

THE **CASA UNO** GAZETTEER

A PERSONAL GUIDE TO THE ENJOYMENT OF ANDULUSÍA

WITH **CASA UNO** AS YOUR BASE

BY

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## **Welcome to the new Spain**

(In the spring of 2009 there were 14 tall builder's cranes towering over our local market town of Las Pinedas, all of them busy. Now there is only one crane left and it never moves. That is one small measure of 'el crisis' - the catastrophe that has struck the Spanish economy since the bursting of the property bubble in 2009, leaving more than a million empty properties still unsold and for the time being mostly unsaleable.

The real carnage has taken place in the coastal towns. Whole blocks of apartments originally sold 'off-plan' are bedecked with For Sale signs flapping forlornly from their identical balconies. Spain is paying a cruel price for the over-building of its once lovely Mediterranean coastline. Whether the coastal overhang of tourist villas and apartments will ever be taken up is a question in itself. Many of them were built illegally on land reserved for rural use. Sooner or later many of them may have to come down.

Inland the situation is markedly different. Here the more modest level of over-building was in anticipation of an expansion out of the cities into the towns and from the towns into the villages. Already flats and houses are beginning to sell again, albeit slowly and at reduced prices. Presently the current spare housing capacity will be absorbed by the normal processes of life.

## **SHOPPING LOCALLY**

Meanwhile economic expansion has slowed down – not all of it for the worst. Spain is a country which has not yet succumbed entirely to the economics of the supermarket. The freshest and most delicious produce, much of it locally sourced, is still to be found on market stalls – every town worth its name has a covered market - and in local shops.

The local butcher's, greengrocer's and fishmonger's is the Spanish señora's personal stage. Here she asserts her rights to prod, probe, query and discuss the goods on sale. Here she can unburden herself of ancient grievances and cautionary tales. Here she can pull out her purse to pay, then reconsider, pocket her purse again and order some more, building an ever mounting pile of purchases under which finally she can barely totter home to resume the daily task of keeping her men-folk fed.

## **LAS PINEDAS**

- **Paqui's Autoservicio** ('self-service) is Las Pinedas' one shop, open six and a half days a week, though like other businesses in Southern Spain, it is closed every afternoon between 2pm and 5.30. Paqui sells locally-produced ham, sausages and cheese, fruit and root vegetables, fresh bread, frozen meat and fish, many kinds of tinned and bottled food, soft drinks, beer, wine and spirits and everything for household cleaning

## LA CARLOTA

- La Carlota, (pop. 15,000) 5 kms away, is the local market town. At the last count it had **5 butchers, 4 greengrocers, 3 fishmongers, 2 bakers, several pharmacies, numerous banks with credit/debit card access, a Co-Operativa producing excellent extra virgin olive oil, ironmongers, haberdashers, a travel agent** (useful for booking Spanish trains), and several fairly modest **self-service stores**

## CÓRDOBA

- Córdoba (pop 100,000+) is the provincial capital, famous for shoes and leather goods, with a fine central marketplace for fresh food, several large supermarkets with easy parking (**Eroski, Mercadona, Carrefour**) and in **El Corte Ingles** central Córdoba has Spain's answer to John Lewis with a food hall added.

## EATING OUT

All Spanish restaurants must by law offer a fixed-price 3-course Menu of the Day, often excellent value for as little as 6 or 7 Euros in more modest restaurants, though a definite second best at the grander establishments which expect you to eat *a la carte*. Many bars and small restaurants enable you to order individual dishes in three different sizes: *tapas, media raciones, raciones* - effectively a saucer, a half-plate or a full plate of the dish in question. Several *media raciones* shared communally between two or more people makes a magically varied and convivial meal. .

Some suggestions for eating out from CASA UNO, nearest first.

