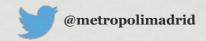
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#### 2 **Contents**

#### 3 A bit of Spanish

#### 4 - 5 What's On In Madrid

- 6 **Living - Around Madrid**
- 7 Living - What To Look Out For
- 8 **Business - Behavioural Economics**
- 9 Finance - Modelo 720 Reporting
- 10 **Culture - Hidden Madrid**
- 11 **Alternative Voice - Sky High**
- 12 Recipe - Seabream with Leeks & ...
- 13 15 Classified directory

### 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.

### **Spring Challenge:** To find this iconic Ma-

drid vista you need to be in another Madrid iconic building. Name it and send a selfie with the above in the

editor@madridmetropolitan.com



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Madrid Adventures -teambuilding events with a Castilian twist.







elcome to the 12th edition of the Madrid Metropolitan the city's only English language newspaper. Available online and distributed free throughout the city. To see our list or if you would like to know where to pick it up just check out the list on our website:

### http://www.madridmetropolitan.com/distribution-points

We also have an option where you can sign up for our free monthly newsletter to get the pdf delivered to your mailbox. In this edition we feature some of the great things happening in town in the Spring in our What's On section as well as our a great selection of articles and insights into life in the great city of Madrid.

Thanks for supporting and we hope you enjoy reading.

The Madrid Metropolitan team

PUBLISHED BY: IBERIAN METROPOLITAN PRESS

CIF:B87075305

Calle Isabel Colbrand 10

Planta 5 - Oficina 151, 28050 Madrid

Tomo: 27.630 Folio: 1 Sección: 8 Hoja: M497912

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La edición, redacción, impresión, publicación, distribución, venta y explotación publicitaria de periódicos y revistas con el CNAE 5814 EDICIÓN DE REVISTAS.

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Any thanks for all the mails. We have had a wide variety of questions about all sorts of aspects of Spanish. In this edition, and in the coming months we will be focusing on two different structures at slightly different levels. We begin with a quick look at the extremely important verb "deber" and then we move onto the thorny area of the subjunctive. We would love to hear from you so please drop us a line at metropolitan@ailmadrid.com. And of course feel free to call in and see

### Featured Staff Member

Este es Hugo, juna de las caras más amables que encontrarás en AIL para ayudarte!. Hugo es del norte de Francia, y como buen francés, es fan incondicional de la gastronomía francesa, especialmente de las "French fries" y los platos de marisco provenientes de la costa de su tierra natal, en el Pas-de-Calais.

Ahora se encuentra muy a gusto en Madrid donde se ha enamorado de sus restaurantes y sobre todo del fútbol español. Es difícil de explicar, pero Hugo es del Arsenal, aunque cada vez más se siente identificado con otro club rojiblanco, el Atleti, juna elección mucho más sabia!'

Meet Hugo, one of the friendliest faces at AIL Madrid! Hugo is from the north of France, and like any good Frenchman he is fan of his native cuisine beginning with the famous "french fries" and the many seafood dishes originating from his home region of Pas-de-Calais.

At present he is very happy in Madrid where he has fallen in love with the city's restaurants, and above all with Spanish football. Inexplicably Hugo is an Arsenal fan, but he is gradually identifying with another club that plays in red and white, Atletico Madrid, a much wiser choice!"



### Deber o deber de: Obligación e hipótesis

Dear AIL,

It's probably a minor confusion, but it's been bothering me for a while! When do I use "de" after the verb "deber"?

James.USA.

Jesús, profesor de AIL Madrid

Hola James, It's a good question, and actually that "de" makes all the difference! I hope the explanation below helps. It's in Spanish to make you work a bit!

¿Sabías que "deber" y "deber de" tienen significados completamente diferentes? Mira la explicación y practica con estas frases...

Deber + infinitivo expresa obligación.

Ej.: Debes terminar el trabajo antes del lunes.

Deber de + infinitivo expresa hipótesis.

Ej.:Debe de tener 35 años (no estoy seguro).

RECUERDA QUE LA FORMA <del>DEBER QUE</del> NO EXISTE.

1.Luisa.....estar en el trabajo a las 9h.

2.Es muy alta,....medir 1,80.

3. Tienen 3 perros, .....gustarles los animales.

4. Nosotros.....terminar lo antes posible.

SOLUCIONES: 1.Debe 2.Debe de 3.Deben de 4.Debemos

# Un uso del subjuntivo imperfecto

Claire, Scotland.

I still get really confused with the subjunctive, especially the imperfect. Can you help me? It's making my head hurt!

Hola Claire, the subjunctive is a challenge for everyone. It has lots of uses, and you really need to learn them one by one! I've given you an example of one common usage, with the structure "como si...". We will look at this more in future editions!

Jesús, profesor de AIL Madrid

El subjuntivo, y en especial el pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo, tiene muchisimos usos especiales en español, y este es el caso en el que se usa para hacer comparaciones irreales con la siguiente estructura:

Como si + imperfecto de subjuntivo: Compara un hecho en el presente o en el pasado con algo irreal en el presente o en el pasado.

