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Photojournalism

Feature Story Reflection: Cañete

For our feature story, we wanted to choose a restaurant or small business that is competing in the food industry in Barcelona. With an increase in tourism since the pandemic, we wanted to focus on a specific restaurant that is thriving in Barcelona today. We chose the restaurant, Cañete, because of its growing popularity and the buzzing word of mouth that has spread about the atmosphere, food, and people.

Cañete began with a man named Antonio who was a professional waiter and over the years passed it down to his daughter Mari who learned how to cook Spanish cuisine and opened the bar with her husband, Manalo. Since then, Cañete has grown into not only a restaurant but a place where people gather to enjoy good food and experience an environment like no other. To capture the essence of the restaurant we focused on taking pictures of the employees interacting with customers and the welcoming ambiance that engulfs Cañete. Once speaking with employees of Cañete we came to learn that this environment everyone had been talking about is true. We not only experienced this amazing environment, but saw the ways in which employees talk to you, are interested in where you're from, and how you are enjoying your experience in Barcelona, which is not like every restaurant you experience here. When people left Cañete they were shaking hands with some of the chefs and we even witnessed one of the customers hug a chef and ask for a picture to look back on this great experience. We also were able to talk to customers at Cañete and ask them about their time here at Cañete. Not one person did not mention the fact that this is different from any restaurant in Barcelona and they

were going to continue coming back whether this was their first time here or if they had been visiting for years.

One of the waitresses we talked to, Jencal, has only been working at Cañete for two months, but she seemed as if she had been working there for years due to her ease of talking to customers and creating the experience everyone talks about who has been to Cañete. She also mentioned that although her staff is male-dominated, the women still run the place and we found this an interesting angle about Cañete that we did not know previously. Overall, through our own experience and the experiences we heard about through workers and customers, we tried to create a layout that reflected the theme of a place that not only has good food and drinks, but a staff who cares about each customer who walks through the door and strives to create an environment that makes you want to return.

For the photography element of our feature story, we had the goal of capturing the general feeling you experience at Cañete through color grading, exposure, and framing. The restaurant features different types of lighting, colorful furniture, and textures throughout the different rooms, so when we began photographing we wanted to bring out the colors and lighting to create a specific ambiance and make viewers feel as though they are sitting in the restaurant.

In a high-paced environment, it can be difficult to capture images that are clear and in focus, but with this project, it seemed fitting to add photos that were blurry and taken with a slower shutter speed to highlight the kind of environment that Cañete is. We took photos of the chefs and servers moving swiftly through the halls, and the chefs preparing food for the abundance of people in the restaurant to encapsulate the environment. In addition to this, Cañete has different types of seating; the bar, the sitting room, and the high seats, so it was important for us to capture all aspects to show

the different experiences possible at Cañete. When photographing, we used a higher exposure so we could get clear images of people's faces, and a medium-level F-stop to make sure we were including the background in portraits.

In terms of framing the photos, we specifically photographed patrons enjoying intimate moments, and employees interacting with customers and each other to depict the welcoming and fun environment that Cañete is. We photographed people from the back to get more moody photos, and diverse groups of people since Cañete is a touristy spot that gets business from people from all around the world. Furthermore, when editing the photos, it was important to maintain clarity while bringing out the darker tones and mood lighting throughout the restaurant. We were able to achieve this type of photograph by color-grading and bringing out the blues, pinks, and purples in the lighting, as well as warming up the temperature setting. This type of editing helped create a series of photos that are warm-colored with pops of vibrant colors, but simultaneously work together to tell a story.

For the layout of our photos, we wanted to use the advice we learned in class and start with a photograph of the building from the outside, in order to open up the story and let the viewer know what is going to be talked about. We followed this with a photo of the chefs in the kitchen cooking, as when you walk into Cañete, the first thing you see is the buzzing bar that it is well-known for. We wanted to shift back and forth between photos highlighting the ambiance and structure of the restaurant and the employees and patrons of the restaurant. Furthermore, when we discussed the overall welcoming and inclusive environment that Cañete is, we wanted to include the three photos of the employees interacting with each other and having intimate moments with patrons. We ended the

series with a photograph of a man walking out of the restaurant to offer a sense of closure for the piece and highlight the feeling of wanting to come back to Cañete right after you leave.