## LAS PINEDAS

- **Bar Gran Parada** is Las Pinedas' one bar, central to village life. Do not be deceived by its rustic appearance. It keeps a fine kitchen, serving notable steaks and fish, and that delicious cut of pork known only in Spain, the *Secreto Iberico*. Prices are extremely reasonable and it is only 200 yards from CASA UNO so there is no need to drive home.
- Spaniards love picnics. There are two **picnic parks** equipped with rustic barbecues in groves of holm oak within 3 km of the village, and another 11 km away on the **Sierrasuela** hill-side above Posadas

## LA CARLOTA

- The restaurant at the **Hotel El Pilar** gets two crossed knives and forks in Michelin: *'A dining room in classical style with a culinary offer giving very correct results.'*
- **Restaurant Carmen** at the Western end of La Carlota is where the town's new generation of movers and shakers networks at lunch-time - food very fresh, service keen.

## POSADAS

- A favourite summer haunt for local families is the sunny terrace of the hill-top restaurant in the **Sierrazuela** woods above Posadas (on left after railway bridge on the Villaviciosa road), with views out across the plains of the Guadalaquivir River, the woods around busy with blue-winged magpies and gaudy-throated bee-eaters

## HORNACHUELOS

- Another open-air favourite, advertising itself as **Carnes a la Braza** ('grilled meats') at the **Embarcadero** – overlooking the embarkation point for boat-trips along a spectacular beautiful mountain reservoir - specialises in locally caught fish and wild game grilled over wood-fires.

## CÓRDOBA

- Infinite choice here – but **El Caballo Rojo** opposite the Mezquita, is still one of the great shrines of traditional Andaluz cuisine: famous for its Arabic, Mozarabic and Sephardic dishes
- **El Blasón**, c/ Jose Zorrilla-11 in the old town, as well as having a fine restaurant indoors, in summer offers up-market tapas in a lovely shaded courtyard.
- **El Pisto**, just off Córdoba's main square *Plaza Tendillas*, set in a tall covered patio bedecked with bull-fighting posters, is the city's most atmospheric tapas bar/restaurant

## ANDUJAR

- **Las Perolas – Meson Ana** – c/*Serpiente-6*. Barely 3 minutes walk from the lovely Andujar El Greco, Ana with her counter of steaming brown stewpots presides over the ultimate tapas bar for carnivores

## CARMONA

- **San Fernando**, just off Carmona's circular central plaza, is the most sophisticated restaurant in that beautiful town and in season produces a sensational gravity-defying *gaspacho* upheld entirely by strips of cucumber, in itself well worth the 40 minutes drive. Expensive but memorable.
- The nearby **Parador** (a state-owned luxury hotel in an ancient Moorish palace) has a stately pillared patio with murmuring fountain, perfect for a ruminative cup of afternoon tea

## ZUHEROS

- In the lee of the Moorish castle, accessible through the bar of the cliff-edge café, a **restaurant serving roast sucking pig, baby kid or lamb**, while looking down from Zuheros' beetling crags onto an apparent infinity of olive trees running to every horizon across earths of ever shifting colours – silver, grey-green, pink, red, orange and deepest gold.

## CAZALLA DE LA SIERRA

- White mountain town in the Sierra Morena: Those who know the area well eat in the **Posada del Moro** on the left at the entrance to the town coming from Las Pinedas, and the wise have the dish of the day with slow-cooked vegetables.

## SPORT & REC

**Inland Andalucía has fewer recreational facilities than along the coasts, but they are almost invariably much more pleasant to participate in if only because less crowded.**

## LOCAL TO LAS PINEDAS

- Las Pinedas lies at the heart of a network of **local dirt roads** for the walker and mountain biker, unmetalled once they leave the village, giving access to an open countryside of olive and orange groves, fields of wheat and stands of tall sunflowers
- Immediately outside the village runs the **Camino Rural** – a countryside trail for walkers and bikers laid on the bed of a former railway branch line, running Westwards 3 km to a fine bridge across a local river rich in wild life and Eastwards 25km all the way to Córdoba, passing through two tunnels *en route*.

## FURTHER AWAY

For information about:-

- Golf...
- Hill-walking
- Swimming
- Scuba-diving
- Bird-watching
- Flamenco
- Riding horses and pony-trekking
- Gymnasiums and fitness training
- Local Ferias (fairs) and Festivals
- Bull-fighting and visits to bull-farms (*gañaderias*)
- Etc.