Ej.: Habla como si cantara (En realidad no está cantando pero habla de una manera tan melódica que lo parece).

1. Camina como si..... a.no me entendiera. 2.Se comportó..... b.mandara en la oficina.

3.Me mira como si..... c.llevara tacones.

4.Gritaba como si..... d.no conociera nuestras costumbres.

SOLUCIONES: 1.c 2.d 3.a 4.b

# Spanish course of the month-Preparing for the DELE and the SIELE

There are now two official There are now the Spanish exams available to students who need to certify their level, the traditional DELE, and the newer SIELE. The DELE continues to be widely accepted in Spain as an official indication of level, and has several fixed exam dates for each level. The SIELE was designed to provide a more global version of Spanish that takes in the international dimension of the language with input from South America and beyond. It is taken online and therefore has almost complete flexibility with dates, and is not tied to a specific level like the DELE. Already it is widely accepted by Spanish universities as an indication of level.

AIL Madrid provides preparation

for both. AIL Madrid is an official SIELE exam centre, and can provide personalised preparation for the SIELE exam through individual tuition. For the DELE exam we have extensive experience in preparing students for all levels with intensive group programmes available from 2-4 weeks before each exam date, or a longer term extensive programme from 8-12 weeks before. The teachers are experienced DELE examiners and the course looks at all aspects of the

if you need an official certification of your level, and want to get the best possible exam results, don't hesitate to contact us for an individual assessment.







The Madrid Metropolitan's selection of the best that can be enjoyed in the capital this spring.

# Bob Dylan: March 26th - 28th

obel Prize winner and one of the most influential and iconic singer songwriters of our times Bob Dylan comes to Madrid to perform songs from his American roots from an earlier era that stretches back to the 1930's



National Music Auditorium - http://bobdylan.com

# The Lovehearts: April 23rd (Jazzville)

fyou miss Bob Dylan then head to Jazzville to see The Lovehearts. The Lovehearts are a Madrid based Brit band (Rebecca Perrett from darkest Worcestershire: vocals, violin and percussion, Caroline Bradbury from deepest Manchester:

bass and vocals, Mark Scott from the depths of Sunderland: guitar and vocals, Chris Neill from the wastelands of Bristol: trumpet and vocals, and Steve Jenkins from



grimy London, capital of the world: guitar and vocals) who play their own highly original brand of existential pop music.

https://www.facebook.com/loveheartsmadrid/

### HARRY STYLES - March 31st

ne Direction became many as they all went their different ways. Madrid welcomes the only one to visit Spain with this sell out concert on the 31st March. The Madrid Metropolitan is hoping for an invitation to the after shown



vitation to the after-show party.

WiZINK CENTRE - http://hstyles.co.uk/

### LANA DEL REY - April 20th

he Queen of Dark Pop comes to Madrid as part of her world tour to promote her latest album Lust For Life. Lara has been wowing audiences since 2011 when her international hit "Video Games" was considered



by many critics to have been the best single of the year.

Palacio De Vistalegre, Madrid - http://lanadelrey.com/

### Vocaloid Opera The End: March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

The End, is a first.

The first opera made with a voice synthesis software called Vocaloid – needs to be seen and heard to be believed!



Naves Matadero—International Living Arts Centre - https://naves.mataderomadrid.org/es/actividades/vocaloid-opera-end

# 24th Lied Cycle - Anna Lucia Richter- Apr. 9th

erman soprano
Anna Lucia
Richter comes to
Madrid to sing the music
of Franz Schubert, accompanied by pianist Michael
Gees.



Teatro de la Zarzuela, Madrid

http://www.annaluciarichter.com/index.php/en/#biography

# Thirty Seconds To Mars: April 12th

lith over 15 million albums sold worldwide, Thirty Seconds To Mars can boast of being a reference on the alternative rock scene. Over 30 years and 4 albums later the trio have an army of fans around the world.



WiZink Center - http://www.thirtysecondstomars.com/

### María José Montiel: April 6th

nternational opera star María José Montiel comes to La Zarzuela to perform pieces by the great composer José Padilla.

**Teatro de la Zarzuela**http://www.mariajosemontiel



# Baldomero Pestana. The Truth - Until Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>

a verdad entre las manos' (The Truth in His Hands) is an exhibition organised by Instituto Cervantes and the Foundation for the City of Culture of Galicia. There are 158 photos on display pay-



ing tribute to Baldomero Pestana, the photographer who portrayed leading writers and intellectuals in Latin America.

