

THE MADRID METROPOLITAN

Madrid's only English language newspaper

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MADRID TREASURE HUNT

A 12 bottle case of finest Castilian wine is to be found at the end of our hunt that explores the many secrets of Madrid's sometime dark and mysterious past. Every month for 12 months we publish a clue or a challenge for those daring readers who wish to discover the hidden side of Madrid.

May Challenge:

Halfway through our 12 monthly treasure hunt. To take another step for your case of 12 Castilian wines name the church in this photo and whose Saint's street it stands. We will need a selfie to show you were there – worth it for that case of wine!, send it to: editor@madridmetropolitan.com



Brought to you by **Madrid Adventures** - team building events with a Castilian twist..



Welcome to this our 7th edition of the Madrid Metropolitan – Madrid's only English language print and online newspaper. The paper is free and can be picked up at any one of over 120 distribution points throughout the city.

The month of June brings the Castilian summer and the start of long nights, terrazas and swimming pools. We have Jemima's fab Gazpacho recipe to keep us cool as well as a host of other features and articles of what's happening in Madrid this month. The highlight of course being the World Gay Pride event which is being hosted by the city with a week-long festival of music, parades and parties.

We hope you enjoy!

Madrid Metropolitan Team

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SUMMERTIME IS HERE!

PLACES TO GO!

It's getting hot! Fortunately Madrid is a city for all seasons and the summer is one of the best times for those perennial Spanish activities of eating and drinking. There's certainly no shortage of places, although the variety of names does get confusing, so let AIL Madrid clear up your refreshment options once and for all. Anywhere called a **bar** is pretty simple. They sell food and drink and you'll usually get some free **tapas**. A **taberna** is a more traditional variant on a bar often with more rustic decoration, and an adjoining restaurant.

A **cervecería** specializes in beer and snacks. A **sidrería** is the equivalent but for cider. A **cafetería** sometimes sells beer but is mainly about coffee and sweets. A **pub** is more about drink than it is food, often has music, and is generally open late. A **club** is about activities not related to eating or drinking and best avoided. However, the number one summer option has to be the **terrazza**. Our favourites are on Calle Arguosa in Lavapiés.

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



Conoce a Olga de Almería, al sur. Olga es otra de nuestras profesoras amantes de la música. Estudió en el Real Conservatorio de Música antes de empezar con su otra pasión, enseñar español, el idioma musical. Olga toca el piano, la guitarra, la batería y muchísimos otros instrumentos. Sus clases son divertidas, interactivas y desde luego empezarás a hablar español e incluso a cantar.

Meet Olga, from Almería way down in the south. Olga is another one of our musical teachers. She studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music before turning to her other passion which is teaching Spanish, that most musical of languages! Olga plays piano, guitar, drums, and many other instruments. Her classes are fun, interactive, and she will soon get you speaking and indeed singing!

EL QUIZ DE LAS BEBIDAS

Ordering drinks is not as simple as you might think. Let's see how well you know your way around the world of alcoholic beverages in Madrid. Try matching the drink with the definition.

1. Bebida de alta graduación alcohólica mezclada con un refresco y hielo en un vaso de tubo. (Spirits mixed with a soft drink and ice in a tall glass)
2. Suele ser de ½ litro. (half a litre or more)
3. Botella de cerveza de 33cl. (a medium sized bottle of beer)
4. Botella de cerveza de 20cl. (a small 20cl bottle of beer)
5. Vaso de cerveza de 20cl. (a small draught beer)
6. Vaso de plástico con capacidad para un litro de cerveza o alcohol con refresco. (a huge plastic glass of beer or sometimes spirits designed to share, often at live music events)

- a. Cubata
- b. Botellín
- c. Tercio
- d. Jarra
- e. Caña
- f. Mini

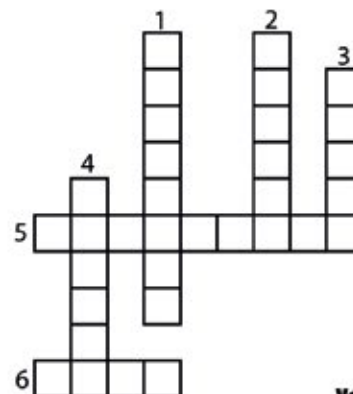


1 a 2 d 3 c 4 b 5 e 6 f

CRUCIGRAMA

BEBIDAS

¿Puedes completar todo?



Horizontal

5. Cóctel de vino tinto y cola
6. Beber una cerveza se dice también tomar una ...

Vertical

1. Mezcla de vino manzanilla o fino con gaseosa sabor limón
2. Vino macerado en hierbas que se bebe durante los aperitivos
3. ... de verano, combinado típico español realizado con vino tinto y gaseosa
4. Bebida con vino y frutos frescos

1:refresco 2:vermut 3:limón 4:manzanilla 5:calitoxico 6:caña

SPANISH COURSE OF THE MONTH: PREMIUM COURSE

The summer can be a great time to finally get to grips with Spanish and really give yourself the push you need. AIL Madrid runs a wide range of intensive Spanish programs but if you really want to maximize your progress then our Premium course is the perfect option.

It combines 20 group classes a week, with a maximum of just 8 students per group, with 5 one to one lessons which enables students who enjoy the dynamics

of group learning to also focus on areas of special interest, or work on specific weak points. The one to one sessions are always personalized at a schedule that suits you best. They provide maximum talking time, give us the opportunity to provide personal coaching, and let you progress at your own rhythm. The Premium is a truly intensive experience and a great way to take your Spanish to the next level.

Price: 320€/per week



Where to find us



Guns and Roses - Vicente Calderón



Veteran Rockers GUNS AND ROSES stop in town as part of their Not In This Lifetime Tour : Vicente Calderón Stadium. 4 June

Clazz Continental Latin Jazz



The highly acclaimed fusion of Latin music and Jazz returns for the 7th Latin Jazz Festival: 23rd and 24th June www.teatroscanal.com

Brunch in the park



Sundays won't be the same over the summer with the Brunch in the Park festival of electronic music, food trucks and lots of family fun! Enrique Tierno Galván Park from the 4th June till 16th July

Foreigner



Foreigner. 40 years later and they are still at it with their latest album *The Flame Still Burns* album and one night in Madrid at La Riviera on the 10th June.

