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inside...

South Town

Alhama De Murcia

North Town

Cabo Roig

Top 10

Most Amazing Churches in Spain

ISSUE 42
MAR 2020
FREE

Wine Article

Let's Talk Wine



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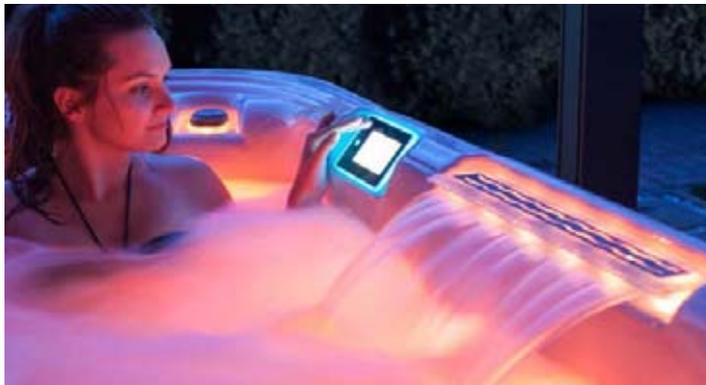
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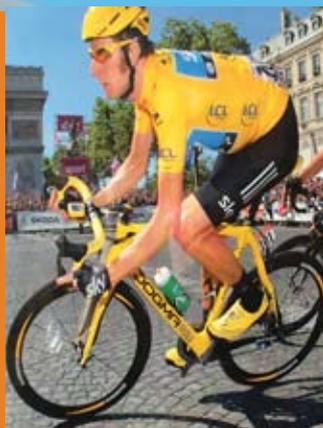
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The Worlds
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A Life in **SPAIN**

Welcome to the March edition of ALIS.

Easter is late this year, April 12th. but the shops have been full of Easter Eggs since Christmas. The Easter parades will be spectacular as always and a must see.

So what's in this edition....

The blog from Carol Hughes continues. Mapping out their journey and time in Spain. See page 28

Then on pages 19-22 we have the top 10 most amazing churches

Whilst on page 27 we have the first part of a 2 part article about the Spanish Fiestas. The spanish enjoy to party whenever they can and don't need an excuse, but there are plenty just in case.

Enjoy!

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A woman in a black suit and white shirt, smiling and pointing towards the text.

Places to visit in a day:

Bolnuevo (Puerto de Mazarrón)



Bolnuevo is blessed with a typical Mediterranean climate with cool sea breezes in summer and protection from the cold north winds in winter. With annual sunshine over 3000 hours the average temperature easily exceeds 20°. With 325 sunny days each year it is an ideal all round destination and it is little wonder that the World health organisation, in 1986, recommended the area's climate as one of the most equitable in the world. It is also relatively quiet with a huge golden sandy beach. Carrying on from the beach is a lovely coastal walk taking in some stunning coves. You can go for a couple of hours and come back again having enjoyed some magnificent views.

Access to the area is from Mazarron town on the RM3 or AP7 motorways. Check for more scenic routes. The main (free) car park is directly behind the beach and there is room for hundreds of cars. There you will also see the magnificent cliff which for millions of years has been subject to wind and water erosion which has created a superb structure, the like of which you are unlikely to find in many places. A real photo opportunity.

The town itself is very traditional and yet is full of amenities and facilities including a caravan and camping park which is beautifully landscaped and virtually hidden from the main town thoroughfare. There are many varied restaurants, bars and cafes and shops to get those holiday essentials.

Although development has changed the area somewhat, the town does have an interesting history. It dates back to the Phoenicians who used the coastal area to dock their ships trading minerals and other produce. Locals used to come under constant attack from pirates and in the 16th century a sanctuary was built in memory of those who perished. "The Tower of the Horses was built to repel the Barbary Pirates and has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest and is well worth a visit.

All in all a really lovely and peaceful day out beckons. Just beware of the sun!!



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7 curiosities about the monastrell

The monastrell is the main grape variety of the Spanish east. And as usual, we take many things for granted, but do we really know our main variety? Just in case we are going to clarify 7 curiosities that make "the main" typical wine grape in our plots and our tables.

1-. Monastrell tends to produce tannic wines that may have a high alcohol content. The style of wine that is produced from this grape varies greatly depending on where it is produced, but according to the wine expert Jancis Robinson the monastrell often has notes of earth and game animals, as well as fruit aromas Soft reds and berries. The variety can be difficult to grow, because it prefers "the sun above and the water below", which means that it needs very warm weather, very little amount of leaves in relation to the fruit. The vines are susceptible to many viticultural risks, such as mildew, and too vigorous foliage is not beneficial for their viticulture. So it is ideal for hot and dry climates ... Wow! As in our area!

2-. In Spain there are about 63,000ha of Monastrell vineyard, which is more than 70% of the world vineyard of this grape. And it focuses on the denominations of Alicante, Almansa, Bullas, Jumilla and Yecla. So we are in the monastrell territory. It's very easy to find a variety of 100% monastrell wine in our designations of origin. And in each of them we can taste the styles and uniqueness of this grape variety.

3-. In the south of France, Australia and the USA this grape also grows, but it is usually a blend or coupage grape in the wine . With other Mediterranean grapes who are raised in same warm conditions. So it is usually a good "wine blend partner" of the Syrah, Garnacha, Cinsault, Cariñena There is a typical "recipe" to make young wines in almost all of these regions called "GSM" where we can find the Garnacha, the Syrah and the Monastrell in equal parts, and where we will have secured a sweet, tasty and very rich wine to drink and drink.

