

# THE MADRID METROPOLITAN

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Find us on:   

**W**elcome to March's edition of the Madrid Metropolitan – the city's only English language newspaper. This month we have increased distribution and increased circulation. For a full list go to our website <http://www.madridmetropolitan.com/distribution-points/> to see where you can pick up a free copy.

In this our 4th edition and befitting a city that is a major tourist destination we feature the City Me app – and Madrid is the first city of many that will change the way we tour. Take a look and give it a try. We also have our regular features of What's On and has been happening in town. Some tremendous reader offers and an enhanced community directory of businesses, social groups and services in English.

Thanks for supporting and we hope you enjoy reading.

Madrid Metropolitan Team

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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.

March Challenge:

Cats – the word means “gatos” in Spanish and the colloquial name for Madrileños whose parents were born in Madrid. Also the name of this quaint little establishment on C/ JESUS - visit this for a caña and see if you can identify the bullfighter on the wall. The waiters can be very helpful if you buy a second! Take a selfie together with the answer and email it to us at: [editor@madridmetropolitan.com](mailto:editor@madridmetropolitan.com)

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



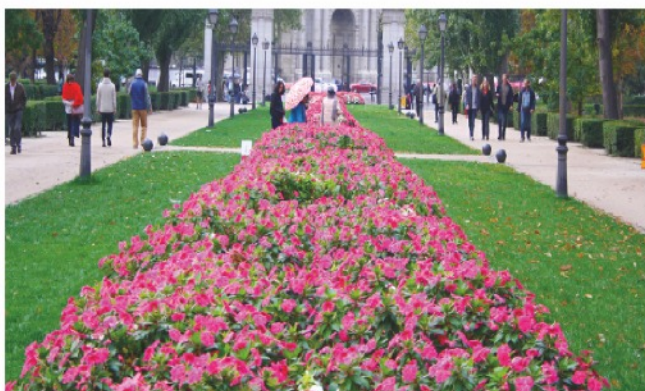
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## Spring is here!

A time of change when the Spanish reach almost British levels of obsession with the weather. So here are some key phrases to get you moaning about the weather like a real madrileño!

- ¡Está lloviendo a cántaros! (It's raining like a downfall from a traditional clay made water recipient!)
- ¡Hace fresquito! (Put "-ito" on the end of any Spanish adjective and it instantly becomes cute and positive. Fresquito...nice and cool!)
- ¡Hace un frío que pela! (Not so nice. It's so cold it'll skin you!)
- ¡Vaya día de frío/calor/lluvia! (Vaya! Is a great way to start any exclamatory sentence. Just add hot, cold, rain, and you're off!)
- ¡Estoy asado de calor! (I'm roasted!)
- ¡Qué airazo! (You can add "-azo" to a lot of nouns to make them bigger and bolder. Literally "What a big air!" ie It's rather windy!)



## FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



Meet Daniel, one of our biggest guns! Literally larger than life, a keen volleyball player, and as passionate about teaching Spanish as he is about everything he does. Daniel will keep you on your toes with his highly engaging live facebook feeds. Tune in and get a regular dose of Spanish from a top professional. Follow him here: @DanielAtocha

Conoce a Daniel, uno de nuestros genios! Es más grande que un armario, un crack jugando al volleyball, y le apasiona enseñar español. Daniel te mantendrá al tanto de todo con sus Facebook Live. No te los pierdas y consigue tu dosis de español diaria en: @DanielAtocha

## SPANISH COURSE OF THE MONTH: THE WEEKEND COURSE!

This is an ideal option for those of you with busy lives but are determined to improve your Spanish and really get into the heart of what this great city is all about. We offer 12 week programmes starting in January, April, or October but you can join in anytime you want, pending a level test. The weekend course is 3 hours per week either Friday evenings or Saturday mornings and it's a genuinely fun way to kick start your weekend! Soak up that weekend energy with our team of dynamic teachers and focus on developing your communicative skills as well as absorbing Spanish culture to make your life in Madrid even more fantastic!

### New course start dates!

Friday, 7th of April at 13:00 or 16:00

Saturday, 8th of April at 10:30

[metropolitan@ailmadrid.com](mailto:metropolitan@ailmadrid.com)

Contact AIL Madrid: 914 35 48 01

## Some Springtime Proverbs

Spanish is incredibly rich in proverbs. In fact some people speak exclusively in proverbs with no apparent need for original thought!

- La primavera, la sangre altera. (Spring changes the blood!)
- Mucha flor en primavera, buen otoño nos espera. (Plenty of flowers in Spring means a good Autumn awaits us!)
- Cuando marzo va a mediar, la primavera debe empezar. (When it's half way through March, Spring should start!)
- Por San Patricio, asoma la primavera desde un resquicio. (Around St Patrick's Day, Spring begins to peer out from the cracks!)
- La lluvia de la primavera, alegra la cartera. (Rain at Springtime, makes for a happy wallet!)... presumably for farmers and umbrella manufacturers!

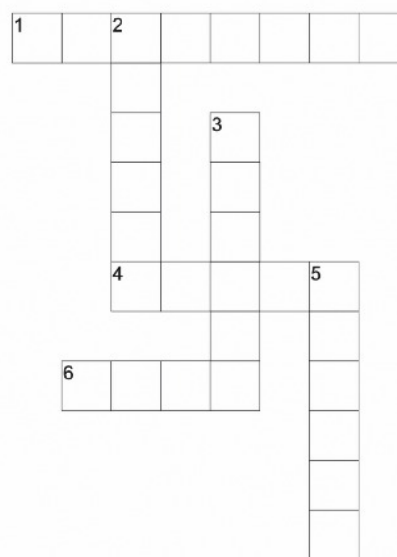
## Pasapalabra de la Primavera

1. Empieza por la **G**: lluvia en forma de pequeñas bolas de hielo
2. Empieza por la **A**: trastorno respiratorio producido por el polen en el aire
3. Empieza por la **B**: sensación térmica que provoca falta de aliento y pesadez corporal
4. Empieza por la **A**: se forma cuando sale el sol después de llover
5. Empieza por la **T**: fenómeno que mezcla lluvia y viento en un cielo oscuro

1. Granizo, 2. Alergia, 3. Bochorno, 4. Arcoíris, 5. Tormenta

## ¡Crucigrama!

¡Vamos a ver si eres capaz de resolverlo!