In His Hands Instituto Cervanteshttps://hermes.cervantes.es/FichaWeb/118425/105

# The power of the past: 150 years of archaeology in Spain, Until April 1st



he National Archaeological Museum (MAN) celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and to presents by way of commemoration a history of the science over this period as well as showcasing

its duty to "document, preserve and exhibit the material remains of our history and to convey the knowledge of the past, facilitating its understanding and ( provide) access to all citizens

### National Archaeological Museum

http://www.man.es/man/exposicion/exposiciones-temporales/poder-del-pasado.html

# WHAT'S ON THIS SPRING IN MADRID (cont.)

# Ellas Crean 2018 - Until April 7th

he Conde Duque Cultural Center is the host of this cultural event to celebrate International Women's Day with a full multidisciplinary program that in-cludes both new and established female artists



from the world of cinema, literature, music, theatre and many other

The Conde Duque Cultural Center - http://ellascrean.com

The Madrid Stew Route – Running (and you will be afterwards) untill March 31st

go from the sublime to the ridiculous with this route that will no doubt have it's fans. Those who can endure a Cocido Madrileño (a traditional chick-pea based stew from Madrid) are in for a treat



as you run from one stop to the

https://www.facebook.com/RutaDelCocidoMadrileno

### Easter in Madrid



From Palm Sunday to East- come to Madrid to attend the city's er Sunday, thousands of many processions to commemobelievers and tourists alike rate the Passion and death of Jesus.

# Horse Racing Season in Madrid (every Sunday until July 1st)

't may not be Cheltenham or the Kentucky Derby but Madrid does have a good horse racing scene that kicks off with its 77th season on March 4 and runs through till the end of the



La Zarzuela Racecourse - http://www.hipodromodelazarzuela.es

### Madrid Half Marathon - April 8th

ver 15000 runners are 🎇 expected for the Madrid Half Marathon that starts in the Paseo del Prado (between Neptuno Fountain and Atocha Station) on April 8th. Finishing in the Retiro Park it's a fun day out for participants and friends and family.



http://www.mediomaratonmadrid.es

International Friendly: Spain vs Argentina March 27th



he Wanda Metropolitan (no relation to the Madrid Metropolitan alas) hosts its first international game

for what could be a thrilling match as both sides start to limber up to compete in the World Cup in Russia in a few months' time.

Wanda Metropolitano Stadium - http://www.sefutbol.com

# Promoconcert. Concierto de Aranjuez -April 5th

The Concierto de Aranjuez is one of the best loved classical pieces and certainly the best known work of its composer Joaquín Rodrigo. It has been performed countless times around the world and this time Madrid wel-



comes the Argentinian guitarist Rolando Saad who will be performing it at the National Music Auditorium.

### National Music Auditorium -

http://promoconcert.es/index.php/es/programaci%C3%B3n-mad/concierto-



# LIVING - AROUND MADRID

Some recent and future events that caught the attention of The Madrid Metropolitan.

### SIBN Saint Patrick's Ball 2018



Follow

Thanks a million for the support of the @metropolimadrid, fantastic to have you celebrate #spdmadrid18 with us tonight in aid of homelessness in Ireland and Spain @RAISFundacion and @PMVTrust



SIBN Saint Patrick's Ball 2018 - https://t.co/zqMfNQRa3R



he Madrid Metropolitan was delighted to have ioined 300 other guests at the Spanish Irish Business Network St Patrick's Ball at the iconic Palace Hotel. The Ball was their most successful to date and raised 41,000 Euros for the two named charities that were being supported. The Peter McVerry Trust provides assistance to homelessness throughout Ireland and the Fundación Rais who help an estimated 8,000 people who sleep rough on Spanish city streets every night.



## Caterina comes to Madrid - March 22<sup>nd</sup>

upermodel Caterina arrives in town for the Red Carpet for Eva Longoria's Global Gift Gala which will be on March 22nd in Madrid Spain at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum. Caterina is currently a Global Arms Ambassador for the Global Gift foundation and will joining numerous other celebrity Ambassadors such as Pamela Anderson, Marie Bravo, Anastacia and Rafael Amargo for this prestigious event. Caterina has been known as an actress and model but has lately been in the public eye with her 4-year-old son, Princeton, who has just survived 2 major brain surgeries in the past year. Princeton's survival story and his strength and resilience has touched and inspired so many people around the world and they



will be having a new TV show called: "Achieve the Unimaginable" where Princeton will be taking on bucket list challenges with Caterina from Swimming with Sharks in South Africa to Indoor Skydiving in Dubai that are unimaginable achievements for a brain surgery survivor.

### Bravo John!

Kiddell, former accountant and resident of Madrid, has been presented with a British Empire Medal for his services to the British community at an event held at the Ambassador's Residence. Over five decades he has volunteered for a whole range of British groups and

charities in Madrid, including offering his accounting skills for free, to groups as diverse as the British Chamber of Commerce, St George's Anglican Church, the British Ladies Association, the British Benevolent Fund, and the British Cemetery Committee in Madrid.

'John Kiddell stands out as one of a kind for his sustained contribution to so many groups in Madrid over so many decades, always in a humble and understated manner. Many of these organisations would simply not exist today were it not for his time and skill", said the British Ambassador Simon John Manley CMG.