...the two best sources of information are [www.turismodecordoba.com](http://www.turismodecordoba.com) for the province of Córdoba, and [www.andalucia.com](http://www.andalucia.com) for the wider view. There are also informative leaflets and guides in the CASA UNO tourist information pack.

Would-be walkers should note that the designations 'Parque Natural' and 'Parque Nacional' can be misleading. Much of the land will be fenced off and ringed with 'Caza Privada' signs – reserved for private hunting. The Andalucía.com website

provides information about walking trails. A visit to the tourist centre on the La Pedrosa road out of **Constantina** will set you up with all necessary information about the *Parque Natural del Sierra Norte*. The Michelin Green Guide for Andalucía will point you to many other similar sources of information.

### **CULTURE, HISTORY, ADVENTURE ETC.**

The Moors of ancient Al-Andalus have long gone from Andalucía, most of their mosques, palaces, bath houses and religious schools long ago demolished and built over. But the landscape of Andalucía remains shaped by the ever-shifting frontier between Christian Spain and the kingdom of Granada, which for some 250 years until the fateful year of 1492 remained the last bastion of Moorish Spain. As a result every significant hill-top is occupied by a town, every hill-top town is crowned by a fort, and round every fort rambles a town centre centuries old and still largely intact – later buildings have simply been cobbled onto the outside. This means that there is not an Andalucían town or village not worth exploring, not capable of revealing some unexpected delight of architecture or atmosphere or distant views. Below are simply listed some of the more outstanding examples. There is much, much more out there.

### **WITHIN 30 MINS OF CASA UNO**

#### **Córdoba, ancient capital of Moorish Spain**

- **Mezquita:** immense 9<sup>th</sup> century Moorish mosque which majestically survived having a Catholic cathedral injudiciously inserted into its fabric in the 16<sup>th</sup> century – the gold mosaic *Mihrab* in the Eastern wall was a personal gift to the Caliph from the Emperor of Byzantium in those more tolerant times..
- **Medinet al Zahra:** archaeological site of stupendous out-of-town Caliphal palace-city constructed in 936, razed to ground by Berbers in 1013 – a place of dreams now partially re-excavated
- **Juderia:** warren of small streets around Mezquita with a few good and many touristy shops/eating places; open doors offer tantalising glimpses of flowered patios
- **Palacio Triana:** glorious old town house with an abundance of flowered patios and fountains
- **Baños arabes:** recently re-opened Arabic thermal baths – insist you book in advance
- **Alcazar:** grim former royal palace with splendid Moorish-style water-gardens
- **Plaza de la Corredera:** grand city square reminiscent of Plaza Real in Madrid – take coffee in the sun, buy fresh food in the covered market on the South side of the square, bargain-hunt in the Saturday morning open marketplace.

### **Almadovar**

- **Almadovar castle:** hilltop vantage point occupied successively by Celts, Iberians, Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Moors and Christians: magnificent Mediaeval castle restored to its original glory at start of 20<sup>th</sup> century, astounding views, impressive keep with dungeon

### **La Rambla**

- **Ceramics capital** of region: abundance of ceramic outlets – from simple earthenware to gaudy Hispanic.

### **Ecija:**

- **City of church towers** with ceramic decorations in the *plateresque* ('silverware') style, arcaded central square one of the most beautiful in Southern Spain.

### **WITHIN 90 MINUTES OF CASA UNO**

#### **Seville – this stylish city boasts glories too many to count, but must-sees include**

- **Cathedral** of gigantic size, only rivalled in Mexico City, contains tomb of Christopher Columbus
- **Alcazar:** enchanting Moorish palace built for a Christian king, with magical Arabic gardens
- **Casa Pilatus:** Renaissance town-house of many patios, luxuriant foliage and flowers
- **Juderia:** grander and more extensive than Córdoba's, and considerably more lively.
- **Museum of Fine Art:** another building with splendid flowered patios – paintings by Zurbaran are the jewels in the crown – lots of Murillo if you like him.