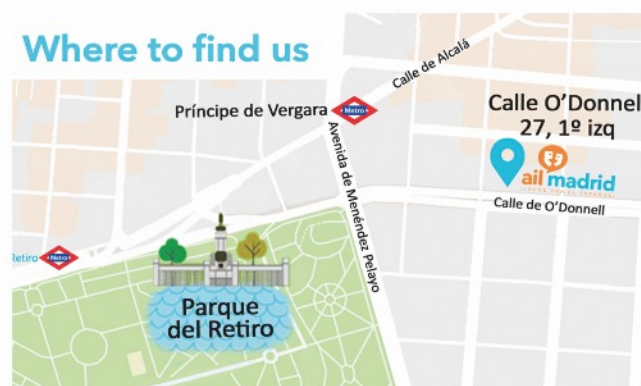
Horizontal

Vertical

1. Banda luminosa con forma de arco que presenta los colores
2. Volar un \_\_\_\_\_ es la actividad perfecta para un día de mucho viento
3. Pequeña acumulación de agua
4. Un mes de primavera
5. precipitación
6. El Día de la madre se celebra en este mes en la mayoría de los países

1. Arcoíris, 2. Cometa, 3. Charco, 4. Abril, 5. Lluvia, 6. Mayo

## Where to find us





# MARCH EVENTS

## MADRID VOTES



Madrid Mayor Manuela Carmena's push for greater citizen participation is beginning to bear fruit with the latest of four policy proposals being voted on in February 2017. The proposals included the "Madrid 100% Sustainable" environmental scheme, a single public transport ticketing system, making Gran Vía pedestrian (apart from buses and taxis) were among those being voted on with the winner being the re-vamping of the Plaza España. The Scheme called entitled Welcome Mother Nature Good Bye Mr. Ford won over half the votes and will see the plaza transformed

with over a thousand trees, walls of water and play and exercise areas.

Despite considerable exposure and publicity – thought to have cost over 1 million Euros the ballot drew in less than 10% of the registered vote – some 212,000 votes. Any citizen can make proposals (which are non binding on city hall) but if attracts a minimum of 1% of the Madrid electorate is then taken to further study and consultation.

Do you have any proposals to improve Madrid?

**YOU DECIDE:**

<https://decide.madrid.es/vota?locale=en>

## VALLEY OF THE FALLEN

What to do with El Valle de los Caídos? That monument outside Madrid, built by Franco to commemorate the Nationalist fallen of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939 and where he and the Fascist Falangist leader José Antonio Primo de Rivera are buried. The Supreme Court dismissed the latest attempts to remove them – this time by that scourge of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, former judge Baltasar Garzón. However it must surely be a



matter of time until the Caudillo gets his final marching orders and Spain can heal the last wounds of the war.

## PLAZA ARTURO BAREA

British Ambassador, Simon Manley attended the naming of this Plaza in Lavapiés in honour of Arturo Barea, the Madrileño who fled Spain at the end of the Spanish Civil War and found a new life in England where he became a distinguished journalist (included



spells at the BBC during the war) as well as author of The Forging of a Rebel considered by some to be amongst the finest works of 20th century Spanish literature.

## SARA BARAS

The great Flamenco artist returns to Madrid with her show Voices running till 30th April at the Teatro Nuevo Apolo.



## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Atlético take on the German side Bayer 04 Leverkusen as we move to the last 16 for the first leg match in the Vicente Calderón Stadium

on the 15th March. Should the Rojiblancos go through they could be amongst up to 3 other Spanish teams in the quarter finals.

## HOUDINI



The Laws of Wonder Exhibition is the story of magic through the eyes of the greatest of them all – Harry Houdini - who was born in Hungary before emigrating to the

United States where he became one of the great stars of the age and one of the greatest illusionists of all time. Espacio Telefónica Foundation Calle Fuencarral.

## BACON

Francis Bacon was one of the leading artists of post-war Europe. He was also a gifted draughtsman and this exhibition at the Circulo Bellas Artes highlights Bacon's drawings, pastels and collages.



## CARLOS III

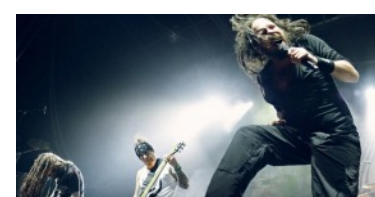
Don't miss the last chance to this magnificent exhibition of Madrid's "first mayor" and who played a crucial role in establishing the Spanish court and capital as a centre of art and beauty.

Palacio Real until the 31st of March.



## KORN

NU-METAL group Korn come to Madrid to promote their new album The Serenity of Suffering in March. The group who have sold over 60 million records since their debut in 1994 have two dates in the Spanish capital at the WiZink Center from the 17th March.



## HERE IS CITYME

The Madrid Metropolitan decided to give the future of City Break tourism a whirl by testing the exciting launch of the world's first guided tour app – that allows you to discover Madrid in a way even few locals can! Created by Argentinian Madrid resident Guido Schinocca, its free, comes in English and Spanish and Madrid is the first city in what is set to become a tourism app revolution.

Imagine Siri or the movie Her with your very own app friend – who conveniently knows every-

thing there is to know to discover a city on your first visit. Well meet Jose – your virtual personalized local tour guide who will accompany you on your journey of discovery in Madrid. It is just like having your own private tour guide walking alongside you. Wherever you are in the City (and it is conveniently divided by neighbourhood), Jose will be able to tell you interesting facts and anecdotes about what you are seeing and walking past. So next time you are wondering up and down Huertas – switch him on and let Jose tell you

all about who drank here, who lived there as well as a myriad of little known treasures that will amuse, inform and interest even the least curious amongst us.

Download the CityMe app and let Jose lead you round the streets of Madrid!!

Available now for iPhone and soon for Android systems.

By Jake Richardson



## FILM

### PICK OF THE FLICKS FOR MARCH

After the dark days of winter and the tuxedo-wearing, award-baiting films released between November and February, after so much serious stuff, March can seem like a fresh breeze. If February had the heavy drama and social commentary, March brings back the popcorn movies. This month we have superheroes, fairy tales, anime inspired action, a medical horror-thriller and King Kong.

Opening on the 3rd is 'Logan'. Hugh Jackman, the longest serving of cinema's superhero actors, is back for the ninth time with his spiky fists and cigar-brown voice. The film sees Logan, years after the break-up of the X-Men, living quietly in the desert on the US/Mexico border. His powers are dwindling and his main concern is taking care of his ageing friend and mentor, Professor X (Patrick Stewart). Logan is brought back into action when the emergence of a young girl with special powers, similar to his own, requires him to leap to her defence. This is said to be Jackman's last turn as Logan/Wolverine, and the early

buzz is that this cracker is one of the best in the series.