The Beach Boys



The Beach Boys – one of the great bands of the modern era and kings of the wild surf stop in Madrid on the 22nd June as part of their *Greatest Hits World Tour*. Expect a great night of Surfing Rock AND Roll at the Nuevo Teatro Alcalá.

Alejandro Sanz



Alejandro Sanz – the concert *Más es Más* celebrates the 20th anniversary of the biggest selling Spanish album of all time at the Vicente Calderón Stadium on the 24th June

Aerosmith - Auditorio Miguel Ríos



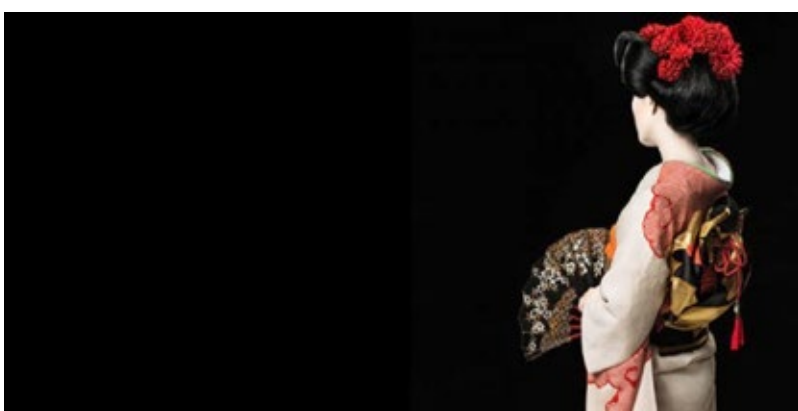
Another 20th anniversary landmark is AEROSMITH – this one being the last time they were here! Unless you don't want to wait another 20 head to the Auditorio Miguel Ríos in Rivas VaciaMadrid on the 29th June.

Joaquín Cortes - Teatro Rialto



The flamenco maestro Joaquín Cortés returns to Madrid to present Esencia – the story of his life and travels at the Teatro Rialto on Thursdays to Sundays from the 8th to 25th June.

Mario Gas



Mario Gas conducts the Teatro Real choir and orchestra for Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* in a performance of three perspectives of this masterpiece – the opera – its filming and subsequent screening. Teatro Real from 27th June till 21st July.

The World Mediation Summit

The World Mediation Summit is in Madrid – bringing together principals and lawyers as well as security and diplomatic professionals for an international conference to gain insights into conflict resolution and international mediation. 13th to 16th June. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



Gamergy



Gamergy - the E-sports & Gaming Festival . The biggest event of its kind for gamers. This year biggest screens – bigger space and a whole bigger show comes to Madrid IFEMA from 23rd to 25th June.

Casa Decor



Still time to catch the The 52nd Casa Décor to see the latest trends in interior design, and architecture at the www.casadecor.es on Calle Antonio Maura, 8 which runs until the 18th June.

The Changing of the Guard



The Changing of the Guard. On the first Wednesday of the month at midday at the *Palacio Oriente* brings some much needed life to the behemoth of a palace.

Madrid World Pride Festival 2017



PROUD MADRID! World Pride comes to town for a weeklong festival and celebration of gay life with open-air concerts, performing art, sporting competitions and conferences – oh and not to mention a gay village and of course the now iconic street parade and Mr Gay Pride!

The main event is the Pride Parade with over 3 million people expected for the event which will culminate in the mother of all parties through to well into the next day. Madrid is no stranger to the event which stretches back 20 years and which celebrated the Europride festival in 2007 (which is also being celebrated this year).

Below we list the main events!



PRIDE GAMES.

The 9th Games is from the 23rd to 25th June inclusive and includes football, beach volleyball and swimming amongst ten sporting disciplines. Registration and further details can be found at <http://www.worldpridemadrid2017.com/en/>

Swimming: Puente de Vallecas Municipal Sports Centre. Calle del Payaso Fofó 22.

Basketball: Barceló Municipal Sports Centre. Calle Barceló 6.

Football 7: La Elipa Municipal Sports Centre. Calle Alcalde Garrido Juaristi. –

Football 11: La Elipa Municipal Sports Centre. Calle Alcalde Garrido Juaristi 17.

Volleyball: Level C/C+ Male: Arganzuela Municipal Sports Centre. Calle Alicante 14.

Beach Volleyball: Voley Playa Recinto Ferial. Calle Castillo de Simancas 2.

Walking: Route 1, Madrid of the Austrias. 25 June at 12 Noon. Meeting Point: Pza. de la Villa.

Walking: Route 2, Madrid towards Contemporaneity. 25 June at 12 Noon. Meeting Point: Cibeles Palace

Padel: Caja Mágica. Cmo. de Perales 23.

Diving: M-86 Swimming Centre. Calle de José Martínez de Velasco, 3

Worldpride Experience Festival runs through from 22nd June till the 2nd July with a series of events organised by Marta, Cariño! Including music (from electronic to flamenco) at the Coliseum Theatre and performing arts at the Luchana Theatre with El gol de Álex. Meanwhile the restaurant La Paquita will be hosting gastronomic events highlighting the best of Madrid cuisine and products.

DIVERSITY RACE

The 25th June sees the first ever Diversity Race (celebrating sexual diversity through respect and tolerance) with a run by an expected 20,000 runners starting and finishing in the Plaza de Colón with races of 5 and 10 KM. through the city.

PARADE



The iconic parade will start at 18.00 on 1st July. With over 2 million people expected for the biggest parade ever with floats, music and carnival celebrations through the streets.

