

**Sven's restaurants guide of Santander**  
**version 1.6 (02.09.2014)**

Most of the information provided are from personal experience and written down from the top of my head (now with some "user's information" :-).

Please help to improve this guide by providing more detailed information.

# Lunch options around IFCA



1. **IFCA**
2. **Cafeteria of physics**  
food: mostly sandwiches and drinks  
ambiance: simple, few light, but it's ours  
price: relatively cheap
3. **Canteen of the university**  
food: lunch menu, quality ??  
ambiance: fast in, fast out  
price: ??
4. **Canteen of the university**  
food: lunch menu, medium/lower quality  
ambiance: fast in, fast out  
price: 6.25 Euro, coffee extra
5. **Restaurant "Bedoya 2"**  
food: lunch menu medium quality  
ambiance: typical for spanish lunch places  
price: ~ 9 Euro, coffee extra
6. **Restaurant "Escudero"**  
food: lunch menu medium quality  
ambiance: typical for spanish lunch places  
price: ~ 9 Euro, coffee extra

7. **Canteen of the UIMP**

food: lunch menu, medium quality

ambiance: ok for a canteen

price: ~ 7 Euro

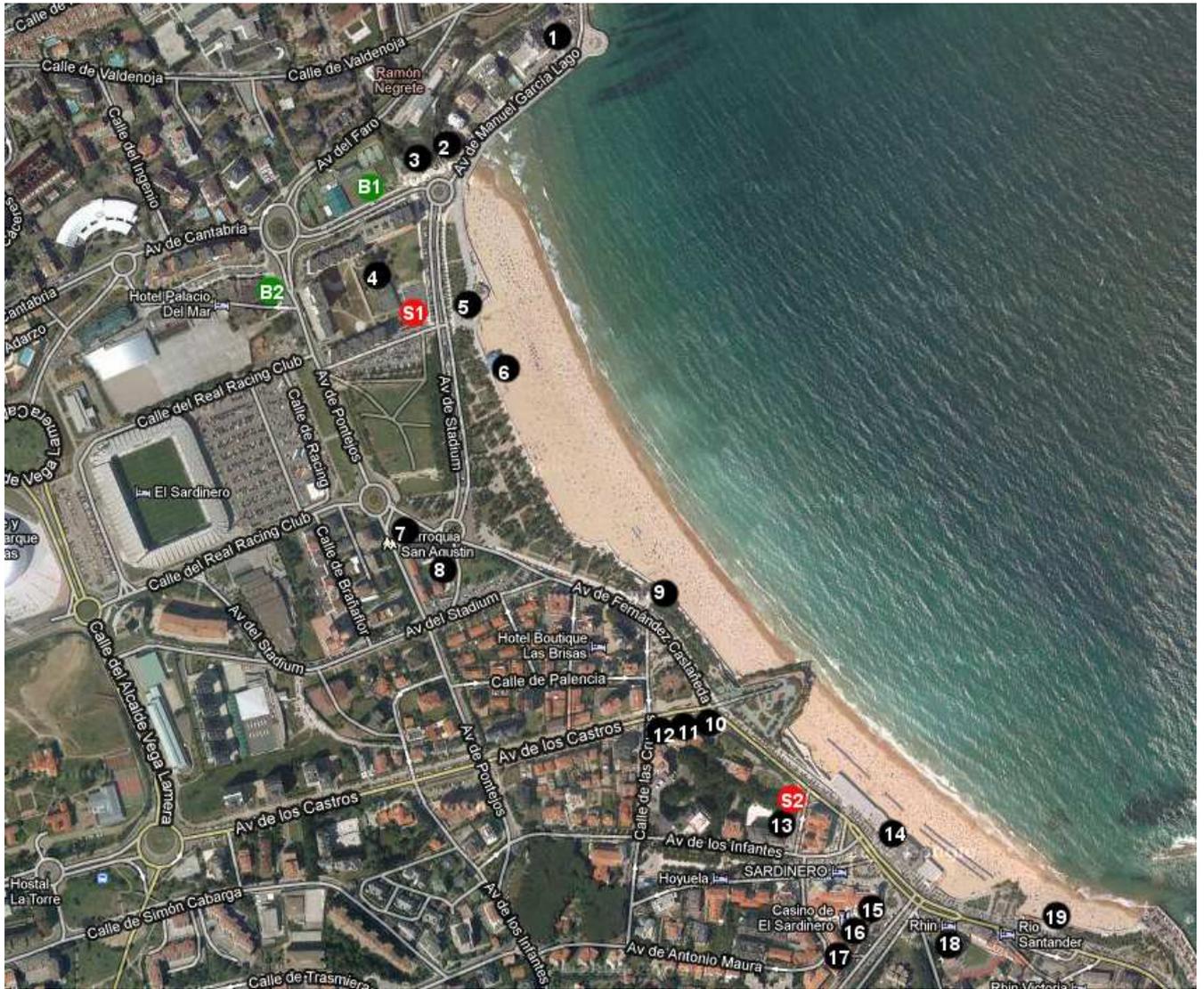
8. **Restaurant at the “Parque Las Llamas”** (real location about 500 meters north of the indicated point)

