

TimeOut

MADRID

BEYOND  
Km 0



Discover everything about  
the Community of Madrid

Beyond km 0 / Time Out Guide to the Community of Madrid



Discover the World Heritage  
of the Region of Madrid

# SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

📍 Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial

el Bosque de la Herrería, la Silla de Felipe II, el Real Coliseo Carlos III,  
its gastronomy, **golf courses** and cultural program...

¿How long are you going to stay?



**Comunidad  
de Madrid**

**Hello!**



**Comunidad  
de Madrid**



Before starting to explore all that our marvellous region has to offer, a warning is in order: you will need several visits (we might even say several lifetimes) to enjoy all of the landscapes, experiences, flavours and events that are to be found in the Madrid Region.

For this reason it was hard so summarise the complexity and beauty of this territory in a guide that fits in your pocket. But we've managed it – or at least come close. The book you are holding is the result of a joint effort by **Time Out Madrid** and the **Community of Madrid**, and was created with one goal in mind: for you to enjoy your visit to the full, from UNESCO World Heritage sites to the best shopping, by way of restaurants, rural areas, and festivals. All of this from the expert perspective of advisors with decades of knowledge of the best experiences in each zone.

Whether you're a fan of sports or of going out on the town, in this guide you will find all you need to enjoy what most takes your fancy. Because if there's one thing we have in the Madrid region, it is variety. And we, who dedicate ourselves to discovering it every day, offer you this selection so you don't miss a thing. Enjoy!

**TimeOut**

**MADRID**

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In partnership with **Community of Madrid**

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# The thousand faces of Madrid

There is so much to discover in the Madrid region that it would be impossible to fit it all on one map. The most important instruction of all: travel beyond the city and you will find a region full of surprises.

Where to start? No hesitation: with the **World Heritage Sites**, which are not confined to the **Landscape of Light**, but also await visitors at **San Lorenzo de El Escorial**, **Alcalá de Henares** and **Aranjuez**, where plazas, narrow streets and monuments conceal the secrets of centuries past.

If this first foray leaves us wanting more, we can visit the **11 Towns (“Villas”) of Madrid**, an irresistible combination of nature, gastronomy and culture that makes it very difficult to choose a favourite among these small towns.

Those of us after a quiet getaway could seek out one of the many enchanting villages in the four territories of **MadRural**, namely **Sierra Norte**, **Sierra de Guadarrama**, **Sierra Oeste** and **Las Vegas y la Alcarria Madrileña**. When the heat is pressing, their precious waters may be enjoyed in permitted bathing areas, whether partaking in water sports or following the waterways on foot or by bicycle.

The Madrid region welcomes all comers, which is why its municipalities strive to offer accessible tourism and present the best of themselves to those who wander its paths, landscapes, cities, towns and villages. Because Madrid is for everyone and it has a thousand faces to show.



# Regional tourism

## World Heritage in Madrid

Monuments, natural wonders, cultural landscapes... the Madrid region is home to five different sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list



HERNAN GONZALEZ / UNSPLASH

### SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

**Art, knowledge, power and religion**

To commemorate the battle of St Quentin, in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century Philip II decided to construct a vast monastery and place of royal retreat.

The project brought together the leading artists and architects of the day. The library, one of the greatest in the world at the time, transformed the monastery into a peerless centre for culture.

→ Avda. de Juan de Borbón y Battenberg, s/n. San Lorenzo de El Escorial



BELEN IMAZ / COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

### ARANJUEZ

**History on the banks of the Tagus**

After Philip II commenced work on the Aranjuez Palace several monarchs continued and expanded the project, which reached its peak of glory in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The complex is noted for its gardens, adorned with sculptures and fountains, orchards, promenades and pavilions, as well as the exquisite decoration of the palace.

→ Plaza de Parejas, s/n. Aranjuez

### ALCALÁ DE HENARES

**A city for the university**

Alcalá de Henares was the first planned university campus in the world, a model exported to the rest of Europe and to the Americas. The project was devised by Cardinal Cisneros in 1499 and over the course of the 16<sup>th</sup> century architect Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón designed the principal campus buildings, which are landmarks of the Spanish Renaissance.

→ Plaza San Diego, s/n. Alcalá de Henares



VISIT MADRID / AYUNTAMIENTO DE ALCALÁ DE HENARES



**TO TIP**  
 The beech forest can be visited with daily guided tours. It's best to book in advance online

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID / CENTRO DOCUMENTACIÓN MEDIO AMBIENTE

**HAYEDO DE MONTEJO Biodiversity refuge**

This beech forest covers just 250 hectares but is of incalculable ecological value. Its origins lie in the post-glacial period, and thanks to its location by the Jarama river and its orientation that allows it to capture humid air hitting the mountains, the forest has a unique microclimate and is home to diverse species.

→ Calle Real, 64. Montejo de la Sierra

**History, architecture and nature are all present in Madrid's World Heritage Sites**



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**LANDSCAPE OF LIGHT First tree-lined boulevard in the world**

Created as a public recreation area in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Paseo del Prado became an urban model of the Enlightenment during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, connected to the arts and sciences alike. Running parallel to it, El Retiro park – formerly the gardens of the now vanished Palacio del Buen Retiro – is today a place for people to gather.

→ Plaza de Cibeles, 1. Madrid

**When history shapes the landscape**

The result of human interaction with the natural world, the cultural landscapes of the region are valuable testimonies to its history

**A REFLECTION OF THE IDENTITY** of a territory and its inhabitants, cultural landscapes are created, developed or integrated as the result of different kinds of activities. In the case of **Dehesa de la Villa**, which has been part of the city of Madrid since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it has been used for grazing, hunting and forestry. Later on, it provided water to the city's populace. During the Civil War it saw trenches, bunkers and a command post built. Today, it is a public recreation area.

Also originally an area for hunting, the **Dehesa de Sotomayor** in Aranjuez passed through different phases since the 15<sup>th</sup> century until it became a complex of farms and orchards with numerous buildings including the **Casa de la Monta**, built in 1761 to house the Royal Stud and its staff. Two hydraulic works also belong to this cultural landscape: the Embocador dam and the Sotomayor canal, both dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

We cannot mention hydraulic infrastructure without referring to one of the greatest engineering feats in the history of Madrid: the complex formed by the **El Gasco dam** and the **Guadarrama canal** located between Galapagar, Torreloz and Las Rozas, which was designed in 1785 and never completed. These constructions formed part of a plan to connect Madrid with the Atlantic via a series of navigable canals. The Guadarrama canal was the first stage of this ambitious project, and the El Gasco dam was intended to supply it with water. However, the collapse of part of the dam a few years after work began led to the abandonment of the effort. ■



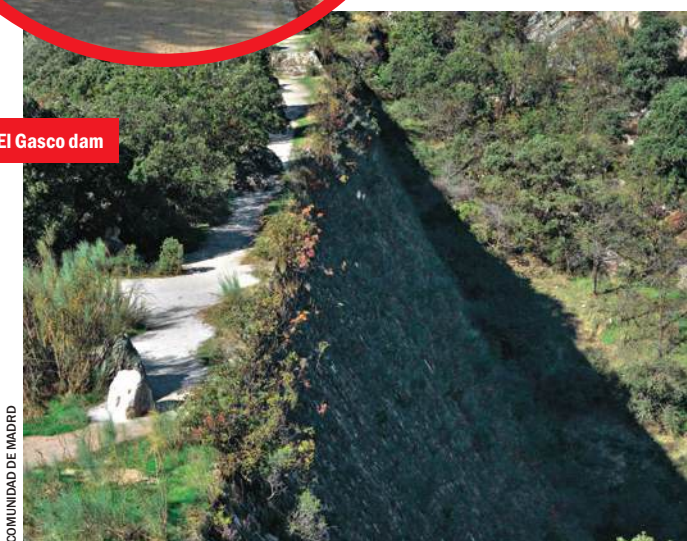
Dehesa de Sotomayor

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Dehesa de la Villa

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El Gasco dam

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**MADRID BOOK FAIR**  
Before it found its permanent location in El Retiro park in 1970, the book fair was held in Paseo de Recoletos, Plaza de España, and Paseo de la Castellana, among other locations.



GUSTAVO VALENTE



AYUNTAMIENTO DE COLMENAR DE OREA

**TRADITIONAL ESPARTO GRASS WEAVING**  
This technique remains in use in Spain only in the Las Vegas & Alcarria Madrileña region, and a small part of Navarre.

# Intangible heritage, tradition and culture

Skills, trades and festivals are part of Madrid's intangible heritage, a legacy that is passed down from generation to generation

**IT IS EXPERIENCED**, enjoyed, and can't be displayed in a museum. Intangible heritage is something that reflects the culture, traditions and skills of a particular place. In the Community of Madrid there are numerous sites connected to Intangible Cultural Heritage that include festivities, cultural events, and craft techniques, such as traditional **esparto grass weaving**. This technique, used since Neolithic times, was the main source of income for

some municipalities in Madrid, although it fell out of favour with industrialisation. Today there are groups in Villarejo de Salvanés and Colmenar de Oreja dedicated to preserving and passing on the tradition of esparto grass weaving and its associated culture.

The festivities declared intangible heritage include the **Fiesta de las Mayas** celebrated in May in Colmenar Viejo, El Molar, Leganés and the Lavapiés neighbourhood of Madrid. Dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup>

century, this festival celebrates the spring with a symbol: a girl or young woman is chosen to be the Maya and presides over the festivities from a temporary altar. Accompanied by a cortege of girls who collect donations, the Maya remains silent and immobile while traditional music and dances are performed.

Another example of traditional intangible heritage are unique religious celebrations such as the **Embarkation of the Virgin of Alarilla**, in Fuentidueña de Tajo.

**FIESTA DE LAS MAYAS**  
During the Enlightenment this spring celebration was prohibited because the tradition of giving alms "for the Maya, who is pretty and elegant" was considered inappropriate.



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This is a night-time procession that descends the Tagus river. The image of the Virgin is borne on a barge, escorted by swimmers with flaming torches. This custom arose in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the bridge connecting Fuentidueña with the hermitage of the Virgin was destroyed.

Recently declared Intangible Heritage, the **Madrid Book Fair** has been one of the capital's greatest annual literary events since 1933. The encounters between writers and readers, fun spaces for young audiences and the welcoming character of the fair make it a keystone in the promotion of reading.

Another literary connection is **Spain's Golden Age**, which is also to be declared Intangible Cultural Heritage. Whether we think of Lope de Vega or Calderón de la Barca, among many others, the great playwrights and their stages marked a decisive period in the nation's culture. ■



Capitol building

**TO TIP**

Known as the Schwegges building, its fame grew thanks to the film *Day of the Beast* (1995)

LILIANA ALVAREZ / UNSPLASH

## An architectural stroll

A walking tour of listed heritage buildings in Madrid city centre

### ALBÉNIZ THEATRE

**The automatons façade**

Opened in 1945, the Albéniz Theatre was a building wholly devoted to pleasure. The façade, designed by Manuel Ambrós, displays 11 wooden automatons created by Ángel Ferrant. After renovation, the sculptures were returned to their original positions, though they no longer move.

→ Calle de la Paz, 11. Madrid

### PALACE OF THE PRESS

**Eclectic architecture**

The Madrid Press Association commissioned the design of its new headquarters from Pedro Muguruza in 1924. The architect drew on early 20<sup>th</sup>-century American style, while using brick in a nod to Spanish Mudéjar traditions. This building established his reputation.

→ Plaza del Callao, 4. Madrid

### CAPITOL BUILDING

**An emblem of the Gran Vía**

The entrepreneur Enrique Carrión selected Luis Martínez Feduchi and Vicente Eced y Eced from among the entries to an open competition, with a project with Expressionist influences

in a Rationalist style. Built with cutting-edge techniques of the time, it became a symbol of modernity.

→ Gran Vía, 41. Madrid

### MONTANO BUILDING

**Music and murals**

The Montano piano factory expanded in 1890 with the construction of a residential building, the ground floor of which was to be used as a music salon. Decorated with murals by the Zuloaga brothers, it was one of the best known salons in Madrid. Although it can't be visited today, the interior appears in the film *Malasaña 32*.

→ Calle San Bernardino, 3. Madrid

### CASTELLANA 81 BUILDING

**Modern offices**

The creation of National Award-winning Spanish architect Sáenz de Oiza, this building was designed between 1978 and 1981 as a modern office block that has become an emblem on the city's skyline. It is part of the Azca Complex on the major thoroughfare Paseo de la Castellana.

→ Paseo de la Castellana, 81. Madrid



**STRAWBERRY TRAIN**

**The sweetest journey**

Commemorates the route of the first train in the region that in 1851, by order of Isabel II, linked the capital with the Real Sitio de Aranjuez - known for its exquisite strawberries. Every trip includes a chance to taste them.

→ From the Railway Museum (Madrid) to Aranjuez - 1 hour

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AMADOR TORIL / COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

# Now boarding!

Tourist trains not to miss if you want to explore the Madrid region in historical carriages that bring the past to life



**CERVANTES TRAIN**  
**Homage to the works of the master**

Travellers are guided by a troupe of actors who pay homage to Cervantes with characters connected to Alcalá de Henares: from the Palacio de Laredo to Calle Libreros to the university. Journey and guided tour are included.

→ From Atocha (Madrid) to Alcalá de Henares - 35 mins

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**ARGANDA TRAIN**  
**It blows more than it goes!**

A very special train whose steam locomotive was rescued from the scrap heap by a group of aficionados. The route it follows is a four-kilometre round trip between La Poveda and La Laguna del Campillo, a stretch of the former Tajuña railway line.

→ From La Poveda (Arganda) to Rivas Vaciamadrid - 45 mins

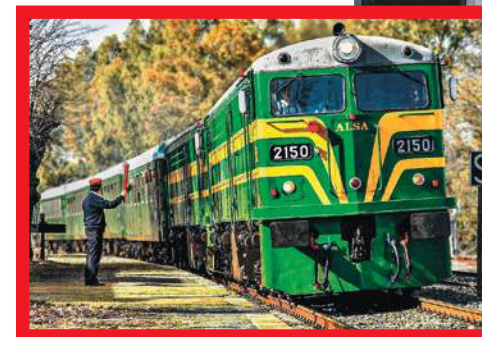


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**TRAIN OF PHILIP II**  
**Destination: El Escorial**

One of the most enchanting touristic routes in the region. The ticket for this historic train, with its original carriages from the 1940s, can be combined with guided and theatrical tours, or simply explore the monuments at your own pace.

→ From Príncipe Pío (Madrid) to El Escorial - 50 mins



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# Madrid, from town to town

Far from the highways, the eleven Towns (“Villas”) of Madrid nestle close to nature and offer a captivating authenticity that is perfect for a getaway



**RASCAFRIA**  
Henry II fell for this spot at the foot of Sierra de Guadarrama and without missing a beat, he ordered the construction of a monastery in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## Rascafría A monastery in the valley

The excitement of descending from the Puerto de Cotos pass to find the Santa María del Paular monastery is no illusion. It’s the reason you’ll travel to this town in the Lozoya valley, but you’ll want to stay to cross the Puente del Perdón and discover an incredible natural setting with surprises like the Finnish Forest or – in summer – the natural pools of Las Presillas. Don’t leave without trying the San Lázaro natural chocolate sweets.