PRIDE VILLAGE

Is the place to go for information on organisations, LGTBI associations, companies and services as well as workshops and seminars. Situated by Madrid Río (Puente del Rey) with plenty of delicious options for food and drink and activities for all the family.

PRIDE SUMMIT

Organised by the Harvey Milk Foundation and Autonomous University of Madrid and sponsored by the Madrid City Council, the conference features international speakers and will be tackling LGT-BQI discrimination and inequality in education, health, work, culture and sport.

MR GAY PRIDE



The 10th The Mr. Gay Pride España winner will go on to represent Spain in the Mr Gay World and Mr Gay Europe competitions. We have already had the provincial eliminating rounds and Madrid will see the final run off for our guys judging their looks and body, elegance and poise as well as their commitment to LGTB values.





Angloinfo

Pick of the Flicks for June

As spring temperatures slowly creep up to the stifling 11 of a Madrid summer, the cinema's AC is more tempting than ever. Old European backgrounds loom large in this month's films - albeit with a mix of the historical and the supernatural. We're off to Warsaw, Turkey and London. We have mummies, superheroes and if Bale means film not football, June might be for you.

Released on the 2nd is *The Promise*. The film, starring the always excellent Oscar Isaac and Christian Bale, takes place in Turkey during the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Chris (Bale), an American journalist and Mikael (Isaac), a medical student, both fall for the same woman, Ana - played by Charlotte Le Bon. As the trio work through their feelings the world around them grows increasingly chaotic and their lives are in danger. The film deals with the persecution of Armenians - a sensitive subject that has struggled to find its way to the big screen. This production was independently funded and with careful attention to historical detail and powerful performances, the *Promise* should be a stirring emotional journey through a difficult period in early 20th century history. See it for something a little more serious.

The *Mummy* reboot lands on Madrid's screens on the 9th of June. The film promises some CGI peril and conjures up some ancient world badass baddies. The modern city under siege is London, and the man - forever running away from something - Tom Cruise (really, he does it in every movie), is on hand to survive, exorcise and evade an ancient evil which must be put back in its box. Spirits and curses are in order for this return to a popular series from the early 2000s. The original *Mummy* movies starring Rachel Weiss look tamer and less menacing than this new movie which will jump scare your popcorn all over the floor. The story starts with Cruise's character Nick Morton surviving a plane crash only to be told by Russel Crowe's dapper academic Dr Jeckyl, that the reason for his survival is a curse put upon him. Shapeshifting, revived, evil gods and dark scripture

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provide some of the hurdles Nick faces. Visually it looks stunning and may be an underestimated giant of the early summer. See it if you like adventure thrillers.

The next carriage in DC's shiny new movie train is *Wonder Woman*. Could third time be a charm for DC after the underwhelming *Batman Vs Superman* and the bonkers, but half-baked *Suicide Squad*? For many *Wonder Woman* was the stand-out character from *Batman Vs Superman* and Bruce Wayne's attempts to uncover her origins made for some of the film's more intriguing bits. Here, she gets her own movie which fleshes out that inevitable origin story - now a staple of the superhero series. The film takes us back to World War One Europe and *Wonder Woman*, known to those around her at the time as Diana Prince, is aided by Chris Pine's fighter pilot Steve Trevor as they dodge the bullets. Diana comes from a society of warrior princesses and Trevor washes up on her idyllic island and on learning of her incredible physical abilities he persuades her to fight for the allies. The action, in the real life setting of a war-torn European backdrop, looks good and harks back to the early 20th century wartime inspiration of many of America's most famous comic books

characters. As *Wonder Woman* Gal Gadot did a lot with her brief scenes in *Batman Vs Superman* and here looks likely to cement that potential with an interpretation of the character that will please the die hards and interest the newbies. Expect Easter eggs galore, loud, colourful production values and action. See it from June 16th.

Also located in Europe, on the 23rd we have the *Zookeeper's Wife*. Jessica Chastain and Daniel Brühl play protagonist and antagonist respectively - Chastain the eponymous wife and Brühl a nazi doctor in Warsaw during the occupation and the rounding up of the Jews in 1939. After narrowly surviving a nazi bombing raid, Antonina (Chastain) and her husband provide a sanctuary for the persecuted using the hidden corners of their zoo. Dr Heck (Brühl), sniffing around the zoo, is fixated on the surviving animals and the twisted experimentation he wants to perform. The humanitarian elements of the film are particularly apt today as it reminds us of refugees and a fragmented Europe - interesting during this period of geopolitical divergence and questions of national duty and national interest.

So, lots to watch. Have fun and I'll see you next month.
Andrew James Ball
@ AndJayBall

English language VO

Cinemas in Madrid

Kinépolis Madrid Diversia

At: Parque de Ocio Diversia, Alcobendas 28108

Cine Estudio Circulo de Bellas Artes

At: Alcala 42, 28014 Madrid

Cines Golem

At: Calle Martin de los Heros 14, 28008 Madrid

Cines Princesa

At: Calle Princesa 3, 28008 Madrid

Cines Manoteras 3D

At: Avenida de Manoteras 40, 28050 Madrid

Cines Verdi

At: Calle Bravo Murillo 28, 28015 Madrid

Filmoteca Cine Doré: Classic films in English, programme changes daily

At: Santa Isabel 3, Madrid

Renoir Cuatro Caminos

At: Raimundo Fernandez 10, Villaverde, 28003 Madrid

Renoir Plaza Espana

At: Calle Martin de Heros 10, 28008 Madrid

Renoir Retiro

At: Calle de Narvaez 42, 28009 Madrid

Yelmo Cines Ideal 3D

At: Calle del Doctor Cortezo 6, 28012 Madrid

Cines Zoco Majadahonda

At: Centro Comercial El Zoco - Avenida de Europa 51, 28220 Majadahonda

Kinépolis Madrid Ciudad de la Imagen

At: Calle de Edgar Neville s/n (Ciudad de la imagen), 28223 Pozuelo De Alarcon



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Angloinfo

Are you being served?