4-. As it is a typically warm climate variety, its grapes usually have a lot of fructose, which results in wines with a high percentage of alcohol, but that also makes the monastrell ideal for making natural sweet wines. Simply delaying the harvest date for a few weeks, processors can collect the overripe grapes to make delicious wines that are almost nectar for the gods.

5-. Monastrell is the name with which we know it in our area, but it is also known in the rest of the world as killed (USA and Australia) because it arrived in these territories from this port in the 1830. And in France it is known as Mourvedre, since that for our neighbors its origin is Murviedro (currently Sagunto).

6-. It reached the peninsula by the Romans. And it is believed to be related to the Bulgarian Mavrud. And it is very common that when arriving in a new territory the grape varieties mutate and change adapting to the weather conditions. Thus giving new features over the years. It is what I in the form of a joke determined as the theorem "you to Boston and I to California." Since they are exactly the same, over the years and according to the conditions that surround them, each one ends up being different, with its characteristics and peculiarities ... Unique.

7-. As a strain it is erect and has a lot of plant vigor. It is necessary to unload the leaves so that the cluster matures well. Its vegetative cycle is some what late and rather long. And its grapes have a thick and tannic skin. And if there is no irrigation, they are loose and small grains full of flavor. Perhaps these characteristics seem unnecessary to us ... But the wines of this grape have this hallmark, and everything that is the plant and the fruit goes in their DNA and finally in the wine.



Wine of the month

Bico da Ran 2019

Grape variety: Albariño 100%, DO Rias Baixas

“Bico da Ran” is the name of a beautiful beach in Galicia, looking to the sunset and over the atlantic ocean. Around this great place, there is an “albariño” vineyard that receives the same name. This 20 years old vineyard has a fresh and salty influence of the ocean, and it is the reason of the unique flavour in this wine.

The grapes are harvested in the morning to retain maximum aromas and freshness. The drained juice is fermented cold using yeasts that highlight the primary varietal aromas. Once completed, the wine is cold stabilized and filtered to preserve the aromas and freshness. The wine is bottled in a cellar in Meis, Pontevedra.

Tasting

Visual phase: It has a bright straw yellow color, with greenish reflections.

Olfactory phase: On the nose, it is reminiscent of citrus with notes of fennel and passion fruit. On the palate it is fruity but fresh, with an intense vegetable character and exotic notes.

Gustatory phase: It is a refreshing wine, like biting a ripe juicy apple. It has a beautiful and refreshing acidity. It is a fruity wine of great aromatic intensity.

Pairing: All the food who comes from the sea is wellcome!! Especial match with asian and peruvian food also!



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A life in
SPAIN 09

Spanish Walks

Spain has some of the most diverse countryside in Europe. With spectacular mountain ranges and vast open spaces. We have discovered some excellent walks and over the next few months we will help you to discover them as well. Good luck and enjoy.

The Pedro López path

This beautiful walk introduces you to the famous Los Pozos de la Nieve, beautiful panoramas on the flank of the Pedro López and the Barranco de En medio. Finally you get an exceptionally beautiful view of the Morrón de Espuña.

The walk leaves at the iron gate at the Mirador del Collado Mangueta and goes by various Pozos de la Nieve, snow huts, in the direction of the Collado de las Pozos the Don Eleuteria, from the col it continues on the plateau in the direction of the 1568 meters high Pedro López. On the flank you have beautiful views of the valley, one of the most beautiful spots of the Sierra Espuña. Afterwards it continues via the flank of the Pedro López to the Collado del Humero. Just under the col you start on the way back via a wide dirt road that passes the Casa Forestal Cuevas de la Plata. In the vicinity of the Casa del Pinillo and the Casa Forestal Cuevas de la Plata you can sometimes spot Mouflons. You leave the dirt road to start the descent to the Casa Forestal la Carrasca. Here you can even take a break before you start the climb that brings you back to the Collado de las Pozos de Don Eleuteria. During the climb you have a beautiful view of the Barranco de En valley and the Morrón de Espuña. From the col it goes via the same path of the way back to the starting point.

Courtesy of www.trailexplorer.eu

Distance: 16 km

Duration: 5h

Grade: Difficult

Type: Circular

Height gain: 638 meters

Way mark: PR-MU63 - White-Yellow dash

Wheelchair: Not suitable

Dog: Allowed on a lead



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Let's Learn Spanish

Market

Phrases

Do you have any tomatoes?

What would you like?

I would like a kilo of carrots.

Could I have two.

How much is everything?

Do you have change for a 20€?

They look delicious.

I don't have any left, sorry.

How much do they cost?

Anything else.

¿Tiene tomates?

¿Qué desea?

Quiero un kilo de zanahorias.

Póngame dos.

¿Cuánto es todo?

¿Tiene cambio de veinte?

¡Qué buena pinta!

No me quedan, lo siento.

¿A cómo están?

¿Algo más?

