



Consejo de Ministros

**Chef José Andrés, writer Barbara Probst
Solomon and psychiatrist Luis Rojas Marcos,
decorated with the Order of Arts and Letters of
Spain**

19-november-10. The Council of Ministers, at the request of the Minister of Culture, Ángeles González-Sinde, has today awarded the Order of Arts and Letters of Spain to the chef José Andrés, the writer Barbara Probst Solomon and psychiatrist Luis Rojas Marcos.

José Andrés

He was awarded the Order for his tireless outreach on behalf of the Spanish culinary tradition, through his restaurants, cookbooks and especially his television program “Made in Spain” which have contributed decisively to the American media’s growing interest in Spanish food culture.

Recognized internationally as a culinary innovator, he is owner of ThinkFoodGroup (TFG), the team behind the popular Washington DC restaurants Jaleo, Zaytinya, Oyamel, Cafe Atlantico and minibar by José Andrés, and the celebrated The Bazaar by José Andrés, at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills. His newest venture at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas opens in December.

José Ramón Andrés Puerta was born in Asturias and chose the kitchen as a profession at age 15. After a stint in the School of Hospitality in Barcelona, he worked in restaurants like El Bulli's Ferran Adrià. Once in the United States, he began working in Washington DC where he runs the kitchen at Jaleo, helped create one of the first critically and commercially successful tapas restaurants in the country. In June of 2003, he opened minibar by José Andrés, which became one of the most exciting dining destinations in the country.

He is the host and executive producer of the series “Made in Spain”, a culinary journey through his native land that airs on PBS. He has written

several cookbooks *Made in Spain: Spanish Dishes for the American Kitchen* and *Tapas: A Taste of Spain in America*. In Spain, his program that aired on TVE, "Vamos a cocinar" revolutionized food television in our country.

After a recent trip to Haiti, he created a nonprofit organization, World Central Kitchen, in order to feed and support the most vulnerable people in humanitarian crises that occur around the world.

Barbara Probst Solomon

She has been awarded the Order of Arts and Letters from Spain for expressing through her books and journalistic contributions, her civic engagement and willingness to improve the society we live in, and for having contributed to the rapprochement of two countries and two cultures.

Born in New York, after she graduated from Dalton High School, she moved to Paris, at the end of World War II. There she realized that Europe had done practically nothing to save its Jewish population. This awareness led her to make a personal commitment to the cause of freedom and the defense of human rights that have shaped the development of her long literary career and social activism ever since.

During her stay in Paris, she worked with Paco Benet (brother of novelist Juan Benet) to rescue Spanish students from a labor camp near Madrid. Later, in Paris, she helped him publish and smuggle to Spain the dissident magazine *Peninsula*.

Among her books, the most significant are the novel *The Beat of Life*, her autobiography *Arriving Where We Started* and sequel, *Short Flights*, and her collection of essays *Horse-Trading and Ecstasy*. Nowadays she just finished *The King of Paris* and she is working on a memoir. Her autobiographical documentary, *When the War was over*, won the Lancelot Law Whyte Boston University award for her contribution to modern culture.

In 2001, she created her own literary publishing company, Great Marsh Press, and the international literary magazine *The Reading Room*, among whose founding board members were Saul Bellow, Normal Mailer, Juan Goytisolo and Larry Rivers.

Luis Rojas Marcos

He was awarded the Order of Arts and Letters of Spain for his international medical and literary career that has made him an outstanding representative of Spain's science and culture.

Born in Sevilla, Luis Rojas Marcos is a doctor, a psychiatrist and a writer. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from Seville University in 1968, and that same year he moved to New York where he has lived ever since.

He specialized in psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital and the University of New York (1969-1972). In 1972 he was awarded, by the National Institute of Mental Health, a grant to investigate the effects of language barriers on immigrants with mental illness.

In 1981 he was appointed director of Psychiatric Services of the network of public hospitals in New York. In this position, he created Project HELP (Homeless Emergency Liaison Project), the first mobile medical service for the care and hospitalization of mentally ill homeless. In 1992 he was appointed as head of the municipal services of mental health, alcohol and drugs by creating the first specific mental health programs for immigrant communities and preventing violence in public schools.

From 1995 to 2002, he served as Chief Executive of Health Systems and Public Hospitals in New York (New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation). As head of public hospitals and a member of Emergency Management in New York, Rojas Marcos lived very close to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and coordinated many of the services to those affected.

In Spain, Luis Rojas Marcos has been a patron of La Caixa Foundation (2000-2010) and regularly collaborates with institutions concerned with social issues and public health. He has also been a prolific writer in Spanish.