One of the silliest precepts of political correctness is the idea that if you change the language then you change the culture. This appeals to simple minded activists because it's a lot easier to police what people say than it is to control what they think or do. It's an instant and easy route to self righteousness. Just catch someone using the wrong word, adopt a patronizing air of moral superiority, and you're off. That isn't to say that the words we use are not important. Language, like ideas, evolves. But this doesn't happen simply because we want it to. Language tends to reflect reality, not the other way round.

A good example of this is the use of the word "customer." Once upon a time, before Tesco's laid waste to our urban landscape, and Starbucks convinced a whole generation that drinking piss-weak overpriced coffee was a cultural act, people travelling on British trains used to be called "passengers." Then with the triumph of half baked free market ideology, a succession of mad governments set about making the British rail network the worst and at the same time the most expensive in Europe. There was a certain inspired lunacy in the way that as the service got worse and worse, so ticket prices got higher and higher. It's a process which shows no sign of abating. It's already cheaper to fly from Madrid to Bristol than it is to take a train from Bristol to London. It's only a question of time before space tourism becomes a reality and a trip to the inner planets of the solar system costs less than a day return from London to Brighton.

As they set about decimating Britain's trains, the newly created private rail companies started referring to their passengers as "customers." Virtually overnight, in a Stalinesque semantic purge the word "passenger" disappeared from all official signage. One imagines gangs of zealous neo-liberal graphic designers working through the night to beckon in the new era. The word "passenger" implies that you are partaking of a service, and this in turn implies certain rights, or standards. The word "customer" means that you have taken a decision to purchase something, and that you are therefore a willing participant in the process of discovering what the market will bear. Rail companies quickly found out that in an overcrowded island, where horrors like the M25 strike terror into the hearts of commuters, the market will bear quite a lot. Like all companies, they set about treading that finest of lines which balances costs and incomes, or put another way, seeing what they think they can get away with. How much can they charge? What's the shoddiest service people will put up with? How can we deliver it the cheapest? These are the intellectual puzzles which engage Board Rooms across the world.

Interestingly football clubs have started playing the same word games. For over a hundred years people who followed football were called "fans." They supported their club through thick and thin and in return demanded reciprocity, based not on economics but on concepts like loyalty and identity. Fans' feelings mattered, or at least clubs had to pretend they did, because what would the clubs have been without the fans? Now that the game has purposefully shed its roots in working class communities and become part of the global entertainment industry, football clubs, like train companies, have started talking about their "customers." "And so here we are again, back with what the market will bear. And surprisingly again, the market will bear quite a lot, a 500 % real terms price increase since the Premier League began for example. Clubs need not feel any obligation to "customers." They just have to find that sweet spot which enables them to price tickets in a way that maximizes revenue. Don't want to pay 60 quid for a ticket? As long as someone will it's not a problem. And of course these days you get a plastic seat, proper toilets, and access to overpriced refreshments. In all areas football clubs, like train companies, have elevated the concept of taking the piss to Olympian levels. They haven't yet started charging people for the privilege of actually having a piss but give them time and I'm sure this innovative idea will soon be a feature of the modern football stadium, just as it already is at most major train stations. It's what happens when you become a customer. It is ultimately your choice whether to purchase that piss or not, just as it's up to you whether you take the train, or walk/swim/give up work.

Crucially, unlike with political correctness, the changing semantics went hand in hand with a whole new way of doing things. It reflected rather than caused the new reality which is that you are part of a market, and the market is omnipotent, and it will set the tone for all human relations. But surely

we have a choice? Well yes, we can choose between being shafted by any number of mobile phone corporations vying to entrap us in an existential loop through an infinite number of Call Centres around the world. We could of course choose to give up football, and phones and if the deranged President of Nestle gets his way we could surely also wean ourselves off our childish dependency on clean water. That's what choice is all about.

But unfortunately our transition from sentient being to customer has gone hand in hand with another 21st century phenomenon, the rise of marketing ie the systematic use of psychology to confuse, disorientate, and prevent us from making rational choices. Marketing has entered the social fabric to such an extent that some people have begun to market their entire existence. The concept of selling yourself is no longer restricted to the sex industry.

Once we have been seduced by the marketers' appeal to our innermost fears, or to healthier emotions such as greed and envy, and they have thus managed to "convert" us into a sale, then we are ready for the next stage in the process which is being subjected to customer service. This is the bit where they try to persuade you that your purchase was a wise one which you should repeat often. In contexts like rail networks where only demented free market ideology posits that you have any genuine choice, the customer service is generally piss poor because the only reason any sane person would get on a commuter train is because they have to. In other contexts however, it's an area where companies can genuinely compete, a verb much beloved by neo-liberal oligarchs.

The theory is that as this competition is based on quality and price so all sorts of niches get created into which consumers can stride purposefully as they enter a nirvana of ever increasing satisfaction. In reality however, we are primed into submission first by marketing, and second by clever design which distracts us from the cold dark truth that all companies are trying to charge as much as they can get away with while simultaneously delivering their product at the lowest possible cost, and that as a consequence most of them are stuck in a kind of metaphorical trench warfare, as we the customer advance nervously through no man's land.

Genuinely increasing quality tends to increase costs so companies instead focus on the consumer experience and this is where customer service really comes into its own. Taking their lead from American culture, companies have started to pretend that the ancient and complex bonds of human relations have not really been subsumed by seeing what they can get away with. And so we have this appalling tendency whereby because they have flogged us something they can get all matey with us. This must be a boon for the

genuinely lonely. For the mere price of a cup of coffee and a sandwich they not only gain a new friend who goes to the trouble of finding out their name, but they are also instantly ushered into an actual family on twitter, on facebook, on anything but the real world. Loyalty, an ancient concept centred round abstract notions of kinship and identity, becomes a byword for inane card schemes whereby if you shop in the same place for long enough, for every washing machine you buy you get a free pint of milk. And meanwhile those of us who are not suicidal and merely want to be left alone are subjected to all kinds of noxious well wishing. As society fragments beneath the contradictions of neo-liberal insanity and as genuine human relationships become fraught and unstable, so this endless corporate bonhomie has emerged to fill the emotional void.