Tea-yen

Key dee-**say**-a

Key-**er**-oh oon

Pon-ga-may dos.

kwan-toe es **toe**-doh

Tea-**yen**-ecam-bee-oh day **vein**-tay

Key boo-**en**-na **peen**-tah

Noh may **key**-dan, low see-n-toe

Ah **co**-mow es-**tan**

Al-go mahs

Vocab

Ripe

Maduro

Mah-**dur**-ro / mah-**dur**-ra

unripe

Verde

Veer-de

Carrot

Zanahoria

Tha-na-**oh**-ree-a

Tomato

Tomate

Tow-**ma**-tay

Cucumber

Pepino

Pe-**pea**-noh

Spinach

Espinacas

Es-pea-**na**-kas

Potatoes

Patatas

Pa-**tah**-tas

Zucchini

Calabacín

Ka-la-ba-**thin**

Red pepper

Pimiento rojo

Pea-**mean**-tow

Cucumber

Pepino

Pe-**pea**-noh

Apple

Manzana

Man-**tha**-na

Pineapple

Piña

Pea-nya

Orange

Naranja

Na-**ran**-ha

Watermelon

Sandía

San-**dee**-a

Strawberry

Fresa

Frey-sa

Seasonal fruit

Fruta de temporada

Froo-taDay tem-pour-**ra**-dah

One kilo

Un kilo

Oon **key**-lo

Half a kilo

Medio kilo

mey-dee-oh **key**-lo



Now try our wordsearch:

U N R L A T U R F W I Z T O U A
 R E A J N A R A N C A K K S Q I
 E M G E P I M I E N T O L I K V
 A A Q E S P I N A C A S M K I K
 B D V E M J M H Q M Y Q S B R R
 V U E L F I O K K O G S A A Y N
 H R R P L R T V D U Q R N D Y K
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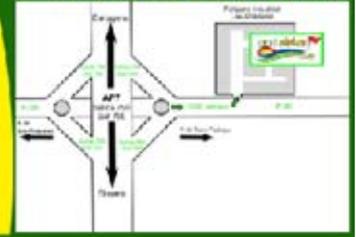
Alhama lies in the Valley of the river Guadalentín and at the foot of the España and La Muela mountain ranges. Defence towers, ruined town walls, renaissance-style palaces, and mansions of the former nobility are all part of the legacy of the valleys varied history.



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To the Romans and Moors this town meant the thermal springs flowing off the mountain. This is, in fact, what gives the town its name, Al-hama, meaning hot springs in Arabic. There are also the ruins of the older Roman baths that demonstrate the great age of the utilization of the springs in the area. It was the Roman baths established in the 1st century AD that were further developed and used into the Islamic period. On the rocky outcrop overlooking the town stands a 12th-century Arab castle around which the town eventually grew.

A walk through the town reveals a surprisingly rich range of colours used in the façades of the houses; red, ochres, violets and blues all add to the pleasantness of a stroll through the town. Walking and cycling enthusiasts will find the gateway to Sierra Espuña in Alhama. In addition to hillwalking and climbing, the park offers other points of interest such as the 16th- and 17th-century snow cellars.

The history of Alhama de Murcia is closely linked to the emergence of hot springs. The presence of thermal baths, along with the natural resources provided by the physical environment, contributed to the existence of human activity from the Eneolithic period, in the year 3000 BC.

The "Andalusí" (Andalusian) footprint is well imprinted in Alhama's lands, giving the town its name, and these lands preserve important vestiges of history from Romans, and Muslims and Christians, having been the stage for battles between the kingdoms of Castile and Granada.

Within the overall setting of the Guadalentín Valley, Alhama de Murcia has kept a similar location for its population from prehistory to present time. Archaeological sites are distributed by the municipality based on the natural resources of the physical environment: water springs, fertile lands, pastures, mid-elevation hills easy to defend, etc...

The Roman Baths are without doubt the most important archaeological site of the municipality, dating back two thousand years, allowing visitors to tour the typical Roman bathroom with 2 distinct sectors: thermal-medicinal baths, and recreational baths; for Islamic baths and for the remains of a 19th-century spa. It is now a museum site.

The arrival of the Muslims to the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century implied military control of core areas where there was a large population of Tardo-Roman tradition. The Castillo de Alhama (Alhama's Castle) becomes a fortified settlement associated with a stable population serving a strategic control function. After the Castilian conquest, the town was

circumscribed to the crown until it was incorporated into the Señorío de los Fajardo (Fajardo's family state) in 1387.

Outside the village, the rural settlement is spread throughout the municipality with small communities associated with a lookout tower, as in the cases of towers Inchola, La Pita, the Azaraque and, in other cases such as Ascoy, Torre del Lomo, or Torre de la Mezquita, which have no remains of habitat but have a defense control function and visual connection with the rest of most important fortifications. Other settlements are more residential in nature like the fortification of La Pita or Los Palacios.

A walk through the architecture of 18th century starts with the Iglesia de San Lázaro with its magnificent façade, continues through the Iglesia de la Concepción, and it ends with the buildings linked to the economic activity that are a true example of the so-called Arquitectura del Grano (Grain Architecture). La Casa de la Tercia, barn of Marqués de Villafranca and Velez, located on Calle Larga,

The artistic mark of the 19th and 20th centuries is reflected in the old town houses in Plaza Vieja, Calle Larga, Corredera, which, with their classical and colorful facades, submerge the visitor into an atmosphere of peace and tranquility at the foot of Cerro del Castillo.

Gardens splattered with last century public buildings such as La casa de los Saavedra (currently, Centro Cultural V Centenario) and the current City Hall, both dating from the early 20th century, or the Plaza de Abastos, built in 1928. In recent years, the Plaza de la Constitución, the Parque de la Cubana, and El Jardín de los Patos, along with their surroundings, frame the new social and economic centre of the city, to the detriment of the former Plaza Vieja which nevertheless still remains a mandatory meeting point for the visitor with its impressive noble mansions and the unforgettable Fuente del Caño.



Company Profile

Condado Invest

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new management team of Condado Invest. My name is Denise Devlin and I am the new owner of Condado Invest. I am delighted to have working alongside me Rachel Clayton our sales manager who has been with company for many years.