## Navalcarnero Caves, wines and trompe l’oeils

Just half an hour from Puerta del Sol, the landscape is dominated by vineyards, and the wine they produce is enjoyed in restaurants on Plaza de Segovia at the heart of this town to the south-west of Madrid. If Navalcarnero could recount its

500 years of history, it would invite us to visit the caves used to store fresh foods; it would speak of the wedding of Philip IV and the Royal Market of the Golden Age that is commemorated each August; and it would tell us why its streets are decorated with trompe l’oeil murals that play games with our eyes.

## San Martín de Valdeiglesias A drink for the beach

Not everyone knows, but San Martín de Valdeiglesias is a land of wines. And what wines! They boast their own sub-denomination of origin.

This is thanks to the quality of their Garnacha and Albillo Real grapes, making them perfect for toasting an outing to a town that offers both visits to its Coracera castle and water sports on the San Juan reservoir, seen as Madrid’s very own beach.

## Chinchón Beyond the Plaza Mayor

It’s impossible to mention Chinchón without making reference to its central square. Its three-storey houses with their green balconies and gabled roofs make it a model of vernacular



**BUITRAGO DEL LOZOYA**  
Insider tip: the magic of walking 11<sup>th</sup>-century walls above the Lozoya river is enhanced at sunset.

Castilian architecture. Indeed, it has been the stage for royal celebrations, executions and even Hollywood movies. But this Madrid town is much more. It is its clock tower, its castles, and its church of Our Lady of the Assumption. Then too we have the aniseed-based spirits distilled locally, or the taba stew feasts prepared at the Parador, where an overnight stay is well worth your while.

## Buitrago del Lozoya Picasso in the Lozoya valley

This town is famous for its medieval walls. Constructed above the Lozoya river in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, they are the best preserved in the entire Madrid region. They surround a historic centre bursting with the charm of stone buildings of another age. And it is right there, among defensive towers, that Picasso appears, always surprising, always brilliant:

**CHINCHÓN**  
You might like to know that its Castilian plaza has won the hearts of filmmakers like Orson Welles, Rita Hayworth, John Wayne, Cantinflas...



the Picasso Museum—Eugenio Arias Collection is home to over 60 works gifted by the artist to his friend Arias, his hairdresser in exile and native of this town.

## Villarejo de Salvanés Silence! And... action!

Located in the Alcarria Madrileña, we must go back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when this town was designated capital of the Encomienda Mayor de Castilla, in order to understand why it boasts such memorable edifices as the Torre del Homenaje or the Casa de la Tercia. Villarejo

has history behind it. Of all kinds. That’s why you shouldn’t be surprised to come across the Film Museum (the first of its kind in Spain), or its collection of film projectors, the biggest in Europe.

## Nuevo Baztán A piece of Navarre in Madrid

The uniqueness of this town lies in its origins: it was born from the dream of Juan de Goyeneche, a native of Navarre, who commissioned the construction of a glass factory – and a town for the craftsmen to live in. It was 1700, and he

**TO TIP**  
When restoration is complete, Mendoza de Buitrago castle will be open for visits in 2026

## Regional tourism



**MANZANARES EL REAL**  
The castle of the Mendoza family receives visitors to this Madrid town with six centuries of perfectly preserved history.



**PATONES**  
Exploring at will is the perfect way to discover the charms of this pretty, secluded, fairytale village.

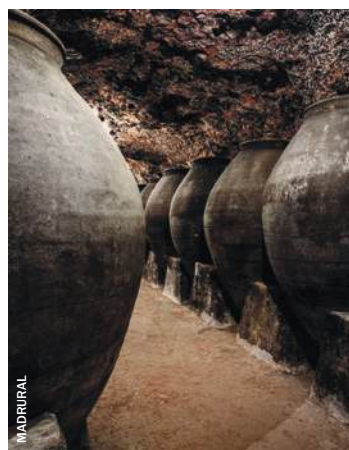
entrusted the task to the star architect of the period: Churriguera. It is thanks to his brilliance that we can enjoy this Enlightenment town with its unmistakable Baroque palace and church, and historic heart. In honour of its builder's origins, every March a local version of the Javierada celebrations is held.

### Manzanares El Real A picture postcard image

The castle of the Mendoza family and its perfectly preserved 15<sup>th</sup>-century Castilian military architecture rises above the Santillana reservoir, and is framed by the imposing granite peaks of La Pedriza in the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. We can truly say that Manzanares El Real has it all. Be sure to seek out its cuisine – in particular the meats from this mountainous area.

### Patones Napoleon missed out!

Hidden in the Sierra Norte, it is said that the French troops marched



**Colmenar de Oreja**  
**Serious about wines**  
Colmenar de Oreja even has a wine fair. It is usually held in spring, but there's no need to wait until then to enjoy it: its centuries-old wineries are home to the Vinos de Madrid Designation of Origin, and sipping a glass in the bars of its central plaza is a real treat.

straight past Patones. They missed out on its black slate architecture perched on the mountainside, and on the pleasant walk connecting its two centres (Upper Patones and Lower Patones): the botanical route known as El Barranco makes a perfect stroll to link up the two. If you are interested in industrial heritage, a visit to the Pontón de la Oliva dam is called for, combined with a stay in one of the many rural hotels.

### Torrelaguna Town of illustrious figures

It might surprise us to hear Torrelaguna is the birthplace of Santa María de la Cabeza, was home to San Isidro, and that it was locally born Cardinal Cisneros who took charge of its development. Testament to this is the church of Santa María Magdalena, a fine example of Madrid Gothic. Sticking with illustrious figures, though, it also hosted Cary Grant, Sophia Loren and Frank Sinatra when they filmed *The Pride and the Passion*. ■



Ciempozuelos



Sierra de Guadarrama



Monasterio de Pelayos de la Presa



Abedular de Canencia

## A road trip through rural Madrid

There is a Madrid where green forests, ancient villages and the murmur of rivers rule: MadRural. Explore it with a car and a picnic basket

### SIERRA OESTE Water, hills and heritage

When locals hear of Pelayos de la Presa they think of the San Juan reservoir. How could they not, when this is Madrid's very own beach! The patchwork of landscapes that comprise the Sierra Oeste, covering 22 municipalities, conceal true architectural gems. One such is the Pelayos monastery with its 13<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque and Mudejar origins. After you've admired the structure, you're ready to enjoy the water.

### SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA Location and history

Nature and heritage lie side-by-side in these 14 mountain villages, including Guadarrama itself. Since it was established in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the epochs have left their mark in the shape of bridges, churches and even Civil War trenches. Traditions survive too, such as the pilgrimage and wagon parade to the Jarosa shrine on August 15.

### SIERRA NORTE Leaving the world behind

Canencia lies at the end of country lanes. This municipality (one of 49 in the Sierra Norte) in the upper Lozoya valley enchants with its rustic homes and medieval bridges across the stream running through the village. A delightful forest walk runs through mixed birch and pine woods and leads to the viewpoint at Chorrera de Mojonavalle.

### LAS VEGAS Y LA ALCARRIA Endless landscapes

This territory with its 32 municipalities is a fertile valley dotted with villages, such as Ciempozuelos, a site of many curiosities. The birthplace of architect Ventura Rodríguez, who designed the façade of its chapel at the age of just 14, it is home to one of the oldest salt mines on the peninsula, and is also part of the Southeast Regional Park.

Mirador de los Poetas, Cercedilla



AYUNTAMIENTO DE CERCEDILLA

**CERCEDILLA**  
Pools and unlikely museums

Cercedilla is more than its natural swimming holes, and this village in the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park has year-round attractions. The region's industrial heritage is on display in the Light Factory museum, filled with engines, turbines and transformers that speak of a period when it had its own hydroelectric plant. There is also a museum of skiing. If you're not in the mood for culture or heritage and you've already wandered the streets, then it's time to hit the trails: the Camino Schmid, a stretch of the Camino de Santiago, or the spectacular views from the Mirador de los Poetas.

**WHERE TO SLEEP**  
**BoxArtAlpino**  
Like a cabin, but modern. Waking up in this hotel amidst pine forests is a breath of fresh air, with a pool for leisurely bathing and a menu at its CEDRO restaurant offering a blend of local mountain fare with French touches. You won't want to leave.  
→ **Box Art Hotel Alpino.**  
Av. de Madrid, 58 (Navacerrada)

# Village life, Madrid style

Outside of the capital there is cultural life, too, and the natural surroundings invite us to slow down and disconnect on the weekends, without having to travel far

SHUTTERSTOCK



Chestnut forest, Rozas de Puerto Real

**WHERE TO SLEEP**  
**La Casita**  
Rural accommodation in a traditional Sierra Oeste house with rustic finishes, sleeps 7.  
→ **Calle Doctor Fleming, 29**

**ROZAS DE PUERTO REAL**  
The region's greatest chestnut forest

This is an outing in shades of green - or of brown, orange and yellow if you go in autumn - to enjoy the beauty of the chestnut woods, the most extensive in the Madrid region. The trees reach 30 metres in height, and thanks to the Special Bird Protection Zone, you may well see eagles or vultures. For all the best spots, follow the Ruta de los Castaños, a trail that traverses the wood, ending at Embalse de Morales (9 kilometres, almost flat, 2.5 hours).

SHUTTERSTOCK



Fuentidueña de Tajo castle

**FUENTEDUEÑA DE TAJO**  
Everything happens in the river

If you're the type who gets on the A3 motorway and doesn't stop until you reach the coast, then you'll never have explored the streets of this village lined with white houses. Nor will you have crossed the Eiffel-inspired red iron bridge over the Tagus, nor walked the eco-trail that leads to Villamanrique de Tajo. Think about all that you've missed. And that's before you learn that each September they celebrate the pilgrimage for the Virgen de la Alarilla, crossing the river at night in a boat lit up by fireworks.

**WHERE TO SLEEP**  
**El Tinao de la Petra**  
A rural home perfect for a trip with friends. Complete with pool, jacuzzi and garden with barbecue.  
→ **Calle Boleo, 18**

Valley of Dreams



VILLA SAN ROQUE

**PUEBLA DE LA SIERRA**  
Much more than a pretty view

There are always new places to discover around Madrid and the Sierra del Rincón is one of them. The beauty of this municipality and its surroundings would have been sufficient. But it wanted more, and created the art-filled Valley of Dreams, an open-air museum with hundreds of sculptures lining a 2-kilometre walk. There is indoor art too: the Museum of Japanese Drawings, Prints and Contemporary Art brings together works from that country with examples by Picasso, Barceló and Antonio López.

**WHERE TO SLEEP**  
**Casa Rural Fuente del Arca**  
Rural chic in the Sierra Norte: the enchantment of the old and the comforts of today.  
→ **Calle Fuente del Arca, 26 (Montejo de la Sierra)**



Family outings in the Hayedo de Montejo

J.R. AGUIRRE

# Family getaways

Four plans to spend a weekend with the family without leaving the Madrid region, ensuring a good time for all

**THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID** is a great place for children. It has museums that offer workshops and special days just for them, their own programmes in theatres, and plenty of opportunities for hiking, cycling and adventures. From this multiplicity of options we have selected a few of our favourites.

### The Enchanted Forest

A botanical garden where you wander among over 300 life-size figures made from plants, representing animals, fairytale characters, sports personalities

and more. It's worth staying until nightfall, when the figures in the Enchanted Forest light up, making the experience even more magical.

→ Camino de Marañones, 4. San Martín de Valdeiglesias

→ **WHERE TO SLEEP:** Hotel Labranza. Rural hotel with gardens. Calle del Arco, 3

### Fresnedillas de la Oliva

This village has made street art the medium for transforming abandoned homes into works of art. As you explore its streets you'll come across murals showing images of daily life. Complete your visit

with a trip to the Lunar Museum and learn about the role played by Spain in putting man on the Moon. Family activities are organised on weekends.

→ Museo Lunar: Calle Apolo, 11

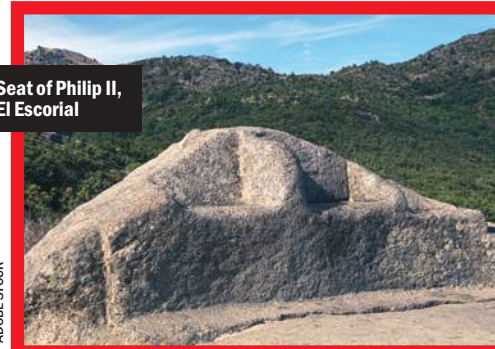
→ **WHERE TO SLEEP:** Finca El Olivo de Fresnedillas. Rural lodgings with three independent spaces. Calle Viñas Fuentes s/n

### Parks for all

An outing to the southeast of Madrid is all about its parks. There is the Southeast Regional Park with its thousands of hectares of nature, rivers and marshes to

Seat of Philip II, El Escorial

ADOBE STOCK



The climb up to the Seat of Philip II is easy, and the views superb



Excursion to the Sierra de Guadarrama

ELESTUDIO DE SILVA

## DON'T MISS

Sport, recreation and nature for all ages

### Las Rozas

Ideal for a family day out. Sports lovers have a choice of the largest wind tunnel in Europe (Madrid Fly), the Sputnik climbing centre, the go-karts at Carlos Sainz or the Football City and its Museum of the Spanish National Team. For open-air exploring, discover the Dehesa de Navalcarbón and enjoy a picnic at the Virgen del Retamar Recreational Area. Round off the day with a trip to the Railway Museum, a film at Heron City or shopping at Las Rozas Village and The Style Outlets.

→ **WHERE TO SLEEP:**

Hotel Monte Rozas.

Free parking, pets allowed. Ctra. Las Rozas-El Escorial, km.5

the fore. There is the Warner Park with attractions like the Enigma's Revenge that will put your nerves to the test. Little ones can drive the dodgem cars while everyone will love the nighttime spectacles.

→ Parque Warner: A-4, exit 22 San Martín de la Vega

→ **WHERE TO SLEEP:** Sercotel AB Rivas. A 3-star hotel with family rooms. Pets allowed. Av. Francisco de Quevedo, 2. Rivas-Vaciamadrid

### Discovering the natural world

At the Insectpark educational centre the aim is to make you fall in love with insects. Based in San

Lorenzo de El Escorial, they run regular workshops. Your day out learning about the natural world can continue at the Luis Ceballos Arboretum, a sort of woodland museum with over 200 species of trees and bushes. And while you're in the area, take the chance to sit on the Seat of Philip II. ■

→ InsectPark: Km 5,800, M-600, San Lorenzo de El Escorial. → Arboreto Luis Ceballos: Pista forestal monte Abantos s/n. → Seat of Philip II: Calle Monte Escorial, San Lorenzo de El Escorial

→ **WHERE TO SLEEP:** Exe Victoria Palace. 4 stars in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century palace. Calle Juan de Toledo, 4. San Lorenzo de El Escorial



Sputnik

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

# Traces of the past

The region's archaeological sites reveal the lives of its earliest inhabitants

**TO TIP**

The Lozoya Girl lived in the valley 40,000 years ago. Teeth have been found that prove she's not just a legend



JAVIER RUEBA

## 1

### The Neanderthal Valley in Pinilla del Valle

The upper valley of the Lozoya river is home to seven paleontological sites dating from periods between 300,000 and 40,000 years ago. The remains found in them belong to neanderthals and the hyenas they hunted in the region. Of special note is the Cueva Des-Cubierta, a gallery complex that has been interpreted as a neanderthal hunting sanctuary. Unique in the world, remains of bison, deer and rhinoceros have been found there.

