



## Dalí: Les Dîners de Gala

Salvador Dalí

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**Dalí: Les Dîners de Gala** Salvador Dalí

**Gala dinner: Salvador Dalí's surrealist cookbook**

“*Les dîners de Gala* is uniquely devoted to the pleasures of taste ... If you are a disciple of one of those calorie-counters who turn the joys of eating into a form of punishment, close this book at once; it is too lively, too aggressive, and far too impertinent for you.”—Salvador Dalí

Food and surrealism make perfect bedfellows: Sex and lobsters, collage and cannibalism, the meeting of a swan and a toothbrush on a pastry case. The opulent dinner parties thrown by **Salvador Dalí** (1904–1989) and his wife and muse, **Gala** (1894–1982) were the stuff of legend. Luckily for us, Dalí published a cookbook in 1973, *Les diners de Gala*, which reveals some of the sensual, imaginative, and exotic elements that made up their notorious gatherings.

This reprint features all **136 recipes** over **12 chapters**, **specially illustrated by Dalí**, and organized by meal courses, including **aphrodisiacs**. The illustrations and recipes are accompanied by Dalí’s extravagant musings on subjects such as dinner conversation: “The jaw is our best tool to grasp philosophical knowledge.”

All these rich recipes can be cooked at home, although some will require practiced skill and a well-stocked pantry. This is cuisine of the old school, with meals by leading French chefs from such stellar Paris restaurants as **Lasserre**, **La Tour d’Argent**, **Maxim’s**, and **Le Train Bleu**. Good taste, however voluptuous, never goes out of fashion. In making this exceptionally rare book available to a wide audience, TASCHEN brings **an artwork, a practical cookbook, and a multisensory adventure** to today’s kitchens.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“...an unsurprisingly extravagant cookbook.” (*theculturetrip.com*)

“Whether purchased for the cuisine or the art, *Les Dîners de Gala* demonstrates how Dalí, as a multifaceted artist, never allowed himself to be bound by the limits of the canvas. His artistic mind knew no bounds, moving from the gallery to the kitchen with ease.” (*mymodernmet.com*)

“Not only is *Les Dîners de Gala* a work of art, it’s a series of avant-garde recipes and sumptuous illustrations which reveal the wider worldview that pleasure should always take priority.” (*anothermag.com*)

“Food porn at its most gluttonous.” (*Wired.com*)

“Surrealist fans and kooky cooks will enjoy TASCHEN’s re-issue of Salvador Dalí’s 1973 cookbook, *Les Dîners de Gala*. Illustrated with Dalí’s bizarre, erotic work and dinner spreads shot in garish 1970s tones, this is a legitimate cookbook...” (*theheartnewspaper.com*)

“...a cookbook unlike any before (or after, for that matter).” (*travelandleisure.com*)

“This is one for hedonists. It brims with Dalí’s sumptuous, often phallic, illustrations and wry photographs of the mustachioed painter at his famous dinner parties. [...] It’s unlike any other cookbook this year, or any other year, for that matter.” (*The Times, London*)

“A mammoth tome whose lustrous gold cover hints at decadence to come.” (*Hyperallergic.com, New York*)

“It is a universal truth that great art, like great food, elevates everyday experience. But in 1973 Salvador Dalí went one step further with *Les Dîners de Gala*, which rocketed both disciplines at once into domestic dream realm. [...] A cookbook like no other.” (*British GQ*)

“...this Christmas, take a lead from the artist Salvador Dalí’s little-known cookery book *Les dîners de Gala* and seriously impress – or bewilder – your guests.” (*The Financial Times, London*)

“As fanciful and sumptuous as you’d expect.” (*The Toronto Star, Canada*)

“...a surrealist feast for the eyes, a kaleidoscope of weird, captivating, extraordinary, and mind-bending images, with recipes to match.” (*The Boston Globe*)

“...a visual explosion of surrealism and outrageous recipes.” (*The New York Times*)

“A look into a lost gastronomic world.” (*The Observer, London*)

“Plucked birds and pleasure gardens, could we ask for anything more?” (*Artnet.com*)

“*Les dîners de Gala* might be Dalí’s most delightful feat...” (*dazeddigital.com*)

“As a forceful, surrealist reflection of Dalí’s life at the dinner table, it is something cooks and creators of all

types will find plenty to connect with, too.” (*Chef José Andrés in The Washington Post, D.C.*)

“...a bizarre work of edible art.” (*foodandwine.com*)

“Dali’s surrealist cuisine was a bit like his surrealist art: The outlandish jokes and self-spoofing persona concealed tremendous technique.” (*SAVEUR*)

“Salvador Dalí’s exotic and imaginative cookbook, filled with the stuff your dreams (or possibly your nightmares) are made of.” (*Metro.com, London*)

“[A] fabulous reprint of the famous 1973 cookbook. [...] Do try this at home.” (*Tatler, London*)

“This holiday season, the gourmand in your life will accept one gift and one gift only: Salvador Dalí’s cookbook, with its recipes for frog pasties and thousand-year-old eggs. Any kitchen without it is disappointingly ordinary and should be destroyed immediately.” (*the paris review.com*)

“Ultimately, this is a book about acknowledging all of the carnal desires that come straight from the dark heart of what it means to be human, with Dalí as both high priest and ringmaster.” (*Bookforum, New York*)

“A surrealist, sensory treat.” (*Metro, London*)

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#### Pedro Gonzales:

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**Morgan Johnson:**

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