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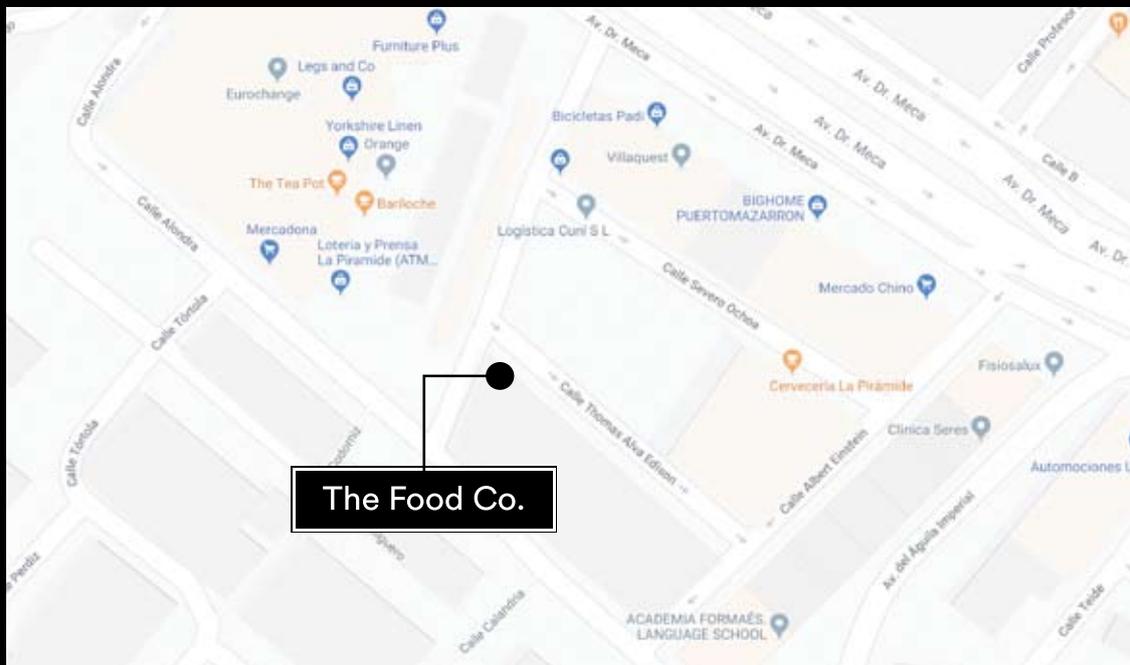
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10 Most Amazing Churches in Spain

10. Segovia Cathedral

The final Gothic-style cathedral built in Spain was Segovia Cathedral. Construction on the church began in the 16th century, according to the plans of the architect Juan Gil de Hontañón.

The cathedral is located right in the center of the Plaza Mayor in Segovia, making it an iconic part of the city's history and identity. There are three major vaults and entrances to the cathedral, but the highlight is the incredible altarpiece from the 18th century that is made with bronze and marble.



9. Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma

On the island of Mallorca, just off the coast of Spain, is the stunning Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma. Known to locals as La Seu, the cathedral was started in the 13th century but only finished in 1601.

The cathedral was built on the site of a Moorish mosque, and it stands as one of the tallest cathedrals in all of Spain, and indeed even in all of Europe. The design is a distinct combination of Catalan and Gothic, but in the early 20th century some cosmetic changes were made by Gaudi, refreshing the style



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8. Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor

The magnificent Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor, known in English as the Expiatory Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is found in Barcelona, right at the summit of Mount Tibidabo.

This is one of the newer cathedrals in Spain, and it was only consecrated in the 1950s after a lengthy construction process. The church is made from stone in a Romanesque design, although there are plenty of embellishments and neo-Gothic touches worth admiring as well.

7. Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar

In Spanish tradition, it is said that the Virgin Mary appeared to the Apostle James as he was praying at the Ebro River in Zaragoza. For that reason, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar has long been a historically significant structure, and one that is revered both throughout Spain and throughout the Christian religion.

The architectural style of the basilica is a blend of rococo, Baroque and neoclassical styles, and the interior is home to a staggering display of works by painter Francisco Goya.

6. Toledo Cathedral

Perhaps the most famous Gothic church in Spain is the Toledo Cathedral, a fairy tale building that represents the height of Spanish design and architecture. Built with white limestone, the cathedral is almost otherworldly, reflecting light and impressing even those without an interest in religion or architecture.

Natural light streams in through open vaults, adding to the effect. The Cathedral Treasury is a must-see part of the structure, thanks to its impressive collection of precious stones far larger than any you could ever see in a jewellery store.



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5. Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

The site of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is steeped in history. Legend tells of the Apostle James having his remains brought to the site by angels, and then in the eighth century this burial place was discovered by a hermit.

A small church was built to mark the site, and by the 11th century there was an enormous cathedral. The Romanesque architecture of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is remarkable, and marks the traditional end on the Way of St. James pilgrimage since the Middle Ages.



3. Seville Cathedral

Also known as the Cathedral of Saint Mary by the Sea, Seville Cathedral is a stunning Gothic structure that is currently also the largest Cathedral in the world.

Built in the 16th century, the cathedral is sprawling and occupies a prime position in the centre of the city of Seville. Along with the gorgeous spires and embellishments, Seville Cathedral is worth a visit because it is the final burial place of famed explorer Christopher Columbus.



4. Burgos Cathedral

Although the Burgos Cathedral was commissioned in the 13th century, it wasn't completed until the 16th century. That long construction and design process was worth the wait, however, because the final result is a magnificent Gothic cathedral. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary,

Burgos Cathedral boasts unusual octagonal spires, setting it apart from most other Gothic churches in Europe. From the exterior, you can admire the facade and its hundreds of sculptures of saints and Biblical figures.



