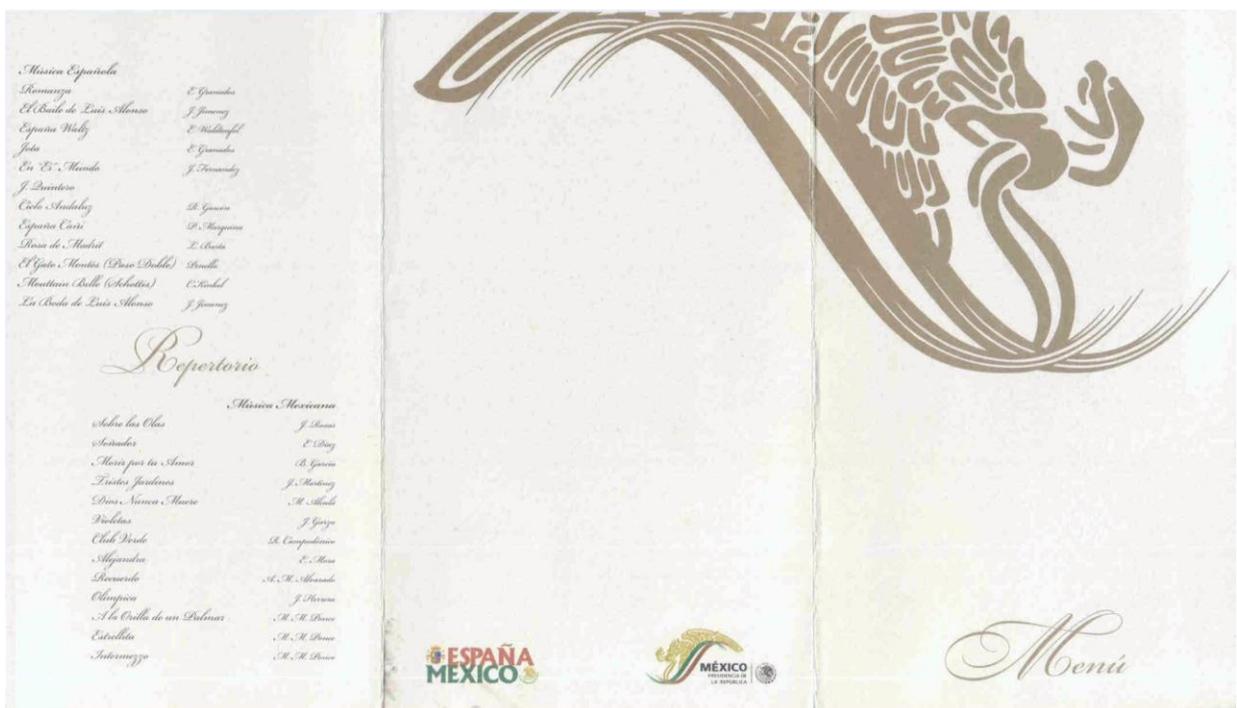
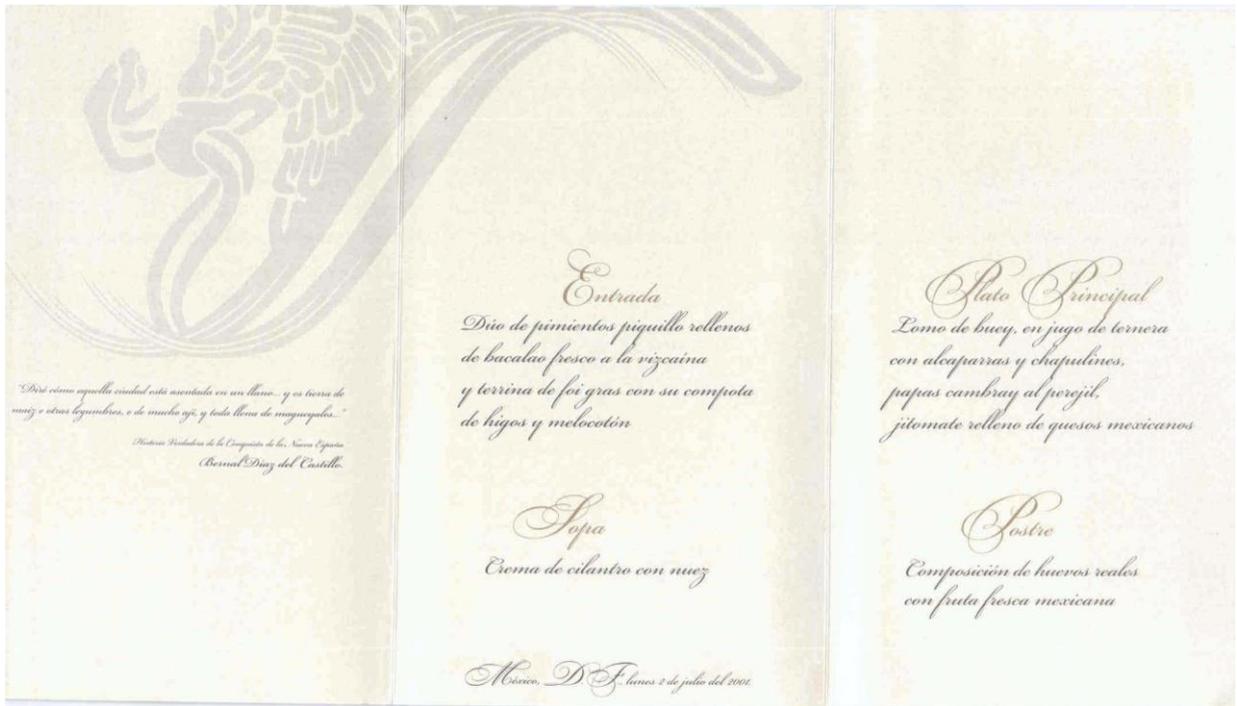
The former president of "México" was studied Business Administration at the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City campus. He completed the Advanced Management Diploma, taught by professors from the School of Business at Harvard University.