### **Italica**

- **Roman regional capital:** archaeological site includes spectacular amphitheatre, various excavated sites and a theatre a little distance away in the town

### **Carmona**

- **Walled hill-top city:** ancient monastic buildings, fine churches, evocative views over the plains below

### **Marchena**

- **A group of paintings by Zurbaran** is unexpectedly to be found in the little vestry of the handsome church here – but check your guide-book for times when the priest is available to show them.

### Osuna:

- **The world's smallest Cathedral** is to be found within the burial vault of the Dukes of Osuna in the hill-top church
- **The Casino** curiously reminiscent of Raffles hotel in Singapore, has lofty ante-rooms with comfortable chairs and tall windows for viewing the busy world go by in the town's main square below – delicious tapas.

### Antequera

- **Menga and Viera dolmens** – Large Neolithic burial chambers on the outskirts of this agreeable city
- **El Torcal** – dramatic rock formations sculpted by aeons of wind and rain, despoiled by a shabby car-park but with wonderful views South.- formed part of the Republican front line early in the Spanish Civil War
- **Lagune de Fuente Piedra** – beyond the town of the same name, an inland salt lake where 10,000 pink flamingos at a time congregate to breed – bring binoculars.

### Priego de Córdoba

- **Baroque city** with fine churches and fantastic fountains
- **The Parque de Subbetica** to the North can be accessed by a well-made dirt road from Luque and the 25km drive is through some of the emptiest and most dramatic landscape in Southern Spain.

### Jaen/Ubada/Baeza

- **A trio of Renaissance cities** East of Córdoba with magnificent church architecture by Andres de Vandelvira – the Spanish Christopher Wren - cathedrals in Jaen and Baeza, the ducal Chapel beside the *Parador* hotel in Ubada – the latter the loveliest city centre of them all

### Andujar

- The principal church, *Iglesia Sta Maria*, contains one unexpectedly restrained painting by **El Greco**

### Arjona

- **Byzantium meets the Industrial Revolution** in the vault of the Velasco family at Arjona's fine parish church, where under a ceiling of gold mosaic, solid marble angels on railway lines trundle out from the walls to admit coffins into their individual tombs, then trundle heavily back to the walls to stop the newcomers getting out again.

- **Marmolejo** – mineral springs on the edge of the town promise long life, health and happiness plus a cure for most ills; the *Gran Hotel Spa Marmolejo* offers a wide range of mineral water therapies and its own special course of *chocolate therapy*.  
([www.albalnearios.com/granhotelspapmarmolejo/index.htm](http://www.albalnearios.com/granhotelspapmarmolejo/index.htm))

### Sierra Morena

- **An enchanted territory of hills and mountain villages**, much of it designated as 'Natural Park', runs along the whole of Northern Andalucía, with cork-oak forests grazed by the plump black pigs that provide the region's famous *Serrano* ham, abundant wild life and the occasional herd of fighting bulls. Winding roads, little traffic, spectacular vistas.

### FURTHER AFIELD

#### **GRANADA The last Moorish Kingdom in Spain, surrendered in 1492**

- The **Alhambra** is the Moorish palace of the Nazirid dynasty, built ca. 1339 – a place of wondrous beauty but access is rationed and you are advised to book well ahead via the internet to be sure of getting in. Allow two and a half hours from Las Pinedas
- **Gardens of the Generalife** – separately accessed from the Alhambra itself – summer palace with fragrant gardens and a myriad of fountains, laid out in 1319
- The majestic **Chapel Royal of Granada Cathedral** contains the mausoleum of the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, conquerors of Granada, unifiers of Spain, patrons of Christopher Columbus, who also broke their word to the Moors, expelled the Jews and instigated the Inquisition
- The **Albaicín** is the ancient Moorish quarter of the city immediately in the lee of the Alhambra – still atmospheric though no longer a magnet for artists as in the days of Federico Lorca – murdered here by Nationalists in 1937