2. Sagrada Familia

The Sagrada Familia is without a doubt the most famous church in Barcelona, thanks in part to its creator, Antoni Gaudi. Begun in 1882, this cathedral is still an ongoing project, although it is nearing the end of construction.

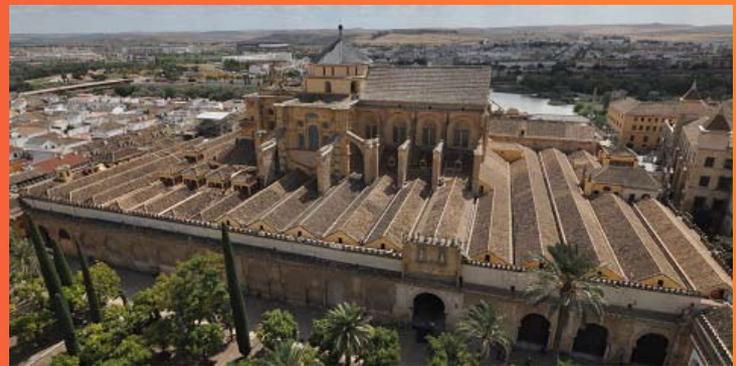
Different from many of the classic Spanish churches, the Sagrada Familia is built with elements of the Art Nouveau style. Today, the Sagrada Familia is one of the most popular tourism attractions in the city of Barcelona, and it is open to the public for tours as well as religious services.



1. Mezquita of Cordoba

The Mezquita, also known as the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, has one of the most fascinating history of all the churches in Spain. Parts of the structure date back to the seventh century, when it served as a Visigoth church.

Later, the Mezquita was a Muslim mosque, and only in the 13th century did it revert back to Catholicism. The building is a prime example of Moorish architecture, boasting countless arches and tall domes. A Renaissance nave was added in the 16th century, blending architectural styles and showcasing harmony between design ideas as well as religions.



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The History of "Pinarello", The Worlds No 1 Road Bike.

Giovanni Pinarello was born in Italy on 10th July 1922 during a difficult post-war period and was the eighth of twelve children. His love for two wheels led him to pursue a career in cycling. The young Giovanni immediately attracted attention and had won over 60 races by the time he was 20, he also won "La Popolarissima" in Treviso which was a very important race in the Dilettanti circuit (a level of racing that opens the doors to being a professional). From 1946 Giovanni makes his mark in the world of cycling and in 1951 he was last in the 34th Giro de Italia which was won by Rosa Fiorenzo, but in those years last place was not a disgrace, instead the last rider wore the Maglia Nera (black jersey). Giovanni still tells stories of the strategies that he carried out in order to take this ranking.

There have been known cases of cyclists purposely flattening their own tyres, hiding in barns or bars in the aim to lose time in order to arrive last in the stage. Arriving last also means a celebration, including a lap of honour with the winners in Vigorelli Velodrome. Giovanni did just that on the 10th June 1951 carrying this triumph to Milan. That jersey went on to tag Giovanni forever " the one with the Maglia Nera" and is still visible today in the Pinarello shop in Treviso. In 1952 Giovanni prepares to ride the Giro de Italia again but at the very last minute he is required to give his spot to the young Pasqualino Fornara who had just been fired from the Fausto Coppi's team Bianchi. Giovanni is disappointed but his team offer him €100000.00 to step aside, a considerable amount of money for those times. This money is used to bear the fruit of what shall be the crown of his dreams to open a small bike workshop in order to build his own bicycles and so Cicli Pinarello was born.

Giovanni worked hard, harder than he had ever before and he had so many good ideas. In 1961 Pinarello sponsors it's first ride and it's first victory at the "Tour de L'avenir" thanks to Guido de Rossa. The Pinarello brand begins to carve out it's own space ahead of the bigger names of it's time, small sponsorships, small goals, and slowly the plant grows. In 1975 Pinarello begins to enjoy wide spread popularity and its first Giro D'Italia victory, opening a decade of great satisfaction. In 1988 Pinarello begins to change, it is no longer a small workshop and things start to get serious, Fausto, Giovanni's son enters the business and they also have their first Tour De France victory with Pedro Delgado.

Giovanni slowly leaves his position to allow Fausto to continue his dream. In the early years Fausto lived in his father's shadow, learning all his secrets of the trade by watching and learning at the same time, developing his entrepreneurial skills ready to manage the business as a whole. The Pinarello brand enjoyed popularity in Italy but Pinarello is only one of many

Italian bike brands and thousands globally, so the challenge for Fausto has just begun. He has a strong and decisive character, one which can be seen in his business decisions, he begins to develop an alliance with teams who seem to be only of second grade but through time become extremely successful, producing champions that take the Pinarello brand to great heights. Fausto decides to invest in a middle range German team who are failing to find a sponsor, in less than a year this small team become unbeatable and dominate the cycling scene in the 1990's – Team Telecom.

Also in the 1990's Fassa Bortolo enters the world of cycling and Fausta takes the opportunity of joining forces, the result is many more victories in many disciplines with Fassa's Team dominating the scene for the next 5 years. Soon one of the largest technical innovations Fausta has ever introduced, Magnesium and with it the Dogma is born, a top end bike for Pinarello, whose name from then on becomes the reference point for all high end road bikes. This was followed by the Prince, a model which immediately claims the best bike in the world title, 2 years later the worlds first assymetrical bike the Dogma 60.1 is born and becomes the most acclaimed bike in the world, winning more titles than any other bike. The Pinarello Dogma has already claimed 5 Tour De France victories, a World championship crown, first and second place in the UCI team rankings and since its birth over 400 races in the Pro Tour circuit. Then in 2009 Fausto joins forces with a small newly born "Team Sky" who went on to dominate the world of cycling on their Pinarello Dogmas and now "Team Ineos" have continued this legacy.

