

Palette to Palate Trivia

1. Which Surrealist master published a lavish cookbook in 1973 titled *Les Dîners de Gala*, featuring bizarre recipes alongside an explicit, passionate hatred for spinach?

- **Answer:** Salvador Dalí. He despised spinach because it was "shapeless" and preferred food with hard, rigid exteriors like crustaceans.

2. Which Dutch Post-Impressionist famously ate bread and coffee almost exclusively, but developed a toxic habit of nibbling directly on yellow chrome lead paint in his studio?

- **Answer:** Vincent van Gogh. His letters frequently detail a starvation diet supplemented by alcohol, coffee, and compulsive paint-eating during manic episodes.

3. Which Pop Art icon kept a cabinet full of Campbell's soup cans, had an intense sweet tooth, and claimed he bought candy boxes only to eat the entire layer of jellies and throw the rest away?

- **Answer:** Andy Warhol. He once wrote: "All I ever really want is sugar."

4. Which Renaissance polymath was an avowed vegetarian who supposedly bought caged birds in markets just to release them, avoiding meat out of empathy for living creatures?

- **Answer:** Leonardo da Vinci. Contemporary accounts, including notes by explorer Andrea Corsali, document his refusal to eat animal flesh.

5. Which Impressionist painter was so obsessed with horticulture and gourmet dining that his personal notebooks were filled with recipes for dishes like chestnut cake, cep mushrooms, and herb-roasted duck?

- **Answer:** Claude Monet. His kitchen journals at Giverny were later compiled into the bestselling cookbook *Monet's Table*.

6. Which French Post-Impressionist lived a bohemian, hedonistic life in Montmartre, invented the fiery cocktail known as the *Tremblement de Terre* (Earthquake), and frequently cooked elaborate wild game feasts for friends?

- **Answer:** Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. His cocktail recipe called for equal parts absinthe and cognac.

7. Which legendary Spanish painter, upon reaching his later years, ate an austere, repetitive diet consisting largely of mineral water, plain boiled noodles, and goat milk cheese to protect his frail stomach?

- **Answer:** Pablo Picasso. Despite dining at fine restaurants in his youth, he restricted himself heavily in his final decades.

8. Which Mexican painter kept a lush, vibrant home at La Casa Azul where she cooked massive batches of traditional moles, chiles rellenos, and tamales for guests including Leon Trotsky?

- **Answer:** Frida Kahlo. She and Diego Rivera threw legendary *comidas* accompanied by copious amounts of tequila.

9. Which avant-garde French composer and graphic/conceptual artist followed an all-white diet, claiming he would only eat white foods like eggs, sugar, grated bones, shredded coconuts, and white moldy cheese?

- **Answer:** Erik Satie. He published his eccentric culinary rules in *A Mammal's Notebook*.

10. Which Abstract Expressionist was an avid home baker who loved making homemade bread and pies, yet refused to eat in front of large crowds at gallery dinners?

- **Answer:** Jackson Pollock. Before his signature drip paintings made him famous, he won first prize for apple pie baking at a local fair in the Hamptons.

11. Which Post-Impressionist quit his Paris stockbroking career and moved to Tahiti, where he abandoned French cuisine to subsist on raw fish marinated in lime, fresh breadfruit, and wild bananas?

- **Answer:** Paul Gauguin. He preferred living like the locals over the preserved canned rations favored by French colonials.

12. Which master of the Sistine Chapel was notoriously indifferent to food, frequently working for days on little more than a hunk of dry bread and cheap wine while sleeping in his work boots?

- **Answer:** Michelangelo. His biographer Ascanio Condivi noted that he ate "more out of necessity than pleasure."

13. Which British painter, known for his visceral, distorted portraits of screaming popes and meat carcasses, had a voracious real-life appetite for raw oysters, liver, and champagne, regularly consuming massive multi-course meals at London's Colony Room?

- **Answer:** Francis Bacon. He was obsessed with butchers' shops and the physical texture of meat both on canvas and at the dinner table.

14. Which American modernist lived in rural New Mexico, maintained an organic garden, and dried her own herbs and vegetables to make simple, whole-food purees long before farm-to-table was popular?

- **Answer:** Georgia O'Keeffe. Her personal recipes, preserved in *Dinner with Georgia O'Keeffe*, featured fresh yogurt, garlic soup, and wild dandelion greens.

15. Which Baroque painter and master of chiaroscuro had an infamous temper that once resulted in him throwing a plate of artichokes cooked in oil into a waiter's face because he suspected they were cooked in butter?

- **Answer:** Caravaggio. Police records in Rome from 1604 detail the assault over whether the artichokes had been prepared with olive oil or butter.

16. Which French Fauvist painter loved dining on plain oysters and poached poultry, but strictly forbade any eating or drinking in his studio while working because he could not stand the smell of food mixing with turpentine?

- **Answer:** Henri Matisse. He kept domestic life and studio work aggressively partitioned.

17. Which Italian Futurist wrote a 1932 culinary manifesto demanding the complete abolition of pasta, arguing it caused lethargy, pessimism, and nostalgia?

- **Answer:** Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. He believed Italians needed high-protein, aggressive, and machine-like fuel rather than heavy carbohydrates.

18. Which Belgian Surrealist, known for painting men in bowler hats and floating green apples, preferred intensely mundane, routine bourgeois meals of boiled potatoes, steak, and chicory every day at the exact same hour?

- **Answer:** René Magritte. He deliberately cultivated a dull, middle-class suburban domestic routine as a foil to his subversive imagery.

19. Which Rococo-era Italian artist painted a famous late 16th-century portrait called *The Beaneater*, depicting a peasant gorging on a bowl of beans and onions, a simple food the artist himself famously enjoyed over court banquets?

- **Answer:** Annibale Carracci. The painting is considered one of the earliest realist genre scenes celebrating peasant fare.

20. Which 16th-century Italian painter did not merely paint food, but composed portraits entirely out of fruits, vegetables, fish, and roots, reflecting a bizarre, encyclopedic fascination with edible botanicals?

- **Answer:** Giuseppe Arcimboldo. His allegorical portraits like *Vertumnus* and *The Four Seasons* turned produce into human facial features.