**Málaga** – a port with history and character, fine beaches, a grand *cathedral*, a recently opened *Picasso Museum* in the artist's birthplace, a *Parador* with sublime evening views over the city (ask for room 303) and just outside town, on the way to Antequera, the delicious green shade of its extensive *botanical gardens* founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (2 hours from Las Pinedas)

**Ronda** – a former magnet for artists (David Bomberg was a noted visitor) now largely surrendered to tourism, dramatically bisected by a deep *gorge* where choughs wheel across the rock-face. The two halves of the city were united in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by an equally dramatic *bridge* which also housed the prison. The *Palacio de*

*Mondragon* is a 14<sup>th</sup> century Moorish residence of many patios. The famous *Plaza de Toros* has its own museum of bull-fighting (At least 2 hrs cross country)

**Cadiz** – the intrepid old city with its *fortifications*, its fine *Cathedral* its winding streets and its many little squares was built on an isthmus and centuries later remains largely unspoiled. The new city commands a couple of miles of fine Atlantic beaches. (2½ hours)

**Jerez de La Frontera** – If you're a biker, this is where they hold the Spanish Grand Prix. If you're a sherry-drinker, this is where it comes from. If you're into flamenco, this is your mecca. If you relish fine urban architecture, you will be able to treasure central Jerez for that alone. If you're a horse you'll either be in this horse-mad city already, or looking forward eagerly to the next *Feria de Caballo* (the annual May Horse Fair) to meet up with your chums. (ca. 2 hours)

**Parque Doñana** – The greatest nature park in Southern Europe, saved for posterity by the then World Life Fund when under threat from intensive farming and seafront property development. Lying at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river, its many miles of wild beaches: its unique landscape of sand-dunes and marsh, its ancient forest inhabited by deer and wild boar, can nowadays only be visited by the park's own 4-wheel people-carriers on a bumpy but fascinating 4-hour safari. In the spring breeding season, mingled colonies of variegated heron, duck, stilt, pelican, egret and flamingo co-habit cacophonously in ragged bushes and shallow waters. The park's various visitor centres have marked trails for hikers. A bird-watcher's paradise.. (just over 2 hours) .

The approach to Parque Doñana is by **El Rocío**, scene of an annual spring *Romeria* (pilgrimage) of the Virgin of El Rocío, to which pilgrims come in their hundreds of thousands from all over Spain, many of them arriving on horse-back – in token of which the streets of El Rocío remain unpaved, in a sandy simulation of a Wild West city, complete with hitching posts. (just under 2 hours)

**Mérida** - just short of the Portuguese border in the direction of Badajoz, already accessible by fast roads from Córdoba and soon to be reached by dual carriageway from Seville, Mérida was the ancient capital of the Roman province of Lusitania, still possesses an astonishing suite of Roman remains. Amongst its many splendours:

- **The Roman Theatre** seating 6000 has been restored as the site of a well-known annual festival of drama and opera
- **The Amphitheatre** – the Roman version of the mass media – offers an echoing silence where once a crowd of 16,000 cheered on invariably brutal games
- **The Roman bridge** over the River Guadiana, 64 arches, half a mile long, took all the town's traffic for 2000 years, closing to vehicles only in 1993 - starlings formate in vast murmurations over the river as the sun goes down

- Storks perch in sociable rows, clattering their long beaks at each other, along the summit of the immense **Roman Aqueduct** which brought water to the town from nearby hills.
- The **National Museum of Roman Art** contains an outstanding display of mosaic flooring, vertically hung on the museum's tall brick walls, their pictorial drama visible as it never would have been to those provincial Romans whose sandals once glided softly over them.
- In addition, **Roman villas** in various states of archaeological recovery and a fine **Temple of Diana**

Mérida is too far from Las Pinedas to be visited in a day: it merits an overnight – the *Hotel Melia* on the main square is recommended and there is also a *Parador* - other smaller hotels and guest-houses are also listed in the red Michelin guide. . As an extension to the romance of Andalucía into the province of Estramadura, Merida once visited will not easily be forgotten