# What To Look Out For In The Coming Months



# Save the Date!

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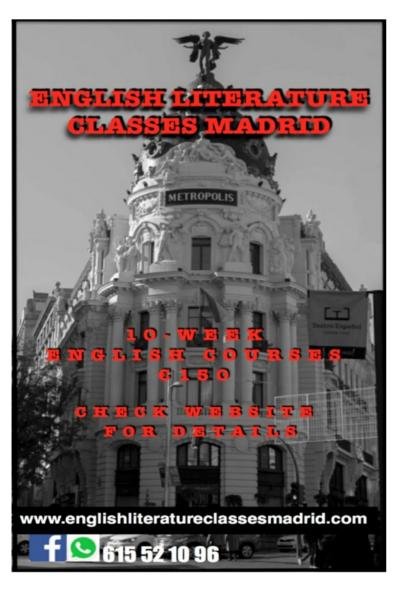


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# This month Madrid Metropolitan takes a brief look at **Behavioural Economics**

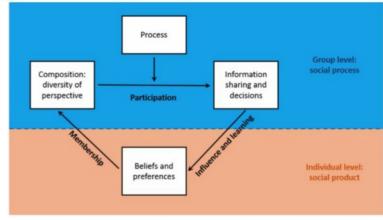
"My colleagues, they study artificial intelligence; me, I study natural stupidity" Amos Tversky

or those who have an in-**◀** terest in economics but are put off by endless graphs and mathematical models, there's a branch of the 'dismal science' which is much more accessible and quite a lot more fun. Behavioural economics has been gaining recognition in recent years, and its proponents even manage to make it interesting. Richard Thaler's "Misbehaving" is as good a place as any to start. Traditional economists tend to work on the basis that by and large, people take rational decisions, and have the knowledge and experience to choose the right one. The assumption is that enough of us behave like "homo economicus" for their mathematical models to be valid. Behavioural economists question that; humans don't always act rationally. Thaler is one of the leading minds in the field and the latest of several behavioural economists to win the Nobel Prize for Economics. For him it is "still economics, but it is economics done with strong injections of good psychology and other social sciences'

People perceive the world in biased ways. Just look at how we buy cars. Or in many cases, why we buy them. Humans have faults; we can be lazy or over-confident. We are easily influenced by friends and family, and find self-control difficult. That's why we take on credit card debts we can ill

afford. We have a weakness for immediate gratification, a shame given that numerous studies - including the famous "Stanford Marsh-Mallow experiment" - show that an ability to delay gratification is a leading indicator of security and success in later life. We have good traits too, and these also influence how we behave. A sense of fairness, for example, might persuade us to pay double for a bar of 'Fair trade' chocolate or a pot of local jam. Most of us will leave a tip in a restaurant even if we're unlikely to return there. Homo economicus wouldn't do that. Buying decisions are mostly not based on reason, which is why good sales people tend not to dwell on the benefits of their product. As consumers, reading up on behavioural economics can teach us that buying an extended warranty on our new TV is almost never worth it. Or that if a salesperson starts showing us the most expensive dishwasher in the store, we are likely to end up with a more upmarket model than if we were first shown the cheapest.

The truth is that we don't actually use all available information when making a decision. The mind is lazy and looks for shortcuts, known as 'heuristics', or what we also call rules of thumb, intuition or common sense. We process information using "frames" which are personal to us but determine how we understand an event. Our decisions are also framed by language – would you prefer to hear a surgeon say that your operation has an 85% chance of success or a



Source: https://www.behavioraleconomics.com/the-behavioraleconomics-guide-2017/

15% chance of failure? Language primes us - experiments show that people will perform better in tests if they have previously been told stories involving high achievement.

Governments have begun to see that insights from behavioral economics can be used to improve public policy and its results. Inspired by Thaler's book "Nudge' in which he explains how small incentives can push people into making decisions, the Uk government under David Cameron set up the Behavioural Insights Team, whose aims include "enabling people to make better choices for themselves". That sounds almost sinister, but it has been shown to be effective in persuading people to save up more for retirement, to donate organs and to pay their taxes on time.

Followers of Spanish politics will find little evidence of behavioural economics being on the minds of our municipal, autonomous or national leaders. That's a pity, because a bit of nudging may persuade companies into taking on

new workers and paying them a decent wage. But first politicians need to understand that hitting firms with more taxes and regulations is not the way to go about it. On recent experience, getting them to grasp that will need more than a gentle nudge.

### By Roger Pike

WH Advisers – Market Entry into Spain.

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# Modelo 720 Reporting - Advice from The Spectrum IFA Group

# Modelo 720 – WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

In 2013, the Spanish Government launched an "anti-fraud" plan to prevent tax evasion. Although aimed at discovering assets bought by Spanish nationals with irregular money, it also affects members of the international community living in Spain that hold assets abroad.

It is important that you don't 'bury your heads in the sand' regarding this requirement, hoping that you won't get caught......because eventually you will.

The Modelo 720 reporting requirement is based on tax residency; if you are deemed to be a tax resident in Spain, then this requirement affects you. In general, you will be deemed tax resident if you are in living/working in Spain for more than 183 days a year, and remember that the onus is on you, the individual, to be able to prove otherwise to the authorities, should they decide to investigate. The reality is that in most cases, it would be very difficult to demonstrate this to the Spanish Tax Authorities and so most people would be deemed Spanish tax resident by them.