food: lunch menu, high quality

ambiance: nice

price: ~ 11 Euro, worth the money

## Dinner/tapas close to the Hotel Chiqui



1. **Hotel Chiqui**  
food: Bar: ??; restaurant: very good; on the terrace: (very) slow service  
ambiance: Bar: so so; restaurant and on the terrace: very nice  
price: I was told: expensive (got invited :-)
2. **Cafeteria “La Coronna”**  
food: some simple tapas, medium quality  
ambiance: after renovation: “brighter”, ok  
price: medium to higher
3. (\*) **Seafood “Acuario” (WHA)**  
food: mostly seafood, very good quality; try the “rabas”!  
ambiance: very typical, rustic, simple  
price: medium

4. **Various small places**

Here your input is needed!

5. **Restaurant “El Parque”** (I have only been outside)

food: full meals, sandwiches, snacks, drinks, ...

ambiance: outside: nice to sit with beach view; inside: ??; very touristic, has something of a tourist trap

price: beer: medium; food: higher (menu del dia for 13/23 Euros)

6. (\*)**Pub “Cormoran”** (free wireless - sometimes)

food: drinks in all varieties; free peanuts

ambiance: Irish Pub; nice, good see/beach view

price: 4.50 Euro/pint

7. **Restaurant “Gines”**

food: mostly meat, seafood; normal quality

ambiance: normal (sometimes loud TV)

price: medium to higher

8. **various restaurants**

here your input is needed!

9. **Bar “Rema”** (closed / abandoned)

food: drinks, tapas, simple snacks, ...

ambiance: right at the beach, very simple, touristic

price: medium to higher

10. **Sandwich place** (I have not been there)

food: Sandwiches

ambiance: ??

price: ??

11. **(Tapas) Bar “Piquio”** (I have not been there)

food: simple things, drinks

ambiance: mostly for students

price: “ok”

12. **“Pizza Hut”** (I have not been there - and will probably never go)

food: Pizza; option for vegetarians

ambiance: ??

price: ??

13. **(Fastfood?) Restaurant “Mister XXL”** (I have not been there, recent owner change)

food: burgers, sandwiches etc., either in “XL” or in “XXL”

ambiance: ??

price: medium, depends also on what “XXL” means

14. **“Maremondo”**

food: outside: drinks, snacks, coffee; inside: ??

ambiance: good seeview; if you are lucky you get served, if you are unlucky ...;

more for my (grand) parents

price: medium to high

comments: “I ordered a ham sandwich. Lot of sandwich, few ham ...”

15. **Bar “Caribe”**

food: mostly drinks, some simple food

ambiance: nice for a drink, food only with good weather outside

price: medium

16. **Restaurant “La Cañia”**

food: typical spanish food, tapas, full meals

ambiance: ok; outside nice; inside: first comes simple part with TV, more inside comes the nicer restaurant part

price: medium to higher

17. **Tapas bar/restaurant “La Bodega”**

food: typical spanish food, tapas, full meals

ambiance: ok, relatively simple

price: medium

18. **Restaurant “Marea Alta”** (in the Hotel Rio Silken; last visit (many years ago) very disappointing)

food: supposed to be excellent food, got worse, got better again (?)

ambiance: higher level, slightly cold, but good view to the street

price:  $\geq 40$  Euro/person

19. **Restaurant “Balneario de la Concha”** (free wireless)

food: known for the “tablas”, but quality/appearance varies; good for a drink on the terrace

ambiance: very nice seeview, nice atmosphere

price: medium

S1 Supermarket “Lupa”: normal choice for normal prices.

S2 Supermarket “Lupa”: normal choice for normal prices.