→ Calle del Embalse, 11, Pinilla del Valle

## 2 Medieval necropolis of Sieteiglesias in Loyozuela-Navas-Sieteiglesias

Over 85 stone-carved tombs form this necropolis, associated with the Christian repopulation of the area in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. These burials were placed in strategic spots, as they also indicated that the land around the tomb belonged to a family, generally of the higher classes. There are several tomb types: oval-shaped, with a marked head, and more complex designs with stone panels.

→ Calle del Altillo, 16 (iglesia de san Pedro), Sieteiglesias

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID



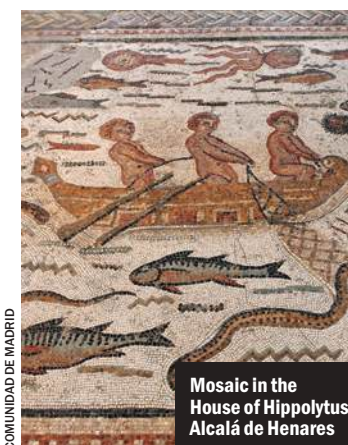
Necropolis of Sieteiglesias

## 3 El Rebollar Site in El Boalo

This site is one of the few traces of the Visigoth period in the mountains around Madrid. Comprising three buildings and a necropolis, it was a centre of worship occupied between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of the best-preserved buildings is the Visigoth church, with five different construction periods identified. The necropolis associated with the church contains adult and child burials.

→ Calle Madrid, 12B, El Boalo

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID



Mosaic in the House of Hippolytus, Alcalá de Henares

## 4 La Cabilda Site in Hoyo de Manzanares

La Cabilda was a modest village active between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Homes, stores, workshops, burial areas and possibly cult sites formed this settlement established in the early medieval period. Archaeological finds indicate it had a prosperous economy based on agriculture and livestock, as well as hunting and gathering and trade with other centres.

→ Camino del cementerio, 11, Hoyo de Manzanares

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID



La Cabilda, Hoyo de Manzanares

## 5 Blockhouse no. 13 in Colmenar del Arroyo

In November 1936 the rebel army occupied Colmenar del Arroyo. Two years later, with a Republican offensive in the area likely, the construction of a series of fortifications known as blockhouses was ordered along the highways. Although it was estimated 16 were required, only one was built: number 13. The fortification, which comprises four lookouts and occupies 160m<sup>2</sup>, is the purest expression of Civil War military architecture.

→ Carretera M-510, km 33,670, Colmenar del Arroyo

## 6 Roman city of Complutum in Alcalá de Henares

In the era of Emperor Augustus (1<sup>st</sup> century BC) the city of Complutum was built, a new and important city with large public buildings, thermal baths, a temple and private homes. Mural paintings survive in the House of the Griffons, a private residence, and mosaics have been discovered in the House of Hippolytus, a lavish school. Complutum retained the Roman lifestyle into the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, after which it was progressively abandoned.

→ Camino del Juncal s/n, Alcalá de Henares

## 7 La Mezquita Site in Cadalso de los Vidrios

This site comprises two principal elements, the Romanesque-Mudejar style church built in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and extended in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition, a range of materials have been found that reveal the importance of Cadalso during the Middle Ages, such as coins from Alfonso X and Enrique IV, and funerary monuments and graves.

→ Av. de Madrid, 1B, Cadalso de los Vidrios

# No one left

Four outings in the Community of Madrid designed with



Nuevo Baztán

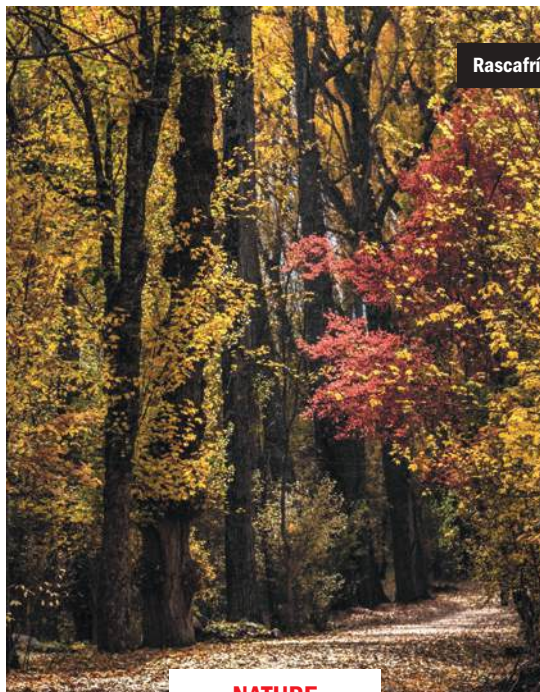
## ARCHITECTURE

### On a human scale

#### Alcalá de Henares and Nuevo Baztán

Travel from a UNESCO World Heritage city to a regional Madrid town. Both are monumental and you can admire every corner of them. But you have to choose, and in Alcalá you shouldn't miss its University, accessible to people with reduced mobility, with its Colegio Mayor and its Paraninfo hall. About five minutes away is the other must-see: the Cervantes Birthplace Museum, which has been adapted to be physically and visually accessible and shows what family life was like in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Alcalá is about a 30-minute drive from Nuevo Baztán. Wander through its historic centre, which is pedestrianised and flat, and explore the monumental complex of the Goyeneche palace-church, which has been adapted for visitors.



Rascafría

## NATURE

### In search of royal rural hideaways San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Rascafría

The Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial makes it easy for everyone who visits: the space has been adapted for people with special mobility, visual and hearing needs. As you explore the site, you'll understand why it was the favourite retreat of Philip II. Most likely the Abantos peak and the La Herrería forest had an influence. Your next stop, Rascafría, is also abundant in nature. Take the tree-lined trail to the Royal Monastery of Santa María del Paular, where tours are specially adapted for people with reduced mobility and sensory impairments. For a final plunge into nature, don't forget to cross the Puente del Perdón bridge.

# at home

people with special physical and sensory needs in mind

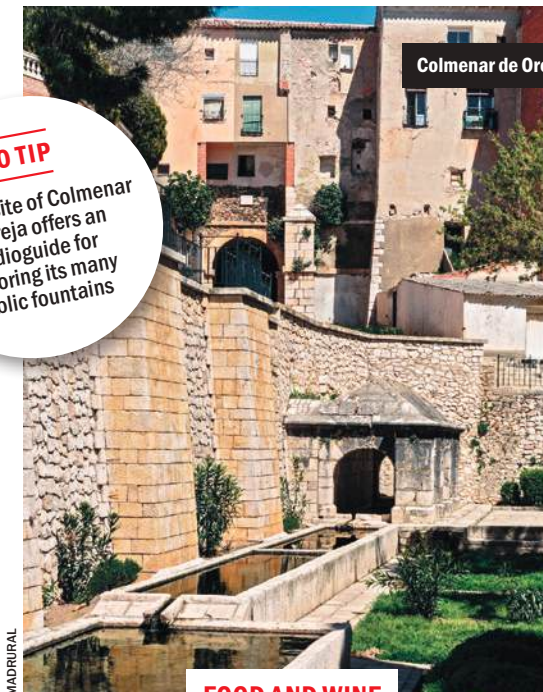


Navalcarnero

## HISTORY

### What these narrow streets have seen Navalcarnero and San Martín de Valdeiglesias

It was in Navalcarnero, a traditional Castilian town, that Philip IV married Mariana of Austria. The surroundings of the porticoed Plaza de Segovia, a Site of Cultural Interest, are easily accessible and the perfect place to sample local wines and try the traditional dish known as Olla del Segador. Also well adapted are the Interpretation Centre and the Casa de la Lonja, together with the San Sebastián Historical Park. A 45-minute drive takes us to San Martín de Valdeiglesias, famous for its Coracera castle, an accessible site formerly occupied by Don Álvaro de Luna and Isabel la Católica. In the old centre – which is less accessible – a glass of fine wine with *patatas revolconas* (mashed potatoes with bacon) awaits us. Say goodbye by exploring the beaches of the San Juan reservoir.



Colmenar de Oreja

## FOOD AND WINE

### Illustrious gastronomic and wine tourism destinations

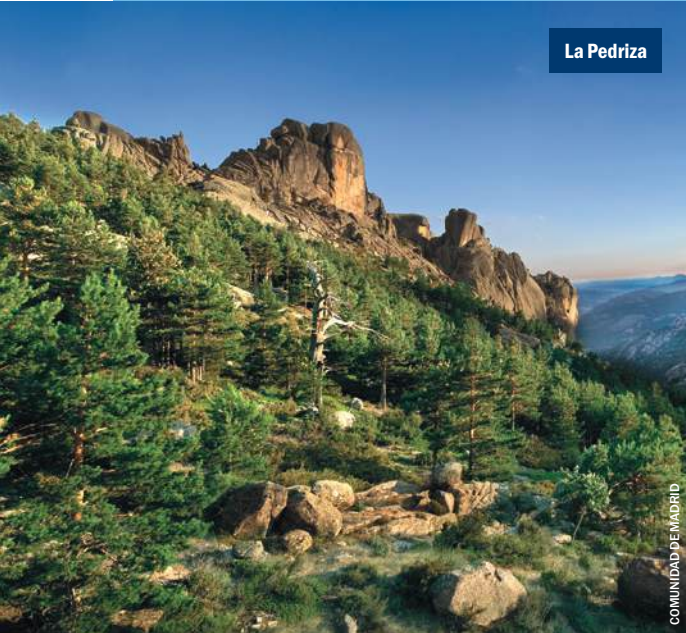
#### Colmenar de Oreja and Villarejo de Salvanes

Getting around Colmenar de Oreja, with its narrow pavements, isn't easy with a wheelchair. The best option is to head directly to its central plaza to enjoy the local wines served in its many bars. Pair them with a snack and be sure to ask for the *pozas* (never has a sandwich tasted so good). At the Narciso wine cellar restaurant, you can discover the local cuisine. Then head to Villarejo de Salvanes, to the convent of Nuestra Señora de la Victoria de Lepanto and its Cinema Museum. The former is equipped for people with reduced mobility; the latter is also equipped for people with special visual needs. Those with a sweet tooth will find a souvenir in the *rosquillas* (ring-shaped pastries) from Tía Javiera.

**TO TIP**  
The website of Colmenar de Oreja offers an audioguide for exploring its many public fountains

# Sports and adventure

La Pedriza



COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

## Spring EL YELMO

Everyone wants to reach El Yelmo, the most impressive rock formation in La Pedriza. The views from the summit are outstanding: you can see as far as the plains of Alcarría. And they are well-deserved, too: the circular route starts at Canto Cochino and ascends 538 metres amid memorable crags.  
→Distance: 9 km →Difficulty: hard. →Duration: 4 hours

### LAGUNA DEL CAMPILLO

Set in the Southeast Regional Park, this 48.5-hectare stretch of water provides a pleasant circular walk starting and ending at the Cortados de Rivas. The route takes you past the suspension bridge at Arganda over the Jarama river, as well as viewpoints ensuring you miss none of the landscape of these wetlands and the birds that make it their home.  
→Distance: 5.5 km →Difficulty: easy. →Duration: 2 hours



Laguna grande de Peñalara

CREATIVE COMMONS

## Autum SEAT OF PHILIP II

In the Sierra de Guadarrama, at the foot of the Machotas, stands the famous rock formation known as the Seat of Philip II. It is reached from San Lorenzo de El Escorial, on a route that begins gently but is more demanding towards the end as it reaches a height of 1,060 metres. Along the way, enjoy the La Herrería forest, which turns especially lovely in autumn,  
→Distance: 7 km (return) →Difficulty: easy. →Duration: 1.5 hours

### LAGUNA GRANDE DE PEÑALARA

Starting at the Cotos pass, you'll love this route because the reward arrives in the form of a glacier-fed lake (2,017m) that, nestled at the foot of the Peñalara massif, makes for a picture-postcard image. The trail winds between pine forests and lookout points from which to contemplate the peaks of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park.  
→Distance: 6 km (return) →Difficulty: moderate. →Duration: 2 hours

# 8 routes to

Put your boots on and grab your poles.

# get into the hills

Exploring the region's trails is an option in all four seasons

## Summer ALBERCHE GREEN ROUTE

A one-way trail starting at the San Juan reservoir and ending at Aldea del Fresno, where a beach perfect for a refreshing dip awaits. The gentle route follows the course of the Alberche river along unpaved paths and through tunnels built for the former railway line. Overhead, you may spot the occasional bird of prey.  
→Distance: 14 km →Difficulty: easy. →Duration: 4 hours

### LOZOYA RIVER CANYONS

This circular route in the Sierra Norte criss-crosses the Lozoya river, at times close by and others far off, but always present. Starting at the Pontón de la Oliva dam, you'll follow the canyons formed by the water, pausing to observe the landscape framed by the cliffs with the Cárcavas in the distance, and archaeological sites to visit.  
→Distance: 8.5 km →Difficulty: easy →Duration: 3 hours

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID



Lozoya River Canyons

**TO TIP**  
Near the Pontón there is an interesting archaeological site from late antiquity: the necropolis of Dehesa de la Oliva

## Winter FINNISH FOREST

Located in Rascafría, this forest acquired its name from its resemblance to Finland. It is also home to a lake with a jetty. Together this makes a winter visit with a dusting of snow on the ground a perfect photo opportunity. The route leaves the town by a tree-lined track and plunges into the woods, making it a great option for taking the kids.  
→Distance: 4 km (return) →Difficulty: easy. →Duration: 1 hour

### BOLA DEL MUNDO

Leaving behind the car park at the Puerto de Navacerrada, you'll find the paved track that leads most of the way to the summit. It's hard to get lost with the red antennae at the top providing a reference point. The ascent is steady but not too steep, and the views from the summit are superb. It's essential to go well prepared for snow and ice.  
→Distance: 9 km (return) →Difficulty: moderate. →Duration: 4 hours

JAVIER SANCHEZ



Bola del Mundo, Navacerrada

# From Madrid... to Santiago de Compostela!

Four unique pilgrimage routes  
that traverse the region

Coracera Castle,  
San Martín de  
Valdeiglesias



AMADOR TORIL

## 1 Camino de Madrid Following the Roman road

Not everyone knows that the Camino de Madrid stretch of the Camino de Santiago starts right in the middle of the city, at the church of Santiago y San Juan Bautista. It leads across the fairytale landscape of Manzanares El Real, up to the top of La Maliciosa, before descending through the Valle de la Barranca. It is a charming feeling

### DON'T FORGET...

#### Expert tips

A successful pilgrimage demands careful preparation: take training walks with the footwear you will use; prepare a backpack no heavier than one-fifth of your weight; use walking poles; always carry water; and be sure to study the route you'll take at the start of each day.

to leave the Community of Madrid on the Via XXIV Roman road, in the Fuenfría valley.