### WHO HAS TO REPORT?

Any person, permanent establishment or company who is tax resident in Spain and is the owner, titleholder, representative, authorised person, beneficiary, or has disposal powers of assets located outside of Spain worth more than €50 000 (see assets below), must report the value of these assets. Any assets held in other currencies must have that value converted to Euros to gauge whether it exceeds the Euro limit imposed.

### WHEN DO YOU REPORT?

Between 1 January and 31 March of each tax year, you must submit details of assets from the previous year. If you have previously reported your external assets on the Modelo 720, then there is no need to resubmit a report every year unless the value of any of the asset classes has increased by €20 000 or more.

# WHICH ASSETS MUST BE REPORTED?

There are three main asset classes that need to be reported if the total value of each class is over the €50 000 limit:

1. Bank/Building Society accounts located outside of Spain

– It is important to note that if you hold several bank accounts and THE TOTAL amount held exceeds the €50 000 limit, then ALL the accounts need to be reported, regardless of whether each one is under the limit.

Investments / Life or disability insurance policies – If you are the owner or policyholder of an investment or insurance policy then these will need to be declared if they exceed €50 000. Again, there is a requirement if you have multiple investments or policies, that if the total value exceeds the limit then they will all need reporting.If you are holding Life Insurance Bonds, then the surrender value of the policy is deemed as the value. If you hold "pure life" policies that only pay out a benefit in the event of death and have no physical surrender value these do have reported.Interestingly if you are holding what we describe as Spanish compliant Life Insurance Bonds, then the onus of reporting on the Modelo falls to the institution themselves. They have their own version of the Modelo to comply with meaning they do not necessarily have to go on your individual report.

3. Property – Owners or part owners of an overseas property where the value exceeds the limit must report these properties.

# WHAT IF YOU DON'T REPORT IN TIME / CORRECTLY?

The Spanish Tax Authority has implemented a series of penalties for those who do not comply with this regulation. These penalties can be imposed for late filing, incomplete/inaccurate filing and even for presenting the information to them in a way not deemed acceptable; basically, it must be done online. These are considered very serious offenses and the penalties in these cases are fixed, generally to an amount of €5 000 per item or "set of data" on the same asset, with a minimum of €10 000. The amount is reduced to €100 (with a minimum of €1 500) if the information is filed late without prior notification from the government. Speaking to some accountants and Gestors, they believe and have seen fines to be around €150 if you file late without any notification, but the law states differently so in reality the exact fine is questionable



# Modelo 720

# Declaración de bienes en el extranjero

# WHAT IF YOU DON'T REPORT AT ALL?

Should the Spanish Tax Authorities discover that you have assets with a cumulative value over €50 000 in any of the above asset classes and deem that you have wilfully not disclosed this information, penalties are imposed. In some cases the fines issued are as high as 150% of the value of the undeclared assets!!!! It is also important to note that there is no statute of limitations when it comes to the Modelo 720 so there is no limit to how far back they can go............

There have been numerous complaints about the unfairness of the Modelo 720 and the fines being imposed. The European commission has been in discussion with the Spanish Tax Authority to reduce the fines. The latest I have heard is that the 150% penalty of undisclosed assets would not stand and would be reduced to the lower fine levels, providing the assets were reported voluntarily, which just means it falls from the undisclosed category to the late reporting category and doesn't help those caught not declaring. The Tax Authority is pushing for people to report their assets voluntarily, maybe there will be softer sanctions in the future but for now, this is how it stands.

If you want to discuss how to report the Modelo 720 please feel free to get in touch. I work closely with a qualified accountant in Madrid who can file on your behalf if there is a requirement to do so.

The Spectrum IFA Group was established in January 2003. Our independent financial planning advisers demonstrate their long-term commitment to both their clients and the locality by residing permanently within the community in which they work. They have an understanding of expat life and the particular financial rules that apply in your country. Our advisers are qualified, experienced and regulated. In total we have over 50 financial advisers across Europe, fully supported by administration and compliance teams.

Our role is to create and provide solutions for expatriates and foreign residents by way of a broad range of financial products and services. These include currency exchange, bank accounts, tax efficient investments and savings, wealth management, QROPS, pensions, medical insurance and more.

chris.webb@spectrum-ifa.com









### **CULTURE - HIDDEN MADRID**

# Why 'Valle De Los Caídos'?

Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen), why was it built and for what purpose?

riving north westwards out of Madrid, on the A6 La Coruña road, approaching the Sierra Guadarrama, there looms a monolith of enlarging proportions – the largest cross in the world dominating the horizon. If this is your first sight of the monolith, curiosity will lead you to the valley where the cross is built. Stepping out onto a wide esplanade (esplanada) you will be embraced by a curved colonnade of evenly spaced columns, sometimes referred to as 'angel's wings' or those of a 'vulture' depending on your first impressions. Entering the main crypt is sepulchral, the long high vaulted tunnel is dimly lit and imposing, leading to the beacon-lighted Basilica at the distant end.