B1 bus stop with one line (2) to the center

B2 bus stop with four lines (1, 2, 13, 20 (via the tunnel)) to the center

## Bars/restaurants “around the Light House (faro)”



### 1. Hotel Chiqui

food: Bar: ??; restaurant: very good; on the terrace: (very) slow service  
ambiance: Bar: so so; restaurant and on the terrace: very nice  
price: I was told: expensive (got invited :-)

### 2. “Bar” at the light house

food: drink, very simple snacks, coffee, ...  
ambiance: great view, especially on the terrace; simple  
price: moderate, especially for the view

3. **Pub “Hipodromo”** (type Irish pub with food)  
 food: Pub food, ok quality; all kind of drinks, but now only Heineken on draft  
 ambiance: Irish pub, ...; terrace ok, but no view  
 price: moderate
4. **Bar/Restaurant “El barco”**  
 food: tapas/raciones/...  
 ambiance: ok inside, ok outside  
 price: moderate
5. **Pub “Rincon de Cueto”**  
 food: tapas/raciones/...  
 ambiance: very simply, typical for a village, now with pool, table football  
 price: moderate
6. **Restaurant “El pozo”**  
 food: tapas, full dishes, from the “live grill”  
 ambiance: nice, simple  
 price: moderate
7. **(\*)Pizzeria “Mamma Mia”** (best Pizza I had in Santander)  
 food: Pizza (stonebaked, excellent!), italian food  
 ambiance: simply, italian(?)  
 price: moderate to higher
8. **Restaurant “Abuela Maria”**  
 food: tapas(?), full dishes, “menu del dia”  
 ambiance: nice, slightly rustic  
 price: higher
9. **Restaurant “El Trebol”**  
 food: tapas, full dishes, great meat to bbq at your table, “menu del dia” (8 Euro)  
 ambiance: nice to sit, slightly rustic  
 price: higher
10. **Pub “El Sacacorchos”**  
 food: tapas, full dishes, pinchos, ...  
 ambiance: ok, often many children  
 price: low - moderate
11. **Bar/cafeteria “Mondrian”**  
 food: tapas, simple but nice  
 ambiance: “modern”, slightly cold, but ok  
 price: medium
12. **Bar “La Tertulia”**  
 food: drinks, small simple dishes  
 ambiance: simple, often many children inside and/or outside  
 price: moderate

# Places around the Palacio de Magdalena



1. **Small bar/Kiosk “The” ;-)**  
food: drinks  
ambiance: nice for a drink with seaview  
price: ??
2. **Restaurant “Balneario de la Magdalena”**  
food: typical spanish food; upper level (got worse?)  
ambiance: nothing special, nice terrace with sea view (also for a coffee only)  
price: medium to higher  
comments: “What a bad pasta with seafood I got ...”
3. **Kiosk/bar**  
food: drinks, small snacks  
ambiance: only some outside tables, very simple  
price: medium
4. **Cafe “??”**  
food: beer, coffee ??, ...  
ambiance: simple  
price: moderate



1. (\*)**Tapas bar/restaurant “Bodega Riojano”**  
food: many good tapas, very good restaurant; try the “solomillo” (bien hecho)  
ambiance: very nice and cosy; tapas part and restaurant part  
price: medium  
comments: “thanks for this great recommendation!”
2. **Bar “La Tienduca”**  
food: drinks  
ambiance: nice atmosphere, good for a “drink later”  
price: normal
3. **various bars** (here your input is needed)  
food: drinks, ??  
ambiance: partly for students, partly for everybody  
price: ??
4. **Tapas bar(/restaurant?) “La Goria”**  
food: good pinchos  
ambiance: small; often very full, nice  
price: medium
5. **Tapas bar(/restaurant?) “Bar Cantabria”**  
food: I only tried the ham: very good  
ambiance: very simple, neon light?  
price: medium to lower
6. **Tapas bar “a11”**  
food: good tapas, some free (and very good) cheese with your wine  
ambiance: nice outside, ok inside  
price: medium to lower
7. (\*)**Tapas bar “Diluvio”**  
food: many delicious pinchos, try the “tortilla de patatas rellena”!  
ambiance: mostly full, busy, original  
price: medium to lower
8. **Tapas bar “Tivoli”** (I have not been there)  
food: ??  
ambiance: ??  
price: ??
9. **Bar “Mandala”** (I have not been there)  
food: Drinks  
ambiance: ??  
price: ??