When in Madrid a waiter tells you "to have a fantastic day" then you know that the apocalypse is at hand, as once proud grumpy bastards are reduced to the status of grinning automatons uttering mindless platitudes. Admittedly it's not universal yet, and it's reassuring that you can still have the experience of being ignored in a Madrid shop or bar by someone who has a crap job and real blood in their veins, but it is a dying pleasure. I have had the odd fantastic day, but not many. You would need lots of drugs to achieve the levels of happiness that are demanded of the modern consumer, and some of us need to work to pay for all the crap we have become addicted to, and which becomes outdated the minute we get it home. So Dear Reader, I will end this by wishing you instead a "bearable day." I hope you get through it somehow. Headphones help.



Business culture in Madrid: we pick out some of the best recommendations to help get that deal done.

“All generalisations are dangerous, even this one.”
– Alexandre Dumas Jr.

A google search on business culture in Spain reveals a surprising uniformity of opinion, and more than a few stereotypical depictions of local customs. But with society changing rapidly and an ever growing diversity among sectors, the way business is done in Spain is changing too, so not all the traditional generalisations may apply.

One recurring theme in all the guides is how the Spanish place a high value on personal relations and building trust. We subscribe fully to that, but bear in mind that in the professional world, a more hard-nosed criteria than the number of long lunches you have shared will also come into play. Nor should bonhomie and backslapping be misinterpreted as a promise to buy your product.

Business lunches are traditionally considered to be a good way of building relationships, but don't assume that a good lunch is always appropriate. Many people are too busy for long lunches. The key is to know who you're dealing with. Since face-to-face contact is normally important in Spain, a mid-morning coffee can work well as a more time-efficient way of avoiding a formal round-the-table meeting, or an even more informal beer or glass of wine after work. In the latter case you'll probably find your Spanish counterpart quick off the mark to pick up the bar bill. If so, make a genuine and determined attempt to pay yourself. They probably won't let you, but your good intentions will be appreciated.

The process of building trust takes time, so don't expect decisions to be made on the first meeting. If you do sit down for lunch before any deal is done, many guides even advise against talking about business at all, or at least not until well into the meal. I recall one lunch in one of Madrid's swankier restaurants in which the investors in a cash strapped and loss-making retail chain had barely waited for us all to be seated before asking directly if we were prepared to lend them money. The answer was no, and although that wouldn't have changed if they had waited to ask the question until the dessert, we might have all savoured the lunch enjoyed it a bit more.

Spain is often associated with a lack of punctuality, but be wary of that old cliché too. It's true that folks here are slightly less obsessive about turning up on time. Madrid is a big city with lots of traffic, so it's wise to build in some flexibility to your schedule for possible late shows, but do all you can to avoid being late yourself - especially if you're the one trying to do the selling.

Working hours can vary greatly. The standard working day is assumed to be from 9 to 7 (or later) with a two hour (or longer) lunch break, but this is by no means the norm. Factories tend to start and finish early, and

many businesses allow one hour for lunch, often in a staff canteen. The sandwich-at-your-desk tradition so embedded in London culture and so disliked by nutritionists has never really taken off here, so as a general rule don't expect meetings between 2 and 4 pm. Virtually no one has the luxury of a quick sleep after lunch, so avoid any mention of siestas which can come across as negative stereotyping.

Bear in mind that many companies close early on Friday's, so aiming for a meeting on Friday afternoon may not be a popular move. August should be avoided as much as possible, and it's worth checking for local bank holidays before arranging a trip. Think about what clothes to take - the Spanish are generally snappy dressers and give importance to appearance. Ties are far less common these days in many businesses, although most (male) bankers, lawyers and accountants maintain the tradition. Either way, in the words of one expert, both men and women are advised to “dress with elegance and use only top-quality materials in subdued colours”. Then there's the weather factor - in Madrid, summer can be hellishly hot so thick wool suits should be avoided.

Spain is a diverse place and Madrid a cosmopolitan city. Business culture is not uniform, and will vary depending on the type of company you are visiting. Our advice to avoid gaffes is simple: be aware that things may be different, find out as much as possible about who you're dealing with, and be flexible. Above all, relax, enjoy the city, and work on building up trust with your Spanish partners, because whether or not it's your first visit to this city, you'll almost certainly want to come back.

Roger Pike

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CM

Interview with Steve Jenkins of The Lovehearts

Who are the Lovehearts?

The Lovehearts are Rebecca Perrett, lead singer, percussion, glockenspiel and violin from the West Midlands; Caroline Bradbury, bass and vocals, from Manchester; Mark Scott, guitar and vocals, from Sunderland (although incredibly he supports Newcastle United FC); Chris Neill trumpet, bass, and percussion, from Bristol; and me, Steve Jenkins, guitar and occasional dodgy vocal and harmonica, from London. I've just bought a synthesiser too, so Depeche Mode should watch their step.

So, we're all English, but we've lived in Madrid forever, and we really feel like a Madrid band. We all love this city, and as you know anyone can be a madrileño.

What kind of music do you play?

That's a difficult question. We don't really know. I think we're a pop group but that could mean anything. Three of us used to be in a band called Los Cold Hearts which started out as a bluegrass/acoustic blues band but then evolved. But pop group is fine by me. Nothing better than pop music.

All of us like lots of different types of music. I'm a punksoulrockabillyreggae pop indie rock fan. Chris used to be lead singer in a thrash punk band called Disorder, (he's our most famous member), although I think he likes jazz and flamenco these days. Rebecca likes her pop music clean and wholesome, so of course she was a big fan of Take That when they used to writhe around on the floor naked covered in olive oil. Caroline



is a bit of an indie kid and surprisingly she likes all those Manchester bands. Mark was a big Oasis fan, and still is, although I've managed to get him to accept that Noel Gallagher can't write words. And we all love Bowie, except Chris who thinks he's an arty twat.

