



## Rib

### Pestana Plaza Mayor

MADRID

Words: Agnish Ray  
Photography: © Felipe Scheffel Bell



#### IN A BITE

Covers: 80  
Owner: Global Mandalay  
Operator: Pestana  
Architecture: Grupo San Jose  
Interior Design: Estudio B76  
Uniform Design: The Labo, 33 Huellas  
Signature Chef: Rui Martins  
Head Chef: Borja Veguillas  
F&B Manager: Cristina Mos  
Head Bartender: Carlos Marqués  
Head Sommelier: Patricia Larios  
[www.pestanacollection.com](http://www.pestanacollection.com)

Portuguese hospitality group Pestana has sunk its teeth into a tasty piece of Spanish real estate, opening the first ever hotel to sit on Madrid's Plaza Mayor. Over the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, this site was the casa de la carnicería – the establishment responsible for supplying meat to the markets of the capital and its surroundings. Now, in the hands of chef Rui Martins, Pestana's restaurant Rib is a succulent homage to the building's heritage.

Hefty cuts of beef take prize place on Rib's menu, from sirloin and ribeye to entrecôte and chuletón. The tartare and carpaccio bring a raw touch to the experience, while the leg-and-nose stew epitomises Spain's snout-to-tail approach to meat. Fish and seafood make stellar appearances too, like the shrimp with beef marrow, served in the bone.

The restaurant sits in a courtyard area and the glass ceiling overhead, dappled with ivy, lets sunlight pour in all day, while narrow, cylindrical brass lighting pieces hang down, illuminating the venue come nightfall. The outdoor feel of the conservatory is completed

by cobble stone flooring, Indian laurel trees and potted plants.

Spanish interior design practice Estudio B76 looked to keep the hotel and restaurant's aesthetics true to the building's history. Original wooden doors have been preserved, lacquered in black and used to line various walls, while the hallways approaching Rib display lace embroidery, Andalusian tiles and Moorish door frames. This contrasts with the modern décor inside, which includes bespoke furniture items by the studio, where the mustard and turquoise of the leather seating rests easily against bold materials like oak and brass.

Elsewhere, a colourful floral pattern reminiscent of Madrid's folkloric fiestas is splashed across the walls of the cocktail bar next door, which serves mixes inspired by the Portuguese empire. Completing the hotel's F&B experience is its bar and café, whose seating spreads out onto the Plaza Mayor itself. Here, guests can admire the colours and patterns of the square's pavements and facades – many of them echoed inside this stylish new property.