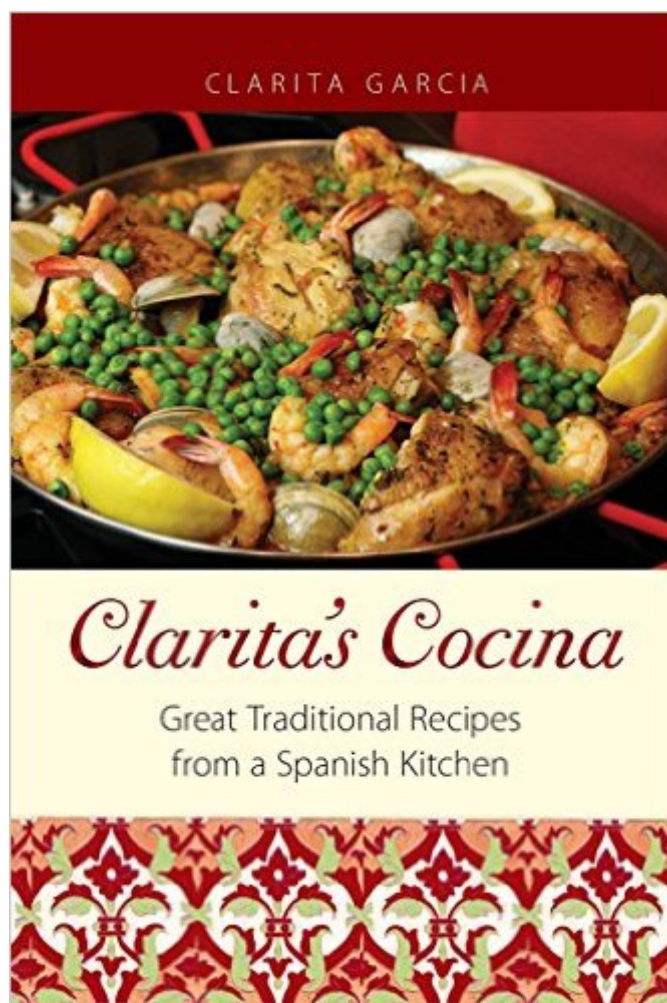


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# Clarita's Cocina: Great Traditional Recipes From A Spanish Kitchen



## Synopsis

• This practical and convenient guide for novice and experienced cooks alike offers instructions with charming anecdotes and countless down-to-earth pointers for Spain's most famous dishes! • "Studio 10 TV • Keep this one on a shelf that's easy to get to, because after you read it, you are going to go back to it time and time again. • "Orlando Sentinel • Full of mouthwatering recipes most families would savor. • "Chicago Tribune • Instructions are very easy to follow and one of the things I love about this book (besides the great recipes) are the stories Clarita shares. . . . Pick up a copy of this book. You won't be sorry. • "Tina McUlbertson

Novel Meals • From the classic Potaje de Garbanzos (Spanish bean soup) and spicy Camarones Criolla (shrimp creole) to delicious Tomates Rellenos (stuffed tomatoes), these dishes are ripe with the passion and warmth of a Spanish kitchen. Clarita Garcia shares recipes from years spent managing her family's famous restaurant "Las Novedades" tried and true dishes from Spanish friends and relatives, and her own unique, delectable creations. The resulting savory delights will please and comfort the whole family. Not your average cookbook, this colorful guide to authentic Spanish cooking is enriched with Clarita's lively anecdotes and personal stories, making it a treasure for your kitchen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Original review 2004: The food in Tampa is an amalgamation of Spanish and Cuban cuisine, unlike the food in South Florida which tends to be more Cuban/Caribbean. This cookbook is easy to use, filled with Clarita's wisdom and stories -- and the dishes are DELICIOUS! Still the best yellow rice

and chicken recipe ANYWHERE! Also check out her companion book, Clarita's Cooking Lighter. Update 11 years later: I came back to see if I could find another copy of this book....mine has become so worn from use I thought I should get another while they are still in print. As I type this, black beans are simmering on the stove and the aroma of yellow rice and chicken fills the house. This is THE recipe for that dish. I also bought the Colombia cookbook and was pretty disappointed at their corresponding recipe. The tourists went to Ybor, the locals know the real Spanish food is along Columbus Blvd... True me, this book is the definitive resource for Tampa-style Spanish food that many of us grew up with... and it seems harder and harder to find each time I return to Tampa.

My family of origin is spanish. I remember going to Grandmom's house and having some of the most delightful foods for dinner. Pork Roast, black bean soup, garbonzo bean soup, rice pudding...were all very yummy. Unfortunately, my grandmom passed away before I could get any other recipes. My aunt gave me "Clarita's Cocina" last year. The recipes are authentic. The dishes I have made from them are almost like grandmom's. (NOBODY cooked like my grandmom.) The introductions to each section are fun to read. I am giving this book to my grown children for Christmas and would highly recommend this cookbook to others who love traditional spanish dishes.

I loved reading this cookbook (yes, I read cookbooks). There are so many great recipes in here that I'm overwhelmed trying to decide which ones to make. I've made a cookie recipe, a crab appetizer and a beef dish; all got rave reviews. The recipes are well written and easy to follow.

I have owned my copy of Clarita's Cocina since it was first published. Sadly, it's out-of-print and used copies are getting hard to find. Her recipes came from both Spain and her husband's restaurant, Las Novedades in Tampa. My wife and I ate there twice while we lived in Tampa. Since my wife is a Tampa Cuban and I'm not even Hispanic, I learned all of my Spanish cooking from her mother's recipes and from Clarita's Cocina. The Arroz Con Pollo (chicken with yellow rice) is the most authentic recipe you'll ever find and makes this techy dish not so hard to make. If you love Spanish/Cuban food, please try to find a copy of this book. You can also Google the Las Novedades Restaurant in Tampa and view the many fine photos and text about it's history. It's too bad that Tampa's urban renewal of Ybor City destroyed this wonderful place. I recently purchased a used copy of the book from as a birthday present for my neighbor and friend, who is Hispanic.

I can't go pick up deviled crabs at the Seabreeze Restaurant on 22nd Street Causeway, Cuban sandwiches in West Tampa at La Teresita or Spanish Bean soup at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City anymore; but I can get closer to my Tampa roots, through the authentic recipes found in Clarita's Concina. This cookbook is well written, precise in its instructions and filled with humorous anecdotes. It's packed with traditional recipes and many that are new to me, but I'm anxious to try them all. Buy it, it's well worth the asking price!

I was born & grew up in Tampa and grew up on great "Tampa Cuban" food. This book has recipes for food I remember. While my cooking doesn't come close to my Spanish Mother-in-Law, it reminds me of home.

When I first found this book in a second-hand store, I read a few recipes standing in the aisle. I approached them with some pessimism, since I'd never found an authentic, nor even a good, Spanish cookbook. Imagine my surprise to find what could have been my own grandmother's cooking in this book. It was absolutely authentic, down to the dashes of salt. I bought it immediately, and sent it to my mother. After reading it, she lent it to my grandmother, who laughed and pronounced it as good as her own cooking. After following a recipe (which she never used), she even said that the Arroz con Pollo was probably better than hers! There it was--the highest compliment from the greatest cook in my life. My mother immediately bought ten or twelve copies, giving us all one, and a then a few more to give as gifts. The recipes are error-free. If you can follow a recipe, you will achieve delicious, authentic Spanish food every time you cook from it. I guarantee it.

A little known fact is that Clarita is the grandmother of Orlando restaurateur Manny Garcia. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. Try the Black Beans and Rice. Heaven!

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