



The original of this portrait of Vasco da Gama hangs in the Portuguese Royal Palace in the Malabar Coast city in Goa.

Gama's expedition was at the time the longest open-sea voyage made by a European.

If you need any information about allergens, please ask the staff before ordering

STARTERS

Wild scallops glazed with ginger butter and caviar served with a roasted fennel, watercress and lemon vinaigrette salad 20

Ceviche of fresh salmon, green apple, avocado and red onion with a micro herb salad

18

Roasted caprese Portobello mushrooms in a fine herb butter, lettuce mesclun and a pesto vinaigrette

18

Crispy goat cheese rolls with aromatic herbs and lemon, served with a mix of micro herbs, walnut and honey salad

16

SOUP

Fish soup with roasted sweet potato and parsley emulsion 13

Green asparagus cappuccino with grissinis
10

RISOTTO AND PASTA

Saffron and vanilla risotto with flambéed prawns
18

Fresh pasta with crispy traditional ham and a cheese trilogy sauce

The São Gabriel, the São Rafael and the Berrio round the Cape of Good Hope. Gama's voyage would result in a shift of economic power in Europe away from the Mediterranean city-states that had previously controlled trade with the East to the ocean-going nations of Western Europe. The prisoners taken at Mombasa assured Gama that at Malindi, a short distance up the coast, he would find many pilots. So the fleet made for Malindi, and there, to his relief, Gama received a warm welcome.

The sultan of Malindi, an enemy of the sultan of Mombasa, was more than willing to befriend Gama; perhaps he hoped that as allies the Portuguese would offer him some advantage against his local enemies. The sultan visited the fleet in his own boat and the two men exchanged gifts. Gama released all his prisoners and the sultan provided a willing and able pilot for the voyage to India.

FISH

Salmon fillet served with traditional Portuguese shrimp, coriander and poached quail egg bread-based açorda on a bed of caramelised red onion compote

26

Octopus in virgin olive oil confit and garlic foam with cuttlefish ink rice and carrot purée

24

Black scabbard fish cordon bleu with flambéed banana served with sweet potato mille-feuille, lettuce mesclun and a passion fruit vinaigrette 24

MEAT

Beef tournedo and dried fruit crumble with shallots in a fine herb vinaigrette,
Wild mushroom risotto served with a choice of coffee sauce or
pepper trilogy sauce

28

Lamb fillet with a gremolata crust served with rosemary baked potatoes and roasted vegetable timbale with mint jus

26

Duck magret glazed in honey and fleur de sel served with creamy polenta à la Provençale and grilled green asparagus with orange blossom sauce

Though the identity of the pilot may never be known beyond doubt, Gama's pilot knew his business and he faithfully led the Portuguese to their destination. The three ships left Malindi on April 24, 1498, and reached the city of Calicut, on the west coast of India, on May 20. These were the first European vessels ever to reach India, and their arrival marked a turning point in world history.

The nations of Europe had been searching for a sea route to India and the East for many years. Portugal had searched longer and harder than any other country and at last Gama had proved that it was possible to reach India by sailing around Africa. The voyage ended centuries of confusion about the shape of Africa as well. The

The voyage ended centuries of confusion about the shape of Africa as well. The immediate result of the voyage for Portugal was a period of unprecedented national prosperity and power. Gama's achievement was the triumphant climax of a decades-long effort that constituted one of the first systematic national programs of exploration.

But Vasco da Gama's voyage was also a beginning – the start of a new enterprise of commerce and colonization. By pioneering the passage to India and beyond, Gama opened the way for centuries of European empire building in Africa and Asia.

Portugal led the way south and east and the other nations of Europe were swift to follow.

DESSERT

 $\label{eq:chocolate} \mbox{Dark chocolate fondant, tropical fruit pearls and walnut ice cream}$

9

Crème brûlée with fennel

9

Passion fruit pudding with mint foam

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Tiramisu of butter biscuits aromatised with Amaretto

8

Cheese plateau

10

Fresh fruit slivers

8



When Gama's three battered wooden ships sailed into the port of Calicut, one era of exploration ended, and a new era of exploration began.

A late 16th Century engraving of the Portuguese city of Lisbon, which is situated on the north bank of the estuary of the Tagus River, 10 miles from its mouth on the Atlantic Ocean.

The voyages of exploration and commerce made by Portugal's mariners helped make Lisbon one of the most important cities in Europe.