The Valley of the Fallen is a Catholic basilica and a monumental memorial in the municipality of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. It was conceived by Spanish dictator Francisco Franco to honour and bury those who died in the Spanish Civil War. Franco claimed that the monument was meant to be a 'national act of atonement' and reconciliation. The Valley of the Fallen, as a surviving monument of Franco's rule, and its Catholic basilica remain controversial, in

part since 10% of the construction workforce consisted of convicts, some of whom were Spanish Republican political prisoners.

The monument precinct covers over 3,360 acres (13.6 km2) of woodlands and granite boulders and stands more than 3,000 feet (910 m) above sea level. It includes a Basilica, a Benedictine Abbey, a guest house and four cylindrical granite columns (Juanelos) dating back to the 16th century. The most prominent feature of the monument is the towering 150-metre-high (500 ft) cross erected over a granite outcrop and 150 meters over the basilica esplanade and visible from over 20 miles (32 km) away.

Works started in 1940 and took over eighteen years to complete, with the monument being officially inaugurated on April 1, 1959. According to the official ledger, the cost of the construction totalled 1,159 million pesetas (nearly 7 million Euros), funded through national lottery draws and donations. The complex is owned and operated by the Patrimonio Nacional, the Spanish governmental heritage agency, and ranked as the third most visited monument after The Royal Palace in Madrid and El Escorial. In 1960, Pope John XXIII declared the underground crypt a basilica. The dimensions of this underground basilica, as excavated, are larger than those of St. Pe-



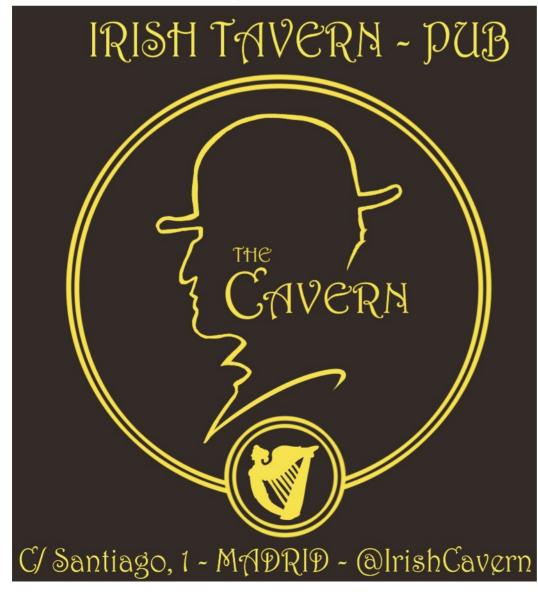
ter's Basilica in Rome. To avoid competition with the apostle's grave church on the Vatican Hill, a partitioning wall was built near the inside of the entrance and a sizable entryway was left unconsecrated. On the wrought-iron entrance gates, Franco's neo-Habsburg double-headed eagle is prominently displayed. On entering the basilica, visitors are flanked by two large metal statues of art deco angels holding swords.

There is a funicular that connects the basilica with the base of the cross. A spiral staircase and a lift are inside the cross, connecting the top of the basilica dome to a trapdoor on top of the cross, but their use is restricted to maintenance staff. The Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Cross of the Valley of the Fallen (Abadía Benedictina de la Santa Cruz del Valle de los Caídos), on the other side of the mountain, houses priests who say perpetual Masses for the repose of the fallen of the Spanish Civil War as well as for later wars and peacekeeping missions fought by the Royal Spanish Army. The Abbey ranks as a Royal Monastery. Within the Valley itself, preserved as a national park, lie the remains of 40,000 people from both sides of the civil war and whose names are accounted for in the monument's register. The Basilica houses the tomb of Francisco Franco who died in 1975 and although it was not his wish to be buried there, his family and the Government of the time interred his remains there. Strangely, only his Christian name and first surname is engraved on the tomb. The only other tomb is that of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, one of the founders of the Falange Española, the fascist political party formed in

According to the official program records, 2,643 workers participated directly in the construction, some of them highly skilled, as required by the complexity of the work. Only 243 of these were convicts and contrary to them being 'forced labour' they were given the chance that for every day worked they would have two days, later increased to seventeen, deducted from their prison term. They were also paid the same as labourers on the works. The Valley of the Fallen has been a political and emotional football between the opposing political parties for many years but finally the Historical Memory Law, voted on by the Congress of Deputies on October 16th 2007 decreed that 'the management organisation of the Valley of the Fallen should aim to honour the memory of ALL of those who died during the civil war and who suffered repression'.

A visit to the Valley of the Fallen is to witness a unique and unforgettable experience.