The following Friday, 10th March, sees 'Kong: Skull Island' on which to feast our eyes and ears. Featuring a great cast, including Tom Hiddleston, Brie Larson, John C. Reilly, John Goodman and Samuel L. Jackson, it's a tale of a trip to explore the uncharted island of the title, which offers some wonderfully inventive creatures and a Hawaii backdrop, which though often used, looks stunning. At the apex of their discovery is King Kong himself. Expect great special effects and lots of peril as Hiddleston's foolhardy band trespass on the wild and weird land.

Another well-known tale to get the big budget treatment and a great supporting cast is 'Beauty and the Beast', released on 17th March. Emma Watson takes the Beauty role in this classic fairy tale, supported by Luke Evans, Ewan McGregor, Emma Thompson and Sir Ian McKellen, with Dan Stevens as the Beast. The story's sense of wonder has been beautifully realised by Disney and the film looks gorgeous and has some great musical numbers too.



# Angloinfo

The mix of live action and CGI as well as the superb cast should make for quite a treat.

Coming on the 24th to Madrid's screens is 'A Cure for Wellness'. The plot follows the central character, Lockhart (Dane DeHaan), and his attempts to bring back his boss from an idyllic wellness retreat in the Swiss Alps. With a damp, gothic look and a 'Shutter Island'-ish feel to its tone, along with its body-medical horror conspiracy vibe, this is receiving high praise and is a welcome addition to original contemporary popcorn horror. Expect cringeworthy moments with syringes, operations, creepy patients, even creepier doctors and antique labs. The movie is rumoured to be a highly effective

thriller that will have you squirming in your seats.

Closing March is Scarlett Johansson in the long-awaited Hollywood remake of the Japanese anime classic 'Ghost in the Shell'. In 2029, in an unnamed East Asian megalopolis, Johansson's cyborg detective is on the trail of powerful criminals. The film looks terrific and has rendered the future cityscape with brilliant sheen and grime. With themes of identity, AI, security and dystopia, this should be an intriguing stew. With questions of secrecy currently in the public consciousness, the film's 'mind-hacking' seems both like sci-fi hooey and portentous possibility. See it in Madrid's cinemas from the 31st.

By Andrew James Ball



### English-language Movies in Madrid:

Cines Princesa - Princesa 3, 28008 Madrid.

Cinesa Manoteras - Avenida de Manoteras 40, 28050 Madrid.

Renoir Plaza de España - Martín de los Heros 12, 28008 Madrid

Verdi - 28, Bravo Murillo, 28020 Madrid.

Yelmo Cines Ideal - C/ Doctor Cortezo 6, Plaza de Jacinto Benavente, 28012 Madrid.

Yelmo Cine Plaza Norte 2 - C.C. Plaza Norte 2, Ctra. de Burgos salida 19, 28703



## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

I'm not much of a foodie. I like eating although you would never guess that from my svelte waistline. But I don't really understand why everyone has to bang on about it all the time. Just get it down you has always been my approach. This may have something to do with my formative years. I am essentially a victim of 1970s British school dinners. As a 6 year old we were served monkey's blood with semolina, or at least that's what the 8 year olds told us. Semolina was a sickly white tasteless gunk that existed nowhere in the universe outside the 1970s British education system. In hindsight I doubt that East Kent schools were genuinely sourcing actual monkey's blood but it looked real, and all kinds of weird things are coming out about the 1970s so maybe they were. They also used to serve us gristly slices of salty beef called silverside. This is because it was actually silver. Even my 6 year old brain grasped that meat is not meant to be silver, and I can only assume we were eating beef that had somehow been contaminated by large doses of mercury. Of school cabbage I can say nothing. I would need extensive hypnotic regression therapy to come to terms with it. The one bright light was school

milk, a playground treat given free to all children across the land until the then Education Secretary, Margaret (The Milk Snatcher) Thatcher, abolished it, just as she was later to go on to abolish all semblance of civilized society.

The whole foodie thing has given rise to a wide range of unpleasant social phenomenon. One of these is the man of a certain age who fancies himself in the kitchen. A whole army of smug middle aged men have taken to the kitchen as a kind of substitute playing field where they can show off their culinary prowess, and at the same time peddle the myth that this somehow renders them sensitive, and therefore more attractive to women. And then we have the celebrity chefs and the brainless spin off shows and ludicrous competitions that now make up 150 % of all television viewing. The male ones are mainly macho twats. Jamie Oliver, always "going in with the lemons" as if he were preparing to seize the beachheads on Normandy rather than making a cake. Gordon Ramsay is simply a bullying tosser whose one feeble trick is to shock American audiences by saying "fuck" a lot. The women are slightly less annoying, especially Nigella Lawson with her winning combination of kitchen tips and subliminal soft porn, but there really is no need for any of them. TV cooking shows however, are cheap, and we are gullible. That said must we really endure kids' cooking competitions? Does anyone, even their own parents, really want to watch these precocious brats publically setting out their credentials as the cocky annoying bastards of the future?

However, the ravages of "foodism" are felt way beyond the TV screen. It can be seen in the explosion of impenetrable cook books full of unobtainable

ingredients that defy translation into English, with recipes that have been made up by stoned publishing executives who probably live off pork pies. Cookery books now actually outnumber the entire canon of English literature since Beowulf. And then there's the devastating effect on our urban landscape. It is sadly all too easy to find cupcake specialists in Hoxton and Shoreditch but the sickness has now spread to Malasaña where half the bars in this once brilliant area have been transformed into fashionable eating establishments for fools, or pizza slice places for the plebs. In England the pubs of the nation have unforgivably made food the focal point of their business so you can't stand at the bar anymore without bumping into someone's order of Fish and Chips, ludicrously marketed as North Atlantic Cod with Lincolnshire chipped potatoes, and freshly minted hand chosen spring garden peas.

And then there is the dining experience itself which increasingly involves still being hungry after you've eaten. All those big plates with a tiny lump of something in the middle and a few squiggles of colour, and thank you sir, yes that will be 30 euros and please don't hesitate to call me if I can take the piss in any other way. Of course it is possible to go low cost, and Madrid offers many bars which describe themselves as such, and where the beer is somehow chemically altered to taste terrible,



presumably as an incentive to the poor to work harder, and earn the right to decent lager.