→ Madrid - Valle de la Fuenfría: 92 km in four stages, from low to medium difficulty

## 2 Camino Mendocino A walk through history

This trail is all about the heritage. It's hard to walk more than an hour without passing a site worth visiting. From the church of San Pedro Apóstol in Torremocha de Jarama, one of the few Romanesque buildings in the Sierra Norte, to a medieval bridge in Soto del Real, by way of Torrelaguna, a Site of Historical and Artistic Interest.

→ Torremocha de Jarama - Manzanares El Real: 46.4 km in three stages, medium difficulty

## 3 Camino de Levante Ideal for beginners

A short 13 kilometres that can be walked in three hours, leaving the rest of the day to enjoy San Martín de Valdeiglesias, where Coracera Castle is not to be missed. Likewise, the San Juan reservoir with its water sports activities. Above all, the least well-known attraction: the wine cellars of the Sierra Oeste, belonging to the Vinos de Madrid Denomination of Origin.

→ San Martín de Valdeiglesias: 12.85 km in a single stage, medium difficulty

## 4 Camino del Sureste Secrets of another age

Before joining the Camino Francés or the Vía de la Plata, the Camino Sureste takes a diversion. For a good reason. It's not every day that you visit a 2<sup>nd</sup>-century archaeological site like that of Piedra Escrita in Cenicientos. Or that you ascend to a peak like Muntaña with its Muslim watchtower at Cadalso de los Vidrios. ■

→ Cenicientos - Cadalso de los Vidrios: 20.52 km in a single stage, medium difficulty

# Star hunting

We look for the darkest skies for astro-tourism in the region

**YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE CAPITAL BEHIND**, but the dark skies make the Community of Madrid a great place for star-gazing. You needn't go far: an hour by car will take you to the Mancomunidad del Embalse del Atazar, in the Sierra Norte, where a network of star lookouts has been created around the reservoir. These are located in the towns of **El Atazar, El Berrueco, Cervera de Buitrago, Patones, Puentes Viejas** and **Robledillo de la Jara**

and each of them provides a different view of the firmament. Choose a cloudless night and, if possible, one when the moon is not full. Bringing a telescope or binoculars is a plus, but not essential. Don't forget warm clothing: at all times of year it gets colder at night. Face it: you'll want to repeat the experience more than once over the year. The sky changes with the passing seasons, and if you also want to try a different star-gazing site, then you'll also find dark skies to the west of Madrid. Of course, we can't go without mentioning **Robledo de Chavela** at this point. Not just because of the NASA facility, but for the hills around it. On one of them sits the hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Navahonda: from the esplanade in front of it the nights are as black as pitch. Further north, La

Pedriza: here it is a question of climbing up to El Yelmo to bivouac and – literally – sleep under the stars. And for those less accustomed to roughing it, a more accessible option is the Seat of Philip II in San Lorenzo de El Escorial. More people, certainly, but some of them will have brought telescopes they are happy to share with other amateur astronomers. ■

Stargazing in  
Sierra de  
Guadarrama



SHUTTERSTOCK

The sky in  
La Cabrera,  
Sierra Norte



## If you can't get away...

### CERRO DEL TÍO PÍO The best sunset in Madrid

Arrive just as the sun is going down and before the city lighting has turned on. That way, the Madrid streetlights won't hinder your view of the sky.

→ Calle de Benjamín Palencia, 1

### CASA DE CAMPO A city forest

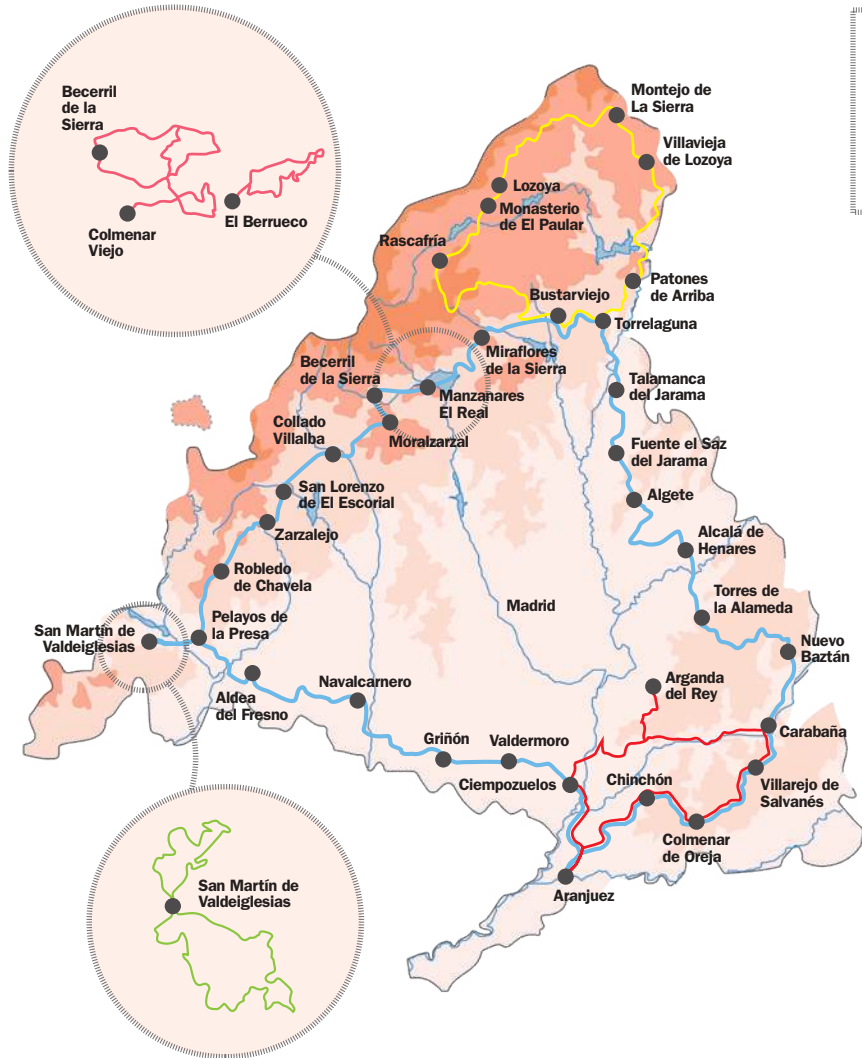
If you move away from the lakeside, climb up to one of the viewpoints and turn your back to Madrid, you'll have enough darkness to see the stars.

→ Paseo de Puerta del Ángel, 1

### THE PLANETARIUM Telescope observations

As part of the planetarium's astronomy education work, it organises sky-watching nights with telescopes on the esplanade of Parque Tierno Galván.

→ Avenida del Planetario, 16



- Ciclamadrid Grand Tour
- Sierra Norte
- Sierra de Guadarrama
- Sierra Oeste
- Aranjuez and las Vegas y la Alcarria Madrileña

**CICLAMADRID**  
The Grand Tour  
around the  
Madrid region

Do you dream of exploring the region around Madrid by bicycle, at your own pace? The CiclaMadrid Grand Tour offers 420 km of enormous variety: 17 easy stages of about 25 km linking up enchanting villages, natural parks, historical gardens and no fewer than three UNESCO World Heritage sites. A route you can start and finish wherever you like, with no need to be an expert cycle tourist. The idea is simple yet irresistible: pedal through the morning, and spend the afternoon enjoying a gentle walk, a bar terrace, or sampling the local culture. A slow-paced, unique journey that transforms the Community of Madrid into a map rich in possibility.

→ Family-friendly → 420 km  
→ 266 m average ascent  
→ 17 stages

# Pedal-power across Madrid

Unexpected cycling routes that combine nature, heritage and gastronomy, a singular experience for fans of slow travel

**ARANJUEZ AND LAS VEGAS Y LA ALCARRIA MADRILEÑA**  
Cultural landscape and wine tourism

A route that has it all, for those who enjoy nature and magical villages. The Royal Palace and its gardens, historical orchards and the fertile plains around Aranjuez have earned it recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site. You can safely cycle alongside the river on the Tajuña Greenway.

→ Family-friendly → 178 km → 268 m average ascent → 6 stages



Tajuña Greenway

**SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA**  
Mountains, clean air and adventure

A pure natural spectacle: glacial cirques, endless pine woods and clean, revitalising high mountain air. This route through the Sierra de Guadarrama is perfect for pedalling among breathtaking landscapes and discovering little-known corners. At nightfall, there's nothing better than ending the day at a welcoming bar terrace or rural hotel.

→ Road cycling → 347 km → 2,087 m average ascent → 3 routes



Sierra de Guadarrama

**SIERRA NORTE**  
Cycling the byways

A real magnet for those seeking to get lost (and find themselves) among mountains, magical beech woods and unique nature reserves in the Sierra Norte of Madrid. The CiclaMadrid MTB route, with 213 km of pure nature, follows the perimeter of the Sierra and connects villages where you can refuel with good food and well-earned rest. A wild plan for cyclists looking for adventure.

→ Mountain biking → 213 km → 1,529 m average ascent → 4-5 stages



Pinilla del Valle

**SIERRA OESTE**  
Adventures among castles and pine trees

An authentic treasure to explore: pine woods as far as the eye can see, slow-flowing rivers and inviting meadows as you explore the natural wealth of the Sierra Oeste. Among castles rich in history and enchanting vineyards, CiclaMadrid proposes routes designed to discover it at your own pace, enjoying all the landscapes and villages have to offer.

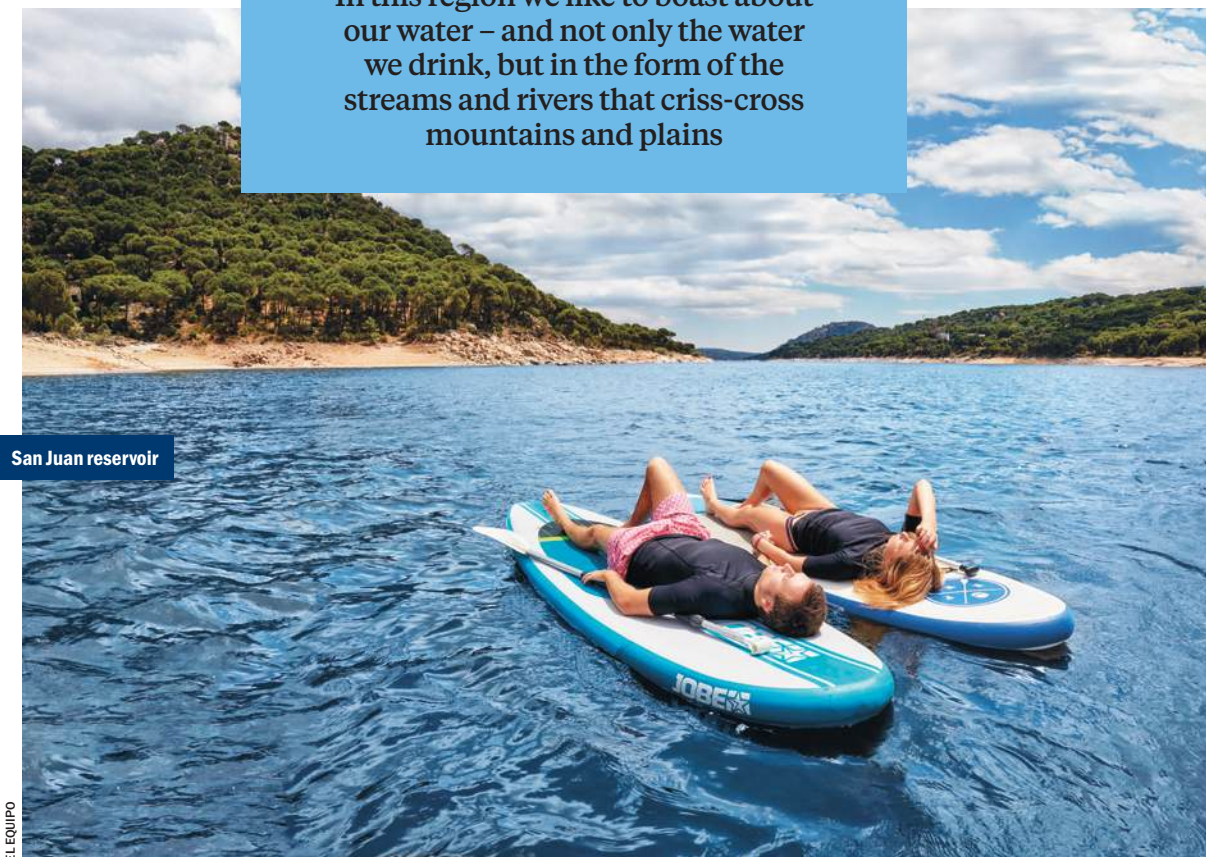
→ Nature → 62 km → 870 m average ascent → 2 routes



San Martín de Valdeiglesias

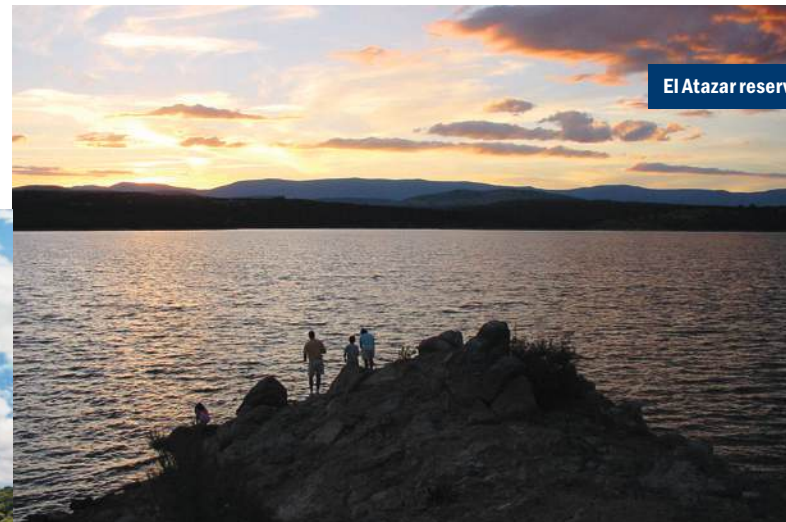
# Go with the flow

In this region we like to boast about our water – and not only the water we drink, but in the form of the streams and rivers that criss-cross mountains and plains



San Juan reservoir

EL EQUIPO



El Atazar reservoir

CREATIVE COMMONS



Las Berceas

AYUNTAMIENTO DE CERCEDILLA

**FROM STREAMS TO SWIMMING POOLS**, by way of rivers and reservoirs, we explore the Community of Madrid on the trail of places to enjoy water activities.

## Walking by the water Springs, rivers and waterfalls

It's a fact: any landscape is improved by the presence of water. It's just not the same to

walk through dry scenery as it is to explore Rascafría, amid the exuberant vegetation lining the course of the Lozoya river, and come upon the Purgatorio waterfall where the waters of the Aguilón join it. The Sierra Norte knows how to use water to surprise visitors. Even when it seems there is no room left, as in Somosierra. Just before

reaching Segovia, the Litueiros waterfall forms a cascade that is particularly spectacular during the spring thaw. The climb up to it is easy and the sight is well worth the walk.