By Barry Haslam-Walker FRICS



# ALTERNATIVE VOICE

# Sky High

For the modern bourgeois, or maybe not so bourgeois, traveller there can be few greater horrors in modern life than flying. The emergence of cheap air travel has transformed our lives and enabled us to spread out across the globe and turn all those places we used to try to escape to into ever closer imitations of the places we were trying to escape from..

weekend break to Budapest has become as proaic as a 1970s day at the seaside, while even in the most exotic of locations we find versions of ourselves everywhere, as well as prices that increasingly make us feel very much at home, as locals obey the first law of economics, which is to "always fleece the visitor." Madrid is not immune from the ravages of EasyJet and Rvanair. Visitors can now reassuringly find the same shops here as they can find everywhere else, and no trip to the Puerta del Sol is complete without a visit to the giant Apple Store where you can relax and mingle with the locals, as you sign up together to eternal corporate servitude. A wide range of fast food establishments are also busy putting traditional Spanish bars out of business as the citizens of Europe and the wider world, come together at the great global trough to enjoy a random selection of pale imitations of once proud local cuisines.

And of course you can now do all this in English. In fact, you have to. As a foreigner, you are an automatic target for a new generation of Spanish waiters anxious to practice their English speaking skills, with the hope of perhaps one day forming part of the flexible and fully mobile European workforce that has enabled so many young Spaniards to enjoy the experience of precarious low paid work in London and beyond.

But devastating as ubiquitous cheap air travel has been for the actual destinations, the horrors of globalisation pale into insignificance compared to the actual process of air transportation itself. Actually, the trip to and from the snappily named Adolfo Suarez Barajas Madrid International Airport is not bad if you go by metro. It's fast and cheap, and certainly better value than the Gatwick Express where your wallet is primed on arrival in the UK for the torture that awaits once you actually get to London. Driving to Madrid airport though is another matter. Spanish road signs, junctions, and slip roads have traditionally been designed by sadistic halfwits to cause maximum confusion and hopefully the odd crash, but the signage to the airport is a particularly magnificent effort, a piece de resistance in the art of confusion. There is however, the option of the toll



road, built specifically for the gullible, or those in desperate need of saving 30 seconds.

Once you are at the airport itself it's the usual existential nightmare. If you are dropping someone off, or worse still waiting for someone, then the usual heavily armed Spanish police are on hand to force you into the carpark where will you meet armies of lost souls trying to work out how to pay (whatever you do, don't follow the signs.) Then the usual fun and games ensue of trying to get away with hand luggage that cannot fit into the geometrically absurd sample containers that budget airlines have placed for your convenience so they can penalise you with a smile if you require more than a toothbrush for your travels. And then on to security where you will be stripped of all liquids, and of course of all human dignity.

Airports themselves are mere reflections of wider society, and Madrid is no exception. There are lots of shops for very rich people, and a Burger King for the plebs although the stylish and deeply confusing T4 has a McDonalds. In essence it is all a microcosm of the neo liberal nightmare. There are actually free water fountains but they have been set up with a flow so weak you would be better off sucking on a pebble. The inevitable thirst and frustration is of course, designed to force you into paying for the overpriced bottles of water available at multiple vending machines. Neo liberalism loves a consumer, particularly a trapped consumer suffering from dehydration. As you will have been panicked into arriving hours before your inevitably delayed flight you will have plenty of time to buy a couple of Hugo Boss shirts, a Burberry scarf, or a few of bottles of Chanel Bleu and single malt Scotch. If you are a pleb then you can satiate your lust for consumption by buying three massive toblerones for the price of two. It is an established fact that the Toblerone family have shares in all European airports. Or you can just sit there, waiting to be herded aboard the metal tube, and contemplate what it would be like to hurtle to the ground in a terrifying

death, or perhaps to plunge into a cold merciless sea.

Which brings us on to the actual flight. Like industrial livestock farmers, airlines have designed their freightage so that as many items as possible can be packed in without causing too many deaths during transit. So, aside from the odd casualty to deep vein thrombosis, you are unlikely to actually die while rammed into your deeply uncomfortable seat, although on longer flights you may wish to. The plane like the airport itself is a microcosm of the class system and in keeping with the neo liberal model has been divided into ample spaces for the very rich and much smaller spaces for the masses. However, lately there has been an attempt to create a tiny middle class by charging more for a few inches of extra legroom in select seats near the toilets. Once we are all strapped in, knees jammed against the seat in front, elbows jockeying for space on the armrest, the inane safety demonstration begins, designed solely to create the illusion that you might actually survive a crash. After the tedious taxi to the runway which in Madrid often has you wondering whether you should have taken the bus to Casablanca, or just walked, you will eventually experience take off, whereupon the more sensitive among us tend to reflect on the fact that we have placed ourselves in the hands of an over evolved primate, who may be subject to

feelings of depression and despair, or even in possession of a Freudian death wish.

Of the flight itself I have little to say because very little happens. Throughout the ordeal you will be "refreshments", offered which once again illustrate just how much an effective business loves a trapped consumer. If you can drink and drug your way through it all then I recommend that you do so. Heavy turbulence may awake you from the stultifying boredom although it may also force you to confront the existential terror of mortality at 30,000 feet, and the futility and random nature of existence. If not, then on longer flights you might watch a crap film with crap sound on a crap screen, or if you are a smug bastard you might lose yourself in your IPad. If however, Dear Reader, you are able to submit to the cohorts of the cabin crew and actually "enjoy the flight" then you are either a fucking idiot, or a dangerous lunatic, and should probably not be on a plane.