In 1964 he joined Coca-Cola of Mexico, as a route supervisor. On board a delivery truck had the opportunity to meet the most remote corners of the country. For his performance rose to the position of president of the company to Mexico and Latin America, being the youngest manager of the company.

In 1991 he contested the election for governor of Guanajuato. And in 1995, again participated in the special election for governor, where he was elected by a significant majority. For the success of his government, was elected candidate for President of the Republic.

A year after winning the presidential election on July 2, 2001 took place at the official residence of Los Pinos, a historic event: the civil wedding of Mr. Vicente

Fox Quesada, President of the United Mexican States, to Mrs. Martha Sahagún Jiménez, who thus celebrated three important events: the 59th birthday of the president, the first anniversary of democratic change in Mexico and marriage. That same day we receive in the event of State to President Aznar of Spain, offering the following menu:



## **Sonora Gastronomy, Irish Acquired tastes**

Acquired tastes are strongly influenced by social factors such as culture and national identity, and induced by exposure to the habits of the social environment in which the individual develops. Although it is also possible to buy food tastes of late, by habit or voluntary exposure, ending when the person enjoys by consuming food or drink. In most cases the delights of each country or region are the acquired tastes, we talk about an influence of Irish Diaspora principally at "Sonora", a state of the north of Mexico whom lived an important migration of Irish people.

Mexican government policies at 19<sup>th</sup> century, offered Irish employers or agents for the sale of land to each family was offered a job (177 acres) if used for cultivation but a much larger area known as site (4,428 acres) if used to raise cattle. In addition they offered another incentive than a quarter of the total additional to contract marriage with a Mexican citizen. The employer should receive five sites (22, 000 acres) and five jobs for every one hundred families he had brought. The settlement itself turned out to be two of the few agreements that have been done successfully to date in Texas. The son of former viceroy of Peru, Bernardo O'Higgins in the 1820s spoke of the importance of a settlement made up of people as hardworking and brave of Ireland, but, as in Chili, his plans came to nothing. Some year later Argentina will be, for Latin America, the development place of Irish community.