We only do original songs, partly because I can't be bothered to learn other people's. We all contribute to them, so we're a big mix of influences, which is how it should be. Eclectic is what we are.

What's Madrid like for live music?

Well obviously you've got the sta-

dium gigs which I despise, but if you really want to see Madonna or Bruce Springsteen from half a mile away and have lots of cash then fine. What I love about Madrid though is that you can see some great bands in much smaller venues than in the UK. There's loads going on and we are quite enthusiastic gig goers, although watching name bands is a sanitised and relatively expensive experience these days. But so is everything.

But there's plenty of interesting live music which is free or very cheap. Places like La Fidula in Calle Huertas have regular live music, mainly Spanish performers, including my

all time favourite Alicia Ramos, who is from the Canary Islands which is apparently a separate nation. She sings in Spanish and English. Everyone should go and see Alicia. She's funny, intelligent, passionate, and very entertaining. Then bars like Cafe Palma, Libertad 8, and our previous spiritual home, the Dog & Roll, now in new premises, all have live music on. Also you have a lot of open mics. Triskells usually have one on Thursday nights run by our mate Richard Harris. Lots of performers, lots of variety.

Going to see amateur/semi-professional bands in places like these makes for a great night out and it rarely costs more than 8 euros and is often free. Much better than just sitting in a pub, which you can also do before and after.

Why are all your songs in English?

We're quite a lyrical band, and English just comes easier. I've been speaking it all my life. I keep wanting to write a song in Spanish though. It will happen.

When can we see you?

The Lovehearts make their international debut at the 10 club, Avenida del Mediterráneo 10 on Saturday 24 June at 21:00. We will be followed by Richard Harris djing with the best music in town. The 10 Club is an ice cream parlour upstairs. You can't go wrong. Ice cream, beer, and live original music. It's gonna be a party.

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Feria del Libro de Madrid

When I moved to Madrid I wasn't so much moving to Madrid as getting away from Ireland. The feeling of liberating myself from my birth country was pounding at me since my late teens, probably earlier.

I arrived in the middle of July 2009, coming from a wet Irish summer to a 40-degree Ma-drid furnace and I immediately went looking for an apartment to rent in the centre. I knew that to feel part of a European capital you had to live within its city centre architecture, the outskirts, even though still part of the city's workings, are not the real city.

I rented a one-bedroom apartment on Calle de la Magdalena in Antón Martín. It would be another two months before I started work and I didn't know many people so I had to make an effort to fill my time. When your daily schedule isn't determined by work or social meet ups you can easily find yourself at a loose end wondering what to do, wasting away days, watching shit television for example.

I got myself into a routine which I still stick to if I have nothing to do. My day would start around 9am with a walk down Calle de Atocha to El Retiro, bringing with me a bottle of water and a book. I would enter the Puerta del Ángel Caído and find a reading spot on the grassy bank just inside. After a while I would take a walk around Retiro's rose garden, then I'd go over to the Palacio de Cristal where I'd read for a little bit longer. Around mid-day I'd leave the park from one of its western gates. I'd walk back to my apartment via Calle de las Huertas, stopping to read the inscriptions on the ground. One afternoon I followed the words from start to finish and was surprised to find myself looking at the final inscription in the Plazuela de Santiago, which leads directly on to the Palacio Real. I always made sure I was home before the airless summer heat peaked.

I'd go out again in the evening, sticking to the shaded side of the streets until the sun went down. On these evening walks I'd make my way up Calle de Atocha to Plaza Mayor where I would sit on one of the four lamp post bases and smoke a cigarette while attempting to figure out what historical stories the engravings on the bases depicted. Some of the balcony doors of the

Plaza would be wide open and I could see into the apartments where the residents were walking around.

Leaving Plaza Mayor I'd make my way to Sol and up one of the streets that leads to Gran Vía. The scale of the buildings on Gran Vía mesmerised me. Looking up towards their skyline I always spotted a statue I hadn't seen before or some intricate design in a façade or some odd-shaped building nestling between two giants of human construction.

When I got to Cibeles I'd stop again and look towards the Y-shaped intersection of Calle de Alcalá and Gran Vía. I was convinced that Fritz Lang had walked on Calle de Alcalá and admired the Metropolis building before designing the art work for his dystopian movie.

On my way back to Calle de la Magdalena I would always choose a different route. I might walk down Paseo del Prado, stopping to see whom the statues outside the Museo del Prado honoured then continue to the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía to walk under the overhanging roof that reminded me of an aeroplane wing and to peek in through the shutters of the museum's library. I could continue to Embajadores to have a look around the inside of the Tabacalera and then walk up through the crisscrossing streets of Lavapiés or if I was tired I would take the short route from the Reina Sofía and go up Calle de Santa Isabel while checking out what collection of cinema classics was showing in the Cine Doré. I might even turn right at the CaixaForum and enter the three-and-four-storey labyrinth of the Barrio de las Letras with its sloping streets that rise and fall without logic and its uneven buildings and black-iron balconies decorated in the owners' individual styles. There were thousands of buildings to be amazed by and end-less routes to get back home and I must have walked most of them. During the two years I lived there I didn't have much money to socialise, but I didn't care. I had a bookshelf full of great books and I had Madrid, a city I have never become tired of wandering around.

One Saturday morning in May 2010 I picked up my water bottle and book and headed for Retiro. On my way down



Calle de Atocha I decided I would go over to the Jardines de Cecilio Rodríguez and read on one of the benches. I walked into the park and passed the Fuente del Ángel Caído while instinctively acknowledging the devil inside of me and crossed the dirt tracks passing the Palacio de Cristal and then out onto Paseo Fernán Núñez where I stumbled upon a line of white book stalls on either side of the Paseo. For a book lover, this was a sight as magnificent as the buildings and streets I had lived and walked among for the past ten months. I started following the line of stalls to see how many there were. There were about 400 covering well over a kilometre all positioned neatly side by side and occupied by the worldly glare of a bookseller looking out from each. Once I reached the beginning I walked back looking at all the books on shelves and in big stacks on the counters and every bookshop name written over the stalls. I came across a stall selling beautifully made pop up books and could not go further without buying one each for my niece and nephew. These were the first books I bought at the Feria del Libro de Madrid.