From the Sierra de Guadarrama, we opt for the Camino del Agua, which departs from Cercedilla and follows the canal that carries the water of the Las Berceas

reservoir as far as the Valle de la Fuenfría Interpretation Centre. A distance of just 3 kilometres, which in summer you can extend to finish your day at the Las Berceas natural pools. These tend to get quite busy, so if you prefer somewhere quieter, perhaps you would like to discover one of the less well-known corners of the Sierra Oeste. This is a 3-hour walk along

the course of the Cofio river, passing by the Valdemaqueda Roman bridge, which is a perfect spot for a picnic. A gentler route with barely any ascent is the ecological trail along the Tagus between Fuentidueña and Villamanrique, which runs close to the river among picturesque woods and fields.

## Water sports Another way to enjoy the mountains

You don't need to go as far as the sea to take a boat trip. It's also an option on the San Juan reservoir, the stretch of water in the Sierra Oeste with over 50 km of shoreline. This is the only artificial lake in the region where motorised water sports are permitted. Of course, kayaking, canoeing and sailing are options, too... Another great spot to enjoy water sports is in Cervera de Buitrago. Located on the shores of the El Atazar reservoir, the town in the Sierra Norte has a zone for water activities. You can take your own equipment or rent it from local agencies, which also offer courses.

## Swimming spots Yes, there's a beach...

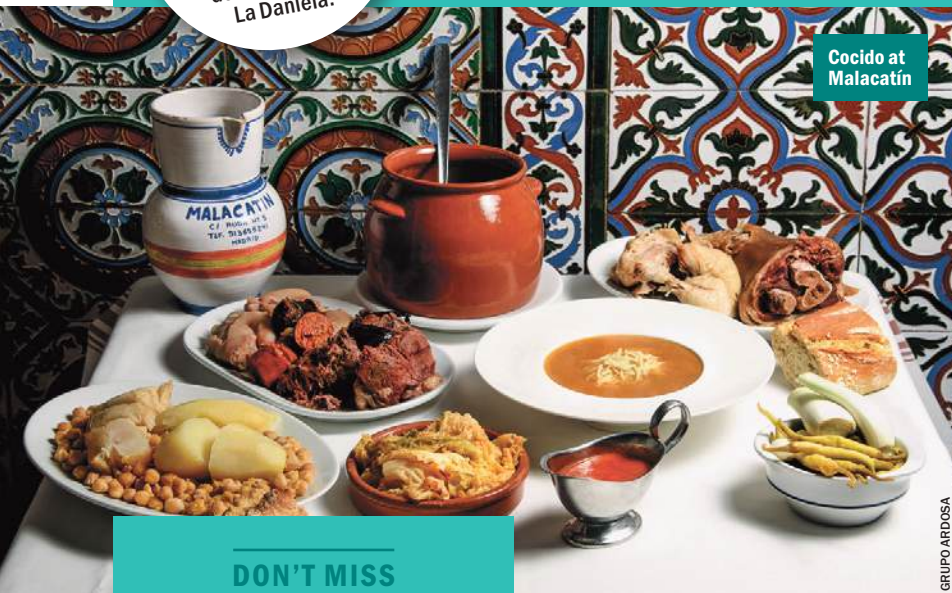
And even blue flags! These guarantee the quality of a bathing area and fly each year on Virgen de la Nueva beach at San Juan reservoir, one of the five authorised swimming spots around the region. Nearby on the same body of water is El Muro beach, also perfect for a dip. Rounding off the list are the Presillas de Rascafría, natural pools formed by the waters of the Lozoya river; Los Villares de Estremera, the only place in the region where you can take a dip in the Tagus; and Alberche beach in Aldea del Fresno, a wooded spot with sandy riverbanks. ■

**The Cercedilla outdoor pools have space for 1,800 people**

# Gastronomy

## TO TIP

A good cocido stew is also a tradition at La Bola, Lhardy, Malacatín, Cruz Blanca de Vallecas and La Daniela.



Cocido at Malacatín

GRUPO ARDOÑA

## SOUP SPOON, knife and fork

There are many restaurants in the capital where cocido is practically a religion, but let's travel a little further to try the one prepared at Charolés in San Lorenzo de El Escorial. If you're tempted to stick to the spoon, the bean stew dishes in the Sierra del Rincón are memorable. Nor will you forget the grilled meats at La Cabaña, in Soto del Real, where they serve beef tenderloin from the Sierra de Guadarrama, or the roasts at the Machaco restaurant in La Cabrera. To try sea bream, head to the Filandón restaurant (on the road between Fuencarral and El Pardo).

## STEPPING UP TO THE BAR In Madrid, tapas are an art form

We all like to pull a stool up to the bar and, glass of wine or mug of beer in hand, watch the plates of snacks being served. Patatas bravas, like those at Docamar with their secret salsa; cod croquettes, from Casa Labra specifically; tripe, like the one prepared at Taberna Delfín; or the offal and lamb tripe stews at Casa Enriqueta. The calamari sandwich, around the Plaza Mayor; and the consommé, always necessary when the cold weather arrives, at Lhardy. Although when the cold weather really sets in, the truth is that we prefer cocido.



Patatas bravas at Docamar

Lamb tripe at Casa Enriqueta



## DON'T MISS

### Cocido de Taba

This variant of the traditional Madrid cocido is less well-known, but there's no doubt it is an ancient recipe that was revived a few decades back. Its hallmark is the inclusion of crayfish among the ingredients. You'll be all the more surprised to learn it also comprises boneless goose neck, egg and breadcrumbs.

# Treat yourself to a Madrid-style feast

Madrid's local cuisine consists of a good handful of typical dishes that could be condensed into a generous and tasty menu. To discover them, all you have to do is set off along the region's roads



CHIRÓN

Palmeritas from Morata de Tajuña



## DESSERT SPOON A sweet tooth

The one we eat to celebrate special occasions and the one we seek out at any excuse. Unmissable treats include the roscón de Reyes cake, which is especially good at San Onofre; Easter torrijas from Pastelería Mallorca; rosquillas de San Isidro from the century-old Pozo bakery; huesos de santo and buñuelos de viento from La Mallorquina; and the corona de Almudena from El Riojano. And, of course, hot chocolate with churros from San Ginés. That is, as far as the capital is concerned, but if we go farther afield to explore the Community

then the palmeritas from Morata de Tajuña are a delight; in Alcalá de Henares, you should always have on hand the caramelised almonds prepared by the cloistered nuns of the Convent of the Poor Clares of San Diego and, when you fancy something more substantial, the costrada de Alcalá, a delicious mille-feuille filled with cream and meringue. You should not miss out on trying the pelotas de fraile and tetas de novicia made in Chinchón, the torta de Arganda and, of course, the bizcoletas de San Lorenzo. For the journey, it is a good idea to always carry a handful of violet sweets, the flavour of Madrid, in your pocket. ■

Artisan produce of Madrid: beer, honey and cheese

Campo Real olives



**KILOMETRE ZERO** in Madrid is not only the plaque at the Puerta del Sol that marks the point from which every road in Spain is measured, but also the philosophy practised by those who head off into the hills and fields to seek what local producers have to offer. We are talking of the wine and the olive oil whose fame is now widespread, but also of other less well-known delights that are worth the journey. Don't stress, though, because to whet your appetite you can always drop by the Farmers' Markets held on weekends in the capital.

**OLIVES**

In the Community of Madrid, the king of olives is the Campo Real, a manzanilla variety that is also Denomination of Origin. They are large and fleshy, with a thin, deep greenish-brown skin. As for the

flavour, there are hints of thyme, fennel, oregano and garlic. That's just for starters. Each producer uses their own expertise and creativity to put the finishing touches, with marjoram, cumin, or bay leaves.

**MEAT**

Meat is a serious matter in this region. So much so that it has

earned Protected Geographical Indication status, for meat from the Sierra de Guadarrama. This distinction includes veal, yearling beef and fattened beef from the Avileña, Limousin and Charolais breeds, fed on cereals under extensive farming in the Lozoya-Somosierra area, part of the Guadarrama region, the

# Local flavours

This is a delicious guide to the region, where we head in search not of restaurants, but rather those producers whose efforts make our lives a little bit tastier

metropolitan area of Madrid, the countryside and the south-western area.

**FROM THE GARDEN**

There's no doubt that when we think of Madrid, the first image that comes to mind isn't exactly a cultivated field. But that's probably just because you don't know that here we have Brunete chickpeas, Chinchón garlic, Aranjuez strawberries, Villavieja del Lozoya beans, Villaconejos melons, Griñón cauliflower... In short, we could run a whole farm-to-table enterprise with our local producers.

**GASTRO-MISCELLANY**

**A bit of everything**

The region also prepares smoked delicacies, such as the salmon from El Ahumadero de Madarcos. Then there are the potato chips from La Montaña in Collado Mediano. And don't forget our artisan sausage makers and, of course, our free-range chicken farms.

**SPIRITS**

Whether you like it sweet, dry, special dry or extra-dry, the aniseed liquor drunk around here is known as Chinchón. This alcoholic tippie is prepared by steeping green aniseed, and is recognised with a Protected Geographical Indication.

**DAIRY**

Cheeses, fresh milk, curds, kefir, cream, butter... For a huge range of local dairy produce you need only head for the hills or the plains, and see what's cooking at sites such as Quesería Jaramera, in Torremocha de Jarama; in the Marqués de Mendiola dairy in Cempozuelos; or in La Colmenareña in Colmenar Viejo.

**SWEETS**

Those with a fondness for honey will enjoy El Bardal de Braojos, where they also organise workshops on how it is made. Those who can't live without chocolate, especially artisan and natural chocolate, will want to visit the Rascafría Natural Chocolate Factory, where it is sold in bars, cat's tongue biscuits, truffles, bonbons...■



Strawberries and asparagus from Aranjuez

Meat from the Sierra de Guadarrama

Traditional Navalcarnero wine cellar



MADRURAL

**TO TIP**

Learn all about Madrid's olive oil at a former oil press in Brea del Tajo

Olive grove and vineyards around Las Vegas



BELEN IMAZ

Mesón Cuevas del Vino, in Chinchón



ANDRÉS ARRANZ

# Vineyards and olives

There's no need to leave the Community of Madrid to raise a glass of local wine or see the olive trees that produce DOP extra-virgin oil

**REDS AND ROSÉS** with notes of red and dark fruit; dry whites, with slight bitterness and mid to low acidity. The wines of the Community of Madrid are produced under the aegis of the Protected Denomination of Origin (DOP) Vinos de Madrid, which comprises four sub-areas: Arganda, Navalcarnero, San Martín de Valdeiglesias and El Molar. They all have interesting characteristics.

**Arganda**  
This is the largest of the areas, explored via a circular route that starts and ends in Arganda del Rey and passes through Nuevo Baztán, Villarejo de Salvanés, Colmenar de Oreja, Aranjuez and Chinchón. The names alone already tell us that this is going to be a route filled with heritage as much as wine. A chance to combine tastings and wine cellars,

such as those of Cuarto Lote, El Regadal or Bodegas Pedro García, with visits to unmissable sites like the central plaza of Chinchón.

**Navalcarnero**  
Be sure to remember two names: Navalcarnero and Aldea del Fresno. These are non-negotiables in this, the smallest of the sub-areas. The first is famous for the caves that wind beneath its streets; the latter

for its Alberche beach on the river bank. You might not know, however, that both are home to superb vineyards. Proof is to be found at Bodegas Muñoz Martín, where visits offer an interesting combination of winery, vineyard, cellar and tasting.

**San Martín de Valdeiglesias**  
The 'fantastic four' of this sub-area are San Martín de Valdeiglesias, Cadalso de los Vidrios, Cenicientos and Villa del Prado, all great spots to taste the wines born at the feet of the Sierra de Gredos. To get your bearings, we'll mention the wineries Valleiglesias, Las Moradas de San Martín, Virgen de la Poveda, 4Monos Viticultores and Cenicientos (Sat 1431 San Esteban).

**El Molar**  
This is the most recent of the sub-areas to have joined the DOP, and the least well-known. As if we'd just assumed winemaking was a thing of the south. Not true: in the north there is room for good wine too. This territory includes popular destinations for day trips from Madrid, such as Patones and Torrelaguna, which coexist with family-run wineries that are now in their third generation, such as Viña Bardela, and others that have been recently established, like Tinta Castiza. ■

## DON'T MISS Oil for dipping

**IT IS NOT JUST** that the Community of Madrid produces olive oil, but that its quality and unique characteristics have earned it a DOP: Aceite de Madrid. This incorporates the extra-virgin olive oil produced in the municipalities of Cuenca del Henares, the district of Las Vegas and a number of sites in the Cuenca Sur. Almost 24,000 hectares of olive groves where different varieties of olives are cultivated. Together they forge an identity that can boast of its distinctiveness, and a liquid gold with aromas of olive, grass, almond, tomato, apple and banana.

Now that you've been introduced, you'll want to try some for yourself. The best way is to head for the south-east of the region, where there are several oil mills open to visitors. Take note: in Villaconejos, you can make a reservation at Oleum Laguna or Vinos y Aceites Laguna; in Titulcia, there is La Aceitera de la Abuela; and in Villarejo de Salvanés, you will be sure to enjoy the presentation at Aceites Posito. The type of visit varies from one to another, but they usually offer tastings and tours of their oil presses and olive groves. Dipping bread in oil has never tasted so good.

Tasting DOP Aceite de Madrid



ARACOVE

# High-flown cooking

Not our words: these restaurants and their chefs feature every year on the lists dedicated to the best in the world



## TO TIP

Try Muñoz's delicacies at RabioXO: for sharing, with a less formal atmosphere – and easier to book

## 1

DiverXO

### Who hasn't heard of Dabiz Muñoz?

He needs no introduction. This chef came from nowhere to win the National Gastronomy Prize and earn 3 Michelin stars for his restaurant, where he focuses on elaborate cuisine, blending flavours, textures and haute cuisine techniques. Surprises are a given in his dishes. It may be difficult to get a reservation, as tables are in high demand, but the experience is definitely worth it.

→ NH Eurobuilding. Padre Damián, 23



Baby squid, DiverXO

## 2 Smoked Room

### A little smokiness everywhere

The concept designed by Dani García for fewer than 20 diners per sitting is truly unique. You needn't even take up one of the bar stools in the front row, face to face with the chefs. Everything has a more or less subtle smoky flavour. Every fish and seafood, every meat and vegetable. From grilled lobster to the new and surprising version of nitro tomato accompanied by its eel-flavoured mousse.

→ Hotel Hyatt Regency Hesperia. Paseo de la Castellana, 57

## 3 DSTagE

### Assured success

Trained in the kitchens of Martín Berasategui, Diego Guerrero earned two Michelin stars for his work at El Club Allard. In 2014 he took the plunge and opened his own restaurant. Alonso Martínez was the district he chose for his premises, which has an industrial vibe with exposed brick walls, metal piping and open kitchen to the rear. The dishes, a free-form, unrestrained cuisine, have won praise from critics and public alike.

→ Regueros, 8

## 4 OSA

### Radical in the best sense

This offering from Jorge Muñoz (who made his name at Picones de María) and Sara Peral – both formerly of Mugaritz – is a deeply personal cooking. The ingredients? An endless wine list, refined technique and brutalist cuisine in a chalet on the river bank. Sophistication in form and deeply thought-out foundations. A great deal of work goes into each course (however invisible it may be to the eye) of the two tasting menus on offer.