Madrid, being the great place it is, still does have a lot of proper Spanish food places where they don't have to faff about, or reconstruct, or need entire paragraphs to describe each item on the menu. Sadly, however, they are slowly retreating, or worse, rebranding themselves as "traditional" i.e. the same as they've always been, but now we can charge you double for the dubious pleasure of authenticity, because we too have learned to take the piss. I see no stopping the tide. The world has gone global and fusion food, like fusion jazz, is just one of the many dire consequences. All I can do is encourage you to frequent as many Madrid bars as you can where they serve 3 or 4 basic things, where the waiters are aggressive and rude, and where people drop food on the floor, and shout at each other a lot. You'll feel better, and you won't go hungry. Just don't write a book about it.



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# TRAVELLING AND THE WRITER: EUROPE 1914-1939

I am a traveller and I don't mean a two-week-a-year holidaymaker. On average, I have moved to a new city or country or continent once a year for the past ten years. While travelling I read. I read on buses, planes, trains, only stopping to look out the window or to sleep. I mostly travel by myself and during the first days of a move abroad I find a park or a street bench or a bar and read as the new place settles into me and I to it. These are undoubtedly my two happiest reading habits.

"I am standing on the platform of the electrical tram, feeling wholly uncertain of my position in the world, in the city, in my family. I would be unable to offer even the most approximate statement of my justified expectations with regard to each or any of the above. I am not even able to justify my standing there on the platform, holding on to a strap, being carried by this conveyance, that people step aside from the conveyance, or walk quietly along, or stop and look at the shop windows. True, no one is expecting such a statement of me, but that's neither here nor there."

**Franz Kafka, The Passanger**

Travelling on your own provokes thoughts, leads to introspection, evaluation of the self. You say goodbye to your home, but you may feel that nowhere is your home, yet every-where becomes your home. While on the road your body and mind go

through a type of catharsis, a rinsing of recent tensions to prepare for everything forthcoming, everything new. When you get to your destination, say the centre square of a metropolis like Madrid for example, having paced through the passageway corridors of airports and stations, and you're not weighed down by bags anymore as you've dropped them off wherever you're staying, there comes a realisation: for the first time you have accepted the move. You find a place to eat and have a drink, sit back, relax and watch the city. This is the traveller's release.

"On the Alexanderplatz they are tearing up the road-bed for the subway. People walk on planks. The street-cars pass over the square up Alexanderstrasse through Münzstrasse to the Rosenthaler tor. To the right and left are streets. House follows house along the streets. They are full of men and women from cellar to garret. On the ground floor are shops. Liquor shops, restaurants, fruit and vegetable stores, groceries and delicatessen, moving business, painting and decorating, manufacture of ladies' wear, flour and mill materials, automobile garage..."

**Alfred Döblin, Berlin Alexanderplatz**

The writer is a traveller, but the lone traveller, even if not a writer, always becomes one. I met many people who hadn't written introspectively since they

were instructed to in school, however, once they had taken to the road they started keeping a journal. There might not have been any literary ambitions for their journals, but they still felt compelled to note down their thoughts and observations. These travellers always asked for book recommendations and while I told them about authors like Jack Kerouac or Henry Miller, I knew they wouldn't read them. Lone travellers need a way to communicate their thoughts as they can pass days without having a conversation that goes beyond the transactional. They start writing.

"Beautiful in the frost and mist-covered hills above the Dnieper, the life of the City [Kiev] hummed and steamed like a many-layered honeycomb. All day long smoke spiralled [...]"

All night long the City shone, glittered and danced with light until morning, when the lights went out and the City cloaked itself once more in smoke and mist."

**Mikhail Bulgakov, The White Guard**

The three excerpts are part of *El viaje y el escritor: Europa 1914-1939, Travelling and the Writer: Europe 1914-1939*, an exhibition currently showing in Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Conde Duque. Curated by historian and essayist, Fernando Castillo, the exhibition displays a collection of excerpts describing landmark European cities and travelling be-



tween the years 1914 to 1939. The excerpts, hung on the exhibition's walls, are from writers such as Rafael Alberti, Maria Teresa Leon, Franz Kafka, Joseph Roth, James Joyce, Cesare Pavese, Tristán Tzara, Corpus Barga, Paul Valéry, Luis Cernuda and Ramón Gómez de la Serna. Hung next to the excerpts are distinctive paintings of the authors by the artist, Damián Flores. The canvases visualise the authors' words, framing the writers into the paragraphs they wrote.

**By Brian Collins**

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Conde Duque 9-11. Metro: Plaza de España L3, L 10.

16 Feb - 15 Oct. Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 - 14:00 & 17:30 - 21:00. Sunday & hols: 10:30 - 14:00.

Free entry.

## UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AT SPANISH PYRENEES

Baqueira-Beret is the largest and most visited winter resort in Spain, with 146 kilometres of marked pistes, 7 kilometres of marked off-piste. In total 2,166 hectares of ski area. It is located in the highest part of the Aran Valley (Naut Aran), and Pallars Sobirà (Valls d'Aneu). It has long and wide ski runs, some through trees. It is divided into three different zones, Baqueira, Beret and Bonaigua. Due to its westerly aspect and position on the northern side of the Pyrenees, and consequent Atlantic climate, the resort of Baqueira-Beret has a good snow record throughout the winter.

**Rafaelhotels by La Pleta** is a 5-stars hotel located in there, the Spanish Pyrenees and considered the "best hotel of Aran Valley" by TripAdvisor users. It is located opposite the Baqueira-Beret ski resort, the favorite destination for Spanish Royal Family as well as numerous entrepreneurs and international famous artists. They offer the most exclusive tailor-made services to enjoy the snow; all desires can be fulfilled at this amazing hotel: heliskiing, private ski lessons, dog sled raids, ice skating or snowshoeing... we recommend the free test driving of Maserati, the most popular activity of the hotel!



One of the main hotel facilities is the surprising spa, named Occitania Spa, the amazing spa where enjoy the finest health and beauty treatments, all of them made with native natural products. It features massages like hot stones, four hands with hot chocolate or special children massages. Spa facilities are completed with beauty salon, gym and an amazing indoor pool.



When the day is finished, the best option is rest in a comfortable room with exciting overlooking over the mountains and Aran Valley. All rooms have a luxurious equipment and 24-hour room service, many of them with capacity for 3 or 4 people. The hotel also features familiar rooms with capacity up to 2 adults and 2 children (free kids stay up to 12)... do not forget that babysitter can be available and the hotel features a kids playground with instructor!