The Feria del Libro de Madrid is in its 76th year. It opened on the 26th of May and runs until the 11th of June. There are 367 stalls and numerous places to sit down for a snack and drink along the route. It hosts daily activities and talks by prominent writers and media figures. To find out about the daily schedule check the Feria del Libro de Madrid's website.

Since my first visit I've been to the

Feria del Libro de Madrid every year and always love how it adds to the City, hidden enough to stumble upon but enormous in its construction, how it lines out perfectly like a giant bookshelf inside the lands of El Retiro, bringing the most fantastic library to the numerous readers sitting all over the park.

Feria del Libro, El parque del Buen Retiro. Metro: Retiro L2, Calle Ibiza L9. Until 11th of June. Monday - Friday: 11:00 - 14:00 and 18:00 - 21:30. Sat - Sun & hols: 11:00 - 15:00 and 17:00 - 21:30. Free entry. For details of talks and visiting authors check <http://www.ferialibromadrid.com/>

Brian Collins
(Director of Studies of English Literature Classes Madrid)



Madrileño gato

What's in a name and where does it come from?

Ask a Madrileño if he is a 'gato' and you are more than likely to be met with a nod and a smile. However we have to go back into the annals of history to find out where the name came from.

The occupation of Spain by the Moors occurred during the period 711 to 1492. The reconquest of Spain by the Christian Kings was spread over several centuries and it was one Alfonso VI, King of Leon and Castile, nicknamed the 'Brave' who, in 1085, finally captured the vitally important and multi-cultural Moorish capital of Toledo.

However before this he was faced with taking the Moorish town and garrison of Magerit, now called Madrid, lying some 70 km to the North. The garrison was not overly large but it was well defended with stout high walls and Alfonso could not afford to have it remaining in his rear.

AND so in 1083 Magerit was invested and put under siege. Without the weapons to reduce the walls the usual means was to offer terms of surrender failing which scaling and attacking or to starve the inhabitants out both of which would be costly and lengthy.

The evening before the morning attack a young boy was brought before the King, he had escaped from the garrison and had

an outlandish idea. He was a skinny little thing and said he could climb the walls and on reaching the top would lower a rope down for the other troops.

The King was amused but with nothing to lose told the boy to have a go. The King and his followers watched the boy creep up to the walls. It was very dark and the boy was nothing but a shadow but, searching for handholds, the 'shadow' crept and crawled up the face of the vertical wall.

'He climbs like a cat' said the King mesmerized at the slow but remorseless progress.

Reaching the top, unoccupied by the defenders, the boy lowered the rope and one at a time the King's soldiers joined the boy, surprising and taking the Moors in the rear. The gates were forced opened, the

battle was short and fierce but eventually won.

The King heaped praise on his 'cat' and the name stuck and future generations of Madrileños still wear the name with pride.

Barry Haslam-Walker FRICS



Recipe: Gazpacho



How to make the best gazpacho.

I always have a batch of home-made Gazpacho in the fridge during the summer. Full of raw vegetables and vitamins. It is refreshing and nutritious and a perfect dish to have prepared when the Madrid summer heat saps your energy to cook anything – let alone a full meal.

Gazpacho is a cold soup made from the ripe summer vegetables always cultivated in the vegetable patches of all Andalusian households. In Andalusia the tomato reigns in the summer, especially as when they ripen you almost always end up with a huge harvest. They are eaten raw in salads, even just on their own with salt, olive oil and chopped up garlic. They are used in sauces for fish and meatballs. As well as the tomatoes, the peppers will also play a part in a typical Spanish sauce as of course do the onion and the garlic.

One would think there was only one way to make gazpacho, but living in Spain I see many disagree on how much of each ingredient is needed. The main players are tomatoes, green peppers, cucumber, onion, garlic, olive oil and vinegar. The tomatoes need to be very ripe otherwise the soup will not have the flavour it needs and will be lacking the colour it should have. Traditionally there is and understanding that cucumber

is less digestible without the peel so say they say to leave some on. In Spain the cucumbers are of a variety that have very thick skin therefore they are nearly always peeled apart from in this recipe.

It does seem to vary depending on whether you add the tomatoes peeled and deseeded, whether you add bread either fresh breadcrumbs or day old bread soaked in a bowl of water. Some from Seville say to add cumin, and some add fresh herbs (I think this is a foreign idea and not traditional at all – it turns the dish into something totally different). There is also debate about whether you need a liquidiser or just a hand held blitzer. Originally it would have been made in the famous pestle and mortar that all Spanish kitchens have. They would have pounded the garlic, oil and bread then added the tomatoes and other vegetables. There are some versions which are chunkier, more like a salsa. Then there are the versions which are very thin which have been put through a mouli. These days the ubiquitous blender is used.

Often in the south you can find gazpacho served in a glass as a drink. Typically in restaurants in Madrid you'll have it served in a bowl with an accompaniment of very finely freshly chopped vegetables to add to your liking and sometimes even small croutons.

These days the hip and trendy thing to do with it is to substitute the tomatoes with fruit like watermelon or cherries. This is becoming very popular and is

found often on restaurant menus in the summer in Madrid.

I, personally I like the traditional version. I like to have it liquidised but not necessarily into a puree if I am going to eat it with a spoon, chunky and crunchy gives it texture. However if I am going to be drinking it out of a glass I like it thinner and more pureed. I like mine quite garlicky and the balance of onion, oil, vinegar and salt is most important. It needs lots of olive oil, don't be scared, it is needed to emulsify the vegetables and the bread. I prefer the lighter flavour of white wine vinegar too rather than



the red or sherry vinegar.