→ Ribera del Manzanares, 123



Corral de la Morería

## 5 El Invernadero

### Faithful to the passion for veg

Rodrigo de la Calle continues to pleasantly surprise with his flagship offering. With several tasting menus (room is made for meat or fish dishes later on), where #Veg-etalia is the peak of his work and philosophy, the chromatic and culinary display laid out by this Madrid-born chef is as attractive as it is original. A dance of textures and flavours, sometimes startling and often unexpected, but always welcome.

→ Ponzano, 85



Reserved at OSA

## 6 Corral de la Morería

### Haute tablao

The legendary establishment has decided to bring a Michelin-starred chef into its kitchen: David García. And, in a bid for originality, they have become the smallest fine-dining restaurant in the world, with only four tables for eight diners per sitting. On the menu, two tasting menus and a wine cellar where sherry reigns supreme, with more than 300 choices – all by the glass! A spectacle that brings the *tablao* straight to the table.

→ Morería, 17



Pigs' trotters, La Tasquería

## 7 La Tasquería

### 'Offaly' nice!

Here, not only do you eat well, but you also have a good time and leave wanting to come back for more. The effect is even greater if, before stopping by this place, the mere mention of 'brains' or 'pigs' trotters' would have you turning up your nose. Not only do they champion offal, but they seek out its most appealing aspects, updating it for contemporary and urban palates and, ultimately, enhancing it without losing sight of tradition. At the helm is Javi Estévez. ■

→ Modesto Lafuente, 82

TO TIP

Salmon has three zones: the entrance is animal (print); the heart is a comic; the rear dreams of Asia



**SALMON GURU** Global hit

This is the only bar in the city that features on the list of The World's 50 Best Bars, and that is saying something. Here you can eat and drink alike: Argentinian Diego Cabrera offers a cocktail menu (with and without alcohol) in constant evolution, accompanied by nigiris, gyozas and falafel. A bar without equal that is open every day of the week, no reservations. →Echegaray, 21



**DEVIL'S CUT** A legend

Three life-long friends have put the site of the fabled Casa Pueblo back on the map, now experiencing a renaissance in tandem with the current vigorous state of mixology. They serve the creations of Shingo Gokan, a Japanese bartender passionate about using sherry as an ingredient, who is already a legend in Tokyo and New York. →León, 3



**SCRATCH** The new generation

Fernando Lobo, a thirty-something from San José (Costa Rica) opened his cocktail bar in the heart of Lavapiés after earning his stripes in London and at Fat Cats (Madrid). His solo project offers a laid-back atmosphere to enjoy with colleagues and friends, and the menu seeks to democratise drinks with curious cocktails and his favourite classics. →Argumosa, 7

# The art of mixology

The range is vast, but these bars and their bartenders have taken the art of cocktail making in Madrid to another level

**MOMUS** Dedicated to drinking

Alberto Fernández left the Saddle bar at its peak to branch out with something more personal in the Chueca district. Momus is 100% cocktails and pure chemistry: the bartender grabs the periodic table of the classics (literally beside the bottle rack) and makes them evolve with a great deal of technique and natural ingredients, such as homemade syrups and fruit. →San Bartolomé, 11



Diego Cabrera

**CENTENARIA**

**Viva Madrid**

This unusual taberna, from bartender Diego Cabrera, dates back to 1856 and possesses a concept and identity all its own. The menu is focused on both classic and signature cocktails, combined with an original snack menu.

→Manuel Fernández y González, 7



**FLUID** For music lovers

The bartenders and businessmen Marc Álvarez and Juanillo Falcón took the leap from Barcelona to Madrid with this "space for restless minds that have an affinity for art, music, and mixology". With Dani Regajo and Julián Rodríguez at the helm, the motto is "treat mixology as if it were the seventh art".

→Conde Duque, 14

# Old favourites

Madrid's rich culinary heritage is closely bound up with the tabernas and restaurants that have always been there.

These 9 long-standing sites are part of the city's history

## CASA ALBERTO

Open since 1827, it retains its zinc-topped bar and offers a crowded showcase of national iconography. The vermouth on tap and excellent traditional tapas and tostas (toasts) make it a splendid mooring spot. The problem is how to find room to dock.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Madrid-style tripe and snails, oxtail stew, Cervantes-style eggs. → Huertas, 18

## LHARDY

This emblematic restaurant, dating back to 1839, is reputed to have introduced French haute cuisine to Madrid. Today, run by Pescaderías Coruñesas, it maintains its Belle Époque decoration, a menu as French as ever, and an excellent wine list.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Cocido, tripe, mallard duck, soufflé. → Carrera de San Jerónimo, 8

## LOS GALAYOS

This was the site of the final gathering of the Generation of 27 before the Civil War: an homage to Luis Cernuda held in April 1936. The cuisine is rooted in Castilian tradition, with suckling pig the star dish. The raciones (bar snacks) are also worthwhile.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Suckling pig, Russian salad. → Botoneras, 5

## RESTAURANTE BOTÍN

The oldest restaurant in the world (certified to have first opened in 1725) it remains at the top after three centuries. Despite its popularity with tourists, its nooks and crannies endow the

premises with charm, making it a magnificent place to eat. And yes, Hemingway really was here.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Roast suckling pig and lamb, Botín clams. → Cuchilleros, 17

## CASA CIRIACO

The dining room is stuffed with photographs of royalty and satisfied

celebrities. Unchanged and stronger than ever, Ciriaco was a meeting spot for Madrid's intellectuals before the Civil War. It no longer attracts so many philosophers but its air of authenticity endures.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Chicken in almond sauce Mingote style, meatballs, cocido and tripe. → Mayor, 84

## BODEGA LA ARDOSA

One of those bars from yesteryear adorned with tiles and wooden panelling. Here, quality snacks reign supreme, and it's a must-visit spot for aperitifs in Malasaña. On tap, they serve imported beer and a vermouth prepared exclusively for them by a local winery.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Pincho de tortilla, Cabrales cheese croquettes, artichokes. → Colón, 13

## LA CASA DEL ABUELO

Legend has it that Andy Warhol stopped by this bar whenever he visited, to enjoy the steady stream of glasses of wine and plates of prawns. A traditional taberna that has taught thousands of Madrid locals, Spaniards and visitors about tapas culture.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Prawns, langoustines and sweet wine. → Núñez de Arce, 5

## MALACATÍN

Though it began as a wine purveyor in 1895, it later added a small kitchen and fried-fish shop. Since then the restaurant has been handed down from generation to generation, specialising in authentic traditional cuisine with first-class ingredients. ■

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Cocido, leche frita. → Ruda, 5



## A VINTAGE OFFERING

### CASA PEDRO

Dating to at least 1750 (or, according to its third-generation owners, to 1702), this taberna vies with Botín for the title of oldest restaurant in the world. Housing a vast collection of wines in its underground cellar, its specialty is lovingly prepared tradition.

**WHAT TO HAVE?** Oxtail soup, tripe and offal. → Nuestra Señora de Valverde, 119



Restaurante Botín



Malacatín



Lhardy



Bodega La Ardosa

# A tour of the markets

In these Madrid markets traditional stalls ply their trade alongside food halls just right for an aperitif, lunch or dinner



Tripea, Vallehermoso market

**SOME OF THEM** still conserve the fruit stalls and fishmongers that have always been there, but the old market cafés have given way to new spots to enjoy a drink or bite to eat (very well). The best ambiance for stretching out an aperitif on the weekend is to be found in these markets.

## In the centre

**Antón Martín** (Santa Isabel, 5) is one of the capital's traditional markets, where locals buy their fresh foods, bread and pickles, keeping its soul alive. The food hall

offerings include several that look abroad: freshly made sushi to eat in or take away at **Yokaloka**; fusion food with Iberian and Latino touches at **Doppelgänger**, from chef Samy Ali Rando; and the delicious Japanese pastry shop **Hanabusa**.

The tour continues at **San Miguel Market** (Plaza San Miguel), beside the Plaza Mayor, serving a noticeably different clientele. Mostly tourists, this attractive glass-covered space is dominated by gourmet produce: Spanish hams, cheese, oysters...

Recommendations include the fried fish at **El Señor Martín** (yes, they have calamari sandwiches); the croquettes at **Arzábal**; and for carnivores the grill at **Prrimital**.

## Crossing the river

It is well worth leaving the centre and crossing over to the other bank to seek out **Tirso de Molina Market** (Doña Urraca, 15) in Puerta del Ángel, which has revitalised the neighbourhood and become a fixture among Madrid locals. Don't miss the breads and focaccias at **PanDomè**, which

Yokaloka, Antón Martín Market



**TO TIP**  
Yoka Kamada opened a second site 5 minutes from the market: the Japanese grill Yokaloka Matute (Plaza Matute, 7)

Arzábal, San Miguel Market



ForBeerPlanet, Tirso de Molina Market



JOSE LUIS CORRAL

**Tirso de Molina Market (Puerta del Ángel) has revitalised the neighbourhood**

also sells fresh dough to make pizza at home. Beer is at the heart of **ForBeerPlanet**, with five taps rotating craft offerings. For a more substantial meal stop at **Silvestre**, with a seasonal menu that changes each four months.

**From Salamanca to Chamberí**  
Another classic is the **Mercado de la Paz** (Ayala, 28B): this is where the residents of Salamanca district go to buy from their trusted market stallholders. It has adapted to modern needs with businesses like **Casa Dani**, which serves one of the

best and widely acclaimed tortillas in Madrid, together with a daily homemade menu. Fans of fusion options might go for **Triperito** and its Chinese-style menu of street food. Before you leave, be sure to check out **La Boulette** gourmet stall and the first physical store of

**Adiano**, the award-winning Manchego cheese.

Our tour concludes with the **Vallehermoso Market** (Vallehermoso, 36) where the local star is **Tripea**. Chef Roberto Ruiz invites you to peer into his Asian-Peruvian kitchen from a stool at the long bar. Not to be outdone is **Kitchen 154**, which wins over lovers of spicy food with its wok dishes, rice and tempura; **Krudo**, the raw bar where not everything is raw; and **Biáng Biáng**, which specialises in noodles from the Chinese region of Xi'an. **Batch** also has its followers, a shop and tasting bar with homemade fermented products and a natural wine cellar with more than 450 names. All in all, it's impossible not to find something to savour among the vast variety of stalls in Madrid's markets. ■

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

# Shopping

Magro Cardona



## The best shopping district

The region has become a top destination for shopping and for good reason: whatever kind of fashionista you are, you'll find what you're looking for

**THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID** is on the up and has become a must-visit destination for those looking to shop in style, from luxury handbags to vintage treasures. Here, each neighbourhood retains its own character: international boutiques, designer brands and artisan crafts coexist in a diverse and authentic shopping scene.

### 1 Salamanca The Golden Mile

The Golden Mile is Madrid's great shop window, where international boutiques line up along its elegant streets. Naturally, the most iconic Spanish firm of all, Loewe, has its flagship there with Casa Loewe on Serrano, a temple of

fashion, art and design. But among so many international brands, local designers such as Micuir, Maràvic, Divlos and Byan are also flourishing. It is a neighbourhood where global luxury coexists with emerging talent, confirming its status as the epicentre of Madrid fashion.

### 2 Salesas 'Je ne sais quoi'

Salesas has won fame as the 'Parisian neighbourhood' of Madrid, but this extends beyond cliché. Along Argensola, Fernando VI or Campoamor there are stores that set the trend: Valty Store confidently blends styles; Sol&Rol and Ropachica propose fashion with character; and Lamarca Well

surprises with its premium selection of attire and shoes, along with the Coshowroom space, a showcase of cutting-edge design. Completing the picture are established names like Ailanto and boutiques such as Aimée, with an exquisite choice of footwear and trendy handbags.

### 3 Chueca Madrid's Soho

Chueca exudes boldness and creativity. The Almirante-Barquillo-Pelayo corridor is a hub for some of the hottest addresses in Madrid fashion: Almirante is studded with boutiques for guest labels and signature brands such as Romualdo and Non Standard; on Barquillo there are multi-brand stores such



Peseta



Capas Seseña



Romualda

is the artisan jewellery from Binome Jewelry, Taller de Malicia or Ginger & Velvet, confirming the vibrancy of this literary and creative zone.

### 6 Las Rozas Outlet capital

Shopping in Madrid also extends beyond the city centre. Half an hour from the city, Las Rozas has become the region's premier outlet destination: Las Rozas Village combines luxury and discounts in an open-air mall that resembles a small village, with terraces and restaurants where you can take a break between purchases. Nearby, The Style Outlets offers continuous sales.

### 7 Chinchón Tradition with character

Chinchón offers much more than its famous aniseed liqueur or historical plaza. Beyond the picture-postcard view there is plenty of room for handmade fashion. A great example is Inma & Kate, a handbag brand made in Spain using local, lightweight and versatile materials, with a store in the heart of the town. Just one suggestion confirming that Chinchón combines shopping with tradition. ■



Maràvic

BEGO SOLÍS



Coshowroom

as Árbol and Blaw; and on Pelayo, Amlul by Gala González brings a youthful and sustainable vibe. And Spanish footwear showrooms, with their reasonably priced collections, continue to be a major attraction in the neighbourhood for insiders and curious visitors alike.

### 4 Malasaña The vintage scene

Malasaña is irreverent to the core. A neighbourhood of bars, music and fashion, it is the territory of vintage and the most sought-after sneakers, with legendary stores like El Templo de Susu or Magpie, and more recent arrivals like Fresa Ácida. Hidden among the graffiti and specialty cafés are finds like

Sin Clon ni Son or Lacambra, while Footdistrict and Numbers are reference points for shoe lovers. Magro Cardona sets the avant-garde tone with women's shoes that combine craft and contemporary design.

### 5 Barrio de las Letras Fashion, but intellectual

In Las Letras district, past and present interweave. The pedestrian streets evoke Cervantes and Lope de Vega, but today are home to signature boutiques and contemporary jewellery stores. Longstanding icons still stand – such as Fábrica de Guantes Luque for gloves, or Capas Seseña for capes – alongside newer projects like Real Fábrica Española or Peseta. Of note too

# Made in Madrid design

Madrid isn't only about tapas, terraces and museums: it is also where designers want to make a name for themselves

**THE HEADLINES** are taken up with the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Madrid, but the real creative pulse is found in the workshops, showrooms and boutiques scattered across the city. Here, pioneers and new generations work side-by-side: sustainable brands, artisan jewellery, characterful footwear... and classics like Roberto Torretta, Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, Moisés Nieto or Ana Locking remind us why Madrid is also creative capital of fashion, a region where tradition and the avant-garde go hand-in-hand.