10. **Bar “Emboque”** (I have not been there)  
food: Drinks  
ambiance: ??  
price: ??
11. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Rampalay”** (WHA)  
food: many good pinchos  
ambiance: not special, but ok  
price: medium
12. **Cafeteria**  
food: Coffee, hot chocolate, ...  
ambiance: outside: ok; inside: more for my parent’s age ...  
price: medium to higher
13. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Conveñiente”**  
food: tapas ok; don’t remeber full dishes  
ambiance: very nice wine barrel decoration; dark; sometimes with life piano musik  
price: medium
14. **Bar “La Calle”** (I have not been there)  
food: Drinks  
ambiance: a bit stylish ...  
price: ??
15. **Bar “Bogart”** (I have not been there)  
food: Drinks  
ambiance: a bit stylish ...  
price: ??
16. (\*)**Tapas bar/restaurant “Cañadio”**  
food: high-end tapas (tapas on “bread”); restaurant also very good  
ambiance: nice, often very full  
price: medium to higher
17. **Bar “Loft”** (I have not been there)  
food: Drinks  
ambiance: a bit too stylish ...  
price: ??
18. (\*)**Bar “Ventilador”**  
food: drinks of all kind  
ambiance: outside: right in the plaza; inside: ok  
price: medium
19. **Bar “Canela”** (I have not been there)  
food: drinks  
ambiance: outside: nice; inside: ???  
price: ??

20. **Tapas bar “????”** (changed since my last visit ...)  
food: Simple, but filling dishes  
ambiance: (too?) simple, seems to have improved!  
price: low to medium
21. **Coffee bar “La Columna”**  
food: coffee and drinks  
ambiance: outside: nice to sit; inside: so so  
price: medium
22. **Tapas bar(/restaurant?) “Cigaleña”**  
food: good tapas, try the dry cheese!  
ambiance: small, often crowded, elegant, a bit up-scale  
price: medium to high, 50 year old wine bottles are available for “a corresponding price”
23. **(\*)Tapas bar/restaurant “Asubio”**  
food: very good tapas and raciones – original  
ambiance: very nice; restaurant part not too cosy  
price: medium
24. **Tapas bar/restaurant “New name ...”**  
food: high-end pinchos (got simpler)  
ambiance: ok, slightly too stylish  
price: medium to high (got lower)
25. **Tapas bar/restaurant “La Taverna”**  
food: tapas are good, wine is good  
ambiance: nice  
price: medium
26. **Tapas bar “Hijas de Florencia”**  
food: good pinchos  
ambiance: more original, more rustic, no seats  
price: medium
27. **Bar “Cruz Blanca”**  
food: good for beer, never tried the tapas  
ambiance: you can draft your beer on your table; a screen shows the consumption of all the tables ...  
price: medium
28. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Centro Gallego”** (recent owner change)  
food: mostly seafood; “raciones” very good  
ambiance: suffered a bit from the owner change, still ok  
price: medium

29. (\*)**Tapas bar/restaurant “Casa Alba”**  
food: simple, but very good; try the “rabas”! Also Paella is recommended.  
ambiance: simple, original, many locals; very low ceiling  
price: low
30. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Dias del Sur”**  
food: nice tapas, a bit “different” (e.g., las sartenes pequeñas); Restaurant a bit disappointing ...  
ambiance: a bit (too?) posh ...  
price: medium to higher
31. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Viva Zapata”**  
food: Tapas: ??; restaurant: good mexican food (but not the best in town)  
ambiance: mexican ... , restaurant is relatively simple  
price: medium to higher (especially for the Margarita)
32. **Tapas bar “Quebec”** (I do not remember much)  
food: tapas, drinks  
ambiance: ok  
price: medium
33. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Las Olas”** (I have not been to the restaurant)  
food: tapas ??  
ambiance: looks nice  
price: medium
34. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Al punto y coma”** (again recent owner change)  
food: pinchos of all types, drinks  
ambiance: ok, very busy  
price: ?? (after owner change)
35. **Tapas bar/restaurant** (recent owner change)  
food: tapas??  
ambiance: ??  
price: ??
36. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Bodegas Mazon”**  
food: good tapas and food  
ambiance: nice decor with huge barrels, original  
price: medium
37. **Restaurant “El Puerto”**  
food: very good tapas and food  
ambiance: nice, elegant  
price:  $\geq$  60 Euro/person