Here is the best recipe:

- 1 1/2 kilo of very ripe tomatoes
- 1/2 Spanish onion
- 1 small Spanish cucumber
- 1 small Italian pepper or half a large one
- Chunk of day old bread soaked in cold water

• Salt

• 1 small tumbler of olive oil – not too strong in flavour

• 2 spoonfuls of white wine vinegar

• Cold water and a few ice cubes

On a large dish put some finely freshly chopped tomato, pepper, cucumber, onion and if you like some freshly fried croutons too.

Put all the ingredients apart from the water and ice cubes into the jug of a liquidiser and blend until you are happy with the consistency. If you want in thinner and smoother add some of the water and blend again.

Pour it into what you are using to serve it. Either a jug for pouring or a large bowl to ladle it out of and put it in the fridge for at least 2 or 3 hours. As it cools it may thicken a little so you can add some ice cubes to loosen it and keep it cold.

If serving in a bowl with a spoon offer the dish of chopped vegetables on the side so as each person can add a little of whichever they fancy to add crunch and texture to their gazpacho. If you are going to have it in a glass just pour out of the jug.

After all that, I am going to now have a glass myself. Cheers!

Next month we'll look at the variations of gazpacho: Salmorejo and Ajobanco....

¡Hasta Entonces!

MC Escher comes to town

IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S INCEPTION, Arthur (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) shows Ariadne (Ellen Page) how to build within a dream. They walk up a staircase discussing 'paradoxical architecture' and 'closed loops'. Suddenly, Arthur puts a halting hand across Ariadne stopping her in her tracks. The steps hide an illusion that the swooping camera reveals - a paradox of a loop that perspective creates and can equally destroy. Arthur saves Ariadne from a dangerous drop. This is the unmistakable influence of MC Escher. His visual imprint is seen throughout Inception, as well as many other movies. When David Bowie is serenading Jennifer Connelly in his inimitably sinister way in Labyrinth, the architecture is Escherian - gravity doesn't behave and a feeling of bewilderment is created - as in a dream, as in an Escher drawing. Escher has even found his way into the living room of Family Guy and the Simpsons.

Until June 25 the chance to see works such as 'Ascending and Descending', 'Belvedere' and many other famous works

by the great man is here. At the Palacio de Gaviria on Calle del Arenal, 200 plus of the Dutch artist's most well-known works are on display. Tickets are €12. The exhibition is an afternoon well spent. I found it thought-provoking and fun.

Escher's style of using two tone relief art, tessellation, mathematical paradox and working from images in his ceaselessly percolating mind, make for some astonishing and surrealistic pieces. Hands that draw themselves, impossible architecture and birds that connect like jigsaw pieces are just some. In essence, Escher peels the onion layers of our sense perception and asks questions of form and function. In doing this he hints at the limits and strengths of our vision. Our senses are frail indeed and it was intriguing and daunting to be confronted with this. His work hints at the surreal, the dreamlike, even the paranormal.

The exhibition, which has just come from a hugely successful residence in Milan, shows how this son of an engineer embarked on a lifetime of curiosity which led

him to Spain, including Toledo and Madrid. Escher particularly loved Rome and explored much of Southern Europe observing shapes in nature and incorporating these ideas into his work. The work is arranged in a biographical order so as to show the development of his art.

The display is interactive too and I took a photo in one of the many 'selfie spots' that encourage you to think about the artist's use of perspective and reflection. You can snap yourself inside the reflective sphere that adorns the exhibition Escher poster. I loved it. Much like Andy Warhol, Escher's work appeals to the serious art lover and is in the popular consciousness too. It was fun and educational. Most likely you'll recognise a lot of the pieces. The artist's famous overlapping birds feature on the floor and on the beautiful red walls there are the art works. There's even a chance to buy an Escher inspired T shirt or dress in the gift shop. All of this is inside Palacio de Marques de Gaviria which is a lovely venue too. I highly recommend you check it out. The Escher Exhibition is at

Palacio de Marques de Gaviria on Calle del Arenal. 9 Metro: Sol (L 1, 2, 3) Exhibition runs until June 25 Tickets are 12 Euros Andrew

James Ball
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Property



Retiro: spacious 3 bedroom family apartment for sale



Única Inmobiliaria is delighted to offer this exquisite three bedroom apartment in one of Madrid's most sought after areas. Situated between the Parque del Retiro and the Jardín Botánico this light and spacious 6th floor property boasts a family sized living room with fireplace, 3 bedrooms (two of which have ensuite facilities) and designer kitchen amongst its 242 square metre of comfortable living space. For more information and viewing contact : javier@unicainmobiliaria.com Price : 1.650.000 €

Two bedroom apartment in Salamanca neighbourhood



A delightfully renovated two bedroom apartment in the Salamanca neighbourhood (close to Colegio del Pilar). The flat comes with a large living room, separate kitchen with balcony and two bedrooms including master bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Highest standard mod cons and comes with aircon installed. Excellent investment area and rental income. For more information and viewing contact: javier@unicainmobiliaria.com

Price : 585.000 €

Spacious village chalet

A large two-storey village house with spacious rooms, delightful views of surrounding countryside, two car garage and extensive garden area. The stone property would benefit from modernisation to some rooms as well as swimming pool installation.

The house is situated on the outskirts of the village of Carabaña which lies on the historic "Ruta de la Vega" which follows the River Tajo whose waters ensure stunning countryside, villages, vineyards and spas.

Just 45 minutes drive from Madrid it makes an ideal weekend retreat or commuter family house. tascadaliwarwick@gmail.com **Price 240,000 Euros**



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

British Cemetery of Madrid Another opportunity to join David Butler on one of his acclaimed guided visits to the British Cemetery in Carabanchel. He will be giving details of the history of the cemetery, and will also tell the stories of some of those who rest there. Visits are free of charge, although donations are most welcome. David at: butler_d_j@yahoo.es www.britishcemeterymadrid.com

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