Enjoy this hotel from the 17th until the 20th march in the exclusive Occitania room from only 395€/person (including breakfast)

If you want to make a reservation, don't hesitate to contact **Grupo Viajabien**. We are a consolidated and highly diversified tourist group, with different lines of business and presence abroad. Our company is formed by a large team of experts on tourism with a long trajectory in business management and customer service, prepared to create and manage your best travel experience. If you need more information about the hotel, visit [www.lapleta.com](http://www.lapleta.com)

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## EL IMPARCIAL REVIEW

I've started jokingly referring to Gran Vía as my Madrid version of the River Thames. Should you know London, you'll know that when it comes to being a dweller in the affectionately nicknamed 'smog', you very much fall in the North or the South camp thanks to the watery divide. To this end, I feel that the same can be said for Madrid. If you're on the Calle Fuencarral side of Gran Vía you tend to spend your free time hot-footing around the streets of Malasaña and Chueca, whereas if you veer down towards Sol, you can usually be found whiling away time between La Latina and Lavapiés. Either way, had I not crossed the 'symbolic' Gran Vía gulf, a role similarly provided in London by Oxford Street, I may never have found El Imparcial.

Inconspicuous and almost completely nondescript from the exterior, El Imparcial is quite a find upon entering. On the right hand side you're greeted by a pocket-sized bar where you can grab a coffee or a caña. However, make your way up the impressively sized staircases and you enter into an Aladdin's Cave of all round loveliness.

Part concept store, part restaurant, El Imparcial straddles a line where you literally want everything that you see. Cocktails, they've got them in spades, and I recommend the potent margaritas, as you can never really go wrong with tequila in my eyes. Food, well there are morsels so delicious that it wouldn't be hard to order pretty much the entire menu. We snapped up croquetas de rabo de toro, tacos de cochinita

pibil con guacamole y lima and las mejores patatas bravas, and that was just to get us going.

Still not feeling completely satiated, we then split highly delicious pizzas, with butifarra and scamorza and bacalao negro asado con miso y edamame. Both were lip-smackingly good. There was no room for dessert as unfortunately I'd left my elasticated trousers at home.

El Imparcial is one of those places that seems to draw you in and make you not want to leave, although maybe after the array of cocktails that we'd sampled, placing one foot in front of other could



have been tricky, and partly to blame for the desire not to budge.

Did I mention just how pretty the bar and the staff are? Book well ahead or find yourself lingering outside, nose pressed against the glass, wanting to get in.

5/5 star rating for food, atmosphere and service

Address: Calle Duque de Alba, 4, 28012 Madrid

Metro: Tirso de Molina

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IRISH PUB

**EVENTS AND PRIZES**

**AUCTIONS**

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Our own Matthew L will dye his hair green and get a mohawk.

A 3 course meal cooked by chef Liam B free of charge.

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Hamper from Baby Deli

Steaks from Dawn Foods

A 100€ voucher from James Joyce Irish Pub

Cases of beer from Guinness

Cases of Beer from La Virgin Cerveza Artisana

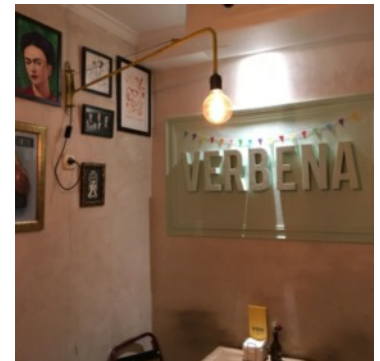
Sausages from The Proper Sausage

Bottles of Teelings Whiskey

## VERBENA BAR REVIEW

Madrid (and more specifically) Malasaña is choc-a-bloc with cute looking bars, so much so that it's often nigh on impossible, to pick from the myriad of options. However, should you find yourself Saturday strolling around the vintage shops that pepper Calle, Velarde, Verbena is the perfect choice. Not a case of style over substance, Verbena is the perfect mid-shopping pit stop, as well as the ideal place for tapas time.

Like similar bars in the area, its decor is pleasing to the eye, as is its proximity to the perennially popular Plaza Dos De Mayo. It offers more than your simple caña/vino combo; I was particularly impressed with its gin selection, which could rival a far swankier locale. I plumped for a Nordes (which hails from Galicia in the north of Spain) - it came expertly served in a Copa de Balon and was quite the snip at 8 euros - I've spent obscene amounts on a G&T so this felt relatively bargainous. My fellow bar hoppers enjoyed a crisp Albariño and an Estrella Damn - I was assured that they were both suitably pleasing to the palate and purse (an entire round came to less than a sarnie would in a city such as London or Paris).



The staff were friendly and knowledgeable (particularly when questioned about their own gin faves). Furthermore, Verbena boasts a simple menu that offers all the classics that you'd come to expect from Madrid - tortilla de patata, croquetas and the like. Verbena is the equivalent of a trusty pair of jeans - a comfy option that requires minimal effort. Smack bang in the city centre, it'd be a crime to walk on by.

3.5/5 star rating

Address: Calle Velarde, 24, 28004 Madrid.

Open: 10:00AM – 12:30AM

Phone: 914 26 64 91

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Cost 75 EUR per person



(Max group size 16) – For more information and to book mail:

[info@madridadventures.com](mailto:info@madridadventures.com)



## DESIGNER EXCHANGE

Madrid might seem an odd choice for a second hand designer shop and the very pijo-esque upmarket Salamanca district and even less so. However given its success it is an inspired one. We were invited to their Madrid Fashion Week launch where we witnessed first hand the success of the idea of valuing, selling and exchanging pre-

mium designer label handbags and accessories. With prices from 100 Euro to eye-watering Dior and Loewe items it does seem to have a market for everyone.

### Designer Exchange

Calle de Lagasca, 39, 28001 Madrid



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## DREAMING OF A BIGGER STAGE

Spanish actors and actresses have conquered the world in many huge Hollywood productions. The talents of Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, have brought movie theaters and TV screens to life. And there is more talent walking on the streets of Madrid, actors who want to show their talents in front of bigger audiences.

Take John McClafferty. Born and raised in Ireland, he is now trying his luck in Madrid to make it as an actor. He has recently performed a role in BBC's miniseries 'Las Reinas' (The Queens), an ex-

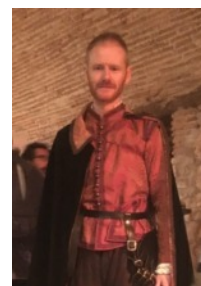
perience that will hopefully launch him to do more work. "Being part of 'Las Reinas' is fantastic. It's a dream come true to work with producer José Luis Moreno and work with great actors. It was a big step forward in my life as an actor."