## ANDALUCÍA

### A NOTE ON ITS HISTORY

Stretching from Almeria in the East to Huelva on the Atlantic coast, embracing snow-capped Sierras, rolling hills, deep river valleys, fertile alluvial plains and plantations of cork-oaks providing shade and pasture for the fighting bulls and tasty black pigs of the region, Andalucía, with its claimed 320 days of sunlight every year, was for 600 years the garden of Moorish Spain, abundant with corn, oil, figs and grapes, with Córdoba the great centre of civilised learning and military power at its heart. The still magnificent ruins of the Caliphal palace Medinat al Zahra (built 936, but destroyed by the succeeding dynasty) are testimony to the grandeur of a civilisation greatly more advanced than Western Europe's at that time. Córdoba's great central mosque, the Mezquita was in its day the largest religious building in the world – even now, with a Renaissance Cathedral inserted into one part of it, it is still a stupendous space and the *mihrab*, the focal point of Islamic worship, still stunningly beautiful.

At its height in the 11<sup>th</sup> century the Moorish empire in the West pushed over the Pyrenees and into Southern France. But then the Christian Franks driving down from the North fought the Moors back over the mountains and began the grim and glorious process of *reconquista* – the re-conquest of Spain and the re-establishment of Christian rule in its territories. By the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century Córdoba itself had fallen to the Christian forces, and Moorish Spain had been reduced to the province of Granada – held as a feudal fiefdom from the encircling Spanish powers. There the Nasirid dynasty built that most perfect and wistful of Moorish architectural fantasies, the palace of the Alhambra, dedicated to Allah but designed for love, luxury, intrigue and the occasional fitful act of extreme intra-dynastic violence. With the

Nasirids, Moorish Spain was already living on borrowed time. In 1492 the twin monarchs of the united kingdoms of Catholic Spain, Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, forced the surrender of the keys of the Granada from its last Moorish ruler, the Nasirid King Boabdil. One of the heaviest sighs in all history is said to have been heaved by poor Boabdil, as he stopped at a pass in the Sierra Nevada to look back on his beloved Granada for the very last time.

Ferdinand and Isabella had promised to respect the religion, laws and customs of Moors and Jews who wished to remain in the country after the re-conquest. But the Inquisition had other ideas. In 1492 the Jews were driven out of Andalucía. In 1502 all Moors wishing to remain were forced to convert to Christianity ('Moriscos'). By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the rebellious Moriscos had been driven out too. Thus Spain swept away an entire indigenous middle class of merchants, financiers, artisans and farmers – and with them went their creative skills in banking, industrial production, agriculture and irrigation. In the Spain which remained a proud and indolent aristocracy funded by torrents of looted Aztec and Inca gold, disdainful of trade, supported all the way by Church and Inquisition., confronted an impoverished and largely uneducated peasant class. Thus were laid the foundations of the Spanish Civil War four centuries later.

The expulsion of the Jews and the Moriscos was a double blow to the ancient economy of Andalucía. The intricate irrigation systems of the Moors which had made the dry Andalusian soil flower and bear fruit now fell into neglect. Deprived of water, the Andalusian economy itself crumbled into dust. Every variety of bandit and brigand came to roam the land and raid the villages. (Theophile Gautier records a journey from Jaen to Málaga in the 1840s, along a trail regularly marked with the crosses of travellers murdered *en route*.) It was in an attempt to reverse this trend by the Spanish Crown, that Andalucía was deliberately re-colonised in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the hazardous route from Seville to Córdoba was gradually made safe by garrison towns such as La Carlota, and their satellite farming villages such as Las Pinedas itself, each with its rectilinear grid of streets and central square framing a simple church.