Gary and Lynn at Cyclogical in Quesada are the main dealer for Pinarello bikes in the Costa Blanca and normally have a complete range of Pinarello road bikes in stock including the all new, all singing, all dancing Dogma F12 and the Dogma K10 which has an electronic suspension unit and was specially designed for Team Sky to compete in the classics.

Team "Cyclogical" meet every Tuesday and Thursday night at 5.30pm and Sunday mornings at 8am and cover between 90 and 120kms at a moderate to fast pace so if you fancy a challenge, looking to improve your fitness, riding ability and speed and also have a new group of friends to train with then why not come along and give it a try or call Gary on 637487377.

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Spain's Fiestas

Spain is known for its festivals (fiestas), many of which originated in religious events but have evolved to be more general celebrations.

Every city, town and village has its own festival, which includes feasting, colourful processions, fireworks and partying.

Semana Santa - Holy Week

Easter week is the most important Catholic tradition of the year in Spain. It begins on Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday) and ends on Lunes de Pascua (Easter Monday).

There are street processions, with colourful confetti and a carnival atmosphere every night on the Costa Blanca, where religious icons are paraded through the streets, in re-enactments of the passion of Christ.

While celebrations take place all over the coast, noteworthy processions are:

- In Crevillent on Tuesday before Good Friday
- The Holy Burial Procession in Orihuela on Easter Saturday
- The Palm Sunday procession in Elche, which dates back to 1371

In the province of Murcia, noteworthy processions are found in Cartagena, Jumilla, Murcia and Moratalla. Other festivals include:

- The Easter fiesta in Lorca, during which a procession of citizens playing Romans, Christians and Egyptians move through the streets on elaborate floats, horseback or in chariots
- In Murcia city, Salzillo's Holy Week sculptures are paraded through the town
- The Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus Resuscitated organises a single procession held in the morning of Easter Sunday to round off 10 days of procession and celebration in Cartagena

Moros y Cristianos - Moors and Christians

This festival commemorates the Reconquista, or the re-establishment of Christian rule in Spain.

Locals dress as either Moors or Christians for the occasion and re-enact battles. Costumes are spectacular and there are firework displays.

Towns celebrate Moros y Cristianos on different dates:

- The town of Alcoy and Baneres in Alicante celebrate at the end of April
- Altea celebrates in the last week of September.

Fiestas Patronales - Patron Saints' Days

Each town and village in Spain has a feast day to celebrate its patron saint, who is thought to protect the town. These festivities generally last one week and processions and dancing replace work - most shops and businesses close down during this period. Often giant paellas are cooked in the streets and a beauty contest runs parallel to the event.

Dates vary from place to place but local tourist offices can provide information.

All Saints' Day (Festividad de Todos los Santos)

Celebrated annually on 1 November, Todos los Santos is a national public holiday (banks and shops close) honouring the dead. Traditionally, Spanish families get together at the graves of their deceased relatives and lay down flowers. There are religious services in the churches and cemeteries over the course of the day. Specific foods are associated with this event: these may vary from region to region.



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The delightful town of old Cabo Roig has broad avenues lined with palms and landscaped gardens with views of the Mediterranean to the La Manga peninsula and the Mar Menor providing a picturesque setting alongside the lovely beaches.

Golf

Cabo Roig is an excellent location for golfers, being close to many fine championship courses, including the three Villamartin courses. The world famous La Manga golf complex is also within easy reach.

Beaches

There are many fine blue flag beaches close by. The beach next to Cabo Roig marina is very popular, with excellent views.

Cuisine

Cuisine from the Costa Blanca combines delicacies from both land and the Mediterranean Sea. Many civilizations have lived in this area (Celts, Iberians, Greeks, Romans, Muslims), all of which have all left their mark on the gastronomy.

The diet is a typically, healthy Mediterranean one; the Costa Blanca is rich in fish, vegetables, olive-oil, rice and fruit and the ingredients which are all used to prepare delicious, healthy dishes, such as Paella Valenciana, Arroz Negro (black rice), Arroz al horno (Oven baked rice), Arroz a banda (fish and rice stew), Arroz del Señoret (Princes rice).

If you have a sweet tooth then you will enjoy the local homemade pastries and deserts that the area is famous for. Or Jijona ice-cream (Nougat), which is made with the almonds of the region.

While on the Costa Blanca you can delight the palate with the wonderful regional wine selection. It's worth giving a special mention to the local wine 'Jalon', due to its quality and bouquet.

There are many international restaurants close by offering a wide choice of different cuisines from around the world.

Climate

The Cabo Roig enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate, with cool sea breezes in summer and protection by surrounding mountains against the cold North winds in winter. The area averages nearly 3,000 hours of sunshine each year and the average temperature easily exceeds 20 degrees.

In 1986 the World Health Organisation recommended the climate of the area as one of the most equitable in the world - neither too hot in the summer nor too cold in the winter. On average it can boast 325 sunny days each year making it an ideal all year round destination.



Spain festivals – Las Fallas Festival – Valencia

Whilst thousands of festivals are celebrated all over Spain throughout the year there are only a few that bring overseas visitors specifically for the event. The Fallas fiesta which takes place in Valencia from 13th to the 19th of March every year is undoubtedly one of those 'super-festivals' attracting many foreign visitors as well as Spanish tourists from all over the country. This was the first major festival I ever went to in Spain and to this day cannot get over the sheer craziness of it all.