A big step forward means that John has the need to show more of himself. When actors have the feeling for something, they want to express and continue showing that feeling. "I would really love to be able to film my first short film called 'Sniper'." John has been working on the script for a year. "I started writing last year

when we celebrated the centennial of the Irish Rebellion. I would like to make a short film on the human aspects of what it was like fighting in that war. I wanted to take one character and show what in my eyes what his life could have been. The script is ready, now I just need to film it." And filming it is what is holding John back right now. "Even a 10 minute short film takes time and effort to produce. Time, I have, I am putting all my efforts in it but I need help. That is why I have started a crowdfunding campaign." "It would really mean a lot to me to make this film. It is my

baby and I want to share it with as many people as possible. For those who choose to help me, I will send them a copy of the film when it's taped. I may even sign a few of them. I may not yet be the next Gabriel Byrne, at least we together can dream of a bigger stage."

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sniper-film>



## REAL TITLE BID FALTERS

An up and down February for Real Madrid saw them drop 5 points in their bid for a first La Liga title since 2013. However, they have assumed a commanding position in their Champions League tie with Napoli, leading 3-1 after the first leg and ideally placed to make the quarter-finals.

It was a mixed bag in the league during the past month for Real. Wins against basement dwellers Osasuna in addition to Espanyol and Villarreal barely papering over the cracks exposed in a 2-1 away defeat to Valencia and a 3-3 home draw against Las Palmas.

Both the Villarreal and Las Palmas games were controversial for penalties awarded to Real when they were trailing. Both penalties were converted by Cristiano Ronaldo and were given for handball. It could be argued that the decisions were harsh on both Las Palmas and Villarreal and that there was very little that either of the players involved could have done to avoid the ball connecting with their hands.

February also saw the return to the starting lineup and score

sheet of Welsh talisman Gareth Bale. The mercurial Welshman made an instant impact by scoring not long after coming on from the bench against Espanyol to give Real a 2-0 win. Bale added another goal against Villarreal in the 64th minute to spark Real's comeback from 2-0 down after 56 minutes to eventually win the game 3-2. However, a moment of red mist descended upon Bale during the home game against Las Palmas, seeing him red-carded for the first time in 8 years for two yellow cards, although Real were still able to draw the game.

Real also broke the Spanish record for most consecutive games with scoring a goal in official games. The record, which had previously been possessed by Barcelona, had stood since 1944 at 44 games. Real's goals against Las Palmas meant that they set a new record of 45 games finding the back of the net. Real have not drawn a blank in a game since 26th April 2016 when they drew 0-0 against Manchester City.

Atletico Madrid and Barcelona faced off at the Vicente Calderon stadium for what should be the

last time. Unfortunately for Atletico, the game did not go as they would have wished as they succumbed to a 2-1 defeat after a late Lionel Messi goal. It was the second win for Barca inside a month at the Calderon with the previous win coming as Barca knocked Atleti out of the Copa del Rey Semi-Final.

On a more positive note for Atletico fans, February saw 32 million Euro striker Kevin Gameiro finally finding his scoring boots. A superb hat-trick in 5 minutes from the Frenchman against Sporting Gijon sending Atleti to a 4-1 win.

Atletico also positioned themselves well to make another Champions League quarter-final with a 4-2 win away against Leverkusen putting them in a good position for the return leg at the Calderon on 15th March, before a mouth-watering clash against third placed Sevilla on 19th March. The draw for the Champions League quarter-finals will take place on Friday 17th March.

Moving on to the Rugby world there was an excellent 16-6 win

for Spain against Russia in the European Rugby Championship. The Spanish Lions lost their next fixture away in Romania 13-3 but currently sit third in the table after 2 games and have an excellent opportunity to at least secure a playoff spot for the chance to participate at the World Cup in Japan in 2019. Spain will face Belgium on Saturday 18th March in Madrid at the Estadio Universidad Complutense as they aim to build on their decent start to the Championship campaign.

As a final note, a massive congratulation should go to the Real Madrid basketball side for winning the Copa del Rey in a pulsating 97-95 encounter with Valencia Basket. Madrid have now won the last 4 Copa del Rey tournaments and it was their 27th in total, 4 more than rivals Barcelona. The focus will now switch back to the Liga Endesa, where Real are aiming for a hat-trick of consecutive titles.

By Tom Hankin

Photo: americasrugbynews.com

## CELTIC TRES CANTOS

Anaïs Solà Fernández and Guillermo Núñez Mercado are the founders of CELTIC TRES CANTOS, a club with diverse sports sections and many objectives and dreams to fulfill.

Currently CELTIC has the following three teams:

- Women's Futsal (Fútbol Sala)
- Women's Futsal (Fútbol Sala)
- Women's Gaelic Football

The 2016 - 2017 season is the third for this local team. The name of the club was decided when Guillermo, a great follower and fan of Glasgow Celtic FC, went to see a municipal league game where Anaïs was playing and where coincidentally her team wore the same colours as the Scottish team.

Saturday, March 4, 2017 was a historical date for this club with its debut in the Iberian Gaelic Football League tournament in Valencia and where no doubt they met that Madrid institution – the Madrid Harps!

[www.celtictrescantos.com](http://www.celtictrescantos.com)



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# EAT OUT WITH VALENTINA: WHERE TO GO TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN MADRID

## James Joyce Irish Pub

Calle de Alcalá, 59, 28014  
Metro: Retiro, Banco de España  
or Cercanías: Recoletas  
Sunday 12th March 1-6pm  
Pre-St Patrick's day Charity Auction  
Join local Irish and Spanish companies in a family day in aid of DEBRA Butterfly Children Lots of Fun activities to get involved in and prizes to be won!  
Friday 17th St Patrick's Day Party

**EAT  
out  
MADRID**

## The Irish Rover

Av. De Brasil 7, 28020  
Metro: Santiago Bernabeu  
Monday 13th Irish Pub Quiz  
9.15pm  
Thursday 16th The Colonials live from Dublin 11pm  
Friday 17th St Patricks day party with The Colonials live from Dublin on stage at 11pm  
Sunday 19th St Patrick's day for Kids 3pm

## Triskel

Calle de San Vicente Ferrer, 3,  
28004  
Metro: Tribunal

Friday 17th St Patrick's Day party with free giveaways along with promotions on Guinness

## The Frank Tavern

C / López de hoyos 478  
Friday 17th St Patrick's Day party with live music from 'Vicios Ocul-tos' on stage at 10pm  
Metro: Hortaleza, Mar de Cristal

## Dubliners

Calle de Espoz y Mina, 7, 28012  
Metro: Sol

## O'Neils

Calle del Príncipe, 12, 28012  
Metro: Sol, Sevilla

## Bo Finn

Calle de Velázquez, 97, 28006  
Metro: Nunez de Balboa, Rubén Dario, Avienda America