38. **Restaurant “La Bombi”**  
food: good (for meat), but not exceptional  
ambiance: medium  
price: high
39. **Tapas bar “Casimira”** (recent owner change)  
food: simple tapas, mostly with ham; good  
ambiance: very nice, “normal”  
price: medium
40. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Zacarias”**  
food: nice tapas; have not tried the restaurant  
ambiance: nice, not too cosy  
price: medium to higher
41. **Tapas bar/restaurant “Sixtina”** (I only know the restaurant)  
food: very good food, a bit “special”  
ambiance: nice decoration, nice to sit  
price: medium to higher
42. **Bar “Nido de Cuco”** (recent owner change)  
food: Drinks, ...??  
ambiance: very dark  
price: ??
43. **Bar “La Sal”** (recently re-opened, I have not been there since)  
food: for drinks  
ambiance: looks nice ...  
price: ??
44. **Cafeteria “Siboney”**  
food: coffee, drinks, simple snacks  
ambiance: ok for a coffee ...  
price: medium to high
45. (\*)**Bar “Stop”**  
food: Drinks, beer  
ambiance: nice; you get olives, chips and peanuts for free with your drink  
price: medium to higher
46. (\*)**Tapas bar/restaurant “Malinche”**  
food: very good tapas, often changing menu; original and different; you get some cheese with your first wine; also the restaurant is very good (except the “noodles”)  
ambiance: nice for some tapas; original  
price: medium

47. **Bar “Kings”**  
food: Drinks, ...  
ambiance: too stylish  
price: medium to high
48. **Restaurant “Posada del Mar”**  
food: good, but not exceptional  
ambiance: looks elegant ...  
price: higher ...
49. **Cafeteria “Valor”** (cafeteria chain)  
food: Coffee, hot chocolate, ice cream, some sweet dishes  
ambiance: outside: ok; inside: so so  
price: medium
50. (\*)**Restaurant “Serbal”** (one Michelin star)  
food: excellent food for an appropriate price; try “menu de degustacion”!  
ambiance: nice, decent atmosphere  
price: high, but worth the money!  
comments: “Very expensive, but the best dinner of my life!”
51. **Restaurant/tapas bar “La Mulata”**  
food: specialized in fish/sea food, but also meat dishes, tapas  
ambiance: ok, slightly cold  
price: medium to high
52. **Tapas bar “Solórzano”**  
food: nice tapas, often fish/sea food oriented  
ambiance: nice inside, simple tables outside  
price: medium to higher
53. **Tapas bar “Sandoñana”** (new!)  
food: simple tapas/dishes; very good!  
ambiance: simply, typical for a village  
price: low, excellent quality/price ratio
54. **Tapas bar “Casa Lita”**  
food: nice variety of tapas  
ambiance: a bit darker, nice, often very crowded, louder ...  
price: medium
55. (\*)**Tapas bar/restaurant “Gran Cru”**  
food: nice tapas, a bit different ...; good wine  
ambiance: nice colors, pleasant  
price: medium to higher

B1 Bus stop "Castellar 1"

B2 Bus stop "Castellar 22"

T2 Taxi stand; good option to go back to the hotel Chiqui

T2 Taxi stand; best option to go back to the hotel Chiqui

## Even more information:

### Beer (cerveza)

Normally beer is ordered by size. If you order “cerveza” you get a (small) bottle. For draft beer ask for

“caña”: 0.1-0.2 l

“tubo”: ~0.2 l

“jarra”: 0.3-0.4 l (0.5 l if you are lucky)

### Wine (vino)

How to order a glass of wine:

“un tinto” (red house wine)

“un blanco” (white house wine)

“otro” (one more :-)

Normally the house wine is ok, very good quality/price ratio.

### Food

“pincho”: small item to eat, often on a slice of bread, often with a toothpick, very typical

“racion”: one plate of something, good to share

#### Most typical dishes/tapas:

“pinchos” (see above)

“rabas”: fried calamar

“croquetas”: croquette with ham or fish or seafood or ...

“jamón”: ham, from best to normal: “bellota”, “iberico”, “serrano”

“queso”: cheese, normally a plate with slices of typical spanish cheese

“albondigas”: meat balls in tomato sauce

“morcilla”: fried sausage made out of blood (pig), rice, onions, spices

“mejillones”: mussels

### Counting:

uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez

### Legend:

(\*): Sven's favorites

WHA: Wolfgang Hollik Approved