San José (Saint Joseph), the patron saint of carpenters, is the official focus for the festival. It all started back in the Middle Ages when carpenters used to hang up planks of wood called 'parots' in the winter to support their candles when they were working. At the onset of spring these pieces of wood would be burned as a way of celebrating the end of dark, winter working days. After a while they began to put clothing on the 'parot' and then started to try to make it identifiable with a well-known local personality. These became the forerunners of the contemporary 'ninots', the enormous cardboard, wooden, polyurethane, Styrofoam, cork, plaster and papier-maché figures of today. The authorities later decided to link the burning of the 'parots' with Saint Joseph's Day to try to stop it getting out of control!

Nowadays, each neighbourhood has an organising committee, the 'casal faller', who raise the necessary finances for constructing the 'ninots'. There is even an area of the city called the 'Ciutat Fallera' where whole groups of workers and designers spend months creating all the incredible towering tableaux. The 'ninots', which are placed at key places throughout the city, are often cruel satirical lampoons of well-known Spanish and international celebrities or politicians.

A Day at the Fallas

If you decide to go to the Fallas festival prepare for an early start. Each day begins with a startling wake-up call known as 'La Desperta' at the ridiculous time (in Spain) of 8am. You'll just love being woken by brass bands marching down the streets accompanied by those preposterously loud firecrackers; which themselves activate car and shop alarms – just to make sure you're ready for a day's fun.

All day, you'll see processions and hear explosions and then at 2pm 'La Mascletà' begins when there are organised pyrotechnical explosions all over the city, especially in Valencia's main square, the Plaza Ayuntamiento. At first you'll think they're earth-shattering but they're just an appetizer for what will come later.

On each night there is a firework display in the old river bed and they escalate in degrees of spectacle culminating in La Nit de Foc (the Night of Fire) on 18th March. The following night la Cremà takes place when all the 'ninots' are burnt. Neighbourhoods will have their own 'falla infantil' for the children at about 10pm and then, at around midnight, the neighbourhood 'fallas' will begin. The final, grandest fire, in the Plaza Ayuntamiento, won't get under way until 1am at the earliest with huge crowds waiting in eager anticipation of the burning. The 'ninots' will all have been stuffed full with fireworks, the street lights switched off and the firemen will be in position when the 20 to 30 foot models, which took months of painstaking construction, will be razed to the ground. Each year, one 'ninot' is spared the ordeal (as a result of a public vote) whilst the rest suffer a spectacular fate.

A Festival of Noise and Fire

However loud you think this is going to be you'll be wrong. There is no way of beginning to describe the amount of noise generated. Pregnant women are forbidden from attending and each year people are injured or faint. It is true that you should keep your mouth open to allow the sound to escape and not echo around your head – or something like that – but be prepared to feel the ground shake beneath your feet and your head to spin uncontrollably. This is an adrenaline rush with few equals and a completely unique experience.

And please don't think you can rest up during the day to prepare yourself for the evening's bombardments. After you've been unceremoniously startled awake at 8 o'clock the whole of Valencia is one enormous street party, with various parades, pageants, beauty shows, paella competitions and bullfights all over the city.

Whilst photos of the event give you some idea what the effigies are like they cannot portray the atmosphere of the city during this crazy fiesta. You'd be forgiven for thinking you were watching a news report on TV from a war zone!





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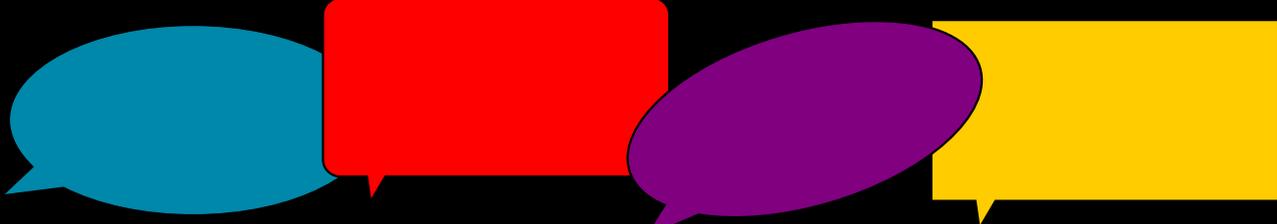
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A Life in
SPAIN 33

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Golf La Finca is a beautifully set out Golf course, Not only due to its design, also the beauty of its layout. It is a golf course with generous fairways and an incredible variety of greens.

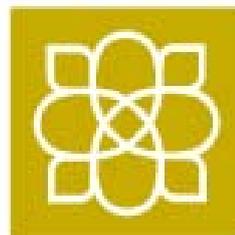
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The Clubhouse is situated directly behind the 18th Green with large very well set out Terrace Bar, so you can sit with a drink and something to eat and look down on other Golfers whilst they finish their round.

In July 2009 the 5 star Hotel and Spa was opened a long side the golf course so you can Stay and Play at this 5 star resort.

Hotel La Finca Golf & Spa Resort Alicante



LA
FINCA
RESORT

Year Built 2002

Designer/s Jose Gancedo

Manager D. Salvador Lucas Lozano

Golf Professional D. Víctor Andreu

Layout difficulty 4 (1 easy to 5 hard)

Approx. tee interval 10 min.

Buggy recommended Yes.

Buggy allowed in fairway yes.

Green Fee from 70€.