## García Madrid Modern tailoring

Excellence in tailoring is not exclusive to the Brits. Since 2006, García Madrid has been offering bespoke suits made from the finest fabrics, with contemporary designs and a warm welcome. Its premises at 6 Conde de Aranda Street, in the heart of the Salamanca district, are a reference point for those seeking modern elegance, establishing itself as one of the standout names in contemporary Spanish tailoring. → [garciamadrid.com](http://garciamadrid.com)

## Eturel Character and tradition

Created in Tembleque in 2016 and established in Madrid (Calle de la Ruda, 8) Eturel draws on the

essence of rural living to dress urban life. The founder converts fabrics such as hessian, Alpujarra and canvas into artisan products 100% made in Spain. The best sellers include tablecloths, totes and vanity cases with a colourful, Almodovar-style vibe. → [eturel.com](http://eturel.com)

## Two Hands Madrid Artisan geometry

At their store on Corredera Alta de San Pablo 30 in Malasaña, Carlos and Roberto display handbags, backpacks and wallets with personality. The clean, geometric lines of the designs combine leather from Elche and Igualada with wood from Cantabria and Galicia. Everything is handmade in Lavapiés in short runs. Their iconic piece is the triangular handbag with sharp corners, now a regular sight around the neighbourhood. → [twohandsmadrid.com](http://twohandsmadrid.com)

## Lucuix Retro-futurist fashion jewellery

If you're on the lookout for characterful pieces then take note of the name: Lucuix. The firm set up by Ceuta-born Lucía de Torres has made signature costume jewellery its natural territory. The retro-futurist style combines clean, feminine lines to give everyday items

a unique look. Each piece is hand-made in Madrid with traditional jewellery techniques. By appointment, at San Alejandro 4 (lower right). → [lucuix.com](http://lucuix.com)

## Momoc Vegan accessories with attitude

This is Momoc: a Madrid-based firm that produces its pieces in the Elda region using vegetable fibres and recycled materials – such as pineapple leather, an eco-friendly alternative to the original – into shoes and bags that are comfortable, colourful and cruelty free. Their bestsellers are the embroidered velvet ballet flats, but the whole collection breathes design, awareness and ethical production in local workshops. → [momocshoes.com](http://momocshoes.com)

## Renate Jacob Footwear with discreet elegance

Renate Jacob is a byword for shoes with a Madrid style and Mediterranean soul. The designs are created in the capital and produced in Alicante, homeland of shoemaking tradition. Clean, timeless lines with a discreet elegance that have won over influencers like Victoria Montanari and are seducing an international clientele. The showroom on Calle Víctor Hugo is by appointment. ■

→ IG: [@renatejacob.madrid](https://www.instagram.com/renatejacob.madrid)

García Madrid



Lucuix



Renate Jacob



Appointments are required for a fitting at García Madrid

## Shopping

Momoc



Two Hands



Eturel



# Art and culture

## MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY

### The origins of the region

Located in the former Dominican Convent of the Mother of God (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries), in Alcalá de Henares, the museum explores the region from prehistoric times to the arrival of the court of Philip II. Notable is the Emiliano Aguirre Palaeontology Hall with its spectacular collection of fossils found at sites around Madrid.

→ Plaza de las Bernardas, s/n. Alcalá de Henares



COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

## CA2M MUSEUM

### Innovative exhibitions

The Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (CA2M) is the Community of Madrid's contemporary art museum. Since it opened in 2008 it has been committed to the arts of today, whether it be visual art, film, music or the stage. The exhibitions and activities bring contemporary creation to diverse audiences.

→ Avda. Constitución, 23. Móstoles.



ROBERTORUIZ / CORTESIA DEL MUSEO CA2M

### TO TIP

If you're visiting the Prado, don't forget to see its own Mona Lisa, a copy of the original produced in Leonardo's studio

# Art-packed museums

From prehistoric items to contemporary art, the region's museums house unique collections and exhibitions in remarkable venues

## Royal Collections Gallery



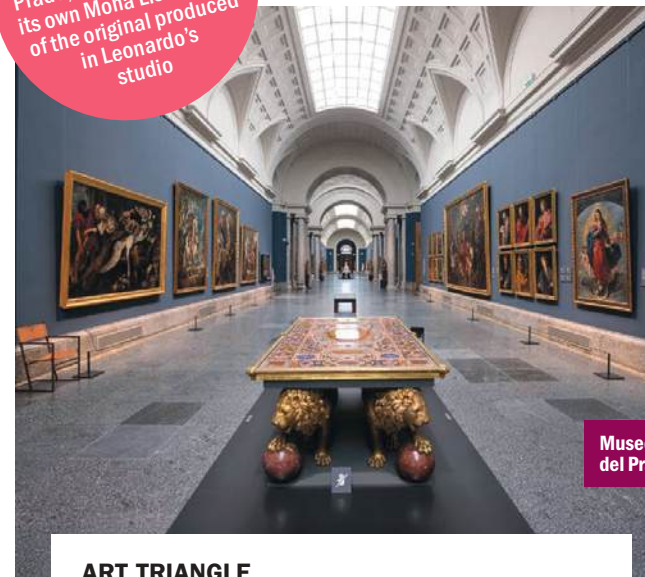
PATRIMONIO NACIONAL

## ROYAL DISTRICT

### The way they lived

Strolling through the Plaza de Oriente and seeing the beautiful Sabatini Gardens and the changing of the Royal Guard is a treat. Among the best preserved in Europe, a tour of the rooms of the Royal Palace immerses you in the life of the court. At its feet, in a striking new building opened in 2023, the Royal Collections Gallery brings together 700 pieces (comprising paintings, furniture, jewellery and more) from the kings and queens of Spain, including works by Velázquez, Caravaggio and Goya.

→ Calle Bailén, s/n. Madrid



Museo del Prado

## ART TRIANGLE

### The essentials

Three major museums are located on the Paseo del Prado. The Museo del Prado itself was founded in 1819 and displays the former royal collection. The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum opened its doors in 1992 and houses the collection begun by Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza. The Museo Reina Sofía was inaugurated in 1990 and showcases contemporary art.

→ Museo del Prado. Paseo del Prado, s/n. Madrid  
→ Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. Paseo del Prado, 8. Madrid  
→ Museo Reina Sofía. c/Santa Isabel, 52. Madrid

## DON'T MISS

### Other plans

#### Nuevo Baztán Interpretation Centre

All about the figure of Juan de Goyeneche, the founder of the factories, palace and church that gave rise to Nuevo Baztán, and its architect José de Churriguera.

→ Calle del Arco, 1. Nuevo Baztán

#### Cervantes Birthplace Museum

Amenábar's film about Cervantes (*El Cautivo*) is a great precursor to visiting the family home where the writer spent his early years, and to learn about life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

→ Calle Mayor, 48. Alcalá de Henares

#### Lope de Vega House Museum

This is where the writer spent his final 25 years. The recreated rooms evoke daily life in the Golden Century and provide an intimate portrait of Lope de Vega.

→ Calle Cervantes, 11. Madrid

# This way for the best exhibitions

The capital offers a varied agenda in galleries and exhibition centres

**VIDEO, INSTALLATION, painting, sculpture...** In Madrid you'll find every form of artistic expression. One example of this creative diversity is **Matadero Madrid**, originally built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for the city's slaughterhouse, which today is home to exhibitions, theatre, cinema, workshops and family activities. Another building in Arganzuela, an emblem of Madrid's industrial heritage, is **El Águila**, a former brewery renovated to house the regional library and archive and their exhibition spaces, which host temporary displays of their collections.

Five minutes from Plaza de España, **Contemporánea Condeduque** occupies what was once the Barracks of the Royal Bodyguard, dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and presents contemporary art exhibitions, conferences and theatrical spectacles. Also in the central district, in a stunning building designed by Antonio Palacios, is **Sala Alcalá, 31**. Specialising in national and international visual arts, it offers a programme of solo and group shows of contemporary art. Close by, in the Palacio de Cibeles – also the work of Palacios – **Centro-Centro** is a showcase for artists of all ages working

today in all disciplines. Descending the Paseo del Prado, we find **CaixaForum Madrid**: occupying a former power station, it offers exhibitions, workshops, conferences and activities relating to art, culture and science. Focused on contemporary photography and audiovisual work, the **Sala Canal de Isabel II** in the Chamberí district is located in a former water tower from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and puts on exhibitions of photography and fashion. Although they have similar names, this gallery is not a part of the **Fundación Canal**, located on Plaza Castilla, which shows the work of major modern and contemporary artists and other thematic exhibitions. ■



JONAS BEL

Alcalá 31

## Other interesting projects

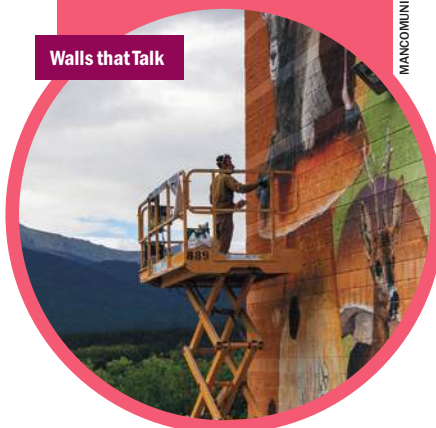
### WALLS THAT TALK Art on the walls

Urban art is not just a thing of the city. The evidence? This collection of outdoor works – 41 murals by 31 artists – in attractive rural settings.  
→ **Municipios de la Sierra Norte**

### TORREARTE Much more than crafts

35 studios and workshops of young craftspeople, a Museum of Agriculture and exhibition spaces comprise the **Centro Artesanal Torrearte**, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.  
→ **Calle Torrearte, 3, Torremocha de Jarama**

Walls that Talk



MANCOMUNIDAD DE SERVICIOS VALLE NOROCCIDENTAL DE LOZOYA



1

BORONDO



2

ROBERTO RUIZ / GALERÍA F2

## 1 Murals in Tetuán

The walls of this district display iconic murals such as one by Borondo (Marqués de Viana, 52). Nearby at Almortas 4 is a mural by SpY with 150 security cameras. Close to the Estrecho metro station, on Plaza del Poeta Luis de Leopoldo, a mural by Suso33 has become a mark of identity for the neighbourhood.

## 2 Contemporary art in Lavapiés

The Embajadores neighbourhood is home to the street with the most galleries in the city: Calle Doctor Fourquet. F2 and Moisés Pérez de Albéniz exhibit the work of emerging and mid-career artists. It is the perfect place to discover the latest trends in art and discover new names.

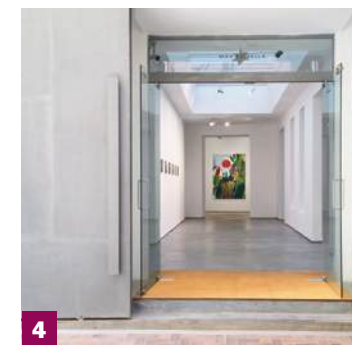


3

GERADA ART

## 3 Alternative Carabanchel

Independent spaces, galleries and urban art fill Carabanchel with culture. From artists' studios like Nave Oporto (Ave. Pedro Díez, 25) to galleries like Sabrina Amrani (Sallaberry, 52), by way of murals like *La chulapa* by Jorge Rodríguez-Gerada (Amalarico, 8) or *Community*, by Lidia Cao (Tulipero, 6).



4

MAX ESTRELLA



5

HELEN BUR

## 4 Chueca: big name galleries

Renowned contemporary artists cluster in Chueca, in the Justicia district. This area is home to many important galleries on the national art scene, such as Elba Benítez and Max Estrella, whose exhibitions showcase the work of established national and international artists.

## 5 Urban art in the centre

Urban art is also something to enjoy in the city centre. Interventions like Cubos Madrid on Plaza de los Cubos; historical works like *Respira* and *Firmeza* by Boa Mistura in San Dimas; or the murals by Artez and Helen Bur at Fuencarral 29 and 45. And that's not to forget the signature of Spanish graffiti pioneer Muelle at Montera 32. ■

## Art and culture

Adi Schwarz  
Dance Project,  
Boys in the Sand



ADI SCHWARZ DANCE PROJECT/  
TEATROS DEL CANAL

### DANCE

In Madrid, dance is as much ballet on the stage of the Theatre Royal as it is the classic, urban or contemporary offerings hosted by the Canal Theatres or the Matadero Dance Centre, as well as the plays that tour the stages of the Community thanks to the programming of the Theatre Network. The Madrid Dance Festival has been bringing Spanish and International companies to the capital for four decades.

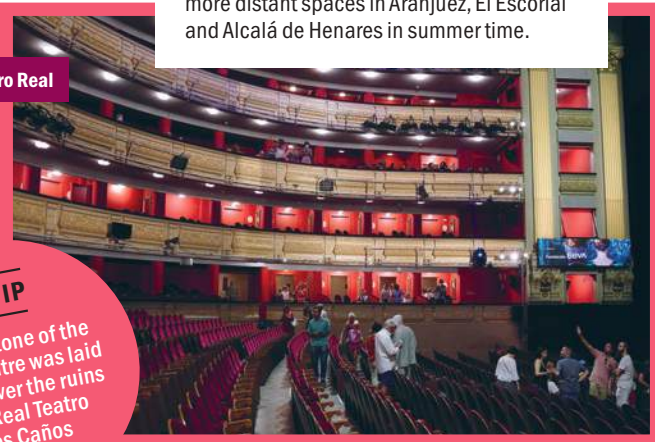
# Treading the boards

We always hear the musicals of the Gran Vía described as Madrid's Broadway, but mustn't forget that performing arts extend beyond this genre and this street to fill the region's theatres and auditoriums

### OPERA

The Royal Theatre is the home of opera in Madrid. The programming is a dreamland of composers, titles and performers from different periods that each year make it the place to be for lovers of this art form. Yet it is not the only place to enjoy it. A young festival, Ópera a quemarropa, is taking charge of bringing chamber opera to smaller and more distant spaces in Aranjuez, El Escorial and Alcalá de Henares in summer time.

Teatro Real



**TO TIP**  
The first stone of the Royal Theatre was laid in 1818 over the ruins of the Real Teatro de los Caños del Peral



Corral de  
la Morería

ELEQUIPO / COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

### FLAMENCO

They say that *duende* is something you either have or do not. Luckily, Madrid definitely has a little. Flamenco was brought here by migrants from Andalusia and in 2024 was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest by the community. Enjoying it is as easy as dropping by one of the capital's many tablaos. Legendary among them are the Corral de la Morería, Torres Bermejas, Las Carboneras and Cardamomo. And in autumn, the Suma Flamenca festival takes the song and dance across the region.

JAVIER DEL REAL



### ZARZUELA

At the Teatro de la Zarzuela we can still enjoy this lyrical, quintessentially Spanish genre. Other spaces also keeping it alive are the Amaya or La Latina theatres in the capital, or those that are part of the Theatre Network in the Community of Madrid, which is dedicated to taking performing arts to stages throughout the region.

### CLASSICAL

Classical music is music that never goes out of fashion. The National Auditorium is the best place to enjoy works that brought eternal fame to composers like Domenico Scarlatti, Enrique Granados or Manuel de Falla. Outside of the capital, the sound carries to other corners of the region thanks to the Aranjuez Early Music Festival and the International Festival of Sacred Music.

BELENIMAZ / COMUNIDAD DE MADRID



International  
Festival of  
Sacred Music

PABLO LORENTE



Corral de  
Comedias  
in Alcalá  
de Henares

### BEYOND THE CENTRE

The appeal of productions staged in Madrid and theatres such as the Canal, the Español and La Abadía is undeniable. But it is not unique. The rest of the region is dotted with venues offering exciting programmes. What do they offer? Both classics and contemporary works. This is the case of the Real Coliseo de Carlos III and the Teatro Auditorio in San Lorenzo de El Escorial; the Corral de Comedias in Alcalá de Henares, the Teatro Lope de Vega in Chinchón, the Teatro Real Carlos III in Aranjuez and the Teatro Diéguez in Colmenar de Oreja.