In any case perhaps one day we will meet, shuffling joylessly through the Adolfo Suarez Barajas Madrid International Airport on our way to a shopping precinct somewhere out there in the great wide world.

I wish you a safe and pleasant journey.



# Seabream with Leeks, Mushrooms, Cream and Samphire - By Jemima Butler



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Lent is the time when we are supposed to pay penance and exercise self-denial as preparation for Easter when we then give in to eating vast amounts of meat and chocolate!

s a tradition in Lent many people talk about giving something up, whether chocolate, alcohol, smoking or whatever other delicious naughty habit they enjoy. I have often spoken about doing it myself and have even tried, maybe to give up chocolate or wine but have never made it last. This year however I decided for the first time ever to properly

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give up something during Lent and that was giving up eating meat.

Living in Madrid there is a plethora of fantastic restaurants. Whether you just want a quick tapas and a beer or a very substantial 3-course meal with wine and bread included you can find all types of eateries on the same street. You can never be far from a bar serving something that your taste buds will come alive with, even if that may just be the best crisps or olives ever and a brilliantly served caña.

That's why I knew that whilst giving up meat for the 40 days of Lent I would not go hungry. I



would eat fish which I love. Madrid has some of the best fresh fish in Europe and it is often compared to Tokyo for this reason, as geographically it is in the centre of the peninsular and not near any coast.

The fish counters in the local markets in Spain are a work of art, so beautiful, they make you want to stare in wonder.... the glimmering ice and the spray of water keeping the fish glistening and the shells of the seafood looking bright and shiny.

The weekends are always the best at the fishmongers. They get fancy at the weekends knowing that the cooks of the households will be ready to spend more money and get something special for the large family weekend lunches. They bring in the top expensive fish; whole tunas, fresh enough to eat there and then, turbot, hake, amazing fresh prawns and all sorts of cockles, clams and barnacles for whoever is brave enough and for whoever knows what to do with

When I am in the queue waiting to be served, I wait fantasising about all the different recipes I could make with the different fresh produce and find it hard to choose only a small quantity of fish or seafood to go home with and create delicious variations of different recipes. I don't like to buy too much as it really is best to eat fish and shellfish totally fresh.

There are many flavours that go really well with fish and seafood. Some of the obvious ones like, lemon, garlic, onion, cream, capers then meaty ones like bacon, chorizo and jamón...not forgetting fresh herbs; parsley, chives and dill. For something totally different and delicious use fish and seafood in curries for a change.

I like to cook fish and seafood with different sauces, sole meunier, rich butter sauce with capers, mackerel with spicy tomato sauce and long spanish green peppers, (or even fresh chillies) gambas al ajillo, prawns with garlic, chilli and parsley, Atún en

Tomate, tuna in a rich tomato sauce, Merluza a la Vasca, baked hake with potatoes, olive oil with confit garlic and pimentón. The

As you probably know depending on when Easter falls, Lent falls at a different time each year. This vear Lent started on February 14th and ends on March 29th. As I fried up the bacon for Sunday Brunch, my children reminded me that I still have another 18 days to go before I can have any.

I thought I would share with you a recipe which celebrates the delicacy of a seabream, (dorada), a flat white fish, easy to find in the fishmongers in Spain. I have matched it with a creamy sauce and slowly poached vegetables in olive oil and some white wine or light dry sher-I have found a greengrocers which sells Samphire also known as sea asparagus (for those of you who don't know - it's a plant which grows near the coast and it has a crisp and salty flavour) so I decided to add that at the last minute to add a slight crunch and saltiness to the sauce. It fits very well with fish.

# Recipe: Seabream with Leeks, Mushrooms, Cream and Samphire

### **Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 large shallot finely chopped
- 1 Leek the white part only finely chopped
- 3 Portobello Mushrooms thinly sliced

White wine or Jerez – one small glass Samphire optional – small handful

Seabream – 2 fillets

Cream - 2 tablespoons

Salt and Pepper - to taste



### Method

Pour the oil into a large frying. On a low heat fry the shallot and let gently soften. Add the leeks and mushrooms and slowly poach in the olive oil. When the onions are transparent and the vegetables are softened add the glass of white wine or sherry. Turn up the heat to let the whole pan bubble away to burn off the alcohol and reduce to half. Once reduced turn down the heat and stir in the cream. Making sure the sauce it totally homogenised, add the samphire and stir in. Place the

Seabream on top and submerge it a little, cover the pan with a lid or gently with tin foil to let the fish cook in the sauce and steam. This should not take more than 5 minutes. It is easy to overcook. You want the fish to be just cooked through and the samphire still with a bit of a bite.

I served this with a gentle saffron risotto. It is also lovely served with either steamed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes or fluffy white rice to mop up the sauce.

**Happy Easter!** 



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