



Castles & Concerts Chronicle

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Tenemos muchas muchas ediciones

329.5 Euros



Beautiful Seville

Photo by Polly Roid

A Sevillian Siesta

By Matt Montgomery

Though tourists are occasionally flummoxed by the shuttered Sevillian shops come mid-afternoon, we at Castles and Concerts fully embrace the Spanish siesta. I would suggest that those who shun this essential endeavor have never experienced an Andalusian August afternoon, when temperatures can reach 120 degrees. You may have noticed that we have kept our late afternoons

unburdened by activities, and perhaps you have already taken the opportunity to partake in this rich tradition. If you haven't yet, there's still time! To fully immerse yourself in this experience, it's important to start with "La Comida", the biggest meal of the day in Spain, accompanied by some Albariño or Sangria, followed by a vigorous nap of at least 30 minutes.



73.892°F

At this Point who cares?

82/57°

Time for fun

Welcome back to Seville!



Fun Facts

Spain has the second highest number of bars per inhabitants, second only to Cyprus.



When meeting someone in Spain, it is customary to give one kiss on each cheek.

71% of Spain's population identifies itself as catholic.

BUSES TO SEVILLE

Meet in the Hotel Lobby after Breakfast

LUNCH

On your own in Seville

DINNER

6:30 meet in the Las Casas Hotel Lobby to walk to dinner

PARTY

Final Night Extravaganza at Hotel Alfonso XIII

Dressing with Diane

Dear Diane, My husband always wears the same thing...Khakis and an oxford shirt. I like to wear bright patterns and seasonal fashion outfits. I feel like we clash at parties? What should I do? **Signed Frustrated!**

Dear Frustrated, This is a very common issue. First off it's good your husband is so regimented in his selection of garb. That means you can use his clothing allowance towards more great outfits for you. Get him to use gel in his hair and generally try not to stand too close to him at parties.

Dear Diane, I am considering wearing a watteau cut pastel blouse with a cute demo-satin earth tone weft woven skirt . My belt is cordovan leather with a large chrome buckle. My shoes are open toed blucominaher strapped styled in a light beige. I also have a wide brimmed gump braided bonnet with large bow and all finished off with an animal print minadiere hand bag. What jewelry do you recommend? **Signed Curious**

Dear Curious, Find the largest possible pearl necklace you can find and wear it prominently to help draw attention away from your outfit.

Dear Diane, What are the appropriate height socks to wear in the spring? **Signed Confused**

Dear Confused, This all depends on numerous factors: what is your skin type, length of legs, shape of knee cap, calf width, how often do you shave your legs and do you sit with your legs crossed? To be safe I recommend you go with a medium height sock.



Norm and Nan Bouton in Amsterdam 2015 Photo Marcy Pattinson

WHY BULLFIGHTING?

- First, it's very old: We find frescoes of bullfights in the Palace of Knossos on Crete (1500 BC). The Romans fought and killed all sorts of wildlife in their Coliseums. Early on, bulls were only killed on altars as sacrifice to the gods. But by late antiquity, having killed off all the Big "Game" animals, they took to fighting bulls.
- After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Catholic popes put a stop to bullfighting in most of Europe (800 AD)
- But by 800 AD the Moors had conquered Spain; and the Moors loved bullfighting! So put another 700 years of government support onto the history of Spanish bullfighting.
- When Ferdinand and Isabella reconquered Spain in 1492 they could have ended bullfighting. But on what grounds? Too barbaric? These guys were toasting people in public squares all over Spain. In comparison a bullfight would appear as a refined sport for gentlemen. Which, of course, is how it is viewed by many in Spain today.
- Ronda took the bullfight from the town square to the public stadium. Spain's oldest bullring (1783) is in Ronda. It was here that the rules and customs of modern bullfighting first appeared.

Spanish Trivia

- It is believed that modern humans first arrived in Spain around 32,000 years ago.
- Spain ranks the 3rd country in the world, after the US and Brazil in the prevalence of plastic surgery.
- The Spanish Christmas Lottery is the largest in the world with a grand prize of €720 Million, awarded in 2011.
- Part of the 'Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones' movie was filmed in Seville, at the Plaza de España.
- In Spain, everyone has two surnames. The first is the father's first surname and the second is the mother's first surname.
- The second queen of Unified Spain, Juana la Loca, travelled around the country with her dead husband, Felipe el Hermoso in a glass coffin for several years.
- Spain has the highest number of restaurants and coffee shops in the European Union, around 350,000.