## Finnegans

Plaza de las Salesas, 9, 28004  
Metro: Cheuca, Colon or Cercanías Recoletas

## The Cavern Irish Pub

Calle de Santiago, 1, 28013  
Metro: Opera, Sol

## Maclaren's Irish Pub

Calle de Santiago de Compostela 40, 28034  
Metro: Herrera Oria

## O'Hara's Irish Pub

Via de las Dos Castillas, 23,  
28224

Cercanías: Pozuelo, Aravaca

## La Fontana de Oro

Calle de la Victoria, 1, 28012  
Metro: Sol

## Friends Tavern

Calle de Pradillo, 30, 28002

Metro: Concha Espina, Alfonso XIII

## Jarritus

Calle Alcala 233, 28028  
Metro: Ventas

By Valentina Ruffoni

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STAY AT THE SANDYMOUNT HOTEL DUBLIN  
IN AID OF D.E.B.R.A. IRELAND & SPAIN

## HABITAS CON JAMÓN / BABY BROAD BEANS AND CURED HAM - BY JEMIMA BUTLER

Spring has sprung! Or indeed it seems intent on doing so. The leaves on my roses on the balcony have started to unfurl and there is warmth in the air. We have left behind the bleak dark cold days of deep winter.

Spain is a great country to eat seasonally and so with that in mind comes lovely new vegetables that can be seen in its many markets.



Habas or broad beans are one such vegetable. They grow abundantly and are lovely, small, bright green and sweet. You can make a tasty humus with them when they are plump in the vine but now I would like to introduce

you to Habitas con Jamón. It is really traditional here in Spain and terribly tasty if the new fresh beans are used with fresh mint and delicious olive oil that I love so much. Often in the summer in the countryside where they are grown in every huerta the local bars will often just put a pill of them on the table for you to pod and nibble on while having your caña.

Instructions for 6 people

- 4 kilos of baby broad beans
- 6 tbs of very good spanish olive oil
- 100g Jamón Serrano finely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic finely chopped
- 1 tbs of fresh mint
- ½ glass of light sherry (manzanilla)

Salt to taste (you won't need much as the ham will be salty)

Pod the beans...I find this a rather enjoyable calming activity with a glass of wine while waiting

for other things to happen. Warm the oil in a large frying pan, you want it hot but no more, the beans need to stew in the oil rather than fry. When warm add the beans, sprinkle on the garlic, mint and salt and cook uncovered. Once in a while give the pan a good shake to mix in the golden liquid. Better to shake than stir to avoid bruising the beans.

After about 15 minutes sprinkle over the finely chopped ham and give another shake. Leave for the flavours to mingle. For the beans to be ready, the total cooking time should be between 30 - 45 minutes. Serve in a large dish with some crusty country bread.

Butlers Catering is currently running a series of cooking classes every Thursday in March at Barceló Market, Plaza Barceló in the centre of town. We will be doing a variety of classes including Pinchos/ Matching Foods and Wine/Paella and Sangria. Normal price is 85 euros but readers of the fantastic Madrid

Metropolitan will receive a 10% discount. Bring a friend and get 15% off!

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Facebook: @Face2FaceTheatre, Twitter and Instagram (@teatroeningles)  
Blog: <http://www.face2faceblog.com/>

‘Got Talent’ step aside! Face 2 Face is back in town and ready to bust a groove. There will be music, masked figures and mayhem galore in the fast paced, family show for all ages!

Boogie on down with this brand new show, inspired by the classic novel by Gaston Leroux’s ‘Phantom of the Opera!’

Face 2 Face work their comedy magic on one of literature’s most famous stories of love and tragedy,

taking you to a whole new comic dimension set in 1970’s America...

A mysterious phantom that haunts the TV set of a 1970’s Talent Show is infatuated by the shy and pretty stage hand Christine. She is inexplicably drawn to this “Angel of Music” who helps her find the confidence to follow her dream of becoming a singer. She sings on the show with great success, much to the disgust of her main rival; the dramatic diva, Carlotta. The dashing TV Host Raul is

quick to give her a place in the final and a romance blossoms, until the jealous Phantom kidnaps the un-assuming Christine.

He will do anything to win Her heart; even if it means sabotaging

filming, torturing his rival or orchestrating any number of embarrassing situations that he can come up with to win his love’s affection!

**For Madrid Metropolitan readers only OFERTAPHANTOM reduces the price to 10€ per ticket. (El descuento se activa sobre el pvp, no sobre otros descuentos que pueda haber activos).**

## THIS MARCH ENGLISH THEATRE MADRID PRESENTS GRAVE BY SARAH KANE

Kane’s starkly beautiful play threads together four frayed voices into a powerful tapestry of words. English Theatre Madrid does justice to Kane’s dark lyricism, while also showing the shafts of bleak humour that break through and illuminate this dark play of the soul over fragments of memory, shards of poetry and scattered relics of relationships.

Friday 24th March at 20.00 and 21.30

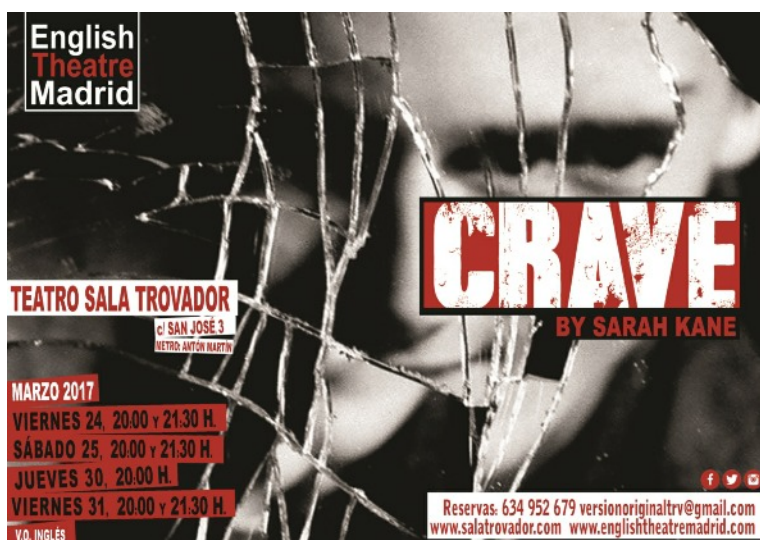
Saturday 25th March at 20.00 and 21.30

Thursday 30th March at 20.00

Friday 31st March at 20.00 and 21.30

At the Teatro/Sala Trovador C/ San José N°3, 28014 Madrid, Spain

Tickets are available from [www.englishtheatremadrid.com](http://www.englishtheatremadrid.com)





## BUSINESS 2017: A WALK AROUND MADRID'S BIGGEST ENTREPRENEURS FAIRS

Spain's most international actor, Antonio Banderas, caused quite a stir on a chat-show last year when he unleashed a broadside at the lack of ambition of Spanish youth and the 'typical vice' of envying other people's success. He praised the capacity for sacrifice seen in the USA, and despaired at the results of a poll carried out by a university in Andalucía, in which three quarters of students aspired to be civil servants. "It's about working hard and having big dreams...you don't make a country great when 75% of people want to be civil servants, but when people take chances... like in the USA, where the young have aspirations and want to be in charge of their own lives."