AINHOA LAUCIRICA

**Río Babel, at the Miguel Ríos Auditorium in Rivas-Vaciamadrid**

**Festival Kalorama, en IFEMA**



SERGIO ALBERT

# What does Madrid sound like?

From the capital's legendary venues to unmissable stages around the region, these are the places to follow the rhythm of the Community

**ITS SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES MUSIC** of all genres. Madrid is the energy we feel when Taylor Swift ascends to the stage at the **Bernabéu** or Lola Índigo takes the **Metropolitano** by storm. It is also giving it all we have at the big festivals, like those held at **IFEMA** or in **Villaverde**. Lovers of live music will surely know the big venues that make musicians' names, like the **Palacio de los Deportes** and **Vistalegre**. Not to forget, of course, historical stages like **La Riviera**, **Circo Price** or

the **Teatro Eslava**, or the venues where Spanish and international groups earned their stripes: **Libertad 8**, **El Sol**, **Galileo Galilei**, **Café La Palma**, **Moby Dick**, **Siroco**...

### Beyond the centre

We can't omit the **Auditorio Miguel Ríos** from this musical tour. Located in Rivas-Vaciamadrid, this amphitheatre built into a hillside has a capacity of 15,000 and is one of those places where the concert atmosphere

is contagious. Big names who have played here include Amaral, Vetusta Morla, La Raíz, as well as festivals like Río Babel. Though if there is a venue in the region that knows how to host mega-concerts, it's **Ciudad del Rock at Arganda del Rey**. Currently, it is the base for Puro Latino Fest, with programmes that kick off the summer with the best of reggaeton.

A more eclectic line up is found at Los Conciertos de la Muralla, celebrated each summer at the

**Sesión Vermú promotes up-and-coming musical talent and local tourism**



**Sesión Vermú, at San Lorenzo de El Escorial**

LUIS ARTEAGA

**Huerta del Obispo in Alcalá de Henares.** Bands that have played here include Rosario, Robe, Ara Malikian, Raphael and Love of Lesbian. One thing that makes them special is the setting: the walled premises of the town's Archbishop's Palace. Another mythical place when it comes to concerts, spectacles and fiestas

is **La Cubierta de Leganés**. Big names who have performed here range from Bad Bunny to Deep Purple, by way of Estopa and Tom Jones.

On top of this, there are 72 municipalities that belong to the **Theatre Network of the Community of Madrid**, which programmes around 800 events each year, many of them musical performances. In addition, many fairgrounds and plazas host one-off concerts, serve as venues for decentralised festivals, or provide the setting for events created specifically for them. This is the case of the **Sesión Vermú**, a series of concerts that every spring brings emerging bands to play in locations such as the Plaza Mayor in Chinchón. ■

## Art and culture

### DON'T MISS

Here are just a few of Madrid's many festivals

#### MAD COOL

This mega-festival attracts big names in Spanish and international music.

→ Early summer

#### RÍO BABEL

Indie, pop, reggae, rock... Music from Spain and Latin America is top of the list.

→ Early summer

#### NOCHES DEL BOTÁNICO

Two months of concerts in a setting surrounded by nature.

→ June and July

#### JAZZMADRID

The world's best jazz comes to the capital and the region's towns.

→ October and November

#### SUMA FLAMENCA

Tradition and cutting-edge, masters and new talent, hand-in-hand at the festival with the most *duende*.

→ October and November

**Mad Cool, in Villaverde**

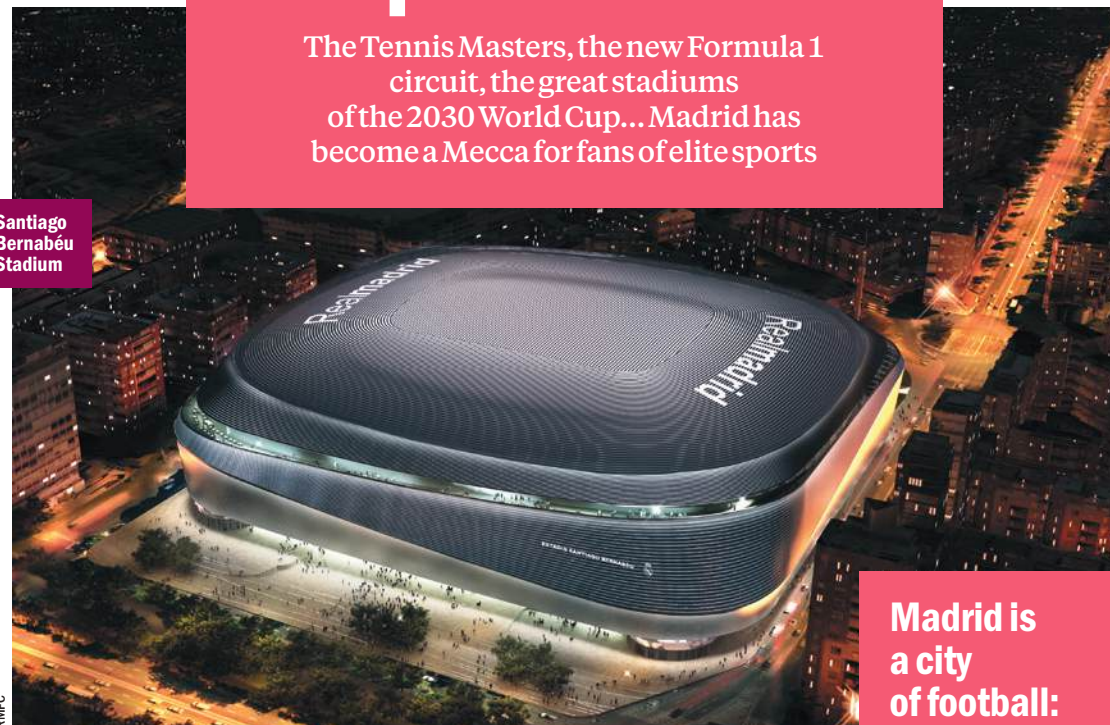


JAVIER BRAGADO

# Sporting paradise

The Tennis Masters, the new Formula 1 circuit, the great stadiums of the 2030 World Cup... Madrid has become a Mecca for fans of elite sports

Santiago Bernabéu Stadium



Madrid is a city of football: stadiums, museums, and passion on every corner

**MYTHICAL STADIUMS**, training centres and museums make the Community of Madrid a special destination for fans of the king of sports. In Madrid, football is enjoyed with the same passion that is felt on its streets.

## Football City in Las Rozas

Very close to the capital, in Las Rozas, lies the Royal Spanish Federation's Ciudad del Fútbol, headquarters of the national team. Its modern training fields, the museum dedicated to La Roja, and guided tours provide insight into how the national team prepares. Here, the greatest successes of

Metropolitan Stadium



CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID

Spanish football were born, such as the Euros and the World Cup.

## The new Santiago Bernabéu

Much more than a stadium: an experience. Following its refurbishment, the home of Real Madrid boasts a retractable roof, 360-degree screens and a futuristic design that places it among the most advanced in the world. Exploring its museum reminds us of the history of the club with its victories and legends, culminating in a visit to the pitch from the stands. By day or by night, a visit to the Bernabéu is a rite of passage for any fan.

## Valdebebas, white heart

On the outskirts of the city, the Ciudad Deportiva del Real Madrid in Valdebebas showcases the team's day-to-day life. The complex hosts training sessions for the different categories, as well as the Alfredo Di Stéfano Stadium, where the reserve team plays. Guided tours offer an insight into the workings of one of the most powerful youth academies in the world.

## From Calderón to the Metropolitano

Atlético Madrid's stadium is another European benchmark. Opened in 2017, the Metropolitano combines technology, sustainability and a vibrant atmosphere. The tour includes changing rooms, the players' tunnel and the Atlético Madrid Museum, where you can learn about the club's history through objects, videos and interactive experiences. You have to experience it to understand it.

## Other temples of football

Complete the tour visiting the stadium of Rayo Vallecano, the Coliseum (Getafe CF) or Butarque (Leganés), as well as the Legends Museum (Cr. S. Jerónimo, 2), which contains items relating to the greatest players and teams in history. ■



Mutua Madrid Open

## Motorsports, basketball, golf...

There are places across the region to enjoy sports in all its forms

### HIPÓDROMO DE LA ZARZUELA Historic races

Opened in 1941, the Hipódromo de la Zarzuela is a jewel of Madrid's rationalist architecture. It hosts races almost year-round, as well as concerts and open-air events with views of the mountains.

→ Av. del Padre Huidobro, s/n. Madrid

### VALLEHERMOSO Temple to athletics

Renovated in 2019, Vallehermoso stadium is the home of athletics in the capital. With a capacity of over 9,000, it hosts domestic and international competitions in a modern setting open to the neighbourhood.

→ Av. Filipinas, s/n. Madrid

### LA CAJA MÁGICA Spectacles under cover

One of the most cutting-edge venues in Madrid. Home of the Mutua Madrid Open, it combines tennis, concerts and major events under its retractable roofs designed by Dominique Perrault.

→ Camino de Perales, 23. Madrid

### JARAMA CIRCUIT Speed and history

An icon of motor racing in Spain since 1967. Legends of car and motorcycle racing have graced its track and today it continues to host competitions, driving courses and events for lovers of speed.

→ Ctra. N-1, km 28. San Sebastián de los Reyes

### MOVISTAR ARENA Where the magic happens

Traditionally known as the Palacio de Deportes, this imposing pavilion with a capacity of almost 18,000 hosts countless spectacles, as well as being the base of the Real Madrid basketball team. Each basket scored shakes the roof.

→ Avda. Felipe II, s/n. Madrid

### VALDESQUÍ All winter sports

Located in the heart of the Sierra de Guadarrama, this is the perfect destination for lovers of skiing and snowboarding. A unique enclave in the high mountains.

→ Puerto de Cotos, Rascafría



Club Malasaña



Uñas Chung Lee

World-class DJs and entertainment: Madrid's nightlife has it all



Teatro Eslava



Medias Puri

ALVARO HORMIGA

# The city that never sleeps

Party animals everywhere will be thrilled to discover that Madrid's nightlife carries on until dawn, with bars, clubs and discos to suit all tastes

**1 Malasaña**  
**The alternative night**  
 The epicentre of Madrid's Movida movement, Malasaña is the territory of the most alternative nightlife. Legendary venues include **El Penta** (made famous by Nacha Pop's song 'La chica de ayer'), **La Vía Láctea** and **TupperWare**. A number of more recent arrivals have also made a name for themselves, such as **Club Malasaña** and **Lucky Dragon**. And you should always drop by for the sessions at **Sala But**.

**2 Centro**  
**Always some place still open**  
 In the heart of the city, you can enjoy cocktails in historic venues such as **Museo Chicote** or **José Alfredo Bar**, or stumble upon a blues jam session at **La Coquette**. **The Wurlitzer Ballroom** is more rock-oriented; at **Café Berlín Club**, the DJs spin pop, house, funk, jazz and more; and be sure to check out the programme at **Teatro Eslava**. **Lula Club** is the place to see and be seen.

**3 Barrio de las Letras**  
**Even on school nights**  
 There is a lively atmosphere on Calle Huertas and the surrounding area every day of the week. The crowd is a mix of tourists and both Erasmus and local students. What's on offer? Also a mix, but this time of bars and cocktail bars, such as **Casa Suecia**, **Lovo** and **Caracortada**, and places where you can lose track of time on the dance floor. Without a doubt, the most famous is the **Kapital** nightclub: five floors and five different types of music... and karaoke.

**4 Lavapiés**  
**The most open atmosphere**  
 Nightlife in Lavapiés is bold and avant-garde. Stop by **Café Pavón** to see what's cooking, have a drink at **Sala Equis** (an X-rated cinema converted into a bar that is also a cinema, and vice versa), discover what's playing that night at **Sala Villanos** (Afro, jazz, soul...) and finish off by hitting the streets of Madrid after hours of dancing at that speakeasy that pretends to be **Medias Puri**.

**5 Moncloa**  
**Students certainly know**  
 Due to its proximity to the university campus, the atmosphere tends to be student-oriented. The night begins sampling the classic leche de pantera cocktail at **Chapandaz**. Carry on to legendary Madrid nightspots, such as **Copérnico**; or innovative venues like the one that pretends to be a nail salon but hides dance floors where you can let loose (**Uñas Chung Lee**); and **Sala Cats**, where events are scheduled night after night.



Fabrik

## OUT OF TOWN

### Partying on the outskirts

There are other party hotspots in the region that night owls should keep on their radar. How could you miss a night at **Fabrik**, for example? This nightclub in Fuenlabrada has ranked among the world's best clubs for several years, can hold thousands of people, and is famous for its epic sessions and the renowned DJs who have graced its decks. Less well known internationally, but also committed to partying, is **La Cubierta** in Leganés, where themed parties such as Halloween are a big hit.

**TO TIP**  
At LAB theClub you can discover Space of Sound, one of Madrid's most legendary electronic music events



LAB theClub

DAVID GARCÍA

**6 Castellana**  
**Dusk to dawn**  
You could spend the whole night at **Oh My Club**, from dinner to the last drink, although we recommend you go out and explore. **Nuit**, with its youthful atmosphere; **Kube's** afternoon parties; and, of course, at Chamartín station, **LAB theClub**, the former Macumba venue, where the legendary Space of Sound session is held once a month.

**7 Salamanca**  
**On another level**  
Elegance and exclusivity reign supreme in the Salamanca neighbourhood at night. Proof of this can be found at **Gunilla Club**, where they champion la dolce vita; **Club Graf**, which is all about hedonism; and the shows at **Gabana Club**. ■

## LGBTQ+ ZONE

### Chueca: the night

**CHUECA IS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** of choice for the LGBTQ+ community, the area of Madrid where you can show yourself to the world as freely as you want. It perfectly combines neighbourhood life by day with that feeling that anything is possible at night, when you visit bars and clubs such as **DLRO Live**, a historic night-spot that opened more than 20 years ago; **Fulanita de Tal**, where the night belongs to and is for women; or **Barbanarama**, the kind of place where everyone is welcome. However, if there is one time when Madrid becomes particularly diverse and assertive, it is during **Pride week**. The demonstration for the rights of these groups, the largest in Europe, is held on the first Saturday in July and runs



Semana del Orgullo

SHUTTERSTOCK

through the main arteries of the city. During that period, Chueca (and by extension, the whole centre of Madrid) becomes the epicentre of events. Its plazas host concerts and speeches, and in its streets you can take part in activities as curious as the now famous high heel race.

**Canciones sobre Madrid**

Falta original traducido

100 songs about Madrid

Metro fundación sgae sgae 105 aniversario Comunidad de Madrid

Listen to the whole playlist here →

There's no better way to round off your visit to the capital than by listening to songs about its streets, customs, people, neighbourhoods and festivals. Chotis, pop, rock, classics and new releases: this playlist, compiled by Fundación SGAE in collaboration with Metro and the Community of Madrid, is everything you need to immerse yourself even deeper in all that we are. This is the sound of Madrid, enjoy!



Spotify