## **ANDALUCÍA TO-DAY**

Andalucía to-day is a very different place – a different planet almost, one might say. Throbbing with prosperity and commercial activity, its markets and shops overflowing with fresh vegetables, meat and fish, its towns and cities crowned by builders' cranes, its fields, olive and citrus groves for the most part lavishly irrigated, its infrastructure of fast modern roads, motorways and high-speed railway lines showing the benefit of a decade of preferential financing from the E.U., contemporary Andalucía has alas already permitted the destruction of a once magical coastline by speculative building. But the ancient inland cities rich in history and the hill-top towns and villages with their crumbling Moorish castles still remain as eloquent and enchanting as ever to the curious visitor. Córdoba with its Mezquita, Granada with the Alhambra, Seville with its Alcazar – a Moorish palace and gardens built for a Christian king – and its immense cathedral, final resting place of

Christopher Columbus – these immemorial shrines of the ancient world may justifiably claim first place on everyone’s visiting lists for Andalucía. But there is not an Andalusian town, not a village – even a village as small as Las Pinedas – which will not reward the interested visitor with some delight, some surprise, some revelation...even if it is only the taste of its *tapas*. .

## SPANISH

### A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

Complete ignorance of the Spanish language has never stood between the British and their collective love-affair with the warm-hearted peoples of Spain (so much more welcoming than the French!) and the sparkling spring weather, sun-drenched summers and long lingering rosy autumns – nowhere to be enjoyed more exquisitely than in Andalusia. *Point and pay* still remains a highly effective mode of communication for British travellers throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Moreover Andalusians speak a form of Spanish from which the letter ‘s’ has been mysteriously excised. Thus *mas o menos* (meaning ‘more or less’) becomes *ma’-o-meno’* – and a well-known local bordello, which advertises itself in neon as *S’candalo* (meaning ‘Scandal’) is known colloquially as ‘*Candalo*. This does not always make native Andalusians easy to understand, and for this reason it helps to have a few words of Spanish of your own to parlay with. Phrase-books expose you to the risk of sounding as if you know more Spanish than you really do. A very few hours with a Spanish grammar and some listening to spoken tapes will give you a basic feel for the language which is likely to serve you much better in the longer run and add significantly to your pleasure..

## READING LIST

### SPAIN/ANDALUSIA – SOME RECOMMENDED READING

#### 19<sup>th</sup> century classics (all three dating from the 1840s)

- Washington Irving; *Tales of the Alhambra*
- Richard Ford: *Gatherings from Spain*.
- Theophile Gautier: *A Romantic in Spain*

#### Early 20<sup>th</sup> century classics

- Gerald Brenan: *South from Granada*
- Ernest Hemingway *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

#### Later 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- Nicholas Luard: *Andalucía: A Portrait of Southern Spain*
- Chris Stewart: *Driving Over Lemons*
- Michael Jacobs: *Andalucía*
- Elisabeth Luard: *The Flavour of Andalucía*

### Archaeology

- Oxford Archaeological Guides: *Spain*
- Pub. Junta de Andalucía: *The Roman Baetica Route*
- Desiderio Vaquerizo Gil: *Guia Arqueológica de Córdoba*

### Spanish History

- Richard Fletcher: *Moorish Spain*
- Maria Rosa Menorqual: *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Christians and Jews created a Culture of Tolerance in Mediaeval Spain*
- Hugh Kennedy: *Muslim Spain and Portugal*
- David Gates: *The Spanish Ulcer – A History of the Peninsular War*
- Robert Hughes *Goya*
- Ed. Raymond Carr: *Spain: A History*
- Raymond Carr: *Modern Spain 1875-1980*
- Gerald Brenan: *The Spanish Labyrinth*
- Hugh Thomas: *The Spanish Civil War*
- Anthony Beevor: *The Spanish Civil War (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*

### Bull-Fighting

- Ernest Hemingway: *Death in the Afternoon*
- John McCormick: *Bullfighting art, Technique and Spanish Society*
- Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre: *Or I'll Dress You in Mourning*

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspectives

- Christopher J Ross: *Contemporary Spain – A Handbook*
- Giles Tremlett: *Ghosts of Spain: Travels through a Country's Hidden Past*
- John Hooper: *The New Spaniards (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*
- Ed. David T Glies: *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*

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