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 <p>Saturday 18th April 2020 Coach trip to the Murcia sardine Parade. €25 pp incl Coach and seat</p>	 <p>Saturday 2nd May 2020 Caravaca Running of the wine Horses €15 pp includes coach travel</p>	
 <p>Friday 26th June Madness in Concert, Murcia From €60 , Coach and Tickets</p>	 <p>Saturday 4th July Il Divo in concert €70pp Inc Coach, Dinner and ticket</p>	



DISCO UNDER THE STARS

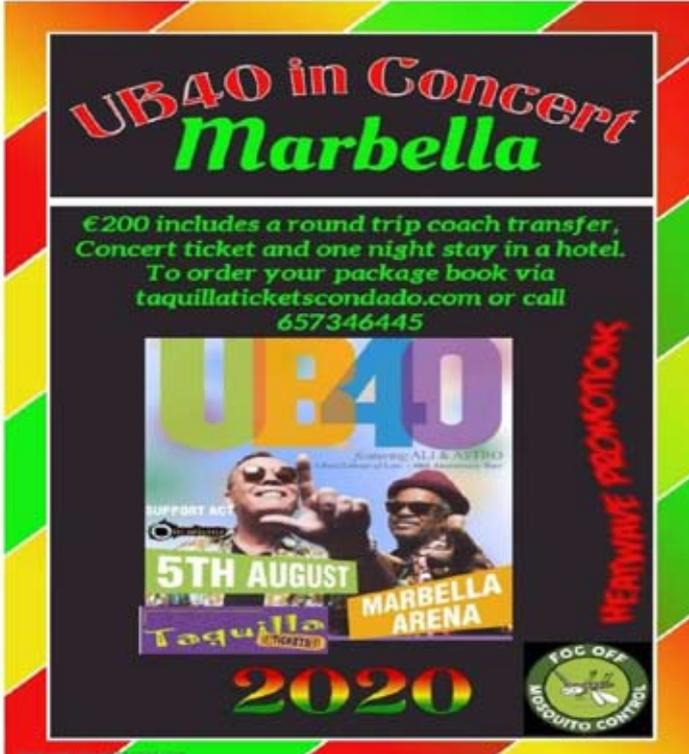
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La Zenia
Pilar de la Horadada

A Life in SPAIN 37

The Journey - Vintage Pilgrim

By Carol Hughes

Arrived

11th Feb

The Plumber has started in the bathroom today; he is in the process of taking all the green tiles off the walls can't wait to have a comfortable bathroom.

11th Feb Afternoon

The house is still not ours; it is still not registered in the seller's name, the lady who owed it died, her son is selling the house. I am getting a little worried. The solicitor has recommended we do not do any renovations, until the house purchase has gone through!! Too late for that! it is ok them saying that, the house was uninhabitable the way it was. A new boiler is in and tiles are half off in the bathroom, electrician is starting on Wednesday as the electrics are unsafe. My furniture is arriving Thursday, and Gray is booked to come and sort our bug problem. Bit stressed is an understatement I am now worrying what if sale falls through.

(Below is the time frame for house sale)

We instructed solicitor in the purchase of the property the beginning of November 2018

Signed a power of attorney on the 22/11/2018
26/11/18 purchase agreement was signed

Was informed by the estate agent when we viewed property that all paperwork was ready, and house would take no more than 4 weeks to complete !! good job I have a good solicitor and didn't use the sellers solicitor. I found my solicitor off the British embassy's recommended solicitors so that is giving me comfort. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spain-list-of-lawyers> .

10/12/18 was informed that the property is in the wrong name as the lady who owned it died and her son is selling the property. It can take 2-3 weeks for name change documents to go through.

17/12/18 informed house will not complete on the 31/12/18 as the house has more meters in the Cadastre than the land registry. So, they think the property is bigger and there are buildings that are not in the deeds, also change of owner is still pending.

13/01/19 still no news re completion.

13/02/19 Title deeds Still in process.

25/02/19 Title deeds are ready and should complete next week.

1/03/19 – House complete it is all mine! Phew!

I know it was a little drawn out, but I also know the sale was done right. I have every faith in Sun Lawyers and Maria Jose Diaz. They have been fabulous and even now are just at the end of an email and help in any way they can.

12th Feb

My hubby woke me in the middle of the night saying, well shouting very excitedly! "All reet Goose I caught a Salmon" then he started snoring again! Idiot! He is nuts. (my youngest son calls me Goose)

I need to get a PO BOX – we cannot get mail to the house. No one can find us, you have to WhatsApp your location to anyone that is trying to find us, and then half of the time have to meet them and get them to follow us to the house. We do not get mail, so I have gone to the local Correos in Fuente Alamo. Argh, no one speaks English google translate to the rescue again. Managed to inform them I needed a PO box. She has given me a form in Spanish to complete, I had to provide my NIE and passport. I finally have a mailbox, and a postal address Go Me! Wow, I get excited over the simplest things these days.

I have managed to arrange the internet via email! I'm on the ball today that's another thing off the list. The Internet is going on Wednesday tomorrow! I am a superstar. I'm freezing can't wait for my jumpers to arrive, well I didn't think I would need them in Spain!! Good Job Charlie had a blanket in the car, it's the only time I have known him wrapped up in his basket, normally his fur coat is enough.

All the tiles are off in the bathroom, and there is a hidden space behind the wall! The room goes back about another foot. Wull has left for the day I wish I knew where to get a Skeleton from. I want to hide one in there for him in the morning, with just the arm hanging out! We have no bathroom at all today, we have a toilet but it not flushable. So you have to use a bucket and we are having to strip wash feel so scruffy never liked camping.

13th Feb

Electrician arrived today he is chiselling out walls I have dust and muck everywhere I was not built for this life But still smiling, dumb (Charlie) and dumber as well!

Stay tuned part two coming soon



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