That may be a little hard on the young of a country where successive Governments have done little or nothing to encourage any real spirit of enterprise. And should Banderas have paid a visit to Salon MiEmpresa, the Madrid business fair for entrepreneurs held in February, he may have been pleasantly surprised. Around 15,000 current or aspiring entrepreneurs filled the different auditoriums to soak up advice from more than 300 speakers, network among themselves or seek help from mentors.

None of the speakers offered an easy path to success and riches. Self-sacrifice is a given: one

speaker asked how many of the audience had set up a company, and how many of those had been at least a year without drawing a salary – about the same number of hands were raised each time.

The subjects were wide-ranging; self-improvement featured large, with talks on mindfulness, time management, motivation or attitude change. We learned to boost our sales through email marketing, storytelling, emotional advertising or using the social networks. We were advised how to seduce investors (not literally), negotiate with our bank, or raise money through crowdfunding; or how to understand industrial property, attract top tech talent, and start exporting.

For an overview of the local start-up scene, nothing better than the round table debates featuring well-known Investors, founders or observers. Here are some of the things Madrid Metropolitan learned.

Spain has good entrepreneurs and talent – but could do with more. Hiring great employees and keeping them is a challenge. While Spanish start-ups still look relatively cheap and attract foreign investors, Spain needs established companies to buy and integrate start-ups, allowing money invested to feed back into the system. For those companies, buying new ideas will usually be a cheaper way of keeping ahead of



the pack than developing them in-house.

Budding entrepreneurs shouldn't get fixated on the need for a big idea. It's a good start, but the most important thing is to get the right team in place. Whatever idea you do have, it should solve a problem for your potential customers. And remember that Innovation does not necessarily mean high tech - putting a new spin on a traditional business can be innovative too, and just as profitable.

One renowned entrepreneur and investor warned that separating from a business partner is much more painful than splitting with a spouse. Look for partners with similar values but different and complimentary skillsets, he advised, and get in place a robust partner agreement.

How much of this kind of advice had been received by Gik, one of the most unusual start-ups present, is unknown. Its young team, all in their twenties, came up with the idea of making a

bright blue wine. Having sought out the most traditional and close-minded industry they could find, they decided to shake it up - for the hell of it. None of them knew anything about wine-making. Spain has banned them from calling it wine (even though it clearly is), but they still sold more than 100,000 bottles of the stuff in their first year. "We are Gik and we will change the world", says their website. No lack of ambition there, then.

**By Roger Pike**

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**EuroCitizens** is a new association formed by a group of UK citizens living, working and studying in Spain. We are greatly concerned about our future here and that of Spanish citizens living in the UK.  
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Information: [jennyeffer@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyeffer@hotmail.com)

**Club de Conversation en Français**

Le Pion Magique (Palacio de Hielo) Tous les mardi et jeudi matins, à partir de 10h.  
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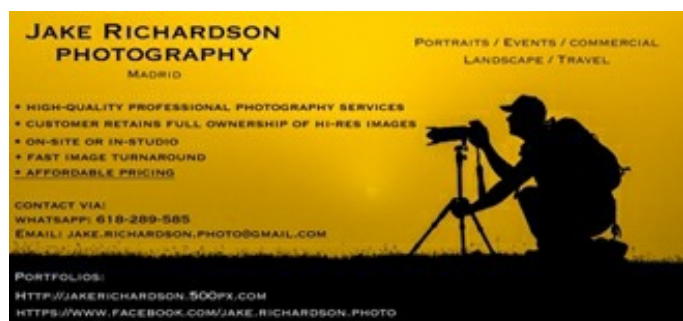
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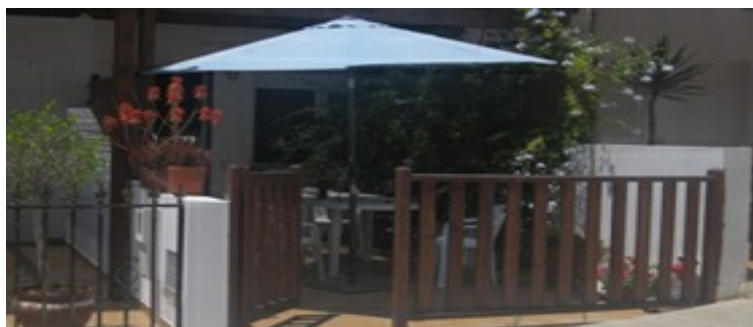
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**To buy** - A large two-storey village house with spacious rooms, delightful views of surrounding countryside, two car garage and extensive garden area. The stone property would benefit from modernisation to some rooms as well as swimming pool installation.

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](mailto:tascadaliwarwick@gmail.com) **Price 240,000 Euros**



### Help

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Las implicaciones del Brexit para la libertad de movimiento y el derecho de vivir, trabajar y estudiar de los británicos en España y los españoles en el Reino Unido

Miércoles 8 de marzo de 18.00 a 20.00

Sala Europa, Oficinas del Parlamento Europeo, Paseo de la Castellana, 46 en Madrid

<https://fastfor.ms/02031>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EuroCitizens-1119482284794200/>

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Blog: [Eurocitizens2020.blogspot.com.es](http://Eurocitizens2020.blogspot.com.es)

**MADRIDBABEL LANGUAGE EXCHANGE** EVERY WEDNESDAY 20:30 to 0:30 & EVERY SUNDAY 19:00 to 0:00 at La Excéntrica (Calle de Las Fuentes 10 - Metro Ópera). [www.madridbabel.weebly.com](http://www.madridbabel.weebly.com)

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**The Biz Lunch:** Thursday 30th March 2017  
Venue : Rooftop Terrace, Luxury Suites, Calle Alcalá 57, 28014  
Time : 2PM arrival for a 2.30PM start  
Cost : €25 all-inclusive for menu and drinks  
Dress Code : Business casual  
Contact: 639118185. [www.thebizlunch.com/madrid](http://www.thebizlunch.com/madrid)

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