In the cuisine of "Sonora" are outstanding products, their famous beef cuts, wheat, nuts, acorns, quince and citrus. Is a food full of mixture of flavors of the sea, livestock, is the heritage of old tribes and migrant people.

Beef is central to the cuisine, similar to what happened in Argentina, the answer is the result of grazing that the Irish developed sites, and is currently the strongest producer in Mexico in the field of cattle. The typical dishes of this region are represented by the machaca beef, eggs and dried beef tacos with the same ingredient. "Mochomos" is a culinary

specialty of beef or veal accompanied by the wheat tortillas. Refried beans prepared with Peruvian-pinto beans, lard, dried chili and "Cotija" cheese.

### **Ochoa or O´shay Heritage, Their traditional cookies at Sonora**

The "Coyotas" are a puff pastry base made with brown sugar filled of toffee, an "Ochoa" family pastry, from the Irish family name, O'Shay. Formerly it was called "Coyota" to the woman born of Spanish and Indian, hence the name adopted this particular delight.

The "Alfajor", national sweet delight from Argentina is very similar, same dessert ingredients, with a different conception, the "Coyotas" are thinner and larger diameter, the "Alfajor" is a one thousands leaves cake, between layers of puff pastry, the toffee is spread.

In "Ciudad Obregón" will find as well different fillings likes, toffee and nuts, guava, chocolate, Bavaria cream, strawberry, pineapple, apricot, blackberry, mango and apple.

The tradition of eating meat and then "Coyotas" emerged from the family of Mrs. Maria Ochoa, as his brother, Alfonso Durazo, the "king of the barbeque," began offering the dessert at the restaurant "Xochimilco", also located in Villa de Seris, a "Sonora" Village. A half century of the "Ochoa" family dessert existing, the recipe is the same: flour made in the region, natural ingredients, kneaded and stretched by hand and baked in wood. The oven, made of brick, is located in the backyard of Moreno Ochoa work there all day to process up to 11 000 coyotas market for Sonora and Arizona, USA, and of course the tour, which is the most like the simple dessert.

### **Irish vineyards in Mexico**

In times of New Spain, the vine was cultivated immediately by missionaries who needed wine to celebrate the mass.

When the Jesuits arrived at that time the peninsula of Baja California, the cultivation of grapes goes with their missions. The missionaries converted the inhospitable deserts in areas of cultivation and viticulture. His successors, the Franciscans moved into what is now the state of California in the United States of America. Their leader, Friar Junipero Serra established 21 missions from San Diego to Sonora where vines planted special joy of popularity. The grape variety planted by the monks acquired a special name, the mission grape. Today, this variety is also called "Creole" in South America.

In the late nineteenth century, Concannon family, pioneers of winemaking in California (Livermore Valley) persuaded the Mexican government led by Porfirio Diaz, who exploited the growing potential of the country and introduced a few dozen French varieties in Mexico. In 1895, the Mexican government became concerned to extend the planting of vines, but this effort could not be continued due to social changes in the country. Concannon Vineyard has a proud history of firsts. Always an industry leader, Concannon is the first winery to be Successful founded by an Irish immigrant. When James Concannon Planted white Bordeaux in the late 1800s, we became one of the first wineries to make Bordeaux-style wines in California. In 1904 James Concannon leaving Mexico but six years later another Californian winemaker Perelli Minetti another range of strains planted hundreds of acres near "Torreón", Coahuila". By 1900 many of the Mexican vineyard was destroyed by "phylloxera-2 and political problems disrupted the country for many years after the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

### **Finally, Mexican with Irish accents**

When we talks about the success of the migration of people are necessary understand two principal factors. For ever, a migrant people found an environment with same characteristics where they were lived, because they continue with the same jobs, specializing and improving their tasks.

The other condition is about the pride, satisfaction derived from social unit own achievement. In this case, as well catholic religion was part of the pride.

Mexico & Ireland, two countries, in a different continent share the same spirit, the pride of the origin and the regional identity. Irish heritage in Mexican Gastronomy is a result of cultural fusion, history and costumes with accents of freedom.

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